Flt Lt Edward Cecil Ball 40749 RNZAF



Edward, known as “Ces”, was born on 28 March 1910 in Kinsale, Co. Cork, Ireland, the son of Major Edward Ball OBE and Amelia Matilda Ball nee Edmonds. In September 1942 he married Joyce Elsie “Joy” Wharram in Westminster, London.

Educated at Weymouth College, Dorset, in 1934 Edward emigrated to New Zealand and, following the completion of a course at Massey College, he was awarded the Diploma in Sheep Farming and was employed by A. Bucklands & Son of Auckland.

Applying for aircrew service in the RNZAF in September 1939, Edward was called up in March 1940 and completed his flying training in New Zealand in July 1940 with the award of his Wings. Commissioned in September 1940, in November Edward embarked for the UK.

Following advanced training at 20 OTU, RAF Lossiemouth, Moray, Scotland, in March 1941 Edward was posted to 103 Sqn at RAF Newton, Nottinghamshire, where he completed 25 ops. On completion of his tour, in September 1941 Edward was posted 11 OTU RAF Bassingbourn, Hertfordshire for his rest period. In March 1942 Edward returned to ops with 75 (NZ) Sqn at RAF Feltwell, Norfolk, where he completed a further 26 ops.

In August 1942 Edward was posted to 54 OTU, RAF Charter Hall, Berwickshire, where he converted to the Beaufighter and was posted to 488 Sqn at RAF Ayr, Scotland, the following month. Another training posting followed in January 1943 with a tour with 51 OTU at RAF Cranfield, Bedfordshire, where he remained until returning to 488 Sqn in July 1943 at RAF Ayr, before the squadron moved to RAF Bradwell Bay, Sussex where he converted to the Mosquito and completed 6 ops.

At 18:50 on 9 October 1943, Edward and his Navigator departed RAF Bradwell Bay in Mosquito XII HK204 (ME-) on a defensive patrol.

Arriving over base at 21:25, the weather had deteriorated and Edward was unable to see the airfield. Instructed to orbit whilst the searchlights put up a canopy, the Mosquito disappeared from the airfield and, at 21:30, crashed at Tiptree, Essex, killing both crew and injuring two American serviceman, one of whom succumbed to his injuries a few days later.

Also killed: FO William Kemp (Nav)

Edward is buried in All Saints & St Peter Cemetery, Maldon, Essex

Edward is commemorated on Wall Panel – Not Yet Erected

Photo Source: findagrave