

Sgt Geoffrey Slater 1287890 RAFVR

Geoffrey was born on 13 September 1920 in Shipley, Yorkshire, the son of Harold Slater and Ivy Marie Slater nee Barker.

Educated at High Storrs Grammar School, Sheffield, Geoffrey was employed as a clerk for a steel merchant before joining the RAF and training as a WOp/AG. Geoffrey 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 Geoffrey, operating as the Front Gunner, and the 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, Geoffrey'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. This was his 4th op.

Also killed: FS John Forman RCAF (WOp/AG); Sgt John Forbes (AG); Sgt Walter John Howes (Obs); Sgt George William Rhodes (Pilot)

Geoffrey is buried in Hardenburg Protestant Cemetery, Overijssel, Netherlands

Geoffrey is commemorated on Wall Panel 242

Photo Source: Findagrave