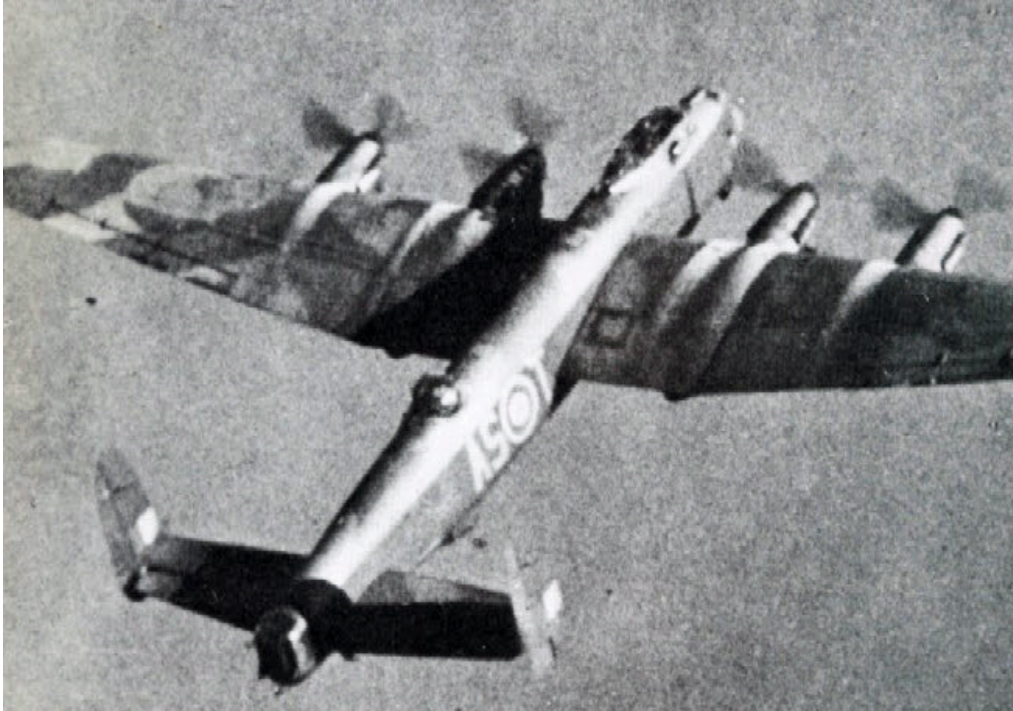


Sgt. Ernest Leonard Morton 1337604 RAFVR



A 166 Squadron Lancaster

The night of 19/20 February 1944 was one of the blackest nights yet suffered by Bomber Command when it lost 78 aircraft during a raid on the eastern German city of Leipzig. 166 Squadron at Kirmington was particularly badly affected, losing three of the 19 aircraft it sent plus a fourth wrecked on landing with severe battle damage.

One of those lost was Lancaster I ME637 AS-F, which is recorded as being 'lost without trace'. The aircraft was shot down by a Bf 110 night-fighter flown by Ofw. Heinz Vinke of 11./NJG 1, based at Leeuwarden and Bergen airfields. No trace of it or its seven-man crew was ever found.

The mid-upper gunner was Ernest Morton who lived in Hull with his wife Vera. He and his crew had been with 166 Squadron for a month before they were killed.

Those who died with him were the pilot Sqn. Ldr. Ron Bows, Rhodesian flight engineer Sgt. Francis Brooks, navigator F/O Wyvern Hughes RNZAF, bomb-aimer Flt. Sgt. Henry Gregg, wireless operator Sgt. Albert Barlow and rear gunner Sgt. David Asquith. They are all remembered on the Runnymede Memorial.

His name can be found on IBCC panel 076.

Photographic source: D Shaw