

F/O Harold Marshall 77376 RAFVR



An early photograph of a 12 Squadron Wellington at Binbrook

Harold Marshall was an air gunner in the first Wellington lost on operations by No. 12 Squadron. He was flying with the crew of the squadron commander, Wg. Cdr. Vyvian Blackden, on the night of 9/10 April 1941 when the squadron sent four aircraft to Emden as part of a small force of Bomber Command Wellingtons.

On the homeward leg their aircraft, Wellington II W5375 (PH-D), was caught by a Me109 flown by Luftwaffe ace Oblt. Egmont Prinz zur Lippe Weissenfeld and shot down after a running battle across Holland. The Wellington is reported to have beaten off four attacks before an engine caught fire during the fifth and it crashed into the IJsselmeer, killing all six on board. Harold's body was recovered from the IJsselmeer and was later buried in Harderwijk General Cemetery.

Harold was 30 years bold and came from Ashford in Middlesex. He was married to Mildred and was the son of Thomas and Elsie Marshall.

Killed with him were the pilot Wg. Cdr. Blackden, the second pilot F/O John Bond, observer F/O John Broughton and wireless operator/air gunners Flt. Sgt. Duncan McDougall and Sgt. George Bishop.

His name can be found on IBCC panel 068.

Photographic source: Wickenby Archive