

Flt. Sgt. Bryant Braddock 435276 RAAF

Bryant 'Buster' Braddock was a 27-year-old Australian mid-upper gunner who was among six crew members of Lancaster PB471 AR-F2 of No. 460 (RAAF) Squadron killed when their bomber was shot down over Belgium early in 1945.

On the night of 20/21 February, PB471 was one of 514 Lancasters which carried out the last major raid of the war on Dortmund, with 14 bombers being lost.

Bryant (*who is pictured standing centre in the bottom photograph of his crew with, centre, PB471 at Binbrook*) had taken off from RAF Binbrook at 2137 hours on what was the crew's sixth operation together. Their aircraft was homebound when it was intercepted and crashed in a wooded area at Mierenberg, near Hasselt. The only survivor was the pilot, Flt. Lt. Elliott Jenkins RAAF, who was badly injured when he parachuted into a tree.

Bryant had worked as both a school teacher and a journalist before first joining the

Australian army, then transferring to the RAAF in April 1943. He was born in Manley, Sydney and was the son of Frederick and Harriet Braddock. He later lived in the Perth suburb of City Beach with his wife, Janine.



The others who died were the flight engineer P/O Frank Stone, navigator F/O Sydney Swift RAAF, bomb-aimer F/O Herbert Campbell RAAF, wireless operator F/O Bernard Clegg RAAF and rear gunner Sgt. Alan Graham. All were later buried in Kruisveld cemetery in Hasselt in Belgium (Row D. Grave 3).

Bryant's name can be found on IBCC panel 012.

Sources: Crashed in Belgium/Australian Virtual War Memorial.

