

Ventura AE702 took off from RAF Feltwell at 11.20 on the 6 December 1942, on an operation to bomb the Phillips Radio valve factory at Eindhoven, Netherlands. Fourteen aircraft from the squadron took part in the mission and three of these including AE702 failed to return. The mission was 464 Squadron's first operational mission.

Crew:

RCAF Pilot Maurice Gordon MOOR

RAF Navigator Nathan COHEN

RAAF Air Gunner Mervyn Lionel Vivian HASS

RAF Wireless Operator/Air Gunner Sidney Alfred VENNEEAR

All the crew were killed, and they were buried in the Eindhoven General Cemetery.

464 Squadron formed up with aircraft from RNZAF 487 Squadron and RAF 21 Squadron, a total of 47 aircraft on the mission, of which 9 failed to return.

The 464 Squadron ORB's records the following: *'All squadron aircraft took off on the 6 of December 1942 and formed with numbers 487 and 21 Squadrons. The target was the Philips Radio valve factory at Eindhoven. Low level was maintained by the formation and was uneventful until the Dutch coast was crossed when a good deal of light flak was experienced. This produced the first casualty when one aircraft was seen to dive into the sea, but no one knew who it was. The route taken was slightly south of track which led to the crossing of an enemy emergency landing ground which was well defended. The flak was extremely accurate and accounted for another aircraft piloted by OC 487 NZ Squadron, Wing Commander Seaville. The aircraft was seen to blow up and crash in flames on the drome. Heavy opposition was met over the target by flak guns mounted on the roof. AE702 was shot down by the flak and was seen to dive into houses surrounding the target area. Course was set for home at low level. Heavy opposition by flak again met on crossing the Dutch coast. All machines and some members of crews suffered damage with birds, seagulls and ducks being brought back jammed in various positions with some penetrating the Perspex.'*