

Sgt. Peter James Gallacher
1607032 RAFVR

Peter Gallacher was a young rear gunner from Southampton who died along with his crew when their Lancaster is believed to have crashed into the sea returning from their fifth operation.



He was part of the crew of veteran Lancaster I W4833 CF-J, of 625 Squadron, which was one of three aircraft dispatched by the squadron for a raid on Stuttgart that failed to return at a loss of 21 lives.

It is believed Peter's Lancaster, which had seen service with 100, 101 and 625 Squadrons after being built in the autumn of 1942, crashed in the sea off the French coast. Only the bodies of the pilot and flight engineer were ever recovered from the sea and Peter is remembered on the Runnymede Memorial.

Peter came from the Bitterne Park area of Southampton and was the 20-year-old son of James and Frances Gallacher. His crew was drawn partly from a crew from No. 1662 Heavy Conversion Unit (HCU) at Blyton and another from No. 1667 HCU at Faldingworth when they arrived at Kelstern at the beginning of February 1944.

The others who died were the pilot P/O Derrick Gigger, flight engineer Sgt. Robert McNeill, navigator Flt. Sgt. George Stewart, bomb-aimer Sgt. Sydney Wasson, wireless operator Sgt. Richard Clegg and mid-upper gunner Sgt. Raymond Eddison.

Peter's name can be found on IBCC panel 038.

Sources: 625 Squadron records/625 Squadron Association.