

Sgt John Forbes 1314891 RAFVR

John was born on 28 October 1920 in Southfields, London, the son of Edward Morris Forbes and Mabel Harriett Forbes nee Ricks.

John was employed as a grocer's assistant before joining the RAF and training as an Air Gunner. He was posted to 75 (NZ) Sqn at RAF Feltwell, Norfolk in September 1942.

On 6/7 October 1942 Bomber Command were tasked with an op against Osnabrück. A combined force of 237 aircraft, including fourteen 75(NZ) crews, were allocated to the op.

At 19:30 John, operating as the Rear Gunner, and the crew departed RAF Feltwell, Norfolk in Wellington III DF639 (AA-N). The Pathfinder Force successfully marked the run-in as well as the target and, as a result, the bombing was well concentrated with extensive damage to the central and southern parts of the city.

Homeward-bound, John's aircraft was intercepted by Lt Hans Krause, Uffz Otto Zinn & Uffz Fritz Specht of the Stab I./NJG 3, flying a Dornier Do 217J from the Rheine Airbase, Germany. At 23:04 the aircraft crashed near the small town of Hardenberg, 70 miles East of Amsterdam, killing all on board. This was his 4th op.



Also killed: FS John Forman RCAF (WOp/AG); Sgt Geoffrey Slater (WOp/AG); Sgt Walter John Howes (Obs); Sgt George William Rhodes (Pilot)

John is buried in Hardenburg Protestant Cemetery, Overijssel, Netherlands

John is commemorated on Wall Panel 165

Photo Source: Findagrave