

Sgt George Smith Jennings 411763 RNZAF

George was born on 13 November 1917 in Rangiora, Canterbury, New Zealand, the son of Samuel Robert Jennings and Elizabeth Ann Jennings nee Smith .

Educated at West Eyreton School, George was employed as a tractor and truck driver when, in April 1940, he applied for aircrew duties in the RNZAF.

Called up in March 1941, after initial training in New Zealand, George was sent to Canada for training under the Empire Air Training Scheme. In November 1941 George was awarded his WOp/AG badge and embarked for the UK the following month.

George completed his advanced training at 23OTU RAF Pershore, Worcestershire, and at the beginning of August 1942 he was posted to 101 Sqn at RAF Stradishall, Suffolk.

On 4/5 September 1942, Bomber Command were tasked with an op against the military and industrial facilities, and shipyards of Bremen. A combined force of 251 aircraft, including nine 101 crews, were allocated to the op.

At 01:00 on 5 September George, operating as WOp/AG, and the crew departed RAF Stradishall in Wellington III BJ891 (SR).

Returning home, George's aircraft was intercepted between 04:15 and 05:09 by Oblt Ludwig Becker of 6./NJG 2 flying from Leeuwarden. The aircraft crashed in the North Sea off the Frisian Islands, killing all on board. This was George's 7th op.

Also Killed: PO Norman Ingram Gill (Pilot); PO Robert Walter Harrison (Obs); FS Joseph Norbert Tapp RCAF (WOp/AG); FS John Davidson Gill RCAF (AG)

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

George is commemorated on Wall Panel 189