

## Sgt. James Alex Cornwall 2210978 RAFVR



James was born on 28 December 1919, son of John Thomas and Jane Cornwall of Gorton, Manchester; husband to Laura Cornwall (nee Atkinson). He attended St. James School, Gorton and was a technician at Kendall & Gent, a machine tool manufacturer before joining the RAF.

He was with 622 Squadron as a tail gunner before switching to 7 Squadron.

Lancaster PB667 MG-Q took off from RAF Oakington at 1031 hours 20 March 1945 to bomb railway tracks over Recklinghausen, Germany; their 22<sup>nd</sup> mission and just 49 days before the end of the war. On its return it was badly damaged and caught fire over Zuid Belevand in Holland. Watching the bomber from the ground was a group from 4<sup>th</sup> Commando Brigade. They saw the bomber on fire and losing altitude but F/O Bacon managed to control it long enough to avoid crashing into a town before the engine exploded and the Lancaster crashed into a field. The fire was immense and all perished. The seven bodies were later recovered by the commandos and buried next to the wreckage.

James was reburied at Bergen-Op-Zoom War Cemetery. Grave 13.A.11. He was 25 years old.



One of the original propellers emerged from the soil in the summer of 2010 and forms the heart of a monument, unveiled in 2013, in Nieuwdrop honouring the sacrifice of the crew.

Sgt. Jim Alex Cornwall, Air Gunner(killed)  
F/O George Henry Huttleston, Air Bomber(killed)  
Sgt. Harry McClements, Flight Engineer (killed)  
F/O Lindsay Page Bacon RAAF, pilot (killed)  
Flt. Sgt. Richard Roy Evans, Navigator (killed)  
Sgt. Johnny Edward Taylor, Air Gunner (killed)

WO Philip Athol Tennant RNZAF, Wireless Operator (killed)

James is commemorated on Panel 148

Photos taken from [tracesofwar.com](http://tracesofwar.com) & [databankzeelandwo2.nl](http://databankzeelandwo2.nl)