

F/Sgt. Walter Joseph Adam 410934 RAAF

Walter was born on 22 March 1919 in Yarrawonga, Victoria, Australia, the son of John James Adam and Violet Pearl Adam (nee McInnes).

On 16 December 1938 Walter enlisted in the 8th Light Horse Regiment (Victorian Mounted Rifles), before transferring to the RAAF on 24 April 1942 and training in Australia as an Air Gunner.

Awarded his air gunner badge in February 1943, Walter transferred to the UK and was posted to 101 Squadron at RAF Ludford Magna, Lincolnshire.

On the night of 30 March 1944, 795 aircraft were dispatched for an attack on Nuremberg. This was the last act of Bomber Harris's "Battle of Berlin", an attempt to destroy German morale by battering its cities night after night, before the bomber force turned its attentions to preparing the way for D-Day in June. A direct route, full moon and a new German weapon, the upward firing gun fitted to many fighters, would make this an incredibly challenging and dangerous mission. More than 200 night-fighters based around the Ruhr and the Rhine took to the skies this night. Twenty-six 101 Squadron Lancasters participated in the raid.



At 2150 hours on 30 March 1944 Walter, operating the rear gunner position, and the crew departed RAF Ludford Magna, in Lancaster I LL861 (SR), tasked with ABC duties for the raid.

Strong winds had blown Walter's aircraft well off course when, at 0045 hours whilst outbound, the Lancaster was intercepted by Hptm Gustav Tham flying a Me110 of IV./NJG5 from Nord-Erfurt Airfield. Fully laden, the Lancaster exploded with great force scattering debris over a large area near the German town of Lauterbach, about 40km NE of Frankfurt and about 200 km short of Nuremberg. All eight crew were killed, although only two could be identified. This was Walter's 9th op.

Seven 101 Squadron aircraft were lost on the raid with 47 men killed.

Also Killed: F/O Ralph Frank Litchfield RCAF (AB/SDO); P/O Donald James Irving RAAF (Pilot); WO Stanley George Richard King RAAF (Nav); F/Sgt. Norman Grenfell Huggett RAAF (WOp/AG); F/Sgt. John Bede Newman RAAF (AG); F/Sgt. John Alfred Noske RAAF (AB); Sgt. Frank Phillips (FE).

Walter has no known grave and is commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial, Surrey.

Walter is commemorated on Wall Panel 1.

Photo Source: www.awm.gov.au