

PO Victor Joseph Trunk 434431 RAAF

Victor was born on 21 October 1920 in Branxton, New South Wales, Australia, the son of Francis J Trunk and Elizabeth Margaret Trunk nee Atkinson.

Trained at Armidale Teachers' College, New South Wales, Victor was employed as a schoolteacher at the Public School, Tunttable Falls, Nimbin, New South Wales, when, in July 1942, he volunteered for aircrew service in the RAAF.

Called up in December 1942, Victor completed his training in Australia in August 1943 with the award of his WOp/AG badge and he embarked for the UK the following month.

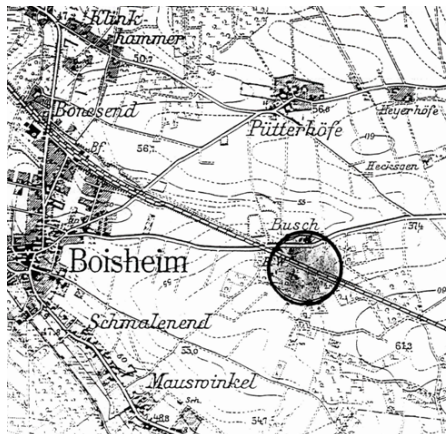
Completing advanced training at 1(O) Advanced Flying Unit, RAF Wigtown, Dumfries, Scotland, 21 OTU RAF Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire and 1658 HCU RAF Riccall Yorkshire, in August 1944 he was posted to 462 (RAAF) Sqn at RAF Driffild, Yorkshire. The squadron moved to RAF Foulsham, Norfolk in December. In January 1945 Victor was commissioned and re-mustered as Wireless Operator.



On 24/25 February 1945, Bomber Command was tasked with operating a diversionary sweep over Northern France to draw enemy fighters into the air.

A combined force of 74 training aircraft was allocated to the op, and 462 (RAAF) Sqn were detailed to carry out a "Spoofing" flight in the Ruhr area. Of the ten squadron aircraft allocated to the op, four failed to return.

At 16:58 on 24 February 1945 Victor, operating as the Wireless Operator, and the crew departed RAF Foulsham in Halifax III MZ447(Z5-A).



At 21:30 on 24 February Victor's aircraft was hit by flak and crashed near Boenheim, 2 miles SE of Breyell, Nordrhein-Westfalen Germany, killing seven of the crew (crash site map). The Bomb Aimer survived and was taken as POW. This was Victor's 30th op.

Also Killed: F/L Allan John Rate RAAF (Pilot); PO Desmond Noel Kehoe RAAF (AB/SDO); FS Edwin Joseph Maslin (Nav); Sgt James Holloway (AG); Sgt Malcolm John Husband (AG); Sgt Stewart John Alfred Pegram (FE)

Originally buried in the Breyell Communal Cemetery, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany, in October 1947 Victor was moved to the Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany.

Victor is commemorated on Wall Panel 256

Photo Source: AWM