

**P/O Jack Earle
162608 RAFVR**



Londoner Jack Earle was the young bomber in a Lancaster which exploded

during an attack on Leipzig in the early hours of 4 December, 1943.

His 625 Squadron Lancaster I DV392 CF-Q, an aircraft which was only delivered from the manufacturers a few days earlier, was one of seven Lancasters from the squadron which joined a force of 527 bombers attacking the city in the east of Germany. Twenty-four were lost, including DV392 in which five men were killed. Only the Southern Rhodesian pilot S/L Edward Moody and navigator, P/O R Jacobs, survived after blowing clear.

Jack's aircraft was just the third lost by 625 since its formation at RAF Kelstern at the beginning of October. He was 21, came from a Jewish family and was one of three sons of Sidney and Dora Earle and lived in St Marylebone in central London.

The others who died were the flight engineer Sgt. Martin Boylan RAFVR, wireless operator Sgt. Robert Boothman RAFVR, mid-upper gunner Sgt. Owen Kent RAFVR and rear gunner W/O Richard Reid RAF. All are buried in Hanover War Cemetery.

His name can be found on panel 031.

Sources: 625 Squadron records/625 Squadron Association/Jews in the RAF.