

FS Noel Michael Davis 412921 RAAF

Noel was born on 28 September 1921 in Waratah, New South Wales, Australia, the son of Charles John Davis and Ruth Kendrick Davis nee Mackie.

Educated at the Marist Brothers' High School, Hamilton, New South Wales, Noel was employed as a junior clerk when, in November 1940, he volunteered for service in the RAAF.

Called up in August 1941, Noel completed his aircrew training in Australia in May 1942 with the award of his wings, and he embarked for the UK in August 1942.

Following advanced training at 12 OCU RAF Chipping Warden, Northamptonshire and 1657 HCU RAF Stradishall, Suffolk, in July 1943 Noel was posted to 218 Sqn at RAF Downham Market, Norfolk.

On 27/28 August 1943 Bomber Command was tasked with an op against Nuremberg, a major industrial and political centre.

A combined force of 674 aircraft were allocated to the task, including eight 218 Sqn crews.

At 21:35 on the 27 August Noel and his crew departed RAF Downham Market in Stirling III EF448 (HA-P).

On 28 August, Noel's aircraft was hit by flak, injuring the Mid Upper Gunner and putting his turret out of action. Shortly later, the aircraft was intercepted by Oblt Werner Husemann flying a Bf110 of Stab /NJG1 flying from Deelen airfield, Netherlands. The attack put the intercom, signal lights and the rear turret out of action. Noel pulled the aircraft out of a very steep dive, and a few minutes later they were attacked from above which put the port inner engine on fire. The navigator moved down the aircraft and signalled for the crew to bale out. The Rear Gunner and Wireless Operator, who had escaped through the astrodome, were the only crew members to escape, and both were taken as POW.

At 03:15 the aircraft crashed at Munstermaifeld, Mayen-Koblenz, Rhineland-Palatinate, Germany, 13 miles SW of Koblenz, killing Noel and the rest of the crew.

Also killed: Sgt John Curson (AB); Sgt Daniel Joseph Mullen RCAF (Nav); Sgt Douglas Alexander Ross RCAF (AG); Sgt George Louis Terry (FE)

Originally buried in Munstermaifeld Cemetery, in February 1948 Noel was moved to the Rheinberg War Cemetery, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany

Noel is commemorated on Wall Panel 153