

Sgt Sydney George Quinlan 411259 RA

Sydney was born on 2 November 1917 in Mereweather, New South Wales, Australia, the son of Lionel George Harcourt Quinlan and Alice Quinlan nee Lawton.

Educated at the Central Technical School, Newcastle, Sydney was employed as a railway cleaner and fireman when, in April 1941, he enlisted in the RAAF as an Air Gunner. Following training in Australia, in December 1941 Sydney was awarded his Air Gunner badge.



Transferring to the UK in March 1942, after advanced training at 27 OTU RAF Lichfield, Staffordshire, Sydney was posted to 101 Sqn at RAF Holme on Spalding Moor on 23 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 Sydney, operating as the Rear Gunner, 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 Sydney'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 near the border with Holland, 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 Reginald Thomas Bozier (AG); Sgt Richard Arthur Collins (Nav); Sgt Frederick Harley Paterson RAAF (WOp/AG); Sgt Fred Travis Spivey (FE); Sgt Thomas Teviotdale (AB)

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

Sydney is commemorated on Wall Panel 87

Photo Source: naa.gov.uk