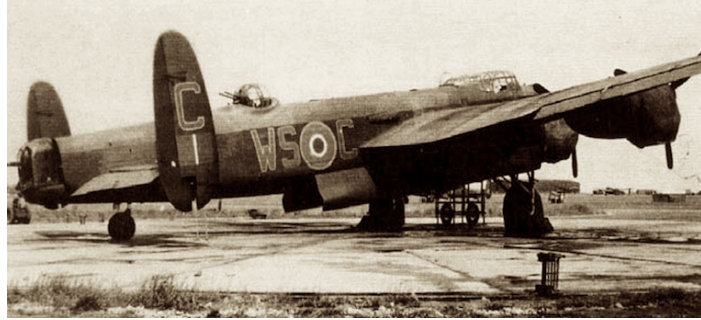


**Sgt. Charles William
Dickens 1288309
RAFVR**



Londoner Charles Dickens was a wireless operator killed when his 9 Squadron Lancaster was shot down

during a costly operation by Bomber Command to hit a series of targets across northern Germany.

He was one of five men killed when his aircraft was shot down during a raid on a small town in Lower Saxony, his Lancaster I W4155 WS-D crashing near Quakenbruck.

His aircraft was one of twenty seven Lancasters from 5 Group sent to raid small towns on the night of 17/18 December 1942. Nine of them were shot down, including two from 9 Squadron. Charles' Lancaster, which was detailed to attack Diepholz, south of Bremen, is believed to have been attacked by a night fighter. It was set on fire and crashed close to the road between Oherle and Grafeld at 1932 hours on the evening of 17 December, two and a half hours after leaving Waddington.

Two of the crew managed to bale out at low level. The five who died were all buried locally before being reinterred in Rheinberg War Cemetery.

Charles lived in Shepherd's Bush in London with his wife, Ivy, and was the 28-year-old son of William Albert and Bessie Dickens.

The others who died were the pilot Sgt. Colin Allen RAAF, flight engineer Sgt. Charles Nadin, navigator F/O Laurence Newman and rear gunner Flt. Lt. Charles Shields who was 9 Squadron's Gunnery Leader.

His name can be found on panel 028.

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