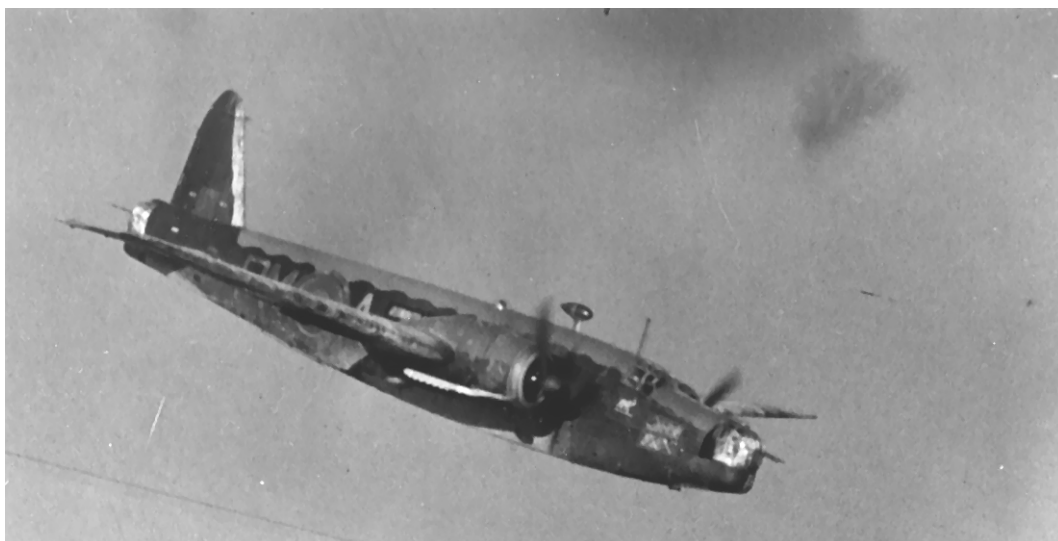


P/O Fred Hall Wood 120643 RAFVR



A Wellington IC of 103 Squadron pictured in 1941-42

Late in the evening of 23 June 1942, five Wellington ICs from No. 103 Squadron at RAF Elsham Wolds took off to drop sea mines in the waters off the Frisian islands. Only three returned, the other two both being shot down by the same German night-fighter, flown by one of the Luftwaffe's top 'aces'.

One of the Wellingtons was T2921 PM-T, in which Fred Wood was the observer.

What happened to the aircraft is not clear but Oblt. Helmut Lent (a night-fighter pilot who was to go on to claim over 100 British bombers before he died of injuries following a crash) reported shooting down a Wellington at 0112 hours close to the coast of Ameland. The Wellington was later confirmed as PM-T of 103 Squadron. Half an hour later Lent was to shoot down a second Wellington from 103, off Terschelling.

Three bodies were later washed ashore but no trace was ever found of Fred and he is now remembered on the Runnymede Memorial. Fred was the 32-year-old son of Elizabeth Wood of Allenheads, Northumberland.

Those who died with him were the pilot Sgt. Tom Emmott, wireless operator Sgt. Alfred Jones, wireless operator/air gunner Sgt. Albert Bissell RNZAF and rear gunner Sgt. Alfred Scanlan.

Fred's name can be found on IBCC panel 118.

Photographic source: Elsham Wolds Association