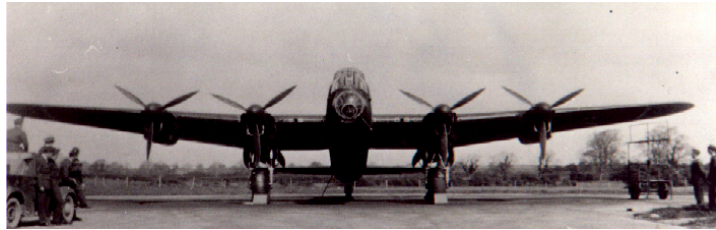


**Flt. Sgt. Raymond
Frank Cripps 400969
RAAF**



Raymond Cripps was a young Australian bomb-aimer whose Lancaster was the first to be lost by No. 12 Squadron. He was part of an experienced crew that was lost on a mining operation off the Danish coast on the night of 8/9 January 1943.

They had taken off from RAF Wickenby at 1857 hours, the squadron having recently become operational on their new Lancasters. His aircraft, W4371 PH-C, was one of the Lancasters delivered to the squadron in November 1942 as it converted from Wellingtons. (*One of these first Lancasters is pictured above at RAF Wickenby*). W4371 was one of 73 aircraft sent out on mining operations off Denmark and France that night; it was one of two not to return. It is believed it had been shot down over the North Sea with no wreckage or bodies ever recovered.

Raymond was part of a crew that included three Canadians, an Australian, two Englishmen and a South African serving in the RAF. He and several of his fellow crew members had been in action with 12 Squadron over the previous six months and they were two-thirds of the way through their tours of operation.

Raymond came from Melbourne, he was born in the suburb of Glenferrie, and was the 21-year-old son of William and Lily Cripps, who later settled in Bentleigh in Melbourne. Raymond was educated at Melbourne Boys' High School and worked as a clerk before enlisting in December 1940. He is now remembered on the Moorabbin Roll of Honour in Melbourne.

The others lost with him were the pilot WO2 Donald Marshall RCAF, flight engineer Sgt. George Hester, navigator WO2 John Buick RCAF, wireless operator Flt. Sgt. Sydney Ramsay, mid-upper gunner Sgt. William Dorey and rear gunner WO2 John Bradley RCAF. All are remembered on the Runnymede Memorial (panel 192).

Raymond's name can be found on IBCC panel 024.

Sources: Australian Virtual War Memorial/Wickenby museum/Bomber Command Losses 1943 by Bill Chorley.