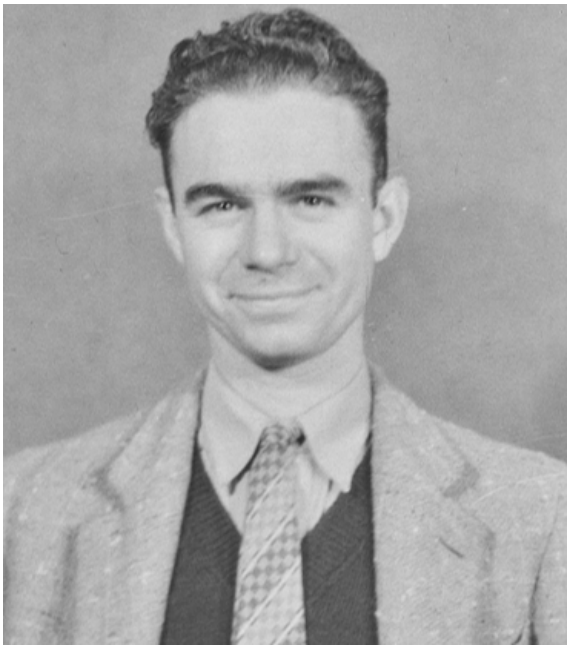
FO Kenneth Edgar Archay 426941 RAAF



Kenneth was born on 23 January 1921 in Gladstone, Queensland, Australia, the son of William Francis Archay and Winifred Edith Archay nee Sykes.

Kenneth was employed as a School Teacher in Kajabbi State School, Northern Queensland when, in February 1942, he volunteered for service in the RAAF.

Called up in August 1942, Kenneth completed his aircrew training in Australia in May 1943 with the award of his Wings, was granted a commission and immediately embarked for the UK.

Following advanced training at 3 (P) Advanced Flying Unit RAF South Cerney, Gloucestershire, 27 OTU RAF Lichfield, Staffordshire and 1660 HCU RAF Swinderby, Lincolnshire, on 11 May 1944 Kenneth was posted to 463 Sqn at RAF Waddington, Lincolnshire.

On 21/22 May 1944 Bomber Command was tasked with an attack on Duisburg, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany, a major logistical centre in the Ruhr Area and location of chemical, steel and iron industries. A combined force of 532 aircraft, including fifteen 463 Sqn crews, was allocated to the op.

At 22:40 on the 21 May Kenneth and his crew departed RAF Waddington in Lancaster I ME580 (JO-Q). Nothing further was heard from the crew.

Post war it was established that Kenneth's aircraft crashed in a field between Horst and Randerath, NNE of Geilenkirchen, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany, killing all on board.

Also killed: FO Albert Frank Mattingley RAAF (AG); FO Edward Hugh Ross RAAF (AG); WO Albert Francis Mayne RAAF (Nav); FS James Ernest Jasper RAAF (AB); FS Lionel Warwick Weeden RAAF (WOp); Sgt Frank Norman Rice (FE)

Originally buried in Randerath Cemetery, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany, in March 1947 Kenneth was moved to the Rheinberg War Cemetery, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany.

Kenneth is commemorated on Wall Panel 3

Photo Source: naa.gov.au