

Sgt John Trevor Vivian Gill 403362 RNZAF

John was born on 30 December 1914 in Auckland, New Zealand, the son of Thomas Richard Willoughby Gill and Edith Gill nee Stephens.

Educated at King's College Auckland, John was employed as a farmer on his own account when, in February 1940, he applied for aircrew duties in the RNZAF.

Called up in September 1940, John was employed on ground duties until he started pilot training in January 1941. Unable to reach the required standard, John re-mustered as an Air Gunner and was sent to Canada under the Empire Air Training Scheme. In March 1942 John was awarded his AG badge and in April arrived in the UK.

John completed his advanced training at 23 OTU at RAF Pershore, Worcestershire, and in August 1942 he was posted to 75(NZ) Sqn at RAF Mildenhall, Suffolk.



On 3/4 September 1942, a small force of eleven aircraft were tasked with an op against the German port of Emden. Six 75(NZ) crews, were allocated to the op. Two squadron aircraft failed to return.

At 23:28 on 3 September John, operating as the Rear Gunner, and the crew departed RAF Mildenhall, Suffolk in Wellington III X3396 (AA-R).

Homeward bound, John's aircraft was intercepted by Oblt Paul Gildner of the 5./NJG 2, and at 02:20 finally brought down by flak crashing at Westermarsch I, Norden, Niedersachsen, killing all on board. This was John's 2nd op, the first on 75(NZ) Sqn.

Also Killed: Sgt Horace Llewellyn Grant RNZAF (Obs); Sgt James Law (Pilot); Sgt Richard Alfred William Newman RNZAF (AB); Sgt Rupert Ernest Renton RNZAF (WOp/AG)

Originally buried in Heldenfriedhof Cemetery, Wittmund, Lower Saxony, Germany, in April 1947 John and the crew were moved to the Sage War Cemetery, Niedersachsen, Germany.

John is commemorated on Wall Panel 169

John's Brother, Pte Angelo William Thomas Gill was killed in 1917 whilst serving with the NZ army in Belgium during WW1

Photo Source: findagrave