

Sgt Murray Swann 411103 RNZAF

Murray was born on 3 December 1914 in Dunedin, Otago, New Zealand, the son of David Anderson Swann and Elizabeth Clarke Swann nee Ness.

Educated at Dunedin Technical High School, Murray was employed as a carpenter in his father's building firm when, in April 1940, he applied for aircrew duties in the RNZAF.

Called up in February 1941, after initial training in New Zealand, in March 1941 Murray was sent to Canada to complete his training under the Empire Air Training Scheme. In October 1941 Murray was awarded his WOp/AG badge and was posted to the UK in December.

Posted to 11 OTU at RAF Bassingbourn, Hertfordshire, in July 1942, Murray completed his conversion training and was posted to 101 Sqn at RAF Bourn, Cambridgeshire, before the squadron moved to Stradishall, Suffolk in August.

On 28/29 August 1942 Bomber Command were tasked with an op against Nuremberg, Germany, a strong economic and infrastructure hub, with symbolic importance as the "City of the Nuremberg Rally". A combined force of 159 aircraft, including seven 101 crews, were allocated to the op.

On the night of 28 August, Murray and the crew departed RAF Stradishall in Wellington III X3754 (SR).

At 23:51, whilst on the outbound leg, Murray's aircraft was intercepted by Hptm Walter Ehle & Ofw Ludwig Leidenbach of Stab II./NJG 1, flying a Bf 110 from St Trond (Sint-Truiden) airfield. The aircraft crashed at Cheratte, Visé, Liège - only the Observer survived and became a POW. This was Murray's 12th op.

Also Killed: FS James Douglas Follett RNZAF (Pilot); Sgt John Ramsey (AG); Sgt Frank Ernest Kearns RNZAF (AG)

Originally buried in the Brustem Airfield Cemetery, St Trond, Belgium, in February 1947 Murray was re-located to Heverlee War Cemetery, Vlaams-Brabant, Belgium

Murray is commemorated on Wall Panel 250