

Sgt. Horace Brooke 1181084 RAFVR



Horace Brooke was a 24-year-old flight engineer who was among the last aircrew from No. 460 (RAAF) Squadron to be killed during operations in the Second World War.

Horace was part of the crew of Lancaster NG466 AR-Y which was shot down during an attack on an oil plant at Bochum in the early hours of 22 March 1945. He was one of five men who died in what was the last of 167 bombers lost on operations with No. 460 Squadron.

Horace and his young crew (five of whom are seen here together with their signatures) had taken off from RAF Binbrook at 0111 hours as part of a raid involving 131 Lancasters from 1 Group sent to attack the remaining benzol plant still operating in the Ruhr. NG466 was the only one not to return. It appears that the aircraft was hit by flak, caught fire and broke up before crashing near Solingen. The only survivors were the Australian pilot Flt. Lt. Donald Heggie and bomb-aimer Flt. Sgt. Ken Ambler.

Horace was one of seven RAF crew on board NG466. He was the son of Frederick and Hannah Brooke of Birmingham and was later buried along with his four crew members in Rheinberg War Cemetery.

The others who died were the navigator Sgt. William Dean, wireless operator P/O Arthur Trotter, mid-upper gunner Sgt. David Robinson and rear gunner Sgt. Henry Dunkerley.

Horace's name can be found on panel 013.

Sources: RAAFA Aviation Heritage Museum/Aircrew Remembered/findagrave.com (photo)/Bomber Command War Diaries by Martin Middlebrook and Chris Everitt.