

FS Stanley David Ross 41359 RNZAF

Stanley was born on 5 October 1916 in Wellington, New Zealand, the son of Alexander James Ross and Gwenith Madeline Ross.

Educated at Rongotai College, Auckland, Stanley was employed as a plumber when, in February 1940, he applied for aircrew service in the RNZAF.

Called up in January 1941, Stanley completed his basic pilot training in New Zealand before he was sent to Canada in April 1941 under the Empire Air Training Scheme for further training.

Awarded his wings in August 1941, Stanley embarked for the UK immediately. Following advanced training at 11 OTU RAF Bassingbourn, Hertfordshire, and 1505 Beam Training Flight, RAF Honington, Suffolk, in July 1942 Stanley was posted to 75(NZ) Sqn at RAF Feltwell, Norfolk.

On 26/27 July 1942 Bomber Command was tasked with an op against Hamburg, Germany, regarded as a maximum effort for the regular bomber squadrons. A combined force of 403 aircraft, including fifteen 75(NZ) crews, were allocated to the op. Two 75(NZ) aircraft failed to return.

Shortly before midnight on 26 July 1942 Stanley, operating as the 2nd pilot, and the crew departed RAF Feltwell in Wellington III X3714 (AA).

Nothing further was heard from the crew, and the circumstances of their loss is unknown. This was Stanley's 3rd Op.

Also killed: PO Philip Charles Spittal RNZAF (Obs); FS Norman Albert Bryson RNZAF (AG); FS Louvain Trevor Cairns RNZAF (WOp/AG); FS Colin Valentine McPherson RNZAF (Pilot); Sgt Raymond Patrick Coppersmith RNZAF (WOp/AG)

Stanley has no known grave and is commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial, Surrey

Stanley is commemorated on Wall Panel 235