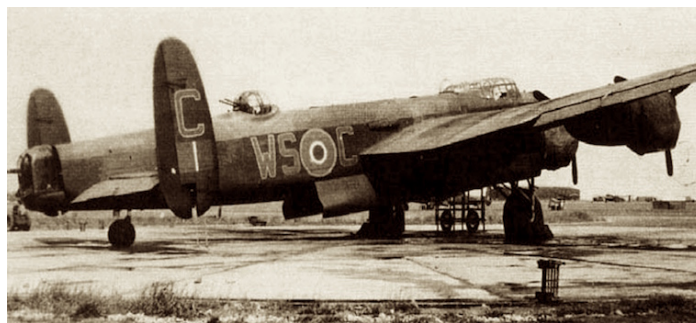


**Sgt. Sidney Coates**  
**1125972 RAFVR**

Sidney Coates was a Lancaster wireless operator lost over the North Sea in what was the last of a series of trial raids involving Mosquitos fitted with Oboe blind-bombing equipment.



His 9 Squadron aircraft was shot down by a night fighter after a small-scale raid on Essen on the night of 13/14 January 1943. His aircraft, Lancaster I W4843 WS-K, had taken off from Waddington, one of 66 Lancasters and three Mosquitoes on the raid, and initial reports suggested that it had been lost without trace. However, it appears that the bomber was shot down into the sea off the Dutch coast west of Schouwen, south of Rotterdam. There were no survivors and all seven on board are remembered on the Runnymede Memorial.

Sidney was the 27-year-old son of James and Margaret Coates (née Soulsby) and came from the County Durham village of Wingate.

The others lost with him were the pilot Sgt. Geoffrey Lyons, flight engineer Sgt. Bernard Simmons, navigator Sgt. Richard Chitty, bomb-aimer Sgt. Harold Cowlshaw, mid-upper gunner Flt. Sgt. Arthur Kenney RCAF and rear gunner Sgt. Alun Rees.

Sidney's name can be found on panel 021.

Sources: *Bombers First and Last* by Gordon Thorburn/9 Squadron/Luftwaffe night fighter