

P/O Wilfrid Gordon Burrows 411739 RAAF

Wilfrid ('Wilf') Burrows was an Australian navigator who was among twenty-one aircrew from No. 12 Squadron that were killed during a raid on Berlin.

He was part of the crew of Lancaster W4372 PH-G, one of four aircraft from the squadron, lost during a raid on Berlin on the night of 17/18 January 1943. Seven men from one crew survived to become prisoners-of-war, but twenty-one men from the remaining lost Lancasters were all killed.

W4372 had taken off from RAF Wickenby at 1634 hours and was later believed to have been shot down by a night-fighter while homebound over the North Sea, off the south-west coast of Denmark. Only the body of the mid-upper gunner was ever recovered.



Wilf served with an experienced crew that included three Australians and a New Zealander. Born in Melbourne, he was the 25-year-old son of William and Phyllis Burrows and had worked as a clerk before enlisting. His wife, Jean, served in the WAAAF, and the couple had married in Sydney in 1940. Wilf is now remembered on the Runnymede Memorial.

The other members of the crew were the pilot P/O Eric Withell RNZAF, flight engineer Sgt. James Hunter, bomb-aimer Flt. Sgt. Alan Neale RAAF, wireless operator P/O Robert Mullinger RAAF, mid-upper gunner Sgt. Andrew Mitchell, and rear gunner Sgt. Leslie Richardson.

Wilf's name can be found on panel 015.

Sources: Australian War Memorial (photo)/RAAFA Aviation Heritage Museum/Airwar over Denmark by Søren C Flensted/Bomber Command Losses 1943 by Bill Chorley.