

WO Philip Athol Tennant 425771 RNZAF



Philip was the son of David Thomas Tennant and Emily J. Tennant; husband of Margaret A. Tennant, of Westport, Nelson, New Zealand and father to 3 children.

He reported in 1942 for military service and following training in New Zealand, Canada and England, he landed in February 1945 at RAF Oakington.

He was a Wireless Operator/ Air Gunner in 7 Squadron.

Lancaster PB667 MG-Q took off from Oakington at 1031 hours 20 March 1945 to bomb railway tracks over Recklinghausen, Germany; their 22nd mission and just 49 days before the end of the war. On its return it was badly damaged and caught fire over Zuid Belevand in Holland. Watching the bomber from the ground was a group from 4th Commando Brigade. They saw the bomber on fire and losing altitude but F/O Bacon managed to control it long enough to avoid crashing into a town before the engine exploded and the Lancaster crashed into a field. The fire was immense and all perished. The seven bodies were later recovered by the commandos and buried next to the wreckage.

Philip was reburied at Bergen-Op-Zoom War Cemetery. Grave 13.A.12. He was 30 years old.



One of the original propellers emerged from the soil in the summer of 2010 and forms the heart of a monument in Nieuwdrop honouring the sacrifice of the crew.

WO Philip Athol Tennant RNZAF, Wireless Operator (killed)
F/O George Henry Huttleston, Air Bomber(killed)
Sgt. Harry McClements, Flight Engineer (killed)
F/O Lindsay Page Bacon RAAF, pilot (killed)
Flt. Sgt. Richard Roy Evans, Navigator (killed)
Sgt. Jim Alex Cornwall, Air Gunner(killed)
Sgt. Johnny Edward Taylor, Air Gunner (killed)

Philip is commemorated on Panel 252

Photos taken from tracesofwar.com & databankzeelandwo2.nl