

F/O Jack William Walters DFC 404106 RNZAF



Jack was born on 5 January 1921, the son of J V and Cecelia C M Walters, of Gisborne, Auckland; he was the husband of Julia Rosina Walters, of Hockwold, Norfolk. They married in September 1942 in Downham Market and had one child during their marriage. He was known as 'Buster' to family and friends and was a postman in civilian life.

Jack was a wireless operator/air gunner in No. 7 Squadron and had been awarded the DFC, London Gazette 14 December 1945, with effect from May 1944. The citation reads "F/O Walters has completed, as wireless operator, many successful operations against the enemy, in the course of which he has invariably displayed high skill, fortitude and devotion to duty."

Lancaster ND845 MG-C took off from Oakington at 2222 hours on 19 May 1944 on a night mission to attack the railway yards at Le Mans, France, as one of 112 Lancasters plus 4 Mosquitoes. SOE intelligence had reported the positioning of many V1 flying bombs on the railway rolling stock en route to sites around France. After an initially uneventful flight, and as Master Bomber, Sqn. Ldr. Baker was heard giving directions to the oncoming bomber stream when all communication suddenly ceased. Initially thought to be hit by flak, it now appears the aircraft may have tragically collided with Lancaster JB653 MG-R, the deputy Master Bomber, as at the same instant they also stopped communicating. Although the loss to 7 Squadron was heavy, the mission was deemed successful with much damage being caused to the yards.

Jack's body was never recovered, and he is commemorated at the Runnymede Memorial, Surrey. Panel 263. He was 23 years old.

F/O Jack William Walters DFC RNZAF – Wireless Operator/Air Gunner (killed)

F/O Robert Lorne Weatherall DFM RCAF – Air Gunner (killed)

Flt. Sgt. Derek William Wood – Flight Engineer (killed)

Sqn. Ldr. Philip Robert Coldwell DSO DFM – Navigator (killed)

Sqn. Ldr. John Baker DSO DFC – 2nd Pilot (killed)

P/O Albert Price – Bomb Aimer (killed)

WO Joseph Lamonby – Air Gunner (killed)

Wg. Cdr. James Fraser Barron DSO & Bar DFC DFM RNZAF – Pilot (killed)

He is commemorated on IBCC Panel 259

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