Flt Lt Edward (Teddy) Nation Steel 40955 RAF

Edward was born on 28 December 1916 in Wellington, New Zealand, the son of John William Steel and Maud Muriel Mary Steel nee Nation.

Edward left New Zealand before the war to join the RAF as a pilot, and was commissioned in August 1938. An experienced pilot with 608 flying hours, this was his 14th operation.

On the 6 May 1941, 18 Blenheims were tasked with Anti-shipping operations along the French and German Coast. Six Blenheims from 110 Sqn were tasked with attacking enemy shipping on Beat 7.

Edward and his crew departed RAF Wattisham at 11:15 in Blenheim IV R3600 (VE) and sighted an enemy convoy consisting of 5 ships - 3 destroyers, one corvette and one a vessel suspected to be a large corvette. When the aircraft were 3 miles away, the ships opened up with heavy and light anti-aircraft fire. The aircraft approached to within 1/2 mile and the Air Gunners raked the decks with machine gun bullets. The aircraft turned away and sighted further vessels with ME110 escort but no further attack was made. Edward and his crew failed to return but were believed to be returning to base when they were lost.

Also killed were : FS Ronald Albert Freestone (Observer); Sgt Joseph Dennis Bramhall (WOp/AG)

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

Edward is commemorated on Wall Panel 247

Photo Source: Ancestry