

**Flt. Sgt. David Hugh
Williams 618117 RAF**



David Williams was a 23-year-old Welsh Lancaster rear gunner who was killed along with the rest of his crew during what was a highly successful attack by Bomber Command on the industrial city of Duisburg.

He was part of the crew of Lancaster ED476 PH-N, of 12 Squadron, which crashed in the neighbouring Ruhr city of Dusseldorf after taking part in what was a devastating attack by 572 aircraft on Duisburg, one of the most successful raids in Bomber Command's ongoing Battle of the Ruhr.

David and his crew were on their 11th operation with 12 Squadron when they took off from RAF Wickenby at 2340 hours on the night of 12 May 1943. It is believed ED476 was turning for home when it was attacked and crashed in Dusseldorf, a few miles south of Duisburg. All seven men on board were buried in the city and his was one of just three recovered after the war. He is now buried in the Reichswald Forest War Cemetery.

He came from the Monmouthshire village of Abertysswg and was one of three children of John and Margaret Williams. David and his crew had assembled at No. 30 Operational Training Unit at RAF Hixon and spent time at No. 1656 Conversion Unit at Lindholme before being posted to 12 Squadron early in March 1943.

The others who died with him were the pilot P/O Ian Alexander RNZAF, flight engineer Sgt. Edwin Rome, navigator Flt. Sgt. Richard Fraser RCAF, 19-year-old bomb-aimer Sgt. Edgar Harrison, wireless operator Sgt. John Stephens and mid-upper gunner Sgt. Ronald Bell.

David's name can be found on panel 116.

Sources: Find-a-Grave/Bomber Command War Diaries by Martin Middlebrook and Chris Everitt.