FO Albert Frank Mattingley 419806 RAAF



Albert was born on 29 July 1922 in North Fremantle, Western Australia, Australia, the son of Albert Charles Hubert Mattingley and Alberta Florence Mattingley nee Green.

Albert was employed as a cadet journalist when, in September 1941, he enlisted in the 2/10th Armed Regiment, AIF. Albert served until October 1942 when he transferred to the RAAF and mustered as aircrew.

Albert completed his aircrew training in Australia in June 1943 with the award of his Air Gunner badge, was granted a commission and embarked for the UK in August.

Following advanced training at 27 OTU RAF Lichfield, Staffordshire and 1660 HCU RAF Swinderby, Lincolnshire, on 11 May 1944 Albert 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 Albert, operating as one of the Air Gunners, 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 Albert's aircraft crashed in a field between Horst and Randerath, NNE of Geilenkirchen, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany, killing all on board. This was Albert 2nd op.

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

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

Albert is commemorated on Wall Panel 69

Photo Source: naa.gov.au