

Sgt William Robert Dil 403434 RNZAF

William, known as Bill, was born on 3 May 1919 in New Plymouth, Taranaki, New Zealand, the eldest son of William James Dil and Sarah Elisabeth Dil nee McAllister.

Educated at Northcote District High School, William studied at Auckland University College where he was working in stages towards a BSC degree.

Employed as a school teacher in Auckland, in September 1939 William applied for aircrew duties with the RNZAF. Called up in September 1940, William completed his flying training in New Zealand and was awarded his wings in December 1940.

In March 1941 William arrived in the UK and, after advanced training, in August 1941 he was posted from 27 OTU at RAF Litchfield, Staffordshire to 101 Sqn at RAF Oakington, Cambridgeshire.

On 20 September 1941 four crews from 101 Sqn were tasked with an attack on Ostend, Belgium.



At 19:12 William and his crew departed RAF Oakington in Wellington1C X9922 (SR).

Believed to have successfully attacked the target, the Wellington was known to be returning with unserviceable radios. Unable to establish communication to enable a fix on their position, in order to try and get a visual reference point William descended through thick cloud and at Park Farm, Preston Deanery, Northamptonshire, impacted trees on high ground. At 23:00 the starboard wing hit the ground and the aircraft flipped and broke up, killing four of the six man crew instantly. William survived the crash with serious injuries, and died the next day at the General Hospital, Northampton, Northamptonshire. This was his 6th op.

Also Killed: PO David Ivor Evans (Pilot); FS David Gifford Chattell RCAF (WOp/AG); PO William Rand Lugar RCAF (Obs); Sgt Frank Denis Rogers (WOp/AG)

William is buried in Cambridge City Cemetery, Cambridgeshire

William is commemorated on Wall Panel 155

Photo Source: familysearch