

F/Sgt. David Charles Palmer 437202 RAAF



David was born on 13 August 1919, the son of William Arthur and Mary Elizabeth Palmer, of New Kingdom, South Australia. He was educated at Port Adelaide Central School, and was a wood machinist prior to enlisting, on the 26 July 1940, initially with the Australian Army, before re-enlisting with the Air Force, in November, 1942.

Known as 'Dave', he was an Air Gunner serving with 170 Squadron, based at R.A.F. Hemswell, near Gainsborough, Lincolnshire; the Squadron motto being "Videre non videri" – "To see and not be seen".

Lancaster III ME388 TC-H took off at 1704 hours 7 March, 1945, from Hemswell airfield, with 12 others from the squadron, on a night operation to bomb the jet engine factory supplying Junkers, at Dessau, Germany. Its intention was to dislocate supply lines, and disorganise the Germans. The weather for take-off was good, but very soon afterwards, due to heavy cloud, it was reported, instructions had been sent to the crews to bomb the Wanganui flares (target indicators). At 2031 hours ME388 was attacked by a night fighter, exploding in the air, and crashing at Leckmart, Germany, with the loss of all the crew.

David is buried at Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Germany. Coll. grave 30. E. 1-7. The epitaph reads "His duty nobly done for loved ones in Australia". He was 25 years old.

F/Sgt. David Charles Palmer RAAF, Air Gunner (killed)
F/Sgt. William Desmond Callaghan RAAF, Air Gunner (killed)
F/O John Stennett Walker RAAF, Pilot (killed)
F/Sgt. Wilfred Henry Charles Fuller RAFVR, Flight engineer (killed)
F/Sgt. John Mahoney RAFVR, Navigator (killed)
F/O Kenneth George Powell RAF, Wireless operator (killed)
F/Sgt. Leslie Thomas RAFVR, Air Bomber (killed)

He is commemorated on Panel 81

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