

FS John Lloyd Russell Stubbings 420715 RAAF

John was born on 19 June 1918 in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, the son of Eileen Gladys Stubbings.

Educated at Camden Public School and Ultimo Technical College, John was employed as a book salesman in Sydney and served as a territorial in the Anti Aircraft Searchlight Group when, in June 1941, he volunteered for service with the RAAF.

Called up in November 1941, John completed his aircrew training in Australia in September 1942 with the award of his Air Gunner badge, and he embarked for the UK the following month.

Following advanced training at 27 OTU RAF Lichfield, Leicestershire and 1662 HCU at RAF Blyton, Lincolnshire, in May 1943 John was posted to 101 Sqn at RAF Ludford Magna, Lincolnshire.



On the night of the 3/4 September 1943 Bomber Command was tasked with a raid on Berlin, the Nazi capital and a major industrial centre. A force of 316 Lancasters, including twenty one 101 Sqn crews, were allocated to the op . Three 101 Sqn crews failed to return.

At 19:36 on 3 September John, operating as the Rear Gunner, and the crew departed RAF Ludford Magna in Lancaster III ED659 (SR-T).

At 02:33 on 4 September John's aircraft was hit by a flak barrage. A post war Missing Research and Enquiry team report stated *"the aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire and exploded in mid-air over the Gatow airfield, approximately 24 miles south west of Stettin, Germany."* All on board were killed.

Also Killed : PO James Samuel Kevin Dalziel RAAF (Nav); WO Dennis Arthur Tucker (Pilot); FS James Clark RCAF (AG); Sgt George Cheadle (WOp/AG); Sgt Lionel Hobson (FE); Sgt Daniel Hopkins (AB)

Originally buried in Doberitz Garrison Cemetery, in October 1946 John was transferred to the Berlin 1939-1945 War Cemetery, Germany

John is commemorated on Wall Panel 103

Photo Source: naa.gov.au