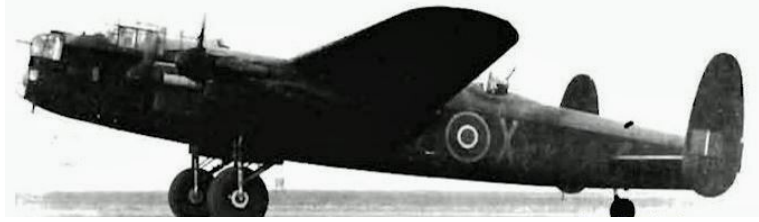


**Flt. Sgt. Charles
Ernest Pearson
1436390 RAFVR**



Charles Pearson was a young Lancaster pilot who died along with five of his crew in a raid on Leipzig in February 1944.

His aircraft, Lancaster III LM384 CF-X (*pictured*) of 625 Squadron, had taken off from Kelstern shortly before midnight on the night of 19 February as part of a force of 833 bombers heading to attack aircraft factories in Leipzig. It was a bad night for Bomber Command when 78 aircraft were shot down, including three from 625 Squadron.

It is believed that the Lancaster was intercepted outbound by a night-fighter and shot down, crashing close to the village of Bledeln, south of Hanover. The only survivor was the bomb-aimer, Sgt George Paterson

Charles and his crew had joined 625 Squadron earlier in February from 1656 Heavy Conversion Unit at Lindholme. Four of the casualties, including Charles, were buried locally before being reinterred in Hanover War Cemetery after the war while two others are remembered on the Runnymede Memorial.

He came from York and was the 23-year-old son of Ernest and Annie Pearson and, before he enlisted, had qualified to be a Member of the Institute of Electrical Engineers.

The others who died were the flight engineer Sgt. Adam Sinclair, navigator F/O Jack Pearl RCAF, wireless operator Sgt. George Cartwright, mid-upper gunner Sgt. Arthur Trivett and rear gunner Sgt. Thomas Evans.

His name can be found on panel 083.

Sources: Aircrew Remembered/625 Squadron records.