

Sgt Ventry Watters 413522 RNZAF

Ventry was born on 2 June 1920 in Warkworth, Auckland, New Zealand, the son Francis Watters and Moya Ventry Watters nee Smith.

Educated at Dargaville District High School, Ventry was employed as a clerk with the Bank of New Zealand when, in May 1940, he applied for aircrew duties with the RNZAF.

Called up in June 1941, after initial pilot training in New Zealand, Ventry was sent to Canada for further training under the Empire Air Training Scheme.

In February 1942 Ventry was awarded his wings and in March he embarked for the UK.

Following advanced training at 11 OTU RAF Bassingbourn, Hertfordshire, in September 1942 Ventry was posted to 75(NZ) Sqn at RAF Mildenhall, Suffolk.

On 13/14 October 1942 Bomber Command was tasked with an op against Kiel, Germany, one of the major naval bases and shipbuilding centres in Germany. A combined force of 288 aircraft, including thirteen 75(NZ) crews, were allocated to the op.

At 18:30 on 13 October 1942 Ventry and his crew departed RAF Mildenhall in Wellington III X3954 (AA).

At 23:10 Ventry's aircraft was coned by searchlights and was hit by heavy Flak of the 1.4./Schw. Flak Abteilung 613 and 2./Res Flak Abteilung 225, and crashed at Darenwuth, Schleswig-Holstein, killing all on board. This was Ventry's 4th Op.

Also killed: Sgt Ellison George Firth RNZAF (WOp/AG); Sgt Henry Edward Goldsack (AG); Sgt Albert Cyril Orr (AB); Sgt Lewis Harry Parkinson RNZAF (Obs)

Originally buried in the Brunsbuettelkoog Cemetery, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, in June 1947 Ventry was transferred to the Kiel War Cemetery, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany

Ventry is commemorated on Wall Panel 261

Ventry's brother, FS Terrence Watters was killed on 31 August 1943 whilst serving with 75(NZ) Sqn, and is also commemorated on Panel 261

Photo Source: findagrave

