

**F/O Sidney Marsh 159890  
RAFVR**



Sid Marsh was an experienced flight engineer who was killed when his Lancaster was shot down over Holland three months after his wedding.

He was flying in a hand-picked Pathfinder operation which was to breach the Mittelland section of the Dortmund-Ems canal on the night of 21/22 February 1945. Sid was in a crew assembled by the commanding officer of RAF Coningsby, Group Captain Anthony Evans-Evans DFC, made up of personnel from at least three 5 Group squadrons.

After taking off from Coningsby at 1707 hours his Lancaster, NE165 OL-Y of 83 Squadron, was shot down by a night fighter in an attack close to the Dutch border, crashing in Gertruda Farm in the village of De Rips, near Helmond. Only the rear gunner in the eight-man crew survived and all seven men who died are buried in Mierlo War Cemetery.

The others who died on NE165 were G/C Evans-Evans, navigator S/L William Wishart DFC & Bar GM, second navigator F/O Desmond Ball DFM, bomb-aimer F/L William Fitch DFC, GM, wireless operator Flt. Sgt. Richard Takle and mid-upper gunner F/O Clifford Coombes. The survivor was rear gunner P/O E Hansen RAAF.

His name can be found on panel 068.

Sources: RAF Commands/Bomber Command Losses 1945 by Bill Chorley/Facebook.