

FS Eric Perks 411934 RNZAF

Eric was born on 15 December 1915 in Onehunga, Auckland, New Zealand, the son of Leonard Perks and Lilian Perks nee Crofts. Husband to Ruby Alice Woods.

Educated at Onehunga Technical School, Eric was employed as a book binder when, in May 1940, he applied for aircrew duties with the RNZAF.

Called up in March 1941, Eric completed his pilot training in New Zealand in July 1941 with the award of his wings. In September Eric embarked for the UK.

Following advanced training at 20 OTU RAF Lossiemouth, Scotland, on 12 August 1942 Eric was posted to 75(NZ) Sqn at RAF Mildenhall, Suffolk.

On 28/29 August 1942, Bomber Command was tasked with an op against Nuremburg, Germany. A combined force of 159 aircraft were despatched, with ten 75(NZ) Sqn crews allocated to the raid. Two aircraft failed to return.



At 21:00 Eric and his crew departed RAF Mildenhall in Wellington III X3389 (AA).

In the early hours of 29 August, Eric's aircraft was hit by flak and crashed at Niederhochstadt North West of Frankfurt, killing all on board. This was Eric's 2nd Op.

Also Killed: FS Walter Harrison Irvine RCAF (WOp/AG); Sgt Reginald George Arthur Lee (Obs); Sgt John David Robert Macgillivray (WOp/AG); Sgt Percy Oaten (AG)

Originally buried in Frankfurt Oberrad Cemetery, in April 1948 Eric and the crew were moved to the Durnbach War Cemetery, Bayern, Germany

Eric is commemorated on Wall Panel 225

Photo Source: www.aucklandmuseum.com