

**Sgt. Thomas
Herbert Burke
1057178 RAFVR**



Tom Burke was a flight engineer who was killed along with the rest of his crew when their aircraft was shot down into the North Sea while returning from a raid on Cologne.

He was part of the crew of Lancaster I ME731 CF-S of 625 Squadron which fell victim to a night-fighter at around 0302 hours on 21 April 1944, crashing into the sea off West Kapelle in Holland. His aircraft was one of 357 Lancasters and Mosquitoes which took part in the raid on the Rhineland city. It was one of only four lost in a raid which caused great destruction to the already-heavily bombed city.

Tom and his crew had taken off from RAF Kelstern at 2347 hours. Only one body was ever recovered, that of bomb-aimer Edward Walker. Tom is remembered on the Runnymede Memorial (panel 226). He lived with his wife, Catherine, in Middlesbrough and was the 33-year-old son of Thomas and Annie Burke.

The others who died were the pilot Flt. Sgt. Denzil Bishop, navigator F/O William Jarvis, bomb-aimer Flt. Sgt. Edward Walker, wireless operator Sgt. John Knott, mid-upper gunner Sgt. Harold Munns and rear gunner Sgt. Christopher Jelley.

His name can be found on panel 015.

Sources: 625 Squadron records/625 Squadron Association.