

F/O William David Appleyard 415716 RAAF



William was a Pilot from Australia and served in 49 Sqn based at RAF Fiskerton. He was killed on 19 July 1944 on the crew's 26th operation. He was only 22 years old.

Two railways at Aulnoye and Revigny in France had been targeted for attack by 253 Lancasters and 10 Mosquitoes. The first crews were away from Fiskerton at 2238 hours on 18 July 1944. There was an extremely large amount of fighter activity and Fiskerton reported a loss of four crews that night. William was killed along with the rest of his crew as they were nearing the end of their tour. Their graves are in Granges-sur-Aube Churchyard, near Marne, in France.

The rest of the crew of Lancaster ND684 were:

P/O H E Turner Flight Engineer
F/Sgt. D W Blumfield Navigator
F/Sgt. G J Perry Wireless Operator/Air Gunner
P/O E M Matheson RCAF Air Gunner
F/Sgt. G W Jameson Bomb Aimer
Sgt. R F H Viollet Air Gunner

William can be found on Panel 3.

Photo and biography courtesy of the 49 Squadron Association.