

**Flt Sgt George
Dove RAF (AAF)
820031**



George Dove was a twenty-five-year-old rear gunner who was killed along with his crew when, it was believed, his Lancaster was shot down over the North Sea during a raid on Berlin at the end of January 1944.

He and his crew were on their fourth operation with 630 Squadron and had taken off East Kirkby at 23:46 on the night of 28 January, one of twelve from the squadron joining a force of 677 bombers taking part in the continuation of Bomber Command's Battle of Berlin. Forty-six were lost, including two from 630 Squadron, the other being flown by the squadron commanding officer, W/C John Rollinson DFC.

George's aircraft, Lancaster JB654 LE-C, was officially listed as lost without trace but it was believed the aircraft was shot down by a night-fighter off the Dutch coast. No bodies were ever recovered.

He came from the suburb of Weaste in Salford and was the son of Alfred and Mary Dove. George had served in the pre-war Auxiliary Air Force with 616 Squadron, a fighter squadron which was involved in the Battle of Britain, before applying for flying duties and trained as an air gunner.

The others who died were the pilot PO Donald Story RAAF, flight engineer Sgt Douglas James, navigator PO Francis Peacock, bomb-aimer FO Herbert Cairns, wireless operator Sgt George Barrington and mid-upper gunner PO Harold Barrons RCAF. All are remembered on the Runnymede Memorial.

George's name can be found on panel 030.

Source: 630 Squadron Association.