

**Sgt George Henry
Griffiths RAFVR
1835969**



George Griffiths was a Welsh teenager rear gunner whose aircraft was shot down off the Dutch coast as the bomber stream was heading for a costly raid on Leipzig on the night of 20 February 1944.

He was part of the crew of Lancaster JB710 LE-W of 630 Squadron, which was one of several bombers heading for the attack on aircraft factories in Leipzig. Some seventy-eight Bomber Command aircraft were lost during the raid, two of them from 630 Squadron.

JB710 had taken off from East Kirkby, one of seventeen from the squadron, at 00:26 and is believed to have been shot down off a few miles off the island of Ameland a little over an hour later, JB710's being the second victim of Oblt Heinz Vinke's Bf110 in just 45 minutes. No bodies were ever recovered.

George was just nineteen years old and came from Tenby in Pembrokeshire. He was the son of Harold and Alice Griffiths and is remembered on Tenby War Memorial.

The others who died were the pilot Flt Lt Clifford Armour, flight engineer Sgt John Byars, navigator FO Harold Kidd, bomb-aimer FO John Cross, wireless operator Sgt Ronald Giles and mid-upper gunner Sgt Leslie Young. All are remembered on the Runnymede Memorial.

George's name can be found on panel 043.

Sources: 630 Squadron Association.