

FO Vivian Clive Ely 426221 RAAF

Vivian, known as Viv, was born on 22 July 1921 in Caboolture, Moreton Bay, Queensland, Australia, the son of Edward Ely and Annie Ely nee Durham. In November 1942 he married Olga Margaret Saharow in Queensland.

Educated at Brisbane State High School, Vivian was employed as a clerk in Brisbane when, in December 1941, he volunteered for aircrew service in the RAAF.

Called up in May 1942, following basic training in Australia, in December 1942 Vivian was sent to Canada to train under the Empire Air Training Scheme where, in July 1943, he was awarded his Wings, granted a commission and embarked for the UK the following month.

Completing advanced training at 18 (P) Advanced Flying Unit, RAF Snitterfield, Warwickshire, 20 OTU RAF Lossiemouth, Moray, Scotland, 1658 HCU RAF Riccall, Yorkshire, and 1663 HCU RAF Rufforth, Yorkshire, in November 1944 Vivian was posted to 462 (RAAF) Sqn at RAF Driffield, Yorkshire. The squadron moved to RAF Foulsham, Norfolk in December.

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 17:05 on 24 February 1945 Vivian and his crew departed RAF Foulsham in Halifax III MZ461(Z5-G).

At 19:50 on 24 February Vivian's aircraft was intercepted by Ofw Walter Kreibaum flying a Bf109 of III./NJGII flying from Bonn-Hangelar Airfield, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany. At 20:12 the aircraft crashed at Anrath, near Krefeld, Nordrhein-Westfalen, killing all on board. Only five of the crew were recovered for burial.

Also Killed: FO John Hubert Hering RAAF (WOp/AG); FO Peter Millhouse (AB); FS Denis James Critchley (Nav); FS Geoffrey Robinson (AG); Sgt Hetherington (FE); Sgt Matthew Ogilvie (AG); Sgt George Arthur Edgar Sanday (SDO/FE)

Vivian has no known grave and is commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial, Surrey

Vivian is commemorated on Wall Panel 160

Photo Source: recordsearch.naa.gov.au

