

F/Sgt. Peter Chadwick Bartle 422103 RAAF



Peter was born in Newcastle Upon Tyne, on 9 June 1914, with his family emigrating to Australia soon after his birth. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. C. Bartle, of Waverley, New South Wales, Australia. He was educated at Ultimo Technical College, Sydney and joined the RAAF on 25 April 1942.

He was an Air Gunner serving with 1663 Heavy Conversion Unit based at RAF Rufforth, North Yorkshire.

Handley Page Halifax V, DG412 -B, took off from Rufforth airfield on 27 August 1943, on a daytime Bullseye exercise; it was the final flight before completing their training, and was returning from a mission to bomb Brest, in France. During the flight, the pilot lost control while practicing evasive action, and in the dive that followed, the aircraft came apart under the excessive loads imposed upon its airframe. It was considered almost certain the crew were trapped by the centrifugal force, and their bodies were recovered from the crash site at Langtree, four miles south west of Great Torrington, Devon.

Peter is buried at Heanton Punchardon (St. Augustine) Churchyard, North Devon. Row P. Grave 15. He was 29 years old.

A granite memorial stone in the village of Langtree commemorates the loss of the crew; the dedication service being held on the 66th anniversary of the crash, with members of the airmen's families attending.

F/Sgt. Peter Chadwick Bartle RAAF, Air Gunner (killed)
Sgt. John Peter Williams, Pilot (killed)
F/O William Henry Graham, Air Bomber (killed)
Sgt. Hugh Patrick Henry RAAF, Air Gunner (killed)
Sgt. Raymond Frederick Stainsby, Navigator (killed)
Sgt. George Rogerson Wheatley, Flight Engineer (killed)
Sgt. James Taylor, Wireless Operator/Air Gunner (killed)

He is commemorated on Panel 127

Picture courtesy of ancestry.co.uk