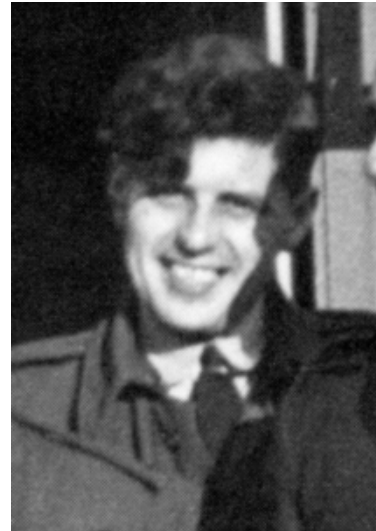


## **Sgt Alan Spence RAFVR 1493490**

Alan Spence was a young navigator from Cheshire who died along with three of his crew members when their bomber was shot down over Leipzig on 20th February 1944.

His aircraft, LD532 LE-N of 630 Squadron, was one of 833 bombers targeting aircraft factories in the eastern German city. His Lancaster was attacked by three single-engine fighters somewhere between 04:16 and 04:20 and the Lancaster crashed near the target. Three men bailed out, but Wilson Yates and three others died in the crash.



On their previous operation, a raid on Berlin a few days earlier, the crew had successfully beaten off a Ju88 fighter over the German capital.

LD532 had taken off from East Kirkby a few minutes after midnight and was one of seventy-eight Bomber Command which failed to return, including a second Lancaster from 630 Squadron.

Alan came from Altrincham and was the son twenty-two-year-old of Isaac and Lilian Spence.

The others who died were the pilot PO Wilson Yates DFC, mid-upper gunner and 630 Squadron gunnery leader Flt Lt Ernest Stead MiD and rear gunner Flt Sgt Dennis Dawson. The survivors were the flight engineer Sgt William Isaacs, bomb-aimer Sgt Reginald Findlow RCAF and wireless operator Sgt Donald Scott. Those who died were buried locally and later reinterred in Berlin War Cemetery.

Alan's name can be found on panel 100.

Sources: 630 Squadron Association.