

**Sgt. Louis Frederick  
Samson 415186 RAAF**



Louis Samson was a young Australian pilot with a heavy conversion unit who joined a 4 Group Halifax crew to gain battle experience for a raid on Duisburg only to be killed when his bomber was shot down.

He was still with 1652 HCU at Riccall, near Selby when he joined a crew at 77 Squadron at Elvington as second pilot for the raid on the night of 8/9 April 1943.

His aircraft, Halifax II JB847 KN-V, was shot down over France by a night-fighter during an attack on Duisburg on the night of 8/9 April as Bomber Command's 'Battle of the Ruhr' gathering momentum.

JB847 had taken off from Elvington at 2141 hours as part of a force of 392 Bomber Command aircraft. The Halifax was homebound when it was attacked by a night-fighter at 15,000 feet and shot down, crashing near the town of St Quentin. Julian Balley had ordered his crew to bale out but only the bomb-aimer, P/O R Wilson, managed to get clear before the bomber went out of control and crashed. The other seven men on board were killed.

Louis was the 21-year-old son of Horace and May Samson and came from the town of Gosnells, near Perth in Western Australia. He is remembered on the roll of honour at Nedlands in Western Australia.

Then others who died were the pilot Flt. Lt. Julian Balley, flight engineer Sgt. James Woodley, navigator Sgt. Thomas McStay, wireless operator Flt. Sgt. Peter Greene, mid-upper gunner Sgt. Ronald Hedicker and rear gunner Sgt. Tom Crossland. All are buried in Creil Community Cemetery.

His name can be found on panel 237.

Sources: Harry Shinkfield/Ted Church/77 Squadron Association.