

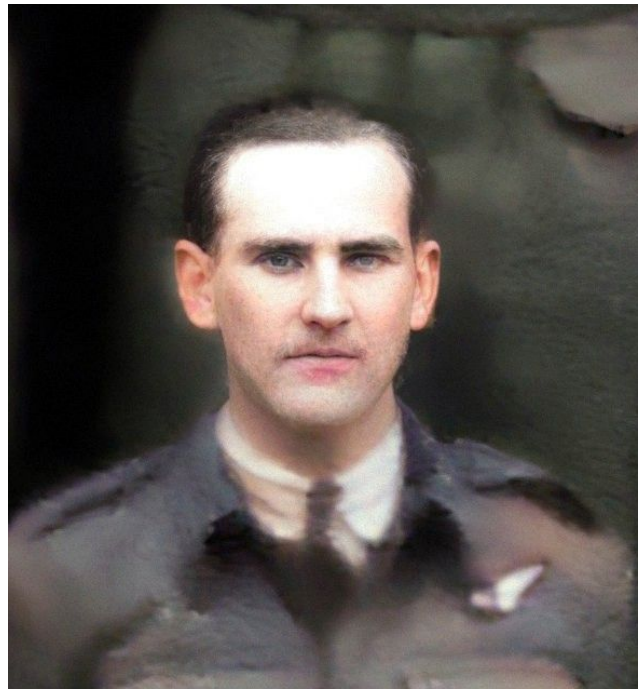
FS Ralph Ernest Gorman R/93025 RCAF

Ralph was born on 10 November 1917 in Williamsburg, Pennsylvania, USA, the only son of Ernest Blair Gorman and Anna May Gorman nee Gorsuch.

Educated at Williamsburg High School, Ralph was training for a career as a Physical Education teacher at Lock Haven College when, in January 1941, he volunteered for service with the RCAF.

Called up the following month, Ralph commenced pilot training but, in August 1941 Ralph re-mustered as an Air Gunner and was awarded his AG badge in December 1941.

Transferring to the UK in January 1942, after completing advanced training at 22 OTU, RAF Wellesbourne Mountford, Warwickshire, in August 1942 Ralph was posted to 75(NZ) Sqn at RAF Mildenhall, Suffolk after spending one month with 101 Sqn.



On the night of the 10/11 September 1942, 479 aircraft were dispatched for an attack on Dusseldorf. Thirteen 75(NZ) Sqn Wellingtons participated in the raid.

Shortly after 21:00 on 10 September Ralph, operating as the Rear Gunner, and the crew departed RAF Mildenhall in Wellington III BJ968 (AA-W) named "Rosaline". Homeward-bound, the aircraft vanished into the North Sea, possibly shot down by a Ju 88 of III./NJG 2 based at Gilze-Rijen, Netherlands, killing all on board. This was Ralph's 3rd op.

The op was considered a success, with the city hit in all areas other than the North. The industrial area was heavily damaged, limiting production for a considerable time; however, the raid took its toll on Bomber Command with 33 aircraft lost, 60 crew killed and 13 taken POW. Three 75(NZ) Sqn aircraft failed to return with the loss of 15 men.

Also Killed: PO Randolph Cruickshank Smart RNZAF (Obs); FS Frank Burrill RCAF (Pilot); FS William Wilfred Henry Lavers RCAF (Obs); FS Michael Bertram St. Louis RCAF (WOp/AG)

Ralph has no known grave and is commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial, Surrey

Ralph is commemorated on Wall Panel 171

Photo Source: www.uswarmemorials.org