

FS Archibald James Pepperrell 23113 RAAF

Archibald was born on 14 March 1916 in Coorparoo, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, the son of Archibald Green Pepperrell and Dalmarney Pepperrell nee Wharton.

Educated at Wynnum Central State School, Archibald was employed as a barman and steward when, in July 1940, he enlisted in the RAAF.

Archibald was employed as a Mess Steward until September 1941 when he re-mustered as aircrew. Completing his aircrew training in Australia in July 1942 with the award of his Air Gunner badge, Archibald immediately embarked for the UK.

Following advanced training at 27 OTU RAF Lichfield, Leicestershire where he converted to multi engine/multi crew ops on the Wellington, and 1662 HCU at RAF Blyton, Lincolnshire for Lancaster conversion, in July 1943 Archibald was posted to 101 Sqn at RAF Ludford Magna, Lincolnshire.

On the night of the 3/4 September 1943 Bomber Command was tasked with a raid on Berlin, the Nazi capital and a major industrial centre. A force of 316 Lancasters, including twenty-one 101 Sqn crews, were allocated to the op. Three 101 Sqn crews failed to return.

At 19:47 on 3 September Archibald, operating as the Rear Gunner, and the crew departed RAF Ludford Magna in Lancaster III JB149 (SR-R2).

At 00:28 on 4 September whilst over the target, Archibald's aircraft was hit by flak and then intercepted by Oblt Lenz Finster of the 2./NJG1 flying a Bf110 from Gilze-Rijen Airfield. The Pilot and Bomb Aimer were able to bale out and were taken as POW, before the aircraft crashed at Gross Glienicke, Potsdam, Brandenburg.

Also Killed: FS George Stuart Fairbairn RAAF (Nav); Sgt Frederick David Paddon (FE); Sgt Kenneth William Sedman (WOp); Sgt William Arthur Southwell (AG)

Archibald has no known grave and is commemorated on the Runnymede memorial, Surrey

Archibald commemorated on Wall Panel 84