

**Sgt. Christopher
Jelley 972553
RAFVR**



Christopher Jelley

was a rear gunner 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.

Christopher and his crew had taken off from RAF Kelstern at 2347 hours. Only one body was ever recovered, that of bomb-aimer Edward Walker. Christopher is remembered on the Runnymede Memorial (panel 232). He came from the village of High Clarence, near Stockton-on-Tees, where he lived with his wife, Vera, and was the 24-year-old son of Edwin and Georgina Jelley.

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

His name can be found on panel 055.

Sources: 625 Squadron records/625 Squadron Association.