Marsh, Norman Albert

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



Plaque in Lovekin Drive, Kings Park

Rail employment information

Employer:	Western Australian Government Railways
Branch:	Traffic
Designation:	Junior Clerk, Geraldton

Rail employment notes: Born 19/5/1922. Joined WAGR 5/12/1938 aged 16 as Junior Clerk, Traffic Branch, Perth. Transferred to Geraldton 3/6/1939.

Enlisted in RAAF 21/8/1940. Awarded the DFC.
Flying Officer, killed in aircraft accident in England 19/11/1944.

Military service information

Conflict:	Second World War 1939-1945
Service:	Royal Australian Air Force
Military unit:	No.1656 Conversion Unit (RAF)
Service number:	17520
Date of death:	19 November 1944
Place of death:	United Kingdom
Rank at time of death:	Flying Officer
Age:	22

Buried/commemorated: Harrogate (Stonefall) Cemetery, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, England

Norman Albert March enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) on 21/8/1940. He was allocated service number 17520 and nominated his mother Mrs Lillian Rose Marsh as his next of kin. He was before long transferred to England where Allied Air Forces were heavily engaged in both defensive and attack operations against Germany and constantly needed more crews.

It appears he was posted to Royal Air Force (RAF) Squadron 101, which was then operating the Lancaster 4-engine bomber manufactured by the Avro Company. These were the most common heavy bomber used by the RAF in action against Germany.

He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service.

At the time of his death he was at No.1656 Heavy Conversion Unit, a Royal Air Force (RAF) unit then based at Lindholme in England. A conversion unit was one where crews went temporarily to be trained on a different aircraft, or for a different role.. But even in training, accidents happen, and Norman Marsh was seriously injured in an accident there on 18 November 1944. He was transported to hospital in Doncaster Royal Infirmary but died the next day from his wounds.

He was buried in Stonefall Cemetery in Wetherby Road, Harrogate in Yorkshire.

Additional/personal information:

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Norman Marsh was born in Geraldton WA on 19 May 1922, a son of Edwin Albert Marsh and Lillian Rose Marsh. He had at least two siblings, and was single when he enlisted.

Many families had to wait months for confirmation of their son's fate when lost over Europe, but in this case the advice was immediate:

> MARSH — Flying-Officer Norman Albert Marsh, R.A.A.F., D.F.C.. died on November- 19th, 1944. from injuries accidentally received on the day before on service with the R.A.F. in England, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Marsh, of 92 Fitzgerald Street, Geraldton, brother of Fred and Allan. R.I.P.
>
> MARSH— Norman Albert, D.F.C. (F/O. R.A.A.F.) — ln sad and loving memory of our dear nephew and cousin, who passed away at the Doncaster Royal Infirmary- Yorkshire (England), on November 19th. 1944, as the result of an accident: aged 22 years. - Inserted by Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Marsh, Georgie, Phyllis, Colin, John and Barry: also Sylvia and Norman (A.I.F.) Humes.
> Both *Geraldton Guardian and Express* 22/11/1944p2

His family arranged for his tombstone to be engraved "His duty fearlessly and nobly done. Ever remembered"

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----------