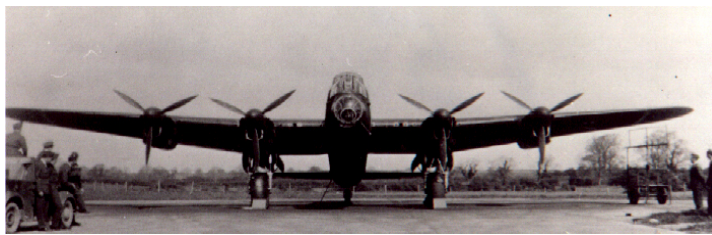


WO2 Donald Courtenay Marshall R/92466 RCAF

Donald Marshall was a 23-year-old Canadian pilot whose Lancaster was the first to be lost by No. 12 Squadron. He was part of an experienced crew that was lost on a mining operation off the Danish coast on the night of 8/9 January 1943.

They had taken off from RAF Wickenby at 1857 hours, the squadron having recently become operational on their new Lancasters. His aircraft, W4371 PH-C, was one of the Lancasters delivered to the squadron in November 1942 as it converted from Wellingtons. (*One of these first Lancasters is pictured below at RAF Wickenby*). W4371 was one of 73 aircraft sent out on mining operations off Denmark and France that night; it was one of two not to return. It is believed it had been shot down over the North Sea with no wreckage or bodies ever recovered.



Donald was part of a crew that included three Canadians, an Australian, two Englishmen and a South African serving in the RAF. He and several of his crew members had been in action with 12 Squadron over the

previous six months and they were two-thirds of the way through their tours of operation.

He came from Vancouver, British Columbia, and was the son of Donald and Ethel Marshall. Donald was educated at Magee and King Edward High schools, was an enthusiastic member of the YMCA in Vancouver and enjoyed basketball and lacrosse. He had enlisted in May 1941, posted to England in January 1942 and flew his first operation against Cologne on 30 May 1942.

The others lost with him were the flight engineer Sgt. George Hester, navigator WO2 John Buick RCAF, bomb-aimer Flt. Sgt. Raymond Cripps RAAF, wireless operator Flt. Sgt. Sydney Ramsay, mid-upper gunner Sgt. William Dorey and rear gunner WO2 John Bradley RCAF. All are remembered on the Runnymede Memorial (panel 180).

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

Sources: Canadian veterans/Wickenby museum/Bomber Command Losses 1943 by Bill Chorley.