

Flt. Sgt. Joseph Newby 1684756
RAFVR

Joe Newby was a Lancaster navigator who was killed on his fourth operation, shot down during Bomber Command's final attack to halt traffic on the Mittelland canal in northern Germany.



His No. 49 Squadron Lancaster, NG327 EA-K, was attacked by a Ju88 fighter during the raid on the night of 21 February 1945. The wireless operator and mid-upper gunner were both killed instantaneously while the flight engineer and bomb-aimer both managed to successfully bale out. However, the latter was killed in a 'friendly fire' incident involving RAF aircraft days before the war ended.

Joe and his crew had taken off from Fulbeck at 1717 hours, part of a relatively small 5 Group force of 165 Lancasters and nine Mosquitoes. Nine Lancasters were lost, including two from 49.

He came from Barrow-in-Furness, in Lancashire, and was the 22-year-old son of Joseph and Josephine Newby. He is buried in Reichswald Forest War Cemetery (Coll. grave 19. C. 13-17).

The others who died were the pilot F/O Edward Smith RNZAF, bomb-aimer F/O Edwin Hook (killed 4 April), wireless operator P/O Eric McCarthy, 19-year-old mid-upper gunner Sgt. Colin Burridge and rear gunner P/O Robert Simpson RCAF.

His name can be found on panel 078.

Sources: 49 Squadron Association/Bomber Command War Diaries by Martin Middlebrook.