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Compilation Alan Storr 2006

The information appearing in this compilation is derived from the collections of the Australian War Memorial and the National Archives of Australia.

Author : Alan Storr

Alan was born in Melbourne Australia in 1921. He joined the RAAF in October 1941 and served in the Pacific theatre of war. He was an Observer and did a tour of operations with No 7 Squadron RAAF (Beauforts), and later was Flight Navigation Officer of No 201 Flight RAAF (Liberators). He was discharged Flight Lieutenant in February 1946.

He has spent most of his Public Service working life in Canberra – first arriving in the National Capital in 1938. He held senior positions in the Department of Air (First Assistant Secretary) and the Department of Defence (Senior Assistant Secretary), and retired from the public service in 1975.

He holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree (Melbourne University) and was a graduate of the Australian Staff College, 'Manyung', Mt Eliza, Victoria.

He has been a volunteer at the Australian War Memorial for 21 years doing research into aircraft relics held at the AWM, and more recently research work into RAAF World War 2 fatalities.

He has written and published eight books on RAAF fatalities in the eight RAAF Squadrons serving in RAF Bomber Command in WW2.

He is a member of Canberra Legacy.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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Alan Storr. A WW2 photo of the Author

RAAF WW2 FATALITIES BY CATEGORIES

CATEGORIES	RAAF FATALITIES	HOW ARRANGED
RAAF SQUADRONS SERVING IN RAF BOMBER COMMAND (Nos 455, 458, 460, 462, 463, 464, 466 and 467)	1509	BY SQNS IN DATE OF DEATH ORDER
RAAF FATALITIES SERVING IN UK IN 10 SQN RAAF	153	IN ALPHA NAME ORDER
<u>RAAF FATALITIES WHEN ATTACHED TO RAF SQNS</u>		
RAF SQNS 1 - 50 Vols 1 and 2	603	BY BATCHES THEN BY SQNS IN ALPHA NAME ORDER
RAF SQNS 51 – 100	525	
RAF SQNS 101 – 150	495	
RAF SQNS 151 – 200	310	
RAF SQNS 201 – 300	297	
RAF SQNS 353 – 695 Plus Other Forces	687	
RAF OPERATIONAL TRAINING UNITS	573	
RAF CONVERSION UNITS	498	VARIOUS
NO KNOWN GRAVE	1423	OFFICERS/ AIRMEN IN NAME ORDER
RAAF FATALITIES IN RAF BEAUFORT SQNS & UNITS	39	BY UNITS
TOTAL RAAF FATALITIES BY CATEGORIES LISTED ABOVE	7112	
AUST ENLISTED IN THE RAF	26	

Alan Storr (27/11/2008)

REFERENCE SOURCES :

Australian War Memorial Roll of Honour Print Outs.

AWM 237 (65) RAAF WW2 Fatalities by Squadrons

AWM 237 (63) Airmen and (64) Officers : Register of Deaths and Burials of RAAF Personnel who died on service 1939-1947

AWM 65 () Citations held by Australian War Memorial

(NAA) National Australian Archives at East Block, Canberra :: Series A705 RAAF WW2 Casualty files. Series A9300 and A9301 RAAF Members WW2 Service records files.

Micro Film No 463 OAFH) Office of RAAF Air Force History.

Veteran Affairs Nominal Roll 1939-1947 RAAF members .

Commonwealth War Graves records.

RAAF WW2 POW Files held at the Australian War Memorial : File Ref Series A54 File 779/3/129, Parts 1 to 30.

W R Chorley : RAF Bomber Command Losses of the Second World War, Volumes 1939 to 1947.

Michael Maton : DFC's for Australians in World War 2

Ian Tavender : DFM Registers for WW2 Volumes 1 and 2.

SECOND WORLD WAR OVERVIEW : ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

The Royal Australian Air Force was expanding when war broke out, having 12 Squadrons formed, or in the process of forming. Most were located in Australia, but Australian airmen would end up serving in every theatre of war.

At the outbreak of war, 10 Squadron RAAF was in Britain collecting Sunderland flying boats purchased by the RAAF. The squadron was offered to Britain to serve as part of the Royal Air Force Coastal Command, flying anti-submarine patrols over the Atlantic Ocean for the duration of the war. 11 Squadron was stationed at Port Moresby with Catalina flying boats, flying long-range reconnaissance patrols over northern Australia and north of Papua New Guinea. In 1940, 3 Squadron was posted to the Middle East as an army co-operation squadron with the Australian Imperial Force, but became a fighter squadron.

Plans had been made to raise and send more squadrons overseas but the Australian Government then signed up to the Empire Air Training Scheme (EATS), under which the Royal Australian, New Zealand and Canadian Air Forces would train aircrews to be loaned to the Royal Air Force. Most would serve in British squadrons, though some would be posted to 'Article XV', or '400-series' squadrons. These squadrons were raised by the RAF but with their nationality officially recognised – for instance 460 Squadron RAAF, to which the famous Lancaster G for George at the Australian War Memorial belonged. Many aircrews who survived their tours of duty returned to Australia to serve in RAAF Squadrons as instructors.

Training of EATS recruits took place in Australia, Canada, Rhodesia and Britain. By war's end almost 40,000 Australians had been sent overseas under this scheme, serving in Europe, the Middle East, Burma and other places. Many men in Australia and overseas died in training accidents. Many who graduated from courses flew with Bomber Command, which had the highest operational loss rate of any British Commonwealth force in the war. The RAAF also sent ground crews to serve in most of the Article XV squadrons (as well as 3 and 10 Squadrons), most serving up to four years service overseas. Hundreds of RAAF members became prisoners of war in Germany and Italy, as well as a smaller number in the Far East.

The majority of RAAF personnel remained in Australia. The massive expansion of the forces required extensive administration, training, supply and maintenance services, and there was also a strong commitment to 'home defence', so many men and most women who volunteered for the RAAF never got a chance to serve overseas. To assist in meeting the demand for manpower within Australia, the RAAF formed the Women's Australian Auxiliary Air Force in 1941, recruiting women to serve in administrative roles and to perform routine maintenance on aircraft, serving alongside men, in non-operational units (mostly training establishments) in Australia.

In 1940, the RAAF sent three squadrons to Malaya; in 1941 these were joined by an Article XV squadron, 453, raised at Bankstown, New South Wales, along with some EATS graduates posted to British squadrons. They were the first to see action against Japanese forces. About 200 RAAF men, mostly ground staff, were taken prisoner by the Japanese. By the end of 1942, RAAF squadrons also had seen extensive operational service in northern Australia, the Netherlands East Indies and Papua New

2.

Guinea. Other squadrons flew anti-submarine patrols over the shipping lanes around Australia. .

The majority of RAAF personnel who saw active service served in these campaigns against Japan. A few had previously served in Europe or the Middle East. Along with flying squadrons, RAAF members served in various supporting units including headquarters, supply depots, communications flights, medical aerial evacuation units, radar stations and airfield construction squadrons – some of the latter two types of units serving in the Philippines in 1945 with American forces. The RAAF also played a part in the repatriation of prisoners of war at the end of the war. The only RAAF servicewomen to see active service were members of the RAAF Nursing Service.

Source : Veteran's Affairs World War 2 Nominal Roll

Note : There were **11,061** RAAF fatalities in World War 2..
(Australian War Memorial Fact Sheet No 19 refers).*

comprising

5,117 fatalities in RAAF members attached to RAF (primarily) or in some instances other Air Forces (Source : Count of fatalities in AWM 237 (62) Register of Deaths.

and

5,944 fatalities in RAAF Squadrons and support units..

* **Source** AWM 148 Roll of Honour cards, RAAF, Second World War.

463 SQUADRON RAAF SECOND WORLD WAR FATALITIES.

BY ALAN STORR.

PREFACE :

These summaries of 463 Sqn WW2 fatalities are in Date of Death order, and record the mission details, the names, ranks and mustering of crews, and the known circumstances of the failure of the aircraft to return.

Total fatalities in the Squadron in WW2 were 393, of whom 226 were members of the RAAF and 167 members of the RAF, RNZAF or RCAF. (mainly RAF).

26/11/1943 : Sqn's first operational mission. Six aircraft detailed to bomb Berlin. Lancaster DV337 (FO Fowler & crew) failed to return. (2 RAAF, 5 RAF killed).

25/26 April 45 : Sqn's last mission. 14 Lancasters bomb oil storage depot at Vallo, Tonsberg, southern Norway. FO Cox lands in Sweden and the crew interned for remainder of the war.

May/June 45 : Sqn participates in 'Operation Exodus'. Ferrying of RAAF POW's in Europe to a reception depot in UK.

25 Sept 45 : Sqn disbands after war against Japan ended August 1945.

SOURCES :

AWM 237 (63) Airmen and (64) Officers : Register of Deaths and Burials of RAAF personnel who died on service 1939 – 1947.

AWM 237 (62) and (65)

AWM Roll of Honour

AWM 64 1/342 (Parts 1 to 4), 1/343, 1/347. 463 Sqn Operational records Nov 43 to Sept 45.

AWM 54 779/3/129, Parts 1 to 30. POW statements in 1945 by RAAF POW's released or repatriated from Europe and taken to No 11 PDRC, Brighton UK.

RAAF WW2 Casualty files held by National Archives, Canberra, Series A705.

RAAF WW2 Service records at National Archives, Canberra Series A9301/A9300.

RAAF WW2 Nominal Roll

W R Chorley : RAF Bomber Command Losses of the Second World War.

AWM Call No. R940.554941 C551r, Volumes 1 to 6.

Units of the RAAF : Bomber Units : Concise History 463 Sqn RAAF.

AWM Call No : 358. 400994 R888a v.3

EXPLANATORY NOTES

FATALITIES INCLUDE

- Killed in Action
- Missing in Action
- Missing with No Known Grave
- Missing Lost at Sea
- Killed in Ground Accident
- Died of illness or wounds

SQUADRON LOCATIONS.

25 November 1943 : Sqn formed at Waddington, Lincolnshire, UK.
Sqn was formed out of 'C' Flight of 467 Sqn, and placed under the overall command of No 5 Group, Bomber Command. Strength 7 aircraft and 7 crews.
First CO : Wg Cdr Rollo Kingsford-Smith.

3 July 1945 : Sqn moves to Skellingthorpe, UK

AIRCRAFT TYPES FLOWN :

Nov 43 to 1945 : Sqn equipped with Lancasters, Marks 1 and 111..

AIRCRAFT RADIO CALL SIGN.

This comprises two components the Squadron Identity code letters and the Aircraft Individual letter eg. The letters 'JO' denotes 463 Sqn and the letter 'N' denotes the aircraft 'N' for Nuts. The Sqn letters 'JO' were authorised from 1 December 1943.

ACCESS TO MATERIAL.

AWM Call No. R 940.544994 S886s
AWM Website www.awm.gov.au
Index of WW2 Fatalities among RAAF members of 463 Sqn

Alan Storr, Volunteer (Published & Digitised Collections)
Australian War Memorial. (8th July 2005)

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 26 November 1943.

Source:

AWM 64 1/342 (1) AWM 237 (63) (64) W R Chroley : RAF Bomber Command
Losses of the Second World War : Page 406, Volume 1943.

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	DV 337
Radio call sign:	PO – N
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster DV337 took off from RAF Waddington at 1730 hours on the night of 26/27th November 1943 to bomb Berlin. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it did not return to base. Six aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and one of these DV337 failed to return.

Crew:

RAAF 416646 FO Fowler, J W Captain (Pilot)
RAF Sgt J W Barker, (Navigator)
RAF Sgt J E Thomas, (Bomb Aimer)
RAF Sgt J P Ferrier (Wireless Operator Air Gunner)
RAF Sgt J L Williams, (Flight Engineer)
RAAF 425766 Flt Sgt W T Sherwin, (Mid Upper Gunner)
RAF Sgt A E G Thomas, (Rear Gunner)

Post war it was established that the aircraft crashed at Trechwitz, 12kms ESE of Brandenburg, Germany. All the crew were killed and they are interred in the Berlin 1939-1945 War Cemetery. This crew were the first operational casualties of the Squadron.

Note : In the above mission DV337 operated under the 467 Radio Call sign of PO – N. The Sqn Identification letters of 'JO' were authorised on 1st December 1943.

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 24 December 1943.

Source:

AWM 64 1/342 (1), AWM 237 (63) (64) W R Chorley : RAF Bomber Command Losses of the Second World War, Page 438, Volume 1943.

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	ED 420
Radio call sign:	JO – L
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster ED420 took off from RAF Waddington at 0020 hours on the night of 23/24th December 1943 to bomb Berlin. Bomb load 1 x 4000lb bomb, 48 x 30lb, 990 x 4lb incendiaries. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it did not return to base. Twelve aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and one of these ED420 failed to return.

Crew:

RAAF 414027 PO Heap, A W Captain (Pilot)
RAF FO Gall, R S (Navigator)
RAF Sgt D M McCreadie, (Bomb Aimer)
RAAF 409452 Flt Sgt L M Ryan (Wireless Operator Air Gunner)
RAF Sgt W Carter, (Flight Engineer)
RAF Sgt F J Tunncliffe, (Mid Upper Gunner)
RAAF 420875 Flt Sgt K R R Glover, (Rear Gunner)

Post war it was established that the aircraft crashed at Kaulsdorf in the eastern suburbs of Berlin, some 12kms ESE from the city centre, and all the crew were killed. Flt Sgt Ryan (RAAF) and Sgt Tunncliffe (RAF) are listed as missing and their names are commemorated on the Memorial to the Missing, Runnymede, Surrey, UK. The remaining five crew members are buried in the Berlin 1939-1945 War Cemetery.

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 2 January 1944.

Source:

AWM 64 1/342 (1), 1/347. AWM 237 (63) (64) W R Chorley : RAF Bomber Command Losses of the Second World War : Page 21, Volume 1944.

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	W 4879
Radio call sign:	JO – O
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster W4879 took off from RAF Waddington on the night of 1/2nd January 1944 to bomb Berlin. Bomb load 1 x 4000lb bomb, 48 x 30lb, 900 x 4lb incendiaries. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it did not return to base. Eleven aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and one of these W4879 failed to return.

Crew:

RAAF 410244 PO Lawson, S W Captain (Pilot)
RAF Sgt A G Smith, (Navigator)
RCAF Flt Sgt C D Redgrave, (Bomb Aimer)
RAAF 422008 Flt Sgt M E Sadler, (Wireless Operator Air Gunner)
RAF Sgt P Chittenden, (Flight Engineer)
RAAF 427153 Flt Sgt W A Sampey, (Mid Upper Gunner)
RAF Sgt F C Eggleston, (Rear Gunner)

Post war enquiries and investigations found no trace of the missing aircraft or crew. The names of the missing crew are commemorated on the Memorial to the Missing, Runnymede, Surrey, UK.

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 3 January 1944.

Source:

AWM 64 1/342 (1) AWM 237 (63) (64) Commonwealth War Graves records.
W R Chorley : RAF Bomber Command Losses of the Second World War, Page 25,
Volume 1944.

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	JA 902
Radio call sign:	JO – D
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster JA902 took off from RAF Waddington at 2313 hours on the night of 2/3rd January 1944 to bomb Berlin. Bomb load 1 x 4000lb bomb, 48 x 30lb, 900 x 4lb incendiaries. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it did not return to base. Six aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and one of these JA902 failed to return.

Crew:

RAAF 410021 PO Weatherill, J Captain (Pilot)
RAF PO Gage, J W (Navigator)
RAAF 423290 Flt Sgt F N Looney, (Bomb Aimer)
RAAF 426401 Flt Sgt W Toohey, (Wireless Operator Air Gunner)
RAF Sgt A K Cowell, (Flight Engineer)
RAAF 408054 PO Symonds, P L (Air Gunner)
RAAF 417839 Flt Sgt C Hemingway, (Air Gunner)

Post war it was established that the aircraft crashed into water which has since been reclaimed to form the Noord-Oost-Polder, and all the crew were killed.

Four of the crew are buried in the Vollenhove (Stad-Vollenhove) General Cemetery, (Overijssel) Holland viz : PO Weatherill, Flt Sgt Looney, Flt Sgt Hemingway and Sgt Cowell. Vollenhove is a small town 35kms NW of Zwolle and 18kms west of Meppel, Holland.

The other three crew members ie. PO Gage, PO Symonds and Flt Sgt Toohey are listed as missing and their names are commemorated on the Memorial to the Missing, Runnymede, Surrey, UK.

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 21 January 1944.

Source:

AWM 64 1/342 (1) Commonwealth War Graves records.

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	DV 274
Radio call sign:	JO -
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster DV274 took off from RAF Waddington at 1647 hours on the night of 20/21st January 1944 to bomb Berlin. Bomb load 1 x 4000lb bomb, 60 x 30lb, 1050 x 4lb incendiaries. DV 274 completed the mission and landed on return at 0003 hours. Eleven aircraft from the Squadron completed the mission and returned safely.

The ORB records the following report by the Captain "Sortie completed. 10/10ths cloud. Tops about 14,000 feet. Centre of 5 Wanganui flares reasonably concentrated. At one period a small break in the clouds and some fires seen. Just before arriving at the target it was realised the Mid Upper Gunner was unwell but not thought he was more than light headed or suffering from lack of oxygen any more than the rest of us. After leaving the target area everything was done to get the Mid Upper out of his turret, although the WOP and the Flt Engineer were by then pretty sick. As soon as height could be lost on crossing the coast, all efforts were made to disentangle the Mid Upper from his turret and every effort made to revive him for fully two hours, but this was of no avail."

The ORB also records "Cause : Lack of oxygen. Defect in the oxygen system."

Crew:

RAAF 416775 PO Merrill, D L Captain (Pilot)
RAF Sgt J H Knight, (Navigator)
RAAF 421300 FO Hall, J B (Bomb Aimer)
RAAF 409935 Flt Sgt M K O'Toole, (Wireless Operator Air Gunner)
RAF Sgt F D Rawsthorne, (Flight Engineer)
RAF Sgt B F Turner (Mid Upper Gunner)
RAF Sgt F Danckwardt, (Rear Gunner)

Sgt Turner (RAF) is buried in the Corton (St Bartholomew) Churchyard, Suffolk, UK.

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 27 January 1944.

Source:

AWM 64 1/342 (1) W R Chorley : RAF Bomber Command Losses of the Second World War : Page 56, Volume 1944.

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	ME 563
Radio call sign:	JO – L
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster ME563 took off from RAF Waddington at 1737 hours on the night of 27/28th January 1944 to bomb Berlin. Bomb load 1 x 4000lb, 48 x 30lb and 900 x 4lb incendiaries. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it did not return to base. Sixteen aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and one of these ME563 failed to return.

Crew:

RAAF 409721 FO Leslie, A J D Captain (Pilot)
RAF WO T V Finn, DFM (Navigator)
RAAF 423061 FO Chidgey, F S G (Bomb Aimer)
RAAF 417275 Flt Sgt D G Barrett, (Wireless Operator Air Gunner)
RAF Sgt R R Jones, (Flight Engineer)
RAF Sgt A Wiggins, (Mid Upper Gunner)
RAF Sgt J Falconer (Rear Gunner)

Post war it was established that the aircraft crashed in the vicinity of Teltow, 16kms south west from the centre of Berlin, and all the crew were killed. Six of the crew are buried in the Berlin 1939-1945 War Cemetery, and Flt Sgt Barrett (RAAF) is listed as missing and his name is commemorated on the Memorial to the Missing, Runnymede, Surrey, UK.

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 29 January 1944.

Source:

AWM 64 1/342 (1) AWM 237 (63) (64) Commonwealth War Graves records.
W R Chorley : RAF Bomber Command Losses of the Second World War : page 64,
Volume 1944.

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	HK 537
Radio call sign:	JO – S
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster HK537 took off from RAF Waddington at 0035 hours on the night of 28/29th January 1944 to bomb Berlin. Bomb load 1 x 4000lb bomb, 48 x 30lb, 900 x 4lb incendiaries. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it did not return to base. Twelve aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and one of these HK537 failed to return.

Crew:

RAAF 29881 Flt Lt Cooper, N P Captain (Pilot)
RAAF 409553 PO Kerr, G J (Navigator)
RAAF 406292 Flt Sgt L H Christmass, (Bomb Aimer)
RAF Sgt F E Robson, (Wireless Operator Air)
RAF Sgt F C W Bull, (Flight Engineer)
RCAF Flt Sgt H Suthers, (Mid Upper Gunner)
RAF Sgt R J Grist, (Rear Gunner)

It was later established that when outbound to the target HK537 collided with an 83 Sqn aircraft and crashed at 0230 at Mjels on the island of Als, 2kms south west of Oksbol. All the crew were killed and they are buried in the Aabendraa Cemetery, Denmark. Aabenderaa is a town on the south eastern coast of Jutland, about 25kms north of the German/Denmark border.

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 30 January 1944.

Source:

AWM 64 1/342 (1) AWM 237 (63) (64) AWM 54 779/3/129, Part 19.
W R Chorley : RAF Bomber Command Losses of the Second World War, Page 69,
Volume 1944.

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	ED 545
Radio call sign:	JO – J
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster ED545 took off from RAF Waddington at 1707 hours on the night of 30/31st January 1944 to bomb Berlin. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it did not return to base. Fourteen aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and four of these including ED545 failed to return.

Crew:

RAAF 415412 PO Fairclough, L S Captain (Pilot)
RAAF 414622 Flt Sgt L R Carius, (Navigator)
RAAF 417174 Flt Sgt P K Giles, (Bomb Aimer)
RAAF 410581 Flt Sgt A J White, (Wireless Operator Air Gunner)
RAF Sgt N A Verner, (Flight Engineer)
RAAF 414959 Flt Sgt J G McLean (Air Gunner)
RAF Sgt D Robinson, (Air Gunner)

Following post war enquiries it was believed that the aircraft crashed at Lutkendorf, 5kms north west of Putlitz. Flt Sgt Giles became a POW and the other six crew members were killed. They are buried in the Berlin 1939-1945 War Cemetery.

In a 1945 statement the then WO Giles reported “ The I/C system was put out of action at the commencement of an attack by a night fighter. Consequently no orders were heard by me from the Captain nor was it possible to establish the fate of the crew during or after the attack. The attack set fire to three of the engines. The aircraft was out of control and on fire. I had no knowledge of anyone leaving the aircraft up to the time I wasn’t unconscious in the nose of the aircraft. I can only presume that the aircraft exploded and I was rendered unconscious but thrown clear. I regained my senses whilst falling through the air. I landed slightly north of Berlin and was captured 7 days later by a German farmer. The Germans said that the other six members had been killed. I was a POW for 15 months and released on 2 May 1945 by British forces.”

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 30 January 1944.

Source:

AWM 64 1/342 (1) AWM 237 (63) (64) NAA : A705, 166/10/179
W R Chorley : RAF Bomber Command Losses of the Second World War : Page 69,
Volume 1944.

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	ED 949
Radio call sign:	JO – A
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster ED949 took off from RAF Waddington at 1717 hours on the night of 30/31st January 1944. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it did not return to base. Fourteen aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and four of these including ED949 failed to return.

Crew:

RAAF 416418 FO Dunn, D C Captain (Pilot)
RAF FO Fidler, G (Navigator)
RAF Flt Sgt M Y Smith ((Bomb Aimer)
RAF Sgt A McConnell, (Wireless Operator Air Gunner)
RAF Sgt F Adams, (Flight Engineer)
RAF Sgt H Deakin, (Mid Upper Gunner)
RAAF 425641 Flt Sgt E F Gloster, (Rear Gunner)

Post war it was established that the aircraft was shot down by a night fighter and it crashed at Neuruppin aerodrome Germany, approx 36 miles north west of Berlin. Flt Sgt Smith (RAF) became a POW and the other six members of the crew were killed. They are interred in the 1939-1945 Berlin War Cemetery.

In a 1945 statement the then WO Smith reported “ After leaving base the rear turret where Flt Sgt Gloster was went completely out of order. After discussion it was decided to carry on. About 10 miles from Berlin we were attacked by a fighter, with only the Mid Upper to fight back with. Billy and the Mid Upper did everything possible to evade the attack but it was useless. The aircraft was soon on fire in the bomb bay and starboard wing. Shortly after Billy gave the ‘bale out’ order. Conditions in the aircraft were quite good when I baled out. I considered we were in a shallow dive. I was firmly convinced that all the crew would survive and was shocked to find out later that I was the only survivor. I believe that the aircraft blew up in the air or went into a spin shortly after I left. I was picked up at at Neuruppin airfield and later told that Ned was badly injured and in hospital and not expected to live.”

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 30 January 1944.

Source:

AWM 64 1/342 (1) AWM 237 (63) (64) NAA : A705, 166/17/464.
W R Chorley : RAF Bomber Command Losses of the Second World War : Page 69,
Volume 1944.

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	JA 973
Radio call sign:	JO – O
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster JA973 took off from RAF Waddington at 1724 hours on the night of 30/31st January 1944 to bomb Berlin. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it did not return to base. Fourteen aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and four of these including JA973 failed to return.

Crew:

RAAF 415528 PO Hanson, P E Captain (Pilot)
RAF Sgt M A Stevens, (Navigator)
RAF Flt Sgt G E Edgecombe, (Bomb Aimer)
RAF Sgt L Bowes (Wireless Operator Air Gunner)
RAF Sgt E A Hughes, (Flight Engineer)
RAF Sgt N Bligh (Air Gunner)
RAAF 424315 Flt Sgt J M M Wilson, (Air Gunner)

Following post war enquiries it was believed that the aircraft crashed at Repente, a small village north east of the Grosser Zecchlinersee, 12kms south of Mirow. Sgt Hughes (RAF) was a POW and the six other members were killed.

PO Hanson, Sgt Bligh and Flt Sgt Wilson are buried in the Berlin 1939-1945 War Cemetery. The other three members are listed as missing and their names are commemorated on the Memorial to the Missing, Runnymede, Surrey, UK.

In a 1947 report by the No4 Missing Research and Enquiry Unit, it reported “parts of the aircraft were discovered on the shore of Zecchlinersee near the village of Repente. A local resident stated that the aircraft fell into the lake at night after an explosion in the air and the fuselage, wing and engine was in the lake about 1.5 miles north west of Repente. The turret fell away before the aircraft hit the water.”

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 30 January 1944.

Source:

AWM 64 1/342 (1) AWM 237 (64) NAA : A705, 166/27/343
W R Chorley : RAF Bomber Command Losses of the Second World War : Page 69,
Volume 1944.

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	ED 772
Radio call sign:	JO – G
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster ED772 took off from RAF Waddington at 1702 hours on the night of 30/31st January 1944 to bomb Berlin. Bomb load 1 x 4000lb bomb, 64 x 30lb, 1200 x 4lb incendiaries. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it did not return to base. Fourteen aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and four of these including ED772 failed to return.

Crew:

RAAF 411652 FO Messenger, G L Captain (Pilot)
RAF Sgt M F Holmes, (Navigator)
RAF Sgt E Brown, (Bomb Aimer)
RAF Sgt F Woolridge, (Wireless Operator Air Gunner)
RAF Sgt H W Marshall, (Flight Engineer)
RAF Sgt R W Young, (Mid Upper Gunner)
RAF Sgt G C Borrodaile, (Rear Gunner)

Post war it was established that the aircraft was shot down from 21,000 feet by a night fighter and crashed at Jabel, 3kms north west of Wittstock. Five of the crew were killed and Sgt Holmes and Sgt Brown became POW's.

The five members of the crew killed are buried in the 1939-45 War Cemetery Berlin.

In a 1944 report Sgt Holmes stated "Re. Messenger, last seen strapped in burning aircraft and believed killed".

Also in a 1944 report Sgt Brown stated 'At the time of the incident I was rendered unconscious and later blown out of the aircraft. The account by Sgt Holmes a known survivor states that at the time of the explosion Messenger was at the controls putting on his chute with the assistance of the Flight Engineer. The explosion then blew Holmes and ostensibly myself out. We met in custody several hours later at an airfield. To the best of my knowledge and after enquiries am reluctantly compelled to believe that FO Messenger was killed.'

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 20 February 1944.

Source:

AWM 64 1/342 (1) AWM 237 (63) (64) NAA : A705, 166/13/192.

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	DV 338
Radio call sign:	JO – C
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster DV338 took off from RAF Waddington at 2320 hours on the night of 19/20th February to bomb Leipzig, Germany. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it did not return to base. Eighteen aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and one of these DV338 failed to return.

Crew:

RAAF 412936 FO Fayle, E A Captain (Pilot)
RAF FO Chappell, L (Navigator)
RAF Sgt L K Topham (Bomb Aimer)
RAF Sgt R J Farrell, (Wireless Operator Air)
RAF Sgt C T Baker (Flight Engineer)
RAF Sgt A L N Vickery, (Air Gunner)
RAAF 425264 Flt Sgt B P Bennett, (Air Gunner)

Post war searches and enquiries found no trace of the aircraft or crew and the crew were listed as missing. Their names are commemorated on the Memorial to the Missing, Runnymede, Surrey, UK.

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 25 February 1944.

Source:

AWM 64 1/342 (1) AWM 237 (63) (64) AWM54 779/3/129 Part 3.

NAA : A705, 166/27/363. W R Chorley : RAF Bomber Command Losses of the Second World War, Page 101, Volume 1944.

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	LM 444
Radio call sign:	JO – D
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster LM444 took off from RAF Waddington at 2026 hours on the night 24/25th February 1944 to bomb Schweinfurt, Germany. Bomb load 1 x 4000lb bomb, 80 x 30lb, 750 x 4lb incendiaries. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it did not return to base. Seventeen aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and two of these including LM444 failed to return.

Crew:

RAAF 413219 Flt Lt Martin, C J Captain (Pilot)
 RAAF 400246 FO White, D (Navigator)
 RAAF 413388 FO Jacombs, R M N (Bomb Aimer)
 RAF Sgt F J Pearson (Wireless Operator Air Gunner)
 RAF Sgt P Wynde, (Flight Engineer)
 RAF Sgt J T Hollow, (Air Gunner)
 RAAF 417392 Flt Sgt C H Martin (Air Gunner)

Post war it was established that the aircraft was hit by enemy fire over the target area at 20,000 feet. The abandon order was given immediately but before any one could move the aircraft rolled over on its back and disintegrated. Six of the crew were killed and FO White became a POW. Those killed are buried in the Durnbach War Cemetery. Durnbach is a village 16 miles east of Bad Tolz, a town 48kms south of Munich.

In a 1945 statement the then Flt Lt White reported “Just after the bombardier reported photo taken, the pilot ordered bale out. There was no time to acknowledge and immediately after the aircraft turned on its back. I had time to half attach my chute which was close by then I apparently became unconscious and the next I knew I was in the air. The height at which we were hit was 20,000 feet. The aircraft was out of control and on fire. It crashed 10 miles north west of Scheinfurt. As far as I know no others got out. The Germans advised me that the rest of the crew were killed. I believe the aircraft blew up and the others were killed. I was seized by civilian police when looking for a barn to sleep in and taken to local police station about 4.30am on 28/2/44. Released by British near Lubeck 2/5/45.”

In RAAF Casualty file 166/27/363 held by Archives it is recorded that the aircraft exploded in the air and crashed near Edelshohe, which is 5 miles north west of Schweinfurt.

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 25 February 1944.

Source:

AWM 64 1/342 (1) AWM 237 (64) AWM 54 779/3/129 Part22.
 W R Chorley : RAF Bomber Command Losses of the Second World War, Page 100,
 Volume 1944.

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	LL 740
Radio call sign:	JO – M
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster LL740 took off from RAF Waddington at 2022 hours on the night of 24/25th February 1944 to bomb Schweinfurt, Germany. Bomb load 1 x 4000lb bomb, 80 x 30lb, 750 x 4lb incendiaries. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it did not return to base. Seventeen aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and two of these including LL740 failed to return.

Crew:

RAAF 255684 Flt Lt Mortimer, R J DFC Captain (Pilot)
 RAAF 420848 FO Baggie, W J (Navigator)
 RAAF 409963 PO Young, I C (Bomb Aimer)
 RAAF 403028 PO Jackson, L E (Wireless Operator Air Gunner)
 RAF Sgt H Everard, (Flight Engineer)
 RAF Sgt G Lloyd, (Mid Upper Gunner)
 RAAF 415073 PO Deane, M (Rear Gunner)

Post war it was established that the aircraft when flying at 19,500 feet outbound and while passing Stuttgart, was hit by cannon fire from a night fighter. The starboard wing burst into flames and the pilot reported severe structural damage to his cockpit and forward fuselage. With the fire spreading and threatening to engulf the entire wing area, the bale out order was given. The pilot died when the plane crashed at Murr, 9kms NNE of Ludwigshafen. PO Young was also killed and both he and Flt Lt Mortimer and buried at Durnbach War Cemetery. Durnbach is a village 16kms east of Bad Tolz, a town 48kms south of Munich.

The other five members of the crew became POW's. The survivors were unanimous in that they owe their lives to Flt Lt Mortimer's unselfish behaviour.

In a 1945 statement by FO Baggie he reported "We were attacked by a night fighter (unseen). Prepare to abandon order was given and acknowledged. None of crew were injured. The starboard inner and wing were on fire, and cockpit and fuselage badly damaged. The fire increased and bale out order given. The Bomb aimer and Engineer baled out before me with the other four still in the aircraft. I baled out at approx 18,000 feet. The starboard wing was on fire. The Pilot had control but the aircraft was losing height and going round in slow circles. The aircraft crashed approx 20 miles west of Stuttgart. The Germans said that Mortimer and Young were killed. I contacted the other four at the Dulag. I landed in a field and was captured by Germans on the edge of the town of Moohr. Was a POW until released on 2 May 1945."

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 26 February 1944.

Source:

AWM 64 1/342 (1) AWM 237 (63) (64) Commonwealth War Graves records.

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	DV 274
Radio call sign:	JO – R
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster DV274 took off from RAF Waddington at 1845 hours on the night of 25/26th February 1944 to bomb Augsburg, Germany. Bomb load 1 x 4000lb bomb, 92 x 30lb, 750 x 4lb incendiaries. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it did not return to base. Twelve aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and one of these DV274 failed to return.

Crew:

RAAF 415347 PO McKnight, K H Captain (Pilot)
RAF FO Isham, S A (Navigator)
RAAF 418425 FO Johnson, C J (Bomb Aimer)
RAAF 410710 Flt Sgt S J Nelson (Wireless Operator Air Gunner)
RAF Sgt L W Roberts (Flight Engineer)
RAF Sgt T Winn (Air Gunner)
RAF Sgt K Linford (Air Gunner)

Post war it was established that the aircraft crashed near Liesse in the Department of the Aisne, France. All the crew were killed and they are buried in the Liesse Communal Cemetery. The village of Liesse is situated 15kms north east of Laon on the D977 Laon to Montcornet road, locality Aisne, France.

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 15 March 1944.

Source:

AWM 64 1/342 (1) AWM 237 (63) (64) NAA : A705, 166/36/217.

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	ME 573
Radio call sign:	JO – J
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster ME573 took off from RAF Waddington at 1904 hours on the night of 15/16th March 1944 to bomb Stuttgart, Germany. Bomb load 1 x 4000b bomb, 64 x 30lb, 600 x 4lb incendiaries. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it did not return to base. Seventeen aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and one of these ME573 failed to return.

Crew:

RAAF 416893 FO Roberts, J DFC Captain (Pilot)
RAF PO Brown, P C R (Navigator)
RAAF 413526 Flt Sgt J MacA Benzie, (Bomb Aimer)
RAAF 415677 Flt Sgt S J F Palmer, (Wireless Operator Air Gunner)
RAF Sgt J Wilby, (Flight Engineer)
RNZAF PO Child, J L DFC (Air Gunner)
RAF Sgt R Pead (Air Gunner)

Post war it was established that the aircraft crashed near Kornwesheim approx 7 miles north of Stuttgart. All the crew were killed and they are buried in the Durnbach War Cemetery, Germany. Durnbach is a village 16kms east of Bad Tolz, a town 48kms south of Munich.

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 16 March 1944.

Source:

AWM 64 1/342 (1) AWM 237 (63) (64) Commonwealth War Graves records.

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	ED 606
Radio call sign:	JO – E
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster ED606 took off from RAF Waddington at 1927 hours on the night of 15/16th March 1944 to bomb Stuttgart, Germany. Bomb load 2 x 1000lb bombs, 64 x 30lb, 600 x 4lb incendiaries. Seventeen aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and one of these failed to return.

ED606 successfully completed the mission but whilst circling the RAF Waddington aerodrome preparatory to landing, it collided with aircraft 'L' of 625 Sqn RAF (Captain Flt Sgt Bulger, RCAF). ED606 crashed near Branston, 4 miles south east of Lincoln, UK. The crews in both aircraft were killed. PO Graham was on his first solo operation.

Crew:

RAAF 413988 PO Graham W A Captain (Pilot)
RAF Sgt J A Coates, (Navigator)
RAF Sgt J G B Jameson, (Bomb Aimer)
RAF Sgt H A Baxter, (Wireless Operator Air Gunner)
RAF Sgt D McA Munro, (Flight Engineer)
RAF Sgt T H Jones, (Air Gunner4)
RAAF 428712 Flt Sgt A S Humphreys, (Air Gunner)

PO Graham and Flt Sgt Humphreys are buried in the RAF Cemetery, Cambridge, UK.

Sgt Munro is buried in the Campbeltown (Kilkerran) Cemetery, Argyllshire, UK

Sgt Coates – Shildon (St John) Churchyard, Durham, UK

Sgt Jameson – Newcastle-upon-Tyne (all Saints) Cemetery, Northumberland, UK

Sgt Baxter – Brookwood Cemetery, Surrey, UK.

Sgt Jones – Deptford (Grove Park) Cemetery, London, UK.

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 18 March 1944.

Source:

AWM 64 1/342 (1) AWM 237 (63) (64) NAA : A705, 166/15/205.

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	EE 191
Radio call sign:	JO – F
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster EE191 took off from RAF Waddington at 1859 hours on the night of 18/19th March 1944 to bomb Frankfurt, Germany. Bomb load 1 x 4000lb bomb, 88 x 30lb, 350 x 4lb incendiaries. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it did not return to base. Eighteen aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and one of these EE191 failed to return.

Crew:

RAAF 413977 PO Gardner, J W Captain (Pilot)
RAF Flt Sgt H Perkins, (Navigator)
RCAF FO Grevstad, M C (Bomb Aimer)
RAF Sgt J Cuthbertson, (Wireless Operator Air Gunner)
RAF Sgt D Brotherton, (Flight Engineer)
RAF Sgt R J Mottram (Air Gunner)
RAAF 418704 Flt Sgt J R McGrath, (Air Gunner)

Post war it was established that the aircraft crashed in a suburb of Offenbach, which is approx 4 miles east of Frankfurt, Germany.

All the crew were killed and they are buried in the Durnbach War Cemetery. Durnbach is a village 16kms east of Bad Tolz, a town 48kms south of Munich.

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 23 April 1944.

Source:

AWM 64 1/342 (2) 1/343 AWM 237 (63 (64) Commonwealth War Graves records.
W R Chorley : RAF Bomber Command Losses of the Second World War : Page 178,
Volume 1944.

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	LL 892
Radio call sign:	JO – L
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster LL892 took off from RAF Waddington at 2250 hours on the night of 22/23rd April 1944 to bomb Brunswick, Germany. Bomb load 1 x 2000 bomb, 12 x 500 'J' clusters. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it did not return to base. Twenty aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and one of these LL892 failed to return.

Crew:

RAAF 413798 FO Schomberg, C C Captain (Pilot)
RAF Flt Lt Petts, H T (Navigator)
RAF Flt Sgt J Harden, (Bomb Aimer)
RAF Flt Sgt W S Millar, (Wireless Operator Air Gunner)
RAF Sgt H Steels, (Flight Engineer)
RAAF 426531 FO Calderwood, L J (Air Gunner)
RAAF 426372 Flt Sgt D J McDonald, (Air Gunner)

Post war it was established that the aircraft crashed at Nieuwolda in the Dutch province of Gelderland , 10kms SSE of Delfzijl. All the crew were killed and they are buried in the Nieuwolda General Cemetery, Holland. The Cemetery is 37kms east of Groningen, and 8kms north of the main Groningen to Nieuwe-Schyans road.

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 25 April 1944.

Source:

AWM 64 (1/342 (2) 1/343 AWM 237 (63) (64) NAA : A705, 166/32/366.
W R Chorley : RAF Bomber Command Losses of the Second World War, Page 190,
Volume 1944.

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	LL 848
Radio call sign:	JO – X
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster LL848 took off from RAF Waddington at 2105 hours on the night of 24/25th April 1944 to bomb Munich, Germany. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it did not return to base. Seventeen aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and one of these LL848 failed to return.

Crew:

RAAF 410171 PO Page, E W Captain (Pilot)
RCAF WO T W Fair, (Navigator)
RAAF 411479 FO Braithwaite, J S (Bomb Aimer)
RAAF 426302 PO Brown, E R (Wireless Operator Air Gunner)
RAF Sgt S R Crate, (Flight Engineer)
RAF Sgt R Guile, (Air Gunner)
RAAF 424570 Flt Sgt G H Noakes, (Air Gunner)

Post war it was established that the aircraft was shot down by a night fighter. The aircraft was seen by local inhabitants to circle the village of Sulzemoos and crash in flames in a field 2kms south east of the village. Sulzemoos is 16 miles north west of Munich, Germany. All the crew were killed and they are buried in the Durnbach War Cemetery. Durnbach is a village 16kms east of Bad Tolz, a town 48kms south of Munich.

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 4 May 1944.

Source:

AWM 64 1/342 (2) 1/343 AWM 237 (64) Commonwealth War Graves records.
W R Chorley : RAF Bomber Command Losses of the Second World War, Page 209,
Volume 1944.

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	LM 439
Radio call sign:	JO -
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster LM439 took off from RAF Waddington at 2151 hours on the night of 3/4th May 1944 to bomb military installations at Mailly-Le-Camp, France. Bomb load 1 x 4000lb, 16 x 500lb bombs. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it did not return to base. Twelve aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and one of these LM439 failed to return.

Crew:

RAAF 420654 FO Fryer, G Captain (Pilot)
RAF FO Ward, J B (Navigator)
RAF Flt Sgt J Healy, (Bomb Aimer)
RAF Flt Sgt E A Stone, (Wireless Operator Air Gunner)
RAF Sgt R J Gracey, (Flight Engineer)
RAAF 421386 FO Williams, H E (Air Gunner)
RAF Sgt K W Owen (Air Gunner)

Post war it was established that the aircraft was shot down when approaching the AP and crashed at Poivres (Aube) 20kms NNE of Arcis-sur-Aube. All the crew were killed and they are buried in the Poivres Churchyard Cemetery. Poivres is a village in the Aube department some 45kms north of Troyes and 5kms north east of Mailly-Le-Camp on the D198 road and 30kms WSW of Vitry-Le-Francois, France.

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 10 May 1944.

Source:

AWM 64 1/342 (2) 1/343 AWM 237 (63) (64) Commonwealth War Graves records.
W R Chorley : RAF Bomber Command Losses of the Second World War : Page 219,
Volume 1944.

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	HK 535
Radio call sign:	JO – N
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster HK535 took off from RAF Waddington at 2203 hours on the night of 10/11th May 1944 to bomb marshalling yards at Lille, France. Bomb load 1 x 4000lb, 6 x 1000lb and 8 x 500lb bombs. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it did not return to base. Fourteen aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and three of these including HK535 failed to return.

Crew:

RAAF 425226 Flt Lt Scott E McL Captain (Pilot)
RAAF 422414 Flt Sgt I Chapple (Navigator)
RAAF 423878 PO Peters, W T (Bomb Aimer)
RAF Sgt L E Pringle, (Wireless Operator Air Gunner)
RAF Sgt P H Boulton, (Flight Engineer)
RAAF 424519 Flt Sgt R W Ash, (Air Gunner)
RAAF 424888 Flt Sgt W A Slade, (Air Gunner)

Post war it was established that the aircraft crashed on a factory in the south eastern outskirts of the target area and all the crew were killed.

Flt Lt Scott is buried in the Communal Cemetery at Forest-Sur-Marque a village about 9kms east of Lille a major town in the north of France.

Flt Sgt Slade is listed as missing and his name is commemorated on the Memorial to the Missing, Runnymede, Surrey, UK.

The remaining five members of the crew are buried in the Communal Cemetery at Hellemmes-Lille a town and commune to the east of Lille.

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 10 May 1944.

Source:

AWM 1/342 (2) 1/343 AWM 237 (63) (64) Commonwealth War Graves records.
W R Chorley : RAF Bomber Command Losses of the Second World War : Page 219,
Volume 1944.

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	LL 881
Radio call sign:	JO – E
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster LL881 took off from RAF Waddington at 2214 hours on the night of 10/11th May 1944 to bomb the marshalling yards at Lille, France. Bomb load 1 x 4000lb, 6 x 1000lb and 8 x 500lb bombs. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it did not return to base. Fourteen aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and three of these including LL881 failed to return.

Crew:

RAAF 420413 FO Ward, D F DFC Captain (Pilot)
RAAF 410493 FO Jones, G O (Navigator)
RAAF 416443 WO L G McKenzie, (Bomb Aimer)
RAAF 418915 Flt Sgt J H Brown, (Wireless Operator Ai Gunner)
RAAF 10119 PO Lewis, W J (Flight Engineer)
RAAF 430019 Flt Sgt C H Eastgate, (Air Gunner)
RAAF 427445 Flt Sgt G M Dann, (Air Gunner)

Post war it was established that the aircraft exploded with the bulk of the wreckage falling on a factory in the south east suburbs of Lille, France, and all the crew were killed Flt Sgt Brown is buried in the Communal Cemetery at Hellemmes-Lille a town and commune to the east of Lille.

The remaining six members of this all Australian crew are buried in the Communal Cemetery at Forest-Sur-Marque a village about 9kms east of Lille a major town in the north of France.

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 11 May 1944.

Source:

AWM 64 1/342 (2) 1/343 AWM 237 (63) (64) Commonwealth War Graves records.
W R Chorley : RAF Bomber Command Losses of the Second World War : Page 219,
Volume 1944.

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	LL 882
Radio call sign:	JO – J
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster LL882 took off from RAF Waddington at 2200 hours on the night of 10/11th May 1944 to bomb the marshalling yards at Lille, France. Bomb load 1 x 4000lb and 16 x 500lb bombs. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it did not return to base. Fourteen aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and three of these including LL882 failed to return.

Crew:

RAAF 402817 Sqn Ldr Powell, M DFC Captain (Pilot)
RAF FO Jaques, R (Navigator)
RAF Flt Sgt B Fraser, (Bomb Aimer)
RAAF 406700 Flt Lt Read, W N (Wireless Operator Air Gunner)
RAF Sgt H L Molyneux, (Flight Engineer)
RAAF 407199 FO Croft, R McK (Air Gunner)
RAAF 407821 FO Croston, D P (Air Gunner)

Post war it was established that the aircraft was shot down by a night fighter and dived into an old waterlogged clay pit at the Dumoulin brickworks some 2kms west of Langemark (West-Vlaanderen) and about 8kms north of Ieper.

All the crew were killed and they are buried in the Wevelgem Communal Cemetery which is located about 22kms east of Ieper a town centre on the Meenseweg NB connecting Ieper to Menin, Wevelgem and Kortrijk, Belgium.

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 22 May 1944.

Source:

AWM 64 1/324 (2) 1/343 AWM 237 (63) (64) W R Chorley : RAF Bomber Command Losses of the Second World War : Page 231, Volume 1944.

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	ME 580
Radio call sign:	JO – Q
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster ME580 took off from RAF Waddington at 2240 hours on the night of 21/22nd May 1944 to bomb Duisberg, Germany. Bomb load 1 x 4000lb bomb, 88 x 30lb, 1500 x 4lb incendiaries. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it did not return to base. Fifteen aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and two of these including ME580 failed to return.

Crew:

RAAF 426941 FO Archay, K E Captain (Pilot)
RAAF 408913 WO A F Mayne, (Navigator)
RAAF 426604 Flt Sgt J E Jasper, (Bomb Aimer)
RAAF 417916 Flt Sgt L W Weeden, (Wireless Operator Air Gunner)
RAF Sgt F N Rice (Flight Engineer)
RAAF 419806 FO Mattingley, A F (Air Gunner)
RAAF 429351 FO Ross, E H (Air Gunner)

Post war it was established that the aircraft crashed in a field between Horst and Randerath presumably as a result of enemy action. Randerath is some 7kms NNE of Geilenkirchen, and 19 miles north of Aachen, Germany. All the crew were killed and they are buried in the Rheinberg War Cemetery, Germany. Rheinberg is located 24kms north of Krefeld and 13kms south west of Wesel. The cemetery is 3kms from the centre of the town of Rheinberg.

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 22 May 1944.

Source:

AWM 64 1/342 (2) 1/343

AWM 237 (63) (64)

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	ME 571
Radio call sign:	JO – W
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster ME571 took off from RAF Waddington at 2236 hours on the night of 21/22nd May 1944 to bomb Duisberg, Germany. Bomb load 1 x 4000lb bomb, 88 x 30lb, 1500 x 4lb incendiaries. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it did not return to base. Fifteen aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and two of these including ME571 failed to return.

Crew:

RAAF 416994 PO Pratten, M E captain (Pilot)
RAAF 422204 FO Hughes, M R (Navigator)
RAAF 422220 FO Marsh W E (Bomb Aimer)
RAAF 409729 WO N N McDonald, (Wireless Operator Air Gunner)
RAF Sgt O E G Smart (Flight Engineer)
RAAF 427954 Flt Sgt C B Simpson, (Air Gunner)
RAAF 427041 Flt Sgt L C Towler, (Air Gunner)

Post war searches found no trace of the missing aircraft or crew. The names of the missing crew are commemorated on the Memorial to the Missing, Runnymede, Surrey, UK.

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 11 June 1944.

Source:

AWM 64 !/342 (2) 1/343 AWM 237 (64) AWM 65 (3022)

Commonwealth War Graves records.

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	DV 229
Radio call sign:	JO – P
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster DV229 took off from RAF Waddington at 2219 hours on the night of 10/11th June 1944 to bomb the marshalling yards at Orleans, France. Bomb load 2 x 1000lb and 14 x 500lb bombs. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it did not return to base. Sixteen aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and one of them DV229 failed to return.

Crew:

RAAF 414668 PO Fletcher, J J Captain (Pilot)
 RAAF 426352 Flt Sgt G W King, (Navigator)
 RAAF 418756 Flt Sgt A W Matthews, (Bomb Aimer)
 RAAF 404682 WO N W Robinson, (Wireless Operator Air Gunner)
 RAF Sgt K K Smith (Flight Engineer)
 RAAF 427743 Flt Sgt F H Redford, (Mid Upper Gunner)
 RAAF 419746 Flt Sgt M R Barry (Rear Gunner)

It was later established that the aircraft crashed at St Gemmes-Le-Robert. PO Fletcher was killed and he is buried in the Communal Cemetery at St Gemmes-Le-Robert a village and commune 40kms NE of Laval, Mayenne France. Four of the crew were POW's (Flt Sgt King, WO Robinson, Flt Sgt Barry and Sgt Smith) and the other two evaded capture.

In a 1945 report the then WO King stated “ Returning from the target at Orleans when the port outer motor blew up. Shortly after the port inner packed up and we lost height. Ordered to abandon A/c at 3000 feet. I landed about 10 miles NE of Laval at 0138 hours on 11/6. Walked for rest of night and on early morning came in contact with a French farmer who took me home in village of Jublains. Later that evening I met the Engineer, WOP, Rear Gunner. We stayed together in the outhouse on this farm. We were visited by a Priest, 2 Policemen and a member of the organization. On 17/6 the Policeman took us by car with a Red Cross to see a British Colonel at a farm 10kms from Alencon. We agreed to join a Maquis camp and at 1930 were taken by a Frenchman in the direction of a camp. We came across a party of German soldiers unloading an ammo truck which had overturned, and were forced to help unload and load the truck. We were then taken with the Frenchman to a Hqrts at Le Mans. On the 20th we were all interned taken to Angers and put in a civil prison. On 30/6 taken to a POW Centre at Chartres then to Dualg Luft. Liberated by Russians on 22/4/45.”

The reports by Flt Sgt Redford and Flt Sgt Matthews who evaded capture are on AWM 65 (4319) and AWM 65 (3566).

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 22 June 1944.

Source:

AWM 64 1/342(2) 1/343 AWM 237 (63) (64) NAA : A705, 163/162/312.
Commonwealth War Graves records. W R Chorley : RAF Bomber Command Losses of
the Second World War : page 290, Volume 1944.

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	DV 280
Radio call sign:	JO – S
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster DV280 took off from RAF Waddington at 2305 hours on the night of 21/22nd June 1944 to bomb a synthetic oil plant at Gelsenkirchen, Germany. Bomb load 1 x 4000lb, 15 x 500lb bombs. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it did not return to base. Seventeen aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and one of these DV280 failed to return.

Crew:

RAAF 415280 Flt Lt Smith E A L MID Captain (Pilot)
RAAF 411262 FO Gossip, A B (2nd Pilot)
RAF PO Forth, K (Navigator)
RAF FO Raynham, H F (Bomb Aimer)
RAF Flt Sgt P H M Jones, DFM (Wireless Operator Air)
RAF Sgt D C Sykes, (Flight Engineer)
RAF Sgt J H Hollis (Air Gunner)
RAF Sgt R E Fittall (Air Gunner)

Post war it was established that the aircraft crashed at Polder de Meer between Berghem (Noord-Brabant) and Macharen some 5kms NNE of Oss. Seven of the crew were killed and PO Forth (RAF) became a POW.

Those killed are buried in the Uden War Cemetery. Uden is a town on the main road between Eindhoven and Nijmegen. Locality Noord-Brabant, Holland.

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 25 June 1944.

Source:

AWM 64 1/342(2) 1/343 AWM 237 (63) (64) AWM 54 779/3/129 Part 20.
Commonwealth War Graves records.

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	LM 571
Radio call sign:	JO -
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster LM571 took off from RAF Waddington at 2249 hours on the night of 24/25th June 1944 to bomb a construction site for flying bombs at Prouville, France. Bomb load 14 x 500lb bombs. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it did not return to base. Eighteen aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and three of these including LM571 failed to return. 72 tons of bombs were aboard the Squadron's aircraft.

Crew:

RAAF 16203 PO Martin, J F Captain (Pilot)
RAAF 415430 WO B E Kelly (Navigator)
RAAF 418755 Flt Sgt T A Malcolm, (Bomb Aimer)
RAAF 417327 Flt Sgt G W Bateman, (Wireless Operator Air Gunner)
RAF Sgt P D Taylor (Flight Engineer)
RAAF 424761 Flt Sgt L G L Hunter, (Mid Upper Gunner)
RAAF 408433 Flt Sgt B R Barber, (Rear Gunner)

Post war it was established that the aircraft was shot down by a night fighter and crashed at Bussus-Bussuel (Somme), 12kms east of Abbeville. Six of the crew were killed and Flt Sgt Malcolm became a POW. Those killed are buried in the Communal Cemetery at Bussus-Bussuel a village and commune on the D153 12km east of Abbeville, France. In a 1945 report Flt Sgt Malcolm reported " the aircraft was picked up by searchlights just after dropping our bombs. Hit by flak bursts and then by a fighter. Ordered stand by to abandon A/c. Pilot told me to open the front hatch. I opened the hatch and continued to work on a fire in the nose of the aircraft. As far as I know all of the crew were in the A/c and unhurt. At approx 8000 feet when hit. Next I remember I was in the air. The plane came down near Abbeyville. There were six in the aircraft when I baled out. Captured in Paris on 19/7/44. Released by the British Army on 2/5/45."

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 25 June 1944.

Source:

AWM 64 1/342(2) 1/343 AWM 237 (63) (64) W R Chorley : RAF Bomber
Command Losses of the Second World War : Page 302, Volume 1944.

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	LM 574
Radio call sign:	JO – J
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster LM574 took off from RAF Waddington at 2244 hours on the night of 24/25th June 1944 to bomb a flying bomb site at Prouville, France. Bomb load 14 x 500lb bombs. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it did not return to base. Eighteen aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and three of these including LM574 failed to return.

Crew:

RAAF 417248 PO Tilbrook, J M Captain (Pilot)
RAAF 416651 WO H G Carlyle, (Navigator)
RAF FO Syddall, A (Bomb Aimer)
RAAF 412469 WO A C Mineeff, (Wireless Operator Air Gunner)
RAF Sgt D Dowe, (Flight Engineer)
RAF Sgt C F Penn (Air Gunner)
RAAF 419126 Flt Sgt M MacD Lack, (Air Gunner)

Post war it was established that the aircraft was intercepted at 13,000 feet by a JU88, whose fire caused an explosion in LM574 and FO Syddall (RAF) who became a POW was thrown clear. Debris from the plane fell at Longuevillette (Somme), 3kms south west of Doullens.

Six of the crew were killed and they are buried in the Amiens in St Pierre Cemetery. The Cemetery is on the north eastern outskirts of Amiens on the northern side of the main road to Albert. Locality Somme, France.

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Crash : 25 June 1944.

Source:

AWM 64 1/342(2) 1/343 AWM 65 (1069)

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	LM 587
Radio call sign:	JO -
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster LM587 took off from RAF Waddington at 2229 hours on the night of 24/25th June 1944 to bomb a flying bomb site at Prouville, France. Bomb load 14 x 500lb bombs. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it did not return to base. Eighteen aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and three of these including LM587 failed to return.

Crew:

RAAF 400631 Wg Cdr Donaldson C R Captain (Pilot) (C O of the Squadron).
 RAAF 425851 PO Hooper, R N (Navigator)
 RAAF 423559 FO Small, C D G (Bomb Aimer)
 RAAF 428801 Flt Sgt K C Sheel, (Wireless Operator Air Gunner)
 RAF Sgt L F Boness, (Flight Engineer)
 RAAF 32691 Flt Sgt J E Morrison, (Air Gunner)
 RAAF 27302 FO Cullity, J A (Air Gunner)

All the crew survived the crash. Wg Cdr Donaldson, PO Hooper and Sgt Boness evaded capture, and the other four members of the crew became POW's.

In AWM 65 (1069) Wg Cdr Donaldson reported "Target a V1 site north of Bethune. While on our second orbit (we were a bit early on target), I was hit at 12,000 feet by heavy flak underneath the port inner which caught fire. In feathering the port inner the Engineer feathered the port outer as well and owing to the failure of our accumulators we were unable to un-feather the port outer. The port inner was still burning. Our rudder controls must have been shot away as I had no control over the swing of the aircraft. Gave bale out order and heard replies from some of the crew. I saw the bombardier, engineer and navigator leave the A/c but not certain about the WAG and Gunners. As I left through the forward hatch I noticed the rev counters reading 'nil'. When descending by chute I noticed three crew being engaged by searchlights and light flak. Searchlights wavered on me and some light flak fired doing no damage. Near the ground I heard voices and rifle bullets seemed very close. Left chute on site and hid mae west in wood. Wood was bombed by allied aircraft. They were after the weapon site but missed it. Shortly after the attack a V1 was launched. Whole area was full of Germans and had several narrow escapes. During next 4 days made my way towards Amiens walking by day and keeping to the main road.. Received food, civvy clothing from people but no further assistance. Reached Amiens where bomb damage severe and people upset.. So went to next village of Douai. Contacted Cure who sent me to a man who spoke English. Made rendezvous for following day in Amiens. From this point my journey was arranged for me."

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 4 July 1944.

Source:

AWM 64 1/342(3) 1/343 AWM 237 (63) (64) W R Chorley : RAF Bomber
Command Losses of the Second World War : Page 302, Volume 1944.

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	ME 614
Radio call sign:	JO – K
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster ME614 took off from RAF Waddington at 2306 hours on the night of 4/5th July 1944 to bomb flying bomb installations at St Leu Desserent. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it did not return to base. Fifteen aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and two of these including ME614 failed to return.

Crew :

RAAF 420726 FO Webb, N E Captain (Pilot)
RAAF 10981 FO Connor, A A (Navigator)
RAAF 414792 FO Fletcher, E G (Bomb Aimer)
RAAF 420009 WO L Harrison, (Wireless Operator Air Gunner)
RAF Sgt T Hendry (Flight Engineer)
RAAF 12189 FO McLeod, M J (Wireless Operator Air Gunner – flying as mid under
air gunner)
RAAF 418258 Flt Sgt P Dunford, (Air Gunner)
RAAF 417831 Flt Sgt A O Gillett, (Air Gunner)

Post war it was established that the aircraft was shot down by a night fighter and crashed some 2kms south west of Lyon-La-Foret.

FO Webb, FO Connor, FO Fletcher and WO Harrison are listed as missing and their names are commemorated on the Memorial to the Missing, Runnymede, Surrey, UK.

The other four members of the crew are buried in the Marissel French National Cemetery. Marissel is an eastern suburb of Beaumont, a cathedral town between Rouen and Compiègne, Locality Oise, France.

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 5 July 1944.

Source:

AWM 64 1/342 (3) 1/343 AWM 237 (63) (64) NAA : A705, 166/7/554.
W R Chorley : RAF Bomber Command Losses of the Second World War : Page 316,
Volume 1944.

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	HK 536
Radio call sign:	JO – H
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster HK536 took off from RAF Waddington at 2321 hours on the night of 4/5th July 1944 to bomb flying bomb installations at St Leu Desserent, France. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it did not return to base. Fifteen aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and carried a total of 83 tons of bombs. Two of these aircraft including HK536 failed to return.

Crew:

RAAF 421887 FO Carter, A K Captain (Pilot)
RAF Flt Sgt R H Norman, (Navigator)
RAF Sgt A C Brown, (Bomb Aimer)
RAAF 421812 Flt Sgt T F Maher, (Wireless Operator Air Gunner)
RAF Sgt B F Watts (Flight Engineer)
RAAF 434299 Flt Sgt G R Whimpey, BEM (Air Gunner)
RAAF 429881 Flt Sgt G E Dowling (Air Gunner)

Post war it was established that the aircraft crashed at Ellecourt (Seine-Maritime), France, a village and commune 4kms NNW from Aumale and approx 60kms NE of Rouen. All the crew were killed and they are buried in the Ellecourt Communal Cemetery.

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 19 July 1944.

Source:

AWM 64 1/342 (3) 1/343 AWM 237 (63) (64) W R Chorley : RAF Bomber Command Losses of the Second World War ; Page 337, Volume 1944.

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	LM 551
Radio call sign:	JO – G
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster LM551 took off from RAF Waddington at 2253 hours on the night of 18/19th July 1944 to bomb the railway junction at Revigny, France. Bomb load 11 x 1000lb, 3 x 500lb bombs. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it did not return to base. Eight aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and two of these including LM551 failed to return.

Crew:

RAAF 415520 FO Gifford, B H Captain (Pilot)
RAAF 413036 WO R G Shipway, (Navigator)
RAAF 427360 Flt Sgt F G Spencer, (Bomb Aimer)
RAAF 427314 Flt Sgt A W G Fripp, (Wireless Operator Air Gunner)
RAF Sgt H Newell, (Flight Engineer)
RAAF 427934 Flt Sgt P J Pearce, (Mid Upper Gunner)
RAAF 430247 Flt Sgt J C B Boydell, (Rear Gunner)

Post war it was established that the aircraft was shot down by a night fighter and crashed into the Canal de Marne between Locks 53 and 54. All the crew were killed and they were initially buried at Revigny, but later re-interred at the Choloy War Cemetery, France. Choloy is a village 28kms west of Nancy and 5kms west of Toul a town on the N4 road from Paris to Nancy. Locality Meurthe-et-Moselles, France.

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 19 July 1944.

Source:

AWM 64 1/342 (3) 1/343 AWM 237 (64) Commonwealth War Graves records.
W R Chorley : RAF Bomber Command Losses of the Second World War : Page 337,
Volume 1944.

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	DV 374
Radio call sign:	JO – B
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster DV374 took off from RAF Waddington at 2255 hours on the night of 18/19th July 1944 to bomb the railway junction at Revigny, France. Bomb load 11 x 1000lb, 3 x 500lb bombs. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it did not return to base. Eight aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and two of these including DV374 failed to return.

Crew:

RAAF 406417 FO Worthington, J R Captain (Pilot)
RAF Sgt C Hymas, (Navigator)
RAF Flt Sgt M J Simonds, (Bomb Aimer)
RAF PO Chapman, H G (Wireless Operator Air Gunner)
RAF Sgt G E Hamoniaux, (Flight Engineer)
RAF Sgt R V Ind, (Air Gunner)
RAF Sgt R D B Younger, (Air Gunner)

Post war it was established that the aircraft crashed at Droupt-Ste-Marie (Aube) shot down by a night fighter when outbound to the target and all the crew were killed. AWM 237 (64) records that FO Worthington (RAAF) is buried in the Droupe-Ste-Marie Churchyard, which is located 25kms north west of Troyes, France.

Commonwealth War Graves records that all the crew are buried in the Terlincthun British Cemetery, Wimille. This cemetery is situated on the north east outskirts of Boulogne on the A16 which runs from Calais to Boulogne, Locality Pas de Calais, France.

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 25 July 1944.

Source:

AWM 64 1/342 (3) 1/343 237 (63) (64) AWM 54 779/3/129 Part 26

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	LM 589
Radio call sign:	JO – Y
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster LM589 took off from RAF Waddington at 1758 hours on 25 July 1944 on a daylight raid to bomb the airfield and signals manufacturing depot at St Cyr, France. Bomb load 1 x 4000lb, 1 x 1000lb, 15 x 500lb bombs. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it did not return to base. Fifteen aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and of these LM589 failed to return.

Crew:

RAAF 417833 FO Gundry, D C Captain (Pilot)
 RAAF 417899 Flt Sgt J S Sincock, (Navigator)
 RAAF 426565 Flt Sgt E J Fallon, (Bomb Aimer)
 RAAF 426691 Flt Sgt V J Scheldt, (Wireless Operator Air Gunner)
 RAF Sgt P O F Wadsworth, (Flight Engineer)
 RAAF 426794 Sgt N M Davidson, (Mid Upper Gunner)
 RAAF 426527 Flt Sgt E Burke, (Rear Gunner)

It was later established that the aircraft crashed near Omerville and both FO Gundry and Flt Sgt Scheldt were killed They are buried in the Omerville Communal Cemetery, which is in a village 7kms WSW of Magny-en-Vexim and 48kms NW of Versailles, Locality Val d'Oise, France. Flt Sgt Fallon, Sgt Wadsworth and Flt Sgt Burke became POW's, and the other two crew members evaded capture.

In a later statement Flt Sgt Fallon reported "near Rouen on the way to the target we were hit by flak several times. On the run to the target we were hit again by flak and after dropping the bombs the stbd inner caught fire also fire near astro dome.. The Captain tried to feather the prop without success, and the fire extinguisher had no effect on the fire inside the A/c. The Mid Upper was hit in the leg by flak and carried to rear escape hatch by WOP. Ordered to prepare to abandon and on order bale out the WOP pushed out the Mid Upper. I baled out first from front escape hatch, height 6000 feet. A/c losing height slowly but generally straight and level. Became unconscious on baling out and did not recover until hit the ground. Taken to jail at Beauvais where met Rear Gunner. Later joined by Nav who was injured in legs. Later told that Nav and Mid Upper who were taken to German hospital for treatment were released by Americans in Paris and back in UK Oct 1944. Also told two of crew were killed in crash (presume Pilot and WOP) Released by Russians on 22/4/45 and flown back to UK 13/5/45.

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 29 July 1944.

Source:

AWM 1/342 (3) 1/343 AWM 237 (63) (64) NAA : A705, 166/43/789.
Commonwealth War Graves records.

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	ME 615
Radio call sign:	JO – V
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster ME615 took off from RAF Waddington at 2224 hours on the night of 28/29th July 1944 to bomb Stuttgart, Germany. Bomb load 1 x 2000lb bomb, 12 x 500 'J' clusters. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it did not return to base. Nineteen aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and one of these ME615 failed to return.

Crew:

RAAF 417547 FO Wilkinson, J A H Captain (Pilot)
RAAF 409041 WO N F Gelder, (Navigator)
RAAF 417826 Flt Sgt F E Fischer, (Bomb Aimer)
RAAF 427106 Flt Sgt B Reece, (Wireless Operator Air Gunner)
RAF Sgt E W Starling, (Flight Engineer)
RAAF 432668 Flt Sgt M W Harrison, (Mid Upper Gunner)
RAF Flt Lt Moorhead, B C DFC (Rear Gunner and Sqn Gunnery Leader)

Post war it was established that the aircraft was shot down by a night fighter and crashed at Rohrbach (Les Bitche) France. All the crew were killed and they are buried in the Choley War Cemetery. Choley is a village 28kms west of Nancy and 5kms west of Toul, a town on the N4 road from Paris to Nancy. Locality Meurthe-et-Moselle, France.

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 15 August 1944.

Source:

AWM 1/342 (3) 1/343 AWM 237(64) NAA : A705, 166/17/710.

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	LL 844
Radio call sign:	JO – R
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster LL844 took off from RAF Waddington at 0921 hours to carry out a daylight raid on Gilze Rijen airfield on 15 August 1944. Bomb load 11 x 1000lb, 4 x 500lb LD37D – 72 hours. The aircraft completed the mission and landed back at base at 1321 hours. Seventeen aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and all returned safely.

Crew:

RAAF 416685 Flt Lt Langlois, E R captain (Pilot)
 RAAF 421050 FO Reid, A F (Navigator)
 RCAF FO L E W Baynes, (Bomb Aimer)
 RAAF 409437 FO Patten, E G (Wireless Operator Air Gunner)
 RAF Sgt J Scott, (Flight Engineer)
 RAAF 434868 FO Cameron, C J (Mid Upper Gunner)
 RAAF 414232 FO Hamilton, M E (Rear Gunner)

In a report in the Squadrons ORB the Pilot recorded “ Sortie completed. Visibility excellent. A/P as ordered visually. No TI’s seen. 15,000 feet. Bombs dropped 1210 hours. A real good concentration. Just as our bombs got away our Rear Turret (with FO Hamilton, Rear Gunner) was carried away with bombs from an aircraft 2/300 feet above The aircraft letter was ‘U’ but Sqn letters not positively identified. Handling of aircraft not much affected except when coming into land when speed fell off.”

In a further report dated 9/9/1944 the Pilot recorded “ In the run up to the target aircraft of another Squadron became mixed up with our own aircraft and took up a position slightly above us. I had completed our bomb run and was holding the aircraft straight and level to obtain bomb photo when felt a severe bump – I thought flak had burst below us. The Mid Upper immediately called ‘Hit by bomb by one of aircraft flying above us’ and he thought the rear turret had been completely knocked off. There was no answer from Hamilton on the I/C. When clear of the target I sent the Bomb Aimer back to inspect the damage. He reported that Hamilton was missing from the turret. Hamilton was wearing a seat type chute and no one from my A/c or other Sqn aircraft saw a chute open in the target area.. I presume that Hamilton must have at least been knocked unconscious by the bomb.”

FO Hamilton is listed as missing and his name is commemorated on the Memorial to the Missing, Runnymede, Surrey, UK.

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 30 August 1944.

Source:

AWM 64 1/342 (3) 1/343 AWM 237 (63)

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	PD 258
Radio call sign:	JO – S
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster PD258 took off from RAF Waddington at 2026 hours on the night of 29/30th August 1944 to bomb Konigsberg, Russia. Bomb load 1 x 2000lb bomb, 12 x 500 'J' clusters. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it did not return to base. Twenty aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and two of these including PD258 failed to return.

Crew:

RAF Flt Lt Parker, T G J MID Captain (Pilot)
RAAF 409364 WO N C Barrett, (Navigator)
RAAF 424861 Flt Sgt T H F Dodd, (Bomb Aimer)
RAAF 424451 Flt Sgt R Parker (Wireless Operator Air Gunner)
RAF Sgt R E S Packham, (Flight Engineer)
RAAF 429575 Flt Sgt T G Jamieson, (Mid Upper Gunner)
RAAF 425985 Flt Sgt N A Taylor, (Rear Gunner)

Post war searches and enquiries found no trace of the missing aircraft or crew. The names of the missing crew are commemorated on the Memorial to the Missing, Runnymede, Surrey, UK.

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 30 August 1944.

Source:

AWM 64 1/342 (3) 1/343 AWM 237 (63) (64)

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	LL 790
Radio call sign:	JO – O
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster LL790 took off from RAF Waddington at 2023 hours on the night of 29/30th August 1944 to bomb Konigsberg, Russia. Bomb load 1 x 2000lb bomb, 12 x 500 ‘J’ clusters. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it did not return to base. Twenty aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and two of these including LL790 failed to return.

Crew:

RAAF 425809 FO Roe, M J Captain (Pilot)
RAF Flt Sgt A E Fox, (Navigator)
RAF Sgt T P Byrne, (Bomb Aimer)
RAAF 404752 Flt Lt Lyons, K M D DFM (Wireless Operator Air Gunner)
RAF Sgt W M Hill, (Flight Engineer)
RAAF 424923 Flt Sgt T R Ryan, (Mid Upper Gunner)
RAF Sgt K C Butcher, (Rear Gunner)

Post war searches and enquiries found no trace of the missing aircraft or crew. The names of the missing crew are commemorated on the Memorial to the Missing, Runnymede, Surrey, UK.

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 31 August 1944.

Source:

AWM 64 1/342 (3) 1/343 AWM 237 (63) (64) NAA : A705, 166/5/687

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	PD 259
Radio call sign:	JO -
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster PD259 took off from RAF Waddington on 31st August 1944 to carry out a night non-operational cross-country flight. The aircraft crashed at 2315 hours in the Monadhliath mountains about 10 miles north of Kingussie, Inverness Shire, Scotland, and all the crew were killed.

Crew:

RAAF 418717 FO Beddoe, R H Captain (Pilot)
RAAF 428834 Flt Sgt F M Walker (Navigator)
RAAF 418473 Flt Sgt D H Ryan, (Bomb Aimer)
RAAF 425617 Flt Sgt T R Dent, (Wireless Operator Air Gunner)
RAF WO G H Middleton, (Flight Engineer)
RAAF 436790 Flt Sgt S A Abbott (Mid Upper Gunner)
RAAF 436579 Flt Sgt B M Glover (Rear Gunner)

On RAAF casualty file A705, 166/5/687 held by Archives the following details are recorded in the Court of Inquiry into the accident :

A Meteorology report of conditions in the area at the time of the accident stated "Fairly frequent showers in the north of Scotland at the time of the accident. Cumulus and Cumulonimbus clouds extensive to 20,000 feet locally with some reaching to 25,000 feet. Cloud base was locally below 1000 feet in showers and would be covering hilltops. Visibility under cloud in the` area was from 15/30 miles. Temps -30degC to -44degC at 20,000 feet and 25,000 feet respectively. These are far too low for icing to be expected if aircraft was flying at briefed height of 25,000 feet.

It was also recorded that the crew had a sound training record and that since at this unit the pilot had done 10 hours as second pilot at night and a four hours daylight exercise with his crew. The briefed height was 25,000 feet and the pilot understood the met. situation. Despatch of training flight was considered justified as a bright moon and icing risk negligible at briefed height."

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 12 September 1944.

Source:

AWM 64 1/342(3) AWM 54 779/3/129 Parts 29 and 30 .

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	LM 242
Radio call sign:	JO – F
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster LM242 took off from RAF Waddington at 2103 hours on the night of 11/12th September 1944 to bomb Darmstadt, Germany. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it did not return to base. Seventeen aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and one of these LM242 failed to return.

Crew:

RAAF 412585 FO Taylor, J W Captain (Pilot)
 RAAF 432160 FO Hagan, W J (Navigator)
 RAAF 423353 FO Thwaite, B O (Bomb Aimer)
 RAAF 423291 Flt Sgt V G Montgomery, (Wireless Operator Air Gunner)
 RAF Flt Sgt W H Meager, (Flight Engineer)
 RAAF 437917 Flt Sgt C H Giles, (Mid Upper Gunner)
 RAAF 436701 Flt Sgt C E Richardson, (Rear Gunner)

Post war it was established that the aircraft crashed near Frankfurt. Six of the crew became POW's and Flt Sgt Meager (RAF) was killed. He is buried in the Durnbach War Cemetery. Durnbach is a village 16kms east of Bad Tolz, a town 48kms south of Munich.

In a later report FO Hagan stated "We were attacked by a night fighter and while in a corkscrew were hit by flak. The main spar was blown away and A/c on fire there also stbd wing. Plane going down in a shallow dive, a burst of flak or cannon behind pilot wounding him and Nav. Baled our order heard with difficulty over noise and wind in A/c. Baled out after engineer at 10,000ft so didn't see crash. All OK except Engineer who is missing. Crash 8-10 miles north of Darmstadt. Woman informed passing L/W who pounced on us before we could hide. Released by Russians."

Flt Sgt Giles reported "Attack by fighter from port quarter shot away main spar. A/c alight. Skipper said Jump Jump. Baled out at 9000 feet A/c in dive and on fire. Crashed SW of Frankfurt. Found by Army guards in forest. Released by Russians."

Flt Sgt Richardson reported "Hit by JU88 from fine port. Emergency jump order given. I left by turret doors, Ht 9000 ft. Hydraulic control to rear turret U/S. A/c could not be pulled out of dive. Too busy watching JU88 crash in flames. All POW's except Engineer. Bomb Aimer broke his back and repatriated to UK."

Flt Sgt Montgomery reported "Hit by fighter in stbd wing and then by flak. A/c on fire from WOP's position back. A/c out of control so all baled out. Captured on 14/9. Released by Russians."

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Crash : 17 September 1944.

Source:

AWM 342 (3)

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	LM 675
Radio call sign:	JO – T
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster LM675 took off from RAF Waddington at 0815 hours on 17 September 1944 to bomb enemy strong points at the channel port of Boulogne, France. LM675 bombed the target and almost immediately was hit by flak which seriously damaged the aircraft. Six of the crew baled out over friendly territory. The pilot managed to crash land the aircraft with wheels and flaps down in a field south east of Samer ending up among trees. The pilot escaped injuries and there were no fatalities.

Crew:

RAF FO Tanner, K E Captain (Pilot)
 RAAF 418037 Flt Sgt R W Dent (Navigator)
 RAAF 428713 Flt Sgt W A Hundy, (Bomb Aimer)
 RAAF 424392 Flt Sgt N S Palmer, (Wireless Operator Air Gunner)
 RAF Sgt K W Yates, (Flight Engineer)
 RAAF 429609 Flt Sgt B D McGill, (Air Gunner)
 RAAF 437462 Flt Sgt D M Wills, (Air Gunner)

In the ORB the Pilot's report is as follows "Sortie completed. Slight haze. Vis. Fair. Red T/I in sight, as instructed. 8000 ft. 0941.5 hours. 11 x 1000lb USA, 4 x 500lb. Good concentration. On our bombing run, immediately after bombs gone hit by heavy flak. Hole in port wing approx 11ft x 6ft. Ailerons severely damaged. A/c went out of control in diving turn; during this No 3 tank blew out and exploded behind A/c. I ordered abandon A/c and moderate control of A/c maintained at 4000ft. WOP, Mid Upper and Rear Gunner tried to get out of rear door This was jammed the handle broke off and they had to come to front hatch. Eventually all members of crew apart from pilot squeezed themselves out. Reasonable controlled descent maintained with port engines fully opened. Stbd engines half throttled, full aileron and rudder bias. Estimated crew baled out from 2/3000 ft. At 1500ft I attempted bale out –unsuccessfully as A/c dived out of control. Re-gained control at 800 feet and having no other alternative had to make forced landing in quickest possible time. Landing effected in a field that was obstructed with anti-invasion posts, with stbd engine on fire. Undercarriage and flaps were serviceable and operated allowing me to make a successful landing. At end of landing run, to avoid further danger, swung A/c to port coming to rest in a wood. Made very quick getaway as stbd outer wing and engine on fire. Throughout these extremely difficult circumstances, my crew behaved in an exemplary manner, and showed calm and coolness throughout." The Navigator reported "Our pilot's captaincy and leadership displayed throughout these intense moments gave us confidence and inspiration. We considered the aircraft impossible to fly, and how he effected a landing was, in the opinion of all of us a miracle, and we never expected after we left that the aircraft would be landed."

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 23 September 1944.

Source:

AWM 64 1/342 (3) 1/342 AWM 237 (63) (64)

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	LM 223
Radio call sign:	JO – P
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster LM223 took off from RAF Waddington at 1907 hours on the night of 23/24th September 1944 to bomb the aqueduct over the Dortmund-Ems canal. Bomb load 14 x 1000lb bombs. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it did not return to base. Seventeen aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and two of these including LM223 failed to return.

Crew:

RAAF 422310 FO Staples, S J Captain (Pilot)
RAAF 434227 FO McCall, C (Navigator)
RAAF 420783 WO J B Stinson. (Bomb Aimer)
RAAF 432190 Flt Sgt N G Hurst, (Wireless Operator Air Gunner)
RAF Sgt A Ledger, (Flight Engineer)
RAAF 8905 Flt Sgt L A Davis, (Air Gunner)
RAAF 404416 Sgt W G McD Geikie, (Air Gunner)

Post war searches and enquiries found no trace of the missing aircraft or crew. The names of the missing crew are commemorated on the Memorial to the Missing , Runnymede, Surrey. UK.

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 23 September 1944.

Source:

AWM 64 1/342 (3) 1/343 AWM 237 (63) (64) AWM 54 779/3/129 Parts 21, 28, 29

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	LM 309
Radio call sign:	JO – V
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster LM309 took off from RAF Waddington at 1915 hours on the night of 23/24th September to bomb the aqueduct over the Dortmund-Ems canal. Bomb load 14 x 1000lb bombs. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it did not return to base. Seventeen aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and two of these including LM309 failed to return.

Crew:

RAAF 419815 PO Lindquist, F J Captain (Pilot)
 RAAF 432343 Flt Sgt W A Schultz, (Navigator)
 RAAF 430260 Flt Sgt H Howard, (Bomb Aimer)
 RAAF 418273 Flt Sgt A W Haselhurst, (Wireless Operator Air Gunner)
 RAF Sgt A Perring (Flight Engineer)
 RAAF 432076 Flt Sgt F J Hurstwaite, (Mid Upper Gunner)
 RAAF 434538 Flt Sgt A B Sloane, (Rear Gunner)

Post war it was established that the aircraft crashed at 2300 hours at Laggenbeck, a town some 4kms ESE of Ibbenburen. PO Lindquist, Flt Sgt Howard and Flt Sgt Sloane became POW's and the other four crew members were killed. They are buried in the Rheinberg War Cemetery. Rheinberg is located 24kms north of Krefeld and 13kms SW of Wesel. In a later report PO Lindquist stated " running up to the target on time when the T/I disappeared in the thin wispy cloud so decided to orbit. About to turn left when terrific crash occurred and I was thrown into the roof with head and shoulders protruding. A/c seemed to be diving vertically and at same time gyrating, completely out of control. Another lurch occurred and I was thrown through the roof at an estimated height of 500/1000 feet. Gave no orders to bale out and not see any crew leaving A/c. Captured by Wehrmacht attempting to cross road leading to forest. After capture saw Rear Gunner and Bomb Aimer. No news re others. Released by Russians on 30/4/45.

Flt Sgt Sloane reported "Over the target our plane collided with another A/c. Our A/c out of control and caught fire. No order to bale out as I/C U/S. Don't know who was in plane when I left. The tail burnt off and was falling down by myself. Next I know was when I came to and floating on my back. Don't know height when I pulled cord. A/c crashed somewhere near the Rhine Captured early in morning. Pilot and B/A only ones I saw. POW 7 months. Liberated by the Russians."

Flt Sgt Howard reported "Probably a collision . I/C U/S. Captain thrown from seat by force of impact. Captain and Rear gunner thrown from A/c at same time after impact. Contacted them both after capture. Suffered a broken arm and injury to back. Crawled into ditch and lost consciousness. Found by civilians. A/c crashed near Munster. 90 days in hospital and repatriated."

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 26 September 1944.

Source:

AWM 64 1/324 (3) 1/343 AWM 237 (63) (64) Commonwealth War Graves records
W R Chorley : RAF Bomber Command Losses of the Second World War : Page 438,
Volume 1944.

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	LM 587
Radio call sign:	JO -
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster LM587 took off from RAF Waddington on 26 September 1944 to bomb enemy strong points at Cap Gris Nez, France. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it did not return to base.

Crew:

RAAF 418209 Flt Lt Tottenham, A B L DFC Captain (Pilot)
RAAF 410144 Flt Sgt R C Brookman, (Navigator)
RAAF 426253 WO B G D Dillon, (Bomb Aimer)
RAAF 410819 PO Smith, S W (Wireless Operator Air Gunner)
RAF Sgt R J Patrick, (Flight Engineer)
RAAF 427787 PO Acres, R J (Mid Upper Gunner)
RAAF 418913 FO Bowman, N J (Rear Gunner)
RAF FO Oakley, M A (Navigator)
RAF FO Morris, J E (Air Gunner)

Post war it was established that the aircraft crashed at Wissant (Pas De Calais). Wissant is a small village on the coastal highway between Calais and Boulogne, France. The crew of nine were killed and they are buried in the Wissant Communal Cemetery, France.

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 28 September 1944.

Source:

AWM 64 1/342 (3) 1/343 AWM 237 (63) (64) AWM 54 779/3/129 Part 29.

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	PB 263
Radio call sign:	JO -
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster PB263 took off from RAF Waddington at 2211 hours on the night of 27/28th September 1944 to bomb the town and railway yards at Kaiserlautern, Germany. Bomb load 1 x 2000lb bomb, 12 x 500 'J' clusters. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it did not return to base. Fifteen aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and one of these PB263 failed to return.

Crew:

RAAF 13742 FO Miller, R J Captain (Pilot)
RAAF 427830 Flt Sgt R D Healy, (Navigator)
RAAF 427438 Flt Sgt G Caveridge, (Bomb Aimer)
RAAF 28072 Flt Sgt T A P Taylor, (Wireless Operator Air Gunner)
RAF Sgt B Parker, (Flight Engineer)
RAAF 431157 Flt Sgt L E I Coxhill, (Air Gunner)
RAAF 431166 Flt Sgt R C Coventry, (Air Gunner)

Flt Sgt Coxhill became a POW and all the other members of the crew were killed. They are buried in the Rheinberg War Cemetery, Germany. Rheinberg is located 24kms north of Krefeld and 13kms south west of Wesel.

In a later statement the then WO Coxhill stated “ When we left the target it was only a short time before we crashed into a hill. I was the only one to get out with the rest of the crew either killed instantly or knocked unconscious and burnt to death. The aircraft was a flaming wreck when I came to. When I left the aircraft we were on the ground. The Germans captured me 36 hours later. I had burns on my hands, face and feet and was treated in a German hospital “

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 6 October 1944.

Source:

AWM 64 1/342 (3) 1/343 AWM 237 (63) (64) AWM 54 779/3/129 Part 30

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	LM 375
Radio call sign:	JO – B
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster LM375 took off from RAF Waddington at 1740 hours on the night of 6/7th October 1944 to bomb Bremen, Germany. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it did not return to base. Eighteen aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and one of these LM375 failed to return.

Crew:

RAAF 418890 FO Tointon, D G Captain (Pilot)
 RAAF 437332 Flt Sgt D E Brown, (Navigator)
 RAAF 26853 Flt Sgt H Giloren (Bomb Aimer)
 RAAF 427795 Flt Sgt R C Broad, (Wireless Operator Air Gunner)
 RAF Sgt F E McLellan, (Flight Engineer)
 RAAF 439480 Flt Sgt J S MacPherson, Mid Upper Gunner)
 RAAF 437918 Flt Sgt T P Whiteley, (Rear Gunner)

Post war it was established that the aircraft crashed at 2100 hours at Nesseburg (Aussendeich), north west of Papenburg. FO Tointon, Flt Sgt Broad and Flt Sgt MacPherson were killed and the other four crew members were either POW's or evaded capture. Those killed are buried at Sage War Cemetery which is located 13 miles south of Oldenburg, Germany.

In a later report Flt Sgt Brown (POW) stated “ A night fighter attacked the A/c setting it on fire. The Captain asked the WOP to inspect the fire and after he reported the Captain ordered bale out. The I/C was very faint and I did not hear everything that was said or whether order acknowledged. HT 19,000ft. A/c under control but burning fiercely. A/c crashed north of Aschendorf and about 2 minutes flying time from turning point on run EMS. Felt that Captain was standing behind me when I baled out. Saw no chutes. Later met B/A and R/G. Germans said the Captain was dead. Captured 7/10. Released by Russians 20/4/45.”

Flt Sgt Whiteley (POW) stated “Attacked by ME410 after bombing Bremen. Hit by his first and only burst. On fire from Rear to Mid Upper. I/C failed. Got short burst in on fighter. Impossible to put fire out. Heat drove me out of Rear turret . I baled out at 18000ft. Met Nav and B/A in camp. Heard the Engineer had evaded capture and was in hiding in Holland. Germans said the Mid Upper was killed.”

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 23 October 1944.

Source:

AWM 64 1/342 (3) 1/343 AWM 237 (63) AWM 54 779/3/129 Part 19.

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	PD 620
Radio call sign:	JO -
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster PD620 took off from RAF Waddington at 1422 hours on 23 October 1944 to carry out a daytime mission on enemy gun positions at Flushing, Holland. Bomb load 14 x 1000lb bombs. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it did not return to base. Twenty aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and two of these including PD620 failed to return.

Crew:

RAAF 418093 FO Dack, T J DFC Captain (Pilot)
RAAF 423205 WO J F Maple, (Navigator)
RAAF 418907 Flt Sgt J McWilliam, (Bomb Aimer)
RAF Flt Sgt A Easton, (Wireless Operator Air Gunner)
RAF Sgt H E Lee (Flight Engineer)
RAAF 432371 Flt Sgt R Coward, (Air Gunner)
RAF PO Kirby, C F (Air Gunner)

FO Dack, Flt Sgt McWilliam and Sgt Lee became POW's and the other four members of the crew were killed. All those killed are listed as missing and their names are commemorated on the Memorial to the Missing, Runnymede, Surrey, UK.

In a later report FO Dack stated " The aircraft was hit by incendiary flak at 4000ft and was immediately set on fire and filled the aircraft with thick brown smoke. I ordered bale out. I could not tell whether the aircraft was still in condition to control as it was impossible to see the instruments. Received no answer from any of the crew. Picked up unconscious in the sea off Flushing. Met B/A and Engineer next day. Released by Russians on 22/4/45."

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 23 October 1944.

Source:

AWM 64 1/342(3) 1/343 AWM 54 779/3/129 Part 26.

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	NF 977
Radio call sign:	JO -
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster NF977 took off from RAF Waddington at 1421 hours on 23 October 1944 on a day mission to bomb enemy gun positions at Flushing, Holland. Bomb load 14 x 1000lb bombs. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it did not return to base. Twenty aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and two of these including NF977 failed to return.

Crew:

RAAF 426416 FO Borsht, C Captain (Pilot)
RAAF 428820 Flt Sgt B O'Connell, (Navigator)
RAF Flt Sgt T D Laing, (Bomb Aimer)
RAAF 428029 Flt Sgt M R Staunton-Smith (Wireless Operator Air Gunner)
RAF PO Leigh, E (Flight Engineer)
RAAF 432828 Flt Sgt T P Lonergan, (Mid Upper Gunner)
RAAF 434622 Flt Sgt R G Cooper, (Rear Gunner)

Post war it was established that the aircraft crashed in the target area. PO Leigh (RAF) was killed and he is buried in the War Cemetery at Bergen-op-Zoom, which is a town in the Dutch province of Noord-Brabant and about 40kms NNW of Antwerp, Belgium. Flt Sgt O'Connell evaded capture and the other five crew members became POW's.

In a 1945 statement FO Borsht reported "The aircraft was hit by light flak at 4000 feet on the run into target with bomb doors open. The Engineer was badly wounded in the stomach and I called the Nav to assist him. Fire was spreading from the bomb bay into the A/c interior. Gave orders to fix chutes. With loss of two engines due to fire unable to maintain height with full bomb load which B/A unable to jettison. Gave abandon order. All crew baled out except Engineer. Left seat and helped engineer to forward hatch and pushed him out. A/c was blazing and close to stall. I baled out at 1000 ft. A/c crashed in sea near target. Landed on narrow strip of land between gun emplacements. Hid chute in bushes and moved away. After raid captured near Flushing by German soldiers. Met up with R/G, Mid Upper, WOP and B/A shortly after capture. Nav successfully evaded capture and returned to UK. Liberated by Russians on 22/4/45."

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 29 October 1944.

Source:

AWM 64 1/342 (3) 1/343 AWM 237 (63 (64)

NAA : A705, 166/24/574

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	ND 332
Radio call sign:	JO – S
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

ND332 took off from RAF Waddington at 2217 hours on the night 28/29 October 1944 to bomb U-boat pens at Bergen, Norway. Bomb load 12 x 1000lb bombs. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it did not return to base. Fifteen aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and one of these ND332 failed to return.

Crew:

RAAF 425475 FO Ley, A T captain (Pilot)

RAAF 423622 WO J J Boyle, (Navigator)

RAAF 428720 Flt Sgt F C Langdon, (Bomb Aimer)

RAAF 422198 Flt Sgt C J Kenny, (Wireless Operator Air Gunner)

RAF Sgt E Booth, (Flight Engineer)

RAF Sgt J McAinsh, (Air Gunner)

RAF Sgt J McIntyre, (Air Gunner)

Following post war enquiries it was believed that the aircraft crashed in the sea not far from the aiming point. All the crew were killed. Sgt McIntyre is buried in the Bergen (Mollendal) Church Cemetery, Norway. The other six crew members are listed as missing and their names are commemorated on the Memorial to the Missing, Runnymede, Surrey, UK.

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 2 November 1944.

Source:

AWM 64 1/342 (4) 1/343 AWM 237 (63) (64) AWM 54 779/3/129 Parts 28,29,25.

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	PD 338
Radio call sign:	JO – C
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster PD338 took off from RAF Waddington at 1641 hours on the night of 2/3rd November 1944 to bomb Dusseldorf, Germany. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it did not return to base. Fifteen aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and of these PD338 failed to return.

Crew:

RAAF 428370 FO Smith, D G Captain (Pilot)
 RAAF 432379 FO Sweeney, J R (Navigator)
 RAAF 424825 Flt Sgt W D Scott, (Bomb Aimer)
 RAAF 418355 Flt Sgt D W Davidson, (Wireless Operator Air Gunner)
 RAF Sgt A F Hale, (Flight Engineer)
 RAAF 437544 Flt Sgt K A G Reed, (Mid Upper Gunner)
 RAAF 430853 Flt Sgt B L Collins, (Rear Gunner)

Two of the crew Flt Sgt Davidson and Flt Sgt Reed were killed and they are buried in the Rheinberg War Cemetery, Germany. Rheinberg is located 24kms north of Krefeld and 13kms south west of Wesel. The remaining five crew members became POW's.

In 1945 FO Smith reported "The aircraft was hit by cannon shells in the stbd inner and stbd petrol tanks, and immediately burst into flames. Engine feathered and emergency 'jump jump' order given. To my knowledge no one was injured. The B/A, Engineer and Nav baled out before me. I assumed they were all out and started to leave as the stbd wing fell off. Ht 17/18,000 feet. A/c completely out of control and burning. It crashed approx 15 miles SW of Dusseldorf. Walked from Dusseldorf to Aachen in 6 days and captured in house by German patrol. Released by British Army, Lubeck on 2/5/45.' F/O Sweeney reported "A night fighter set fire to both stbd engine and wing. Captain warned crew and ordered Engineer to assist feathering then 'jump jump order given. The B/A and Engineer went through the hatch ahead of me. A/c was out of control and on fire. Ht 18,000ft. It crashed some 15 miles SW of Dusseldorf. Saw B/A and Eng. and met Captain in camp. Captured on hitting the ground. Released on 2 May 1945." Flt Sgt Scott reported "Hit in Stdb wing by night fighter. Jump,Jump ordered. No one injured prior to order. Was first out ht 19,000ft. Landed in village and captured. Liberated by Russians. With the exception of the WOP and Mid Upper, all others back in UK.

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 4 November 1944.

Source:

AWM 64 1/342 (4) 1/343 AWM 237 (63) (64) NAA : A705, 166/35/382.

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	NE 133
Radio call sign:	JO – X
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster NE133 took off from RAF Waddington at 1743 hours on the night of 4/5th November 1944 to bomb the Dortmund-Ems Canal at Ladbergen. Bomb load 14 x 1000lb. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it did not return to base. Twelve aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and only one of these NE133 failed to return.

Crew:

RAAF 424799 FO Reilly K W Captain (Pilot)
RAAF 423797 WO A R MacKenzie, (Navigator)
RAAF 423536 FO Howard, B C (Bomb Aimer)
RAAF 432181 Flt Sgt R N Hall, (Wireless Operator Air Gunner)
RAF Sgt R W Jones, (Flight Engineer)
RAAF 430750 Flt Sgt A D Fryer (Air Gunner)
RAAF 442415 Flt Sgt R H Battye, (Air Gunner)

It was later established that the aircraft crashed at approx 1.5 miles north east of Recke. Recke is 16 miles north west of Osnabruck, Germany.

All the crew were killed and they are buried in the Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Cleves, Germany. Cleves is located 40 miles north west of Duisberg, Germany.

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Crash : 6 November 1944.

Source:

AWM 64 1/342 (4) 1/343 W R Chorley : RAF Bomber Command Losses of the Second World War, Page 480, Volume 1944.

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	NG 256
Radio call sign:	JO -
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster NG256 took off from RAF Waddington at 1646 hours on 6 November 1944 to bomb the Weser-Ems Canal at Gravenhorst. Bomb load 14 x 1000lb. The aircraft completed the mission but crashed at 2141 hours while trying to land at Seething after clipping trees in poor weather. Seething is some 9 miles SE of Norwich, UK. There were no fatalities and no one was badly hurt.

The ORB records "The target was not attacked Ordered by Controller to return to base. Full load brought back. Landed at Seething, Norfolk. Very good treatment received at Seething and every thing possible done for our comfort."

Crew:

RAAF 415192 Sqn Ldr Sullivan, D J Captain (Pilot)
RAF Flt Sgt S Harwood, (Navigator)
RAAF 418385 PO Gifford, C J (Bomb Aimer)
RAAF 418321 Flt Sgt C I Wright, (Wireless Operator Air)
RAF FO Melliush, A H (Flight Engineer)
RAAF 404469 PO McDonald, J K (Air Gunner)
RAAF 425330 PO Mason, S W (Air Gunner)
 Major Greenhough, (PAX)

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 6 November 1944.

Source:

AWM 64 1/342 (4) 1/343) AWM 237 (63) (64) NAA : A705, 166/6/781.

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	PD 311
Radio call sign:	JO – O
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster PD311 took off from RAF Waddington at 1651 hours on the night of 6/7th November 1944 to bomb the Weser-Ems Canal at Gravenhorst. Bomb load 14 x 1000lb. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it did not return to base. Sixteen aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and three of these including PD311 failed to return.

Crew:

RAAF 422394 FO Bowell, P J Captain (Pilot)
RAAF 418873 WO E A Petersen, (Navigator)
RAAF 427348 WO W Plumb, (Bomb Aimer)
RAAF 421398 WO J R Williams, (Wireless Operator Air Gunne)
RAF Sgt W Forster (Flight Engineer)
RAAF 432749 Flt Sgt W H J Butcher (Air Gunner)
RAAF 433096 Flt Sgt I D Dutfield, (Air Gunner)

It was later established that the aircraft was shot down on the outward journey by a night fighter and crashed at approx 2000 hours on 6/11 at Havixbeck, 10 miles north west of Munster, Germany. The aircraft exploded on impact still carrying a full load of bombs. All the crew were killed, and they are buried in the Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Cleves. Cleves is located 40 miles north west of Duisberg, Germany.

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 6 November 1944.

Source:

AWM 64 1/342 (4) 1/343 AWM 237 (64) NAA : A705, 166/4/167.
Commonwealth War Graves records.

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	NG 191
Radio call sign:	JO – A
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster NG191 took off from RAF Waddington at 1650 hours on the night of 6/7th November 1944 to bomb the Weser-Ems Canal at Gravenhorst. Bomb load 14 x 1000lb. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it did not return to base. Sixteen aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and three of these including NG191 failed to return.

Crew:

RAAF 419452 FO Austin, J Captain (Pilot)
RAF FO Rodgers, S (navigator)
RAF Flt Sgt E R L M Ameye (Bomb Aimer)
RAAF 424397 FO Ellens, H V (Wireless Operator Air Gunner)
RAF Flt Sgt K Tonks, (Flight Engineer)
RAF Sgt D A Holmes, (Air Gunner)
RAF Sgt J Baggaley, (Air Gunner)

It was later reported that a POW in Germany saw a British plane shot down about 1930 hours by a German plane on 6/11. The plane crashed with a load of bombs at the village of Veleppe in the district of Teckleburg, Germany, and 10kms west of Osnabruck. and all the crew were killed. Six of the crew with the exception of Flt Sgt Ameye are buried in Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Cleves, Germany.

Flt Sgt Ameye was formerly buried at Reichswald Forest, but his name is entered on the Repatriation Register and his remains were repatriated to his home country Belgium. Casualties named within the Repatriation Register are all foreign nationals serving as a member of Commonwealth Forces. Their remains were removed to their home countries and are presently commemorated solely by the Register entry.

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 6 November 1944.

Source:

AWM 64 1/342 (4) 1/343 W R Chorley : RAF Bomber Command Losses of the Second World War : Page 480, Volume 1944.

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	NF 990
Radio call sign:	JO – Q
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster NF990 took off from RAF Waddington at 1645 hours on the night of 6/7th November 1944 to bomb the Weser-Ems Canal at Gravenhorst. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it did not return to base. Sixteen aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and three of these including NF990 failed to return.

Crew:

RAAF 424270 FO Lynch, C J Captain (Pilot)
RAF Sgt C Sunderland, (Navigator)
RAF Flt Sgt R C Rogers, (Bomb Aimer)
RAAF 432327 Flt Sgt E A Woolmer, (Wireless Operator Air)
RAF Sgt J A Haywood, (Flight Engineer)
RAF Sgt S Harding, (Air Gunner)
RAF Sgt L Evans, (Air Gunner)

It was later established that Sgt Sunderland was killed in the crash and that Sgt S Harding was injured only to die later on 25/11/1944. Sgt Sunderland is buried in the Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Cleves, which is 40 miles NW of Duisberg, Germany. Available sources do not establish the burial place of Sgt Harding. The other five members of the crew became POW's.

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 4 December 1944.

Source: AWM 64 1/342 (4) 1/343 AWM 237 (63) (64)

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	PB 792
Radio call sign:	JO – Q
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster PB792 took off from RAF Waddington at 1627 hours on the night of 4/5th December 1944 to bomb Heilbronn, Germany. Bomb load 1 x 4000lb, 6 x 1000lb and 6 x 500lb. Twenty one aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and of these PB792 failed to return.

Crew:

RAAF 434058 FO Waring, J K Captain (Pilot)
 RAAF 428396 Flt Sgt J L Brosnan, (Navigator)
 RAAF 428642 Flt Sgt G C Groves, (Bomb Aimer)
 RAAF 430207 Flt Sgt R M Howell, (Wireless Operator Air)
 RAF Sgt J Smith, (Flight Engineer)
 RAAF 431591 Flt Sgt R P Templeton, (Mid Upper Gunner)
 RAAF 431610 Flt Sgt L H J Cheesman, (Air Gunner)

It was later established that the aircraft when homebound flew into the side of a hill near Le Hohwald (Bas Rhin) about 20kms NW of Selestat. Six of the crew were killed and Flt Sgt Cheesman survived the crash. Those killed are buried in the Choloy War Cemetery. Choloy is a village 28kms west of Nancy and 5kms west of Toul, a town on the N4 road from Paris to Nancy, France.

The following compiled from information provided by Flt Sgt Cheesman is recorded in the Sqn ORB “ Sortie completed Hear B/A direct Captain on to markers. Attack successful. Having bombed we set course for “D” 48.25N 08.15E, descending in steps as briefed, and when we arrived at approx 48.30N 07.45E the Nav told Captain we were below “safety height”, and the Captain replied that he wanted to get out of the cloud. “I, Sgt Cheesman, declare that this was the last speech heard over the intercom” Also I have no idea of the height of A/c, and that immediately after this remark the A/c hit the hillside. The A/c crashed at 48.27N 07 22E.approx. I was thrown out of my turret and landed up under the mid upper turret. I eventually regained consciousness, and after calling out the names of the other members for 15 minutes, decided to sit in the A/c until daylight out of the inclement weather. Daylight arrived with a heavy fall of snow and I found my missing boot which with great difficulty I put on with my right arm and left hand being broken, and jumped out of the A/c. The A/c had broken in half behind the wings. The hillside was covered with trees 20/30ft high. The Mid Upper was dead in his turret and the others were 15/20 yards from the A/c all dead. I set course SW with aid of compass, walking all day on 5th, spent that night in an uninhabited tower, walked again on the 6th and that afternoon contacted a vacant house. Sat on the verandah for two hours and eventually a man came and he directed me Hohwald with 6 F.F.I.men who took me to St Blaise. The next day an ambulance took me to American hospital at Mulheim. The Americans arranged for the burial of the six crew at Hochfedden. Arrived in UK 20/1/45.”

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 7 December 1944.

Source:

AWM 64 1/342 (4) 1/343 AWM 237 (63) (64) NAA : A705, 166/45/88.

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	PB 290
Radio call sign:	JO – K
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster PB290 took off from RAF Waddington at 1712 hours on the night of 6/7th December 1944 to bomb the marshalling yards at Giessen, Germany. Bomb load 12 x 1000lb. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it did not return to base. Nineteen aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and one of these PB290 failed to return.

Crew:

RAAF 429369 FO Young, R R captain (Pilot)
RAAF 433194 FO Bond, A C (Navigator)
RAAF 419821 FO Mac Meikan, H S (Bomb Aimer)
RAAF 434484 FO Thomas, G (Wireless Operator Air)
RAF Sgt P J B Gwynne, (Flight Engineer)
RAAF 431448 Flt Sgt R T Hawthorn, (Air Gunner)
RAAF 433549 Flt Sgt J L Henderson, (Air Gunner)

It was later established that all the crew were killed. FO Young, FO Meikan and Sgt Gwynne are buried in the Hanover War Cemetery, Germany. The other four members of the crew are recorded as missing and their names are commemorated on the Memorial to the Missing, Runnymede, Surrey, UK.

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 18 December 1944.

Source:

AWM 64 1 342 (4) 1/343 AWM 237 (64) NAA : A705, 166/5/856.

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	LL 847
Radio call sign:	JO – D
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster LL847 took off from RAF Waddington at 1631 hours on the night of 17/18th December 1944 to bomb Munich, Germany. Bomb load 1 x 4000lb, 9 x 150 x 4lb incendiaries. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it did not return to base. Nineteen aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and one of these LL847 failed to return.

Crew:

RAAF 424117 FO Bennett, K E H Captain (Pilot)
RAAF 418559 FO Ogilvie, J H (2nd Pilot)
RAF Flt Sgt S Easton, (Navigator)
RAF PO Watson, T N (Bomb Aimer)
RAAF 28766 PO Byrnes, R W (Wireless Operator Air Gunner)
RAF Sgt R G Nuttall, (Flight Engineer)
RAF Sgt G A C Frizzell, (Air Gunner)
RAF Sgt H Fowler (Air Gunner)

Post war it was established that the aircraft crashed at Le Gros Theil (Eure) and that all the crew were killed. They are buried in the Le Gros Theil Communal Cemetery. Le Gros Theil is a village and commune about 13kms SW of Elbeuf, a small town 18kms SSW of Rouen. Locality Eure, France.

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 22 December 1944.

Source:

AWM 64 1/342 (4) 1/343 AWM (63) (64)

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	PB 688
Radio call sign:	JO -
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster PB688 took off from RAF Waddington at 1632 hours on the night of 21/22nd December 1944 to bomb a synthetic oil plant at Politz, Germany. Bomb load 1 x 4000lb, 6 x 1000lb. The aircraft completed the mission but crashed at approx 0246 hours on 22/12 about 2 miles north east of the base, and all the crew were killed except the Mid Upper Gunner who received multiple bruises and abrasions. The weather conditions at the time were extremely poor. Seventeen aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid.

Crew:

RAAF 428694 FO Halsted, R H Captain (Pilot)
RAAF 430375 FO Greenwood, C J (Navigator)
RAAF 432435 Flt Sgt Power, J R (Bomb Aimer)
RAAF 429846 Flt Sgt G J Cheyne, (Wireless Operator Air Gunner)
RAF Sgt B E Pettigrew, (Flight Engineer)
RAAF 430859 Flt Sgt T A Nation, (Mid Upper Gunner)
RAAF 435780 Flt Sgt L E J Miller, (Rear Gunner)

The six members of the crew who were killed are buried in the RAF Cemetery, Cambridge, UK.

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 5 January 1945.

Source:

AWM 64 1/342 (4) 1/343 AWM 237 (63) (64)

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	PB 695
Radio call sign:	JO – R
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster PB695 took off from RAF Waddington at 0041 hours on the night of 4/5th January 1945 to destroy an enemy garrison at Royan, France. Bomb load 1 x 4000lb, 16 x 500lb. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it did not return to base. Sixteen aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and one of these PB695 failed to return.

Crew:

RAAF 418292 FO Milne, J Captain (Pilot)
RAAF 437400 Flt Sgt S A Brown, (Navigator)
RAAF 425630 Flt Sgt C L Fincham, (Bomb Aimer)
RAAF 428367 WO W A Simpson, (Wireless Operator Air)
RAF Sgt E A Freeman, (Flight Engineer)
RAAF 424635 Flt Sgt J F Prince (Mid Upper Gunner)
RAAF 435468 Flt Sgt C F Walters, (Rear Gunner)

It was later established that the aircraft came down in the target area and all the crew were killed. Flt Sgt Brown, WO Simpson and Flt Sgt Walters are listed as missing and their names are commemorated on the Memorial to the Missing, Runnymede, Surrey, UK. The other four members of the crew are buried in the Roman Catholic Cemetery at Royan, which is a seaside resort at the mouth of the Grande about 118kms from Bordeaux, Locality Charente-Maritime, France.

Approx 10,000 German troops occupied Royan north of Bordeaux since the re-occupation of France, harassing our own troops and that of the surrounding French population. Before the raid the French population were evacuated and care had to be taken to make the bombing accurate for French troops were surrounding the town a fairly short distance away. The bombing was concentrated and the attack successful. Subsequent PRU cover shows that this fortress town had been literally destroyed and fires were still burning 30 hours after the attack.

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Crash: 14 January 1945.

Source:

AWM 64 1/342 (4) 1/342 AWM 54 779/3/129 Parts 12, 20, 27.

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	NG 193
Radio call sign:	JO – D
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster NG193 took off from RAF Waddington at 1631 hours on the night of 14/15th January 1945 to bomb a synthetic oil plant at Merseburg on Leuna. Bomb load 1 x 4000lb, 13 x 500lb. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it did not return to base. Fourteen aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and one of these NG193 failed to return.

Crew:

RAAF 408485 FO Leonard, R A Captain (Pilot)
 RAAF 437029 Flt Sgt K M Vaughan, (Navigator)
 RAAF 419008 FO Dickson, D L (Bomb Aimer)
 RAAF 427590 Flt Sgt V G Dingey, (Wireless Operator Air)
 RAF Sgt P C Kimber, (Flight Engineer)
 RAAF 440122 Flt Sgt G F Chomley, (Mid Upper Gunner)
 RAAF 427875 Flt Sgt E E Evans, (Rear Gunner)

All the crew became POW's and there were no fatalities.

In a 1945 report FO Leonard stated "Flak damaged the stbd inner and outer and the port inner. Ordered put on chutes when hit and all crew acknowledged. Abandon order at about 8000ft. B/A hit by flak in both legs but able to bale out. All were out when I baled out about 6/700 feet. A/c in control when I left and not on fire but losing height rapidly. A/c crashed near Weimar. Chute caught in tall tree near burning A/c and discovered by enemy almost immediately. All POW's. Liberated by American Army 29/4/45."

FO Dickson reported " The A/c was hit by heavy flak. Three engines out of action. A/c had medium control but losing height rapidly. No fire Abandon order acknowledged by all Was injured by flak, had broken leg, but able to bale out at 6000ft. After I went Pilot, Nav, Eng. Mid Upper still on A/c but all baled out. A/c crashed 4 miles from Weimar Nav found me in a wood and went to get help in village. When 3 of us in car on way to hospital we were picked up. Captured with me Nav, WOP and Engineer.

Flt Sgt Dingey reported "Approached target on supporter section and three engines hit by flak. B/A hit in legs and I went up to administer morphine, but Skipper gave bale out order. Heard R/G acknowledge and then me. I baled out first from front. A/c seemed to be diving when I left. Skipper did a good job in getting all crew out safely. A/c crashed about 50 yards from Skipper a few miles from target area. Met all crew next morning."

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 1 February 1945.

Source:

AWM 64 1/342 (4) 1/343 AWM 237 (64) AWM 54 779/3/129 Parts 20, 28.

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	NG 275
Radio call sign:	JO -
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster NG275 took off from RAF Waddington at 1629 hours on the night of 1st/2nd February 1945 to bomb the town and marshalling yards at Siegen, Germany, an important junction for west and east rail traffic. Bomb load 1 x 4000lb, 14 x 150 x 4lb incendiaries. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it did not return to base. Nineteen aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and one of these NG275 failed to return.

Crew:

RAAF 418201 FO Smith, A H Captain (Pilot)
RAAF 424578 PO Bailey, R O (Navigator)
RAAF 423567 PO Donaghue, B A (Bomb Aimer)
RAAF 428463 Flt Sgt R T Simonson, Wireless Operator Air)
RAF Sgt F Moss, (Flight Engineer)
RAAF 410963 PO Earl, E J (Air Gunner)
RAAF 431024 Flt Sgt E R Cameron, (Air Gunner)

Six members of the crew were POW's, and PO Bailey was killed. He is buried in the Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Cleves, which is 40 miles north west of Duisberg, Germany.

In a later report FO Smith stated "The A/c was hit by flak in the port inner and port wing tip knocked off Direct hit in Nav compartment and Nav killed. Wing on fire. Gave Jump, Jump order. All out before me except Nav from respective hatches. I out at approx 5000ft. Controls probably damaged and A/c started to spin when I left. A/c crashed near Siegen. Hid in loft. Captured next morning coming down ladder. Met B/A, Mid Upper, WOP and Eng. in local jail. Met Rear gunner at Nurnberg. Released by Americans 29/4/45."

Flt Sgt Simonson reported " Bursts of flak through port wing, inner and fuselage. Jump jump order. Nav killed by burst in nav compartment. I baled out at 8000ft. A/c more or less under control but on fire in port wing and under fuselage. Hit tail plane after jumping out. Injured face and hand. Captured 2/2/45. Released by Americans."

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 2 February 1945.

Source:

AWM 64 1/342 (4) 1/343 AWM 237 (63) (64) AWM 54 779/3/129 Part 29.

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	ME 290
Radio call sign:	JO – B
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster ME290 took off from RAF Waddington at 2007 hours on the night of 2/3rd February 1945 to bomb Karlsruhe, Germany, a communication centre. Bomb load 1 x 4000lb, 145 x 150 x 4lb incendiaries. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it did not return to base. Seventeen aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and one of these ME290 failed to return.

Crew:

RAAF 429124 FO Oliver, R K Captain (Pilot)
RAAF 433756 Flt Sgt J Willcocks, (Navigator)
RAAF 425806 WO J Johnson, (Bomb Aimer)
RAAF 434523 Flt Sgt W A Taylor, (Wireless Operator Air)
RAF Sgt G W Gordon, (Flight Engineer)
RAAF 437622 Flt Sgt R J Lyons, (Mid Upper Gunner)
RAAF 435012 Flt Sgt A B Barrett, (Rear Gunner)

It was later established that the aircraft crashed near Unteroewishiem, approx 14 miles north east of Karlsruhe. Five of the crew were killed and two Flt Sgt Willcocks and Sgt Gordon were POW's. Those killed are buried in the Durnbach War Cemetery. Durnbach is a village 16kms east of Bad Tolz, a town 48kms south of Munich, Germany.

In 1945 Flt Sgt Willcocks reported " We were attacked by an SE fighter over the target setting the port inner and wing on fire. Captain ordered bale out and acknowledged by B/A, Eng, Nav and WOP. First out Engineer then me. A/c under control but well on fire. To best of my knowledge all the others were still in the aircraft. Ht 14,000ft. A/c crashed in woods south east of Karlsruhe. Captured next day by German civilian. Recd information Rear Gunner killed and Engineer POW. Released by Americans 29/4/45."

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 13 February 1945.

Source:

AWM 64 1/342 (4) 1/343 AWM 237 (63) (64) AWM 54 779/3/129 Part 30.

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	NG 234
Radio call sign:	JO – E
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster NG234 took off from RAF Waddington at 1733 hours on the night of 13/14th February 1945 to Bomb Dresden, Germany. Bomb load 1 x 4000lb, 1500 x 4lb incendiaries. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it did not return to base. Fifteen aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and one of these NG234 failed to return. The mission was participating in Operation Thunderclap in support of the Russian Army.

Crew:

RAAF 429281 FO Fernley-Stott, N C Captain (Pilot)
RAAF 424791 PO McManus, T B (Navigator)
RAAF 432348 Flt Sgt B T T Wilson, (Bomb Aimer)
RAAF 429178 Flt Sgt M J Coleman, (Wireless Operator Air)
RAF Sgt R Marriott, (Flight Engineer)
RAF Flt Sgt J Johnson, (Mid Upper Gunner)
RAAF 437705 Flt Sgt A M White, (Rear Gunner)

Six of the crew were killed and Flt Sgt White became a POW. Five of those killed are buried in the 1939-1945 War Cemetery Berlin. Flt Sgt Johnson (RAF) is listed as missing and his name is commemorated on the Memorial to the Missing, Runnymede, Surrey, UK.

In a later report Flt Sgt White stated “ A/c was hit by flak and exploded immediately and on fire. No orders given. Injured on face and back with slight cuts and burns. Saw no others bale out. All in A/c as far as I know. I was thrown out Ht 18,000ft. .Pulled rip-cord and came down in Dresden.. Didn’t see crash. Liberated by Americans 29/4/45.”

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 14 February 1945.

Source:

AWM 64 1/342 (4) 1/343 AWM 237 (63) AWM 54 779/3/129 Part 25.

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	NN 721
Radio call sign:	JO – T
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster NN721 took off from RAF Waddington at 1707 hours on the night of 14/15th February 1945 to bomb a synthetic oil plant at Rositz, Germany. Bomb load 1 x 4000lb, 14 x 500lb. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it did not return to base. Sixteen aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid, and one of these NN721 failed to return.

Crew:

RAF Flt Lt Padgham, J G Captain (Pilot)
RAAF 424527 Flt Sgt D J Lewis, (Navigator)
RAAF 416863 WO A E W Knight, (Bomb Aimer)
RAAF 432652 Flt Sgt D C Hannaford, (Wireless Operator Air Gunner)
RAF Sgt R Lister (Flight Engineer)
RAF Flt Sgt W J Bilton, (Air Gunner)
RAF Flt Sgt R L Gard, (Air Gunner)

Five of the crew were POW's and WO Knight and Sgt Lister were killed. Those killed are buried in the 1939-1945 War Cemetery, Berlin.

Flt Sgt Lewis later reported “ A/c hit by flak first in the centre under the mid upper turret approx then between the port engines. There were no injuries to best of my knowledge. The A/c was in a spin and aflame from WOP position to rear turret. Also port wing completely aflame. Rear and Mid Upper gunners, Engineer and Bomb Aimer baled out up to time I left at 4/5000 feet. Pilot and WOP still in A/c. A/c crashed in a field about 2/3 miles west of target. Captured 4 hours later by German arty officer. Made contact with others but no information re. Knight and Lister. Released by American 3rd Army.”

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 21 February 1945.

Source:

AWM 64 1/342 (4) 1/343 AWM 237 (64) NAA : A705, 166/14/365.

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	PB 804
Radio call sign:	JO – A
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster PB804 took off from RAF Waddington at 1719 hours on the night of 21/22nd February 1945 to bomb the Mittelland Canal at Gravenhorst, Germany. Bomb load 14 x 1000lb. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it did not return to base. Ten aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and two of these including PB804 failed to return.

Crew:

RAAF 414219 Wg Cdr Forbes, W A DSO DFC Captain (Pilot) CO of the Squadron.
RAF FO Costello, J A (Navigator)
RAF Flt Lt Grime, W J DFC (Bomb Aimer)
RAF FO McLeod, W (Wireless Operator Air)
RAF Flt Lt Dean, J H (Flight Engineer)
RAF WO A J Norman, (Air Gunner)
RAF PO Worden, K L (Air Gunner)
Flt Lt Loftus (Air Gunner) (Parent Unit 1 FPU, Iver Heath.)

Wg Cdr Forbes, FO McLeod and WO Norman were killed and they are buried in the Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Cleves, which is about 40 miles north west of Duisberg, Germany. The other five member of the crew were POW's.

Flt Lt Grime later reported "The Captain gave the order to bale out. I went through the front escape hatch followed by the Engineer and Navigator. The Navigator later said that the Captain was still in his seat when he left the plane. Captured 5 days later."

In 1949 the Missing Research and Enquiry Unit reported "The aircraft was hit by ack-ack and crashed in a forest near Mehringen on 21/2/45. Following the impact the aircraft was subjected to a series of explosions . Mehringen is approx 10 miles south of Lingen which is situated in north west Germany."

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 21 February 1945.

Source:

AWM 64 1/342 (4) 1/343 AWM 237(63)(64)

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	LM 648
Radio call sign:	JO – P
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster LM648 took off from RAF Waddington at 1708 hours on the night of 21/22nd February 1945 to bomb the Mittelland Canal at Gravenhorst. Bomb load 14 x 1000lb. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it did not return to base. Ten aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and two of these including LM648 failed to return.

Crew:

RAAF 426237 FO Pedersen, L R Captain (Pilot)
 RAAF 433522 Flt Sgt F E Gould, (Navigator)
 RAAF 421256 W O R K Dixon, (Bomb Aimer)
 RAAF 433169 Flt Sgt E T Sumner, (Wireless Operator Air)
 RAF Sgt T P Freeman, (Flight Engineer)
 RAF Flt Sgt R Heel, (Mid Upper Gunner)
 RAF Sgt L Harkness, (Rear Gunner)

It was later established that the aircraft was hit by flak and crashed near Weert in the Dutch Province of Limburg, Eindhoven (Woensel). Five of the crew were killed. WO Dixon survived and evaded capture, while Sgt Freeman became a POW. Those killed are buried in the Hoensel General Cemetery, at Eindhoven.. Eindhoven is located 31kms SE of Hertogenbosch and 14kms SW of Helmond. The cemetery is in the suburb Woensel in the northern part of the town. Locality Noord-Brabant, Holland.

The following report from WO Dixon is recorded in the Sqn ORB “ Sortie completed. Clear visibility excellent. Northern Red T.I. 9000ft. Marking well placed. Canal seen visually. Results not observed owing to delay bombs being used. About 45mts from the target in vicinity of Weert, A/c hit under Mid Upper by heavy flak (one explosion) causing a fire in the fuselage. Mid Upper reported a fire but I was windowing at the time and did not hear any orders following this report. Think I/C damaged by flak. A/c seemed to go into shallow dive. Two minutes after fire report I heard the Captain say faintly ‘get out’. A/c full of smoke and I removed front escape hatch. A/c then went into a steep dive which made getting out difficult. I forced myself out and believe I was first out. Nearing ground I saw I was heading for a house so pulled on one strap to steer clear which increased my speed and caused heavy landing which jarred my spine. Landed 3mls SW of Weert at 2130 hours. Taken in hand by Dutch civilians and later Army who took me to hospital at Weert where spent one night. Whilst there the Flt Eng was brought in with severe injuries. Army said that the A/c exploded in the air and only two chutes were seen. At the time we were hit we were not engaged by ground defences or searchlights, but there were a few scarecrows bursting”

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Crash : 21 February 1945.

Source:

AWM 64 1/342 (4) 1/343

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	NG 329
Radio call sign:	JO – Z
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster NG329 took off from RAF Waddington at 1706 hours on the night of 21/22nd February 1945 to bomb the Mittelland Canal at Gravenhorst. Bomb load 14 x 1000lb. NG329 was shot down when homeward bound and all the crew successfully baled out and there were no fatalities. Ten aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and two other aircraft failed to return.

Crew:

RAAF 424100 FO Farrow, G H Captain (Pilot)
RAF FO Harris P (Navigator)
RAAF WO E D Bermingham, (Bomb Aimer)
RAF Flt Sgt J B Wiltshire, (Wireless Operator Air)
RAF Sgt S S Bridgman (Flight Engineer)
RAF Sgt F Bone, (Air Gunner)
RAF Sgt F T Clay, (Air Gunner)

The ORB records “ Sortie completed. No cloud below Aircraft. Visibility good. Red T/T’s as ordered by Controller. 11,000ft. 2036 hours. No results could be reported owing to delay fusing of bombs. When homebound and enemy aircraft attacked at 2111 hours position 51.32N 05.54E at 7,800ft with cannon from starboard quarter. A/c hit in starboard wing and caught fire. Fire could not be extinguished. Aircraft abandoned by all successfully. Flt Engineer injured in leg and in hospital at Helmond.”

The crew landed in Allied held territory and were taken to Eindhoven. Three days later they were back with the Squadron, except the Engineer who was in hospital and who returned to the Squadron in May 1945.

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 3 March 1945.

Source:

AWM 64 !/342 (4) 1/343 AWM 237 (63) (64) NAA : A705, 166/18/649

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	NG 469
Radio call sign:	JO – D
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster NG469 took off from RAF Waddington at 1832 hours on the night of 3/4th March 1945 to bomb the Dortmund-Ems Canal. Bomb load 14 x 1000lb. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it did not return to base. Fifteen aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and one of these NG469 failed to return.

Crew:

RAAF 419044 Flt Lt Howells, F J DFC Captain (Pilot)
RAF Flt Sgt P T Barrow, (Navigator)
RAAF 436456 Flt Sgt E K Foreman, (Bomb Aimer)
RAAF 432217 Flt Sgt O B R Elliott, (Wireless Operator Air)
RAF Sgt D Bates (Flight Engineer)
RAF Sgt C R Billard, (Air Gunner)
RAF Sgt J M H Millar, (Air Gunner)

It was later established that five of the crew were killed, and that two Flt Sgt Foreman and Sgt Millar were POW's. Those killed are buried in the Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Cleves, which is 40 miles north west of Duisberh, Germany.

In a report Sgt Millar stated "Flt Sgt Foreman baled out before me. When I left the Captain, Nav and WOP were still in the A/c. The A/c crashed near the Rhine airfield Dortmund."

A 1949 report by a Missing Research and Enquiry team stated " Investigations and interrogations of local inhabitants established that the A/c crashed at Mesum at 2200 hours on 3/3/45. Mesum is approx 24 miles NW of Munster. The A/c was on fire and crashed near the Schruender farm burning the whole farm down.

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Accident : 11 March 1945.

Source:

AWM 64 1/342 (4) 1/343 AWM 237 (64) Commonwealth War Graves records.
W R Chorley : RAF Bomber Command Losses of the Second World War, Page 124,
Volume 1945.

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	LM 130
Radio call sign:	JO – N
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster LM130 took off from RAF Waddington on 11 March 1945 on a fighter affiliation training exercise. During the exercise the aircraft collided with Hurricane PZ740 of 1690 Flight flown by PO Parlato, S F DFC RNZAF. LM130 crashed into the Ashholt Field at Blankney village, 9 miles north of Sleaford, Lincolnshire and all the crew were killed The Hurricane pilot was also killed.

Crew:

RAAF 419136 PO Orchard, N H Captain (Pilot)
RAF Sgt D A Charles, (Navigator)
RAF Sgt H Rollins (Bomb Aimer)
RAF Sgt W F H Elcome, (Wireless Operator Air Gunner)
RAF Flt Sgt R F Neale, (Flight Engineer)
RAF Sgt B J Patch, (Air Gunner)
RAF Sgt H Shaw, (Air Gunner)

PO Orchard, Flt Sgt Neale, Sgt Elcome, Sgt Patch, and the Hurricane pilot PO Parlato are buried in the RAF Cemetery, Cambridge, UK.

Sgt Charles is buried in the Llanelli Church Cemetery, Carmarthenshire, UK

Sgt Rollins is buried in the Leigh Cemetery, Lancashire, UK.

Sgt Shaw is buried in the Heckmondwike Cemetery, Yorkshire, UK.

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 21 March 1945.

Source:

AWM 64 1/342 (4) 1/343 AWM 237 (64) NAA : A705, 166/5/1024.

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	PB 845
Radio call sign:	JO – C
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster PB845 took off from RAF Waddington at 2349 hours on the night of 20/21st March 1945 to bomb a synthetic oil plant at Bohlen, Germany. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it did not return to base. Sixteen aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and one of these PB845 failed to return.

Crew:

RAAF 436327 FO Bennett, R S Captain (Pilot)
RAF Flt Sgt G L Green (Navigator)
RAF Sgt L B Neaves, (Bomb Aimer)
RAF Sgt S H Walker, (Wireless Operator Air)
RAF Flt Sgt R Gordon, (Flight Engineer)
RAF Sgt G O Little, (Air Gunner)
RAF Sgt A H Dunn (Air Gunner)

In 1949 a report by a Missing Research and Enquiry Team recorded “The aircraft crashed near Trachenau, a village in the target area.”

All the crew were killed and they are buried in the 1939-1945 War Cemetery, Berlin.

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 9 April 1945.

Source:

AWM 64 1/342 (4) 1/343 AWM 237 (63) (64) Commonwealth War Graves records.

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	NX 584
Radio call sign:	JO –
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster NX584 took off from RAF Waddington at 1812 hours on the night of 8/9th April 1945 to bomb an oil refinery at Lutzkendorf, Germany. Bomb load 1 x 4000lb, 14 x 500lb. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it did not return to base. Eleven aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and two of these including NX584 failed to return.

Crew:

RAAF 429910 FO Baulderstone, T H Captain (Pilot)

RAAF 434527 Flt Sgt J W Hill, (Navigator)

RCAF FO Adrain, R A (Bomb Aimer)

RCAF WO J Bomby, (Wireless Operator Air)

RAF Sgt W S Philip, (Flight Engineer)

RAF Sgt B Blythe, (Air Gunner)

RAF Sgt D Broadhead, (Air Gunner)

It was later established that six of the crew were killed and that Sgt Broadhead survived the crash and evaded capture. Those killed are listed as missing and their names are commemorated on the Memorial to the Missing, Runnymede, Surrey, UK.

The following is a report by Sgt Broadhead on his return to UK “ 463/V was on the run in the Lutzkendorf area on the night 8/9 April, when prior to our bombing the A/c hit by H/F between stbd main plane and tail plane. Immediately after Pilot ordered put on chutes. A/c rolled over to port, but Pilot levelled out . By this time the Red TI's had gone down, and heard B/A giving instructions to bring A/c onto bombing run. Also heard ‘Bombs gone’. Just after leaving target the Eng said ‘A fire in the stbd wing and feather the stbd inner’ and also ‘feather the other one’, presumably the stbd outer as A/c hit on stbd side. Heard Pilot say he did not think it would be of a benefit to feather the engines. Nav heard to complain of smoke in the cabin. Approx 7 minutes after bombing the Pilot asked Nav ‘how far A/c was from front lines’, and reply was 30 miles. The Pilot replied ‘OK emergency jump, jump.’ I acknowledged and made my descent. Landed in tree and suspended 17 feet from ground. Released harness and when dropping grazed face. No exact idea where I was. Used compass walking cross country by day, and main roads at night. Found myself west of Erfurt approx 47 hours after baling out. There I contacted US troops who looked after me well before starting me on my way back to London”

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Crash: 9 April 1945.

Source:

AWM 64 1/342(4) 1/343

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	ME 478
Radio call sign:	JO – M
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster ME478 took off from RAF Waddington at 1813 hours on the night of 8/9th April 1945 to bomb Lutzkendorf. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it did not return to base. Eleven aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and two of these including ME478 failed to return.

Crew:

RAAF 430584 FO Ferris, N S Captain (Pilot)
 RAAF 417958 FO Richardson, S D (Navigator)
 RAAF 436940 Flt Sgt B R Cliff, (Bomb Aimer)
 RAAF 437330 WO M R Bitmead, (Wireless Operator Air)
 RAF Flt Sgt H Bigwood, (Flight Engineer)
 RAAF 439720 Flt Sgt G P Brown, (Air Gunner)
 RAAF 120978 Ft Sgt J Hayes, (Air Gunner)

The following report in the ORB was compiled from information gleaned from the Pilot, Bomb Aimer and Engineer who had rejoined their unit but other members had not returned but it was known they were safe. These three baled out of the A/c approx 15 miles south of Kassel when on the return journey from the target.

“Sortie completed. Vis.good. 11 x 1000lb bombs jettisoned target area at 2235 hours. 16,000ft. Hit by flak. Lost stbd and port inners. On our supporter run in we were hit by heavy predicted flak in both wing roots and between port inner & outer engines. This caused both inners to cut. Feathered stbd inner, and allowed port inner blades to mill to allow generator to charge. A/c sank immediately to 11,000ft, and then under control down to 8,000ft (briefed ht. for return). After being hit crew instructed they might have to bale out, but when A/c under control decided to make for Juvincourt. However at approx 51.00N, 0930E stbd outer cut. This was feathered leaving only port outer serviceable. A/c could not maintain ht.losing 5/700ft per minute. Ordered to abandon at 5,500ft. All crew baled out OK. A/c out of control and turning stbd when pilot left at 3,200ft. FO Ferris on landing walked 9 hours west and at Marburg met US soldiers who took him to 61st Troop Carrier at Poix and then flown to Cottessmore. Flt Sgt Bigwood walked through woods for 6 miles and came up to an autobahn and hailed a jeep at Jesburg, then to Siessen and flown to Le Havre then Bovington. Flt Sgt Cliff walked for 2 miles reaching Emsdorf, where US soldier took him to his unit. Then by plane to Geissen thence to Lyneham. Rest of crew apart from Nav up to 1645 hours on 11/4, are known to be in Allied hands. Nav was seen to bale out OK, but not heard of him thus far.”

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Landing : 26 April 1945

Source:

AWM 1/342 (4) 1/343 W R Chorley : RAF Bomber Command Losses of the Second World War : Page , Volume 1945.

Aircraft Type:	Lancaster
Serial number:	RA 542
Radio call sign:	JO – Z
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

Lancaster RA542 took off from RAF Waddington at 2014 hours on the night of 25/26th April 1945 to bomb an oil storage depot at Tonsberg, Vallo, Southern Norway. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it did not return to base. Fourteen aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and one of these RA542 failed to return.

Crew:

RAF FO Cox, A Captain (Pilot)
RAF FO Wainwright, J A (Navigator)
RAF Flt Sgt K Smurthwaite, (Bomb Aimer)
RAF Flt Sgt F E Parent, (Wireless Operator Air)
RAF Sgt G W Simpson, (Flight Engineer)
RAF Flt Sgt F W J H Logan, (Air Gunner)
RAF Flt Sgt W D Hogg, (Air Gunner)

Shortly before entering the target area when flying at 19,600ft, the aircraft came under fire from a JU88 which in turn may have crashed from the furious exchange of shots. Three members of the crew of RA542 including the pilot were wounded, but despite suffering from frostbite set course for Sweden where an emergency landing was made at Satenas airfield. All the crew were interned and the Bomb Aimer was taken to the Linkoping hospital for treatment.

463 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

Date of Death: 19 November 1945.

Source:

AWM 64 1/342 (4) A705, 166/43/1743.

Aircraft Type:	
Serial number:	
Radio call sign:	
Unit:	463 Sqn RAAF

Summary:

437459 WO C K Waters (RAAF) was admitted to 7 RAAF Hospital Adelaide on 8th August 1945. He was then transferred to 121 AGH on 9th August 1945. He died of Pulmonary Tuberculosis on 19th November 1945 and is buried in the Centennial Park Cemetery Adelaide.

He was a member (Wireless Operator Air Gunner) of 463 Sqn RAAF, and that Sqns ORB records him as a member of FO W P Caldwell's crew on 11 May 1945 in Lancaster SW268, when 14 aircraft from the Squadron took part in an attack on Essen, Germany of over 1000 aircraft. No Squadron aircraft were lost on this mission.

A further ORB entry on 23 May 1945 lists the then Flt Sgt Waters as being 'Base N/E sick'. It is presumed that at some stage he was repatriated to Australia and admitted to No 7 RAAF Hospital on 8 August.45.

SECOND WORLD WAR FATALITIES
 RAAF MEMBERS 463 SQN
 INDEX: ALPHABETICAL LIST OF NAMES / DATE OF DEATH

RAAF MEMBERS	DATE OF DEATH
ABBOTT, Stanley Arthur	31/08/1944
ACRES, Robert Joseph	26/09/1944
ARCHAY, Kenneth Edgar	22/05/1944
ASH, Richard William	10/05/1944
AUSTIN, James	06/11/1944
BAILEY, Robert Owen	01/02/1945
BARBER, Bramwell Rockliff	25/06/1944
BARRETT, Allen Bernard	02/02/1945
BARRETT, Douglas George	27/01/1944
BARRETT, Noel Charles	30/08/1944
BATEMAN, George William	25/06/1944
BATTYE, Reginald Harold	04/11/1944
BAULDERSTONE, Thomas Henry	09/04/1945
BEDDOE, Robert Henry	31/08/1944
BENNETT, Brian Percival	20/02/1944
BENNETT, Kenneth Edwin Harold	18/12/1944
BENNETT, Richard Stewart	21/03/1945
BENZIE, James MacAdam	15/03/1944
BOND, Alan Campbell	07/12/1944
BOWELL, Peter John	06/11/1944
BOWMAN, Norman Jack	26/09/1944
BOYDELL, John Charles Broughton	19/07/1944
BOYLE, John Joseph	29/10/1944
BRAITHWAITE, John Sidney	25/04/1944
BROAD, Raymond Cecil	06/10/1944
BROOKMAN, Ronald Charles	26/09/1944
BROSNAN, John Lane	04/12/1944
BROWN, Edwin Ryland	25/04/1944
BROWN, John Henry	10/05/1944
BROWN, Sidney Arthur	05/01/1945
BUTCHER, Walter Harvey James	06/11/1944
BYRNES, Robert Wentworth	18/12/1944
CALDERWOOD, Leonard John	23/04/1944
CARIUS, Leonard Robert	30/01/1944
CARLYLE, Hubert George	25/06/1944
CARTER, Alfred Kyrwood	05/07/1944
CAVERIDGE, Gergo	28/09/1944
CHAPPLE, Ivan	10/05/1944

RAAF MEMBERS	DATE OF DEATH
CHEYNE, George James	22/12/1944
CHIDGEY, Frank Stanley Guest	27/01/1944
CHRISTMASS, Lewis Havelock	29/01/1944
COLEMAN, Maxwell John	13/02/1945
CONNOR, Arthur Albert	04/07/1944
COOPER, Norman Percival	29/01/1944
COVENTRY, Roy Cameron	28/09/1944
COWARD, Robert	23/10/1944
CROFT, Robert McKerlie	11/05/1944
CROSTON, David Payne	11/05/1944
DANN, George Marin	10/05/1944
DAVIDSON, David William	02/11/1944
DAVIS, Lawrence Arthur	23/09/1944
DENT, Terence Roy	31/08/1944
DILLON, Beresford George Douglas	26/09/1944
DODD, Thomas Henry Francis	30/08/1944
DOWLING, George Edward	05/07/1944
DUNFORD, Patrick	04/07/1944
DUNN, Douglas Chapman	30/01/1944
DUTFIELD, Ian David	06/11/1944
EASTGATE, Colin Henry	10/05/1944
ELLENS, Herbert Vincent	06/11/1944
ELLIOTT, Osric Brown Rigg	03/03/1945
FAIRCLOUGH, Lindsay Samuel	30/01/1944
FAYLE, Ernest Athol	20/02/1944
FERNLEY-STOTT, Norman Charles	13/02/1945
FINCHAM, Charles Leslie	05/01/1945
FISCHER, Frank Edgar	29/07/1944
FLETCHER, Ernest Gatenby	04/07/1944
FLETCHER, Joseph John	11/06/1944
FORBES, William Alexander	21/02/1945
FOWLER, James Walter	26/11/1943
FRIPP, Alan Wesley Giles	19/07/1944
FRYER, Arthur David	04/11/1944
FRYER, Graham	04/05/1944
GARDNER, James William	18/03/1944
GEIKIE, Walter George McDonald	23/09/1944
GELDER, Norman Francis	29/07/1944
GIFFORD, Beverley Hudson	19/07/1944
GILLETT, Archie Oswald	04/07/1944
GLOSTER, Edward Fitzgibbon	30/01/1944
GLOVER, Bevil Milton	31/08/1944
GLOVER, Kenneth Robert Ralph	24/12/1943

RAAF MEMBERS	DATE OF DEATH
GOSSIP, Arthur Bennett	22/06/1944
GOULD, Francis Edwin	21/02/1945
GRAHAM, William Alexander	16/03/1944
GREENWOOD, Clement Joseph	22/12/1944
GROVES, George Caleb	04/12/1944
GUNDRY, Donald Charles	25/07/1944
HALL, Ronald Norman	04/11/1944
HALSTED, Roger Hubert	22/12/1944
HAMILTON, Mervyn Edgar	15/08/1944
HANSON, Peter Edward	30/01/1944
HARRISON, Launcelot	04/07/1944
HARRISON, Mervyn Walter	29/07/1944
HASELHURST, Arthur Wilfred	23/09/1944
HAWTHORN, Richard Thurston	07/12/1944
HEALY, Robert Delmage	28/09/1944
HEAP, Arthur William	24/12/1943
HEMINGWAY, Colin	03/01/1944
HENDERSON, Joslyn Lavarre	07/12/1944
HILL, James William	09/04/1945
HOWARD, Bert Charles	04/11/1944
HOWELL, Robert Magnay	04/12/1944
HOWELLS, Francis John	03/03/1945
HUGHES, Mervyn Royce	22/05/1944
HUMPHREYS, Alfred Samuel	16/03/1944
HUNTER, Lionel Gregory Leslie	25/06/1944
HURST, Norman George	23/09/1944
HURSTWAITE, Fred Joseph	23/09/1944
JACOMBS, Richard Mortimer Newark	25/02/1944
JAMIESON, Thomas George	30/08/1944
JASPER, James Ernest	22/05/1944
JOHNSON, Clifford James	26/02/1944
JOHNSON, John	02/02/1945
JONES, George Oswald	10/05/1944
KELLY, Bernard Edward	25/06/1944
KENNY, Colin Joseph	29/10/1944
KERR, George Jeffreys	29/01/1944
KNIGHT, Albert Ernest William	14/02/1945
LACK, Maxwell MacDonald	25/06/1944
LANGDON, Francis Charles	29/10/1944
LAWSON, Stanley Wallace	02/01/1944
LESLIE, Alan James Durham	27/01/1944
LEWIS, William John	10/05/1944
LEY, Andrew Thomas	29/10/1944

RAAF MEMBERS	DATE OF DEATH
LOONEY, Francis Noel	03/01/1944
LYONS, Kenneth Marcus Denbigh	30/08/1944
LYONS, Robert John	02/02/1945
MAC MEIKAN, Henry Stanley	07/12/1944
MAC PHERSON, John Stuart	06/10/1944
MACKENZIE, Allan Richard	04/11/1944
MAHER, Thomas Francis	05/07/1944
MAPLE, James Fraser	23/10/1944
MARSH, Walter Ernest	22/05/1944
MARTIN, Charles James	25/02/1944
MARTIN, Colin Hillier	25/02/1944
MARTIN, John Francis	25/06/1944
MATTINGLEY, Albert Frank	22/05/1944
MAYNE, Albert Francis	22/05/1944
MCCALL, Cyril	23/09/1944
MCDONALD, Donald James	23/04/1944
MCDONALD, Norman Neil	22/05/1944
MCGRATH, James Roch	18/03/1944
MCKENZIE, Lloyd George	10/05/1944
MCKNIGHT, Kevin Harold	26/02/1944
MCLEAN, John Gold	30/01/1944
MCLEOD, Malcolm John	04/07/1944
MCMANUS, Terence Bellew	13/02/1945
MESSINGER, George Laurie	30/01/1944
MILLER, Leonard Edric James	22/12/1944
MILLER, Russell Johnstone	28/09/1944
MILNE, Jack	05/01/1945
MINEEFF, Alexis Charles	25/06/1944
MORTIMER, Ronald James	25/02/1944
NELSON, Stanley James	26/02/1944
NOAKES, Gordon Hughie	25/04/1944
OGILVIE, James Henderson	18/12/1944
OLIVER, Richard Kay	02/02/1945
ORCHARD, Norman Henry	11/03/1945
PAGE, Eric Wilton	25/04/1944
PALMER, Stanley John Fielding	15/03/1944
PARKER, Ralf	30/08/1944
PEARCE, Philip John	19/07/1944
PEDERSEN, Lawrence Roy	21/02/1945
PETERS, Walter Thomas	10/05/1944
PETERSEN, Ernest Arthur	06/11/1944
PLUMB, William	06/11/1944
POWELL, Mervyn	11/05/1944

RAAF MEMBERS	DATE OF DEATH
POWER, John Renton	22/12/1944
PRATTEN, Murray Edmund	22/05/1944
PRINCE, John Francis	05/01/1945
READ, William Neil	11/05/1944
REECE, Bernard	29/07/1944
REED, Keith Arthur George	02/11/1944
REILLY, Kevin William	04/11/1944
ROBERTS, John	15/03/1944
ROE, Morris James	30/08/1944
ROSS, Edward Hugh	22/05/1944
RYAN, David Henry	31/08/1944
RYAN, Leo Michael	24/12/1943
RYAN, Terrence Russell	30/08/1944
SADLER, Maurice Edward	02/01/1944
SAMPEY, William Albert	02/01/1944
SCHELDT, Vernon John	25/07/1944
SCHOMBERG, Charles Copley	23/04/1944
SCHULTZ, William Ambrose	23/09/1944
SCOTT, Eric McLaren	10/05/1944
SHERWIN, William Thornton	26/11/1943
SHIPWAY, Raymond George	19/07/1944
SIMPSON, Claude Bertram	22/05/1944
SIMPSON, William Alfred	05/01/1945
SLADE, William Allen	10/05/1944
SMITH, Eric Alfred Leith	22/06/1944
SMITH, Sidney Wallace	26/09/1944
SPENCER, Frank George	19/07/1944
STAPLES, Sydney John	23/09/1944
STINSON, John Buxton	23/09/1944
SUMNER, Edward Thomas	21/02/1945
SYMONDS, Peter Louis	03/01/1944
TAYLOR, Neville Alfred	30/08/1944
TAYLOR, Thomas Alfred Peace	28/09/1944
TAYLOR, William Albert	02/02/1945
TEMPLETON, Robert Park	04/12/1944
THOMAS, Gwynne	07/12/1944
TILBROOK, Jeffrey Maxwell	25/06/1944
TOINTON, Desmonde George	06/10/1944
TOOHEY, William	03/01/1944
TOTTENHAM, Anthony Bowen Loftus	26/09/1944
TOWLER, Lambert Charles	22/05/1944
WALKER, Frederic Murray	31/08/1944
WALTERS, Charles Frederick	05/01/1945

RAAF MEMBERS	DATE OF DEATH
WARD, Dudley Francis	10/05/1944
WARING, Jocelyn King	04/12/1944
WATERS, Colin Keith	19/11/1945
WEATHERILL, Jack	03/01/1944
WEBB, Noel Edwin	04/07/1944
WEEDEN, Lionel Warwick	22/05/1944
WHIMPEY, Geoffrey Roy	05/07/1944
WHITE, Alan John	30/01/1944
WILKINSON, John Anthony Howard	29/07/1944
WILLIAMS, Henry Edward	04/05/1944
WILLIAMS, John Robert	06/11/1944
WILSON, Bruce Thomas Talbot	13/02/1945
WILSON, James Manning Melville	30/01/1944
WORTHINGTON, James Robert	19/07/1944
YOUNG, Ian Cedric	25/02/1944
YOUNG, Richard Rodney	07/12/1944