

Sgt. Sydney Wasson 1063520
RAFVR

Sydney Wasson was a Northern Irish bomb-aimer who died along with his crew when their Lancaster is believed to have crashed into the sea returning from their fifth operation.



He was part of the crew of veteran Lancaster I W4833 CF-J, of 625 Squadron, which was one of three aircraft dispatched by the squadron for a raid on Stuttgart that failed to return at a loss of 21 lives.

It is believed Sydney's Lancaster, which had seen service with 100, 101 and 625 Squadrons after being built in the autumn of 1942, crashed in the sea off the French coast. Only the bodies of the pilot and flight engineer were ever recovered from the sea and Sydney is remembered on the Runnymede Memorial.

Sydney came from the small village of Dunadry, near Antrim, and he was the 25-year-old son of Robert and Mary Wasson. His crew was drawn partly from a crew from No. 1662 Heavy Conversion Unit (HCU) at Blyton and another from No. 1667 HCU at Faldingworth when they arrived at Kelstern at the beginning of February 1944.

The others who died were the pilot P/O Derrick Gigger, flight engineer Sgt. Robert McNeill, navigator Flt. Sgt. George Stewart, wireless operator Sgt. Richard Clegg, mid-upper gunner Sgt. Raymond Eddison and rear gunner Sgt. Peter Gallacher.

Sydney's name can be found on IBCC panel 112.

Sources: 625 Squadron records/625 Squadron Association.