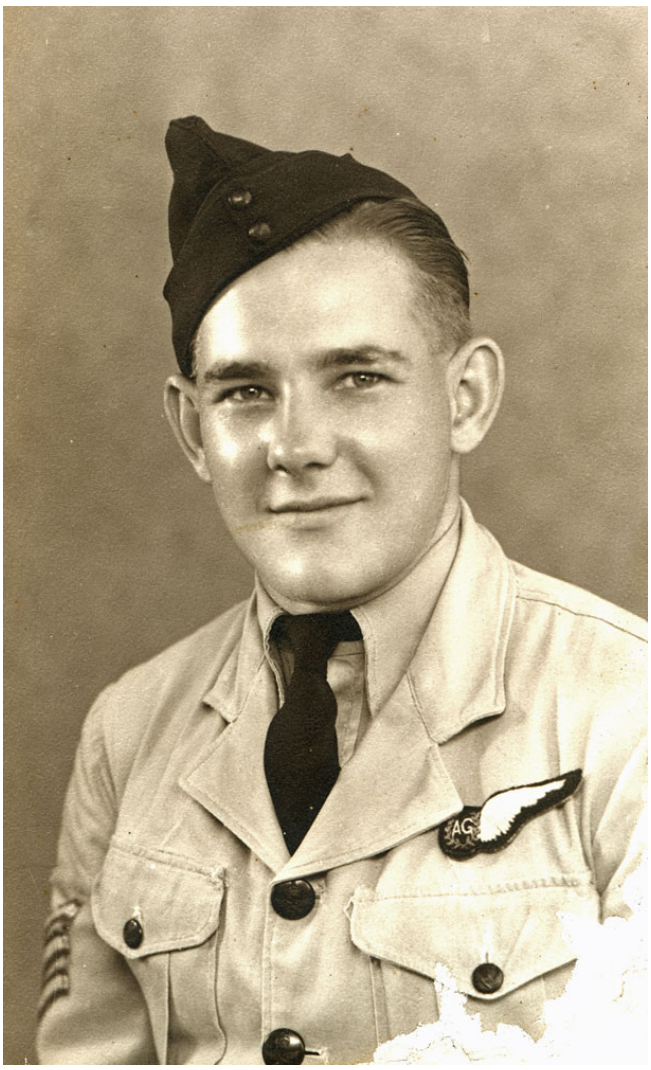
FS John Kevin Ladley 435083 RAAF



John was born on 5 August 1924 in Ipswich, Queensland, Australia, the son of John Ladley and Alice Ladley nee Neale.

Educated at Blair State School and Ipswich Grammar School, Queensland, John was employed as a foundry moulder when, in March 1943, he enlisted in the RAAF.

John completed his aircrew training in Australia with the award of his Air Gunner's badge in February 1944, followed by the award of his Wireless Operator badge the following month. In April 1944 John embarked for the UK.

Having studied German at school, John was selected to train as a Special Duties Operator and, on arrival in the UK commenced a 12 week German language course. In July 1944 John was posted to 101 Sqn at RAF Ludford Magna, Lincolnshire.

On 11 November 1944 Bomber Command was tasked with an op against the Hoesch Benzin synthetic oil plant in the Wambel district of Dortmund, Germany. A combined force of 228 aircraft, including nineteen 101 Sqn crews, were allocated to the op.

At 15:53 on the 11 November John, operating as the Special Duties Operator, and the crew departed RAF Ludford Magna in Lancaster III NF954 (SR-W).

At 19:00 whilst over the target, John's aircraft was hit by flak and he was fatally injured. The aircraft was able to safely return to base.

John is buried in Cambridge City Cemetery, Cambridgeshire

John is commemorated on Wall Panel 61

Photo Source: vwma.org.au