

Capt Alfred Peter Mair 64403 Royal Artillery

Alfred was born in 1916 in Sunderland, Durham, the eldest son of Alfred James Mair and Elizabeth Mair nee Colling.

Educated at Oundle School, Peterborough, Alfred was employed as an articled clerk to a firm of accountants and was commissioned in the Territorial Army as a Lt in the 7th Durham Light Infantry when, in September 1939, he was called up for immediate war service.

Alfred transferred to the Wellington Regiment, Royal Artillery, who were engaged in Anti-Aircraft duties. During the war, the Royal Artillery provided attachments to RAF Bomber Command, operating as trained Air Gunners and acting as observers and gunnery experts in the assessment of enemy ground fire. By 1942 sixteen Royal Artillery officers had volunteered for aircrew detachments.

Following the award of his Air Gunner badge, Alfred was attached to 214 Sqn at RAF Stradishall, Suffolk.



On 26/27 March 1942, for the second consecutive night, Bomber Command was tasked with an attack on Essen, home to the Krupp Steelworks and a key industrial target. A combined force of 126 aircraft, including eleven 214 Sqn crews, were allocated to the op.

Shortly after 20:00 on 26 March Alfred, operating as the Rear Gunner, and the crew departed RAF Stradishall in Wellington Ic Z1143 (BU-G).

Whilst homeward-bound, at 23:50 Alfred's aircraft was intercepted by Oblt Herbert Lutje of Stab III/NJG 1, flying a Bf110 from Twente airfield, Netherlands. The aircraft crashed 1 mile N of Vriezenveen, 9 miles NW of Almelo, Netherlands, killing all on board.

Also Killed: PO Eric William Cuthbert Creed RAAF (Pilot); Sgt Walter Irvine Christsen RAAF (Obs); Sgt Albert Frederick Mons Emms (WOp/AG); Sgt William Wykes Robey Norton RAAF (Pilot); Sgt John Routledge Payne (WOp/AG)

Alfred is buried in Vriezenveen General Cemetery, Overijssel, Netherlands.

Alfred is commemorated on Wall Panel 203

Photo Source: Oundle School