

FO Desmond Noel Kehoe 415429 RAAF

Desmond was born on 26 December 1922 in Mogumber, Western Australia, the son of Daniel O'Connell Kehoe and Mary Margaret Kehoe nee Boxhall.

Desmond was employed as a junior assistant with the postal service in Lawley, Western Australia when, in April 1941, he volunteered for aircrew service in the RAAF. Called up in October 1941, Desmond commenced pilot training; however, when his training was terminated in March 1942 he re-mustered as Observer.

Completing his training in Australia in September 1942 with the award of his Observer badge, Desmond was sent to Canada for further training at RCAF Rivers, Manitoba, Canada where he re-mustered as Air Bomber.

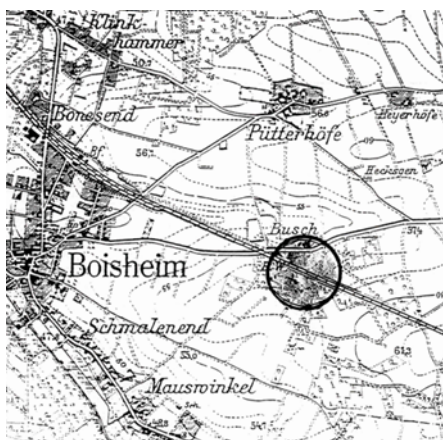
In January 1944 Desmond was awarded his Air Bomber badge, was granted a commission and in March 1944 he embarked for the UK.

Completing advanced training at 3(O) Advanced Flying Unit, RAF Bobbington, Staffordshire, 8(O) Advanced Flying Unit RAF Mona, Anglesey, Wales, 27 OTU RAF Litchfield, Staffordshire and 1663 HCU RAF Rufforth, Yorkshire, in October 1944 Desmond 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 in the Ruhr area. Of the ten squadron aircraft allocated to the op, four failed to return.

At 16:58 on 24 February 1945 Desmond, operating at the Special Duties Operator with the responsibility of dispensing "Window", and the crew departed RAF Foulsham in Halifax III MZ447(Z5-A).



At 21:30 on 24 February Desmond's aircraft was hit by flak and crashed near Boisheim, 2 miles SE of Breyell, Nordrhein-Westfalen Germany, killing seven of the crew (crash site map). The Bomb Aimer survived and was taken as POW. This was Desmond's 16th op.

Also Killed: F/L Allan John Rate RAAF (Pilot); PO Victor Joseph Trunk RAAF (WOp); FS Edwin Joseph Maslin (Nav); Sgt James Holloway (AG); Sgt Malcolm John Husband (AG); Sgt Stewart John Alfred Pegram (FE)

Originally buried in the Breyell Communal Cemetery, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany, in October 1947 Desmond was moved to the Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany.

Desmond is commemorated on Wall Panel 192

Photo Source: vwma.org.au

