

FS Edmund Murray Corlett 412207 RNZAF

Edmund, known as "Ray", was born on 4 September 1909 in Carterton, Wellington, New Zealand, the son of Henry Murray Corlett and Rubina Gladys Corlett nee Bond.

Educated at Masterton Technical School, Edmund was employed as a driver in Plimmerton when, in May 1940, he volunteered for aircrew duties in the RNZAF.

Called up in April 1941, Edmund completed his flying training in New Zealand in August 1941 with the award of his Wings, and embarked for the UK in October.

Following advanced training at 11 OTU, RAF Bassingbourn, Hertfordshire for multi crew/multi engine training on the Wellington, and 1651 HCU RAF Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire for Stirling conversion, in September 1942 Edmund was posted to 214 Sqn at RAF Stradishall, Suffolk. In October 1942 the squadron moved to RAF Chedburgh, Suffolk.



On 20/21 November 1942 Bomber Command was tasked with an attack on Turin, an important industrial centre, and home to the key military manufacturers of Fiat, Lancia and SNIA Vicosia. A combined force of 232 aircraft, including eight 214 Sqn crews, were allocated to the op.

At 18:44 on 20 November, Edmund and his crew departed RAF Chedburgh in Stirling I W7584 (BU-D)

Whilst homeward-bound, Edmund's aircraft experienced difficulties with the extractor controls, which eventually led to failure of the port inner and starboard engines. Short of fuel, and with the base and nearby alternatives closed with low cloud, Edmund instructed his crew to bale out. Once the crew had safely left the aircraft, Edmund baled out; however, by the time he managed to leave the aircraft he was too low and the parachute only partially opened. Edmund was killed on impact.

At 03:42 on 21 November the aircraft crashed near Thurlow, 8 miles SW of the airfield.

Edmund is buried in Haverhill Cemetery, Suffolk.

Edmund is commemorated on Wall Panel 148

Photo Source: aucklandmuseum.com