

Sgt. William Joseph Brazier 975641 RAFVR

William Brazier was a 28-year-old rear gunner who was killed along with the rest of his crew when their bomber was lost on a mining operation off the French Atlantic coast in the summer of 1942.

He was part of the crew of Wellington W5414 of No. 12 Squadron which left RAF Binbrook at 2201 hours on the night of 19/20 July 1942. It later crashed in the sea during an operation involving 19 Wellingtons to lay mines off Lorient, St Nazaire and La Pallice. William's aircraft was the only one which failed to return.



William came from Brighton where he lived with his wife Ethel, and young son, David, and was the son of William and Mary Brazier. His body was later washed up on the French coast and he is now buried along with two of his five-man crew in Ars-en-re Communal Cemetery of the island of Ile de Re, just off the coast at La Rochelle (Row 4, Grave 1).

The others who died with him were the pilot P/O John Muirhead DFC, observer Flt. Sgt. Eric Waple RNZAF and wireless operator/air gunners Sgt. Cyril Waldron and Sgt. Charles Durrant.

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

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