

Flt. Sgt. Duncan McDougall 751148 RAFVR



An early photograph of a 12 Squadron Wellington at Binbrook

Duncan McDougall was a wireless operator/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. It is understood John's body was recovered from the IJsselmeer and initially buried on the island of Urk before being reinterred in Amersfoort (Oud Leusden) General Cemetery.

He left a wife, Frances, and was the son of Duncan and Jane McDougall. Duncan was 24, the youngest member of the crew.

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 Sgt. George Bishop and F/O Harold Marshall.

Duncan's name can be found on panel 070.

Photographic source: Wickenby Archive