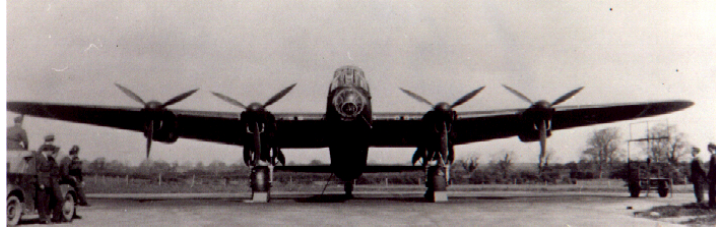


**Flt. Sgt. Sydney
Vincent Ramsay
777891 RAFVR**



Sydney Ramsay was a South African wireless operator 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 above 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.

Sydney was serving in the RAFVR and was part of a crew that also included three Canadians, an Australian and two Englishmen. He and several of his fellow 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 Halfway House, in the Transvaal, and was the husband of Jean Ramsay and the 32-year-old son of Gordon and Vera Ramsay.

The others lost with him were the pilot WO2 Donald Marshall RCAF, flight engineer Sgt. George Hester, navigator WO2 John Buick RCAF, bomb-aimer Flt. Sgt. Raymond Cripps RAAF, mid-upper gunner Sgt. William Dorey and rear gunner WO2 John Bradley RCAF. All are remembered on the Runnymede Memorial (panel 138).

Sydney's name can be found on IBCC panel 088.

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