

**P/O Gerald Melbourne Naugler
J/92151 RCAF**

Gerald Naugler was a last-minute replacement bomb-aimer who died along with three of his crew when their Lancaster was shot down over Germany during a raid on Brunswick on the night of 22/23 May 1944.

He died when his aircraft, Lancaster JB546 LE-A of 630 Squadron, was shot down by a night-fighter flown by Oblt. Heinz Ferger. The bomber crashed near the village of Quakenbrück, east of the German/Dutch border. Three of the crew managed to escape by parachute to become prisoners. His aircraft had taken off from East Kirkby at 2240 hours and was reported to have been shot down at around 0030 hours. JB546 was one of nine Lancasters lost on the raid, two of them from 630 Squadron.



JB546's regular bomb-aimer was unavailable and Gerald was a last-minute replacement in a crew about to go on their ninth operation.

Gerald came from Upper La Have, Lunenburg County, Nova Scotia, and was the 21-year-old son of Melbourne and Etta Naugler. He was one of two brothers to be killed in the war, his elder brother Reginald losing his life in October 1942 after his merchant ship, the SS Bic Island, was sunk by the Luftwaffe and then his rescue vessel was torpedoed by a U-boat.

The others who died were the pilot P/O Teddy Champness RAAF, flight engineer Sgt. John Johnstone and rear gunner Sgt. Alan Pickering. All are buried in the Rheinberg War Cemetery. The survivors were the navigator Flt. Sgt. Vernon Zucker RAAF, wireless operator Sgt. Edmond Adair and mid-upper gunner Sgt. Leonard Jones.

Gerald's name can be found on panel 078.

Sources: 630 Squadron Association.