

PO Randolph Cruickshank Smart 411006 RNZAF

Randolph was born on 20 August 1917 in Wyndham, Southland, New Zealand, the eldest son of George James Cruickshank Smart and Florence Jane Oakden Smart nee Hardy.

Educated at Southland Boys High School and Otago University, Randolph was employed as a clerk in the Public Works Department when, in June 1940, he applied for service with the RNZAF.

Called up in February 1941 for pilot training, when Randolph's training was discontinued in July 1941 he re-mustered as Air Observer, and was transferred to Canada for training under the Empire Air Training Scheme.

In January 1942 and, after advanced navigational training, Randolph was granted a commission and in February 1942 he transferred to the UK. Randolph completed advanced training at 11 OTU, RAF Bassingbourn, Hertfordshire, and on 8 September 1942 he was posted to 75(NZ) Sqn at RAF Mildenhall, Suffolk.

On the night of the 10/11 September 1942, 479 aircraft were dispatched for an attack on Dusseldorf. Thirteen 75(NZ) Sqn Wellingtons participated in the raid.

Shortly after 21:00 on 10 September Randolph, operating as the Navigator, and the crew departed RAF Mildenhall in Wellington III BJ968 (AA-W) named "Rosaline". Homeward-bound, the aircraft vanished into the North Sea, possibly shot down by a Ju 88 of III./NJG 2 based at Gilze-Rijen, Netherlands, killing all on board. This was his 1st op.

The op was considered a success, with the city hit in all areas other than the North. The industrial area was heavily damaged, limiting production for a considerable time; however, the raid took its toll on Bomber Command with 33 aircraft lost, 60 crew killed and 13 taken POW. Three 75(NZ) Sqn aircraft failed to return with the loss of 15 men.

Also Killed: FS Michael Bertram St. Louis RCAF (WOp/AG); FS Frank Burrill RCAF (Pilot); FS Ralph Ernest Gorman RCAF (AG); FS William Henry Wilfred Lavers RCAF (Obs)

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

Randolph is commemorated on Wall Panel 243