

Flt. Sgt. Eric Edward Lancaster
413617 RAAF

Eric Lancaster was an Australian bomb-aimer who died when his Wellington failed to return from a mining operation in the Bay of Biscay in the spring of 1943.

He had joined 166 Squadron at Kirmington on 25 February 1943, a month after the squadron had reformed at what was then a new airfield.

He and his young crew had taken off at 2217 hours on the night of 6 April tasked with laying mines off the port of Lorient. That was the last anyone heard from them, and their aircraft, Wellington III BK299 AS-Q, is presumed to have crashed in the sea.



Eric is remembered along with his four colleagues on the Runnymede Memorial. At 28 he was the 'old man' of a crew that included an 18-year-old rear gunner. His home was in the small city of Orange, in New South Wales, where he lived with his wife Elsie. He was the son of John and Nell Lancaster.

The others who died were the pilot Flt. Lt. Nigel Brown, navigator Sgt. Ronald Lankester, wireless operator/air gunner Sgt. Malcolm Lewis and rear gunner Sgt. Ivan Caulton.

His name can be found on panel 061.

Source: 166 Squadron Association.