

Sgt Frank Arthur Boese 1293282 RAFVR

Frank was born on 6 October 1920 in East Ham, London, the son of Arthur Boese and Carrie Boese nee Potts. In 1942 he married Irene Emily Middleton in East Ham.

Educated at East Ham Boys' Grammar School, Frank was employed as a clerk for the East Ham Electricity Company when he volunteered for aircrew service in the RAF.

After basic training in the UK, Frank was sent to Canada and the USA where he trained as a Navigator under the Empire Air Training Scheme. In August 1942 he completed his advanced training at 11 OTU RAF Bassingbourn, Hertfordshire and was posted to fly the Wellington at 75(NZ) Sqn at RAF Mildenhall, Suffolk. In October 1942 the squadron converted to the Stirling and in November 1942 moved to RAF Newmarket, Cambridgeshire.

On 28 November 1942, on return from a bombing raid on Turin, Frank qualified for his Caterpillar Badge when he baled out of his aircraft which was running short of fuel, landing safely 3 miles N of Stradishall.



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 Frank, operating as the Navigator, and the crew departed RAF Newmarket in Stirling I R9250 (AA-W).

At 19:46 Frank's aircraft was intercepted by Hptm Reinhold Knacke of the I./NJG1 flying a Bf110 from Gilze-Rijen Airfield, and the Stirling crashed in the floodplains between Eck en Wiel and Ingen, Gelderland, 8km W of Tiel, Netherlands. Several crew members baled out, although the bodies of the Captain, the Bomb Aimer and Wireless Operator were left in the aircraft when the Germans realised that they were unable to recover the aircraft, and ordered the Dutch to bury the crashed Stirling. Frank's body was discovered close to the aircraft. This was Frank's 20th op.

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

Frank is buried in Amersfoort (Oud Leusden) General Cemetery, Utrecht, Netherlands

Frank is commemorated on Wall Panel 132

Photo Source: IBCC