

**PO Francis James
Peacock RAFVR
160601**



Francis Peacock was a young navigator who was killed along with his crew when, it was believed, his Lancaster was shot down over the North Sea during a raid on Berlin at the end of January 1944.

He and his crew were on their fourth operation with 630 Squadron that had taken off East Kirkby at 23:46 on the night of 28 January. It was one of twelve from the squadron joining a force of 677 bombers taking part in the continuing of Bomber Command's Battle of Berlin. Forty-six were lost, including two from 630 Squadron, the other being flown by the squadron commanding officer, W/C John Rollinson DFC.

Francis' aircraft, Lancaster JB654 LE-C, was officially listed as lost without trace but it was believed the aircraft was shot down by a night-fighter off the Dutch coast. No bodies were ever recovered.

He came from Birmingham and was the son of Francis and May Peacock.

The others who died were the pilot PO Donald Story RAAF, flight engineer Sgt Douglas James, bomb-aimer FO Herbert Cairns, wireless operator Sgt George Barrington, mid-upper gunner PO Harold Barrons RCAF and rear gunner Flt Sgt George Dove. All are remembered on the Runnymede Memorial.

Francis' name can be found on panel 083.

Source: 630 Squadron Association.