

Sgt. William George Brown 1385795 RAFVR

William Brown was a 19-year-old navigator on board the last Wellington lost by No. 12 Squadron.

The Squadron had been operating Wellingtons for over two years at RAF Binbrook and, latterly, at RAF Wickenby and were preparing to become one of the first Squadrons in 1 Group to be equipped with Lancasters.



At 0035 hours on 25 October 1942, William and his crew took off from Wickenby on board Wellington W 5394 PH-H as part of a small force to drop mines off the port of La Pallice in the Bay of Biscay. The aircraft was later reported to have crashed into the sea with no survivors.

William came from Forest Gate in East London and was the son of William Henry and Ada Maud Brown.

The others who died with him were the pilot Sgt. John Wilcox, bomb-aimer Flt. Sgt. Aubrey Swain RCAF, wireless operator/air gunner Flt. Sgt. Harold Wilson RCAF and rear gunner Sgt. Richard Lord. All are now buried in the Old Communal Cemetery in Cherbourg.

William's name can be found on panel 014.

Sources: Aviation Safety Network/RAF Commands/Bomber Command War Diaries by Martin Middlebrook and Chris Everitt.