F/O John William Brady 423280 RAAF

John Brady was a young Australian bomb-aimer who was one of 12 men killed when his Lancaster was involved in a collision with another bomber while returning from a raid on Essen in the autumn of 1944.

He was part of the crew of Lancaster III LM691 CF-O from No. 625 Squadron, which was homebound when the aircraft was involved in a collision with a Halifax from No. 462 Squadron close to the German/Belgian border. The two aircraft exploded, blowing clear the pilot from the Lancaster and the bomb-aimer from the Halifax. The rest of the two crews all died, and wreckage from the two aircraft was left scattered over a wide area near the city of Aachen.

John's Lancaster had taken off from RAF Kelstern at 1608 hours on the afternoon of 23 October as part of a force of over 1,000 bombers heading for the Ruhr city. The collision occurred at 2100 hours.

His home was in the Sydney suburb of Kogarah in New South Wales and he was the 20-year-old son of Patrick and Grace Brady. John is buried in Hotton War Cemetery in Belgium. Gave ref. I. E. 3. His name is also located on panel 119 in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial.

The others in his crew who died were the flight engineer Sgt. Victor Stringer, navigator F/O Geoffrey Laing, wireless operator Flt. Sgt. Harry Martin DFM, mid-upper gunner Sgt. Isaac Murdoch and rear gunner Sgt. John Durham. The survivor was the pilot, Sqn. Ldr. C Hamilton, who was reported to have been back at Kelstern a few days later.

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

Sources: 625 Squadron records/625 Squadron Association.