

STICHTING WINGS TO VICTORY

AIRWAR MUSEUM / AIRMEN MEMORIAL ZEELAND



Flight Sergeant Jack Neville Darney

F/Sgt Jack Neville Darney was another gifted sportsman from New Plymouth, New Zealand and another old boy of New Plymouth Boys High School. He had played for both the First XI cricket and the First XV rugby teams at the age of fifteen, and after leaving school had worked for New Zealand Railways until he enlisted in the R.N.Z.A.F in January 1942.

He was awarded his „wings“ in September 1942 in Canada, where his rugby prowess blossomed and he was chosen to play on the wing for the Combined Air Forces representative team in a match against the Irish Fusiliers. His play was described by a spectator, also from New Zealand, as „right up to New Zealand provincial representative standard.“

He joined 75(NZ) Squadron just after it re-located to Mepal in early July 1943, and was killed within three weeks of commencing operational flying. On the night of the 30th July 1943, on an operation to Remscheid, near Dusseldorf, his Stirling failed to return. It was assumed that the aircraft had been lost at sea, and captured German documents gave no information about the aircraft nor any member of its crew.

Together with over twenty thousand other members of Commonwealth Air Forces, whose bodies were never recovered, Jack and his crew are remembered at the Runnymede Memorial in Surrey.

From “The Mallon Crew” Chapter 13, “Two schools: Lest we forget”