FS Robert Charles Addison Ash 407197 RAAF

Robert was born on 26 December 1920 in Adelaide, South Australia, the son of Leslie Emerson Ash and Dorothy Kathleen Ash nee Stevens.

Educated at Adelaide High School, Robert was employed as a stockman on a cattle station in Yankalilla, South Australia when, in May 1940, he applied for aircrew service in the RAAF.

Called up in July 1940, Robert completed his aircrew training in Australia in March 1941 with the award of his WOp/AG badge, and embarked for the Middle East in April.

Following time in the Middle East Pool in Ismailia, Egypt, in October 1941 Robert commenced advanced training on 211 Sqn at Wadi Gazouza, Sudan, a reserve training unit which was absorbed into 72 OTU in November.

In January 1942 Robert 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 Robert, operating as the WOp/AG, and the crew, flying in a box of six, departed LG140 in Baltimore II AG777.

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

Also killed: Sgt Tom Allan Auld RAAF (Obs); Sgt Sidney Montague Moore (AG); Sgt Frederick John Alfred Saunders RAAF (Pilot)

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

Robert is commemorated on Wall Panel - NYE