

**Sgt. Richard George
Hill 1006747 RAFVR**

Richard Hill was a 19-year-old second pilot who was killed along with four of his crew when their Wellington was shot down during a raid on Berlin in September 1941.



He was part of the crew of Wellington II W5598 PH-N (*pictured*), of 12 Squadron, which had taken off from RAF Binbrook at 2150 hours on the night of 7 September as part of a force of 197 bombers heading for the German capital.

It is believed that W5598 was intercepted outbound by a Luftwaffe night-fighter and shot down, with only the observer, P/O Joseph McCarthy, surviving to become a prisoner-of-war. Richard and several of his crew had joined 12 Squadron in June that year after completing their training at No. 23 Operational Training Unit at Pershore.

Richard came from the small market town of Neston, on the Wirral in Cheshire, and was the son of Richard and Martha Hill. He is now buried along with the other crew members in the Reichswald Forest War Cemetery.

The others who died were the experienced pilot S/L Peter Edinger, wireless operator/air gunners Sgt. William Stayte and Sgt. Robert Baumber and rear gunner Sgt. Alfred Suckling.

Richard's name can be found on panel 049.

Sources: IBCC/World War Photos/Bomber Command War Diaries by Martin Middlebrook and Chris Everitt.