

**Sgt. John
Marsland Knott
1468044 RAFVR**



Essex-born John

Marsland was a wireless operator 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.

John and his crew had taken off from RAF Kelstern at 2347 hours. Only one body was ever recovered, that of bomb-aimer Edward Walker. John is remembered on the Runnymede Memorial (panel 232). He lived in Dagenham and was the 23-year-old son of Percy and Margaret Knott.

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, mid-upper gunner Sgt. Harold Munns and rear gunner Sgt. Christopher Jelley.

His name can be found on panel 060.

Sources: 625 Squadron records/625 Squadron Association.