

Sgt Frederick Harley Paterson 411372 RAAF

Frederick was born on 25 May 1922 in Bathurst, New South Wales, Australia, the son of George Harley Paterson and Elsie Paterson nee Jenkins.

Educated at Bathurst High School, Frederick was employed as a proof reader when, in April 1941, he enlisted in the RAAF. After basic training Frederick was transferred to Canada under the Empire Air Training Scheme where, in March 1942, he was awarded his WOp/AG badge.

Transferring to the UK in March 1942, after advanced training at 27 OTU RAF Lichfield, Staffordshire, Frederick was posted to 101 Sqn at RAF Holme on Spalding Moor in January 1943.

On the night of the 11/12 February 1943, 177 aircraft, including five 101 Sqn crews, were tasked with an op against Wilhelmshaven, targeting the major Kriegsmarine bases.

At 17:31 on 11 February Frederick, operating as the WOp/AG, and the crew departed RAF Holme on Spalding Moor, Yorkshire, in Lancaster I W4313 (SR-G). Nothing further was heard from the crew.

Post war investigations established that at 20:00 on 11 February, Frederick's aircraft was hit by flak and exploded on impact on the edge of a sandbank near the Isle of Juist, Frisian Islands, off the German coast, killing all on board. A review of contemporary German documents revealed that six bodies of the crew had been recovered from the sea and buried in the dunes on the island; however, exhaustive searches and exhumations failed to establish the identity of any members of the crew. It was subsequently recorded that the missing crew members had no known grave.

Also Killed: FS Alan Ernest Hiley RAAF (Pilot); Sgt Richard Arthur Collins (Nav); Sgt Reginald Thomas Bozier (AG); Sgt Sydney George Quinlan RAAF (AG); Sgt Fred Travis Spivey (FE); Sgt Thomas Teviotdale (AB)

Frederick has no known grave and is commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial, Surrey

Frederick is commemorated on Wall Panel 83