

PO David Norris Carmichael 403040 RAAF

David was born on 7 January 1915 in Narredera, New South Wales, Australia, the son of James Alexander and Muriel Margaret Carmichael. David was employed as an accountant in Sydney when, in December 1940, he enlisted in the RAAF.

Following basic pilot training in Australia, in April 1941 David was sent to Canada to train under the Empire Air Training Scheme. In July 1941 David was awarded his Wings, granted a commission and embarked for the UK the following month.

Following advanced training at 23 OTU RAF Pershore, Worcestershire where he converted to multi crew/multi engine ops on the Wellington, in November 1941 David was posted to 458 Sqn at RAF Holme-on-Spalding-Moor, Yorkshire.

On 5/6 January 1942 Bomber Command was tasked with an attack on the Naval Dockyard, Brest, France. A combined force of 154 aircraft, including five 458 Sqn crews, were allocated to the op.

At 04:37 on 6 January David, operating as the 2nd Pilot, and the crew departed RAF Holme-on-Spalding Moor in Wellington IV Z1182 (FU-G).

Eight minutes after take-off, David's aircraft was unable to climb due to frozen snow and severe icing on the wings. Despite jettisoning the bomb load, the aircraft crashed in a field near North Howden railway station, killing David and the Observer. Four crew members survived.

In a later report on the accident the Captain stated: *"Shortly after take-off, I noticed that the aircraft was not climbing. We attained a height of 2/300 feet and then slowly sank in a slow left turn. I jettisoned the bomb load and immediately afterwards we crashed in a field."*

Also Killed: FO Edward John Norman MacDonald RAAF (Obs)

David is buried in All Saints Churchyard, Holme-on-Spalding Moor, Yorkshire.

David is commemorated on Wall Panel 17