

Sgt Claude Joseph Frederick Jarvis 411722 RNZAF

Claude was born on 19 June 1920 in Hastings, New Zealand, the son of Frederick Joseph Jarvis and Blanche Jarvis nee Ball.

Educated at Hutt Valley High School, Hastings, Claude was employed as a compositor when, in July 1940, he applied for aircrew duties with the RNZAF.

Called up in March 1941, Claude was sent to Canada under the Empire Air Training Scheme where, in November 1941, he was awarded his WOp/AG badge and travelled to the UK the following month.

Claude completed his training at 11 OTU RAF Bassingbourn, Hertfordshire, and arrived on 75 (NZ) Sqn at RAF Mildenhall, Suffolk, in August 1942.

On 6/7 September 1942 Bomber Command were tasked with an op against the industrial target of Duisburg, a major logistical centre in the Ruhr Area and location of chemical, steel and iron industries. A combined force of 207 aircraft, including fifteen 75(NZ) crews, were allocated to the op. Two squadron crews failed to return.

In the early hours of 7 September Claude, operating as the Wireless Operator, and the crew departed RAF Mildenhall, Suffolk in Wellington III BJ765 (AA-L). Claude was shot down 11 miles South West of the target, crashing near Krefeld, killing all on board. This was Claude's 3rd op.

Also killed: PO George William Alfred Mills RNZAF (WOp/AG); Sgt Thomas Edward Coles RNZAF (AG); Sgt Norman Priestley Saul RNZAF (Obs); Sgt George William Sharman RNZAF (Pilot)

Originally buried in Krefeld Main Cemetery, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany, in June 1947 Claude was re-located to Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany

Claude is commemorated on Wall Panel 188

Photo Source: IBCC

