

PO Eric William Cuthbert Creed 400581 RAAF

Eric was born on 3 November 1919 in Caulfield, Victoria, Australia, the son of Willie Herbert Creed and Edith Gwennie Creed nee Swinburne.

Eric was employed as a clerk in Melbourne when, in June 1940, he volunteered for aircrew duties in the RAAF.

Called up in September 1940, after basic training in Australia, in January 1941 Eric was sent to Canada to train under the Empire Air Training Scheme. In May 1941 Eric was awarded his Wings, and he immediately embarked for the UK.

Following advanced training at 21 OTU, RAF Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire, in August 1941 Eric was posted to 214 Sqn at RAF Stradishall, Suffolk. In December 1941 Eric was granted a commission.



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 Eric and his crew departed RAF Stradishall in Wellington Ic Z1143 (BU-G).

Whilst homeward-bound, at 23:50 Eric'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); Sgt Walter Irvine Christsen RAAF (Obs); Sgt Albert Frederick Mons Emms (WOp/AG); Sgt William Wykes Robey Norton RAAF (Pilot); Sgt John Routledge Payne (WOp/AG)

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

Eric is commemorated on Wall Panel 150

Photo Source: www.slodrenthe.nl