

Sgt. Colin Frederick Peter Burridge 1867170 RAFVR

Nineteen-year-old Colin Burridge was a Lancaster mid-upper gunner who was killed by gunfire from a night-fighter on his fourth operation during Bomber Command's final attack to halt traffic on the Mittelland canal in northern Germany.



His No. 49 Squadron

Lancaster, NG327 EA-K, was attacked by a Ju88 fighter during the raid on the night of 21 February 1945. Colin and wireless operator Eric McCarthy were both killed immediately while the flight engineer and bomb-aimer both managed to successfully bale out. However, the latter was killed in a 'friendly fire' incident involving RAF aircraft days before the war ended.

Colin and his crew had taken off from RAF Fulbeck at 1717 hours, part of a relatively small 5 Group force of 165 Lancasters and nine Mosquitoes. Nine Lancasters were lost, including two from 49 Squadron. Colin is buried in Reichswald Forest War Cemetery (Coll. grave 19. C. 13-17).

He had previously flown in Flt. Lt. Nowrie's crew on 49 Squadron and is shown in the photograph here, although the individuals are not identified. He came from Leamington Spa, the son of Frank and Beatrice Burridge.

The others who died were the pilot F/O Edward Smith RNZAF, navigator Flt. Sgt. Joe Newby, bomb-aimer F/O Edwin Hook (killed 4 April), wireless operator P/O Eric McCarthy and rear gunner P/O Robert Simpson RCAF.

Colin's name can be found on IBCC panel 015.

Sources: 49 Squadron Association/Bomber Command War Diaries by Martin Middlebrook