FS Lionel Warwick Weeden 417916 RAAF



Lionel was born on 14 October 1915 in Glenelg, South Australia, Australia, the son of Henry Warwick Weeden and Hannah Jochabed Weeden nee Williams. In October 1943 he married Ruby Amy Chaplin in West Mitcham, South Australia.

Educated at Glenelg State School and Adelaide High School, Lionel was employed as a radio and electric mechanic when, in January 1942, he volunteered for service in the RAAF.

Called up in July 1942, Lionel completed his aircrew training in Australia in April 1943 with the award of his WOp/AG badge and embarked for the UK the following month.

Following advanced training at 7 Air Observer School, RAF Bishop's Court, Northern Ireland, in March 1944 Lionel re-mustered as WOp whilst completing training at 27 OTU RAF Lichfield, Staffordshire and 1660 HCU RAF Swinderby, Lincolnshire. On 11 May 1944 Lionel was posted to 463 Sqn at RAF Waddington, Lincolnshire.

On 21/22 May 1944 Bomber Command was tasked with an attack on Duisburg, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany, a major logistical centre in the Ruhr Area and location of chemical, steel and iron industries. A combined force of 532 aircraft, including fifteen 463 Sqn crews was allocated to the op.

At 22:40 on the 21 May Lionel, operating as the Wireless Operator, and the crew departed RAF Waddington in Lancaster I ME580 (JO-Q). Nothing further was heard from the crew.

Post war it was established that Lionel's aircraft crashed in a field between Horst and Randerath, NNE of Geilenkirchen, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany, killing all on board.

Also killed: FO Kenneth Edgar Archay (Pilot); FO Albert Frank Mattingley RAAF (AG); FO Edward Hugh Ross RAAF (AG); WO Albert Francis Mayne RAAF (Nav); FS James Ernest Jasper RAAF (AB); Sgt Frank Norman Rice (FE)

Originally buried in Randerath Cemetery, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany, in March 1947 Lionel was moved to the Rheinberg War Cemetery, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany.

Lionel is commemorated on Wall Panel 113

Photo Source: naa.gov.au