

PO George William Alfred Mills 411769 RNZAF

George was born on 11 August 1915 in Ruaroa, North Island, New Zealand, the son of William George Thomas Mills and Caroline Helen Mills nee Hall.

Educated at Ruaroa School, George was briefly employed on his father's farm, before commencing aircraft and glider work in Dannevirke. A member of Wairarap and Ruahine Aero Club, George also qualified as a civil pilot.

George made an unsuccessful application for a short service commission in September 1939 before re-applying for aircrew duties with the RNZAF in February 1940.

Called up in March 1941, George was sent to Canada under the Empire Air Training Scheme where, in November 1941, he was awarded his WOp/AG badge and granted a commission.

George arrived in the UK in December 1941 and, following advanced training, commenced Bomb Aimer training at 11 OTU RAF Bassingbourn, Hertfordshire. George was posted to 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 George, operating as the Front Gunner and Bomb Aimer, and the crew departed RAF Mildenhall, Suffolk in Wellington III BJ765 (AA-L). George was shot down 11 miles South West of the target, crashing near Krefeld, killing all on board.

Also killed: Sgt Claude Joseph Frederick Jarvis 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 George was re-located to Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany

George is commemorated on Wall Panel 212

Photo Source: 75nzsqadron.wordpress.com