

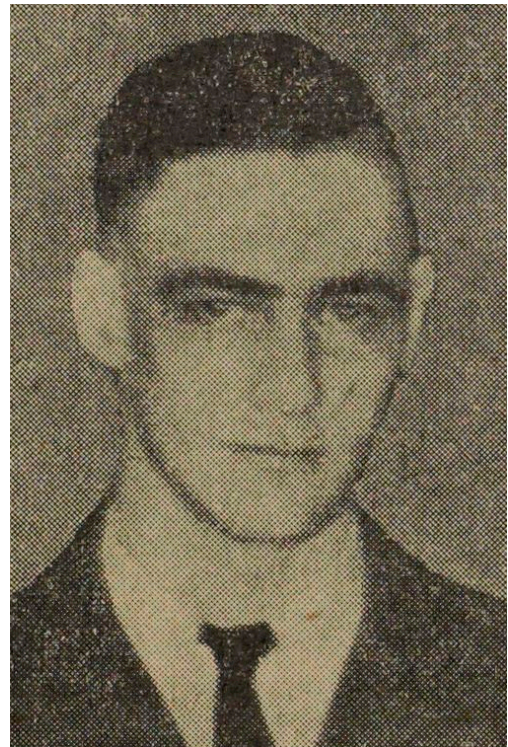
Sgt Sidney Horace Ives 412529 RNZAF

Sidney was born on 8 October 1919 in Takaka, Nelson, New Zealand, the son of Horace Ives and Ellen Phoebe Ives nee Skilton, husband of Gladys.

Educated at Puramahoi School, Sidney was employed on the family farm at Takaka when, in July 1940, he volunteered for aircrew duties with the RNZAF.

Called up in April 1941, following basic training in New Zealand, in May 1941 Sidney was sent to Canada to train under the Empire Air Training Scheme. In February 1942 Sidney was awarded his Air Gunner badge and immediately embarked for the UK.

Following advanced training at 11 OTU RAF Westcott, Buckinghamshire, where he converted to multi crew/ multi engine ops, in August 1942 Sidney was posted to 218 Sqn at RAF Downham Market, Norfolk where he converted to the Stirling.



On 14/15 September 1942 Bomber Command was tasked with an attack on Wilhelmshaven, the primary base for the German Navy and the shipyards, docks and industry that supported them. A combined force of 202 aircraft, including six 218 Sqn crews, were allocated to the op.

At 19:55 on 14 September Sidney, operating as the Rear Gunner, and the crew departed RAF Downham Market, Norfolk, in Stirling I N3725 (HA-D "Dumbo") shown below.



Whilst over the target, the starboard inner engine failed. The crew commenced a return on the three engines; however, on final approach to base, the starboard outer engine lost power and, at 00:55 on 15 September, Sidney's aircraft crashed 1 mile East of Stoke Ferry, Norfolk, killing six of the crew. The Wireless Operator and the Mid Upper Gunner survived. This was Sidney's 11th op.

Also killed: FO John Clarence Frankcomb RAAF (Pilot); FS Donald Ivor Pearce (Pilot); Sgt Ernest Trevor Pellow RNZAF (AG); Sgt Valentine Picken (FE); Sgt Ernest Watson (Obs)

Sidney is buried in Marham Cemetery, Norfolk

Sidney is commemorated on Wall Panel 187

Photo Source: aucklandmuseum.com