

**Sgt. Edwin George
Buscombe 1317349
RAFVR**



Cambridge University graduate
Edwin Buscombe was a

Lancaster navigator killed in a black night for No. 12 Squadron over the Baltic Sea.

He was part of the crew of Lancaster W4954 PH-V, which was one of four bombers and crews from the squadron lost during a mining operation off the Polish coast on the night of 28/29 April 1943. His squadron was based at RAF Wickenby in Lincolnshire.

Edwin's aircraft was part of a major mine-laying operation staged by Bomber Command involving 207 bombers mining areas off the Danish and German Baltic coasts. This involved flying relatively low to lay mines leaving them vulnerable to both fighters and flak batteries. All four 12 Squadron losses were believed to be down to light flak.

W4954 was hit and crashed off Ostswine auf Usedom, near Swinemunde, in the sea. All seven men on board were killed and their bodies recovered and initially buried in Swinemunde before being reinterred in the Poznan Old Garrison Cemetery in Poland.

Edwin was the 32-year-old son of George and Madeline Buscombe and came from Bodwin in Cornwall. He had gained a Bachelor of Arts degree at Cambridge in the early 1930s.

The others who died with him were the Irish pilot Flt. Lt. Ronald Ashton, flight engineer Sgt. Arthur Goodhand, bomb-aimer Sgt. John Mackintosh, wireless operator Sgt. Maurice Savage, mid-upper gunner Flt. Sgt. John Huggard RAAF and 37-year-old rear gunner Sgt. Peter Lees.

Edwin's name can be found on IBCC panel 016.

Sources: Aviation Safety Network/Bomber Command War Diaries by Martin Middlebrook and Chris Everitt/Bomber Command Losses 1943 by Bill Chorley.