

F/O Arthur Daley DFM 47871 RAF



Around midnight on 20 April 1943 a Lancaster of 103 Squadron, which was heading back to England following an attack on Stettin, was intercepted over Denmark by a Ju88 night fighter, caught fire and eventually broke up, crashing near Vester Vedstead. Before it did the tail section of the aircraft broke away, landing some distance from the burning wreckage.

Arthur Daley was the experienced wireless operator of the aircraft, Lancaster ED614 PM-G, which was part of a force of 339 aircraft sent to attack the Baltic coast city. PM-G was one of 21 lost.

Arthur and five of his crew had joined 103 Squadron at Elsham Wolds the previous month and this was their seventh operation, one in which they flew with a replacement rear gunner. Arthur was on his second tour of operations, having earlier won a Distinguished Flying Medal. He was one of five children of Arthur and Doris Daley and was 24 years old at the time of his death.

Killed with him were the pilot P/O George Pettigrew RAFVR, flight engineer Sgt. Jim Cooper RAF, navigator Sgt. Walter Ramsay RAFVR, bomb-aimer Sgt. Archie Mackay RAFVR, mid-upper gunner Sgt. Raymond Elkins RAFVR and rear gunner Flt.Sgt. Pat Cramer RAAF, who was badly injured in the broken tail section and died later in Ribe Hospital. All seven are now buried in Esbjerg (Fourfelt) Cemetery. A memorial stone now stands at Sprækvej marking the crash site of the bomber, one of 17 which crashed in Denmark in a 48-hour period.

Arthur's name can be found on panel 023
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