

**PO Derek  
Reginald Carlile  
RAFVR 171073**



Derek Carlile was a nineteen-year-old mid-upper gunner who was killed when his aircraft was shot down by a night-fighter as his Lancaster was heading for Berlin.

He had joined the crew of Lancaster JB665 LE-B of 630 Squadron, and his aircraft was one of twenty bombers shot down as they approached the German capital on the night of 15 February 1944. A further twenty-three Bomber Command aircraft were lost later from a force of 891 on what was a record-breaking night for the Royal Air Force as the Battle of Berlin was resumed after a two-week break.

JB665 had lifted off from East Kirkby at 17:16, the second to take off from twenty-one Lancasters, the biggest number yet for 630 Squadron following its formation in November. The outward route took the bomber stream across Denmark and the Baltic before going south-east for Berlin. It was in this stage JB665 was caught by Oblt Joseph Kraft's Bf110 and shot down in flames, crashing near Güstrow, south of Rostock. There were no survivors.

Derek was the son of Reginald and Lilian Carlile and came from the village of Nuthall on the outskirts of Nottingham. He was buried along with six of his crew in the churchyard in Güstrow and later reinterred in Berlin War Cemetery. The body of his Australian rear gunner was never found.

The others who died were the pilot Flt Lt William English, second pilot PO John Richards, flight engineer Sgt Norman Mitchell, navigator FO John Evans, bomb-aimer PO Llewellyn Fussell, wireless operator Flt Sgt Leslie Lane and rear gunner PO William Hewitt RAAF.

Derek's name can be found on panel 017.

Sources: 630 Squadron Association/The Berlin Raids by Martin Middlebrook.