

550 Squadron, Lancaster DV305 BQ-Q on ops to Berlin on 30/31 Jan 1944 from North Killingholme.

Pilot, Godfrey Arnold Morrison DSO, 150107

F/Eng, Percy William Wise, 1808389

Nav, Frederick William Bennett, 134689

Air Bomber, R. Warren, 137893

W/Op H.C. Gilbert, 1320715

MUG, Jack Marshall Cantor, 1247573

Rear Gunner, John McKenzie, 914855

Interview with 'Bill' Bennett, March 21st, 2011 by Jack's niece Joanne.

*'Jack Cantor was called Eddie. 'He was a lively cockney character and boasted 'that he shot down half of the German Air Force'*

*Morrison the pilot was given a big award, the DSO. I was openly miffed because I did more than Morrison on that flight, but only Morrison got the award. Sadly, Morrison was killed later in the war.*

*It was written that Warren didn't understand instructions and therefore bailed out over Germany. It wasn't true. He was scared. He was always nervous--even when he heard gunshots 20 miles away. The crew covered up for him by saying he didn't understand instructions. But by jumping out he compromised the plane. Jack and the other rear gunner had already been shot. When you jumped out a flap opened, so the flap went with him and there was a large hole in the plane. It stripped the plane of maps and all the charts flew out.*

*That night, Jack said, 'we have an airplane very close behind us,' We weren't sure what kind of plane it was. Then we heard firing from behind. We went into an uncontrolled drop of 10 to 12,000 feet. The pilot reached for the parachute but couldn't put it on because of the force of the gravity. In our loss of height, we were attacked again. It must have been a night fighter to have followed us into that drop. The left engine stopped working. The pilot pulled the plane up and we had an awesome view of Berlin. 'I would rather not have had such a view.'*

*The intercom was out. Jack was very close to the wireless operator. The wireless operator and I went down to see what happened with Jack but there was no response.*

*It was relayed back home that despite the attack they had hit their target. No, we hadn't, as soon as we knew we were being fired at we let out all the bombs as it would have been lethal to have the bombs on board.*

*I guided the plane with no navigation system. I saw a flashing beacon and thought we were over England. We circled it and the light was put on. I then realised that no airfield in England had illuminated airfields. It was a German airfield! The firing went on for a long time, being shot at by ground fire. We threw window, aluminium strips out and the gunfire stopped.*

*Over Rotterdam estuary I knew where we were. I knew how to reach England. We got to Woodbridge, the emergency airfield, with 19 gallons of fuel left, only enough for another 3 or 4*

*minutes more flying. Before this the crew had reached a consensus to try and reach Woodbridge, whether to try to land in the sea or jump.*

*I wondered why the citation said what it said, about bombs hitting the target, and Warren jumping out because of a confused instruction.*

*I spent three months in hospital. I was grounded but I did a lot of flying around. I stayed in the RAF until 1947 and my final job was closing airfields. This gave me the knowledge for my new career in medical supplies.*

*The wireless operator and flight engineer refused to fly after that fateful night. They were degraded and given the label of LMF. They lost their rank.*

*Warren got automatic promotion sitting as a prisoner of war. Morrison as stated before was killed. It's a mystery that he died in a different squadron.*

*The plane was unserviceable and was scrapped. There is a picture of it, that we have already seen. It had bullet holes all over it. We loved that plane'.*

Bill said that we should be proud of our Uncle Jack. He loved flying and it wasn't all doom and gloom during their time in the war. He remembered the day that he and Uncle Jack flew to Belfast and came back with a whole load of turkeys for the camp!

Godfrey Morrison was killed 22/23 May 1944 on a bombing raid to Dortmund. He is buried in Reichswald Forest.

Percy Wise was sent to RAF Eastchurch on 27/05/1944 with LMF. He died 12/05/2016.

Frederick Bennett was posted to 11 Base on 12/06/1944, General Duties in Oct 1944. He died June 2017.

R. Warren was interred Stalag Luft 3, POW no 3399. No further details.

H.C. Gilbert was sent to RAF Eastchurch 27/05/1944 with LMF. No further details.

Jack Marshall Cantor was killed by night fighter fire. Buried Willesden Jewish cemetery.

John McKenzie was killed by night fighter fire. Buried Southall (Havelock) cemetery.