

Sgt Donald Frederick Streeter 401033 RNZAF

Donald was born on 5 June 1917 in Wellington, New Zealand, the son of Frederick Streeter and Emilie Streeter nee Macdonald.

Educated at Wellington College, Donald was employed as a clerk by the United Insurance Company, Wellington when, in November 1939, he applied for service with the RNZAF.

Called up in April 1940, Donald completed his training in New Zealand in September 1940 with the award of his Wings, and he embarked for the UK the following month.

Following advanced training at 20 OTU RAF Lossiemouth, Scotland, in April 1941 Donald was posted to 75(NZ) Sqn at RAF Feltwell, Norfolk.

On 24 July 1941 Bomber Command was tasked with a daylight attack against the German Battleship Gneisenau and heavy cruiser the Prinz Eugen which were moored at Brest, France. A combined force of 100 aircraft, including six 75(NZ) crews, were allocated to the op. The 75(NZ) Sqn crews were to attack the Gneisenau.

At 10:40 on 24 July Donald and his crew departed RAF Feltwell in Wellington Ic N2854 (AA-U).

Brest was heavily defended by a balloon barrage, anti-aircraft guns and fighters. On approach to the target Donald's aircraft was hit by flak and, with the bomb doors open, they began to lose speed and dropped out of formation, becoming a prime target for the fighters. As Donald's aircraft was engaged, the accompanying squadron aircraft endeavoured to give covering fire and his Gunners were able to destroy a Me110 before they were critically hit by a Me109 and crashed in the sea, killing all on board. This was Donald's 21st op.

Also Killed: Sgt Rodney Patrick Carling (Obs); Sgt Robert Samuel Carson Craig (AG); Sgt William Owen RCAF (Pilot); Sgt Reginald James Turner (WOp/AG); Sgt Graham Stuart Walker RNZAF (AG)

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

Donald is commemorated on Wall Panel 249

Photo Source: aucklandmuseum.com

