

Sgt James Law 1101018 RAFVR

James was born on 3 February 1921 in Preston, Lancashire, the son of William Law and Millicent Law nee Hargreaves.

Employed as a charge hand at the local mill, in June 1940 James volunteered for aircrew service with the RAF.

Originally selected as a WOp/AG, he commenced training in the UK before he was recommended for pilot training and re-mustered in October.

Transferred to Arizona, USA, for pilot training in the Autumn of 1941 James gained his wings and returned to the UK.

James 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 James and his crew departed RAF Mildenhall, Suffolk in Wellington III X3396 (AA-R).

Homeward bound, James'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 James's 2nd op.

Also Killed: Sgt Horace Llewellyn Grant RNZAF (Obs); Sgt John Trevor Vivian Gill RNZAF (AG); 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 James and the crew were moved to the Sage War Cemetery, Niedersachsen, Germany.

James is commemorated on Wall Panel 197

Photo Source: 75nzsquadron.wordpress.com

