

Sgt. James Roy Boxall
1387360 RAFVR



James Boxall was a 19-year-old rear gunner who was killed when his Lancaster was lost over the North Sea in the summer of 1943.

He was part of the crew of Lancaster EE195 GZ-B from No. 12 Squadron, shot down by a night-fighter off the Dutch coast in the early hours of 29 June 1943 after a raid on Cologne.

James and his crew had taken off from RAF Wickenby at 2309 hours, and were intercepted homebound by Oblt. Karl-Heinz Scherfling's Bf110. They were shot down into the sea; sadly there were no survivors. His aircraft had been part of a force of 602 bombers, 25 of which failed to return. James was among 60 aircrew lost by 12 Squadron in that month alone.

He was the youngest member of the crew and came from Mitcham in Surrey, the son of James and Daphne Boxall. James' body was one of three never recovered from the sea and he is now remembered on the Runnymede Memorial (panel 143).

The others who died with him were the pilot S/L Frederick Knight, flight engineer Sgt. Ernest Lawrence, navigator F/O Howard Treherne RCAF, bomb-aimer Flt. Sgt. Mervyn Noble, wireless operator Sgt. Francis Ayerst and mid-upper gunner Flt. Sgt. Frank Birkin.

James' name can be found on IBCC panel 011.

Sources: Aviation Safety Network/Bomber Command Losses by Bill Chorley.