

FO William Roberts Cuthbertson 144345 RAFVR

William, known as "Bill", was born on 29 April 1914 in Perth, Western Australia, Australia, the eldest son of Ernest Cuthbertson and Isabel Ferguson Cuthbertson nee Darling. In March 1944 he married Joyce Marian Wilson in Leeds, Yorkshire.

Educated at Hale School, Perth, Western Australia and St George's College, William gained a BSc and MSc from the University of Western Australia.

William travelled to the UK to complete his PhD at Leeds University, before embarking on a career as a research scientist.

At the outbreak of war, and resident in the UK, William elected to join the RAF and was accepted for aircrew training. In May 1943 William was awarded his Navigator badge and was granted a commission.

Following advanced training at 30 OTU RAF Hixon, Staffordshire, and 11 Base, RAF Blyton, Lincolnshire, for conversion to the Lancaster, in April 1944 William was posted to 101 Sqn at RAF Ludford Magna, Lincolnshire.

On 30 June/1 July 1944 Bomber Command was tasked with an op against railway yards at Vierzon, a small town 60km south of Orleans, France - 118 aircraft, including ten 101 Sqn crews, were allocated to the op. Three squadron crews failed to return.

At 22:19 on the 30 June William, operating as the Navigator, and the crew departed RAF Ludford Magna, Lincolnshire, in Lancaster I DV301 (SR-Y).

At 01:30 on 1 July, shortly after William's crew had finished their bombing run, the aircraft was intercepted at low level by a night fighter and crashed at L'Autiere near Langon, a village 12 miles E of Vierzon, killing all on board. This was the crew's 17th op.

Also killed: PO James Nelson Brown (Pilot); FS Albert Thomas Couch RCAF (AG); FS Carl Victor Krieg RAAF (SDO); FS John Pritchard RAAF (AB); FS David Urquhart RCAF (AG); Sgt Thomas Lyth (WOp/AG); Sgt John William Offord (FE)

William is buried in the Langon Communal Cemetery, Loir-et-Cher, France

William is commemorated on Wall Panel 26

Photo Source: www.ww2cemeteries.com/langon-communal-cemetery.html

