

**Flt. Sgt. Henry Herbert
Brien 411281 RAAF**



Henry Brien was an Australian wireless operator who was killed along with the rest of his crew during a raid on Hamburg on the night of 3/4 March 1943.

His Lancaster, W4855 PH-D of No. 12 Squadron, was one of ten lost in the attack by 417 Bomber Command aircraft taking part in the attack, much of the bombing hitting the neighbouring town and harbour of Wedel.

W4855 had taken off from RAF Wickenby at 1858 hours. It was later reported to have been attacked by a Bf110 night-fighter flown by Fw. Wilhelm Kurreck, and crashed near the town of Rotenburg, east of Bremen. There were no survivors. All seven men on board were initially buried locally before being reinterred after the war in Becklingen War Cemetery (grave ref. 12. B. 5).

Henry was part of a crew that included four Australians, most of whom had come together at No. 27 Operational Training Unit at Litchfield before being posted to 12 Squadron. He came from the town of Cowra in New South Wales, the 26-year-old son of Henry and Millicent Brien. He is remembered on the Cowra Shrine of Honour.

The others who died with him were the pilot Sgt. Kenneth Simmonds, flight engineer Sgt. Laurence Burnett, navigator Flt. Sgt. Donald Kerr RAAF, bomb-aimer Flt. Sgt. Ian Heatley RAAF, mid-upper gunner Sgt. Roy Davenport and rear gunner Flt. Sgt. Archibald Marfell RAAF.

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

Sources: Australian Virtual War Memorial/Aviation Safety Network/Bomber Command Losses 1943 by Bill Chorley/Bomber Command War Diaries by Martin Middlebrook and Chris Everitt.