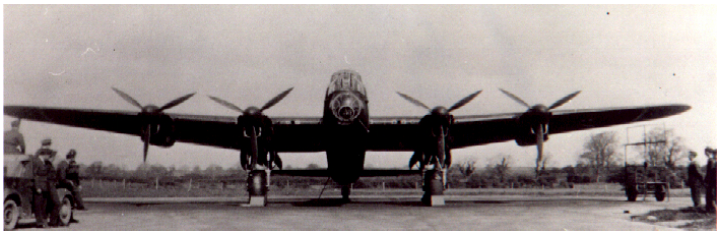
Flt. Sgt. Frederick Cecil Marsh 1303848 RAFVR



Frederick Marsh was a 34-year-old rear gunner who was among 21 aircrew from 12 Squadron killed during a raid on Berlin in January 1943.

Ten Lancasters had taken off from the squadron's base at RAF Wickenby in Lincolnshire in the late afternoon of 17 January and only six of them returned. Twenty-one aircrew from three Lancasters were killed while the seven on board the fourth bomber shot down all survived. Most of the crews involved had flown in another long-distance raid on the German capital the night before.

Frederick was a member of the crew of Lancaster ED388 PH-Y, and was on detachment from 100 Squadron at RAF Grimsby. He was the son of Frederick and Annie Marsh, of Christchurch in Hampshire, and had first flown operationally on 29 September 1942.

His aircraft had taken off from Wickenby at 1649 hours as part of a force of 170 Lancasters and 17 Halifaxes heading for Berlin for the second time in less than 24 hours. There are conflicting accounts of what happened to ED388. One suggests that the aircraft was later shot down, crashing near the small village of Klein Kummerfeld, near Neumunster in northern Germany. However, in 12 Squadron's records the Lancaster is recorded as having been shot down into the sea off the German island of Sylt, with only two bodies later recovered and now buried in Kiel War Cemetery.

The others who died with him were the pilot P/O Harry Fansher RCAF, flight engineer Sgt. Roy Poole, navigator P/O Kenneth Butler, bomb-aimer Sgt. Edward Cadden, wireless operator P/O John Fallis RCAF and mid-upper gunner Sgt. William Smith. Frederick's body was one of those not recovered and he is now remembered on the Runnymede Memorial.

Frederick's name can be found on IBCC panel 068.

Sources: Wickenby Museum/Bomber Command War Diaries by Martin Middlebrook and Chris Everitt.