

Sgt Norman Priestley Saul 411730 R

Norman was born on 12 August 1912 in Pretoria, Transvaal, South Africa, the son of Walter Saul and Eleanor Louisa Saul nee Holton.

Aged 7, Norman travelled to New Zealand and was educated at Whangarei High School. Employed as a surveyor and draughtsman with highway construction, in April 1940 Norman applied for aircrew duties with the RNZAF.

Called up in March 1941, Norman was sent to Canada under the Empire Air Training Scheme where, in October 1941, he was awarded his Observer badge. After advanced Navigator training, Norman was sent to the UK in December 1941. Following advanced training at 11 OTU RAF Bassingbourn, Hertfordshire, Norman was posted to 75 (NZ) Sqn at RAF Mildenhall, Suffolk in August 1942.



On 6/7 September 1942 Bomber Command were tasked with an op against the industrial target of Duisburg, a major logistical centre in the Ruhr Area and location of chemical, steel and iron industries. A combined force of 207 aircraft, including fifteen 75(NZ) crews, were allocated to the op. Two squadron crews failed to return.

In the early hours of 7 September Norman, operating as the Observer, and the crew departed RAF Mildenhall, Suffolk, in Wellington III BJ765 (AA-L). Norman was shot down 11 miles South West of the target, crashing near Krefeld, killing all on board. This was Norman's 3rd op.

Also killed: PO George William Alfred Mills RNZAF (WOp/AG); Sgt Claude Joseph Frederick Jarvis RNZAF (WOp/AG); Sgt Thomas Edward Coles RNZAF (AG); Sgt George William Sharman RNZAF (Pilot)

Originally buried in Krefeld Main Cemetery, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany, in June 1947 Norman was re-located to Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany

Norman is commemorated on Wall Panel 237

Photo Source: IBCC