

**Sgt John  
Desmond  
Morris RAFVR  
1652943**



John Morris was a  
twenty-one-year-old  
Welsh Lancaster  
mid-upper gunner

who was killed along with five of his crew when his aircraft was shot down near Berlin on what was a diversionary raid.

His was one of twenty-two Lancasters sent to Berlin as a diversionary tactic while 648 bombers were sent to Magdeburg. John's aircraft, JB294 LE-R, was one of two from 630 Squadron involved in the Berlin feint and was the only one lost. The Magdeburg raid itself cost Bomber Command fifty-seven aircraft, most falling to fighters.

JB294 had taken off from East Kirkby at 20:21 on 21st January 1944 and was reported to have crashed at Wiesenhausen, south of Berlin. The only survivor was the bomb-aimer, twenty-one-year-old Sgt Peter Walker, who successfully bailed out.

John came from Llanelly in Carmarthenshire and was the son of Hector and Sarah Morris. He was part of a crew which included five men aged twenty-two or younger.

The others who died were the pilot Flt Sgt John Homewood, flight engineer Sgt William Yorke, navigator Flt Sgt Alexander Reedman, mid-upper gunner Sgt John Morris and rear gunner Flt Sgt Morris Marks RCAF. All are buried in Berlin War Cemetery.

John's name can be found on panel 076.

Sources: 630 Squadron Association.