

Sgt William Wykes Robey Norton 400885 RAA

William was born on 6 January 1913 in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, the son of Wykes Strange Chapman Norton and Eva Grave Norton nee Robey.

Educated at Bondi Public School, Randwick High and Sydney Grammar School, William was employed as a factory manager by an analytical and research chemical company in Melbourne, Victoria, when, in April 1940, he volunteered for aircrew duties in the RAAF.

Called up in November 1940, after basic training in Australia, in March 1941 William was sent to Canada to train under the Empire Air Training Scheme. In August 1941 William was awarded his Wings, and he immediately embarked for the UK.

Following advanced training at 23 OTU RAF Pershore, Worcestershire, in January 1942 William was posted 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 William, operating as the 2nd Pilot, and the crew departed RAF Stradishall in Wellington Ic Z1143 (BU-G).

Whilst homeward-bound, at 23:50 William'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: Capt Alfred Peter Mair Royal Artillery (AG); PO Eric William Cuthbert Creed RAAF (Pilot); Sgt Walter Irvine Christsen RAAF (Obs); Sgt Albert Frederick Mons Emms (WOp/AG); Sgt John Routledge Payne (WOp/AG)

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

William is commemorated on Wall Panel 219

Photo Source: naa.gov.au