

Sgt. George Henry Bishop 747971 RAFVR



An early photograph of a No. 12 Squadron Wellington at RAF Binbrook

George Bishop was a wireless operator/air gunner in the first Wellington lost on operations by No. 12 Squadron. He was flying with the crew of the squadron commander, Wg. Cdr. Vyvian Blackden, on the night of 9/10 April 1941 when the squadron sent four aircraft to Emden as part of a small force of Bomber Command Wellingtons.

On the homeward leg their aircraft, Wellington II W5375 (PH-D), was caught by a Me109 flown by Luftwaffe ace Oblt. Egmont Prinz zur Lippe Weissenfeld and shot down after a running battle across Holland. The Wellington is reported to have beaten off four attacks before an engine caught fire during the fifth and it crashed into the IJsselmeer, killing all six on board. George's body was recovered from the IJsselmeer and was later buried in Amersfoort (Oud Leusden) General Cemetery (Plot 13. Row 8. Grave 171).

George came from Muswell Hill in London and was the son of Robert and Ada Bishop. He was 28 years old and married to Doris.

Killed with him were the pilot Wg. Cdr. Blackden, the second pilot F/O John Bond, observer F/O John Broughton, wireless operator/air gunner Flt. Sgt. Duncan McDougall and air gunner F/O Harold Marshall.

His name can be found on IBCC panel 009.

Photographic source: Wickenby Archive