

**Sgt Alexander
Charles Stopp
RAFVR 1387473**



Alexander Stopp was a twenty-year-old

Lancaster wireless operator who was killed along with five of his crew when his aircraft was shot down near Berlin on what was a diversionary raid.

His was one of twenty-two Lancasters sent to Berlin as a diversionary tactic while 648 bombers were sent to Magdeburg. Alexander's aircraft, JB294 LE-R, was one of two from 630 Squadron involved in the Berlin feint and was the only one lost. The Magdeburg raid itself cost Bomber Command fifty-seven aircraft, most falling to fighters.

JB294 had taken off from East Kirkby at 20:21 on 21st January 1944 and was reported to have crashed at Wiesenhausen, south of Berlin. The only survivor was the bomb-aimer, twenty-one-year-old Sgt Peter Walker, who successfully bailed out.

Alexander was part of a crew which included five men aged twenty-two or younger. He came from Bayswater in London and was the son of Alexander and Maud Stopp and left a young wife, Maria.

The others who died were the pilot Flt Sgt John Homewood, flight engineer Sgt William Yorke, navigator Flt Sgt Alexander Reedman, mid-upper gunner Sgt John Morris and rear gunner Flt Sgt Morris Marks RCAF. All are buried in Berlin War Cemetery.

Alexander's name can be found on panel 102.

Sources: 630 Squadron Association.