

Sgt George William Sharman 412746 RNZAF

George was born on 23 February 1915 in Huntly, Waikato, New Zealand, the son of George Edward Sharman and Ada Helen Sharman nee Carseldine.

Educated at Whangarei High School, George was employed as a plumber when, in June 1940 George applied for aircrew duties with the RNZAF.

Called up in May 1941, George completed his flying training in New Zealand with the award of his wings in September 1941.

George arrived in the UK in December 1941 and, following advanced training at 11 OTU RAF Bassingbourn, Hertfordshire, he 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 George and his 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 George's 5th 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 Norman Priestley Saul RNZAF (Obs)

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

George is commemorated on Wall Panel 239

Photo Source: 75nzsquadron.wordpress.com

