

Sgt Walter Russell 949560 RAF

Walter was born in 1917 in West Bromwich, Staffordshire, the son of Gertrude Russell. In 1941 he married Marjory Jones in West Bromwich, Staffordshire.

In March 1941 Walter was posted to 75 (NZ) Sqn at RAF Feltwell, Norfolk where he was employed primarily as a Wireless Operator.

On 6 May 1941 115 aircraft, including ten from 75(NZ) Sqn, were tasked with a night bombing op against the industrial port of Hamburg.

Shortly before midnight Walter, operating as the Wireless Operator, and the crew departed RAF Feltwell, Norfolk, in Wellington IC R3169 (AA-O).



Poor visibility hindered the bombing force in locating the targets, and only 12 bombs hit the target area.

On return to base Walter's aircraft was well north of the planned track, primarily as a result of a major variation in the forecast winds. After a change of course to the south, at 04:45 the aircraft collided with a barrage balloon and crashed into the River Humber near Trinity Sands, 6 miles ENE of Grimsby, Lincolnshire. Only the Rear Gunner from the crew of six survived.

Also Killed: PO Clifford Frederick Page (Observer); Sgt Alexander Coutts Mee RNZAF (Pilot); Sgt John Hall (WOp/AG); Sgt David Leo Nola RNZAF (Pilot)

Walter is buried in West Bromwich Cemetery, Staffordshire

Walter is commemorated on Wall Panel 236

Photo Source: IBCC