

Sgt George William Rhodes **1331658 RAFVR**

George was born in 1922 in Wembley, London, the son of Richard Allen Rhodes and Annie Rhodes nee Childs.

George 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 George and his 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, George'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.



Also killed: FS John Forman RCAF (WOp/AG); Sgt John Forbes (AG); Sgt Geoffrey Slater (WOp/AG); Sgt Walter John Howes (Obs)

George is buried in Hardenburg Protestant Cemetery, Overijssel, Netherlands

George is commemorated on Wall Panel 231

Photo Source: IBCC