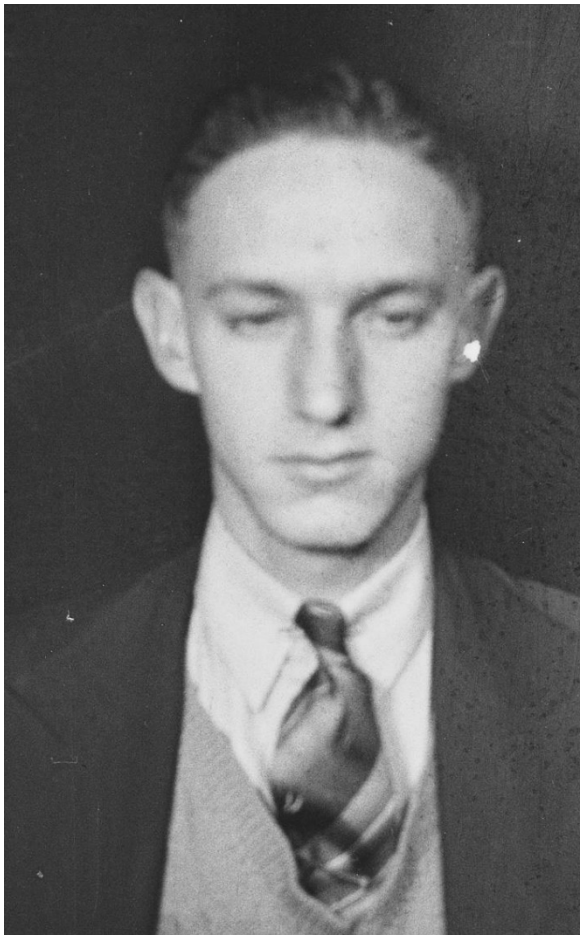
FS James Ernest Jasper 426604 RAAF



James was born on 27 September 1922 in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, the son of Ernest James Jasper and Blanche Violet Jasper nee Wood.

Educated at Manly State School and Industrial High School, Brisbane, James was employed as a hat blocker by J. Leutenegger, Hat Makers, Brisbane when, in December 1941, he volunteered for service in the RAAF.

Called up in July 1942, James completed his aircrew training in Australia in March 1943 with the award of his Navigator (B) badge and embarked for the UK in May.

Following advanced training at 4 (O) Advanced Flying Unit RAF West Freugh, Dumfries, Scotland, 27 OTU RAF Lichfield, Staffordshire and 1660 HCU RAF Swinderby, Lincolnshire, on 11 May 1944 James was posted to 463 Sqn at RAF Waddington, Lincolnshire.

On 21/22 May 1944 Bomber Command was tasked with an attack on Duisburg, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany, a major logistical centre in the Ruhr Area and location of chemical, steel and iron industries. A combined force of 532 aircraft, including fifteen 463 Sqn crews, was allocated to the op.

At 22:40 on the 21 May James, operating as the Bomb Aimer, and the crew departed RAF Waddington in Lancaster I ME580 (JO-Q). Nothing further was heard from the crew.

Post war it was established that James's aircraft crashed in a field between Horst and Randerath, NNE of Geilenkirchen, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany, killing all on board.

Also killed: FO Kenneth Edgar Archay (Pilot); FO Albert Frank Mattingley RAAF (AG); FO Edward Hugh Ross RAAF (AG); WO Albert Francis Mayne RAAF (Nav); FS Lionel Warwick Weeden RAAF (WOp); Sgt Frank Norman Rice (FE)

Originally buried in Randerath Cemetery, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany, in March 1947 James was moved to the Rheinberg War Cemetery, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany.

James is commemorated on Wall Panel 55

Photo Source: naa.gov.au