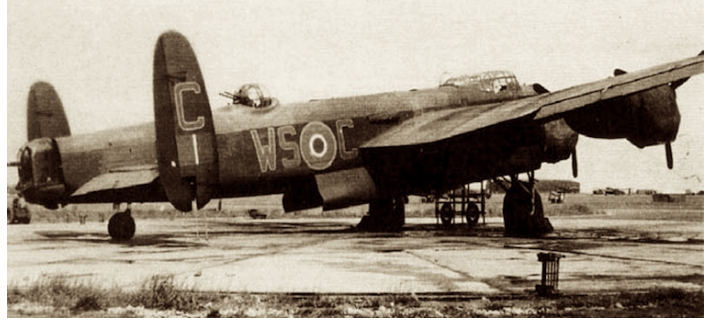


Sgt. Alun Rees 1316996
RAFVR

Alun Rees was a 19-year-old rear gunner lost over the North Sea in what was the last of a series of trial raids involving Mosquitos fitted with Oboe blind-bombing equipment.



His 9 Squadron aircraft was shot down by a night fighter after a small-scale raid on Essen on the night of 13/14 January 1943. His aircraft, Lancaster I W4843 WS-K, had taken off from Waddington, one of 66 Lancasters and three Mosquitoes on the raid, and initial reports suggested that it had been lost without trace. However, it appears that the bomber was shot down into the sea off the Dutch coast west of Schouwen, south of Rotterdam. There were no survivors and all seven on board are remembered on the Runnymede Memorial.

Alun came from the Carmarthenshire village of Trimsaran, near Llanelli, and was the son of Thomas and Lily Rees (née Lloyd).

The others lost with him were the pilot Sgt. Geoffrey Lyons, flight engineer Sgt. Bernard Simmons, navigator Sgt. Richard Chitty, bomb-aimer Sgt. Harold Cowlshaw, wireless operator Sgt. Sidney Coates and mid-upper gunner Flt. Sgt. Arthur Kenney RCAF.

Alun's name can be found on panel 089.

Sources: *Bombers First and Last* by Gordon Thorburn/9 Squadron/Luftwaffe night fighter