PO John Reginald Rundle 414346 RNZAF

John was born on 5 September 1918 in Christchurch, New Zealand, the eldest son of William Rundle and Ellen Josephine Rundle nee Stack.

Educated at Christchurch Technical College, John was employed as a carpenter in the Addington workshops of New Zealand Railways when, in February 1940, he volunteered for aircrew duties in the RNZAF.

Called up in July 1941, John completed his basic training in New Zealand, and in November he was sent to Canada to complete his training under the Empire Air Training Scheme. In March 1942 John was awarded his Wings, and embarked for the UK in April.

Following advanced training at 11 OTU, RAF Bassingbourn, Hertfordshire for multi crew/multi engine training on the Wellington, and 1651 HCU RAF Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire for Stirling conversion, in December John was granted a commission, and in January 1943 he was posted to 214 Sqn at RAF Chedburgh, Suffolk.

On 17/18 February 1943 six 214 Sqn crews were allocated to Gardening ops in the Gironde Estuary, SW France. John's target was "Deodars" in the Bordeaux area.

At 18:03 on 17 February John and his crew departed RAF Chedburgh in Stirling I R9163 (BU-C)

Shortly after 22:00 the task was completed and, whilst on the homeward leg, John's aircraft was intercepted by a night fighter. Although damaged, John was able to continue back to the UK. Whilst over Portsmouth, the aircraft was mistaken for an enemy aircraft and was engaged by an Allied Anti-Aircraft unit, suffering further damage.

Running low on fuel, John attempted a diversion to RAF Odiham, Hampshire. Ten miles short of the airfield, the engines cut out, and John ordered the crew to abandon the aircraft. All of the crew baled out; however; during his bale out, John struck one of the propeller's and his body was discovered in the woods near the village of Four Marks, SW of Alton, Hampshire. This was John's 3rd op.

John is buried in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey

John is commemorated on Wall Panel 236