

PO Raymond Wickcliffe John Trengrove 40927 RNZAF

Raymond was born on 27 December 1921 in Timaru, Canterbury, New Zealand, the son of Wickcliffe George Trengrove and Lettie Frances Gussy Trengrove nee James.

Educated at King Edward Technical College, Dunedin, Raymond was employed as a clerk with the Post & Telegraph Department, Dunedin, when he applied for aircrew duties in the RNZAF.

Called up in April 1940, after training in New Zealand, Raymond was awarded his Air Gunner badge in June 1940.

Arriving in the UK in July 1940, after advanced training Raymond was posted to 210 Sqn, Coastal Command. In November 1941 Raymond converted to the Wellington and in January 1942 he was posted to 75 (NZ) Sqn at RAF Feltwell, Norfolk. Raymond was granted a commission in May 1942.

On 20/21 June 1942 Bomber Command were tasked with an op against the port of Emden. A combined force of 185 aircraft, including twelve 75(NZ) crews, were allocated to the op.

Just before midnight on 20 June 1942 Raymond, operating as the Rear Gunner, and the crew departed RAF Feltwell, Norfolk, in Wellington III X3760 (AA-L).

Homeward-bound, at 01:56 Raymond's aircraft was intercepted by Olt Egmont Prinz zur Lippe-Weissenfeld of 5./NJG 2 flying from Leeuwarden, Netherlands. The aircraft crashed in the North Sea, North-West of Ameland, Friesland, Netherlands, killing all on board. This was Raymond's 31st op with 75(NZ) Sqn.

Also killed: FO Allen Armistice Fraser RNZAF (Pilot); PO Wallace Edward Buckley RNZAF (Obs); FS Arthur Stafford Christie RNZAF (WOp/AG); Sgt Clifton Robert Brailey RNZAF (AG)

Raymond was washed ashore on 14 July and buried in Heldenfriedhof, Wittmund, Lower Saxony, Germany. In April 1947 he was transferred to Sage War Cemetery, Niedersachsen, Germany.

Raymond is commemorated on Wall Panel 255