

Sgt. Charles James Broomhead 1231185 RAFVR



Charles Broomhead was a rear gunner who died along with the rest of his crew during a costly night for Bomber Command.

He was part of the crew of Wellington Z8403 PH-Z from No. 12 Squadron, based at RAF Binbrook, that was one of four Wellingtons lost during a raid on the city of Kassel on the night of 27/28 August 1942. Only one of the twenty crew members from these aircraft survived. No. 12 Squadron's neighbours at RAF Grimsby, No. 142 Squadron, lost five Wellingtons on a night when Bomber Command, overall, lost 10 per cent of the 306 bombers sent to Kassel.

Charles and his crew were homebound following the raid when their Wellington was attacked by a Bf110 night-fighter flown by Uffz Heinz Vinke and shot down over the North Sea about 30 miles off the Dutch coast. None of the bodies of the crew were ever recovered.

The others who died with him were the pilot P/O Alexander Norman RAAF, observer P/O Harry Fallas, air bomber Sgt. Glyn Hughes and wireless operator/air gunner Flt. Sgt. Stanley Wilson RCAF. All are remembered on the Runnymede Memorial.

Charles' name can be found on panel 013.

Sources: Aviation Safety Network/IBCC Losses (photo)/Foreman, Parry & Matthews, 2004/Bomber Command War Diaries by Martin Middlebrook and Chris Everitt.