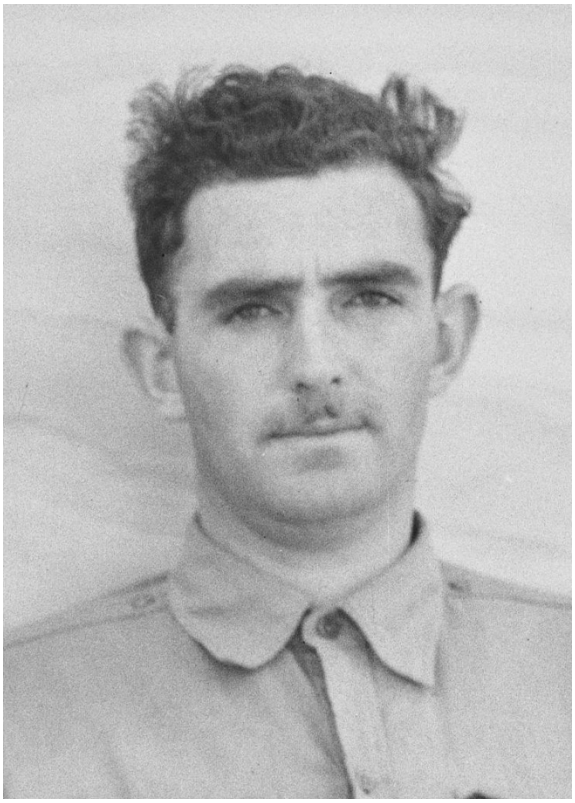
WO Albert Francis Mayne 408913 RAAF



Albert was born on 24 August 1914 in Ballarat, Victoria, Australia, the son of Richard Francis Mayne and Mary Trethewey Mayne nee Rundell.

Educated at Ballarat Technical School, Albert was employed as a carpenter in Ballarat when, in July 1940, he volunteered for service in the RAAF.

Called up in June 1941, Albert commenced pilot training; however, in November 1941 when his pilot training was suspended, he re-mustered as Observer. Albert completed his aircrew training in Australia in April 1942 with the award of his Navigator badge and embarked for the UK, via Canada, in April.

Following advanced training at 10 (O) Advanced Flying Unit RAF Dumfries, Scotland, 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 the Navigator, 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.

Also killed: FO Kenneth Edgar Archay (Pilot); FO Albert Frank Mattingley RAAF (AG); FO Edward Hugh Ross RAAF (AG); 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