

## **Ft. Sgt. Peter George Roberts 41549 RNZAF**



**F/S WF Austin DFM RAFVR and crew - 103 Squadron - KIA 2nd March 1943.**

New Zealander Peter Roberts was the bomb-aimer in a highly-experienced 103 Squadron crew that was lost without trace following an attack on Berlin on 2 March 1943.

His home was in Kaitaia, Auckland and he was the husband of Sally Roberts and the son of William and Emily Roberts. He was 27 years old at the time of his death.

After his initial training, he joined the crew of Ft. Sgt. 'Bunny' Austin and they were posted to RAF Elsham Wolds where 103 was in the final stages of converting from Halifaxes to Lancasters.

By the night of 2 March 1943 they had completed 29 sorties in a tour of operations that had already earned the pilot a Distinguished Flying Medal. Their aircraft, W4361 PM-N, left Elsham at 1853 hours but nothing further was heard. It was one of 17 Lancasters, Halifaxes and Stirlings lost in an attack involving 302 Bomber Command aircraft.

Killed with him were the pilot Ft. Sgt. W F Austin DFM, flight engineer Sgt. K H Chapman, navigator P/O A F Reif RCAF, wireless operator Sgt. D N D Waite, mid-upper gunner Sgt. D E J Boland and rear gunner Sgt. E J Cook.

All have no known grave and are commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial in Surrey.

Peter's name can be found on panel 090

Photographic source: Elsham Wolds Association