

## **Sgt William Robertson Ramsay 405508 RNZAF**

William was born on 4 June 1917 in Kaitangata, Otago, New Zealand, the son of George Jane Smith Ramsay and Elizabeth Margaret Lindsay Ramsay nee Robertson.

Educated at Palmerston District High School, William was employed as a farm labourer and mine worker when, in September 1939, he applied for aircrew duties in the RNZAF.

Called up in December 1940, after initial training in New Zealand, in January 1941 William was sent to Canada under the Empire Air Training Scheme. In August 1941 William was awarded his WOp/AG badge and in September arrived in the UK.

William completed his advanced training at 23 OTU at RAF Pershore, Worcestershire, and in May 1942 he was posted to 75(NZ) Sqn at RAF Feltwell, Norfolk.

On 8/9 June 1942 Bomber Command were tasked with an op against the industrial target of Essen with the Krupp Armament Works the primary target. A combined force of 170 aircraft, including twelve 75(NZ) crews, were allocated to the op.

Just before midnight on 8 June William, operating as the Front Gunner, and the crew departed RAF Feltwell, Norfolk in Wellington III X3587 (AA-P).

At 01:32 William's aircraft was coned by searchlights and hit by both heavy and light Flak. The aircraft crashed at Neuss, SW of Dusseldorf, Germany, killing all on board.

Also Killed: PO Rupert John Smith RNZAF (Pilot); Sgt William Graham Clark (Obs); Sgt Barry Herbert Coulter (WOp/AG); Sgt Henry Edward Jones (AG)

Originally buried in Dusseldorf North Cemetery, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany, in December 1946 William and the crew were moved to the Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany.

William is commemorated on Wall Panel 229

Photo Source: [www.nzwargraves.org.nz](http://www.nzwargraves.org.nz)

