

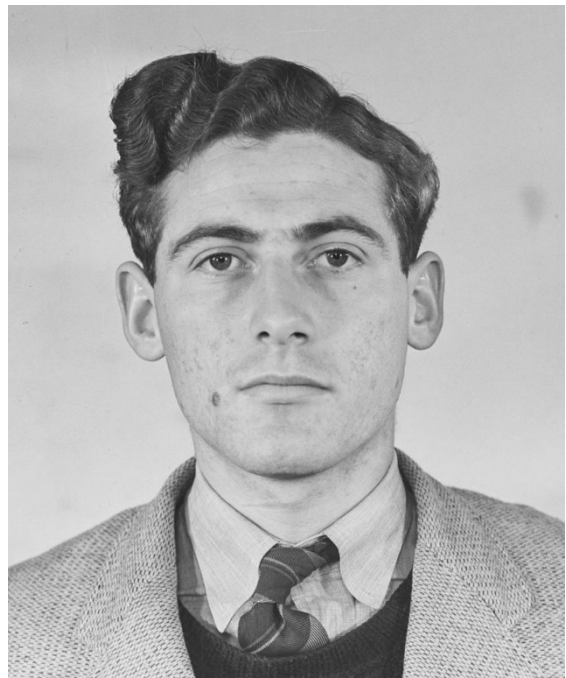
FS Patrick John Paul Carlon 432936 RAAF

Patrick was born on 17 March 1923 in Croydon, New South Wales, Australia, the son of Ambrose Joseph Carlon and May Genevieve Carlon nee McInerney.

Educated at St Patrick's College and Sydney Technical School, Patrick was employed as a cadet metallurgist when, in October 1942, he volunteered for aircrew service in the RAAF.

Called up January 1943, Patrick completed his training in Australia in February 1944 with the award of his Air Gunner badge, and he embarked for the UK the following month.

Completing advanced training at 27 OTU RAF Lichfield, Staffordshire and 1658 HCU RAF Riccall, Yorkshire, in January 1945 Patrick was posted to 462 (RAAF) Sqn at RAF Foulsham, Norfolk.



On 24/25 February 1945, Bomber Command was tasked with operating a diversionary sweep over Northern France to draw enemy fighters into the air.

A combined force of 74 training aircraft was allocated to the op, and 462 (RAAF) Sqn were detailed to carry out a "Spoofing" flight to Neuss, Rhein-Kreis Neuss district, North Rhine-Westphalia. Of the ten squadron aircraft allocated to the op, four failed to return.

At 17:03 on 24 February 1945 Patrick, operating as the Mid Upper Gunner, and the crew departed RAF Foulsham in Halifax III PN429(Z5-E).

Patrick's aircraft crashed at Monchengladbach Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany, killing all on board. Post war research of the German fighter archives state three Halifax aircraft were shot down this night, and the squadron were the only ones on the op operating the Halifax; therefore, it is likely the crew fell victim to the fighters drawn up by the sweep.

Also Killed: F/L John Stuart Tootal (Pilot); WO Norman Joseph Hall RAAF (WOp); WO Ernest Ronald William Oliver RAAF (AB); FS William Francis Duncan RAAF (Nav); FS Geoffrey Harrison-Broadley (AG/SDO); FS Murray Arthur Smith RAAF (AG); Sgt Trevor Ephraim David (FE)

Originally buried on the airfield, following research by the Missing Research and Enquiry Service, in November 1945 the crew was moved to the Monchengladbach Town Cemetery, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany, where they were buried with full military honours. In August 1946 Patrick was moved to the Rheinberg War Cemetery, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany.

Patrick is commemorated on Wall Panel 141

Photo Source: recordsearch.naa.gov.au