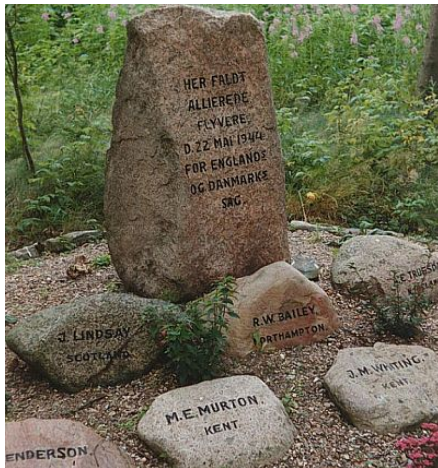


Flt. Sgt. Charles Henry Richardson 1392954 RAFVR

Former Metropolitan police officer Charles Richardson was an experienced Lancaster navigator who died along with his crew when their aircraft was shot down by a night-fighter in Denmark following a mining operation in Kiel Bay.

He was part of the crew of Lancaster LL950 LE-Y, of No. 630 Squadron, one of 14 aircraft from the squadron sent to sow mines off the Danish east coast on the night of 21/22 May 1944. It was their 16th operation together.



LL950 had taken off from East Kirkby in Lincolnshire at 2218 hours and was homebound when the Lancaster was attacked over Denmark and crashed near the village of Vesterlund. There were no survivors. A stone memorial (*pictured*), marking the crash and remembering the crew, now stands at the site.

Charles was born in 1918 and was the second of five children of Frederick and Mabel Richardson of Epsom, Surrey. He had joined the Metropolitan Police in the late 1930s and lived in the section house in Lambeth before enlisting in September 1940, and later training as a navigator. Charles is buried with the rest of his crew in Fourfelt Cemetery

in Esbjerg.

The others who died were the pilot P/O Ronald Bailey, flight engineer P/O John Whiting, bomb-aimer Ft. Sgt. James Henderson, wireless operator F/O Albert Truesdale, mid-upper gunner Sgt. James Lindsay and rear gunner Sgt. Martin Murton.

His name can be found on panel 090.

Sources: 630 Squadron Association/Epsom and Ewell History Explorer/Airwar over Denmark.