

**Flt Sgt Leslie
George Lane
RAFVR 174127**



Londoner Leslie Lane was a wireless operator who was killed when his aircraft was shot down by a night fighter as his Lancaster was heading for Berlin.

He had joined the crew of Lancaster JB665 LE-B of 630 Squadron. His aircraft was one of twenty bombers shot down as they approached the German capital on the night of 15th February 1944. A further twenty-three Bomber Command aircraft were lost later from a force of 891 on what was a record-breaking night for the RAF as the Battle of Berlin was resumed after a two-week break.

JB665 had lifted off from East Kirkby at 17:16, the second to take off from twenty-one Lancasters, the biggest number yet to take off from 630 Squadron to that point since its formation in November. Then outward route took the bomber stream across Denmark and the Baltic before going south-east for Berlin. It was in this stage JB665 was caught by Oblt Joseph Kraft's Bf110 and was shot down by flames, crashing near Güstrow, south of Rostock. There were no survivors.

Leslie was the twenty-one-year-old son of Daniel and Lilian Lane of Wood Green in north London. He was buried along with six of his crew in the churchyard in Güstrow and later reinterred in Berlin War Cemetery. The body of his Australian rear gunner was never found.

The others who died were the pilot Flt Lt William English, second pilot PO John Richards, flight engineer Sgt Norman Mitchell, navigator FO John Evans, bomb-aimer PO Llewellyn Fussell, mid-upper gunner PO Derek Carlile and rear gunner PO William Hewitt RAAF.

Leslie's name can be found on panel 061.

Sources: 630 Squadron Association/The Berlin Raids by Martin Middlebrook.