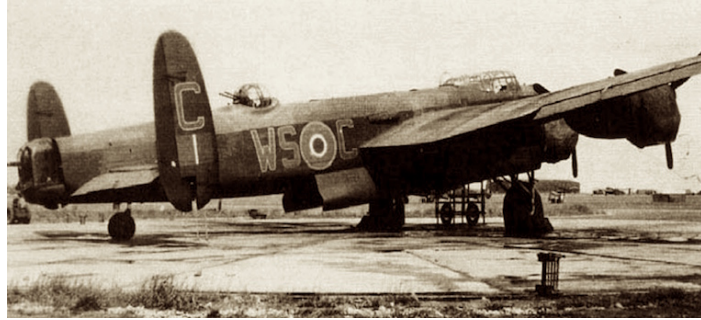


**P/O George Raynor
Dale 128962 RAF**



George Dale was a Lancaster mid-upper gunner who was among 57 men from 9 Squadron who were killed in the final week the squadron operated from RAF Waddington.

The squadron was about to move the few miles from Waddington to the new airfield at Bardney in the spring of 1943 and it proved to be a bloody farewell for the squadron, losing eight Lancasters between April 3 and April 10.

George was part of a crew which included his flight commander which took off from Waddington on the evening of April 3 heading for Essen as part of what became known as the Battle of the Ruhr.

His aircraft, Lancaster ED479 WS-Z, had taken off at 1958 hours and was hit by heavy flak over the Ruhr and crashed at Meiderich, near Duisburg. There were no survivors and are all buried in the Reichswald Forest War Cemetery.

At the age of 35, George was well over the average age of air crew. He was the son of George and Amelia Dale of Hendon, and he and his wife Eva had a daughter, Linda.

The others who died were the pilot S/L Geoffrey Jarrett RAF, flight engineer Sgt. Harold Precious RAF, navigator P/O George Smith RAFVR, bomb-aimer F/O Andrew Seymour RAFVR, wireless operator Sgt. Ivor Francis RAFVR, rear gunner Sgt. Jack Miles RAFVR, a South African serving in the RAF.

His name can be found on panel 026.

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