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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**

The Author acknowledges and thanks Kerrie Leech, currently Curator, Private Records, at the Australian War Memorial, for the great contribution she has made ensuring compatibility between my laptop and an AWM computer, so that research material on my laptop can be downloaded, and for her expertise in solving any computer problem that has arisen during the project. Without her contribution, the project would not have got off the ground.



*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	BY UNITS IN ALPHA NAME ORDER
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

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.

# 458 SQUADRON RAAF SECOND WORLD WAR FATALITIES.

BY ALAN STORR.

## PREFACE.

These summaries of 458 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 169, 63 being members of the RAAF, and 106 members of the RAF, RNZAF or RCAF (principally RAF).

10 July 1941 : Squadron formed at Williamstown, NSW.

August 1941 : Squadron to be based at RAF Holme on Spalding Moor, Yorkshire, UK equipped with Wellington aircraft. Squadron to operate as a unit of No 1 Group, RAF Bomber Command.

CO Wg Cdr Mulholland, DFC (an Australian serving in the RAF).

20 October 1941 : Squadrons first raid on Antwerp, Holland.

January 1942 : Squadron deployed to the Middle East as part of ME Command.

February 1942 : Aircraft and crews flown out in 2 flights of 16 aircraft.

16 Feb 1942 : CO Wg Cdr Mulholland leading the first flight overshot Malta and shot down by enemy aircraft 30 miles from the island. Only survivor the Rear Gunner became a POW. Wg Cdr L L Johnston becomes CO.

Feb to August 1942 : Squadrons aircraft and crews allocated to other hard pressed RAF Squadrons in Middle East.

23 March to 26 May 1942 : Ground crews sail from Greenoch to Suez via South Africa. 8 Officers and 458 other ranks.

30 May 1942 : Ground crews at Fayid, Egypt.

End June/early July 1942 to end August 42 : Ground crews moved to St Jean and thence Aqir, Palestine to service Liberators of 108 and 159 Sqns RAF, and others to the US No1 Provisional Bomber Group at Lydda, Palestine. About 90 other ranks remained at Fayid to service visiting aircraft.

## SQUADRON LOCATIONS .

1 September 1942 : 458 Squadron reunited at Shallufa, Egypt and new crews commenced training as a night torpedo squadron at 5 Middle East Training School.

End March 1943 : at Amiriya, Alexandria (Landing Ground 91)

June 1943 : at Protville, Tunisia.

At various periods during Sept 42 to June 43 squadron detachments of aircraft, aircrews and ground staff operated from Cyrenaica, Gambut Berca and Malta.

October 1943 : at Bone, Algeria.

May 1944 : At Alghero, Sardinia.

September 1944 : at Foggia, Italy.

January 1945 : at Gibraltar.

June 1945 : Squadron disbands.

## 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.

### AIRCRAFT TYPES FLOWN.

August 1941 to June 1945 : Wellington..

### AIRCRAFT RADIO CALL SIGN :

This comprises two components the Squadron Identity Code letters and the Aircraft Individual letter : eg. The letters 'FU' denotes 458 Squadron and the letter 'G' denotes the aircraft 'G' for George.

### 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 1/279 and 1/280. 458 Squadron Operational record books.

Also AWM 64 Microfilm No 87.

AWM 54 81/4/110 : History of 458 Squadron August 1941 to September 1943.

AWM 54 81/4/35 : History of 458 Squadron September 1943 to June 1944.

AWM 54 779/3/129 : Parts 1 to 30. Being statements made in 1945 by RAAF POW's released or repatriated 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 A9300/A9301.

RAAF WW2 Nominal Roll

'We Find and Destroy' : History of 458 Squadron by Peter Alexander and Appendices 1 and 111. AWM Call No : 940.544994 A377W 1979

### ACCESS TO MATERIAL :

AWM Catalogue No : R 940.544994 S886s

AWM Website : [www.awm.gov.au](http://www.awm.gov.au)

Alphabetical Index of WW2 Fatalities among RAAF members of 458 Sqn.

Alan Storr, Volunteer (Published & Digitised Collections)

Australian War Memorial. 12<sup>th</sup> January 2006.



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N O R T H  
S E A

G O U R O C K

E D I N B U R G H

H O L M E - O N - S P A L D I N G M O O R

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E N G L A N D

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(Copied from "We Find and Destroy"  
by Peter Alexander)

Drawn by T. MOORE

## 458 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

FROM AUGUST 1941 TO JANUARY 1942

458 SQUADRON RAAF OPERATED FROM  
HOLME ON SPALDING MOOR, YORKSHIRE,  
AND OPERATED AS A UNIT OF NO 1 GROUP  
RAF BOMBER COMMAND.

THE SQUADRON FATALITIES DURING THE ABOVE  
PERIOD WERE :

RAAF	13
RAF	10
RNZAF	1
TOTAL	24

## 458 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

**Date of Death:** 20 October 1941

**Source:**

AWM 64 1/279    AWM 64 Microfilm 87    AWM 237 (63)    NAA : A705, 163/98/338.  
Commonwealth War Graves records                      W R Chorley : RAF Bomber Command  
Losses of the Second World War, Page 165 Volume 1941.

<b>Aircraft Type:</b>	Wellington
<b>Serial number:</b>	Z 1218
<b>Radio call sign:</b>	FU – D
<b>Unit:</b>	458 Sqn RAAF

**Summary:**

Wellington Z1218 took off from RAF Holme-on-Spalding Moor, Yorkshire, at 1839 hours on the night of 20/21<sup>st</sup> October 1941 to bomb the Antwerp docks, Belgium. Ten aircraft from the Squadron took off on the mission, and of these Z1218 failed to return. This was the first operational mission of the Squadron.

**Crew:**

RAF        Sgt P J M Hamilton, Captain (Pilot)  
RAAF      400410 Sgt P G Crittenden, (2<sup>nd</sup> Pilot)  
RAF        PO Fawkes, D K (Observer)  
RAF        Sgt A Y Condie, (Wireless Operator)  
RAF        Sgt T Jackson, (Front Air Gunner)  
RAF        Sgt P G E A Brown, (Rear Air Gunner)

Post war it was established by a Missing Research and Enquiry unit that the aircraft crashed at Marchienne on 20/10/1941 presumably as a result of enemy action. Marchienne is located approx 2 miles south west of Charleroi, Belgium.

Sgt Brown (RAF) was a POW but all the rest of the crew were killed. They are buried in the Charleroi Communal Cemetery, which is approx 28 miles south of Brussels, Belgium.

W R Chorley states that Sgt Crittenden was the first Australian serving in Bomber Command to be killed on operational flying with an RAAF Squadron.

## 458 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

**Date of Death:** 22 October 1941

**Source:**

AWM 64 1/279 AWM 64 Microfilm 87 NAA : A705, 163/36/138 Commonwealth War Graves records. W R Chorley : RAF Losses of the Second World War, Page 166 Volume 1941.

<b>Aircraft Type:</b>	Wellington
<b>Serial number:</b>	R 1765
<b>Radio call sign:</b>	FU -
<b>Unit:</b>	458 Sqn RAAF

**Summary:**

Wellington R1765 took off from RAF Holme-on-Spalding Moor, Yorkshire, at 1830 hours on the night of 22/23<sup>rd</sup> October 1941 to bomb Le Havre, France. Eight aircraft from the Squadron took part in the mission and one of these R1765 crashed on return from the mission.

**Crew:**

RAF Flt Lt Sargeant, J A H Captain (Pilot)  
RAAF 404431 PO Hickey, B P (2<sup>nd</sup> Pilot)  
RNZAF PO Birnie, R (Observer)  
RAAF 400357 Sgt M W Sharpir, (Wireless Operator)  
RAF Sgt A S Austin (Front Gunner)  
RAF Sgt R J Hobbs, (Rear Gunner)

The Sqn ORB records that "R1765 was hit by flak from a ship in the estuary after bombing the target and it was believed to be the contributory cause of petrol shortage in the port wing tank and starboard engine when the aircraft was over Farnborough, UK, when five of the crew baled out. They landed in the vicinity of Aldershot, Hampshire. Sgt Shapir fractured a leg and was admitted to the Cambridge Hospital at Aldershot, and the Captain was slightly injured.

Sgt Hobbs the Rear Gunner was killed when the aircraft was hit by flak. His body was recovered from the wrecked aircraft and he is buried in the Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, UK. The cemetery is located 30 miles from London, and its main entrance is on the A324 from the village of Pirbright.

PO Hickey records in his RAAF Casualty file " 5 members of the crew escaped by parachute. The tail gunner was killed and found in the wreck of the aircraft. In his opinion the cause of the crash was the failure of the starboard engine which caused the aircraft to become uncontrollable due to the port petrol tanks being empty. The port tank was apparently holed by flak and possibly the ailerons were damaged making the aircraft unmanageable on one engine."

PO Hickey later lost his life when the aircraft of which he was Captain was shot down on 8/1/1942.

## 458 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

**Date of Death:** 15 November 1941

**Source:**

AWM 64 1/279 AWM 64 Microfilm 87 AWM 237 (63) (64)

NAA : A705, 163/98/362 Commonwealth War Graves records

<b>Aircraft Type:</b>	Wellington
<b>Serial number:</b>	R 1775
<b>Radio call sign:</b>	FU -
<b>Unit:</b>	458 Sqn RAAF

**Summary:**

Wellington R1775 took off from RAF Holme-on-Spalding Moor, Yorkshire, at 1717 hours on the night of 15/16<sup>th</sup> November 1941 to bomb Emden, Germany. Six aircraft from the Squadron took part in the raid and of these R1775 failed to return. The aircraft was last heard from when a W/T message was received at 2035 hours.

**Crew:**

RAAF 404332 PO Furey, R J Captain (Pilot)  
RAAF 400460 Sgt A L Cox, (2<sup>nd</sup> Pilot)  
RAAF 400403 PO Goldman, W (Observer)  
RAF Sgt E Rowland, (Wireless Operator)  
RAF Sgt D B Pepper, (Front Gunner)  
RAF Sgt H W Duffield, (Rear Gunner)

RAAF Casualty file 163/98/362 records that “ the last message was received when the aircraft was flying over the North Sea on the return journey. Three QDM's were sent to the aircraft at the approx time of ETA back at base, the last being strength 6. Nothing further was heard from the aircraft and it was assumed that the crew had lost their lives at sea. A square search by six aircraft 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.

## 458 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

**Date of Death:** 6 January 1942

**Source:**

AWM 64 1/279 AWM 64 Microfilm 87 AWM 237 (64) NAA : A705, 166/47/100  
Commonwealth War Graves records.

<b>Aircraft Type:</b>	Wellington
<b>Serial number:</b>	Z 1182
<b>Radio call sign:</b>	FU – G
<b>Unit:</b>	458 Sqn RAAF

**Summary:**

Wellington Z1182 took off from RAF Holme-on-Spalding Moor, Yorkshire, at 0437 hours on 6 January 1942 to bomb Brest, France. Due to ice and snow deposits on the main plane Z1182 crashed at 0445 hours into a field near the North Howden Station, 8 miles ESE of Selby, Yorks. The bombs were jettisoned safely just before the crash. One RAAF member of the crew was killed and another died of his injuries. The other four members were injured.

**Crew:**

RAAF 400956 PO Moran, H M Captain (Pilot)  
RAAF 403040 PO Carmichael, D N (2<sup>nd</sup> Pilot)  
RAAF 404346 FO MacDonald, E J N (Observer)  
RAF Sgt J G Barlow, (Wireless Operator)  
RNZAF Sgt W R Darling. (Front Gunner)  
RAF Sgt D E Bottomley, (Rear Gunner)

In a later report on the accident the Captain stated “ Shortly after take off, I noticed that the aircraft was not climbing. We attained a height of 2/300 feet and then slowly sank in a slow left turn to approx 100 feet. I jettisoned the bomb load and immediately afterwards we crashed in a field. My injuries were caused by the control column striking my leg and my head struck the windscreen.” Technical comments on the accident were “Apparent mechanical failure. Symptoms turning left and dropping wing suggests loss of power on the port engine. Ice formation on main planes have been contributory or entire cause of accident.”

PO Carmichael and FO MacDonald who lost their lives are buried in the Holme-on-Spalding Moor (All Saints) Churchyard, Yorkshire, UK.

## 458 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

**Date of Death:** 8 January 1942

**Source:**

AWM 64 1/279 AWM 64 Microfilm 87 AWM 237 (63) (64)

NAA : A705, 163/129/155 Commonwealth War Graves records.

<b>Aircraft Type:</b>	Wellington
<b>Serial number:</b>	R 1785
<b>Radio call sign:</b>	FU -
<b>Unit:</b>	458 Sqn RAAF

**Summary:**

Wellington R1785 took off from RAF Holme-on-Spalding Moor, Yorkshire, at 0435 hours on the 8 January 1942 to bomb Cherbourg, France. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it failed to return to base.

**Crew:**

RAAF 404431 FO Hickey, B P Captain (Pilot)  
RAAF 400716 Sgt V W Johnstone, (2<sup>nd</sup> Pilot)  
RNZAF Flt Sgt R Birnie, (Observer)  
RAF Flt Sgt A S Austin, (Wireless Operator)  
RAAF 407639 Sgt W W Forgan (Front Gunner)]  
RAF Sgt F Hinton (Rear Gunner)

Post war it was reported by a Missing Research and Enquiry Unit that the aircraft was hit by flak and crashed in the target area at the village of Colleville which is approx 14 miles south east of Cherbourg. All the crew were killed and they are buried in the Cherbourg Old Communal Cemetery, Locality Manche, France. Cherbourg is a town in the north of the Cherbourg Peninsula and the cemetery is on the western side of the town.

FO Hickey had previously survived after baling out from a damaged aircraft when returning from a mission on 22/10/1941.

## 458 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

**Date of Death:** 9 January 1942

**Source:**

AWM 64 1/279 AWM 64 Microfilm 87 AWM 237 (63) NAA : A705, 163/58/56

<b>Aircraft Type:</b>	Wellington
<b>Serial number:</b>	Z 1312
<b>Radio call sign:</b>	FU -
<b>Unit:</b>	458 Sqn RAAF

**Summary:**

Wellington Z1312 took off from RAF Holme-on-Spalding Moor, Yorkshire, at 0445 hours on the 9 January 1942 to bomb Cherbourg, France. The aircraft was hit by flak and turned back with its bomb load intact. It crashed at 0745 hours after colliding with high tension cables near Fifehead, Magdalen, 5 miles WSW of Shaftesbury, Dorset, UK.

**Crew:**

RAAF 404456 Sgt H R Garland, Captain (Pilot)  
RAAF 404454 Sgt I T Highlett, (2<sup>nd</sup> Pilot)  
RAAF 402353 Sgt A L Hewish, (Observer)  
RAAF 402471 Sgt D G Taylor, (Wireless Operator)  
RAAF 407209 Sgt P H Smith, (Front Gunner)  
RAAF 402028 Sgt T L Brown, (Rear Gunner)

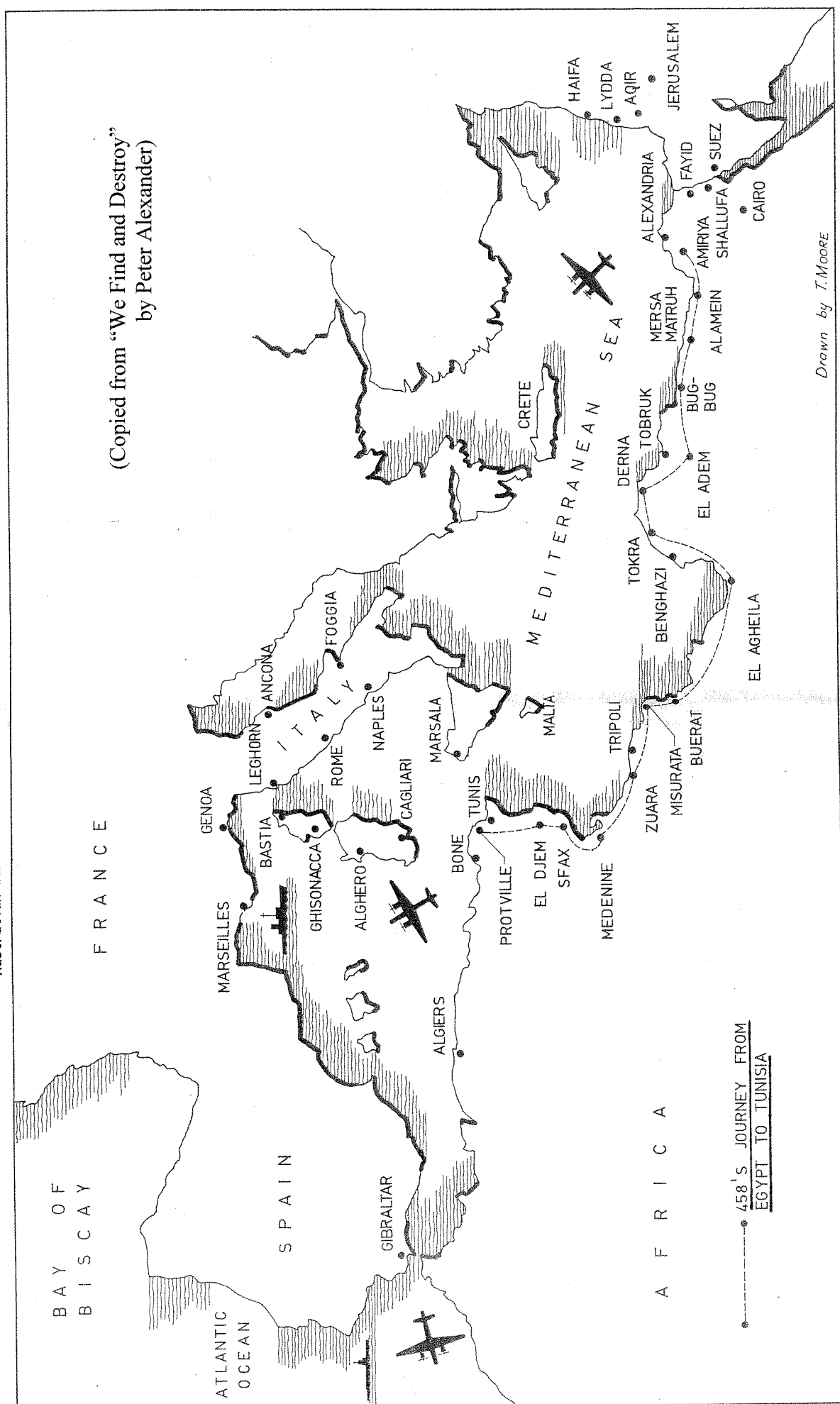
Sgt Garland and Sgt Highlett survived the crash and the other four members of the crew were killed. They are buried in the Brookwood Military Cemetery, Woking, Surrey, UK. The cemetery is located 30 miles from London, and its main entrance is on the A324 from the village of Pirbright.





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Printed & Written Records  
Australian War Memorial



## 458 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

AT VARIOUS TIMES DURING FEBRUARY 1942 TO JUNE 1945,  
458 SQUADRON WAS UNDER THE COMMAND OF THE  
MIDDLE EAST, MEDITERRANEAN OR BRITISH NORTH  
AFRICAN AIR COMMANDS, AND OPERATED  
FROM VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN EGYPT, TUNISIA, ALGERIA,  
MALTA, SARDINIA, CORSICA, ITALY AND GIBRALTAR.

458 SQUADRON FATALITIES DURING THE ABOVE PERIOD WERE

:

RAAF	50
RAF	61
RNZAF	3
RCAF	31
TOTAL	145 *

\*NOTE : The above figures do not include fatalities among  
458 Squadron members, who at the time they were killed  
were attached to Nos. 38, 69 or 221 Squadrons, RAF.  
These fatalities were :

RAAF	10.
RAF	6
RCAF	3
RNZAF	1
TOTAL	20

## 458 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

**Date of Death:** 16 February 1942

**Source:**

AWM 54 81/4/110    NAA : A705, 163/45/110    Commonwealth War Graves records

<b>Aircraft Type:</b>	Wellington
<b>Serial number:</b>	AD 539
<b>Radio call sign:</b>	FU -
<b>Unit:</b>	458 Sqn RAAF

**Summary:**

Wellington AD539 was shot down into the sea east of Sicily by enemy aircraft while in transit from Stanton Horcourt to the Middle East.

**Crew:**

RAF        34098 Wg Cdr Mulholland, N G DFC Captain (Pilot) (CO of 458 Sqn)  
RAAF       402430 Sgt R Wills, (2<sup>nd</sup> Pilot)  
RAF        Flt Lt Brain, L A DFC (Navigator)  
RAF        Sgt E Anstee, (Flight Engineer)  
RAF        Sgt J E Andrews, (Front Gunner)  
RAF        FO Willis-Richards, J (Rear Gunner) (Sqn Gunnery Leader)

On 14<sup>th</sup> February 1942 the Squadron was transferred from RAF Bomber Command to Middle East Command. On 15<sup>th</sup> February 1942 Wg Cdr Mulholland the CO of the Squadron commenced the ferrying out of aircraft and crews and led the first formation of four aircraft.

AD539 overshot Malta and signalled it was being attacked by enemy aircraft when 30 miles from the island. The aircraft was shot down and all the crew drowned with the exception of the Rear Gunner (FO Willis-Richards) who became a POW of the Italians.

The bodies of Wg Cdr Mulholland and Sgt Anstee were recovered by the Italians and they are buried in the Catania War Cemetery, Sicily, Italy. The cemetery is located 7kms south west of Catania. The bodies of the other three crew members were not recovered and their names are commemorated on the Memorial to the Missing, Runnymede, Surrey, UK.

Wg Cdr Mulholland was an Australian serving in the RAF.

Note : Commonwealth War Graves record the date of death of Flt Lt Brain as 15/2/1942 and the other four crew members who lost their lives as 16/2/1942.

## 458 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

**Date of Death:** 2 August 1942

**Source:**

AWM 64 1/279                      AWM 237 (63)                      NAA : A705, 163/141/651  
Commonwealth War Graves records.

<b>Aircraft Type:</b>	Wellington
<b>Serial number:</b>	DV 644
<b>Radio call sign:</b>	
<b>Unit:</b>	458 Sqn RAAF

**Summary:**

Wellington DV644 was stationary on the Landing ground and the crew who were from 458 Sqn were all on board when the accident occurred on 2 August 1942. Boston AL696 of No 24 Sqn SAAF hit the stationary aircraft on landing cause unknown. The Boston was believed to be in difficulties. DV644 was completely wrecked by fire and bombs exploding. The fire spread and three other unoccupied aircraft were set on fire and wrecked.

Three of the crew in the Wellington and the crew of three in the Boston were killed.

**Crew:** (DV644)

RAF              Sgt J L Whitworth, Captain (Pilot)  
RAAF            404254 Flt Sgt C T McLoughlin, (Observer)  
RAF              Sgt D E Bottomley, (Wireless Air Gunner)  
RAF              Sgt J G Barlow, (Wireless Air Gunner)  
RNZAF          Flt Sgt W R Darling, (Air Gunner)

Flt Sgt McLoughlin, Sgt Bottomley and Sgt Barlow were killed in the accident. They are buried in the Tel-el-Kebir War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt. Tel-el-Kebir is 100kms NNE of Cairo and 75kms south of Port Said. The other two crew members were uninjured.

## 458 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

**Date of Death:** 6 November 1942

**Source:**

AWM 64 1/279                      AWM 237 (63)

<b>Aircraft Type:</b>	
<b>Serial number:</b>	
<b>Radio call sign:</b>	
<b>Unit:</b>	458 Sqn RAAF

**Summary:**

18762 LAC I W Batton a Fitter MA, an airman attached to 458 detachment at Malta, was posted missing as a result of an aircraft accident off Malta.

His name is commemorated on the Alamein Missing Memorial, Egypt. The Alamein Memorial forms the entrance to the El Alamein War Cemetery. Alamein is a village bypassed by the main coast road, approx 130kms west of Alexandria on the road to Mersa Matruh.

Other 458 Sqn airmen injured in the same flying accident and admitted to hospital were :

22524 AC1 J A Baxter, Fitter Mech

16242 LAC J T Lilley, Fitter MA

16506 AC1 J H McInnes, Fitter MA

On 13 March 1943 the above three airmen were repatriated back to Australia.

The accident occurred when Wellington aircraft HK507 in transit from the Middle East to Malta crashed into the sea at night near Malta at approx 0009 hours on 6 November 1942, and survivors were picked up by high speed launch. 14 other RAAF and RAF personnel of various squadrons some of whom were injured survived the crash

## 458 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

**Date of Death:** 12 December 1942

**Source:**

AWM 64 1/279                      AWM 237 (64)

<b>Aircraft Type:</b>	
<b>Serial number:</b>	
<b>Radio call sign:</b>	
<b>Unit:</b>	458 Sqn RAAF

**Summary:**

RCAF FO Glickman BW a Navigator Bomb Aimer of 458 Sqn was lent to No 38 Sqn RAF for an operation and it was later learnt that the aircraft he was on failed to return on 12 December 1942.

FO Glickman is listed as missing and his name is commemorated on The Alamein Memorial, Egypt.

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## 458 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

**Date of Death:** 8 January 1943

**Source:**

AWM 64 1/279    AWM 237 (63)    NAA : A705, 163/136/150  
Commonwealth War Graves records

<b>Aircraft Type:</b>	Wellington
<b>Serial number:</b>	NX 471
<b>Radio call sign:</b>	
<b>Unit:</b>	69 Sqn RAF

**Summary:**

Wellington NX471 took off from Luqa Malta at 1820 hours on 8 January 1943 to carry out an operational mission, but the aircraft failed to return from the mission. The crew belonged to the 458 Sqn RAAF detachment at Malta, but were attached to 69 Sqn RAF on 6 January 1943.

**Crew:**

RAAF    400228 WO Laver, L C Captain (Pilot)  
RAAF    407255 Sgt B W Shearer, (2<sup>nd</sup> Pilot)  
RAAF    402440 PO Gell, A T (Observer)  
RAAF    404425 Flt Sgt E F Saggars, (Wireless Air Gunner)  
RAAF    404414 Flt Sgt D A Smith, (Wireless Air Gunner)  
RAF      Flt Lt Francombe, J (RDF/Observer)

All the crew were killed and they are buried in the Catania War Cemetery, Sicily, Italy. The cemetery is 7kms south west of Catania.

## 458 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

**Date of Death:** 23 January 1943

**Source:**

AWM 64 1/279 AWM 237 (64) NAA : A705, 166/8/227, 166/20/5, 166/6/23.  
Commonwealth War Graves records.

<b>Aircraft Type:</b>	Wellington
<b>Serial number:</b>	HX 646
<b>Radio call sign:</b>	
<b>Unit:</b>	221 Sqn RAF

**Summary:**

The 458 Sqn ORB records on 25/1/1943 “More bad news from the detachment at Malta received today. Another aircraft missing.” The crew were :

**Crew:**

RAAF 400414 Sqn Ldr Jackson, G F Captain (Pilot)  
 RAF Sgt S G Vials, (2<sup>nd</sup> Pilot)  
 RAAF 416043 FO Craig, J I (Observer)  
 RCAF FO Shusterove S C (ASV/Operator)  
 RAF Sgt F J Baker (Wireless Air Gunner)  
 RAAF 407524 Flt Sgt R J Burns (Air Gunner)

The ORB continues “The above crew were part of a large detachment sent on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> January 1943 to Malta from Shallufa to resume operations from there. The aircraft and crews were to operate with 221 Sqn RAF. Sqn Ldr Jackson & crew were posted to 221 Sqn with effect 21/1/43.”

The aircraft which took off from Luqa Malta at 1800 hours on the 23 January 43 was detailed to attack an enemy convoy west of Sicily, but failed to return from the mission. Sgt Baker (RAF) became a POW and the remaining crew members listed as missing. Their names are commemorated on Malta Memorial which is situated in the area of Floriana and is easily identified by the Golden Eagle which surmounts the column. It stand outside the main entrance to Valetta.

The Malta Memorial commemorates the almost 2,300 airmen who lost their lives during the Second World War whilst serving with the Commonwealth Air Forces flying from bases in Austria, Italy, Sicily, islands of the Adriatic and Mediterranean, Malta, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, West Africa, Yugoslavia and Gibraltar, and who have no known grave.

Sgt Baker reported “the aircraft was attacked without warning at 1am on 23 January when over the sea between Sicily and Tunis. The aircraft was at 300 feet at the time of the attack and it flew into the sea immediately afterwards. I floated to the surface and climbed into the dinghy. I was rescued by an Italian patrol the next day. I assumed the others sank with the aircraft.”



## 458 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

**Date of Death:** 7 February 1943 (\*)

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**Source:**

AWM 64 1/279                      AWM 237 (63)                      NAA : A705, 166/12/7  
Commonwealth War Graves records.

<b>Aircraft Type:</b>	Wellington
<b>Serial number:</b>	HX 722
<b>Radio call sign:</b>	FU -
<b>Unit:</b>	458 Sqn RAAF

**Summary:**

Wellington HX722 on 7 February 1943 on returning from an operational mission to bomb Candia crash landed on the runway at Shallufah at 0850 hours and it is believed a bomb exploded. The aircraft was a complete wreck and four members of the crew were killed with a fifth member being thrown clear.

**Crew:**

RAF            Sgt G W Knox Captain (Pilot)  
RAAF          402736 Flt Sgt H D Everingham, (2<sup>nd</sup> Pilot)  
RAF            Sgt E L Rayner (Observer)  
RAF            Sgt D Dunnett (Wireless Air Gunner)  
RAAF          411345 Sgt A E McCrae, (Wireless Air Gunner)

Sgt McCrae who survived the crash was slightly injured. The other four crew members who lost their lives are buried in the Suez War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt. The cemetery is situated on the western outskirt of the town about 7kms from the centre of Suez.

**(\*) Note:**

The AWM Honour Roll and Commonwealth War Graves record the Date of Death for Flt Sgt Everingham as 7/2/1943.

Commonwealth War Graves record the Date of Death for the other three crew members killed in the crash as 17/2/1943.

On Flt Sgt Everingham's RAAF Casualty file (A705, 166/12/7) a Death Certificate was issued recording his Date of Death as 7/2/1943. This was later cancelled and a new Death Certificate issued showing Everingham's Date of Death as 17/2/1943. .

The Sqn ORB records the above mission and crash as occurring on 7/2/1943

## 458 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

**Date of Death:** 13 February 1943

**Source:**

Extract from “We Find and Destroy”: history of 458 Squadron by Peter Alexander.  
Commonwealth War Graves records.

<b>Aircraft Type:</b>	Wellington
<b>Serial number:</b>	
<b>Radio call sign:</b>	FU -
<b>Unit:</b>	458 Sqn RAAF

**Summary:**

At Page 97 of the above book by Peter Alexander, in writing about the activities of the 458 Detachment at Malta in the early months of 1943 records the following “On 12 Feb Flt Sgt Gleason and his crew overshot the runway and were killed in a quarry.”

**Crew:**

RCAF PO Gleason, L H Captain (Pilot)  
RCAF FO Kempton, M McA., (  
RCAF WO Class 11 P E E Brown, (Wireless Air Gunner)  
RCAF Sgt H E Stanley, (Wireless Air Gunner)

The Commonwealth War Graves record the date of death of the above 458 members as 13 February 1943. They are buried in the Malta (Capuccini) Naval Cemetery, Malta.

The Squadron ORB records available do not record any of the above information and it has not been possible to establish if any other crew members were involved.

## 458 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

**Date of Crash :** 28 February 1943

**Source:**

AWM 64 1/279

<b>Aircraft Type:</b>	Wellington
<b>Serial number:</b>	BB 481
<b>Radio call sign:</b>	FU -
<b>Unit:</b>	458 Sqn RAAF

**Summary:**

The above 458 Sqn ORB records the following : “Wellington BB481 took off from Shallufa at 2300 hours on 27 February 1943 to carry out an anti sub patrol on a convoy off the coast, and whilst engaged on this operation was forced to land on the sea owing to engine failure. The aircraft ditched at approx 0300 hours and the crew abandoned the aircraft and escaped into the dinghy. After being afloat for about 3 hours the crew were picked up by a merchant vessel and taken to Alexandria. The crew returned to the unit on the same day.”

**Crew:**

RAF Flt Sgt Scott, Captain (Pilot)  
RAF Sgt Whittaker, (2<sup>nd</sup> Pilot)  
RAF Sgt Softley, (Observer)  
RAF Flt Sgt Baggs, (Wireless Air Gunner)  
RAF Sgt H Bertram, H (Wireless Air Gunner)  
RAF Sgt P Woolman, P (Wireless Air Gunner)

## 458 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

**Date of Crash :** 25 March 1943

**Source:**

AWM 64 1/279    AWM 237 (63)    AWM 54 779/3/129 Part 11

We Find and Destroy by Peter Alexander : Appendix 111

<b>Aircraft Type:</b>	Wellington
<b>Serial number:</b>	
<b>Radio call sign:</b>	FU – U
<b>Unit:</b>	458 Sqn RAAF

**Summary:**

The 458 Sqn ORB records the following “On the night of 24/25<sup>th</sup> March 1943, five special Wellingtons torpedo carrying aircraft carried out an armed shipping search covering an area East of Sardinia, Maritime, Palermo and Naples. Although the area was thoroughly searched no important sightings were made. Unfortunately two of our aircraft failed to return to base at Malta. (PO Buchanan & crew and Sgt Shierlaw and crew). Aircraft “U” which was on patrol between Maritime and Naples reported that distress signals on the sea had been seen in position 39.33N and 14.00E (approx 60 miles south of Naples) presumably where aircraft “K” had ditched. Subsequently aircraft “U” also experienced difficulty and was being sent bearings from Malta until all contact with the aircraft was lost.”

**Crew:**

RAAF      416107 Sgt J G Shierlaw, Captain (Pilot)

RAF        PO Lambie, (2<sup>nd</sup> Pilot)

RAAF      407906 Sgt R W Mellor, (Navigator)

RAAF      405057 Sgt F O Raymond, (Wireless Air Gunner)

RCAF      Sgt J Crouch, (SE/Operator)

RNZAF    Sgt W P Hermansen, (Rear Gunner)

The ORB also records “ An Italian broadcast communiqué on 28/3 stated “a British torpedo carrying plane was hit by ack-ack fire off Trapani and fell near Paceso (near Trapani). The crew of six were captured.” In the absence of more definite information it may be assumed that this was our aircraft “U” (Sgt Shierlaw) and that the crew were now all POW’s.”

Sgt Shierlaw (later WO) who was a POW of the Italians died on 19/4/45 while a POW of the Germans. He is buried in the 1939-1945 War Cemetery, Berlin.

Both Sgt Mellor and Sgt Raymond who were also POW’s survived the war.

In a 1945 report the then WO Mellor stated : “While on patrol off the western coast of Italy we picked up a distress signal from a plane on the same patrol. We followed up a QDM given from base (Malta) to give assistance as necessary. Sighted a green very light but after considerable searching found nothing more. Turned for base. Received QDM from base. While at approx 2000 feet caught in ground flak. Both engines cut. Plane crash landed at Trapani, Sicily. All captured on abandoning aircraft. Rear Gunner who had both legs broken and head and internal injuries, repatriated from Germany. 2<sup>nd</sup> Pilot leg injury. Other crew members uninjured. Released on 18/4/45 by 11<sup>th</sup> Armoured Division, 2<sup>nd</sup> Army.”

## 458 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

**Date of Crash :** 25 March 1943

**Source:**

AWM 64 1/279 AWM 54 779/3/129 Parts

<b>Aircraft Type:</b>	Wellington
<b>Serial number:</b>	HX 522
<b>Radio call sign:</b>	FU – K
<b>Unit:</b>	458 Sqn RAAF

**Summary:**

The 458 Sqn ORB records the following “On the night of 24/25<sup>th</sup> March 1943, five special Wellingtons torpedo carrying aircraft carried out an armed shipping search covering an area East of Sardinia, Maritime, Palermo and Naples. Although the area was thoroughly searched no important sightings were made. Unfortunately two of our aircraft failed to return to base at Malta. (PO Buchanan & crew and Sgt Shierlaw and crew). Aircraft “K” while on patrol between Maritime and Naples sent out a signal stating that engine trouble was being experienced but nothing further was heard from the aircraft HX522 “K” which had taken off from Malta at 2120 hours on the night of 24/25 March 1943 failed to return to base.”

**Crew:**

RAF PO Buchanan, G Captain (Pilot)  
 RAF FO Outerbridge, J (2<sup>nd</sup> Pilot)  
 RAF PO Barnett, (Navigator)  
 RAAF 406048 Flt Sgt Tunney, D J (Wireless Air Gunner)  
 RAAF 406049 PO A C Main, (SE Operator)  
 RAAF 407885 Flt Sgt J C O Wilson, (Rear Gunner)

An entry in the Sqn ORB on 28/3/1943 states “ An Italian news bulletin on 28/3 stated “ Six more airmen forming the crew of a British machine which crashed in the sea have been taken prisoner south of Capri.” It is very likely that this is PO Buchanan and crew which was last heard of in that area on 25/3”

All the crew became POW's. In a later report the then WO Tunney stated “While on an offensive patrol in the Naples area in a ‘Torp W’ a motor suddenly cut out on the night of 24/25 March 1943. The Captain jettisoned the torpedo and ordered crew to jettison everything else possible. In addition he ordered an SOS and DR posn be sent to our base at Malta. The signal was received and acknowledged. Our height could not be maintained and after approx 10 minutes flying we were forced to ditch. This was successful and all the crew got out uninjured. We were all together at the interrogation and then the three Officers were sent off to an Officers camp. Both Main and Wilson were with me and are OK. We ditched in the sea about 40 miles off Naples and were picked up by an Italian destroyer off Naples.”

The then Flt Lt Main reported “ The port engine failed at about 250 ft height off Naples. The Pilot ordered everything available be thrown out. The order was obeyed. About 20 minutes after engine failure the aircraft made a successful ditching. No one injured and all got into dinghy. Approx position 40 miles south west of Naples. Picked up by destroyer. Released by Russians.”

FO Outerbridge was killed by the Italians on 1/5/43 when attempting to escape when on transfer from Italy to Germany. He is buried in the Ravenna War Cemetery, Italy.

## 458 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

**Date of Crash :** 26 March 1943

**Source:**

AWM 64 1/279    AWM 54 779/3/129 Part 7    NAA : A705, 166/14/24.

<b>Aircraft Type:</b>	Wellington
<b>Serial number:</b>	
<b>Radio call sign:</b>	
<b>Unit:</b>	458 Sqn RAAF

**Summary:**

The 458 Sqn ORB records the following entry on 26/3/1943 : “Two of our special Wellingtons were despatched from Malta at 1908 hours on 26/3/1943 on shipping searches between Sicily/Naples and Sicily/Sardinia. As a result of this operation one of the aircraft failed to return to base.

**Crew:**

RAF        Flt Sgt D O Jones, Captain (Pilot)  
RAAF      403918 Sgt D L Frost, (2<sup>nd</sup> Pilot)  
RAAF      413888 Sgt W P Adams (Navigator)  
RAF        Sgt B Bacon, (Wireless Air Gunner)  
RAF        Flt Sgt G Jowett, (Navigator)  
RAF        Sgt F B Bailey (Rear Gunner)

In a later report the then WO Frost stated “The aircraft was flying at 2000 feet when the propeller and shaft flew off. The aircraft lost height immediately and crash-landed near Sciacca (in Sicily) in an olive orchard. The aircraft burst into flames. The crew were all alive and became POW’s. I was released on 10/4/45.”

## 458 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

**Date of Death:** 27 April 1943

**Source:**

AWM 64 1/279                      Commonwealth War Graves records.

<b>Aircraft Type:</b>	Wellington
<b>Serial number:</b>	
<b>Radio call sign:</b>	FU – S
<b>Unit:</b>	458 Sqn RAAF

**Summary:**

The 458 Sqn ORB records the following “On the night of 27/28<sup>th</sup> April 1943 one special Wellington took off at 2015 hours to search for enemy shipping off the west coast of Italy. At 2325 hours 2 medium size merchant vessels escorted by a destroyer were sighted in position 39.10N 13.22E, course 270deg, speed 8 knots. A sighting report was sent to base. The aircraft acknowledged a signal from base at 0124 hours but it failed to return from the mission.

**Crew:**

RAF              FO Tuckwell, M Captain (Pilot)  
RAF              Sgt T E Musto, (2<sup>nd</sup> Pilot)  
RCAF            PO Hudson, R W J (Navigator)  
RAF              Sgt K T Bates, (Wireless Operator)  
RAF              Sgt J R Hunter, (SE/Operator)  
RAF              Sgt W S Lees, (Rear Gunner)

All the crew who were 458 Sqn members were killed. FO Tuckwell is buried in the Catania War Cemetery, Sicily. The other crew members are missing their names are commemorated on the Malta Memorial, which is situated in the area of Floriana and stands outside the main entrance to Valletta, Malta.

## 458 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

**Date of Death:** 28 April 1943

**Source:**

AWM 64 1/279    AWM 237 (64)    NAA : A705, 166/32/88  
Commonwealth War Graves records.

<b>Aircraft Type:</b>	Wellington
<b>Serial number:</b>	AD 593
<b>Radio call sign:</b>	
<b>Unit:</b>	221 Sqn RAF

**Summary:**

The 458 Sqn ORB records the following “ Another special Wellington, 4 torpedo carrying Wellingtons and two Wellingtons with bombs on all of this Squadron, were despatched at 0040 hours on the night of 27/28<sup>th</sup> April 1943 to attack a sighting by a previous aircraft . Low clouds and poor visibility was encountered and the convoy was not located. Several enemy fighters were encountered during the patrol, and one of the bomb carrying Wellington aircraft failed to return.”

One of the above aircraft AD593 took off from Luqa at 0055 hours on the 28<sup>th</sup> April to strike at shipping 30 miles NNE of the Island of Ustica and failed to return. The crew were :

**Crew:**

RCAF    WO Class 1 A L Keith Captain (Pilot)  
RAF    Sgt A W Brighurst, (2<sup>nd</sup> Pilot)  
RAAF    407801 PO Paroissien, J C (Navigator)  
RAF    Flt Sgt A McC Sutherland, (Wireless Air Gunner)  
RAF    Sgt G Lyle, (Rear Gunner)

All the crew were listed as missing and their names are commemorated on the Malta Memorial, which is situated in the area of Floriana and stands outside the main entrance to Valletta Malta.

In a 1948 report by a Missing Research & Enquiry team it stated “ the aircraft was shot down and crashed into a cliff near Cape Bianco on 28 April 1943. The aircraft exploded and burning wreckage was scattered on the beach. Cape Bon is on the south coast of Sicily approx 13 miles south east of Sciacca.”



## 458 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

**Date of Death:** 28 April 1943

**Source:**

AWM 64 1/279    AWM 237 (63)    Commonwealth War Graves records  
NAA : A705, 166/7/88

<b>Aircraft Type:</b>	Wellington
<b>Serial number:</b>	NP 537
<b>Radio call sign:</b>	
<b>Unit:</b>	221 Sqn RAF

**Summary:**

The 458 Sqn ORB records the following “ At 2057 hours on the 27th April 1943 two Wellingtons were despatched from Luqa to search for enemy shipping in the Sicilian narrows in cooperation with Royal navy units. The captains were PO Whitcomb and Flt Lt Taylor. The aircraft flown by PO Whitcomb returned early with engine trouble.

At 2350 hours NP537 sighted and reported to base one small vessel and one destroyer in position 38.12N 13.05E, course 090deg, speed 7 knots. Nothing further was heard from the aircraft and it failed to return to base.

**Crew:**

RAF        Flt Lt Taylor J L Captain (Pilot)  
RNZAF    PO Prebble, I D (2<sup>nd</sup> Pilot)  
RNZAF    FO Whatnall, G O (Navigator)  
RNZAF    Sgt D K R Rowley, (Wireless Operator)  
RAAF      403920 Flt Sgt W J Clemow, (SE/Operator)  
RNZAF    Flt Sgt T G Moynihan, (Rear Gunner)

Flt Lt Taylor, FO Prebble and Flt Sgt Clemow lost their lives at sea and their names are commemorated on the Malta Memorial which is situated in the area of Floriana and stands outside the main entrance to Valletta, Malta.

The other three crew members were POW's. RAAF Hqrs London reported later that the POW's had stated “ All the crew were in the aircraft when it crashed into the sea flying too low to avoid enemy night fighters. The position was half way between Pantellaria Island and Cape Bon between 0150-2000 hours on 28 April 1943. Clemow, Prebble and Taylor went down with the aircraft. The other three members got out due to the aircraft breaking up on impact with the water.”

Note : AWM Honour Roll records Flt Sgt Clemow's unit as 221 Sqn RAF  
CWG records Flt Lt Taylor and PO Prebble's unit as 458 Sqn RAAF

## 458 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

**Date of Death:** 30 April 1943

**Source:**

AWM 64 1/279 AWM 237 (63) Commonwealth War Graves records

NAA : A705, 166/4/2

<b>Aircraft Type:</b>	Wellington
<b>Serial number:</b>	LB 169
<b>Radio call sign:</b>	FU – R
<b>Unit:</b>	458 Sqn RAAF

**Summary:**

Wellington LB169 took off from RAF Luqa at 2018 hours on the night of 29/30 April 1943 to carry out a shipping search off western Sicily. At 0223 hours a weather report was received at base from the aircraft. Nothing further was heard from the aircraft and it failed to return from the mission.

**Crew:**

RCAF WO Class 11 R M Westman, Captain (Pilot)  
RCAF WO Class 11 N A Stelter, (2<sup>nd</sup> Pilot)  
RCAF WO Class 11 G A D Cameron, (Navigator)  
RCAF WO Class 11 J R Grasley, (Wireless Operator)  
RCAF WO Class 11 G J Banks, (SE/Operator)  
RAAF 405168 Flt Sgt R D Armour, (Rear Gunner)

All the crew lost their lives. The remains of Flt Sgt Armour was found on the beach of Mangiove Di Patti in the province of Messina. He is buried in the Catania War Cemetery which is 7kms south west of Catania, Sicily.

WO Westman is buried in the Agira Canadian War Cemetery which lies in the Commune of Agira, Province of Enna, in the centre of Sicily, Italy.

WO Banks is buried in the Naples War cemetery which lies in the locality of Miano at Via Vincenzo Ianfolla, off the Corso Secondigliano, in the Commune and Province of Naples, Italy.

WO's Stelter, Cameron and Grasley have no known grave and their names are commemorated on the Malta Memorial which is situated in the area of Floriana and stands outside the main entrance to Valletta, Malta.

## 458 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

**Date of Death:** 16 June 1943

**Source:**

AWM 64 1/279      AWM 237 (63)      Commonwealth War Graves records  
NAA : A705, 166/13/71

<b>Aircraft Type:</b>	Wellington
<b>Serial number:</b>	LB 195
<b>Radio call sign:</b>	FU -
<b>Unit:</b>	458 Sqn RAAF

**Summary:**

Wellington LB195 took off from RAF Protville, Tunisia at 2040 hours on the night of 15/16<sup>th</sup> June 1943 to carry out a close anti-sub patrol escort of convoy 'Parcel'. At 0020 hours on 16th June the aircraft suddenly went off the RDF plot in position 30.55N 20.04E. The aircraft was not seen again and failed to return to base.

**Crew:**

RAF      Sgt E B Bottomley, Captain (Pilot)  
RAF      Sgt B L Pottage, (2<sup>nd</sup> Pilot)  
RCAF     Sgt T F Scandliffio, (Navigator)  
RAF      Sgt J R Cousins, (Wireless Air Gunner)  
RAF      Sgt J D Reynolds, (Wireless Operator Air Gunner)  
RAAF     402920 Flt Sgt J E Flecknoe, (Wireless Air Gunner)

All the missing crew have no known grave and their names are commemorated on the Alamein Memorial which forms the entrance to the El Alamein War Cemetery, Egypt. Alamein is a village bypassed by the main coast road, approx 130kms west of Alexandria on the road to Mersa Matruh.

## 458 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

**Date of Death:** 21 June 1943

**Source:**

AWM 64 1/279      Commonwealth War Graves records

<b>Aircraft Type:</b>	Wellington
<b>Serial number:</b>	HF 603
<b>Radio call sign:</b>	FU -
<b>Unit:</b>	38 Sqn RAF

**Summary:**

Wellington HF603 took off from Landing Ground 91 for an anti-sub escort patrol of a convoy. The aircraft crashed into the sea near Alexandria.

**Crew:**

RAF      FO Bullock, J captain (Pilot)  
RAF      FO Paton, W (2<sup>nd</sup> Pilot)  
RAF      FO Driver, A H (Navigator)  
RAF      Sgt T A Oliver, (Wireless Air Gunner)  
RAF      Sgt C A Neal, (Wireless Air Gunner)  
RAF      Sgt M J Morgan, (Wireless Air Gunner)

Both FO Bullock and FO Driver survived the crash. The other four crew members lost their lives at sea and their names are commemorated on the Alamein Memorial, which forms the entrance to the El Alamein War Cemetery, Egypt. Alamein is a village bypassed by the main coast road, approx 130kms west of Alexandria on the road to Mersa Matruh.

Note : On 22/5/1943 Hdqrs 201 Group advised 458 Sqn ME detachment at Landing Ground 91 that the detachment was to be split up. The main party of the Sqn was to move to a new Command NWAC leaving a small detachment to carry on at LG91. On 22/5/43 the main party of 230 ground staff and a number of officers and airmen aircrew departed for BNWA. The 458 detachment left behind of 58 ground staff and 8 crews of approx 40 in number were designated No 38 Sqn Detachment ME, located at Landing Ground 91.

## 458 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

**Date of Death:** 23 June 1943

**Source:**

AWM 64 1/280    NAA : A9186 Control 144    AWM 54 779/3/129 Part 10

<b>Aircraft Type:</b>	Wellington
<b>Serial number:</b>	HZ 536
<b>Radio call sign:</b>	FU -V
<b>Unit:</b>	458 Sqn RAAF

**Summary:**

Wellington HZ536 took off from RAF Protville, Tunisia, at 2052 hours on the night of 23/24<sup>th</sup> June 1943 fitted with a load of flares and it was detailed to locate and shadow then illuminate enemy shipping for a torpedo striking force to attack. Enemy ships had been sighted during the day and there was a possibility that they had not reached port by the time our night torpedo bombers arrived in the area. Nothing was seen or heard from HZ536 after take off and it did not return to base.

**Crew:**

RNZAF    Sgt C Moncur, Captain (Pilot)  
RAF       Sgt A I Thompson, (2<sup>nd</sup> Pilot)  
RAF       Sgt J McIlhatton, (Navigator)  
RAAF      406389 Flt Sgt R F W Clark, (Wireless Operator Gunner)  
RAF       Sgt F E Baker (SE/Operator)  
RAAF      401049 WO L A Pearce, (Rear Gunner)

The ORB records on 26/8 1943 that RAF ME Base Personnel had advised that the body of WO Pearce had been recovered by an Italian patrol on 7/8/1943 and buried at Salerno War Cemetery, Italy. Also that Sgt Thompson (RAF) 2<sup>nd</sup> Pilot had been picked up and was a POW in Germany.

Sgt McIlhatton, Sgt Baker and WO Pearce lost their lives and their names are commemorated on the Malta Memorial, which is located in the area of Floriana, and is outside the main entrance to Valletta, Malta.

In a later report the then WO Clark stated "On 23/6/43 we were detailed from Tunisia to go out and look for shipping. After approx 5 hours we experienced engine trouble firstly our starboard engine stopped and a little while after our port engine went out. I believe there was a block in petrol line. I made my escape through the astro hatch and when I left the Nav, Rear Gunner and SE Operator were still in the aircraft. I think they were killed. The two Pilots are both alive. I was a POW for 22 months . I did 22 hours in a dinghy and was picked up by a German MTB and taken to Cagliari, Sardinia."

## 458 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

**Date of Death:** 13 July 1943

**Source:**

AWM 64 1/280                  Commonwealth War Graves records

<b>Aircraft Type:</b>	
<b>Serial number:</b>	
<b>Radio call sign:</b>	
<b>Unit:</b>	458 Sqn RAAF

**Summary:**

An ORB entry on 13 July 1943 records “ On this day advice was received from No 5 MRTS that the undermentioned officers of this Squadron who were undergoing a torpedo course were killed in a flying accident at Shallufa, Egypt.

RAF            FO Neale, Douglas Beaumont, (Pilot)  
RNZAF        FO Reid, John (Pilot)

Both members are buried in the Suez War Memorial Cemetery which is situated on the outskirts of Suez about 7kms from the centre of the town.

## 458 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

**Date of Death:** 13 July 1943

**Source:**

AWM 64 1/280    AWM 237 (64)    Commonwealth War Graves records.  
NAA : A705, 166/24/32

<b>Aircraft Type:</b>	Wellington
<b>Serial number:</b>	MP 629
<b>Radio call sign:</b>	FU -
<b>Unit:</b>	458 Sqn RAAF

**Summary:**

Wellington MP629 took off from RAF Protville at 2045 hours on the night of 12/13<sup>th</sup> July 1943 to carry out an armed search for shipping in the Corsica-North Sardinia area. The aircraft sent a sighting report at approx 2320 hours but nothing was heard after that and the aircraft failed to return.

**Crew:**

RCAF    FO Hailstone, W C Captain (Pilot)  
RAF    Flt Sgt F G Crocker, (2nd Pilot)  
RCAF    FO Diggins, J A (Navigator)  
RCAF    WO11 W W Wright, (Wireless Air Gunner)  
RCAF    WO11 H E Bradley, (Wireless Air Gunner)  
RCAF    WO11 D H McConechy, (Wireless Air Gunner)  
RAAF    407800 Flt Lt Neill, K J (Navigator)  
RAF    Sgt J Tindall, (Wireless Air Gunner)

Following post war enquiries and interrogation of local inhabitants a Missing Research and Enquiry Unit reported that the aircraft was shot down and crashed in the sea between Palau and La Maddalena on 13 July 1943. Palau is on the north east coast of Sardinia and La Maddalena is a small island off the coast approx 3 miles north of Palau.

All the crew are missing and their names are commemorated on the Malta Memorial, which is situated in the area of Floriana and stands outside the main entrance to Valletta, Malta.

## 458 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

**Date of Death:** 15 July 1943

**Source:**

AWM A9186 Control 149   AWM 64 1/280   Commonwealth War Graves records.

<b>Aircraft Type:</b>	Wellington
<b>Serial number:</b>	
<b>Radio call sign:</b>	FU – A
<b>Unit:</b>	458 Sqn RAAF

**Summary:**

Wellington 'X' of 221 Sqn on the night of 14/15<sup>th</sup> July 1943 was engaged on a cross over patrol between Corsica and Sicily, and at 2310 hours sighted 1 M/V cargo liner type of 9000 tons and 3 destroyers. A message was sent to base and 5 Wellingtons of 458 Sqn were diverted from their patrols to attack the M/V.

A/c 'L' (PO Quinlan) of 458 Sqn dropped two torpedoes and as a result the M/V caught fire and sank with the destroyers picking up survivors. A/c 'K' (Flt Sgt Bishop) arrived in time to see the M/V sink and one of the escorts on fire. A/c 'F' (FO Lawson) and A/c 'A' (FO Markowski) which were also diverted to the sighting failed to return.

Wellington FU – A took off from RAF Protville, Tunisia, at 2051 hours on 14/15<sup>th</sup> July 1943 on a cross over patrol between the Straits of Bonnifacie and south of Elba. Apart from a signal that it had sighted the convoy, nothing further was heard from A/c 'A' and it failed to return from the mission.

**Crew:**

RAF	FO Markowski, W J Captain (Pilot)
RAF	Flt Sgt E J Colclough (2 <sup>nd</sup> Pilot)
RAF	FO Leonard, R (Navigator)
RAF	PO Palmer, H W (Gunner S)
RCAF	WO Class 11 T E Griggs (Wireless Air Gunner)
RAF	Sgt E Stanfield (Wireless Air Gunner)
RAF	Sgt Blackler (Wireless Air Gunner)

Commonwealth Graves record Sgt Stanfield and WO Griggs members of 458 Sqn as having no known grave and their names are commemorated on the Malta Memorial, which is situated in the area of Floriana, and stands outside the main entrance to Valletta, Malta. The records do not however reveal the fate of the other five members of the crew.



## 458 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

**Date of Death:** 15 July 1943

**Source:**

NAA : Series A9186 Control 149    AWM 64 1/280    NAA : A705,. 166/17/229  
Commonwealth War Graves records

<b>Aircraft Type:</b>	Wellington
<b>Serial number:</b>	HP 631
<b>Radio call sign:</b>	FU – F
<b>Unit:</b>	458 Sqn RAAF

**Summary:**

Wellington 'X' of 221 Sqn on the night of 14/15<sup>th</sup> July 1943 was engaged on a cross over patrol between Corsica and Sicily, and at 2310 hours sighted 1 M/V cargo liner type of 9000 tons and 3 destroyers. A message was sent to base and 5 Wellingtons of 458 Sqn were diverted from their patrols to attack the M/V.

A/c 'L' (PO Quinlan) of 458 Sqn dropped two torpedoes and as a result the M/V caught fire and sank with the destroyers picking up survivors. A/c 'K' (Flt Sgt Bishop) arrived in time to see the M/V sink and one of the escorts on fire. A/c 'F' (FO Lawson) and A/c 'A' (FO Markowsky) which were also diverted to the sighting failed to return.

Wellington HP631 'F' took off from RAF Protville, Tunisia, at 2100 hours on the night of 14/15<sup>th</sup> July 1943 to carry out an armed recce in an area off the north east coast of Sardinia. The aircraft sent a message at 0216 hours to another aircraft of the same Squadron requesting illumination of a target they had located, but nothing further was heard and HP631 failed to return from the mission.

**Crew:**

RCAF      FO Lawson, G H Captain (Pilot)  
RAAF      401507 FO Hazeldine, L Y (2<sup>nd</sup> Pilot)  
RCAF      FO Tarrison, M H (Navigator)  
RCAF      PO Pagan, A R (Gunner S)  
RCAF      FO McCorkell, E A (Gunner)  
RAF      Sgt R E Burrows, Wireless Air Gunner)  
RCAF      FO Renton, A (Navigator)

All the crew lost their lives at sea and their names are commemorated on the Malta Memorial which is situated in the area of Floriana and stands outside the main entrance to Valletta, Malta.

Post war enquiries among local inhabitants at La Maddalena by a Missing Research & Enquiry unit established that the aircraft was shot down and crashed into the sea between Palau and La Maddalena. Palau is situated on the north east coast of Sardinia and La Maddalena is a small island off the coast approx 3 miles north of Palau.

## 458 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

**Date of Death:** 22 July 1943

**Source:**

NAA : Series A9186, Control 149 AWM 64 1/280 Commonwealth War Graves records.

<b>Aircraft Type:</b>	Wellington
<b>Serial number:</b>	
<b>Radio call sign:</b>	FU – R
<b>Unit:</b>	458 Sqn RAAF

**Summary:**

Wellington FU – R of 458 Sqn took off from RAF Protville at 2130 hours on the night of 21/22 July 1943 to carry out an armed recce west of Sardinia and from Corsica to Toulon, coastwise to Spezia and returning west of Corsica and Sardinia. At 0135 hours a sighting report was broadcast and acknowledged by ‘R’. At 0320 hours the aircraft sent out a message to base ‘request instructions’ and it was directed to return to base. Nothing further was heard from the aircraft and it did not return to base.

**Crew:**

RCAF FO Barker, G L Captain (Pilot)  
RAF Sgt R Wilkinson, (2<sup>nd</sup> Pilot)  
RNZAF Sgt I Kippenberger, (Navigator)  
RAF Sgt F C Kingston, (Wireless Air Gunner)  
RAF Sgt L S Hill, (Wireless Air Gunner)  
RAF Sgt L H Johnson (Wireless Air Gunner)

FO Barker, Sgt Kippenberger, Sgt Hill and Sgt Johnson are missing and have no known grave. Their names are commemorated on the Malta Memorial which is situated in the area of Floriana and stands outside the main entrance to Valletta, Malta.

Sgt Wilkinson and Sgt Kingston are buried in the Bigula War Cemetery. Bigula is a small village 9kms south of Bastia, which is a town and sub-prefecture of the department of Corsica, situated on the seacoast north east of the island. Locality Haute-Corse, France.

## 458 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

**Date of Death:** 30 July 1943

**Source:**

AWM 64 1/280          Commonwealth War Graves records

<b>Aircraft Type:</b>	Wellington
<b>Serial number:</b>	
<b>Radio call sign:</b>	FU – D
<b>Unit:</b>	458 Sqn RAAF

**Summary:**

The 458 Sqn ORB records the following “ Six Wellingtons of this Squadron were detailed on the night of 30/31<sup>st</sup> July 1943 to carry out recces along the east coast of Corsica and Sardinia and the approaches to Spezia. There was also a cross over patrol between Elba and the west coast of Italy returning along the west coast of Corsica and Sardinia.

One of the aircraft Wellington FU – D (FO Graham) took off from RAF Protville, Tunisia, At 2157 hours and when in the vicinity of Plane Island sent a message to base ‘engine trouble’. It jettisoned its load of flares and returned to base. Unfortunately the aircraft crashed on landing at 2220 hours and caught fire. The Captain and the second pilot were killed and the other crew suffered badly from burns.

**Crew:**

RCAF      Flt Lt Graham, D D Captain (Pilot)  
RCAF      FO Verhaest, F K (2<sup>nd</sup> Pilot)  
            FO Hicks, (Navigator)  
            FO Healey, (Wireless Air Gunner)  
            Sgt Robertson (Wireless Operator)  
            Sgt Birchall, (Wireless Operator)

Both Flt Lt Graham and FO Verhaest are buried in the Medjez-el-Bab War Cemetery which is located 60kms west of Tunis, Tunisia.

## 458 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

**Date of Death:** 5 August 1943

**Source:** NAA : Series A9186 Control 149 Commonwealth War Graves records

<b>Aircraft Type:</b>	Wellington
<b>Serial number:</b>	MP 700
<b>Radio call sign:</b>	FU – O
<b>Unit:</b>	458 Sqn RAAF

**Summary :** Wellington MP700 which was detailed to carry out a recce in the Tyrennian Sea took off from RAF Protville at 2226 hours on 4/5<sup>th</sup> August 43. A message was intercepted from MP700 at 0017 hours on the 5<sup>th</sup> August “returning to base engine trouble, position 40.02N 10,10E.” Nothing further was heard from the aircraft and it failed to return to base. The aircraft was one of six aircraft from the Squadron detailed to carry out armed recces during the night of 4/5<sup>th</sup> August..

### **Crew:**

RAAF 402262 Flt Sgt Spencer, R G Captain (Pilot)  
 RAF Flt Sgt B E Adams, (2<sup>nd</sup> Pilot)  
 RAAF 407903 PO McKay, L (Navigator)  
 RAF Sgt C Ebbage, (Wireless Air Gunner)  
 RAAF 403865 PO Fischer, J M (Wireless Air Gunner)  
 RAAF 406705 Sgt B A Watson, (Wireless Air Gunner)

The Sqn ORB also records “ On 12/8 a message was received from HQ NACAF that Sgt Watson, a WAG in Spencer’s crew missing on the night of 4/5 August had been picked up after 8 days in a dinghy. Watson reported that at 0025 hours the port engine had cut out and the airscrew feathered. The aircraft set course for base sending out signal ‘JR’. The torpedo was jettisoned. Suddenly the Pilot shouted ‘stand by for ditching’, but aircraft went straight in before anyone could take up positions. He did not know whether aircraft had become unmanageable or whether the pilot had not realised he was too low and unprepared for crash. Sgt Watson was able to open the astro hatch, and he must have shot through this but only remembers struggling under water. On surfacing he saw burning oil on the surface and an uninflated dinghy floating 20 yards away. Although bruised and unable to use his arms he made for the dinghy and after half an hours struggle managed to get into it. Sgt Ebbard also survived the crash and managed to get into the dinghy although badly hurt, vomiting, could not see and was in great pain. Watson found the ration box tried to open it for the morphia but fainted. He came to 2 hours later and Ebbage appeared dead. Two days later Watson buried Ebbage at sea. During the whole time in the dinghy Watson strictly rationed the water and Horlick tablets and when rescued still had five cans of water and 4 tins of Horlicks. During this time several aircraft including Germans had appeared but he could not attract their attention. On the 12 August a Catalina appeared with Lightning escort. Watson got their attention by standing up and waving red flag. The Catalina circled, alighted and picked up Watson with a rope. He was brought to Bizerta and taken to 56<sup>th</sup> General Hospital. Rescue was possible by Watson’s persistent confidence and refusal to give up hope He sang and talked to himself during the day and kept cool by dipping his clothes in sea.” The names of the five crew who lost their live are commemorated on the Malta Memorial

## 458 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

**Date of Death:** 24 August 1943

**Source:**

AWM 64 1/280                      Commonwealth War Graves records

<b>Aircraft Type:</b>	Wellington
<b>Serial number:</b>	
<b>Radio call sign:</b>	FU -
<b>Unit:</b>	458 Sqn RAAF

**Summary:**

The 458 Sqn ORB records “ On the night of 23/24<sup>th</sup> August 1943 four Wellingtons of this Squadron were despatched between 1956 hours and 2158 hours to carry out an offensive shipping search on four allocated areas. PO Scott and crew were allocated the Civitaveschia- Elbe- Leghorn area , but the aircraft failed to return to base.

At 2300 hours one of our other Wellingtons intercepted a message from Scott’s aircraft requesting instructions but the message was not received by base. At 0155 hours Hqrs Group received a message from the aircraft requesting instructions and at 0200 hours Group replied that it had nothing to communicate. When the aircraft became overdue Group and Malta attempted to contact the aircraft by W/T for a considerable time but without success.”

**Crew:**

RCAF      Flt Lt Scott, R C Captain (Pilot)  
RCAF      FO Brechin, M L (2<sup>nd</sup> Pilot)  
RAF      FO Hillen, J (Navigator)  
RAF      Sgt M E Windsor, (Wireless Air Gunner)  
RAF      Sgt W E Dixon, (Wireless Air Gunner)  
RAF      Sgt J Whittaker, (Wireless Air Gunner)

No trace of the missing crew were found and their names are commemorated on the Malta Memorial, which is situated in the area of Floriana and stands outside the main entrance to Valletta, Malta.

## 458 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

**Date of Crash :** 8 September 1943

**Source:**

AWM 64 1/280

<b>Aircraft Type:</b>	Wellington
<b>Serial number:</b>	
<b>Radio call sign:</b>	FU – C
<b>Unit:</b>	458 Sqn RAAF

### **Summary:**

Wellington 'C' captained by FO Watson (RAAF) took off from RAF Protville at 1923 hours on the night of 8/9<sup>th</sup> September 1943, detailed to carry out a cross over patrol Asinara Island-Cape Sanitosa-Sanguinaries Island – covering the western entrance to Bonifacio Straits between Corsica and Sardinia. The aircraft had to be ditched and did not return to base, but all the crew were picked up by an Italian destroyer and returned to Bizerta.

### **Crew:**

RAAF 401165 Flt Sgt D O W Watson, Captain (Pilot)  
 Sgt N S Lees, (2<sup>nd</sup> Pilot)  
 FO Tarcynski, S (Navigator)  
 RAF Sgt R Hardwick, (Wireless Operator)  
 RAF Sgt T Herring (SE/Operator)  
 RAF Sgt G R Davies (Rear Gunner)

"It was later reported by the crew that the aircraft went down 40 miles north west Asinara Island at 2300 hours when the engines failed. First one engine cut out and did not pick up then the other engine spluttered and sheets of flame came out of the exhaust as the engine back fired. Pilot warned the crew to take ditching positions. The WOP sent out the call signal for ditching once then clamped the key down. By that time the aircraft had hit the water. The SE/Op. removed the astro dome before the A/c submerged and both he and the Nav swam through. The aircraft sank in 30 seconds. The Rear Gunner got out of the turret successfully and the other three escaped through the front. The dinghy floated on the surface but upside down. The crew rested on the inverted dinghy for half an hour, then got it upright, got in and spent an uneventful night.

At 0940 hours on the 9<sup>th</sup> a Baltimore was seen. The crew fired cartridges and waved the red flag and the aircraft made several runs overhead. A JU88 went over later and waggled its wings. At 1200 hours a Marauder dropped a container of rations but it broke up on hitting the water. At 1400 hours naval gunfire was heard. At 1800 another Marauder. Then 2 Italian battleships, four destroyers were seen and 3 JU88's overhead. A destroyer seemed to be making for dinghy and the crew fired off cartridges. The destroyer came alongside with the crew shouting 'Armistice'. A rope was lowered and we climbed aboard. Every hospitality extended to us. The ship steamed south. On 10/9 the Captain got the WOP to signal by Aldis to a Baltimore for an R.N pilot to guide the ship through minefields. The British fleet met the Italian fleet to escort it to Malta. The destroyer left the fleet and arrived at Bizerta at 1600 hours on 10/9/43 where the aircrew landed."

## 458 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

**Date of Death:** 12 September 1943

**Source:**

AWM 64 1/280      AWM 237 (63) (64)      NAA : A705, 166/9/170  
Commonwealth War Graves records.

<b>Aircraft Type:</b>	Wellington
<b>Serial number:</b>	HP 762
<b>Radio call sign:</b>	FU – Y
<b>Unit:</b>	458 Sqn RAAF

**Summary:**

Wellington HP762 took off from RAF Protville at 1924 hours on the night of 11/12<sup>th</sup> September 1943 to carry out a night recce of the east and west coast of Corsica and Sardinia.. Four Wellingtons were detailed for patrols that night with instructions that no shipping was to be attacked due to the probability of Italian ships passing through the patrol areas en route to Allied ports.

At 0012 hours on 12/9 a message was received by base from HP762 reporting a sighting of two unknowns in position 43.10N 09.41E and at 0017 hours another message stating contact was lost. Nothing further was heard from the aircraft and it did not return to base.

**Crew:**

RAAF      407414 WO C K Dickson, Captain (Pilot)  
RAAF      406268 Flt Sgt C R Thurstun, (2<sup>nd</sup> Pilot)  
RAAF      416227 FO Parker M G, (Navigator)  
RAF      Sgt H Milner (Wireless Operator)  
RAF      Sgt J S Hornsby, (SE/Operator)  
RAF      Sgt R E Clark, (Rear Gunner)

All the missing crew lost their lives at sea and their names are commemorated of the Malta Memorial, which is situated in the area of Floriana which stands outside the main entrance to Valletta, Malta.

## 458 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

**Date of Death:** 16 September 1943

**Source:**

AWM 64 1/280    Commonwealth War Graves records

<b>Aircraft Type:</b>	Wellington
<b>Serial number:</b>	
<b>Radio call sign:</b>	FU – K
<b>Unit:</b>	458 Sqn RAAF

**Summary:**

Wellington FU – K took off from RAF Protville at 1821 hours on the night of 16/17<sup>th</sup> September 1943 to patrol an area from Civitavecchia to Savona Gorjona islands thence Bastia and down the coasts of Corsica and Sardinia. Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take off and it did not return to base.

**Crew:**

RAF      FO Driver, P R Captain (Pilot)  
RAF      Sgt E L Wilson (2<sup>nd</sup> Pilot)  
RAF      FO Holt, G (Navigator)  
RAF      Sgt E J Cuming, (Wireless Operator)  
RAF      Sgt G R Potter, (SE/Operator)  
            Sgt D A E Salt, (Rear Gunner)

The names of FO Driver, FO Holt and Sgt's Cuming and Potter are commemorated on the Malta Memorial as having no known grave. The Memorial is situated in the area of Floriana, and stands outside the main entrance to Valletta, Malta.

Flt Sgt Wilson is buried in the Florence War Cemetery, Italy. Commonwealth War Graves records his date of death as 16/10/1943.

It could not be established from available records whether Sgt Salt lost his life or survived the crash.



## 458 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

**Date of Death:** 17 October 1943

**Source:**

AWM 64 1/280                      AWM 237 (63)                      Commonwealth War Graves records

<b>Aircraft Type:</b>	Wellington
<b>Serial number:</b>	
<b>Radio call sign:</b>	FU – C
<b>Unit:</b>	458 Sqn RAAF

**Summary:**

Wellington FU – C took off from RAF Bone, Algeria, at 1713 hours on 17 October 1943 on a U boat hunt north of Cap De Fer. A message was received from the aircraft at 1926 hours WJR ‘returning to base with engine trouble’ position 37.40N 06.00E. Nothing further was heard and the aircraft failed to return.

Base called for some considerable time without success. ASR operations commenced. At 2057 hours a message was received from a 38 Sqn aircraft ‘over burning wreckage 37.39N 06.52E.’

**Crew:**

RAAF      403915 WO W J Duode, Captain (Pilot)  
RAF        Flt Sgt W H Milne, (2<sup>nd</sup> Pilot)  
RAAF      406591 WO C C Dacey, (Navigator)  
RAF        FO Tatt, E E (Navigator)  
RAAF      409686 Flt Sgt G J Gebbie, (Wireless Operator)  
RAF        Flt Sgt W B Ralph, (SE/Operator)  
RAF        Sgt R Musgrove, (Rear Gunner)

All the crew lost their lives and their names are commemorated on the Malta Memorial, which is situated in the area of Floriana, and stands outside the main entrance to Valletta, Malta.

## 458 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

**Date of Death:** 2 November 1943

**Source:**

AWM 64 1/280 AWM 237 (64) Commonwealth War Graves records.

NAA : A705, 166/18/217

<b>Aircraft Type:</b>	Wellington
<b>Serial number:</b>	HZ 874
<b>Radio call sign:</b>	FU -
<b>Unit:</b>	458 Sqn RAAF

**Summary:**

The 458 Sqn ORB records "On 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1943 one of 458 Sqn Wellingtons took off from Sidi Armor at 0236 hours on an anti-sub patrol of a westbound convoy and to then land at Bone. At 1716 hours the starboard engine caught fire. At 1718 hours the 2<sup>nd</sup> Pilot who was at the controls with the Captain standing beside him giving instructions, ditched the aircraft 110deg Cape Bon 30 miles.

The ditching was disastrous as the aircraft immediately broke up and sank. The Captain was knocked unconscious and died from drowning. His body was recovered and supported by Flt Sgt Ramsay, until the arrival of a boat two minutes after ditching from one of the destroyers escorting the convoy, HMS Blakeney. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Pilot Flt Sgt Bryson who was at the controls is missing."

The four other members of the crew escaped with minor injuries and shock. They were rescued by a whaler from the destroyer at 0740 hours and were landed at Bizerta.

**Crew:**

RAAF 405312 FO Howie, D G captain (Pilot)  
RAF Flt Sgt H F Bryson, (2<sup>nd</sup> Pilot)  
RAAF FO Guthrie, J (Navigator)  
RAAF 400758 Flt Sgt F N Morris, (Wireless Air Gunner)  
RAAF 401395 Flt Sgt J R Ramsay, (SE/Operator)  
RCAF WO H J M Brady, (Wireless Air Gunner)

FO Howie is buried in the Massicault War Cemetery, Tunisia. The cemetery is about 25kms south west of Tunis on Route P5 to Mediez-el-Bab.

Flt Sgt Bryson lost his life at sea. His name is commemorated on the Malta Memorial, which is situated in the area of Floriana, and is outside the main entrance to Valletta, Malta.

## 458 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

**Date of Death:** 27 November 1943

**Source:**

AWM 64 1/280    AWM 237 (63) Commonwealth War Graves records.

<b>Aircraft Type:</b>	Wellington
<b>Serial number:</b>	
<b>Radio call sign:</b>	FU – X
<b>Unit:</b>	458 Sqn RAAF

**Summary:**

Wellington FU – X took off from Tahir at 1445 hours on 27 November 1943 to search for a missing Beaufighter of 153 Sqn. At 1844 hours a message was received from the aircraft 'ETA Bone 1955 hours'. The aircraft crashed on the west side of a hill on Cape Bougaroun and was completely burnt out and the crew killed'.

**Crew:**

RAAF    409851 Flt Sgt J Richards, Captain (Pilot)  
RAF    Sgt M V Aungier, (2<sup>nd</sup> Pilot)  
RCAF    WO Class 1 A Aikman, (Navigator)  
RAAF    422702 Flt Sgt G K Reid, (Wireless Operator)  
RAAF    410909 Flt Sgt L J Muschialli (SE/Operator)  
RAAF    415777 Flt Sgt R T A Freeman, (Rear Gunner)

All the crew are buried in the Bone War Cemetery, Algeria. The cemetery is about 5kms west of Annaba.

## 458 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

**Date of Death:** 23 January 1944

**Source:**

AWM 64 1/280 AWM 237 (63) (64)

NAA : A705, 166/36/198

<b>Aircraft Type:</b>	Wellington
<b>Serial number:</b>	MP 704
<b>Radio call sign:</b>	FU -
<b>Unit:</b>	458 Sqn RAAF

**Summary:**

The Sqn ORB records “ As a result of an alleged sighting by a Baltimore recce off the east coast of Sicily, 6 Wellingtons left Bone for Malta at 0800 hours on 23 January 1944 arriving at 11.30 hours. A sortie was later carried out in an area east of Malta and south of Sicily and Italy. No subs were sighted.

The port engine of one of the Wellingtons (FO Markey) cut out and caught fire at 1000 feet while on patrol at 2230 hours on the night of 23/24<sup>th</sup> January and the aircraft was forced to ditch in position 37.31N 16.25E. The ditch was not successful and there were only two survivors FO Bartlett (2nd Pilot) and Flt Sgt Huntley, (WOP), both of whom were rescued by a British destroyer and admitted to the Royal Navy sick bay at Augusta. Flt Sgt Shipard (WOP) was also picked up but he died aboard ship and was buried at sea.

**Crew:**

RAAF 403429 FO Markey, J R Captain (Pilot)  
RAAF 405620 FO Bartlett, J N (2<sup>nd</sup> Pilot)  
RAAF 425372 Flt Sgt T R Rogers, (Navigator Bomb Aimer)  
RAAF 416895 Flt Sgt J C Shipard, (Wireless Operator Air)  
RAAF 410488 Flt Sgt A J Huntley, (Wireless Operator Air)  
RAAF 410397 Flt Sgt L C Taylor, (Wireless Operator Air)

The names of the four members of the crew who lost their lives at sea are commemorated on the Malta Memorial, which is situated in the area of Floriana, and stands outside the main gate to Valletta, Malta.

## 458 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

**Date of Death:** 13 February 1944

**Source:**

AWM 64 1/280    AWM 237 (63)    WW2 Nominal Roll    NAA : A705, 166/24/382  
Commonwealth War Graves records.

We find and destroy : History of 458 Squadron by Peter Alexander. (Appendix 111)

<b>Aircraft Type:</b>	Wellington
<b>Serial number:</b>	JA 104
<b>Radio call sign:</b>	FU -
<b>Unit:</b>	458 Sqn RAAF

**Summary:**

Wellington JA104 took off on 13 February 1944 detailed to carry out an anti-sub patrol during a flight from RAF Bone to Ghissonaccia, Corsica. At about midday the aircraft lost air speed at a rapid rate and no effort the pilot made could keep it from losing height. From 1500 feet the aircraft came down in 3 minutes, ditching 15 miles off the south west coast of Corsica in Pinarello Bay and sink immediately. Of the crew of 6 and 3 ground crew on board, three survived the ditching – FO Male (Captain), Flt Sgt Baines (Rear Gunner) and Sgt Percy (Fitter 2E).

After about an hour in the dinghy they were picked up by a French Walrus but the load was too heavy for take off. The Walrus taxied towards shore and the survivors were transferred to a dinghy rowed out by two Americans. They were put ashore near Solenzara in Corsica and were conveyed by ambulance to the 3<sup>rd</sup> American Dispensary at Ghissonaccia village.

It was considered later that an accumulation of ice on the wings was a likely cause of the crash.

**Crew:**

RAF        FO Male, R H Captain (Pilot)  
RAF        Flt Sgt H W Brandon, (2<sup>nd</sup> Pilot)  
RAAF      421740 Flt Sgt W McI M Lipscomb, (Navigator)  
RAF        Sgt T Adair, (Wireless Operator Air)  
RAAF      412335 Flt Sgt S N Campbell, (Wireless Operator Air)  
RAAF      420911 Flt Sgt H W Baines, (Rear Gunner)

**Ground crew :**

RAAF      5220 Sgt C F A Percy (Fitter 2E)  
RAAF      9352 Corporal K Kenny (Fitter 2E)  
RAAF      10158 LAC G G Parkin, (Fitter 2E)

The names of the six who lost their lives at sea are commemorated on the Malta Memorial, which is situated in the area of Floriana, and is outside the main entrance to Valletta, Malta.

## 458 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

**Date of Crash :** 15 March 1944

**Source:**

AWM 64 1/280

<b>Aircraft Type:</b>	Wellington
<b>Serial number:</b>	JA 272
<b>Radio call sign:</b>	FU – Z
<b>Unit:</b>	458 Sqn RAAF

**Summary:**

The Sqn ORB records the following “ On 15 March 1944 Wellington ‘Z’ (Sgt McCann) took off from Ghisonaiccia (Corsica) at 1335 hours to carry out an anti-sub sweep while in transit to Bone (Algeria). At 1345 hours when 3 miles off Point Cheappa on the south west coast of Corsica the port engine seized while the plane was at 1500 feet. The Pilot could not restart the engine or feather the propeller. He set course to return to Ghisonaiccia and an SOS was sent. Height 600 feet. The depth charges were jettisoned. The Pilot made a very good ditching 2 miles off shore. The front of the aircraft stove in but the aircraft did not break up. The crew were in the ditching positions and got out in 20 seconds, with the aircraft sinking in 40 seconds.

The dinghy was upside down but this was righted and the crew got in. The WOP was brought in by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Pilot. The crew were in the dinghy about 20 minutes when a British motor gunboat attracted by the firing of two stars red took the crew on board and sent a rescue signal. ASR aircraft were also on the scene.

The crew were landed at Maddalena on the northern coast of Sardinia and admitted to hospital for observation. All the crew were returned to the Squadron base on the 22nd March. Nil fatalities.

**Crew:**

RAF	Sgt J M McCann, Captain (Pilot)
RCAF	Sgt R Cain, (2 <sup>nd</sup> Pilot)
RAAF	413545 FO Chalmers, L N (Navigator)
RAAF	413822 Flt Sgt W T J Carr, (WOP Air ASV)
RAF	FO Sleight, A (Gunner S)
RAAF	420291 Flt Sgt H E Sorenson, (WOP Air ASV)

Note : The crew composition is not recorded in the ORB but the above crew flew from Ghisonaiccia on an operation of 13 March 1944 in JA272 and it is presumed it was the same aircraft and crew in the above ditching on 15 March 1944.

## 458 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

**Date of Death:** 8 April 1944

**Source:**

AWM 64 1/280 AWM 237 (63) (64) NAA : A705, 166/3/197, 166/24/414  
Commonwealth War Graves records.

<b>Aircraft Type:</b>	Wellington
<b>Serial number:</b>	JA 408
<b>Radio call sign:</b>	FU – K
<b>Unit:</b>	458 Sqn RAAF

**Summary:**

Wellington JA408 took off on the night of 7/8<sup>th</sup> April 1944 to carry out an anti-sub patrol in the Spezia-Orbetello area. At 2304 hours on the 7th April news was received at base '425 2V/M 2V/S 44.16N 09.10E 200 8 2250'. Nothing further was heard from the aircraft and it failed to return to base.

Flt Sgt's Scott and Gould (the two survivors) later made the following statement :  
"During the mission the starboard engine cut out and could not be restarted. The Pilot decided to attempt to gain height and reach base if possible. Shortly after the aircraft was forced to ditch and all the crew successfully evacuated from the a/c. Due to mishaps only one dinghy was available and Flt Sgt's Scott and Gould and WO McGee sat in it and the rest of the crew hung on. Those in the water eventually lost consciousness and relinquished their hold. Later McGee fell out of the dinghy and also disappeared. This took place during the hours of darkness. At daybreak Scott and Gould found they were about 10 miles off the island of Gorgona and started to paddle towards it. They reached land during the evening where they were immediately assisted by two American Officers and given hospital treatment."

**Crew:**

RAAF 401756 WO D A Anderson, Captain (Pilot)  
RAAF 409466 FO Lawler, B F (2<sup>nd</sup> Pilot)  
RAF Flt Sgt W Scott, (Navigator)  
RAAF 415537 WO M T F Knox, (Wireless Air Gunner)  
RAF Flt Sgt R W Gould, (Wireless Air Gunner)  
RAAF 420032 W O A E McGee, (Wireless Air Gunner)

The bodies of WO Anderson and WO Knox were washed ashore on the North West coast of Italy and they are buried in the Staglieno General Cemetery, Genoa, Italy.

The body of WO McGee was washed ashore on the French Mediterranean coast, and he is buried in the Mazargues Cemetery Extension, Marseilles. Mazargues is a southern suburb 6kms from the centre of Marseilles. Locality Bbouches-du-Rhone, France.

FO Lawler is missing and his name is commemorated on the Malta Memorial, which is situated in the area of Floriana and stands outside the main entrance to Valletta, Malta.

## 458 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

**Date of Death:** 19 April 1944

**Source:**

AWM 64 1/280    AWM 237 (63) (64)    NAA : A705, 166/26/429  
Commonwealth War Graves records.

<b>Aircraft Type:</b>	Wellington
<b>Serial number:</b>	
<b>Radio call sign:</b>	FU – K
<b>Unit:</b>	458 Sqn RAAF

**Summary:**

The Sqn ORB records the following “On 17 April 1944 a detachment of 10 aircraft was ordered by NACAF to operate from Luqa, Malta, under the control of 248 Wing.

At 2300 hours on the 19<sup>th</sup> April 1944 FO McMillan in ‘K’ returning to Luqa from an convoy escort mission, crashed when landing on the east west runway and burst into flames. The aircraft was carrying depth charges.

Four of the crew were killed and two (FO Bullen and WO Clarke) survived the crash but were severely burned.”

**Crew:**

RAAF     409574 FO McMillan, H R Captain (Pilot)  
RAF     WO J M Wagstaffe, (2<sup>nd</sup> Pilot)  
RAF     FO R Bullen, (Navigator)  
RAAF     410488 Flt Sgt A J Huntley, (Wireless Air Gunner)  
RAF     Flt Sgt R H Williamson, (Wireless Air Gunner)  
RAAF     412950 W O H G Clarke, (Wireless Air Gunner)

The four members of the crew who lost their lives are buried in the Malta (Capuccini) Naval Cemetery, Malta, Italy.



## 458 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

**Date of Death:** 17 August 1944

**Source:**

AWM 64 1/280            NAA : A705, 166/31/237  
Commonwealth War Graves records.

<b>Aircraft Type:</b>	Wellington
<b>Serial number:</b>	HF 400
<b>Radio call sign:</b>	FU -
<b>Unit:</b>	458 Sqn RAAF

**Summary:**

Wellington HF400 took off from Alghero drome, Sardinia, at 0630 hours on 13 August 1944 detailed to carry out an operational mission. The aircraft returned from the mission with one 250lb bomb hung up and it is believed the bomb exploded on landing. All the crew were injured. Two members were seriously burned. WO Duncan died on 17/8/1944. WO O'Connell was placed on the dangerously ill list. He died in the American Station Hospital on 27 September 1944.

**Crew:**

RAAF     410116 FO C G Fereday, Captain (Pilot)  
RAF       Flt Sgt J Croft, (2<sup>nd</sup> Pilot)  
RAAF     421147 Flt Sgt L J Barlow, (Navigator)  
RAAF     425286 WO G W Duncan, (Wireless Operator Air)  
RAAF     425201 WO J B O'Connell, (Wireless Operator Air)  
RAAF     431730 WO J A Bryson, (Wireless Operator Air)  
RAF       FO Luxton, C H

WO Duncan and WO O'Connell are buried in the Cagliari (St Michele) Communal Cemetery, Sardinia, Italy. Cagliari is the chief town on the island of Sardinia and the cemetery is 3.5kms north of the town centre.

## 458 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

**Date of Death:** 14 December 1944

**Source:**

AWM 64 1/280     AWM 237 (63)

<b>Aircraft Type:</b>	Wellington
<b>Serial number:</b>	NB 864
<b>Radio call sign:</b>	
<b>Unit:</b>	458 Sqn RAAF

**Summary:**

The Sqn ORB records the following “ On the night of 13/14<sup>th</sup> December 1944 six Wellingtons from Foggia, Italy were detailed to carry out an armed recce from Maestro Point coastwise to Cape Salvere. No coastal sightings were made. Weather deteriorated during the patrols and three of the aircraft were diverted to Falconara. Two of these landed safely, but when NB864 arrived over Falconara they were unable to permit him to land and at 0210 hours the aircraft was diverted to Jesi the next drome about 7 miles away. It appears that the aircraft overshot Jesi and crashed into a hillside. Later the aircraft was found burnt out some 10 to 12 miles south west of Jesi and all the crew were killed.”

**Crew:**

RAAF     416371 WO G G Simons, Captain (Pilot)  
RAAF     419785 Flt Sgt K J Leslie, (2<sup>nd</sup> Pilot)  
RAAF     425388 WO J H M Watson, (Navigator)  
RAAF     427457 WO R Ellis, (Wireless Operator ASV)  
RAAF     420068 W O H S Shying, (Wireless Operator ASV)  
RAAF     427504 WO P J Farrell, (Wireless Operator ASV)

All the crew are buried in the Ancona War Cemetery, Italy. The cemetery is located in the rural locality of Tavermele in the Commune and Province of Ancona, 3kms south of the town of Ancona, Italy.

## 458 SQUADRON RAAF WORLD WAR 2 FATALITIES

**Date of Death:** 12 February 1945

**Source:**

AWM 64 1/280    AWM 237 (63)    NAA : A705, 166/14/358

Commonwealth War Graves records.

<b>Aircraft Type:</b>	Wellington
<b>Serial number:</b>	HF 402
<b>Radio call sign:</b>	
<b>Unit:</b>	458 Sqn RAAF

**Summary:**

The Squadron ORB records the following : “ Wellington HF402 was engaged on a training exercise off Gibraltar on the night of 11/12 February 1942 when the aircraft ditched in the sea, and four of those on board were killed and there were two survivors.”

The aircraft crashed in the sea in position 055deg, 18 miles off Europa Point, Gibraltar. It was on a radar homing and Leigh Light exercise with the RAF Pinnacle 1272 in the early hours of the morning of 12<sup>th</sup> February. The aircraft made what appeared to be a normal run onto the pinnacle when at 0210 hours it hit the water caught fire either before or after the impact and sank almost immediately about 2 miles from the pinnacle. In a subsequent court of inquiry in to crash it conclude the aircraft was flying too low and hit the water in a shallow dive.

**Crew:**

RAAF      428682 Flt Sgt W J Fox Captain (Pilot)  
RAAF      419777 Flt Sgt N L Taylor, (2<sup>nd</sup> Pilot)  
RAAF      429839 WO K H Watts, (Navigator)  
RAAF      428070 Flt Sgt B L R Conolan (Wireless Operator Air)  
RAAF      410993 WO M T Lee, (Wireless Operator Air)  
RAAF      423682 Flt Sgt M G Egan, (Wireless Air Gunner)

The two survivors from the crash Flt Sgt Taylor and Flt Sgt Egan were slightly injured

Flt Sgt Fox was buried at sea and his name is commemorated on the Gibraltar Memorial. The Memorial stands on a triangular site, close to the sea, west of Gibraltar (North Front) Cemetery (also known as the Garrison Cemetery), which is located next to the airport on the low peninsula between the ‘Devil’s Tower’ and the Neutral Ground, Gibraltar.

The names of the other three members of the crew who lost their lives at sea are commemorated on the Malta Memorial, which is located in the area of Floriana, and is outside the main gate to Valletta, Malta.

SECOND WORLD WAR FATALITIES  
RAAF MEMBERS 458 SQN  
INDEX: ALPHABETICAL LIST OF NAMES / DATE OF DEATH

RAAF MEMBERS	DATE OF DEATH
ANDERSON, Donald Albert	08/04/1944
ARMOUR, Robert Douglas	30/04/1943
BATTON, Ian Williams	06/11/1942
BROWN, Thomas Leslie	09/01/1942
CAMPBELL, Sydney Neam	13/02/1944
CARMICHAEL, David Norris	06/01/1942
CONOLAN, Bernard Leslie Reid	12/02/1945
COX, Alexander Lewis	15/11/1941
CRITTENDEN, Philip George	20/10/1941
DACEY, Clement Cyril	17/10/1943
DICKSON, Colin Kenneth	12/09/1943
DOUDE, William John	17/10/1943
DUNCAN, George William	17/08/1944
ELLIS, Robert	14/12/1944
EVERINGHAM, Howard Durrell	07/02/1943
FARRELL, Patrick John	14/12/1944
FISCHER, John Marcus	05/08/1943
FLECKNOE, John Edwin	16/06/1943
FORGAN, William Wallace	08/01/1942
FOX, William John	12/02/1945
FREEMAN, Reginald Thomas Arthur	27/11/1943
FUREY, Ronald John	15/11/1941
GEBBIE, Gordon John	17/10/1943
GOLDMAN, William	15/11/1941
HAZELDINE, Leslie Youle	15/07/1943
HEWISH, Arthur Leslie	09/01/1942
HICKEY, Bernard Peter	08/01/1942
HOWIE, Douglas Gordon	02/11/1943
HUNTLEY, Arthur John	19/04/1944
JOHNSTONE, Victor William	08/01/1942
KENNY, Kieren	13/02/1944
KNOX, Malcolm Thomas Foster	08/04/1944
LAWLER, Bryan Francis	08/04/1944
LEE, Mervyn Thomas	12/02/1945
LESLIE, Kenneth James	14/12/1944
LIPSCOMB, William McIver Maunsell	13/02/1944
MAC DONALD, Edward John Norman	06/01/1942
MARKEY, John Reginald	23/01/1944
MCGEE, Alexander Edward	08/04/1944

MCKAY, Lindsay	05/08/1943
MCLOUGHLIN, Cormack Terence	02/08/1942
MCMILLAN, Herbert Russell	19/04/1944
MULHOLLAND, Norman George	16/02/1942 <sup>1</sup>
MUSCHIALLI, Louis James	27/11/1943
NEILL, Kenneth John	13/07/1943
O'CONNELL, John Bonaventure	27/09/1944 <sup>2</sup>
PARKER, Maxwell George	12/09/1943
PARKIN, Gordon George	13/02/1944
PEARCE, Leonard Ancliff	23/06/1943
REID, Gordon Keith	27/11/1943
RICHARDS, Jack	27/11/1943
ROGERS, Thomas Richard	23/01/1944
SHIERLAW, John Gow	19/04/1945 <sup>3</sup>
SHIPARD, John Charles	23/01/1944
SHYING, Henry Samuel	14/12/1944
SIMONS, Gordon George	14/12/1944
SMITH, Peter Harold	09/01/1942
SPENCER, Roy Gordon	05/08/1943
TAYLOR, Dudley George	09/01/1942
TAYLOR, Leo Crampton	23/01/1944
THURSTUN, Charles Robert	12/09/1943
WATSON, John Henry Maurice	14/12/1944
WATTS, Keith Hamilton	12/02/1945
WILLS, Arthur Reginald	16/02/1942

<sup>1</sup> Mulholland was Australian born serving in the RAF

<sup>2</sup> O'Connell died on 27/09/1944 from injuries received from an aircraft crash. See date of death page 17/08/1944

<sup>3</sup> Shierlaw who became a POW of the Italians following an aircraft crash on 25/03/1943, died while a POW of the Germans on 19/04/1945

## APPENDIX A

### INDEX: ALPHABETICAL LIST OF NAMES / DATE OF DEATH

The following fatalities were RAAF members of 458 Squadron RAAF, who at the time they were killed were attached to Nos 69 or 221 Squadron RAF.

#### Attached to 69 Sqn RAF

GELL, Allan Thomas	08/01/1943
LAVER, Leonard Courtney	08/01/1943
SAGGERS, Eric Frank	08/01/1943
SHEARER, Benjamin Watson	08/01/1943
SMITH, David Alexander	08/01/1943

#### Attached to 221 Sqn RAF

BURNS, Robert John	23/01/1943
CRAIG, James Ian	23/01/1943
JACKSON, Geoffrey Francis	23/01/1943
PAROISSIEN, Jim Cunningham	28/04/1943
CLEMOW, Willian John	28/04/1943