

Flt. Lt. Alfred George Henriquez 171932
RAFVR

Alfred Henriquez was a West Indian-born Lancaster pilot who was killed along with his crew on their 19th operation together.

He was the pilot of Lancaster LL972 LE-T, of No. 630 Squadron, which was shot down by a night-fighter during a major raid on the port and industrial area of the city of Stettin.

The raid involved 461 Lancasters on the night of 16/17 August 1944, a raid that marked Bomber Command's switch from supporting the battles in France to attacks on German targets.

LL972 had taken off from East Kirkby in Lincolnshire at 2057 hours and was reported to have crashed at Medewtiz, killing all seven crew members plus a 21-year-old second pilot, who had joined the raid for battle experience.

Alfred was born in the coastal town of Bluff Bay, in Jamaica, and his family was part of a Jewish community on the island. He was the 28-year-old husband of Essie Henriquez and the son of Alfred and Linda Henriquez.

He and his crew had joined 630 Squadron early in May 1944, after completing their training, and flew their first operation together in an attack on Amiens on 19 May.

The others who died were the second pilot F/O Walter Filby, flight engineer Sgt. Philip Secretan, navigator Flt. Sgt. Peter Jarvis, bomb-aimer P/O Daniel Carter RCAF, wireless operator Flt. Sgt. Thomas Nottingham, mid-upper gunner Sgt. Ronald Williams and rear gunner Sgt. Alan McKenzie. All are buried in Poznan Old Garrison Cemetery.

Alfred's name can be found on panel 048.

Sources: 630 Squadron Association/Bomber Command War Diaries by Martin Middlebrook/Amalgamated Congregation of Israelites.

