

**Flight Sergeant John
Walter Homewood
RAFVR 1392321**



John Homewood was a young Lancaster pilot who was killed along with five of his crew when his aircraft was shot down near Berlin on what was a diversionary raid.

His was one of twenty-two Lancasters sent to Berlin as a diversionary tactic while 648 bombers were sent to Magdeburg. John's aircraft, JB294 LE-R, was one of two from 630 Squadron involved in the Berlin feint and was the only one lost. The Magdeburg raid itself cost Bomber Command fifty-seven aircraft, most falling to fighters.

JB294 had taken off from East Kirkby at 20:21 on 21 January 1944 and was reported to have crashed at Wiesenhausen, south of Berlin. The only survivor was the bomb-aimer, twenty-one-year-old Sgt Peter Walker, who successfully bailed out.

John was just twenty and was part of a crew which included five men aged twenty-two or younger. His home was in Bromley in Kent, and he was the son of John and Rhoda Homewood.

The others who died were the flight engineer Sgt William Yorke, navigator Flt Sgt Alexander Reedman, wireless operator Sgt Alexander Stopp, mid-upper gunner Sgt John Morris and rear gunner Flt Sgt Morris Marks RCAF. All are buried in Berlin War Cemetery.

John's name can be found on panel 051.

Sources: 630 Squadron Association.