

Sgt. Ronald Noel Vaisey
1350774 RAFVR



Ronald Vaisey was a 31-year-old rear gunner who died along with the rest of his crew when their Lancaster crashed in the North Sea following a raid on Cologne on the night of 26 February 1943.

He was part of the crew of Lancaster W4792 PH-Y, of No. 12 Squadron, which had taken off from RAF Wickenby at 1902 hours as part of a force of 427 bombers heading for the much-bombed city on the Rhine. Ten of those aircraft were lost, including W4792.

12 Squadron records show that 10 Lancasters from the squadron were involved in the raid and that the only one not to return was W4792, recording that the Lancaster had crashed in the sea 20 kilometres from the Frisian island of Schiermonnikoog. There were no survivors and no bodies were ever recovered.

Ronald was the son of Stanley and Hilda Vaisey and the husband of Freda Vaisey, who came from Llanbadoc in Monmouthshire.

The others who died with him were the pilot WOII William Kenny RCAF, flight engineer Sgt. Jack Bunce, navigator Flt. Sgt. John Correll RCAF, bomb-aimer Sgt. Donald Travis, wireless operator Sgt. Cyril Petherbridge and mid-upper gunner Sgt. Thomas James. All are remembered on the Runnymede Memorial.

Ronald's name can be found on IBCC wall panel 109.

Sources: Wickenby Museum/Bomber Command War Diaries by Martin Middlebrook and Chris Everitt.