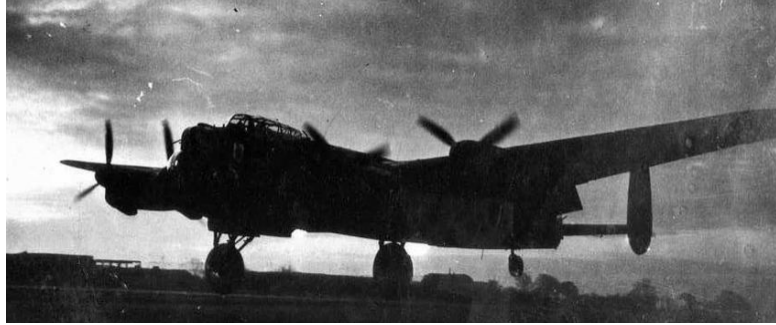


FO Harold Kidd
RAFVR 145374



Harold Kidd was a former Burnley police officer 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 the navigator in the crew of Lancaster JB710 LE-W of 630 Squadron which was one of several Lancasters which were lost before reaching the Dutch coast as night-fighters assembled to attack some 823 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 being the second victim of Oblt Heinz Vinke's Bf110 in just 45 minutes. No bodies were ever recovered.

Harold was born in the north Lancashire village of Warton before moving to nearby Carnforth where he was educated at Carnforth North Road School and the Congregational Church and School and Council School and was remembered for helping to produce concerts at the Sunday School.

He was also a keen cricketer and played for Carnforth Cricket Club before moving to Burnley in 1938 to join the Borough police force, enlisting in the RAF in 1942. Harold is remembered on the Burnley Borough Police Force war memorial. He was the thirty-year-old son of Henry and May Kidd and lived in Burnley with his wife, Edith.

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

Harold's name can be found on panel 059.

Sources: 630 Squadron Association.