

Sgt D'Arcy Gould 1255195 RAFVR

D'Arcy was born on 13 February 1921 in Auckland, New Zealand, the son of D'Arcy Jack Wilton Gould and Maud Evelyn Gould nee McGinley.

Educated at Dilworth School and Auckland Grammar School, in 1940 D'Arcy worked his passage to the UK in order to join the RAF. Enlisting in July 1940, D'Arcy completed his training in January 1942 with the award of his WOp/AG badge. Immediately re-mustering as Air Bomber, D'Arcy proceeded to 19 OTU RAF Kinloss, Scotland where he converted onto the Whitley before he was posted to 138 Sqn at RAF Tempsford, Bedfordshire. Conversion to the Wellington followed and, in September 1942, he was posted to 101 Sqn at RAF Holme-on-Spalding Moor. In October the squadron converted to the Lancaster.

On the night of the 9/10 April 1943, Bomber Command was tasked with an op against Duisberg, a major logistical centre in the Ruhr Area and location of chemical, steel and iron industries. A combined force of 109 aircraft, including eight 101 Sqn crews, were allocated to the task. Two crews failed to return.



On the evening of 9 April D'Arcy, operating as the Bomb Aimer, and the crew departed RAF Holme on Spalding Moor, Yorkshire, in Lancaster III ED618 (SR-X).

As D'Arcy's aircraft crossed the Dutch coast near Harlem, they were intercepted by Lt Oskar Köstler flying a Bf110 from Bergen Airfield who had picked up a signal on his onboard radar and spotted a lone Lancaster on the side of the main bomber stream's course.

Whilst flying west of Elburg, at 22:40 the Lancaster was hit in the bomb bay by the cannons and instantly exploded. Debris from the huge blast damaged the Bf110 and killed the pilot. The radio operator managed to bale out and survived. The Lancaster wreckage came down near Doornspijk, killing all on board. This was D'Arcy's 21st op.

Also Killed: FO Norman James Ritchie RAAF (WOp/AG); WO John David Steele RCAF (Pilot); FS Michael John Bennett (Nav); FS Stanley Grundy DFM (AG); Sgt John Hence (FE); Sgt William David George O'Brien (AG)

D'Arcy is buried in Doornspijk General Cemetery, Gelderland, Netherlands

D'Arcy is commemorated on Wall Panel 41

Photo Source: IBCC