

## **Sgt. Eric Lee 1677312 RAFVR**

Nineteen-year-old Eric Lee was one of six men killed when his aircraft was shot down in March 1944.

Eric was a flight engineer in Lancaster ND672 (EA-U), of 49 Squadron, which was intercepted during a raid on Frankfurt on the night of 22 March, a raid that cost Bomber Command 33 of the 816 bombers sent to Frankfurt.

His was one of 19 Lancasters to take off from RAF Fiskerton and it was attacked over the Westfalen region in western Germany, crashing near the small town of Beckum, near Hamm. The only survivor was mid-upper gunner Sgt. Peter Valesco, a Chilean national who had previously lived in California.



Eric's crew were on their fourth operation together but at least three of the crew had previously flown together, surviving a crash-landing on a Lincolnshire beach following a raid on Berlin in November 1943.

He came from Bromley, in west Leeds, and was the son of Harold and Ann Lee. He is pictured at home with his mother and three brothers.

The others who died were the pilot F/O Don Turner, navigator Flt. Sgt. Stanley Upton, bomb-aimer F/O Wilfred Pearce, wireless operator Sgt. Linton Nightingale and rear gunner Flt. Sgt. Jack Bennett RCAF. All were buried locally and later reinterred in the Reichswald Forest War Cemetery.

His name can be found on panel 062.

Sources: 49 Squadron Association/Bomber Command Losses 1944 by Bill Chorley.