

Sgt. James Goulding 658400 RAFVR

James Goulding was a navigator from Lancashire whose Lancaster was lost during a raid on Stettin on the night of 20/21 April 1943.

His aircraft, Lancaster ED326 PH-K of Wickenby-based 12 Squadron, was one of 21 bombers that failed to return during what was a highly-successful Bomber Command attack on the distant city on the Baltic. Bright moonlight aided the 339 bombers carrying out a 'devastating' raid on the city but there was a high cost for the attackers, with a second Lancaster from 12 Squadron among the Bomber Command losses.



The route for the raid was over part of the Baltic and Denmark, and the Frisians. Many of the bombers were attacked by fighters and flak belts and it was believed that ED326 was lost during this stage of the raid. No trace was ever found of the Lancaster, or its crew of seven.

James was the 25-year-old son of Joseph and Margaret Goulding and came from the village of Thornton, between Blackpool and Fleetwood. He had gained a Bachelor of Arts degree at London University and had first enlisted in the Army before switching to the RAF soon after the war broke out.

The others lost on board ED326 were the pilot Flt. Sgt. Norbert Keeffe RAAF, flight engineer Sgt. Roy Dadd, bomb-aimer Sgt. Kenneth Eagland, wireless operator Sgt. Arthur Bone, mid-upper gunner Sgt. George Brady and rear gunner Sgt. Francis McPhillips. All are remembered on the Runnymede Memorial.

James' name can be found on IBCC panel 041.

Sources: Aircrew Remembered/Find-a-Grave/Bomber Command War Diaries by Martin Middlebrook and Chris Everitt.