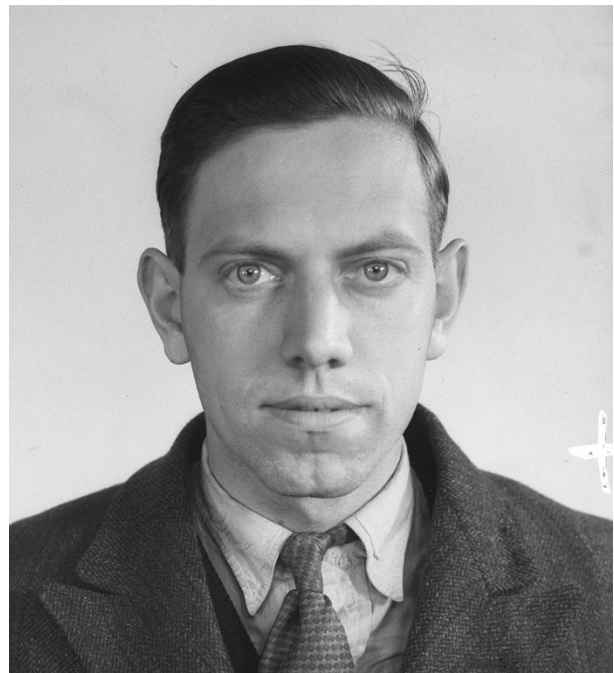


WO Norman Joseph Hall 425647 RAAF

Norman was born on 22 January 1921 in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, the son of Percy Leonard Hall and Hilda Hall nee Eyre.

Educated at Buranda State School, Brisbane, Norman was employed as a shop assistant in Valley, Brisbane when, in December 1940, he volunteered for aircrew service in the RAAF.

Called up in April 1942, following basic training in Australia, in November 1942 Norman was sent to Canada to train under the Empire Air Training Scheme. In August 1943 Norman completed his training with the award of his WOp/AG badge and in February 1944 he embarked for the UK and on arrival re-mustered as Wireless Operator.



Completing advanced training at 9(O) Advanced Flying Unit, RAF Llandwrog, Gwynedd, Wales, 27 OTU RAF Lichfield, Staffordshire and 1658 HCU RAF Riccall, Yorkshire, in January 1945 Norman was posted to 462 (RAAF) Sqn at RAF Foulsham, Norfolk.

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 17:03 on 24 February 1945 Norman, operating as the Wireless Operator, and the crew departed RAF Foulsham in Halifax III PN429(Z5-E).

Norman's aircraft crashed at Monchengladbach Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany, killing all on board. Post war research of the German fighter archives state three Halifax aircraft were shot down this night, and the squadron were the only ones on the op operating the Halifax; therefore, it is likely the crew fell victim to the fighters drawn up by the sweep.

Also Killed: F/L John Stuart Tootal (Pilot); WO Ernest Ronald William Oliver RAAF (AB); FS Patrick John Paul Carlon RAAF (AG); FS William Francis Duncan RAAF (Nav); FS Geoffrey Harrison-Broadley (AG/SDO); FS Murray Arthur Smith RAAF (AG); Sgt Trevor Ephraim David (FE)

Originally buried on the airfield, following research by the Missing Research and Enquiry Service, in November 1945 the crew was moved to the Monchengladbach Town Cemetery, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany, where they were buried with full military honours. In August 1946 Norman was moved to the Rheinberg War Cemetery, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany.

Norman is commemorated on Wall Panel 175

Photo Source: recordsearch.naa.gov.au