

Sgt. Richard John Harry Easter
1636431 RAFVR



Richard Easter was a young flight engineer from Essex who was killed along with his crew as their bomber was shot down as it headed home from a raid on Stuttgart.

He was part of the crew of Lancaster ND583 LE-V of 630 Squadron and they were on their eighth operation when they took off from East Kirkby at 1857 hours on the evening of 15 March 1944. ND583 was part of a force of 863 bombers attacking Stuttgart and was among 37 lost, including a second from 630 Squadron.

ND583 was home-bound when it was intercepted at around 0130 hours over France by Luftwaffe night-fighter ace Hauptmann Ludwig Meister and shot down in flames, crashing near the village of Bourguignon-sous-Coucy, north-west of Soissons. There were no survivors and the crew are now buried in Coucy Churchyard.

Richard came from the Epping Forest village of Fyfield in Essex and he was the 21-year-old son of Arthur and Louisa Easter.

The others who died were the pilot P/O Kenneth Rodbourn RAFVR, navigator Sgt. Albert Wilkinson RAFVR, bomb-aimer WO2 Alexander Freeman RCAF, wireless operator F/Sgt Frank Hobbs RAFVR, mid-upper gunner F/Sgt. Leslie Hall RAFVR and rear gunner F/Sgt. Ernest Philipson RAAF.

His name can be found on panel 031.

Sources: 630 Squadron Association.