

**Sgt Douglas Edward
James RAFVR 1267376**



Douglas James was a young flight engineer from

Hertfordshire who was killed along with his crew when, it was believed, his Lancaster was shot down over the North Sea during a raid on Berlin at the end of January 1944.

He and his crew were on their fourth operation with 630 Squadron and had taken off East Kirkby at 23:46 on the night of 28th January, one of twelve from the squadron joining a force of 677 bombers taking part in the continuing of Bomber Command's Battle of Berlin. Forty-six were lost, including two from 630 Squadron, the other being flown by the squadron commanding officer, W/C John Rollinson DFC.

Douglas' aircraft, Lancaster JB654 LE-C, was officially listed as lost without trace but it was believed the aircraft was shot down by a night-fighter off the Dutch coast. No bodies were ever recovered.

He came from St Albans and was the 23-year-old son of Harry and Dora James.

The others who died were the pilot PO Donald Story RAAF, navigator PO Francis Peacock, bomb-aimer FO Herbert Cairns, wireless operator Sgt George Barrington, mid-upper gunner PO Harold Barrons RCAF and rear gunner Flt Sgt George Dove. All are remembered on the Runnymede Memorial.

Douglas' name can be found on panel 054.

Source: 630 Squadron Association.