

Sgt. Francis McPhillips 1574058 RAFVR

Francis 'Sandy' McPhillips was a young Scottish rear gunner whose Lancaster was lost during a raid on Stettin on the night of 20/21 April 1943.

His aircraft, Lancaster ED326 PH-K of Wickenby-based 12 Squadron, was one of 21 bombers that failed to return during what was a highly-successful Bomber Command attack on the distant city on the Baltic. Bright moonlight aided the 339 bombers carrying out a 'devastating' raid on the city but there was a high cost for the attackers, with a second Lancaster from 12 Squadron among the Bomber Command losses.



The route for the raid was over part of the Baltic and Denmark, and the Frisians. Many of the bombers were attacked by fighters and flak belts and it was believed that ED326 was lost during this stage of the raid. No trace was ever found of the Lancaster, or its crew of seven.

Sandy, who was 'barely 19' according to his family, came from Leith, near Edinburgh, and was the son of Edward and Agnes McPhillips.

The others lost on board ED326 were the pilot Flt. Sgt. Norbert Keeffe RAAF, flight engineer Sgt. Roy Dadd, navigator Sgt. James Goulding, bomb-aimer Sgt. Kenneth Eagland, wireless operator Sgt. Arthur Bone and 36-year-old mid-upper gunner Sgt. George Brady. All are remembered on the Runnymede Memorial.

Francis' name can be found on IBCC panel 072.

Sources: [RootsChat.com/Aircrew Remembered/](http://RootsChat.com/Aircrew%20Remembered/) Bomber Command War Diaries by Martin Middlebrook and Chris Everitt.