

GEORGE ARKLAY RITCHIE

Sergeant Flight Engineer 968282 Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

George was born in Monifieth in 1920, the son of William Watt Ritchie and Elizabeth Ann Ritchie nee Whyte, and later brought up in Broughty Ferry, Angus.



George Arklay Ritchie, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, volunteered for service along with his lifelong friend George Duncan, also of Dundee and an R.A.F.V.R. Both were enlisted to the R.A.F. in 1941 and posted to 49 Squadron, equipped with Handley Page Hampden medium bombers based at R.A.F. Scampton with George Ritchie assigned to flight operations as a rear gunner and George Duncan to ground operations as an aircraft fitter. 49 Squadron was later equipped with Avro Lancaster's and De Haviland Mosquito's.

In May 1943 George Ritchie was posted away to join B Flight No3 Squadron of No21 Initial Training Squadron formed in Torquay on May 31st. With a capacity of 924 (860 Wireless Operator/Air Gunners and 84 Wireless Operator Mechanic/Air Gunners). It moved to Unsworth on 15 September 1943 and then to Bridlington on 6 November, with a capacity of 800 Flight Engineers on an 8 week course, disbanding on 21 April 1944 into No 70 ITW. George Ritchie 968282 trained as a Flight Engineer and passed out Sergeant Flight Engineer in August 1943.



Sgt. George Ritchie: third row from back, fifth from right

George Ritchie was then posted to Croft Aerodrome near Darlington in County Durham, North Yorkshire to the 6th Bomber Group's, Royal Canadian Airforce Squadron 427 named "Lion" with ZL identification code, formed on November 7th 1942. The squadron initially under 4th Bomber Group trained at Croft under Wing Commander D. Burnside from January 1st, 1943 - May 4th, 1943.

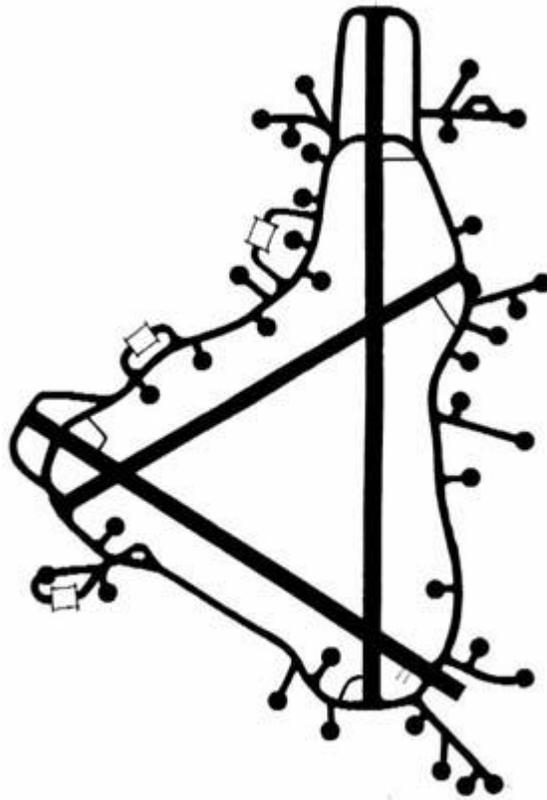


Squadron Motto "Strike with a Sure Hand" The Lion Rampant denoting England and the Maple Leaf, Canada. The Squadron was adopted by MGM Studios who's emblem was also a Lion.

The crest of 427 Squadron symbolizes how the Canadian squadron was formed in England by displaying a Lion (representing England) with a Maple leaf of Canada behind. The motto “Ferte Manus Certas” (“Strike with a Sure Hand”) is labelled beneath. Planes whose fuselage carried “ZL” were part of this squadron. Aircrew from 427 Squadron dropped over 8,528 tons of high explosives, incendiaries, and mines over enemy territory from January, 1944, to April, 1945. The squadron logged 3,277 operational sorties, with over half of them occurring in 1944.

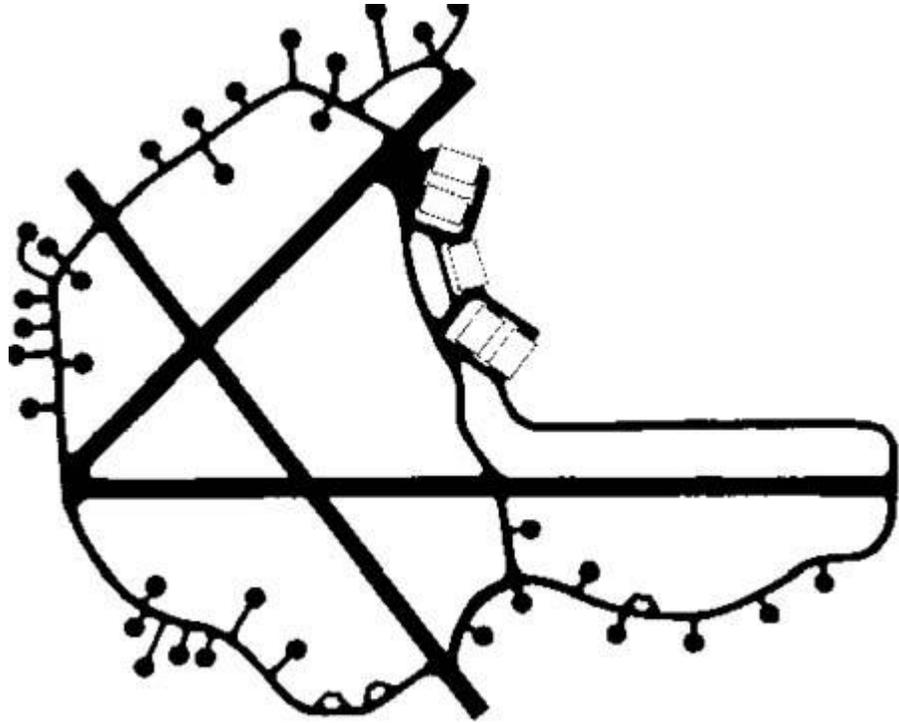


Croft Nissan Huts.

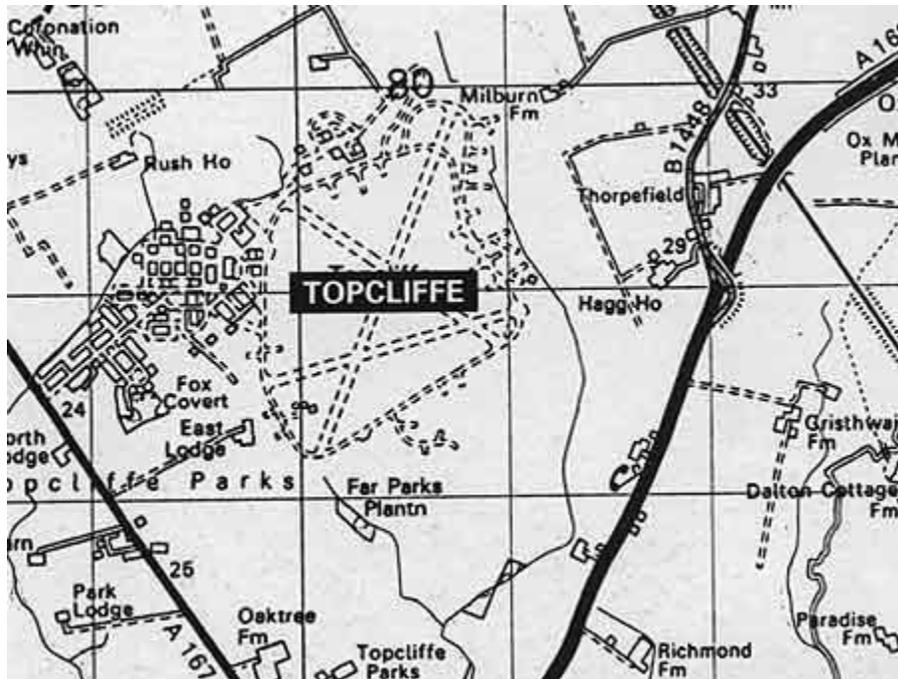


Croft Aerodrome Layout.

427 Squadron was then posted to nearby RAF Leeming, near North Allerton in operational status to number 6 Bomber Group on May 5th, 1943, under Wing Commander D. Burnside to September 5th 1943 and then Wing Commander R. Turnbull from September 6th 1943 to June 13th 1944 with a short period for conversion from MkIII to MkV Halifax's at Topcliffe, near Thirsk in March 1944. The Halifax MkIII HX 279 was built by Handley Page (Cricklewood & Radlett) and was delivered to the squadron between 16th November and 2nd December 1943.



RAF Leeming Layout.





427 Squadron Photograph and Halifax III.

Friday / Saturday March 17th /18th, 1944

25 Lancasters from 408 and 426 Squadrons were joined by 94 Halifaxes from 420, 424, 425, 427, 429, 432, and 433 Squadrons on an attack on Frankfurt.

Formed over Britain the 8 to 10 mile wide and 4,000 to 6,000 feet deep bomber stream crossed the Dutch coast at Egmond aan Zee and took the route Eastward over Osnabrück towards Kassel then Southwards over Giessen to Frankfurt and then Westwards over Mainz on the return leg. Primary engagements by the Luftwaffe were over Osnabrück by 1/NJG and 3/NGJ and then heavy engagements over Kassel and Giessen, followed by more heavy intercepts over Frankfurt and Mainz on the return route by 1/NJG and 2/NJG. The crews were over the target at between 18,000 and 23,000 feet, releasing 73,000 lbs of high explosives and 411,000 lbs of incendiaries. According to reports, target marking was accurate and serious damage was caused. The night raid, deemed a 1000 bomber raid consisted of 846 aircraft attacking Frankfurt and the Pathfinder marking was very accurate leading to heavy bombing in the central, Eastern and Western districts of the city. Much damage to the cultural buildings in the city centre was inflicted and some 5,500 houses, 99 industrial premises and 56 public community buildings were destroyed with the loss of 421 civilians killed and over 50,000 bombed out of living space. The diversion raid in Heligoland and the splitting of night fighter resources between both attacks assisted by the clouds over Frankfurt reduced the bomber losses to 22 aircraft or 2.6% of the stream.

On the return route to R.A.F. Leeming from the Frankfurt raid, it was believed that flying over the Trier area of Germany on Saturday March 18th Halifax Mk III HX-279 coded ZL-Z, was shot down with the loss of 5 crew and the capture of the one of the crew that had managed to escape the plane and parachute to the ground and the capture of the other

badly injured in the crash landing. It is not known if the aircraft was shot down by night fighter or flak, however it is thought most likely by a night fighter. The one crew that parachuted to the ground and the one that survived the crash landing were fortunate as survival rates were 17% if captured by local civilians in the bombing area and increased as the bombers flew further away from the target area. They were Flight Sergeant William Connerty Miller service R.C.A.F. No R/156049 the pilot, who parachuted out and Sergeant Ernest Sawyer service R.A.F.V.R. No 1853704 the rear gunner who survived the crash landing. Such was the rapid damage to the Halifax the other crew had little chance of escape.



In fact, matching confirmed Luftwaffe victory claims indicated that ZL-Z was shot down over Kirschberg in the Hunsrück by a Junkers JU88 C-6 night fighter at 03.20 hours piloted by Oberleutnant Martin Becker Squadron Leader of 2/NJG 6 based at Mainz-Finthen. The night fighter had been guided in on its Lichtenstein SN-2 radar by heavy radar intercept that targeted the returning bomber stream with multiple NJG squadrons vectored into the bomber stream. Martin “*Tino*” Becker was credited with 58 confirmed claims.

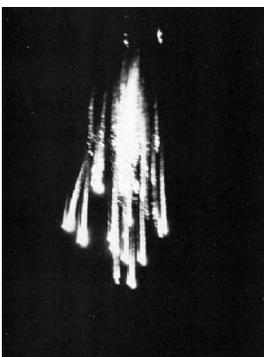
18/3/44 Combat De-Brief Report.

Weather: Cloudy with intermittent rain at noon and dusk. 37% Moon.

Visibility 3-6 miles at first improving to 10-15 miles during the morning. Night operations were scheduled for this date, and fourteen aircraft were provided by the Squadron, the target being FRANKFURT. All aircraft took off and all successfully bombed the target and returned to this country. Two aircraft failed to return from this operation, they were piloted by F/0 T.W. COOPER R.C.A.F. J/23519, "G" - GEORGE and "Z" ZEBRA, piloted by CAN.J/156049 Sgt. MILLER. W.C. Crews reported the target to be covered with haze thus making visibility poor. P.F.F. was good although route markers were very poor. Searchlights were ineffective though, due to the haze. Large explosions were seen and although there were a few scattered fires the raid was well concentrated. All aircraft landed away from base. "V" VICTOR piloted by R/141414 F/S COATHUP saw a little real action while making the bombing run when the Rear Gunner sighted an ME 109 on the port quarter, down at 400 yards. Enemy aircraft came in from below rear, climbing towards the aircraft. Combat evasion was "*Corkscrew port*" and the rear gunner fired a short burst while in the corkscrew as the fighter broke away at 200 yards to starboard and up and was not seen again. Resume course was given after fighter broke away. Enemy aircraft did not open fire.

March 17th /18th 1944. Night Raid with 37% Moon.

Frankfurt. 846 aircraft were assembled for the raid with 22 losses (2.6 %). The German night fighter controller split the available fighters, with half going to the diversionary raid at Heligoland and the others sent to meet the Frankfurt bomber stream, although cloud prevented them from making much of an impact.



Path Finder Flare marking was accurate, leading to heavy bombing in Central, Eastern and Western districts. Later bombing was

scattered, but this was normal for such a large force due to creepback and also the fact that inexperienced bomber crews were placed at the back of the stream.

Many cultural buildings were destroyed along with an estimated 5,500 houses, 99 industrial premises and 56 public buildings. 421 civilians were killed and some 55,500 bombed out.

Z “ Zebra “ Lost.

Halifax B Mk III aircraft HX 279 ZL-Z missing during a night operation to Frankfurt, Germany. Z “ Zebra “ took off from R.A.F. Leeming at 19.15 hours. It was shot down near Kirschberg in Germany by a night fighter.

Flying Officer A.H. Mildon (R.C.A.F.), Flying Officer R.E. O’Heare (R.C.A.F.), Pilot Officer R.A. Dumas (R.C.A.F), Pilot Officer R.C. Gallagher (R.C.A.F.), and Sergeant G.A. Ritchie (R.A.F.V.R) were all killed in action.

Flight Sergeant W.C. Miller (R.C.A.F.) parachuted out and Sergeant E. Sawyer (R.A.F.V.R.) survived the crash landing but was badly injured with both being taken as Prisoners of War.



ZL-Z with crew members at Croft or Leeming. Who photographed.? Who are the three in the photograph.? I would consider that the three Sergeants would have been photographed together, therefore one of them could be George Arklay Ritchie.



ZL-G at Croft or Leeming.

Only 23 years of age, Flight Sergeant George Arklay Ritchie 968282 was one of the lost crew and resting with him in the Collective Grave 1.J.2. of the Commonwealth War Grave Commission cemetery on the outskirts of Choley-Ménillot, near Toul, Nancy in France are R.C.A.F. crew:-

Pilot Officer Richard Alexandre Dumas	J/90914	Air Bomber
Pilot Officer Ralph Clare Gallagher	J/88710	Air Gunner
Flying Officer Albert Harry Mildon	J/24549	Navigator
Flying Officer Robert Ernest O’Heare	J/26856	WirelessOperator/Air Gunner



↑Trier-Petrisberg Luft Stalag XIID centre left.

The two captured and taken as POW's were the pilot, Flight Sergeant W. Miller R.C.A.F. and Flight Sergeant E. Sawyer R.A.F.V.R. the rear gunner. Miller was interned in Camps L6 & L357 at Heydekrug on the Baltic coast of East Prussia, but first at Kopernikus near Thorn (now in Poland) with POW number 3436, whilst Sawyer due to his injuries was interned nearby in Stalag XII D at Trier Petrisberg without a POW number recorded.



Handley Page Halifax B Mk. III, coded ZL-G, nicknamed "Gutsy Girty", from No. 427 Squadron, shown at Leeming, Yorkshire, with some crew before a night operation. T.W. Cooper 4th ↑ from the left.

G “ George “ was lost along with Z “ Zebra “.

There were two 427 Squadron Halifax B Mk. III aircraft lost on this operation. Halifax LW 551 ZL-G “ **George** “ was also lost. G “ George “ took off at 19.05 from RAF Leeming.

The aircraft was badly damaged by a German night fighter on March 18th some 65 kilometres / 40 miles Southwest of Mainz over Olsbrücken, on the return leg and crash landed 110 kilometres / 68 miles later near Hillesheim to the North North West of Worms during which, the Pilot, 21 year old Flying Officer Cooper was killed. The remainder of the crew had already parachuted out and were captured, Cooper having stayed with the crippled Halifax until his crew had all gotten out, but too late for him to save himself and he was killed in the ensuing forced crash landing.



In fact, matching confirmed Luftwaffe victory claims indicated that ZL-G was shot down over Hillesheim in the Rhineland-Pfalz Palatinate by a Messerschmidt BF 110 G-4 night fighter at 03.15 hours piloted by Hauptman Heinz-Wolfgang Schnauffer Staffelkapitän (Group Commander) of 12/NJG 1 based at Sint Truiden (St. Trond) Belgium. The night fighter had been guided in on its Lichtenstein SN-2 radar by heavy radar intercept that targeted the returning bomber stream with multiple NJG squadrons vectored into the stream. Schnauffer was the top German night fighter ace credited with 121 confirmed claims. He was known as the “ *Spook of St. Trond* “ by bomber crews and was credited with multiple confirmed claims from that one raid. Flying Officer Thomas Wilson Cooper was Mentioned in Dispatches for his bravery in escaping France

following a raid on Trappes in France. His commendation and Oak Leaf came on 7th March 1944 just 11 days before his death.

Flying Officer Cooper at 21 years of age from Ontario, Canada is buried in Grave 8.D.16 in the Rheinberg Commonwealth War Cemetery near Kamp Lintfort, Kreis Wesel in Germany.

We visited the Cemetery on May 9th, 2024, and laid some flowers in remembrance of a very brave young man who saved his crew at the cost of his own life. On June 15th 2025 we re-visited and placed flowers and a picture of the High Street in Ontario on his grave.

Sergeant Leslie Walter Preston died on May 11th, 1945, from peritonitis developed after abdominal surgery and is buried in the Berlin 1939 / 1945 Commonwealth War Cemetery in the Charlottenburg district of Berlin.

Flying Officer Thomas Wilson Cooper.

R.C.A.F. J/23519 Killed in Action.

Flying Officer W. Wright.

Prisoner of War.

Flying Officer Charles Albert Cawson.

R.C.A.F. J/23132 Prisoner of War.

Flight Sergeant George Bagnall Dowker

R.C.A.F. R/77018 Prisoner of War.

Sergeant Thomas Frederick Muncaster.

R.A.F.V.R. 1235323 Prisoner of

War.

Sergeant Leslie Walter Preston.

R.A.F.V.R. 1813264 Prisoner of

War. Died 11th May 1945 from peritonitis following an abdominal operation.

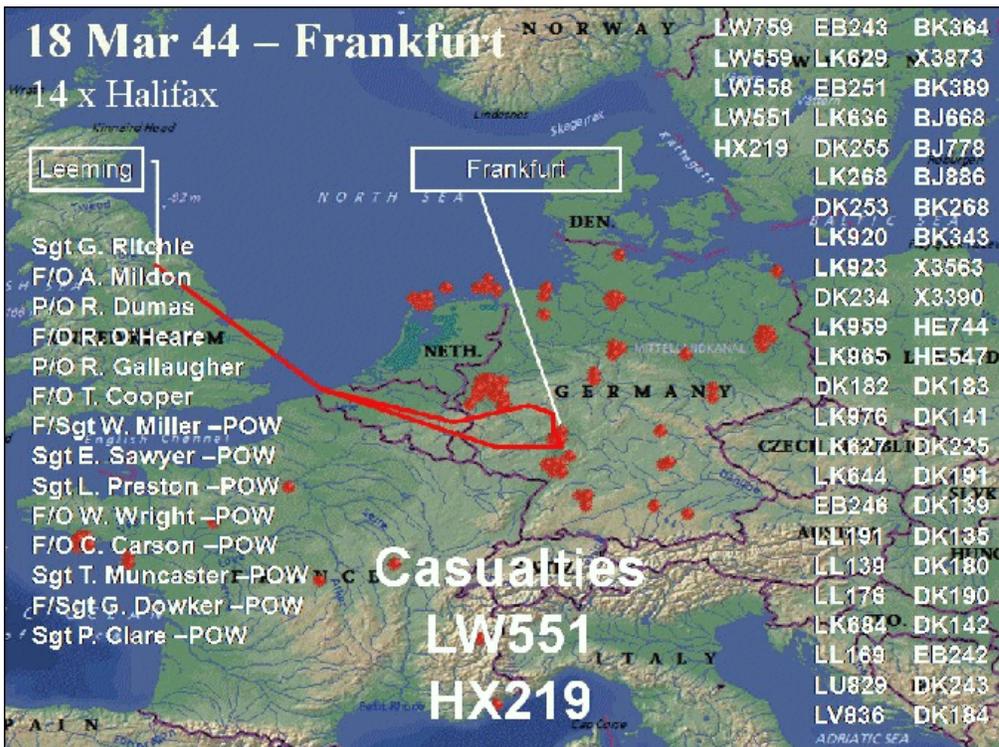
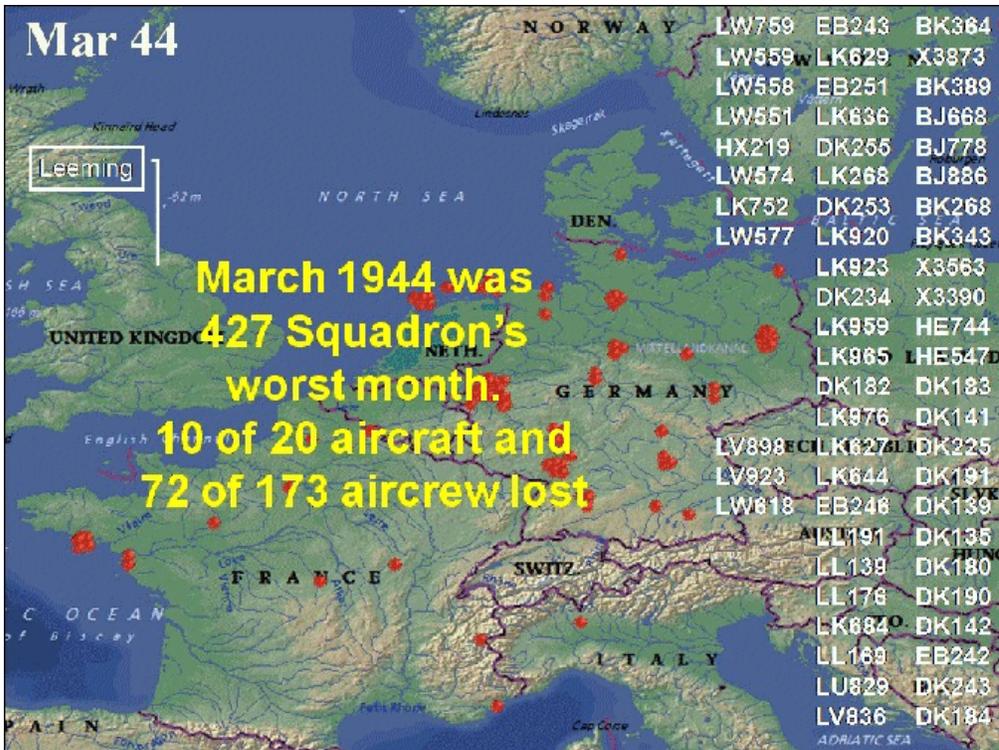
Charlottenburg Military Cemetery. Grave 8.L.18.

Sergeant Peter Aidan Clare.

R.A.F.V.R. 1622864 Prisoner of

War.

The POWs were detained in Stalag Luft L1 Barth Vogelsang near Mecklenburg in West Pomerania.



HALIFAX B Mk III CREW POSITIONS.

The Pilot sat on the left side of the cockpit above the Wireless Operator. The Flight Engineer filled in as a 2nd-Pilot, seated on a folding seat to the right of the pilot, during crucial maneuvers such as take-off and landing. Aft of the Pilot and set lower than the Pilot was the Flight Engineer's compartment with controls on the bulkhead. Another compartment aft of the Flight Engineer contained two bunks originally intended for resting crew members, but almost always used for treating and berthing injured crew. This area led to the two-gun dorsal turret and to where the Tail Gunner occupied a four-gun turret at the extreme aft end of the aircraft.

The Flight Engineer (2nd Pilot) sat to the right of the Pilot on a folding (*Dickie*) seat, which was necessary to fold away to allow access to the Bomb Aimer / Front Gunner position. It and its tubular footrest was stowed under the raised floor section beneath the Pilot's seat.

The Flight Engineer's duties in addition to being the 2nd Pilot was to monitor the engines, throttle settings and propellor pitch settings, fuel flow and act as required to assist or replace the Pilot. He had two panels to monitor, the one on the starboard side which contained oil and fuel gauges, booster pump switches, fuel pressure warning lights, fuel tank selector cocks, along with many other warning lights and switches. He also monitored the main dashboard in front of the pilot, it seen by both of them and contained Rev Counters, boost gauges, ignition switches, engine fire extinguisher buttons, propellor feathering buttons and other duplicate warning lights and switches. A very responsible position.



LtoR ↑ Flight Engineer, Pilot, Wireless Operator. Seated Flight Engineer ↑ and below him Navigator and Bomb Aimer / Front Gunner.

Starting with the Halifax Mk.II Series IA and from the Mk.III B onwards, the nose turret was deleted; Instead the bomb-aimer occupied a streamlined perspex nose containing a single hand-held machine gun. On later-built aircraft, the two-gun dorsal turret was replaced by a four-gun Boulton-Paul turret.



This Halifax ZL- of 427 Squadron shot down near Cochem which is just 25 kilometres / 16 miles by air from Kirschberg. Unfortunately the identification letter normally between two white balls is in the damaged / missing section of the aircraft. eg ° Z °. There is however a faint outline of a horizontal stripe that could have been the bottom line of a Z. With all the locality information this is likely ZL-Z.

Insignia of Nachtjagdgeschwader 1 (NJG/1) based at Venlo-Herongen.

Remarkably, the lighting bolt points to where RAF Leeming would have been.





**Messerschmitt BF110G Night Fighters of NJG/1 based at Venlo-Herongen airfield.
*Nachtjagdgeschwader 1 (NJG/1).***



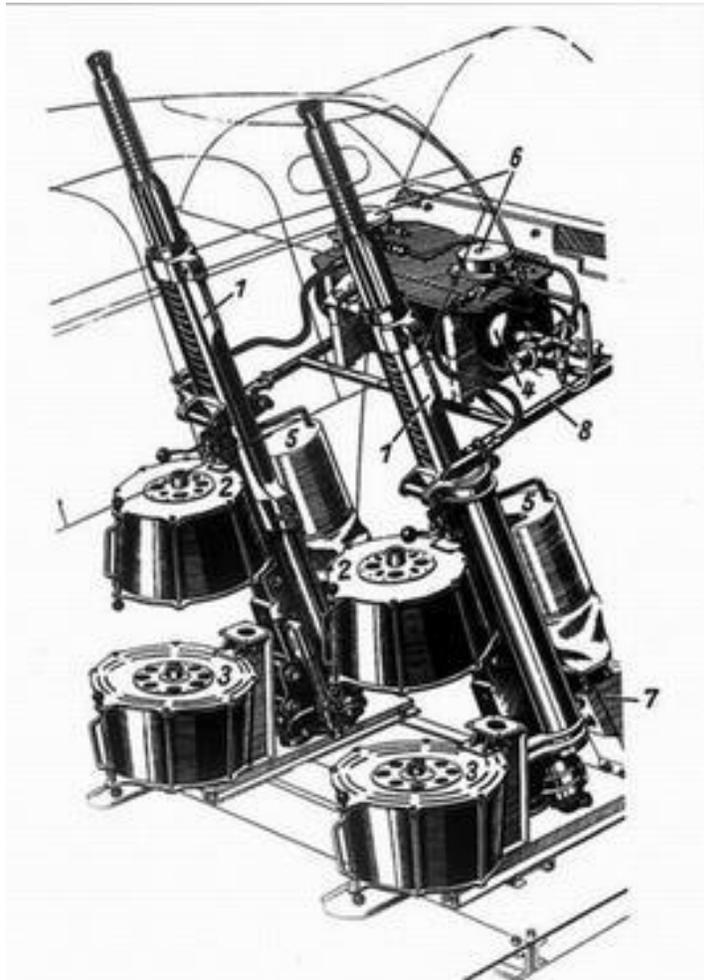
Junkers JU88 C-6 Night Fighter of 2/NJG 6 based at Mainz-Finthen.

Description of Night Fighter attack.

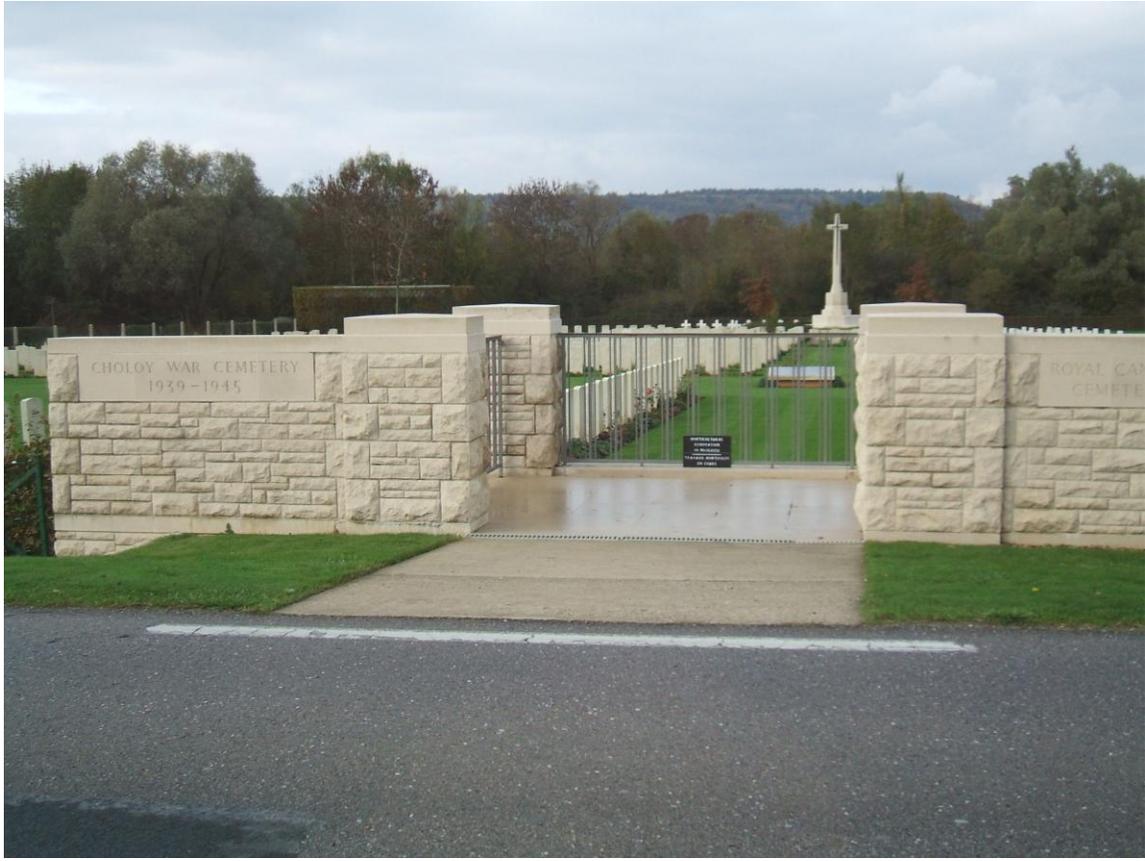
Like that of an enemy sniper, the task of the night fighter crew amounted to little short of cold-blooded murder

If it was possible to get within 50 yards behind and astern of a still unsuspecting victim, a favourite German tactic was to pull the fighter up onto its tail, at the same time opening fire.

The battery of cannons pumped out a stream of explosive shells to rake the raider from stern to stem. All too often the first thing the hapless bomber crew knew of the attack was the shudder as their aircraft buckled under the impact of the exploding shells or themselves the impact of shells or shrapnel.



By this stage in the war, many twin engined night fighters were also using the Schräge Musik “ *Organ Music* “ upward firing 20mm cannon system triggered by a photo-electric cell as the night fighter flew under the targeted bomber.



Choloy-Ménillot Commonwealth / R.C.A.F. Cemetery near Toul / Nancy France.



Collective Grave 1.J.2.



Collective Grave 1.J.2 middle two headstones with G. A. Ritchie named bottom of right headstone. All 5 crew buried together. Beautiful very well kept cemetery.

After the war, the Commonwealth Graves Commission collected the dead from many German churchyards and temporary wartime grave sites and re-interred them in designated Cemeteries depending on geographical locations. The Z “ Zebra “ crew were taken to Choloy-Ménillot. T.W. Cooper to Rheinberg. The Z “ Zebra “ crew had originally been interred in the 1st W.W. American Cemetery in Grand Faily, France some 90 kilometres / 56 miles from the crash site whilst T. W. Cooper was initially interred in a local cemetery at Hillesheim.

We have visited George Ritchie now some four times and laid flowers in remembrance of his sacrifice. On 10th June 2025 we laid flowers and pictures of Broughty Castle, the Law Hill and the Tay Railway Bridge and visited again on June 15th.



We visited again on September 1st 2025 and closed the circle with a note in the Visitor Book describing ZL-Zebra and ZL-George on March 18th 1944 and we placed photographs of the crew of ZL-Z resting in Choloy and of T.W. Cooper of ZL-G resting in Rheinberg in the Visitor Book. We also placed a sealed framed photograph of the ZL-Z crew on their collective grave.



Flying Officer Thomas Wilson Cooper J/23519. Pilot of G "George" was moved to Rheinberg Commonwealth Cemetery, in grave 8.D.16 near Kamp Lintfort, Wesel, Germany. **Beautiful very well kept cemetery.**



F/O Thomas William Cooper

F/O Thomas William Cooper, while training in the R.C.A.F., at No. 4 Wireless School, Burtch, met and married Miss Norma Jellie, 25 Princess St. He was reported missing after air operations over Frankfurt, Germany, on March 18, 1944. He was buried at Hillesheim, 12½ miles northwest of Worms. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Arnold S. Cooper, Montreal, he had enlisted in the R.C.A.F., in

June, 1941, and received his wings at St. Hubert, Que., in April, 1943. On March 7, in the month of his death, he was Mentioned in Dispatches for the notable part he played while participating in a raid on railway yards at Trappes, France.

COOPER, THOMAS WILLIAM F/O(P) J23519 M.I.D. From Montreal, Quebec. Killed In Action Mar. 18/44 age 21. #427 Lion Squadron (Ferte Manus Certas). Halifax aircraft # LW 551 was shot down at Hillesheim, Germany during a night operation to Frankfurt, Germany. Three Canadians, F/O.s W.A. Wright, C.A. Cawson, and FS G.B. Dowker were taken Prisoners Of War. Three of the crew, not Canadians, missing believed killed. F/O. Cooper maintained control of his aircraft long enough to allow his crew to jump to safety; he stayed too long to save himself. Flying Officer Pilot Cooper was buried at Hillesheim, exhumed, and reburied in the War Cemetery at Rheinberg, Germany.



Rheinberg Commonwealth Cemetery.



Grave 8.D.16.

We visited T.W. Cooper again on 15th June 2025 and laid more flowers and a picture of the High Street in Ontario on his grave to remember the sacrifice of this man that we did not even know.



We visited again on September 6th 2025 and closed the circle with a note in the Visitor Book describing ZL-George and ZL-Zebra on March 18th 1944 and we placed a photograph of T.W. Cooper and also one of the 5 crew of ZL-Z resting in Choloy. We also placed a sealed framed photograph of T.W. Cooper on his grave.



Family Grave in Monifieth Cemetery with George Arklay Ritchie named as Killed in Action on 18th March 1944.



***City of Dundee
Roll of Honour
World War II - 1939 to 1945***

Name:	George Arklay Ritchie
Age:	23
Address:	unknown
Next of Kin:	Son of William Watt Ritchie and Elizabeth Ann Ritchie of B'Ferry, Dundee
Rank:	Sergeant
Number:	968282
Served With:	427 (R.C.A.F.) Sqdn., Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve
Force:	Air Force
Date of Death:	18/03/1944
Place of Death:	with Bomber Command
Historical Information:	unknown
Cemetery/Memorial:	Choloy War Cemetery, Meurthe-et-Moselle,
Memorial Ref:	1. J. Gr, 2.
Location Details:	unspecified
	-



***City of Dundee
Roll of Honour
World War II - 1939 to 1945***

Ritchie

Name	Home Address	Force
Edward Ritchie	unknown	Army
Frederick Mortimer Ritchie	unknown	Royal Navy
George Arklay Ritchie	unknown	Air Force
Glenalvon Edwin Ritchie	53 Hill Street	Army
James Ritchie	unknown	Merchant Navy
James Ritchie	2 Fleming Gardens West	Merchant Navy
Thomas Ritchie	31 Kinghorne Road	Army



The Bomber Crews Memorial. London. Right panel: Lion Squadron Memorial. Cobden Ottawa, Ontario State, Canada.

Right panel: Lion Squadron Memorial. Cobden Ottawa . Ontario State. Names of lost crews in Halifax III's.

RCAF	WO2	PG JOLLIFFE	18-NOV-43	MANNHEIM
RCAF	F/O	P KENNEDY	18-NOV-43	MANNHEIM
RAF	SGT	W RIDDELL	18-NOV-43	MANNHEIM
RCAF	F/O	FW WINTER	18-NOV-43	MANNHEIM
RCAF	SGT	GW BRIFFETT	20-DEC-43	FRANKFURT
RCAF	F/SGT	GH DUDLEY	20-DEC-43	FRANKFURT
RAF	SGT	J GRAHAM	20-DEC-43	FRANKFURT
RCAF	F/O	JM GRIEVE	20-DEC-43	FRANKFURT
RCAF	F/O	JG HATCHWELL	20 DEC-43	FRANKFURT
RCAF	F/SGT	S SONDERGAARD	20-DEC-43	FRANKFURT
RCAF	SGT	TW THOMPSON	20-DEC-43	FRANKFURT

RAF	F/O	LG BIDDISCOMBE	20-JAN-44	BERLIN
RAF	SGT	JS CHILD	20-JAN-44	BERLIN
RCAF	P/O	JG COFLIN	20-JAN-44	BERLIN
RAF	F/SGT	C COOK	20-JAN-44	BERLIN
RCAF	P/O	NE COOK	20-JAN-44	BERLIN
RAF	F/O	WA COZENS	20-JAN-44	BERLIN
RCAF	F/SGT	BE FINDLAY	20-JAN-44	BERLIN
RAF	SGT	J McGOWAN	20-JAN-44	BERLIN
RCAF	SGT	BC PRILL	20-JAN-44	BERLIN
RAF	SGT	WL STOCKFORD	20-JAN-44	BERLIN
RAF	P/O	RS THOMPSON	20-JAN-44	BERLIN
RCAF	S/LDR	DM ARNOT	21-JAN-44	MAGDEBURG
RAF	P/O	R DAWSON	21-JAN-44	MAGDEBURG
RCAF	P/O	LS GRAY	21-JAN-44	MAGDEBURG
RAF	SGT	JI JONES	21-JAN-44	MAGDEBURG
RCAF	P/O	LW JONES	21-JAN-44	MAGDEBURG
RCAF	F/O	IL MacKEIGAN	21-JAN-44	MAGDEBURG
RCAF	W/CDR	AN MARTIN	21-JAN-44	MAGDEBURG
RAF	SGT	WI MORGAN	21-JAN-44	MAGDEBURG
RCAF	P/O	RO NICKERSON	21-JAN-44	MAGDEBURG
RCAF	WO2	WJ OGILVIE	21-JAN-44	MAGDEBURG
RAF	SGT	R RICHARDS	21-JAN-44	MAGDEBURG
RCAF	P/O	RAN RONDELET	21-JAN-44	MAGDEBURG
RAF	SGT	CP RYAN	21-JAN-44	MAGDEBURG
RCAF	SGT	N SMITH	21-JAN-44	MAGDEBURG
RCAF	W/O2	GWC TOAL	21-JAN-44	MAGDEBURG
RCAF	F/O	VM WARWICK	21-JAN-44	MAGDEBURG
RCAF	F/SGT	RN WEIR	21-JAN-44	MAGDEBURG
RCAF	SGT	DW HOWARD	07-FEB-44	LEEMING
RCAF	F/SGT	AW NICOL	07-FEB-44	LEEMING
RCAF	F/SGT	VR POLOWY	07-FEB-44	LEEMING
RAF	SGT	J ROBERTSON	07-FEB-44	LEEMING
RAF	SGT	SH SHORT	07-FEB-44	LEEMING
RCAF	F/SGT	JWL VIDAL	07-FEB-44	LEEMING
RCAF	F/SGT	JG BURKE	19-FEB-44	LEIPZIG
RCAF	P/O	DH JONASSON	19-FEB-44	LEIPZIG
RCAF	P/O	JP McKENZIE	19-FEB-44	LEIPZIG
RCAF	F/O	DO OLSVIK	19-FEB-44	LEIPZIG
RCAF	SGT	JPF RICHARD	19-FEB-44	LEIPZIG
RCAF	SGT	JAG TAILLON	19-FEB-44	LEIPZIG
RCAF	WO2	WR TOBIN	19-FEB-44	LEIPZIG
RCAF	P/O	RL WARREN	19-FEB-44	LEIPZIG
RAF	SGT	AF FITTON	20-FEB-44	STUTTGART
RAF	SGT	FAC HARRIS	20-FEB-44	STUTTGART
RCAF	F/O	WN HEGY	20-FEB-44	STUTTGART
RAF	SGT	GH JONES	20-FEB-44	STUTTGART
RCAF	F/O	RK LAUT	20-FEB-44	STUTTGART

RCAF P/O RW MOODY	20-FEB-44	STUTTGART	
RAF SGT EJ ROWE	20-FEB-44	STUTTGART	
RAF SGT FC BARKER	25-FEB-44	AUGSBURG	
RAF P/O KK HIGNETT	25-FEB-44	AUGSBURG	
RAF P/O AC MIDDLETON	25-FEB-44	AUGSBURG	
RAF F/LT JRG MILTON	25-FEB-44	AUGSBURG	
RCAF F/O WA SHIRLEY	25-FEB-44	AUGSBURG	
RAF SGT MR SINGER	25-FEB-44	AUGSBURG	
RCAF F/O JF CREBA	15-MAR-44	STUTTGART	
RCAF P/O LF DUNN	15-MAR-44	STUTTGART	
RAF SGT D EVANS	15-MAR-44	STUTTGART	
RCAF P/O OA LINTON	15-MAR-44	STUTTGART	
RCAF WO1 S MYDASKI	15-MAR-44	STUTTGART	
RCAF F/O HB STEEVES	15-MAR-44	STUTTGART	
RCAF F/O TW COOPER	18-MAR-44	FRANKFURT	G GEORGE
RCAF P/O RA DUMAS	18-MAR-44	FRANKFURT	Z ZEBRA
RCAF P/O RC GALLAUGHER	18-MAR-44	FRANKFURT	Z ZEBRA
RCAF F/O AH MILDON	18-MAR-44	FRANKFURT	Z ZEBRA
RCAF F/O RE O'HEARE	18-MAR-44	FRANKFURT	Z ZEBRA
RAF SGT GA RITCHIE	18-MAR-44	FRANKFURT	Z ZEBRA
RCAF P/O SG DOWDELL	24-MAR-44	BERLIN	
RCAF P/O CM FUGERE	24-MAR-44	BERLIN	
RCAF P/O LC GLASSER	24-MAR-44	BERLIN	
RCAF P/O EJ HALBERT	24-MAR-44	BERLIN	
RCAF F/O OL JACKSON	24-MAR-44	BERLIN	

RCAF	WO2	PG	JOLLIFFE	18-NOV-43	MANNHEIM
RCAF	F/O	P	KENNEDY	18-NOV-43	MANNHEIM
RAF	SGT	W	RIDDELL	18-NOV-43	MANNHEIM
RCAF	F/O	FW	WINTER	20-DEC-43	FRANKFURT
RCAF	SGT	GW	BRIFFETT	20-DEC-43	FRANKFURT
RCAF	F/SGT	GH	DUDLEY	20-DEC-43	FRANKFURT
RAF	SGT	J	GRAHAM	20-DEC-43	FRANKFURT
RCAF	F/O	JM	GRIEVE	20-DEC-43	FRANKFURT
RCAF	F/O	JG	HATCHWELL	20-DEC-43	FRANKFURT
RCAF	F/SGT	S	SONDERGAARD	20-DEC-43	FRANKFURT
RCAF	SGT	TW	THOMPSON	20-JAN-44	BERLIN
RAF	F/O	LG	BIDDISCOMBE	20-JAN-44	BERLIN
RAF	SGT	JS	CHILD	20-JAN-44	BERLIN
RCAF	P/O	JG	COFLIN	20-JAN-44	BERLIN
RAF	F/SGT	C	COOK	20-JAN-44	BERLIN
RCAF	P/O	NE	COOK	20-JAN-44	BERLIN
RAF	F/O	WA	COZENS	20-JAN-44	BERLIN
RCAF	F/SGT	BE	FINDLAY	20-JAN-44	BERLIN
RAF	SGT	J	MCGOWAN	20-JAN-44	BERLIN
RCAF	SGT	BC	PRILL	20-JAN-44	BERLIN
RAF	SGT	WL	STOCKFORD	20-JAN-44	BERLIN
RAF	P/O	RS	THOMPSON	20-JAN-44	BERLIN
RCAF	S/LDR	DM	ARNOT	21-JAN-44	MAGDEBURG
RAF	P/O	R	DAWSON	21-JAN-44	MAGDEBURG
RCAF	P/O	LS	GRAY	21-JAN-44	MAGDEBURG
RAF	SGT	JJ	JONES	21-JAN-44	MAGDEBURG
RCAF	P/O	LW	JONES	21-JAN-44	MAGDEBURG
RCAF	F/O	IL	MACKEIGAN	21-JAN-44	MAGDEBURG
RCAF	W/CDR	AN	MARTIN	21-JAN-44	MAGDEBURG
RAF	SGT	WI	MORGAN	21-JAN-44	MAGDEBURG
RCAF	P/O	RO	NICKERSON	21-JAN-44	MAGDEBURG
RCAF	WO2	WJ	OGILVIE	21-JAN-44	MAGDEBURG
RAF	SGT	R	RICHARDS	21-JAN-44	MAGDEBURG
RCAF	P/O	RAN	RONDELET	21-JAN-44	MAGDEBURG
RAF	SGT	CP	RYAN	21-JAN-44	MAGDEBURG
RCAF	SGT	N	SMITH	21-JAN-44	MAGDEBURG
RCAF	W/O2	GWC	TOAL	21-JAN-44	MAGDEBURG
RCAF	F/O	VM	WARWICK	21-JAN-44	MAGDEBURG
RCAF	F/SGT	RN	WEIR	21-JAN-44	MAGDEBURG
RCAF	SGT	DW	HOWARD	07-FEB-44	LEEMING
RCAF	F/SGT	AW	NICOL	07-FEB-44	LEEMING
RCAF	F/SGT	VR	POLOWY	07-FEB-44	LEEMING
RAF	SGT	J	ROBERTSON	07-FEB-44	LEEMING
RAF	SGT	SH	SHORT	07-FEB-44	LEEMING
RCAF	F/SGT	JWL	VIDAL	07-FEB-44	LEEMING
RCAF	F/SGT	JG	BURKE	19-FEB-44	LEIPZIG
RCAF	P/O	DH	JONASSON	19-FEB-44	LEIPZIG
RCAF	P/O	JP	MCKENZIE	19-FEB-44	LEIPZIG
RCAF	F/O	DO	OLSVIK	19-FEB-44	LEIPZIG
RCAF	SGT	JPE	RICHARD	19-FEB-44	LEIPZIG
RCAF	SGT	JAG	TAILLON	19-FEB-44	LEIPZIG
RCAF	WO2	WR	TOBIN	19-FEB-44	LEIPZIG
RAF	P/O	RL	WARREN	19-FEB-44	LEIPZIG
RAF	SGT	AF	FITTON	19-FEB-44	LEIPZIG
RCAF	SGT	FAC	HARRIS	20-FEB-44	STUTTGART
RAF	F/O	WN	HEGY	20-FEB-44	STUTTGART
RAF	SGT	GH	JONES	20-FEB-44	STUTTGART
RCAF	F/O	RK	LAUT	20-FEB-44	STUTTGART
RCAF	P/O	RW	MOODY	20-FEB-44	STUTTGART
RAF	SGT	EJ	ROWE	20-FEB-44	STUTTGART
RAF	SGT	FC	BARKER	20-FEB-44	STUTTGART
RAF	P/O	KK	HIGNETT	25-FEB-44	AUGSBURG
RAF	P/O	AC	MIDDLETON	25-FEB-44	AUGSBURG
RAF	F/LT	JRG	MILTON	25-FEB-44	AUGSBURG
RCAF	F/O	WA	SHIRLEY	25-FEB-44	AUGSBURG
RAF	SGT	MR	SINGER	25-FEB-44	AUGSBURG
RCAF	F/O	JF	CREBA	25-FEB-44	AUGSBURG
RCAF	P/O	LF	DUNN	25-FEB-44	AUGSBURG
RAF	SGT	D	EVANS	15-MAR-44	STUTTGART
RCAF	P/O	DA	LINTON	15-MAR-44	STUTTGART
RCAF	WO1	S	MYDASKI	15-MAR-44	STUTTGART
RCAF	F/O	HB	STEEVES	15-MAR-44	STUTTGART
RCAF	F/O	TW	COOPER	15-MAR-44	STUTTGART
RCAF	P/O	RA	DUMAS	18-MAR-44	STUTTGART
RCAF	P/O	RC	GALLAUGHER	18-MAR-44	FRANKFURT
RCAF	F/O	AH	MILDON	18-MAR-44	FRANKFURT
RAF	SGT	RE	O'HEARE	18-MAR-44	FRANKFURT
RCAF	P/O	GA	RITCHIE	18-MAR-44	FRANKFURT
RCAF	P/O	SG	DOWDELL	18-MAR-44	FRANKFURT
RCAF	P/O	CM	FUGERE	24-MAR-44	BERLIN
RCAF	P/O	LG	GLASSER	24-MAR-44	BERLIN
RCAF	P/O	EJ	HALBERT	24-MAR-44	BERLIN
RCAF	F/O	OL	JACKSON	24-MAR-44	BERLIN

T.W. Cooper to G. A. Ritchie can be clearly seen marked 18th March Frankfurt.



This memorial is dedicated to those men and women who served at RAF Leeming during World War II, including those from the Royal Canadian Air Force Squadrons, whose members came from all parts of the Commonwealth from 1942 to 1945;

405 Vancouver 408 Goose 419 Moose
427 Lion 429 Bison

also, to the many Civilians who supported them during their term of duty in North Yorkshire. We remember too the RAF Squadrons who preceded the Canadians from 1940 - 1942;

7 - 10 - 35 - 77 - 102 - 219

TO THOSE WHO PAID THE SUPREME SACRIFICE
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

Dedicated June 19, 1993



1939 - 1945

NO6 (RCAF) GROUP SQUADRONS OF BOMBER COMMAND

LAST

SON	NAME	OPERATIONAL AERODROME	ADOPTION
408	GOOSE	LINTON-ON-OUSE	KINGSVILLE ONT
426	THUNDERBIRD	LINTON-ON-OUSE	REGINA SASK
420	SNOWY OWL	THOLTHORPE	LONDON ONT
425	ALOUETTE	THOLTHORPE	MONTREAL QUEBEC
432	LEASIDE	EAST MOOR	LEASIDE ONT
415	SWORDFISH	EAST MOOR	BISSETT MAN
427	LION	LEEMING	MGM STUDIOS
429	BISON	LEEMING	LETHBRIDGE ALTA
424	TIGER	SKIPTON ON SWALE	HAMILTON ONT
433	PORCUPINE	SKIPTON ON SWALE	TIMMINS ONT
419	MOOSE	MIDDLETON ST GEORGE	KAMLOOPS B.C.
428	GHOST	MIDDLETON ST GEORGE	IODE TORONTO
431	IRONOUIS	CROFT	SIMCOE ONT
434	BLUENOSE	CROFT	ROTARY CLUB HALIFAX N.S.

NO. 8 (PATHFINDER) GROUP

405 VANCOUVER GRANSDEN LODGE VANCOUVER B.C
BEDFORDSHIRE



Bomber and Pathfinder Crew Memorial at Leeming.



Memorial at Dalton on Tees to Bomber Crews that trained at Croft Aerodrome.



Memorial at Dalton on Tees to Bomber Crews that trained at Croft Aerodrome.

Crew of Halifax B III ZL-Z “ Z Zebra “ resting in grave 1. J. Gr, 2. Scotsman.



Flight Engineer George Arklay Ritchie.

Canadians



Flight Officer Albert Harry Mildon.



Flight Officer Robert Ernest O’Heare.



Pilot Officer Richard Alexandre Dumas.



Pilot Officer Ralph Clare Gallagher.

In Memory Of

Sergeant

GEORGE ARKLAY RITCHIE

Service Number: 968282

427 (R.C.A.F.) Sqdn., Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve who died on 18 March 1944 Age 23

Son of William Watt Ritchie and Elizabeth Ann Ritchie, of Broughty Ferry, Angus.

Remembered with Honour

CHOLOY WAR CEMETERY

1. J. 2 (Coll.)



|||||
COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES
|||||

COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

Graves Registration Report Form.

COUNTRY FRANCE
COMMUNE:

REPORT No.:

SCHEDULE No.: 9.

PLACE OF BURIAL: CHOLOY WAR CTY.

Land belongs to

Certified complete and correct.

2 DEC 1955

The following are buried here:—

Signature.....

Records Dept. - France

Date.....

P.R.G.	No. and Rank	Initials, Name & Honours	Unit	Date of Death	For works use
	<u>PLOT I. ROW J.</u>				
Coll. Gr. 1.	937025 Sgt. (F/Eng)	✓ D. BAILEY	83 Sqdn. R.A.F. (V.R.)	28.8.43.	} CH (i)
	116208 F/O. (Nav)	✓ H.A. CLARK	83 Sqdn. R.A.F. (V.R.)	28.8.43.	
	1393824 F/Sgt. (A/B)	✓ W.F. FREEZE	83 Sqdn. R.A.F. (V.R.)	28.8.43.	
	553810 Sgt. (W.Op)	✓ J.E.W. PIMM	83 Sqdn. R.A.F.	28.8.43.	
	1579710 F/Sgt. (A/G)	✓ C.H. SILVESTER	83 Sqdn. R.A.F. (V.R.)	28.8.43.	
	149611 P/O. (Pilot)	✓ K.C. TURP	83 Sqdn. R.A.F. (V.R.)	28.8.43.	
Coll. Gr. 2.	J.90914 P/O. (A/B)	✓ R.A. DUMAS	427 Sqdn. R.C.A.F.	18.3.44.	} CH (i)
	J.88710 P/O. (A/G)	✓ R.C. GALLAUGHER	427 Sqdn. R.C.A.F.	18.3.44.	
	J.24549 F/O. (NAV)	✓ A.H. MILDON	427 Sqdn. R.C.A.F.	18.3.44.	
	J.26856 F/O. (W/AG) (W.O.P./A.G)	✓ R.E. O'HEARE	427 Sqdn. R.C.A.F.	18.3.44.	
	968282 Sgt. (F/Eng)	✓ G.A. RITCHIE	 R.A.F. (V.R.)	18.3.44.	} CH (i)
	φ Authy. RA/1/3 d. 8.11.55				

Contract No:-

SCHEDULE "A"

Page No: 8

Name & Address of firm:-

Name of Burial Place:-

^{WAR}
CHOLOY BRIT. CEM., FRANCE, NO.1

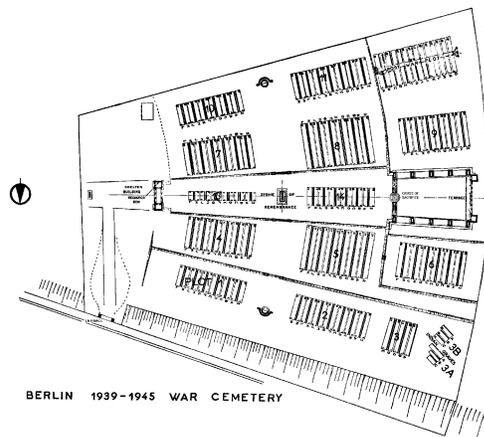
Coll.Gr.	68	Coll.Gr.	70
1/F3/T	1.J.2	1/F3/T	1.J.3
4	12	1818907 Sergeant	15
Pilot Officer	9	A.W. Gowland	9
R.A. Dumas	21	Air Gunner	13
Air Bomber	18	Royal Air Force	18
Royal Canadian Air Force	60	27th March 1944 Age 19	15
18th March 1944 Age 21		Without farewell	12
12	12	He fell asleep	15
Pilot Officer	9	Leaving memories	14
R.C. Gallagher	21	We'll always keep	11
Air Gunner	18	1397160 Sergeant	15
Royal Canadian Air Force	60	W. Harris	9
18th March 1944 Age 27		Air Gunner	13
6	13	Royal Air Force	13
Flying Officer	9	27th March 1944	50
A.H. Mildon	18		
Navigator	15	1820970 Sergeant	15
Royal Canadian Air Force	3	J.J. McInroy	14
18th March 1944 Age 32	23	Flight Engineer	13
Looking for	28	Royal Air Force	18
That blessed hope	21	27th March 1944 Age 21	14
And	25	Ever remembered	235
The glorious resurrection	25	(No emblem)	
(No emblem)			
Z/1202/1/F2 T	69		
1192/1/F2 T	13		
1.J.2	26		
8	21		
Flying Officer	18		
R.E. O'Heare	10		
Wireless Operator/Air Gunner	11		
Royal Canadian Air Force	99		
18th March 1944 Age 22			
May his soul			
Rest in peace			
9	14		
968282 Sergeant	14		
G.A. Ritchie	13		
Flight Engineer	18		
Royal Air Force	158		
18th March 1944 Age 23			
(No emblem)			
17			

Crew of Halifax B III ZL-G “ G George “ resting in Rheinberg Commonwealth Cemetery, Kamp Lintfort, Germany. Grave 8.D.16.



Flying Officer Thomas Wilson Cooper.

**Flight Sergeant Flight Engineer Leslie Walter Preston.R.A.F.V.R. 1813264
Prisoner of War. Died 11th May 1945 from peritonitis following an abdominal
operation.
Charlottenburg Commonwealth Military Cemetery. Grave 8.L18**



Last row nearest Cross in middle plot 2nd row from top.

In Memory Of
Flight Sergeant

LESLIE WALTER PRESTON

Service Number: 1813264

427 (R.C.A.F.) Sqdn., Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve who died on 11 May 1945 Age 22

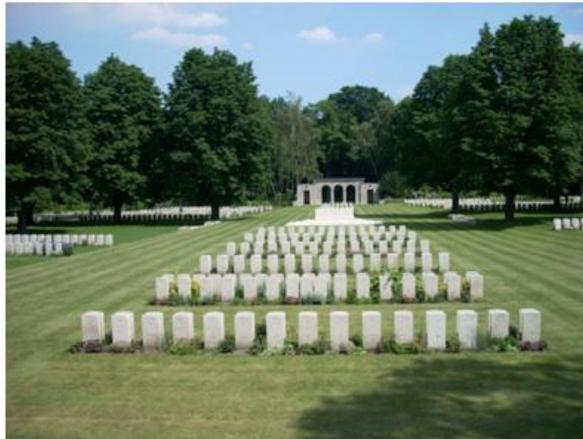
Son of Thomas Walter and Edith Preston, of Thornton Heath, Surrey. His brother Thomas William also died on service.

LIKE A RAY OF SUNSHINE HE CAME AND WENT. THE SWEETEST FLOWER GOD EVER LENT

Remembered with Honour

BERLIN 1939-1945 WAR CEMETERY

8. L. 18.



|||||
COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES
|||||

COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION