Sgt Frederick John Alfred Saunders 406492 RAAF

Frederick was born on 24 September 1920 in Perth, Western Australia, the son of Arthur George Saunders and Anna Florence Saunders nee Clements. In August 1941 he married Eileen Bertha Harvey Limbert in Nedlands, Western Australia.

Educated at Perth Modern School, Frederick was employed as a Bank Clerk for the Commonwealth Bank of Australia in Fremantle, Western Australia when, in July 1940, he applied for aircrew service in the RAAF.

Called up in January 1941, Frederick completed his pilot training in Australia in June 1941 with the award of his Wings, and in September he embarked for the Middle East.

Arriving at Wadi Gazouza, Sudan, Frederick commenced advanced training on 211 Sqn, a reserve training unit which was absorbed into 72 OTU in November.

In January 1942 Frederick was posted to 223 Sqn at LG99 RAF Shandur, Egypt where they were in transition from the Maryland to the Baltimore. The squadron resumed full time bomber ops in May from LG140 Bir el Baheira.

On 8 June 1942 six 223 Sqn crews were allocated to a raid on Barce Landing Ground, an Italian Air Force base about 50 miles NE of Benghazi, Libya.

At 11:52 on 8 June Frederick and his crew, flying in a box of six, departed LG140 in Baltimore II AG777.

Whilst over the target, a bomb prematurely detonated, destroying Frederick's aircraft, killing all on board, and damaging two others in the formation.

Also killed: FS Robert Charles Addison Ash RAAF (WOp/AG); Sgt Tom Allan Auld RAAF (Obs); Sgt Sidney Montague Moore (AG)

Originally buried in the Barce Military Hospital Cemetery, in August 1944 Frederick was moved to the Benghazi War Cemetery, Libya

Frederick is commemorated on Wall Panel - NYE