

WOII William Booker Kenny R/85474 RCAF

William Kenny was a Canadian pilot 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 the pilot 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.

William, who was 26, came from the small town of Wolseley, in Saskatchewan, and was one of four children of Albert and Phyllis Kenny. He was born in Wolseley and enlisted in February 1941.

The others who died with him were the flight engineer Sgt. Jack Bunce, navigator Flt. Sgt. John Correll RCAF, 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.

William's name can be found on IBCC wall panel 058.

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

