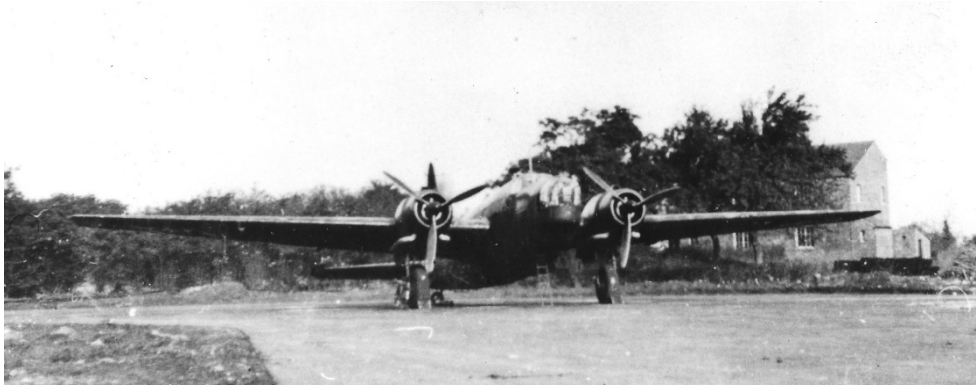


Flight Sergeant Robert John Buckingham 400578 RAAF



A No. 460 Squadron Wellington pictured at RAF Brighton

Robert Buckingham was the Australian pilot of a Wellington lost during a mining operation on the French Atlantic coast in the early hours of 22 June 1942.

He and his No. 460 Squadron RAAF crew were among 10 aircraft from the squadron sent from their base at RAF Brighton in Yorkshire to lay mines around the entrance to Lorient, which was one of the major U-boat bases on the French coast. They took off at 2247 hours; nothing further was heard from the aircraft after take off and it is presumed to have been shot down by flak.

Today, a roadside memorial near the village of Languidic, near Lorient, marks the spot where his aircraft Wellington IV Z1383 UV-D crashed. There were no survivors.

Robert was the 24-year-old son of John and Ellen Buckingham and his home was in the Melbourne suburb of Glen Iris. He is buried with the rest of his crew in Kerentrech Communal Cemetery in Lorient (Plot 62. Row C. Joint grave 5-6).

The others who died were the observer Sgt. Raymond Roget RAAF, wireless operator Sgt. Frederick Martin RAAF, wireless operator/air gunner Sgt. John Moores, a Canadian serving in the RAF, and rear gunner Sgt. William McQueen RAAF.

They are all commemorated on the 460 Squadron Memorial in Perth. Robert is remembered on Panel 107, Commemorative Area, Australian War Memorial, Canberra ACT.

Robert's name can be found on IBCC panel 014.

Sources: 460 Squadron Association/Aviation Safety Network.