

PO Kenneth Howard Blincoe DFC 412194 RNZAF

Kenneth was born on 3 November 1909 in Nelson, South Island, New Zealand, the son of Francis Harold Blincoe and Ruth Mary Blincoe nee Packer. In April 1940 he married Ida Annie White in Nelson.

Educated at Nelson College, in February 1940 when he applied for service with the RNZAF, Kenneth was employed as a faultman by the Post and Telegraph Department at Ohura.

Called up in April 1941, Kenneth completed his pilot training in New Zealand in August 1941 with the award of his wings. In October 1941 Kenneth embarked for the UK.

In August 1942 Kenneth completed his advanced training at 11 OTU RAF Bassingbourn, Hertfordshire and was posted to fly the Wellington at 75(NZ) Sqn at RAF Feltwell, Norfolk. In October 1942 Kenneth converted to the Stirling and was granted his commission. In Nov 1942 the squadron moved to RAF Newmarket, Cambridgeshire.



On 3 February 1943, 263 Bomber Command crews were tasked with an operation against targets in Hamburg, Germany. Nine 75(NZ) Sqn Stirlings were allocated to the task. Two squadron aircraft failed to return.

At 18:21 Kenneth and his crew departed RAF Newmarket in Stirling I R9250 (AA-W).

At 19:46 Kenneth's aircraft was intercepted by Hptm Reinhold Knacke of the I./NJG1 flying a Bf110 from Gilze-Rijen Airfield, and crashed in the floodplains between Eck en Wiel and Ingen, Gelderland, 8km W of Tiel, Netherlands. Several crew members baled out, but none of the crew survived. The bodies of Kenneth, the Bomb Aimer and Wireless Operator were left in the aircraft when the Germans realised that they were unable to recover it, and ordered the Dutch to bury the crashed Stirling. This was Kenneth's 22nd op.

In April 1943 Kenneth was posthumously awarded the DFC. His citation read:

"PO Blincoe was a most enthusiastic Captain of aircraft and has completed many operational sorties, mostly against well defended targets. He has always been most determined in all his attacks and has set an example of the highest order to his crew".

Also killed: FO Harold Lowe DFC (WOp/AG); PO Andrew James Newell Scott RNZAF (Pilot); FS Edward McDermott RCAF (AG); Sgt Frank Arthur Boese (Nav); Sgt Desmond Clearwater RNZAF (AG); Sgt George Wood Cook RNZAF (AB); Sgt Desmond David Hayward (FE)

The three crew members left in the crashed Stirling were recovered in August 1949 and were buried in Amersfoort (Oud Leusden) General Cemetery, Utrecht, Netherlands

Kenneth is commemorated on Wall Panel 132

Photo Source: IBCC