

Sgt John Forman R/80334 RCAF

John was born on 11 August 1920 in Reston, Manitoba, Canada, the son of Scottish born parents James Clark Forman and Helen Forman nee Reilly.

Educated at Reston Public and High Schools, Manitoba, John was employed as a clerk and delivery boy for a general merchant when, in July 1940, he volunteered for aircrew duties in the RCAF.

Called up in November 1940, John completed his training in Canada in September 1941 with the award of his WOp/AG badge.

Arriving in the UK in October 1941, John completed his training at 13 OTU RAF Bicester, Oxfordshire and 25 OTU RAF Finningley, Yorkshire before he was posted to 75 (NZ) Sqn at RAF Feltwell, Norfolk in September 1942.

On 6/7 October 1942 Bomber Command were tasked with an op against Osnabrück. A combined force of 237 aircraft, including fourteen 75(NZ) crews, were allocated to the op.

At 19:30 John, operating as the Wireless Operator, and the crew departed RAF Feltwell, Norfolk in Wellington III DF639 (AA-N). The Pathfinder Force successfully marked the run-in as well as the target and, as a result, the bombing was well concentrated with extensive damage to the central and southern parts of the city.

Homeward-bound, John's aircraft was intercepted by Lt Hans Krause, Uffz Otto Zinn & Uffz Fritz Specht of the Stab I./NJG 3, flying a Dornier Do 217J from the Rheine Airbase, Germany. At 23:04 the aircraft crashed near the small town of Hardenberg, 70 miles East of Amsterdam, killing all on board. This was his 6th op.

Also killed: Sgt John Forbes (AG); Sgt Geoffrey Slater (WOp/AG); Sgt Walter John Howes (Obs); Sgt George William Rhodes (Pilot)

John is buried in Hardenburg Protestant Cemetery, Overijssel, Netherlands

John is commemorated on Wall Panel 165

Photo Source: Findagrave

