

WINTFRED PATTEN HARRISON



Wintfred Harrison was born on the 25th of October 1920. He enlisted in the RAAF on the 7th of December 1941 at Bunbury. Attended the Nannup State School from 1927 to 1934. Son of Josiah and Hannah Harrison.

At the time of his enlistment, Wintfred gave his address initially as being "Willow Springs" via Nannup and later as "Rockland Farm" Nannup. Next of Kin named as Josiah Patten Harrison (Father) at the same address. Age 21 years and 43 days. 5 feet 9¹/₂ inches tall, weighed 154 pounds, chest measurement 34¹/₂ inches, fair complexion, grey eyes and light brown hair. Scar on outer side of dorsum of left hand. Index finger of left hand amputated. Marital status, Single. Wintfred gave his interests as those of Football, Tennis, Cycling (Road Racing) Physical culture and Drill. His occupation since leaving school was given as Farming chiefly, machinery for last 3 months at "Willow Spring," K.T.C. (Kauri Timber Company) Sawmills Nannup.

7/12/1941 – Enlisted in the RAAF at No.4 Recruiting Centre (Perth)

7/12/1941 – Sent to No.5 I.T.S. (Initial Training School) at Pearce airbase (West Aust)

5/3/1942 – Marched into 1 W.A.G.S. (Wireless Air Gunner School) Ballarat Victoria. Course #23. After completing the course, promoted to the rank of Temporary Sergeant.

24/8/1942 – Marched into 3 B.A.G.S. (Bombing and Air Gunnery School) West Sale, Victoria. After completing the course, promoted to Temporary Flight Sergeant. Air Gunners Badge issued 17/4/1942.

18/9/1942 – Transferred to 5 E.D. (No. 5 Embarkation Depot) Perth.

17/11/1942 – Transferred to 1 E.D. (No. 1 Embarkation Depot) Melbourne Showgrounds Victoria. During this time, Wintfred attended 2. A.N.S. (No.2 Air Navigation School) Classification :Aircrew V

15/1/1943 - Embarked for the United Kingdom. Classification: Aircrew V

18/3/1943 – Marched into 11 P.D.R.C. (Personnel Despatch & Receiving Centre) Bournemouth U.K. Classification: Aircrew V

1/6/1943 – Attending 4 A.O.S. (No.4 Air Observers School) West Freugh, Scotland U.K. Classification: Wireless Operator / Air Gunner. (Air Gunners badge issued on 17th of

6/7/1943 – Attending 18 O.T.U. (No. 18 Operational and Refresher Training Unit) Hucknall UK. Promoted T/Flt Sgt.

5/10/1943 – Posted to 1667 C.U. (1667 Conversion Unit) RAF Sandtoft North Lincolnshire. UK

24/12/1943 – Posted to 166 Bomber Squadron. Based at Kirmington, Leeds UK.

Lancaster W4780 of 166 squadron took off from RAF station Kirmington at 0012 hours on the morning of 3rd January 1944 being one of 12 squadron aircraft to attack Berlin. The weather experienced on the mission was extremely difficult with cloud up to 20,000 feet and some icing of engines and airframes. Seven aircraft reported seeing enemy night fighters although only one was attacked. Four aircraft were seen shot down from the target back to Halberstadt. Nothing was heard from W4780 which failed to return to base.

3/1/1944 – Missing, presumed dead. Air operations – target Berlin. Aircraft and crew not recovered.

There were 7 crew members on board the Lancaster Mk1 AS H2 W4780. Their average age was just over 22 years.

Following post war enquiries and investigations, it was recorded that the missing crew had no known grave.

Commemorated at Runnymede Memorial, Surrey England – Panel #260.