

Sgt. Kenneth Herbert Chapman 617652 RAF



F/S WF Austin DFM RAFVR and crew - 103 Squadron - KIA 2nd March 1943.

Twenty-one-years-old Ken Chapman was the flight engineer in a highly-experienced 103 Squadron crew that was lost without trace following an attack on Berlin on 2 March 1943.

His home was in Northampton and he was the son of Adolphus and Ada Chapman.

After his initial training, he joined the crew of Flt. Sgt. 'Bunny' Austin and they were posted to RAF Elsham Wolds where 103 was in the final stages of converting from Halifaxes to Lancasters.

By the night of 2 March 1943 they had completed 29 sorties in a tour of operations that had already earned the pilot a Distinguished Flying Medal. Their aircraft, W4361 PM-N, left Elsham at 1853 hours but nothing further was heard. It was one of 17 Lancasters, Halifaxes and Stirlings lost in an attack involving 302 Bomber Command aircraft.

Killed with him were the pilot Flt. Sgt. W F Austin DFM, navigator P/O A F Reif RCAF, bomb-aimer Flt. Sgt. P G Roberts RNZAF, wireless operator Sgt. D N D Waite, mid-upper gunner Sgt. D E J Boland and rear gunner Sgt. E J Cook.

All have no known grave and are commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial in Surrey.

Ken's name can be found on panel 019

Photographic source: Elsham Wolds Association