

Flt. Sgt. John Dunham Correll R/115498 RCAF

John Correll was a young Canadian navigator who died along with the rest of his crew when their Lancaster crashed in the North Sea following a raid on Cologne on the night of 26 February 1943.

He was part of the crew of Lancaster W4792 PH-Y, of No. 12 Squadron, which had taken off from RAF Wickenby at 1902 hours as part of a force of 427 bombers heading for the much-bombed city on the Rhine. Ten of those aircraft were lost, including W4792.



12 Squadron records show that 10 Lancasters from the squadron were involved in the raid and that the only one not to return was W4792, recording that the Lancaster had crashed in the sea 20 kilometres from the Frisian island of Schiermonnikoog. There were no survivors and no bodies were ever recovered.

John came from Toronto and was the 23-year-old son of Samuel and Jane Correll. He was educated at Strathcona school and Humberside Collegiate and had enlisted in the RCAF in March 1941.

The others who died with him were the pilot WOII William Kenny RCAF, flight engineer Sgt. Jack Bunce, bomb-aimer Sgt. Donald Travis, wireless operator Sgt. Cyril Petherbridge, mid-upper gunner Sgt. Thomas James and rear gunner Sgt. Ronald Vaisey. All are remembered on the Runnymede Memorial.

John's name can be found on IBCC wall panel 023.

Sources: Canadian veterans/Wickenby Museum/Bomber Command War Diaries by Martin Middlebrook and Chris Everitt.