Ive, George Corbett

A West Australian railway employee killed while on military service for his country



Memorial at Railway Workshops Midland (D.Graham/panoramio)

Rail employment information

Employer:	Western Australian Government Railways & Tramways
Branch:	Tramways
Designation:	Clerk

Rail employment notes: Born 7/5/1919. Joined Tramways 17/2/1936 aged 16 as Junior Clerk, Perth. Appointed Clerk 7/5/1940.

Enlisted in RAAF 15/9/1941. Died 20/1/1944.

Military service information

Conflict:	Second World War 1939-1945
Service:	Royal Australian Air Force
Military unit:	No.76 Squadron (RAF)
Service number:	415331
Date of death:	20 January 1944
Place of death:	Germany
Rank at time of death:	Pilot Officer
Age:	24

Buried/commemorated: Berlin 1939-1945 War Cemetery, Berlin, Germany

George Corbett Ive enlisted in the Royal Australian Air force (RAAF) on 15/9/1941 and he was allocated service number 415331.

After an initial period he was transferred to England and attached to Royal Air Force (RAF) Squadron 76. For most of the war, this was a bomber squadron, flying the Halifax 4-engine heavy bombers made by the Handley Page Company. It concentrated on bombing raids over German industrial areas. Allied Air Forces were heavily engaged in both defensive and attack operations against Germany and constantly needed more crews.

These were dangerous flights as the bombers were regularly attacked by German fighter planes which were more manoeuvrable and faster. Anti-aircraft guns on the ground also took a toll. Casualties were high and unfortunately George Ive was killed along with crewmates in a mission over Germany on 20 January 1944.

His remains were recovered later and he was buried in the Berlin 1939-1945 War Cemetery in Berlin.

Additional/personal information:

George Ive was born on 7/5/1919 in Geraldton WA, a son of Ernest William and Philomena Mary (nee Guilfoyle) Ive who had married in Perth in 1916. It appears he had an elder brother Gerald and a

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younger sister Patricia. He was single when he enlisted. His father died while George was a child in 1923 and his mother while he was overseas in 1942. (BDM)

Unfortunately it always took some time for authorities to be able to confirm that a man was lost, particularly when flying over enemy territory, in this case the family could not be certain until after the war:

> IVE (Pilot-Officer G. C. Ive). — In loving memory of our Brother, George, who was killed in operations over Germany, January 20, 1944. Always remembered by Pat and Gerald.
>
> IVE (Pilot-Officer George). — In proud and loving memory of my Nephew, dear George, and his gallant Crew, who lost their lives during air operations over Germany, January 20, 1944. Inserted by Doll and Margaret. So sadly missed.
>
> IVE (George, Flying-Officer, R.A.A.F.). — Treasured memories of our darling George, believed killed over Germany, January 20, 1944. Inserted by his loving aunt and uncle, Ena and Harvey Pugh.
>
> IVE (Pilot-Officer George Corbett Ive.) — In fond remembrance of our dear Nephew, George, who lost his life in aerial operations over Germany on January 20, 1944. Inserted by Tup and Bill Pickett. All *The West Australian* 19/1/1946p1

His family arranged for his tombstone to be engraved "Greater love hath no man than this that he lay down he his life".

George's brother Gerald Ernest Ive also enlisted, joining the Australian Army as Sapper in the 2/1 Australian Railway Construction Company. He returned safely to Australia in 1945.

Further information and/or photos may be added as available. Information may also be found on the Australian War Memorial website: *https://www.awm.gov.au/advanced-search/people*

Abbreviations: WAGR= Western Australian Government Railways (& Tramways at some periods); MRWA= Midland Railway of Western Australia; BDM=Western Australian Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages website; AWM=Australian War Memorial (Canberra and website); CWGC= Commonwealth War Graves Commission (including website). DVA=Department of Veterans' Affairs (including website)

Acknowledgements: Rail employment notes from WAGR Honour Roll and WAGR records held by State Records Office, Perth, transcribed by J.Austin 2019. Family information and collation by G.Higham.

----------Lest we forget----------