

Flt. Sgt. Reginald William Rowley 409747 RAAF

Reginald 'Reg' Rowley was a 29-year-old Australian former police constable who was killed along with the rest of his crew when their aircraft was lost during a raid on Berlin on the night of 2/3 January 1944.

He was the pilot of Lancaster JB606 AR-H, of 460 (RAAF) Squadron, which was one of 27 aircraft lost during a raid that had been delayed by the weather and necessitated a change in route to and from the target.



JB606 was one of 20 Lancasters from 460 that had been sent from RAF Binbrook for the raid and is understood to have been shot down homebound, crashing in flames near the village of Mückendorf, 30 miles south of Berlin. There were no survivors.

Reg and his crew had joined 460 early in November 1943 and the Berlin raid was their sixth together, most of them being operations to the German capital. They came together in part at No. 27 Operational Training Unit in Lichfield before completing their training at No. 1656 Heavy Conversion Unit at Lindholme before joining 460 at RAF Binbrook.

Reg was born in the city of Wodonga, in Victoria, and was the son of Joseph and Ercill Rowley. He was educated at Albury Grammar School in Wodonga before joining the police force and lived in the town of Burwood in Victoria. Reg is remembered on the rolls of honour in both Albury and Burwood.

The others who died with him were the flight engineer Sgt. William Fleming, navigator F/O Edward Truscott RAAF, bomb-aimer F/O Aubrey Robinson RAAF, wireless operator Flt. Sgt. Lambert Chester RAAF, mid-upper gunner Flt. Sgt. Ron Lawn RAAF and rear gunner F/O Henry Bennett. All were buried in Mückendorf church cemetery before being reinterred after the war in Berlin War Cemetery.

Reg's name can be found on panel 092.

Sources: Australian Virtual War Memorial/Aircrew Remembered.