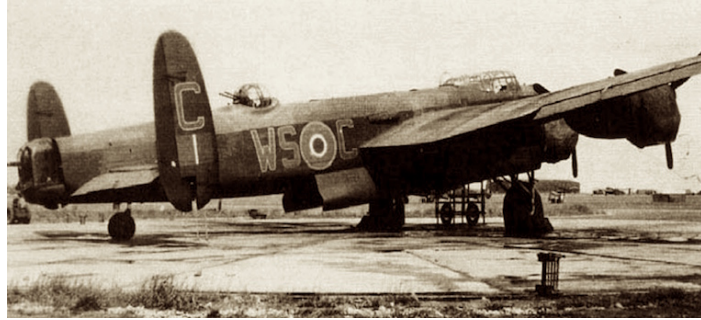


**Sgt Kenneth Thomas
John Adams 657341
RAFVR**



Kenneth Adams was a young Welsh bomb-aimer who was among 14 members of 9 Squadron aircrew killed in a mid-air collision as they were preparing to land at Waddington after a nine-hour flight to attack the Italian port of Genoa.

Their two Lancasters are believed to have crashed head-on as they circled the airfield in what was to be the first of two catastrophic collisions involved in Waddington-based Lancasters in a six-week period.

Kenneth and his crew were on board Lancaster I R5916 WS-R on their second raid in 24 hours on the port of Genoa on the night of 7/8 November 1942. They had arrived back at 0700 hours on 7 November only to be called for a briefing at 1500 hours for a second attack, taking off two and a half-hours later.

At 0200 hours the following morning, as the bombers were returning, the two Lancasters collided and exploded at around 1,500 feet over Waddington, killing all 14 men on board. Later investigation showed the collision occurred head-on completely destroying both aircraft.

Kenneth had been part of an experienced Wellington crew when the squadron was relocated to Waddington in the late summer. He went on to fly on numerous hazardous operations, including the 5 Group all-Lancaster daylight low-level attack on Le Creusot in mid-October.

He was the 21-year-old son of George and Elizabeth Adams and he and his wife Olive were married six months before he was killed. He came from the Gower village of Penmaen and is buried there in St David's Churchyard.

The others who died were the pilot F/O Ken Mackenzie DFC RCAF, flight engineer Sgt. James Taaffe, navigator Sgt. Arthur Billington, wireless operator Sgt. Roy Werren, mid-upper gunner Sgt. David Wicks and rear gunner Sgt. Herbert Willacy.

His name can be found on panel 001.

Sources: *Bombers First and Last* by Gordon Thorburn/9 Squadron.