

Flt. Sgt. Richard Douglas Fraser R/119693
RCAF

Richard Fraser was a 22-year-old Canadian navigator who was killed along with the rest of his crew during what was a highly successful attack by Bomber Command on the industrial city of Duisburg.

He was part of the crew of Lancaster ED476 PH-N, of 12 Squadron, which crashed in the neighbouring Ruhr city of Dusseldorf after taking part in what was a devastating attack by 572 aircraft on Duisburg, one of the most successful raids in Bomber Command's ongoing Battle of the Ruhr.



Richard and his crew were on their 11th operation with 12 Squadron when they took off from RAF Wickenby at 2340 hours on the night of 12 May 1943. It is believed ED476 was turning for home when it was attacked and crashed in Dusseldorf, a few miles south of Duisburg. All seven men on board were buried in the city, but only three bodies were found after the war and Ian's was not among those. He is remembered on the Runnymede Memorial (panel 181).

He came from Winnipeg and was one of three children of Henry and Elizabeth Fraser. Richard was educated at the Gordon Bell School in Winnipeg and had worked for the Canadian National Railways before enlisting, training initially in Canada before being posted to England in August 1942. He and his crew had assembled at No. 30 Operational Training Unit at RAF Hixon and spent time at No. 1656 Conversion Unit at Lindholme before being posted to 12 Squadron early in March 1943.

The others who died with him were the pilot P/O Ian Alexander RNZAF, flight engineer Sgt. Edwin Rome, 19-year-old bomb-aimer Sgt. Edgar Harrison, wireless operator Sgt. John Stephens, mid-upper gunner Sgt. Ronald Bell and rear gunner Flt. Sgt. David Williams.

Richard's name can be found on IBCC panel 037.

Sources: Canadian Virtual War Memorial/Bomber Command War Diaries by Martin Middlebrook and Chris Everitt.