

FS Francis Alexander Tait R/70913 RCAF

Francis, known as Frank, was born on 16 April 1922 in Dilke, Saskatchewan, Canada, the son of Roy Tait and Madelena Tait nee Dorzyk.

Educated at Kenosee and Dilke Schools, on leaving education in May 1940, Francis volunteered for aircrew duties with the RCAF.

Called up in October 1940, Francis completed his pilot training in Canada in June 1941 with the award of his Wings and in August he embarked for the UK.

Following advanced training at 23 OTU RAF Pershore, Worcestershire, in October 1941 Francis was posted to 214 Sqn at RAF Stradishall, Suffolk.

On 28/29 January 1942, Bomber Command was tasked with an attack on Munster, Nordrhein – Westfalen, Germany, home to multiple military units. A combined force of eighty-four aircraft including seven 214 Sqn crews was allocated to the op.

At some time between 18:30 and 20:00 on 28 January Francis, operating as 2nd Pilot, and the crew departed RAF Stradishall in Wellington Ic X9890 (BU-F).

Nothing further was heard from the crew, and they are believed to have gone down in the North Sea.

Also Killed: PO George Hamilton Webster RCAF (Pilot); Sgt Christopher John Irwin (Obs); Sgt Peter Gray Milton (WOp/AG); Sgt George Marsh Robinson (WOp/AG); Sgt Frank Godfrey Truscott (WOp/AG)

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

Francis is commemorated on Wall Panel 250

Photo Source: veterans.gc.ca

