

F/Sgt. Jack Norman Ernest Bennett R/182006 RCAF



Jack was an Air Gunner and served in 49 Squadron based at RAF Fiskerton. A Canadian from Toronto, and the only child of Ernest and Florence Bennett, he had enlisted with the RCAF on his birthday - 20 July 1942. He was killed on 22 March 1944 on only his fourth operation with the crew. He was 30 years old.

On the night of 22 March 1944, 49 Squadron managed to get 19 airborne for Frankfurt. The accurate PFF marking, and bombing by over 800 aircraft, ensured that Frankfurt suffered yet another heavy blow. Diversions had confused the Germans, who at first forecast Hannover as the target, but a few night-fighters did manage to find the bomber stream and 26 Lancasters and 7 Halifaxes failed to return. Again, Fiskerton had suffered losses when two crews were posted missing. Jack and the majority of his crew were killed, although the mid-upper gunner, Sgt Peter Velasco, became a Prisoner of War. They are buried at Reichswald Forest Cemetery in Germany.

The crew of Lancaster ND672 were:

F/O D G Turner - Pilot (Killed)
Sgt. E Lee - Flight Engineer (Killed)
F/Sgt. S J Upton - Navigator (Killed)
Sgt. L H Nightingale – Wireless Operator/Air Gunner (Killed)
F/O W Pearce - Air Bomber (Killed)
F/Sgt. J N E Bennett RCAF – Rear Gunner (Killed)
Sgt. P Velasco – Mid-Upper Gunner (Captured)

Jack's name can be found on Panel 8

Photo and biography courtesy of the 49 Squadron Association.