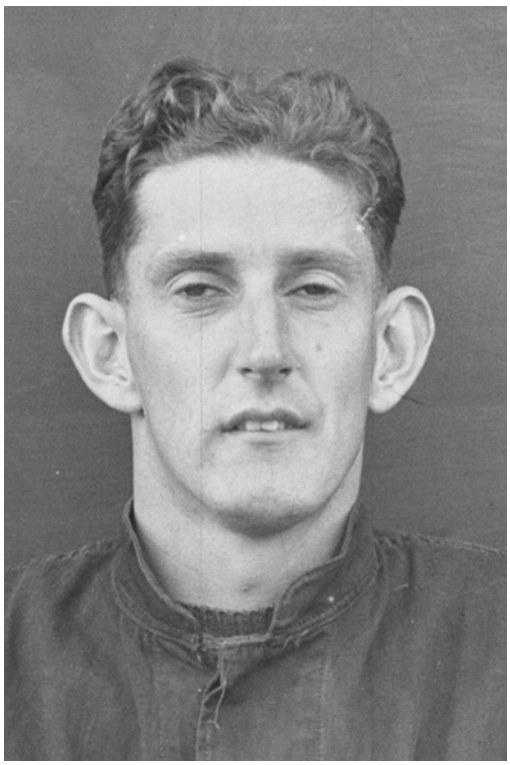
PO Ian Cedric Young 409963 RAAF



Ian was born on 19 September 1918 in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, the son of Robert Frederick Young and Irene Maude Young nee McLeary.

Ian was employed as a broker's clerk by W H Smith & Co, Melbourne when, in May 1941, he volunteered for service in the RAAF.

Called up in November 1941, Ian completed his aircrew training in Australia, in September 1942, Ian was awarded his Observer badge and embarked for the UK in November.

Following advanced training at 14 OTU RAF Cottesmore, Rutland and 1654 HCU RAF Wigsley, Nottinghamshire, in August 1943 Ian was posted to 61 Sqn at RAF Syerston, Nottinghamshire. In January 1944 Ian was awarded a commission and posted to 463 Sqn at RAF Waddington, Lincolnshire.

On 24/25 February 1944 Bomber Command was tasked with an attack on Schweinfurt, Lower Franconia, Bavaria, home of Germany's main ball bearing manufacturing factories. This was Bomber Command's first raid on this target, although the USAAF had attacked the previous day. A combined force of 734 aircraft, including seventeen 463 Sqn crews was allocated to the op.

At 20:22 on the 24 February Ian, operating as the Bomb Aimer, and the crew departed RAF Waddington in Lancaster I LL740 (JO-M).

Post war it was established that, whilst outbound and passing Stuttgart, Ian's aircraft was hit by cannon fire from an unseen night fighter. The starboard inner and wing burst into flames and the pilot reported severe structural damage to his cockpit and forward fuselage. With the fire spreading and threatening to engulf the entire wing area, the bale out order was given. The pilot remained in control whilst the crew baled out, but the aircraft was losing height and going round in slow circles. The aircraft crashed about 22 miles west of Stuttgart, killing Ian and the Pilot. The remaining five crew members were able to safely abandon the Lancaster and were taken as POW.

Also killed: Flt Lt Ronald James Mortimer DFC RAAF (Pilot)

Originally buried in the Murr Civil Cemetery, in August 1948 Ian was moved to the Durnbach War Cemetery, Bayern, Germany

Ian is commemorated on Wall Panel 120

Photo Source: naa.gov.au