

**Sgt. Kenneth Herbert
Price 1100588 RAFVR**



Kenneth Price was a 19-year-old wireless operator/air gunner from the north of Lancashire whose damaged Wellington crashed close to the Dutch coast while attempting to return from a bombing raid on Cologne, killing him and three others of his crew.

He was part of the crew of Wellington W5379 PH-O, of No. 12 Squadron (*this Wellington is pictured here before it was delivered to the squadron from the factory at Aldergrove in Northern Ireland*), which had taken off from RAF Binbrook at 0020 hours on 11 October 1941.

W5379 was part of a force of 69 aircraft taking part in the raid with five Wellingtons lost, including a second from 12 Squadron whose crew were killed when their bomber hit a mine while crash-landing on a beach in Norfolk.

Kenneth's Wellington lost an engine during the bombing attack and had managed to limp back across from the Rhine before it finally crashed at Haamstede in Zeeland, very close to the Dutch coast. Four of the crew, including Kenneth, died in the crash with two others becoming prisoners of war.

His home was in the village of Kirkby-in-Furness, on the edge of the Lake District, and he was the son of William and Ada Price. The others who died with Kenneth were the pilot P/O Douglas Faint, observer P/O Garth Frew and wireless operator/air gunner Sgt. Alfred Childs RCAF.

All are now buried in Bergen-op-Zoom War Cemetery in Holland. The survivors were the 2nd pilot P/O Wilfred Wise (who was later to receive an MBE for his part as the 'bellows-man' in the Great Escape) and rear gunner Sgt. William Morton.

Kenneth's name can be found on panel 087.

Sources: Aviation Safety Network/Bomber Command Losses 1941 by Bill Chorley.