

**Flt Sgt John Mowbray Turnbull RAFVR  
1044419**

John Turnbull was an experienced bomb-aimer who was killed during a raid on Berlin early in 1944.

He was part of the crew of Lancaster JB532 LE-X of 630 Squadron and was among eight men killed when his aircraft was shot down by flak during the raid on the night of 1<sup>st</sup>/2nd January 1944.

JB532 was part of a force of 471 bombers attacking the German capital as part of the ongoing Battle of Berlin being staged by Bomber Command. He was one of fifteen Lancasters from 630 Squadron which took off shortly before midnight from East Kirkby and was reported to have been hit by flak and crashing at Grossbeuthen, near Trebbin (south-east of Berlin). An engine was torn from one of the Lancaster's wings before the aircraft plunged into the ground.

John came from Sunderland and was the twenty-one-year-old son of John and Edith Turnbull. He was part of a squadron which had almost completed a tour of operations with 619 Squadron at Woodhall Spa before being posted to join the newly formed 639 Squadron at East Kirkby.

The others who died were the pilot Flt Lt Douglas Macdonald DFC RCAF, second pilot S/L Kenneth Vare AFC, flight engineer Sgt Robert Smale MiD, navigator FO Niels Westergaard DFC, wireless operator Sgt William Tyrie DFM, mid-upper gunner Flt Sgt William Jenkins and rear gunner Flt Sgt William Roche RAAF. All were initially buried in Grossbeuthen cemetery before being reinterred in Berlin War Cemetery.

John's name can be found on panel 108.

Sources: 630 Squadron Association/Aircrew Reunited.

