

**F/O Jack Verner  
Pearl J/22368  
RCAF**



Jack Pearl was a 24-year-old Canadian Lancaster navigator who died along with five of his crew in a raid on Leipzig in February 1944.

His aircraft, Lancaster III LM384 (CF-X) (*pictured*) of 625 Squadron, had taken off from Kelstern shortly before midnight on the night of 19 February as part of a force of 833 bombers heading to attack aircraft factories in Leipzig. It was a bad night for Bomber Command when 78 aircraft were shot down, including three from 625 Squadron.

It is believed that the Lancaster was intercepted outbound by a night-fighter and shot down, crashing close to the village of Bledeln, south of Hanover. The only survivor was the bomb-aimer, Sgt. George Paterson.



Jack and his crew had joined 625 Squadron earlier in February from 1656 Heavy Conversion Unit at Lindholme. Four of the casualties, including Jack, were buried locally before being reinterred in Hanover War Cemetery after the war, while two others are remembered on the Runnymede Memorial.

Jack came from Toronto, and was born in the city in April 1920. He was the son of Jack and Dorothy Pearl, his mother dying shortly after his birth. He attended Bowmore Road Public School and Malvern Collegiate, in Toronto, before joining paper manufacturers of the Gair Company with hopes of becoming a chartered accountant.

The others who died were the pilot Flt. Sgt. Charles Pearson, flight engineer Sgt. Adam Sinclair, wireless operator Sgt. George Cartwright, mid-upper gunner Sgt. Arthur Trivett and rear gunner Sgt. Thomas Evans.

His name can be found on panel 083.

Sources: Aircrew Remembered/Canadian veterans/625 Squadron records.