WO Harry Keith Williams 414721 RNZAF



Harry was born on 25 November 1920 in Morrinsville, Waikato, New Zealand, the son of Henry Daniel Williams and Muriel Williams nee Lowrey.

Educated at Mt Albert Grammar School, Auckland, Harry was employed on the family farm near Morrinsville when, in July 1940, he applied for aircrew service in the RNZAF.

Called up in August 1941, following basic flying training in New Zealand, in November Harry was sent to Canada to complete his training under the Empire Air Training Scheme.

In April 1942 Harry was awarded his Wings and was posted to 122 (Composite) Sqn at RCAF Patricia Bay, British Columbia. On completion of his tour, in April 1943 Harry embarked for the UK.

Following advanced training at 17 (P) Advanced Flying Unit RAF Wrexham, Denbighshire and 59 OTU, RAF Milfield, Northumberland, in January 1944 Harry was posted to 486 (NZ) Sqn, at RAF Beaulieu, Hampshire, followed by a move to RAF Castle Camps, Cambridgeshire at the beginning of March.

On 13 March 1944 Harry, together with one other aircraft, was tasked with a cine gun camera exercise.

At 13:50 on 13 March, Harry departed RAF Castle Camps, Cambridgeshire, in Typhoon Ib JR146 (SA-M).

After 30 minutes, Harry radioed that he was attempting a precautionary landing at RAF Downham Market, Suffolk as he was experiencing engine problems. On the first approach to the runway, Harry was forced to overshoot due to workmen on the runway. As he made a circuit for a second attempt, the engine failed and the aircraft crashed through trees as Harry endeavoured to put the aircraft down in a field 3 miles south of the airfield. Rescued from the aircraft, but suffering from severe burns, Harry succumbed to his injuries on 14 March at RAF Hospital Ely, Cambridgeshire.

Harry is buried in Cambridge City Cemetery, Cambridgeshire

Harry is commemorated on Wall Panel – Not Yet Erected

Photo Source: nzwargraves.org.nz