

FS George Stuart Fairbairn 420651 RAAF

George was born on 4 September 1913 in Moree, New South Wales, Australia, the son of George Oscar Fairbairn and Beatrice Florence Ann Fairbairn nee Allan.

Educated at Malvern School, Hunter's Hill and Newington College, Stanmore, Sydney, George was employed as a Station Overseer when, in July 1941, he volunteered for service with the RAAF.

Called up in November 1941, following basic training in Australia, in May 1942 George was sent to Canada to train under the Empire Air Training Scheme. George completed his aircrew training in Canada in October 1942 with the award of his Navigator badge, and he immediately embarked for the UK.



Following advanced training at 1(O) AFU RAF Wigtown, Dumfries, Scotland, 27 OTU RAF Lichfield, Leicestershire where he converted to multi engine/multi crew ops on the Wellington, and 1662 HCU at RAF Blyton, Lincolnshire for Lancaster conversion, in July 1943 George was posted to 101 Sqn at RAF Ludford Magna, Lincolnshire.

On the night of the 3/4 September 1943 Bomber Command was tasked with a raid on Berlin, the Nazi capital and a major industrial centre. A force of 316 Lancasters, including twenty-one 101 Sqn crews, were allocated to the op. Three 101 Sqn crews failed to return.

At 19:47 on 3 September George, operating as the Navigator, and the crew departed RAF Ludford Magna in Lancaster III JB149 (SR-R2).

At 00:28 on 4 September whilst over the target, George's aircraft was hit by flak and then intercepted by Oblt Lenz Finster of the 2./NJG1 flying a Bf110 from Gilze-Rijen Airfield. The Pilot and Bomb Aimer were able to bale out and were taken as POW, before the aircraft crashed at Gross Glienicke, Potsdam, Brandenburg.

Also Killed: FS Archibald James Pepperrell RAAF (AG); Sgt Frederick David Paddon (FE); Sgt Kenneth William Sedman (WOp); Sgt William Arthur Southwell (AG)

George has no known grave and is commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial, Surrey

George commemorated on Wall Panel 34

Photo Source: naa.gov.au