

Flt. Sgt. Everard John Phillips 415273 F

Everard was born on 23 May 1920 in Perth, Western Australia, the son of Thomas William Phillips and Edith Lila Phillips (née Hardman).

Educated at Perth Technical College, Everard was employed as a salesman by Malloch Brothers, Perth, and was serving in the Australian Army Service Corps as a reservist when, in March 1941, he volunteered for aircrew duties in the RAAF.

Called up in August 1941 Everard completed his aircrew training in Australia in May 1942 with the award of his air gunner badge, and he immediately embarked for the UK.

Following advanced training at No. 27 OTU RAF Lichfield, Staffordshire, and No. 1662 HCU, RAF Blyton, Lincolnshire, Everard was posted to 101 Squadron at RAF Holme-on-Spalding-Moor, Yorkshire, in April 1943 before the squadron moved to RAF Ludford Magna, Lincolnshire, in June 1943.



On 23/24 August 1943 Bomber Command was tasked with an attack on Berlin. A combined force of 727 aircraft, including twenty crews from 101 Squadron, was allocated to the op. Two crews failed to return.

At 2027 hours on 23 August Everard, operating as the rear gunner, and the crew departed RAF Ludford Magna in Lancaster I ED328 (SR-S).

At 0050 hours on 24 August Everard's aircraft was intercepted from below by Oblt. Werner Husemann of Stab/NJG 1, flying a Bf110 from Deelen airfield, Netherlands. The Lancaster's fuel tanks were hit causing a mid-air explosion, killing all on board. The wreckage crashed at Lanke, 6km West of Biesenthal, Brandenburg.

Also killed were the pilot Flt. Sgt. Robert Clarence Naffin RAAF, flight engineer Sgt. David Morgan Ellis, navigator Flt. Sgt. Noel Joseph Bullen, bomb-aimer Flt. Sgt. Douglas John Tresidder RAAF, wireless operator Sgt. John Armstrong Currey and mid-upper gunner Sgt. John Henry Phillips.

Originally buried in Biesenthal Friedhof, Brandenburg, Germany, Everard was moved in November 1946 to the Berlin War Cemetery, Germany.

Everard is commemorated on IBCC Wall Panel 84.

Photo Source: www.1wags.org.au