

**Sgt. Linton Henry Nightingale 1386933**  
**RAFVR**

Twenty-two-year-old Linton Nightingale was a former London Fire Brigade messenger during the Blitz who was killed when his aircraft was shot down in March 1944.

His aircraft, Lancaster ND672 (EA-U) of 49 Squadron, 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.

He was the wireless operator in one of 19 Lancasters to take off from RAF



Fiskerton. His aircraft 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.

Linton's crew were on their fourth operation together but he had previously been part of another crew that crash-landed on a Lincolnshire beach returning from Berlin in November 1943. His aircraft had lost height to pick up the coastline only to land on the beach due to a faulty altimeter, leading to several members of the crew being injured. Two of that crew, the pilot and rear gunner, were with him for the Frankfurt raid.

He was born in Balham in 1921, one of eight children.

When war broke out, he volunteered with the LFB and became a messenger at Clapham fire station during the Blitz. Linton later volunteered to join the RAF and trained as a wireless operator before joining 49 Squadron in 1943.

The others who died were the pilot F/O Don Turner, 19-year-old flight engineer Sgt. Eric Lee, navigator Flt. Sgt. Stanley Upton, bomb-aimer F/O Wilfred Pearce 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 079.

Sources: 49 Squadron Association/London Remembers/Bomber Command Losses 1943 and 1944 by Bill Chorley.

