

PO John Charles Fardon 410472 RAAF

John was born on 15 December 1918 in Corryong, Victoria, Australia, the son of Charles Fardon and Jessie Ann Fardon nee Seaton.

John was employed on the family farm when, In July 1941, he volunteered for aircrew duties with the RAAF. Called up in January 1942, John completed his training in Australia in October 1942 with the award of his Observer badge and, following additional training, he embarked for the UK in March 1943.

Following advanced training at 15 OTU RAF Harwell, Oxfordshire, where he converted to multi crew/multi engine flying on the Wellington, and 1664 HCU RAF Croft, Durham for conversion to the Halifax, in November 1943 John was posted with his crew to 138 Sqn at RAF Tempsford, Bedfordshire. John was commissioned in April 1944.

Shortly before midnight on 1 June 1944 John, operating as the Bomb Aimer, and the crew departed RAF Tempsford in Halifax V LL289 (NF-P). Their mission, "Operation Percy 7", was to drop supplies to the French Resistance at Longue-Jumelles, Maine-et-Loire.

In the early hours of 2 June, whilst over the drop zone, John's aircraft was hit by flak, damaging the port wing and engines. The aircraft crashed in a field outside Longue, 10 miles NNW of Saumur.

The tail section broke off and the Rear Gunner escaped. The port wing broke away and the Mid Upper Gunner escaped through a hole in the wreckage. Both Air Gunners survived to be taken POW, although one was so seriously injured he was re-patriated to the UK before the end of the year. John and the rest of the crew were killed. This was the crew's 34th op.

Also Killed: FO Dennis Hargreaves (Nav); PO Douglas Anthony Hayman RAAF (Pilot); FS Alfred Henry Dickel (WOp/AG); Sgt Dennis Arthur Page (FE)

John is buried in Longue Communal Cemetery, Maine-et-Loire, France.

John is commemorated on Wall Panel 162

Photo Source: IBCC

