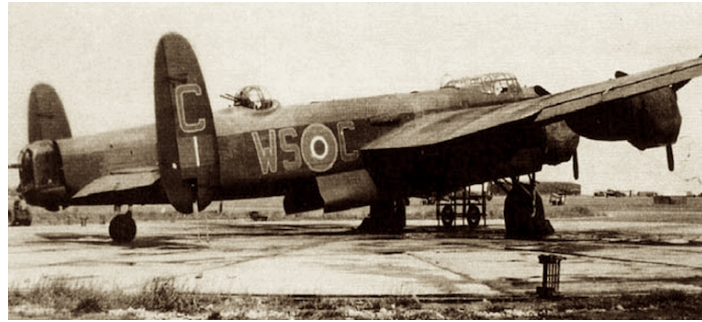


**Sgt. James Storey Aird**  
**1502749 RAFVR**

James Aird was the navigator of a 9 Squadron Lancaster shot down during an attack on Wilhelmshaven in February 1943.



He was one of four members of the crew of ED492 WS-W, which was hit by flak during the raid and was one of four 5 Group Lancasters, at least three of them falling to the same anti-aircraft battery.

His aircraft had taken off from Waddington in the early evening of 18 February 1943, one of 185 aircraft to take part in the attack, which was the first of a series of inconclusive raids on the North Sea port.

His aircraft crashed near the hamlet of Schreiernsort, north of Jever, a few miles from the target area. Three of the crew managed to escape but James died along with three others. All were buried locally before being reinterred in Sage War Cemetery.

James came from North Shields, was the son of James and Jane Aird and lived in the town with his wife, Karen.

The others who died were the pilot Sgt. Ernest Davis, mid-upper gunner Sgt. Ralph Darlington and rear gunner Sgt. Tom Berwick. The others all became PoWs, the flight engineer Sgt. Harry Fullar suffering serious injuries which led to a leg being amputated.

James is named on panel 001.

Sources: *Bombers First and Last* by Gordon Thorburn/9 Squadron.