

Flt. Sgt. Robert Edward Harding 433103 RAAF



Robert Harding was a 19-year-old Australian navigator killed in action three days after arriving at a Lincolnshire bomber squadron.

He was part of the crew of 166 Squadron Lancaster PD261 AS-S, which is believed to have been shot down by a night fighter over the target area during a raid on the Polish city of Stettin on the night of 29/30 August 1944. There were no survivors.

Robert and his crew had arrived at 166's base at Kirmington on 26 August and this was their first operation with the squadron. They took off at 2110 hours as part of a force of 402 Lancasters and 1 Mosquito; the total loss for this mission was 23 Lancasters.

He came from the Sydney suburb of Woolwich and was the son of Arthur and Jean Harding. He is included on the Hunter's Hill War Memorial roll of honour.

Robert is buried together with the other crew members in Poznan's Old Garrison Cemetery (*pictured above*). The others who died were the pilot Flt. Lt. Frederick Dunton, flight engineer Sgt. Charles Murray, bomb-aimer Sgt. Trevor Davis, wireless operator Flt. Sgt. David Powers RAAF, mid-upper gunner Sgt. John Carey and rear gunner Sgt James Peake.

Robert's name can be found on panel 045.

Sources: Aircrew Remembered/ 166 Squadron Association.