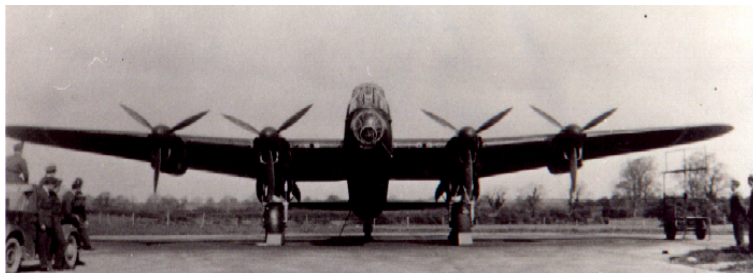


WO2 John Edward Bradley R/87029 RCAF

John Bradley was a 21-year-old Canadian rear gunner whose Lancaster was the first to be lost by No. 12 Squadron. He was part of an experienced crew that was lost on a mining operation off the Danish coast on the night of 8/9 January 1943, his 19th operation with the squadron.

He and his crew had taken off from RAF Wickenby at 1857 hours, the squadron having recently become operational on the new Lancasters. His aircraft, W4371 PH-C, was one of the Lancasters delivered to the squadron in November 1942 as it converted from Wellingtons. *(One of these first Lancasters is pictured below at RAF Wickenby).* W4371 was one of 73 aircraft sent out on mining operations off Denmark and France that night; it was one of two not to return. It is believed it had been shot down over the North Sea with no wreckage or bodies ever recovered.

John was part of a crew that included three Canadians, an Australian, two Englishmen and a South African serving in the RAF. He and several of his fellow crew members had been in action with 12 Squadron over the previous six months and they were two-thirds of the way through their tours of operation.



John came from Saskatchewan. He was born in the town of Lashburn and was the son of John and Edith Bradley, who later lived in Regina. He was educated at Marsden and

Leask schools and had enlisted in the summer of 1940. Posted to England in November 1941, he joined 12 Squadron in the late spring of 1942.

The others lost with him were the pilot WO2 Donald Marshall RCAF, flight engineer Sgt. George Hester, navigator WO2 John Buick RCAF, bomb-aimer Flt. Sgt. Raymond Cripps RAAF, wireless operator Flt. Sgt. Sydney Ramsay and mid-upper gunner Sgt. William Dorey. All are remembered on the Runnymede Memorial (panel 179).

John's name can be found on IBCC panel 012.

Sources: Canadian veterans/Wickenby museum/Bomber Command Losses 1943 by Bill Chorley.

