

PO Walter Jack Monk 411432 RNZAF

Walter was born on 18 January 1918 in Wellington, New Zealand, the son of Walter Ponsonby Monk and Louise Bethia Monk nee Wainhouse.

Educated at Darlinghurst High School, Sydney, Australia, Walter returned to New Zealand for work and was employed by the Internal Marketing Division in Auckland.

In March 1941 Walter enlisted in the RNZAF and, after basic and elementary flying training in New Zealand, was sent to Canada in June 1941 under the Empire Air Training Scheme. Walter was awarded his wings and granted a commission in September 1941 and the following month was sent to the UK.

Arriving in the UK in October 1941, Walter completed his advanced training and in May 1942 was posted to 75 (NZ) Sqn at RAF Feltwell, Norfolk.

On 29 June 1942 Bomber Command were tasked with an op against the industrial target of Bremen. A combined force of 253 aircraft, with sixteen 75 (NZ) crews were allocated to the op.

At 23:25 Walter and his crew departed RAF Feltwell, Norfolk in Wellington III X3539 (AA-T). Successfully attacking the target, extensive damage was reported in the industrial area of Bremen, with the Folke-Wolf factory and AG Weser U-Boat construction yard significantly damaged.

Whilst on the return, Walter's aircraft was intercepted by Oblt Egmont Prinz zur Lippe-Weissenfeld of the 5./NJG 2 flying a Bf110 from Gilze Rijen. At 03:08 Walter's aircraft crashed into the Waddenzee, south of Ameland, Friesland, killing all on board. This was Walter's 12th op.

Also Killed: Sgt Ernest Francis Sydney Moncrief RNZAF (WOp/AG); Sgt John Gordon George Hegan RNZAF (WOp/AG); Sgt Murdoch Gordon McGregor RNZAF (AG); Sgt Douglas Haig Randle (Observer)

Walter was the only crew member not recovered after the crash, and he is commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial, Surrey

Walter is commemorated on Wall Panel 213

Photo Source: www.aucklandmuseum.com

