

Sergeant David Michael Pickersgill 1356057 RAFVR

David was born on 26 December 1917, the son of Ernest Broadbent and Annie Gertrude Pickersgill, of Hunslet, Leeds.

He was a wireless operator/air gunner serving with 455 (Australian) Squadron, based at RAF Swinderby, Lincolnshire. The squadron had the distinction of being "the first Australian squadron to bomb Germany".

His Handley Page Hampden I (AE308 UB-L), took off from RAF Swinderby airfield at 1205 hours, on 6 February 1942, on a mine-laying operation off the Frisian Islands. It was one of 33 Hampdens and 13 Avro Manchesters. Four of the eight Swinderby aircraft turned back due to insufficient cloud cover, the remainder pressed on and completed the operation. AE308 was shot down at 1510 hours, 70 miles west of Terschelling, by Luftwaffe night fighter ace Hauptmann Helmut Lent - his 30th victory.



David's body was never recovered, and he is commemorated at the Runnymede Memorial, Surrey. Panel 91. He was 24 years old.

His name is included on the family headstone at Hunslet Cemetery Leeds.

The crewmates killed with David were:

Sgt. Bernard Edward Brown RAFVR
Sgt. Robert Anthony Billington RAFVR
Sgt. Eric Bland RAFVR

He is commemorated on IBCC Panel 85.

Photo courtesy of www.wikipedia.org