

Sgt Walter John Howes 1378338 RAFVR

Walter was born on 30 September 1913 in Peckham, London, the son of Victor Howes and Annie Howes nee Paling.

John was employed as a local government officer before joining the RAF and training as an Observer. John arrived on 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 Walter, operating as the Observer, 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, Walter'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 John Forbes (AG); Sgt Geoffrey Slater (WOp/AG); Sgt George William Rhodes (Pilot)



Walter is buried in Hardenburg Protestant Cemetery, Overijssel, Netherlands

Walter is commemorated on Wall Panel 185

Photo Source: Findagrave