

F/O John Crewdson Ashton Bond 85271 RAFVR



Pilot Officer J C A Bond

John Bond was the second pilot of 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. It is understood John's body was recovered by a fishing boat and is now buried in Bergen General Cemetery, not far from the Me109's airfield.

John was the son of Ashton and Margaret Bond of Weybridge, Surrey, one of at least four crew members from the Home Counties.

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

His name can be found on IBCC panel 010.

Photographic source: William de Jong: Friesland Wartime History.