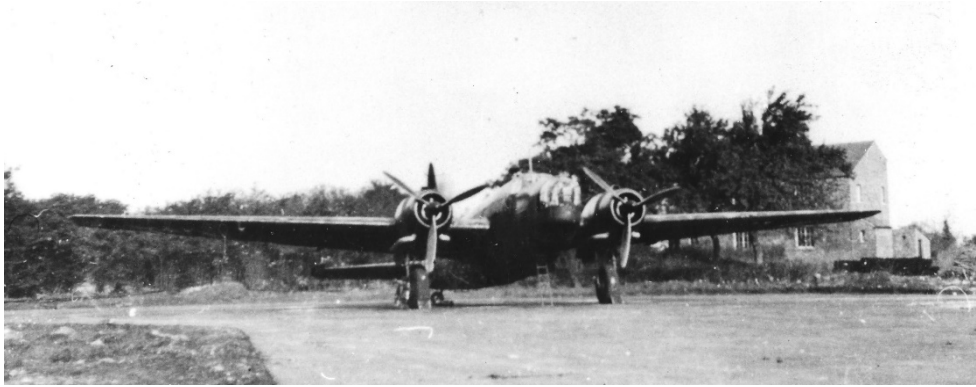


Sgt. John Robert Shearer 400335 RAAF



A 460 Squadron Wellington pictured at Brighton

Australian John Shearer was the navigator in one of two Wellingtons lost by 460 Squadron RAAF during a raid on Stuttgart on the night of May 6/7, 1942.

He was part of the crew of Wellington Mk IV, Z1254 UV-L, which was hit by flak and burst into flames near Karlsruhe during an attack on Stuttgart. Only the rear gunner survived as the aircraft crashed near Mannheim. John and the remainder of his crew are now buried in Durnbach War Cemetery. His was one of four aircraft lost on the raid, two of them from 460.

At the age of 35, John was considerably older than other members of the crew. He was the son of Hugh and Phoebe Shearer and came from the Melbourne suburb of Northcote.



The others who died were the pilot and A Flight commander Sqdn. Ldr. Colin Gilbert, who was an Australian serving in the RAF, co-pilot Sgt. Reginald Henry RAAF, the British wireless operator Sgt. Christopher Dixon and wireless operator/air gunner Flt. Sgt. Kenneth Fogg RCAF. The sole survivor was the rear gunner, Sgt. James Lake RAAF.

His name can be found on panel 096.

Sources: 460 Squadron Association /Bill Chorley.

