

**Flt Sgt Dennis Arthur
Dawson RAFVR 981812**



Dennis Dawson was a young rear gunner who died along with three of his crew when their bomber was shot down over Leipzig on 20 February 1944.

His aircraft, LD532 LE-N of 630 Squadron, was one of 833 bombers targeting aircraft factories in the eastern German city when three single-engined fighters attacked his Lancaster. Somewhere between 04:16 and 04:20, the Lancaster crashed near the target. Three men bailed out but Wilson Yates and three others died in the crash.

On their previous operation, a raid on Berlin a few days earlier, the crew had successfully beaten off a Ju88 fighter over the German capital.

LD532 had taken off from East Kirkby a few minutes after midnight and was one of seventy-eight Bomber Command aircraft which failed to return, including a second Lancaster from 630 Squadron.

The others who died were the pilot PO Wilson Yates DFC, navigator Sgt Alan Spence and mid-upper gunner and 630 Squadron gunnery leader Flt Lt Ernest Stead MiD. The survivors were the flight engineer Sgt William Isaacs, bomb-aimer Sgt Reginald Findlow RCAF and wireless operator Sgt Donald Scott. Those who died were buried locally and later reinterred in Berlin War Cemetery.

Dennis' name can be found on panel 027.

Sources: 630 Squadron Association.