

**P/O Garth Campbell Frew
63087 RAFVR**



Garth Frew was an observer from the Cotswolds whose damaged Wellington crashed close to the Dutch coast while attempting to return from a bombing raid on Cologne, killing him and three others of his crew.

He was part of the crew of Wellington W5379 PH-O, of No. 12 Squadron (*this Wellington is pictured here before it was delivered to the squadron from the factory at Aldergrove in Northern Ireland*), which had taken off from RAF Binbrook at 0020 hours on 11 October 1941.

W5379 was part of a force of 69 aircraft taking part in the raid with five Wellingtons lost, including a second from 12 Squadron whose crew were killed when their bomber hit a mine while crash-landing on a beach in Norfolk.

Garth's Wellington lost an engine during the bombing attack and had managed to limp back across from the Rhine before it finally crashed at Haamstede in Zeeland, very close to the Dutch coast. Four of the crew, including Garth, died in the crash with two others becoming prisoners of war.

His home was in Chipping Campden and he was the son of Robert and Marjorie Frew. The others who died with Garth were the pilot P/O Douglas Faint and wireless operator/air gunners Sgt. Kenneth Price and Sgt. Alfred Childs RCAF.

All are now buried in Bergen-op-Zoom War Cemetery in Holland. The survivors were the 2nd pilot P/O Wilfred Wise (who was later to receive an MBE for his part as the 'bellows-man' in the Great Escape) and rear gunner Sgt. William Morton.

Garth's name can be found on panel 037.

Sources: Aviation Safety Network/Bomber Command Losses 1941 by Bill Chorley.