

PO Ronald John Furey 404332 RAAF

Ronald was born on 29 April 1916 in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, the son of Arthur James Furey and Mary Furey nee Boyd. Ronald was employed as a business manager for Economy Printers Pty, Brisbane when, in April 1940 he volunteered for aircrew service in the RAAF.

Called up in August 1940, following basic training in Australia, in December 1940 was sent to Canada to train under the Empire Air Training Scheme. Ronald completed his aircrew training in Canada in May 1941 with the award of his Wings, was awarded a commission and embarked for the UK the following month.

Following advanced training at 21 OTU RAF Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire, where he converted to multi crew/multi engine ops on the Wellington, in July 1941 Ronald was posted to 458 Sqn at RAF Holme-on-Spalding-Moor, Yorkshire.

On 15/16 November 1941 Bomber Command was tasked with an attack on Emden, Lower Saxony, Germany, a significant naval port and industrial hub. A combined force of 49 aircraft, including six 458 Sqn crews, were allocated to the op.

At 17:17 on 15 November Ronald and his crew departed RAF Holme-on-Spalding Moor in Wellington IV R1775(FU-).

The last communication from Ronald's aircraft was received at 20:35 whilst they were over the North Sea on the return from the op. Three QDMs (magnetic headings) were sent to the aircraft at the approximate time of ETA back at base, the last being strength 6. Nothing further was heard from the aircraft, and it was assumed that the crew had lost their lives at sea. A square search by six aircraft found no trace of the missing aircraft or crew.

Also Killed: PO William Goldman RAAF (Obs); FS Henry William Duffield (AG); Sgt Alexander Lewis Cox RAAF (Pilot); Sgt Douglas Bertram Pepper (AG); Sgt Eric Rowland (WOp/AG)



(L-R Goldman; Cox;
Furey; Duffield;
Rowland; Pepper)

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

Ronald is commemorated on Wall Panel 38

Photo Source: IBCC