

Sgt. Ivan Caulton 1454107 RAFVR

Rear gunner Ivan Caulton was one of Bomber Command's youngest casualties when his Wellington failed to return from a mining operation in the Bay of Biscay in the spring of 1943.



Ivan was just 18 and had joined 166 Squadron at Kirmington on 25 February 1943, a month after the squadron had reformed at what was then a new airfield.

He and his young crew had taken off at 2217 hours on the night of 6 April tasked with laying mines off the port of Lorient. That was the last anyone heard from them, and their aircraft, Wellington III BK299 AS-Q, is presumed to have crashed in the sea.

Ivan is remembered along with his four colleagues on the Runnymede Memorial. He was the son of Bernard and Lizzie Caulton.

The others who died were the pilot Flt. Lt. Nigel Brown, navigator Sgt. Ronald Lankester, bomb-aimer Flt. Sgt. Eric Lancaster RAAF and wireless operator/air gunner Sgt. Malcolm Lewis.

His name can be found on panel 018.

Source: 166 Squadron Association.