

**F/Sgt. Frank-
Edgar Fischer
417826 RAAF**



Australian bomber Frank Fischer died along with his crew during an attack on Stuttgart in July 1944.

He and his largely-Australian crew were on their 15th operation with No 463 Squadron RAAF at Waddington when they failed to return from the Stuttgart raid on the night of 28/29 July 1944. His aircraft, ME615 JO-V, was one of 40 Lancasters lost in the attack, one of the many shot down outbound when the bomber stream was intercepted by night-fighters in bright moonlight close to the French-German border.



Frank's aircraft took off from Waddington at 2224 hours. This was one of 19 from No 463 Squadron which formed part of a force of 494 Lancasters and 2 Mosquitoes. His aircraft was the only one lost that night from No 463 Squadron, crashing in a wood near Rohrbach-lès-Bitche in the Moselle region. There were no survivors and all were later buried in Choley War Cemetery, 28 kms west of Nancy. A memorial to the crew (*pictured*) was later erected at the crash site and is

regularly maintained.

He lived in the Adelaide suburb of Woodville Park with his wife, Olive, and young son, William, and was the 30-year-old son of Henry and Beatrice Fischer.

The others who died were pilot F/O John Wilkinson RAAF, flight engineer Sgt. Ernest Starling, navigator WO Norman Gelder RAAF, wireless operator F/Sgt. Bernard Reece RAAF, mid-upper gunner F/Sgt. Mervyn Harrison RAAF and rear gunner and squadron gunnery leader F/L Brian Moorhead DFC.

His name can be found on panel 035.

Sources: Bomber Command Losses 1944 by Bill Chorley/Bomber Command War Diaries by Martin Middlebrook/Aerostetes/IBCC files.