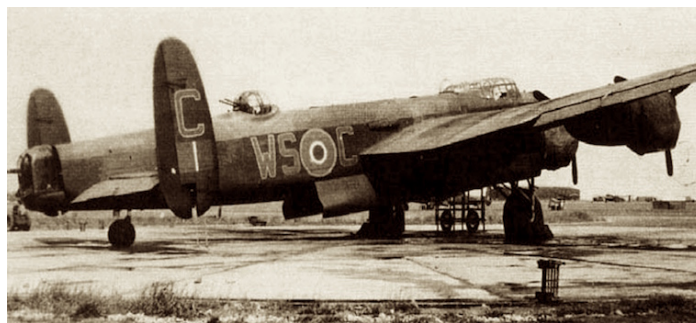


Sgt. Bernard Simmons
1006398 RAFVR

Bernard Simmons was a young flight engineer 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.

Bernard came from Bamber Bridge, Walton-le-Dale, Preston in Lancashire, and was the 21-year-old son of Herbert and Lucy Simmons (née Green).

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

Bernard's name can be found on panel 097.

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