

Sgt Clifton Robert Brailey 404587 RNZAF

Clifton was born on 9 June 1919 in Wellington, New Zealand, the son of James Frederick Brailey and Gwendoline Elizabeth Brailey nee Lovegrove.

Educated at Petone Technical College, Lower Hutt, New Zealand, Clifton was employed as a tobacco worker by W.D. & H.O. Wills Ltd when, in October 1939, he applied for ground duties in the RNZAF, although re-applied for aircrew duties the following month.

Called up in November 1940, after initial training, Clifton was sent to Canada under the Empire Air Training Scheme where, in August 1941, he was awarded his Air Gunner badge.

Arriving in the UK in September 1941, Clifton completed his training at 11 OTU RAF Bassingbourn, Hertfordshire, and arrived on 75 (NZ) Sqn at RAF Feltwell, Norfolk in early June 1942.

On 20/21 June 1942 Bomber Command were tasked with an op against the port of Emden. A combined force of 185 aircraft, including twelve 75(NZ) crews, were allocated to the op.

Just before midnight on 20 June 1942 Clifton, operating as the Front Gunner, and the crew departed RAF Feltwell, Norfolk, in Wellington III X3760 (AA-L).

Homeward-bound, at 01:56 Clifton's aircraft was intercepted by Olt Egmont Prinz zur Lippe-Weissenfeld of 5./NJG 2 flying from Leeuwarden, Netherlands. The aircraft crashed in the North Sea, North-West of Ameland, Friesland, Netherlands, killing all on board. This was Clifton's 3rd op.

Also killed: FO Allen Armistice Fraser RNZAF (Pilot); PO Wallace Edward Buckley RNZAF (Obs); PO Raymond Wickliffe John Trengrove RNZAF (AG); FS Arthur Stafford Christie RNZAF (WOp/AG)

Clifton has no known grave and is commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial, Surrey

Clifton is commemorated on Wall Panel 134

Photo Source: Aircrew Remembered

