

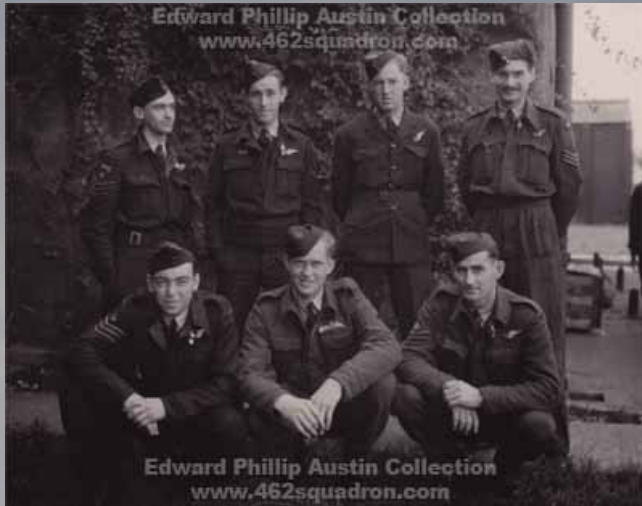


## A tribute to the Crew of Halifax III, NA-240, Z5-V

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6 April 2016

### Crew 28, Pilot Frank Edward Nelder – 462 Squadron RAAF



**Crew 28, 462 Squadron RAAF at Driffield 1944.** This photo was taken outside the "Respirator Workshop", which seems to be the favoured location of many crew photos at Driffield. The crew are identified on the reverse of the photo as shown below.

**Back row, from left:-** Wireless Operator Austin, Rear Gunner Farmer, Mid Upper Gunner Wood, Flight Engineer Pettit.

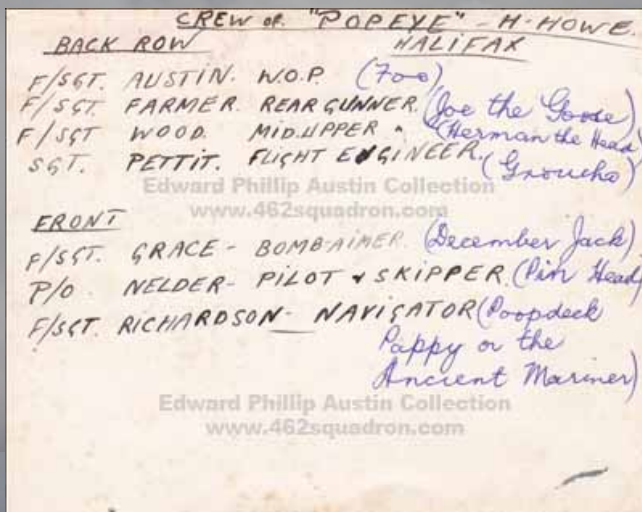
**Front row, from left:-** Bomb Aimer Grace, Pilot Nelder, Navigator Richardson.

They were the crew of **Halifax III LL599 Z5-E "Easy"**, which failed to return from an Op. to Essen, Germany on the night of 23/24 October 1944. This aircraft is shown on the [Halifax](#) page, in flight over the North Sea on 14 October 1944, on a daylight raid to Duisburg (Ruhr valley), on that day flown by Pilot Triggs and Crew.

Captain/Pilot: Frank Edward [NELDER](#), KIA  
Navigator: Ernest Hartley [RICHARDSON](#), KIA  
Bomb Aimer: John Maurice [GRACE](#), Evader, returned to the UK.  
Wireless Operator: Edward Phillip [AUSTIN](#), KIA  
Flight Engineer: Douglas Darrah [PETTIT](#), KIA  
Mid-Upper Gunner: Malcolm Langley [WOOD](#), KIA  
Rear Gunner: Allan [FARMER](#), KIA

Crew photo supplied by and used with the permission of Simon Tout, nephew of Edward Phillip Austin.

All headstone photos on this page were supplied by and used with the permission of John Dann, UK, © Copyright 2013; graves at Hotton Cemetery, Belgium.



Identification of Crew 28 of 462 Squadron RAAF at Driffield 1944, Pilot Nelder.

Transcription of the reverse of the Crew photo. Nick names, written in blue, appear to be in different handwriting, perhaps added later.

#### CREW OF "POPEYE" H – HOWE HALIFAX

**BACK ROW**  
F/SGT AUSTIN. W.O.P. (Foo)  
F/SGT FARMER. REAR GUNNER. (Joe the Goose)  
F/SGT WOOD. MID. UPPER " (Herman the Head)  
SGT PETTIT. FLIGHT ENGINEER. (Groucho)  
**FRONT**  
F/SGT GRACE. BOMB AIMER. (December Jack)  
P/O NELDER PILOT & SKIPPER (Pin Head)  
F/SGT RICHARDSON NAVIGATOR (Poopdeck, Pappy or the Ancient Mariner)

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#### Captain/Pilot: Flying Officer Frank Edward NELDER, 419561 RAAF, KIA

Service details from Australian WW2 Nominal Roll:-  
Pilot Officer, 419561, 462 Squadron, RAAF; date of birth 25 June 1923, at Brunswick, Victoria; Next of kin Alfred Nelder; enlisted 26 Jul 1942 at Melbourne, Victoria; date of death 23 October 1944; Roll of Honour at Brunswick, Vic.

From Crew Arrival Form, 462 Sqdn:-  
Posted to 462 Squadron, Driffield on 5 September 1944 from 1652 HCU (Marston Moor); Pilot Officer as of 4 June 1944; Pilot; single; next of kin Alfred Gordon Nelder, father, of Brunswick, Vic.

Casualty details from CWGC:-  
Flying Officer, 419561, RAAF, date of death 23 October 1944, age 21. Grave reference I.E.10, Hotton War Cemetery, Belgium. Son of Alfred Gordon Nelder and Lily Nelder of Brunswick, Victoria, Australia.

FLYING OFFICER  
F.E. NELDER  
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE  
23RD OCTOBER 1944 AGE 21  
↑  
EVER REMEMBERED BY  
MOTHER, FATHER AND SISTER  
"GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN"



Photo by John Dann, UK, © Copyright 2013.

**Navigator: Flight Sergeant Ernest Hartley RICHARDSON, 427259 RAAF, KIA**

Service details from Australian WW2 Nominal Roll:-  
Flight Sergeant, 427259, 462 Squadron, RAAF; date of birth 16 December 1910, at Cottesloe, Western Australia; Next of kin Daphne Monger; enlisted 15 June 1942 at Perth, WA; date of death 23 October 1944; Roll of Honour at Bencubbin. WA.

From Crew Arrival Form, 462 Sqdn:-  
Posted to 462 Squadron, Driffield on 5 September 1944 from 1652 HCU (Marston Moor);  
Flight Sergeant as of 14 April 1944; Navigator B; married 28 December 1940, wife Daphne Mavis Richardson on Bencubbin, West Australia; additional contact Mary Jane Richardson, mother, of Victoria Park.

Casualty details from CWGC:-  
Flight Sergeant, 427259, RAAF, date of death 23 October 1944, age 33. Grave reference I.E.8, Hotton War Cemetery, Belgium. Son of William Horatio and Mary Jane Richardson; husband of Daphne Mavis Richardson, of Bencubbin, Western Australia.

427259 FLIGHT SERGEANT  
E.H. RICHARDSON  
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE  
23RD OCTOBER 1944 AGE 33  
†  
EVER REMEMBERED  
BY HIS LOVED ONES

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Other than being in the crew photo (front row, left), no other photo of John Grace is currently available.

**Bomb Aimer: Flight Sergeant John Maurice GRACE, 419701 RAAF; sole survivor of the crew, and Evader, returning safely to the UK.**

Service details from Australian WW2 Nominal Roll (as at discharge):-  
Flying Officer; 419701, 462 Squadron, RAAF; date of birth 14 December 1922, at Moonee Ponds, Victoria; Next of kin Glennon Grace; enlisted 12 September 1942 at Melbourne, Vic; date of discharge 21 December 1945 at RAF Oakington; Not PoW.

From Crew Arrival Form, 462 Sqdn:-  
Posted to 462 Squadron, Driffield on 4 September 1944 from 1652 HCU (Marston Moor);  
Flight Sergeant, Navigator B on Bomb Aimer Duties; single; next of kin G.M. Grace, father, of Ascot Vale, Melbourne, Victoria.

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**Wireless Op.: Flight Sergeant Edward Phillip AUSTIN, 429105 RAAF, KIA**

Service details from Australian WW2 Nominal Roll:-  
Flight Sergeant, 429105, 462 Squadron, RAAF; date of birth 3 June 1921, at Epping, New South Wales; Next of kin Patricia Austin; enlisted 24 October 1942 at Sydney, NSW; date of death 23 October 1944; Roll of Honour at Cheltenham, NSW.

From Crew Arrival Form, 462 Sqdn:-  
Posted to 462 Squadron, Driffield on 5 September 1944 from 1652 HCU (Marston Moor);  
Flight Sergeant as of 19 August 1944; Wireless Operator Air Gunner; married 2 September 1943, wife Patricia Joan Austin of Cheltenham New South Wales.

Casualty details from CWGC:-  
Flight Sergeant, 429105, RAAF, date of death 23 October 1944, age 23. Grave reference I.E.7, Hotton War Cemetery, Belgium. Son of Edward Picton Austin and Alice Pauline Austin; husband of Patricia Joan Austin of Cheltenham, NSW.

429105 FLIGHT SERGEANT  
E.P. AUSTIN  
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE  
23RD OCTOBER 1944 AGE 23  
†  
GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN

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**Flight Engineer: Sergeant Douglas Darrah PETTIT, 1895178 RAFVR, KIA**

RAFVR service file not available.

From Crew Arrival Form, 462 Sqdn:-  
Posted to 462 Squadron, Driffield on 5 September 1944 from 1652 HCU (Marston Moor);  
Service number 1895178 RAF; date of birth 9 February 1925; Flight Sergeant as of 29 May 1944; Flight Engineer; married 3 June 1944, wife Amy Maybn Pettit, of Reading, Berkshire; additional contact Frederick Charles Pettit, father, of Reading, Berkshire.

Casualty details from CWGC:-  
Sergeant, Flight Engineer; 1895178 RAF Volunteer Reserve; date of death 23 October 1944, age 19. Grave reference I.E.9, Hotton War Cemetery, Belgium. Son of Frederick Charles and Ada Sophie Pettit; husband of Amy Maybn Pettit of Shinfield, Berkshire.





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1895178 SERGEANT  
D.D. PETTIT  
FLIGHT ENGINEER  
ROYAL AIR FORCE  
23RD OCTOBER 1944 AGE 19  
↑  
DEEP IN OUR HEARTS  
HE LIVETH YET  
WE LOVED HIM TOO DEARLY  
TO EVER FORGET

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#### M/U Gunner: Flight Sergeant Malcolm Langley WOOD, 435026 RAAF, KIA

Service details from Australian WW2 Nominal Roll:-

Flight Sergeant, 435026, 462 Squadron, RAAF; date of birth 17 October 1923 at Mosman, New South Wales; Next of kin Kenneth Wood; enlisted 9 March 1943 at Sydney; date of death 23 October 1944; Roll of Honour at Mosman, NSW.

From Crew Arrival Form, 462 Sqdn:-

Posted to 462 Squadron, Driffield on 5 September 1944 from 1652 HCU (Marston Moor); Flight Sergeant as of 11 May 1944; Air Gunner (M/U); single; next of kin K.W. Wood, father, of Mosman, NSW.

Casualty details from CWGC:-

Flight Sergeant; 435026 RAAF; date of death 23 October 1944, age 21. Grave reference I.E.5, Hotton War Cemetery, Belgium. Son of Kenneth William and Ethel Maud Wood, of Mosman NSW.

435026 FLIGHT SERGEANT  
M.L. WOOD  
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE  
23RD OCTOBER 1944 AGE 21  
↑  
NEVER WAS SO MUCH OWED  
BY SO MANY TO SO FEW

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#### Rear Gunner: Flight Sergeant Allan FARMER, 436820 RAAF, KIA

Service details from Australian WW2 Nominal Roll:-

Flight Sergeant, 436820, 462 Squadron, RAAF; date of birth 17 July 1922 at Balmain, New South Wales; Next of kin Arthur Farmer; enlisted 1 May 1943 at Perth; date of death 23 October 1944; Roll of Honour at Sydney, NSW.

From Crew Arrival Form, 462 Sqdn:-

Posted to 462 Squadron, Driffield on 5 September 1944 from 1652 HCU (Marston Moor); Flight Sergeant as of 9 June 1944; Rear Gunner; single; next of kin Arthur Farmer, father, of Balmain, Sydney, NSW.

Casualty details from CWGC:-

Flight Sergeant; 436820 RAAF; date of death 23 October 1944, age 22. Grave reference I.E.6, Hotton War Cemetery, Belgium. Son of Arthur and Annie Emily Farmer, of Balmain, NSW.

436820 FLIGHT SERGEANT  
A. FARMER  
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE  
23RD OCTOBER 1944 AGE 22  
  
HIS DUTY FEARLESSLY  
AND NOBLY DONE.  
EVER REMEMBERED

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