

Sgt Walter Irvine Christsen 404277 RAAF

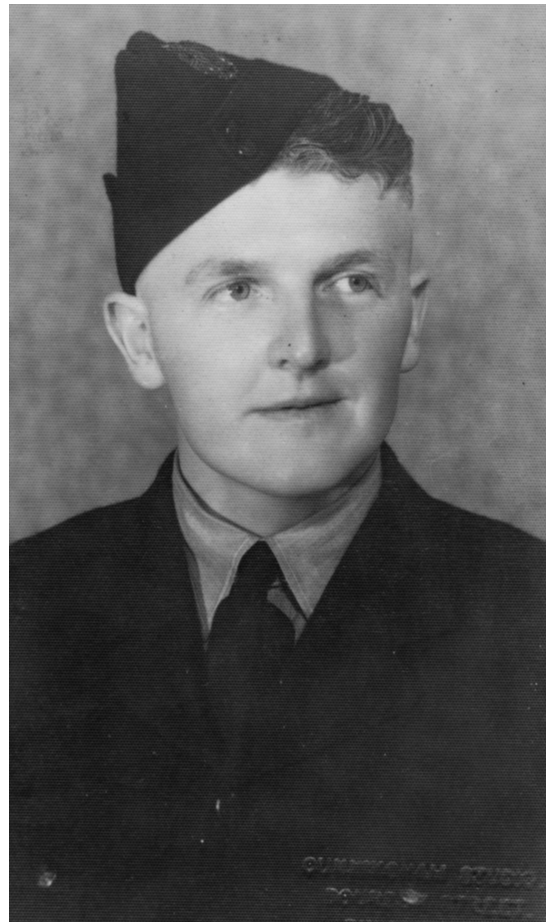
Walter was born on 29 August 1919 in Bundaberg, Queensland, Australia, the son of Walter Irvine Hans Christsen and Isabel Christsen nee Feehan.

Educated at Bundaberg East State School and Bundaberg High, Walter was employed as an accounts clerk when, in April 1940, he volunteered for aircrew duties in the RAAF.

Called up in July 1940, after basic training in Australia, in October 1940 Walter was sent to Canada to train under the Empire Air Training Scheme. In March 1941 Walter was awarded his Observer badge, and he embarked for the UK in May.

Following advanced training at 27 OTU, RAF Lichfield, Staffordshire, in August 1941 Walter was posted to 214 Sqn at RAF Stradishall, Suffolk.

On 26/27 March 1942 for the second consecutive night, Bomber Command was tasked with an attack on Essen, home to the Krupp Steelworks and a key industrial target. A combined force of 126 aircraft, including eleven 214 Sqn crews, were allocated to the op.



Shortly after 20:00 on 26 March Walter, operating as the Navigator, and the crew departed RAF Stradishall in Wellington Ic Z1143 (BU-G).

Whilst homeward-bound, at 23:50 Walter's aircraft was intercepted by Oblt Herbert Lutje of Stab III/NJG 1, flying a Bf110 from Twente airfield, Netherlands. The aircraft crashed 1 mile N of Vriezenveen, 9 miles NW of Almelo, Netherlands, killing all on board.

Also Killed: Capt Alfred Peter Mair Royal Artillery (AG); PO Eric William Cuthbert Creed RAAF (Pilot); Sgt Albert Frederick Mons Emms (WOp/AG); Sgt William Wykes Robey Norton RAAF (Pilot); Sgt John Routledge Payne (WOp/AG)

Walter is buried in Vriezenveen General Cemetery, Overijssel, Netherlands.

Walter is commemorated on Wall Panel 144

Photo Source: IBCC