Sgt. Harold Bond
1168700 RAFVR



Harold Bond was a young Wellington observer from Hampshire who was killed when his aircraft crashed during Bomber Command's continuing assault on the Ruhr in the late spring of 1942.

He was part of the crew of Wellington Z8652 of No. 12 Squadron which had taken off from RAF Binbrook at 2316 hours on the night of 8 June, in a force of 170 bombers heading for Essen. Z8652 went down over the target area, possibly hit by flak, killing all six men on board. Harold's bomber was one of 20 aircraft lost in the raid, which was one of the smaller attacks mounted by Bomber Command on the industrial heartland of Germany.

He came from the Southampton suburb of Shirley and was the 21-year-old son of Richard and Mabel Bond. Harold is remembered on Southampton's war memorial.

The others killed with him were the pilot Sgt. William Clayton, second pilot Sgt. Edward Conybear, wireless operator/air gunners Sgt. Alastair Robertson and Sgt. Charles McIntyre and rear gunner Sgt. Philip Seckerson. All were initially buried locally then reinterred after the war in the Reichswald Forest War Cemetery (Coll. grave 9. B. 3-5).

Harold's name can be found on IBCC panel 010.

Sources: Aircrew Remembered /Southampton City Council/Aviation Safety Network/Bomber Command Losses 1942 by Bill Chorley.