

**Sgt. Alan Leslie
Pickering 1623919
RAFVR**



Alan Pickering was a 20-year-old rear gunner who died along with three of his

crew when their Lancaster was shot down over Germany during a raid on Brunswick on the night of 22/23 May 1944.

He died when his aircraft, Lancaster JB546 LE-A of 630 Squadron, was shot down by a night-fighter flown by Oblt. Heinz Ferger. The bomber crashed near the village of Quakenbrück, east of the German/Dutch border. Three of the crew managed to escape by parachute to become prisoners. His aircraft had taken off from East Kirkby at 2240 hours and was reported to have been shot down at around 0030 hours. JB546 was one of nine Lancasters lost on the raid, two of them from 630 Squadron.

Alan and most of his crew were on their ninth operation with 630 at East Kirkby in a little more than a month since they joined the squadron, a reflection of the intensity of Bomber Command operations in the weeks leading up to the Normandy invasion.

The others who died were the pilot P/O Teddy Champness RAAF, flight engineer Sgt. John Johnstone and bomb-aimer P/O Gerald Naugler RCAF. All are buried in the Rheinberg War Cemetery. The survivors were the navigator Flt. Sgt. Vernon Zucker RAAF, wireless operator Sgt. Edmond Adair and mid-upper gunner Sgt. Leonard Jones.

Alan's name can be found on panel 085.

Sources: 630 Squadron Association.