

**Sgt William Richard Tyrie DFM RAFVR
1385473**

William Tyrie was a young decorated wireless operator from London 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 1st/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. His 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 before 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.

His home was in Wandsworth, and he was the twenty-one-year-old son of Sarah Tyrie. 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. William was awarded his Distinguished Flying Medal in December 1943, the citation describing him as 'an outstanding wireless operator who has consistently displayed coolness and courage of the highest order' and highlighted the work he did in helping his crew to get a damaged Lancaster back to England following a raid on Germany,

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, bomb-aimer Flt Sgt John Turnbull, 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.

William's name can be found on panel 109.

Sources: 630 Squadron Association/Aircrew Reunited.

