

**Sgt. George  
Harry  
Eastwood  
1535672  
RAFVR**



George Eastwood was a 21-year-old wireless operator from Stockport who was killed when his bomber was shot down during a raid

on Leipzig when he was almost half-way through his tour of operations.

George, *pictured extreme right in this crew photograph*, had joined 625 Squadron at Kelstern in Lincolnshire, shortly after the squadron was formed at the beginning of October 1943.

His crew was quickly in action and his pilot won an immediate DFM over Leipzig within a week of the crew joining 625 Squadron.

He and his crew went on to fly another 11 operations, eight of them to Berlin, before they returned to Leipzig again on the night of 19/20 February 1944, a night when Bomber Command suffered its heaviest loss so far, losing 78 of the 833 bombers involved. Three of those were from 625 Squadron at Kelstern.

George's Lancaster I ME588 CF-A took off from Kelstern at 2321 hours one of 17 from the squadron taking part. The Lancaster is believed to have been shot down by a night-fighter, crashing near the village of Almke, near Helmstedt. There were no survivors.

George was former student of St George's School in Stockport and an enthusiastic member of the Boy's Brigade. After leaving school he became an apprentice hairdresser before joining the RAF. George was the son of Wilfred and Mary Eastwood and his crew were buried locally and later reinterred in Hotton War Cemetery in Belgium.

The others who died were the pilot P/O Des Aspin DFM RAFVR, flight engineer Sgt. Paul Wheeldon RAFVR, navigator Sgt. William Riley RAFVR, bomb-aimer Sgt. John Landon RAFVR, mid-upper gunner Sgt.. Patrick Skebo RCAF and rear gunner Sgt. Ronald Watson RAFVR. His name can be found on panel 031.

Sources: Aircrew Remembered/625 Squadron records.