

F/O John du Vernet Broughton 82722 RAFVR



Flying Officer J Broughton

John Broughton was the observer in 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

John was an Australian who had joined the RAF. He was 33 years old and was the son of Herbert and Ida Broughton of Edgecliffe, New South Wales. His body was recovered from the IJsselmeer by the Lemster lifeboat and he is buried along with the two pilots in Lemsterland General Cemetery.

Killed with him were the pilot Wg. Cdr. Blackden, the second pilot F/O John Bond, 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 013.

Photographic source: William de Jong: Friesland Wartime History.