

FS John Henry Terence Hayes 411906 RAAF

John was born on 9 January 1921 in Marrickville, New South Wales, Australia, the son of Patrick John and Ethel Minnie Hayes.

Educated at North Sydney Boys' High School, John was employed as an insurance clerk by National Mutual Life Insurance, Sydney when, in October 1940, he volunteered for service with the RAAF.

Called up in June 1941, John completed his pilot training in Australia in March 1942 with the award of his Wings, and embarked for the UK in June.

Following advanced training at 81 OTU RAF Ashbourne, Derbyshire and 1656 HCU at RAF Lindholme, Yorkshire, on 16 May 1943 John was posted to 101 Sqn at RAF Holme-on-Spalding Moor, Yorkshire.



On the night of the 23/24 May 1943, after a nine day break in ops, Bomber Command was tasked with a raid on Dortmund, a major industrial centre in the Ruhr Area and home to collieries, coking plants and power stations, and location of chemical, steel and iron industries.

A combined force of 826 aircraft, including twenty five 101 Sqn crews, were allocated to the task, the largest raid of the Battle of the Ruhr.

At 22:30 on 23 May John and his crew departed RAF Holme on Spalding Moor in Lancaster I W4919 (SR-A).

At 02:33 on 24 May, whilst on the homeward leg, John's aircraft was intercepted by Oblt Manfred Meurer of 3./NJG 1 flying a Bf 110 from Venlo Airfield. The aircraft crashed 2km East of Bergen, Limberg, just inside the Dutch border, killing all on board. This was the crew's first op.

Also Killed : FS Leslie Gordon Smith RCAF (AG); Sgt Walter Randall Cook (FE); Sgt Percy George Eames (Nav); Sgt John Warwick Craven Evans (WOp/AG); Sgt James Park (AB); Sgt Owen Hugh Sibson RCAF (AG)

Originally buried in Venlo Military Cemetery, Limburg, Netherlands, in September 1947 John was transferred to the Jonkerbos War Cemetery, Nijmegen, Gelderland, Netherlands.

John is commemorated on Wall Panel 47

Photo Source: naa.gov.au