

PO Murray Ellis Carncross 411718 RNZAF

Murray was born on 30 September 1922 in Wellington, North Island, New Zealand, the son of Arthur Ellis Carncross and Muriel Winifred Carncross nee Canham.

Educated at Wellington College and Victoria University College, Murray was employed as a tax clerk and scientific research cadet when, in June 1940, he applied for aircrew duties in the RNZAF.

Called up in March 1941, after initial training in New Zealand, Murray was sent to Canada under the Empire Air Training Scheme where, in October 1941, he was awarded his Observer's badge. After further navigation training Murray was commissioned and posted to the UK.

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



On 28/29 July 1942 Bomber Command were tasked with an op against the industrial target of Hamburg. A combined force of 256 aircraft, including seventeen 75 (NZ) crews, were allocated to the op. This was planned to be a much larger raid but bad weather in the North of England prevented many squadrons from participating. The weather en-route was equally poor, and the 91 OTU aircraft were recalled. Losses were heavy, and six 75 (NZ) Sqn crews were lost.

On the night of 28 July Murray, operating as the Observer, and the crew departed RAF Feltwell, Norfolk in Wellington III BJ599 (AA-U). At 01:26 Murray's aircraft was coned by searchlights and shot down by heavy (schwere) flak, crashing near Steinbeck, Buckholz in der Nordheide, Niedersachsen, about 20 miles NW of the target. All on board were killed.

Also Killed: FS George Alister Hutt RNZAF (Pilot); Sgt James Gordon McMurchy RNZAF (WOp/AG); Sgt William Clerken O'Shea RNZAF (WOp/AG); Sgt John Henry Savage RNZAF (AG)

Originally buried in Stade Communal Cemetery, Lower Saxony, Germany, in September 1946 Murray and the crew were moved to Becklingen War Cemetery, Niedersachsen, Germany.

Murray is commemorated on Wall Panel 141

Photo Source: www.aucklandmuseum.com