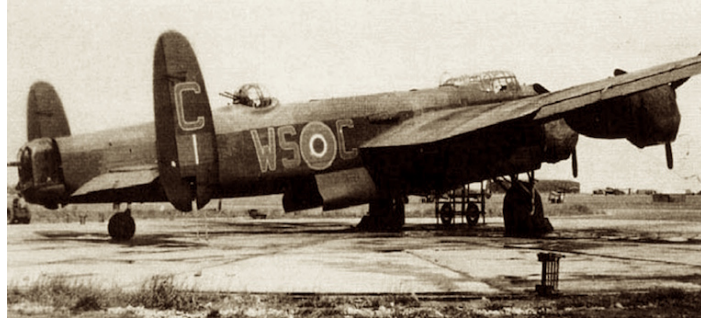


Sgt. Leslie John Daker
1579189 RAFVR

Leslie Daker was the flight engineer of Lancaster ED834 WS-Z of 9 Squadron which was lost home-bound during a raid on Dusseldorf in the early hours of 26 May 1943.



The aircraft had taken off from RAF Bardney shortly before midnight, one of 17 Lancasters from the squadron, which took part in the attack by 759 Bomber Command aircraft.

ED834 was heading back to England when it was picked up by a night fighter and shot down near the port of Vlissingen. There were no survivors and all seven who were killed were later buried in Vlissingen North Cemetery.

Leslie and his crew had only arrived at Bardney on 3 May after completing their training on 1661 Heavy Conversion Unit at Winthorpe and the Dusseldorf attack was their third operation together.

He came from the Birmingham suburb of King's Norton and was the 30-year-old husband of Daisy and the parents of John and Ada Daker.

The others who died were pilot F/O Harold Woodhouse RAFVR, navigator Sgt. James Corbett RAFVR, bomb-aimer Sgt. Harold Warren RAFVR, wireless operator Sgt. Bill Smith RAFVR, mid-upper gunner Sgt. Albert Coffin RAFVR and rear gunner Sgt. Edgard Matthews RAFVR.

His name can be found on panel 026.

Sources: *Bombers First and Last* by Gordon Thorburn/9 Squadron.