

P/O Jack Milton Cave 43700 RAF

Jack was born on 24 September 1919 in Hamilton, Waikato, New Zealand, the son of Milton Knight and Stella May Cave (née Gordon).

Educated at Rawene and Dargaville High Schools, on leaving in 1935 Jack was employed in the clerical branch of the Chief Post Office in Gisborne, North Island. In March 1939 he was transferred to the staff division at head office in Wellington.

In September 1939, immediately after the outbreak of war, Jack joined the RNZAF and completed his preliminary pilot training before leaving with an early New Zealand group to take up service with the RAF.

Jack was commissioned in June 1940 and was posted to 101 Squadron at RAF West Raynham, Norfolk, at the end of August 1940, from No. 13 OTU.

On 30 October 1940 six 101 Squadron crews were detailed for a bombing mission in the Duisberg-Ruhrort area, Germany.

At 1715 hours Jack and the crew departed RAF West Raynham in Blenheim IV T2246 (SR). The targets were obscured by cloud and the aircraft were forced to seek targets of opportunity in the region. The returning aircraft encountered poor visibility over eastern England and Jack's aircraft was well off course when, at 2300 hours, it crashed in Dunster Wood, near Coleby 6 miles North of Scunthorpe, Lincolnshire, killing all on board. This was Jack's 15th Op.

Jack's brother, Flt. Lt. Vernon Grenville Cave also died in service and is buried in Serbia.

Also killed were the observer Sgt. John Gregson Hitchen and wireless operator/air gunner Sgt. Clifford John Gooderick.

Jack is buried in St Michael Churchyard, Waddington, Lincolnshire.

He is commemorated on Wall Panel 18.

Photo Source: Auckland War Memorial Museum

