

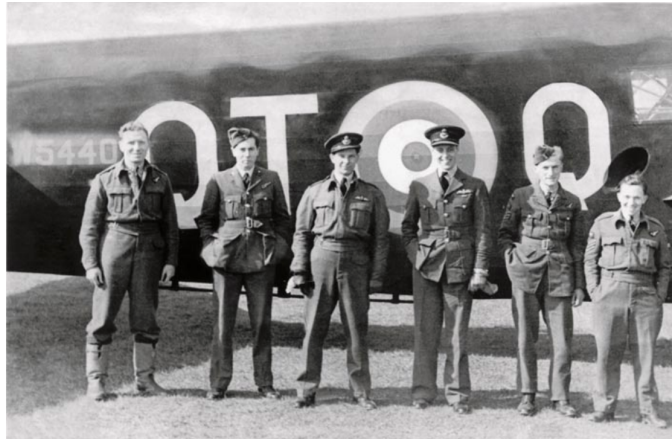
Pilot Officer George William Bull 60794 RAFVR

George Bull was the son of Mr & Mrs G H Bull of Downham, Bromley in Kent who died on 30 September 1941 age 22.

On Monday 29 September Wellington W5378 QT-A, with George as pilot, left RAF Binbrook at 1910 hours on a mission to Stettin in Poland.

Seven aircraft from No. 142 Squadron were detailed to attack Stettin, and three for Hamburg. The Summary of Events for 142 Squadron reported: 'A very successful night apart from the loss of one of the best crews in the Squadron, including the Squadron Gunnery Leader and Squadron Navigation Officer. Several aircraft

were in the air over 8 hours. Local night flying was also carried out. The missing crew was P/O G W Bull (Captain), Sgt. J M Pattison (2nd Pilot), F/O M Jacoby (Observer and Squadron Navigation Officer), Flt. Sgt. T H Harrower and Sgt. J Parkin (WOP/AGs) and Flt. Lt. J O W K Ferris (Air Gunner and Squadron Gunnery Leader)'.



Above: the crew lost on 30th September less Pattison and Ferris, the latter having replaced Frank for the fatal trip. From the left are Frank, Jacoby, Bull, Wg/Cmdr William Sadler (142 Sqn CO), Harrower and Parkin.

According to the war diary of the Kiel Naval Flak, '...this aircraft was shot down over Kiel on the return flight from the Berlin - Stettin area at 0109 hours. In the period from 0040 - 0500 hours 51 enemy aircraft of the RAF crossed the front Laaland - Poel. Of these 30 go north, 13 south Kiel and 8 over the city of Kiel. Another 3 aircraft return from the Hamburg - Lübeck area to the west, one of them flying over Kiel, while two departing via Neumünster - Heide to the west. Two aircraft were reported as kills, of which one at 01.09 clock "crashed at Felm" '. The exact cause of the crash is not known, but it is presumed that Wellington W5378 fell victim to the naval flak.

By testimony of two eyewitnesses, the place of the crash was accurately determined and archaeologically examined. One of them reported that '...the machine, in the beam of several searchlights coming from the direction of the beach, flew over Kaltenhof at low altitude and finally crashed into a forest near Felm. The following morning showed the dreadful extent to which the entire crew of aircraft died. The debris of the exploded machine lay scattered in the forest and on the adjacent field'. Evaluation of the wreckage confirmed both the aircraft type to be a Wellington II, as well as the north west direction from which it came and crashed into the forest.

The crew of W5378 were originally buried in the Garrison Cemetery, Kiel but on 20 May 1947 re-buried in Kiel British War Cemetery in Stadtkreis Kiel, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany (Coll. grave 3. J. 10-14).

George is commemorated on IBCC Panel 15.

SOURCES

<http://spurensuchesh.de/felm/>

<http://backtonormandy.org>

http://www.aviationarchaeology.org.uk/marg/142sqn_losses.htm

National Archives – 142 Summary of Events: Y, www.cwgc.org

PICTURE - <http://www.bbm.org.uk/airmen/as-sumner.htm>