

Flt. Sgt. Lambert Albert Chester 420146 RAAF



Lambert Chester was a 32-year-old Australian wireless operator who was killed along with the rest of his crew when their aircraft was lost during a raid on Berlin on the night of 2/3 January 1944.

He was part of the crew of Lancaster JB606 AR-H, of 460 (RAAF) Squadron, which was one of 27 aircraft lost during a raid that had been delayed by the weather and necessitated a change in route to and from the target.

JB606 was one of 20 Lancasters from 460 that had been sent from RAF Binbrook for the raid and is understood to have been shot down homebound, crashing in flames near the village of Mückendorf, 30 miles south of Berlin. There were no survivors.

Lambert and his crew had joined 460 early in November 1943 and the Berlin raid was their sixth together, most of them being operations to the German capital. They came together in part at No. 27 Operational Training Unit in Lichfield before completing their training at No. 1656 Heavy Conversion Unit at Lindholme before joining 460 at RAF Binbrook.

Lambert was born at Bondi, in Sydney, and was the son of Albert and Mary Chester. He was educated at Bondi Superior Public School and later lived in the suburb of Canterbury. He had worked as a plumber before enlisting in October 1941.

The others who died with him were the pilot Flt. Sgt. Reg Rowley RAAF, flight engineer Sgt. William Fleming, navigator F/O Edward Truscott RAAF, bomb-aimer F/O Aubrey Robinson RAAF, mid-upper gunner Flt. Sgt. Ron Lawn RAAF and rear gunner F/O Henry Bennett. All were buried in Mückendorf church cemetery before being reinterred after the war in Berlin War Cemetery.

Lambert's name can be found on panel 019.

Sources: Australian Virtual War Museum/Aircrew Remembered.