

FO John Hubert Hering 419001 RAAF

John was born on 21 August 1919 in Geelong, Victoria, Australia, the son of Edward Theodore Hering and Julia Marie Hering nee Kavanagh.

John was employed as a loose wool dyer by Federal Felters Ltd, Footscray, Victoria when, in January 1942, he volunteered for aircrew service in the RAAF.

Called up in June 1942, John commenced pilot training in Australia; however, when his training was suspended in September 1942, he re-mustered as WOp/AG. In November 1943 John was awarded his WOp/AG badge, granted a commission and immediately embarked for the UK.

Completing advanced training at 1(O) Advanced Flying Unit, RAF Wigtown, Dumfries, Scotland, 20 OTU RAF Lossiemouth, Moray, 1658 HCU RAF Riccall, Yorkshire, and 1663 HCU RAF Rufforth, Yorkshire, in November 1944 John 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 John, operating as the Wireless Operator, and the crew departed RAF Foulsham in Halifax III MZ461(Z5-G).

At 19:50 on 24 February John'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. This was John's 16th op.

Also Killed: FO Vivian Clive Ely RAAF (Pilot); 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)

Originally buried in Krefeld-Bochum New Cemetery, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany in November 1946 John was moved to Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany

John is commemorated on Wall Panel 181

Photo Source: recordsearch.naa.gov.au