# Thomas Albert QUINN (1913 – 1942)

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|  | Sgt, 623852<br>Air Gunner<br>Thomas Albert QUINN<br><br>RAF<br>29th November 1941<br>Age 21<br><br>214 Squadron<br><br>**GONE FROM US**<br>**BUT NOT FORGOTTEN**<br>**NEVER SHALL THY**<br>**MEMORY FADE.**<br>**"REST IN PEACE"** | No Photo |

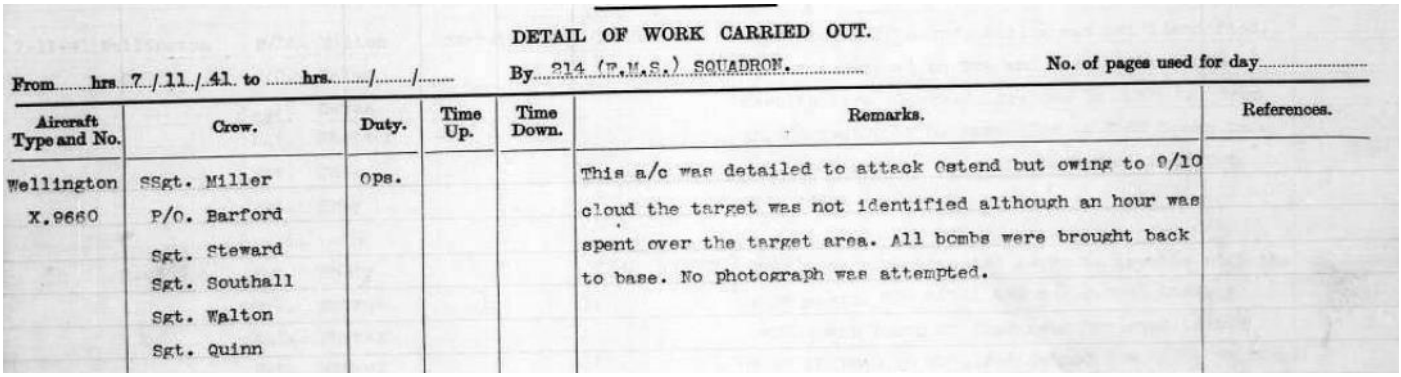
Thomas Albert Quinn was born in Stepney in 1920, the son of Albert James and his wife Mary, formerly Murphy. His father was a fireman at the lead works who died in 1936 after suffering respiratory failure and Chronic Encephalitis Lethargica when Thomas was just 16.

It is not known when Thomas joined the RAF but he served with 214 Squadron.

This Squadron had been resurrected in 1935 at Boscombe Down as a bomber squadron. Later it arrived at the newly built Feltwell airbase from Scamton in 1937. From here it flew Harrows until it began switching to Wellington in May 1939. The squadron then moved to Feltwell satellite station, Methwold in Sept 1939 and remained there until moving to Stradishall in Feb 1940. 214 Squadron officially entered the war on 14th June, 1940 flying Wellingtons and the first raid was a fire raising attack on German forests by 2 Wellingtons on 14/15 June 1940.

In September 1941 214 Squadron was honoured by being adopted by the British Malayan Federation and had "Federated Malay States" officially incorporated in its title. The FMS put up the funds to raise the squadron and equip it.

214 Squadron was very busy during November 1941. Thomas was the air gunner who flew with Sgt Miller, PO Barford, Sgt Steward, Sgt Southall and Sgt Walton. On the 7th November, five aircraft were detailed to attack Berlin, two to target Mannheim and two Ostend. Thomas's crew were on board Wellington X9660 which was detailed to attack Ostend. Due to cloud the target was not identified and they returned to base with their bomb load.

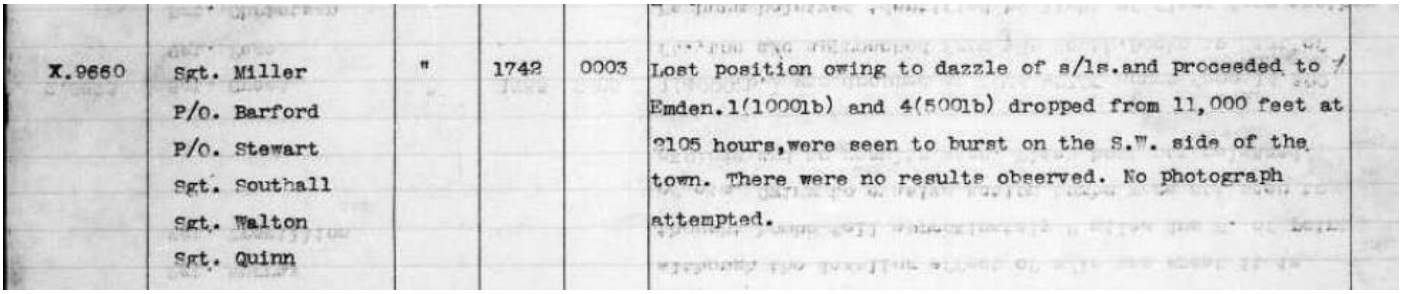


DETAIL OF WORK CARRIED OUT.

From ....hrs 7/11/41 to ....hrs...../...../..... By 214 (F.M.S.) SQUADRON. No. of pages used for day.....

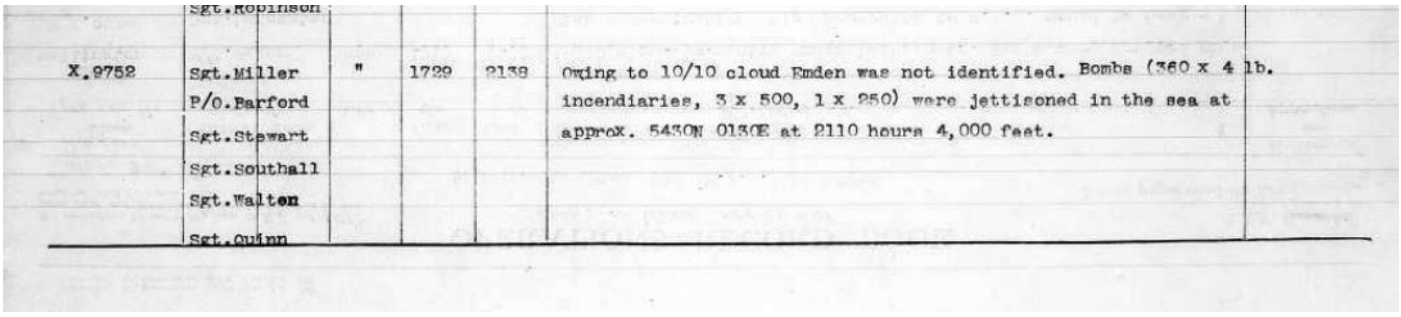
| Aircraft Type and No. | Crew. | Duty. | Time Up. | Time Down. | Remarks. | References. |
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| Wellington X.9660 | SSgt. Miller<br>P/O. Barford<br>Sgt. Steward<br>Sgt. Southall<br>Sgt. Walton<br>Sgt. Quinn | Ops. | | | This a/c was detailed to attack Ostend but owing to 9/10 cloud the target was not identified although an hour was spent over the target area. All bombs were brought back to base. No photograph was attempted. | |

Two days later, the crew were tasked with attacking Emden.



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| X.9660 | Sgt. Miller<br>P/O. Barford<br>P/O. Stewart<br>Sgt. Southall<br>Sgt. Walton<br>Sgt. Quinn | " | 1742 | 0003 | Lost position owing to dazzle of s/lts.and proceeded to Emden.1(1000lb) and 4(500lb) dropped from 11,000 feet at 2105 hours,were seen to burst on the S.W. side of the town. There were no results observed. No photograph attempted. |

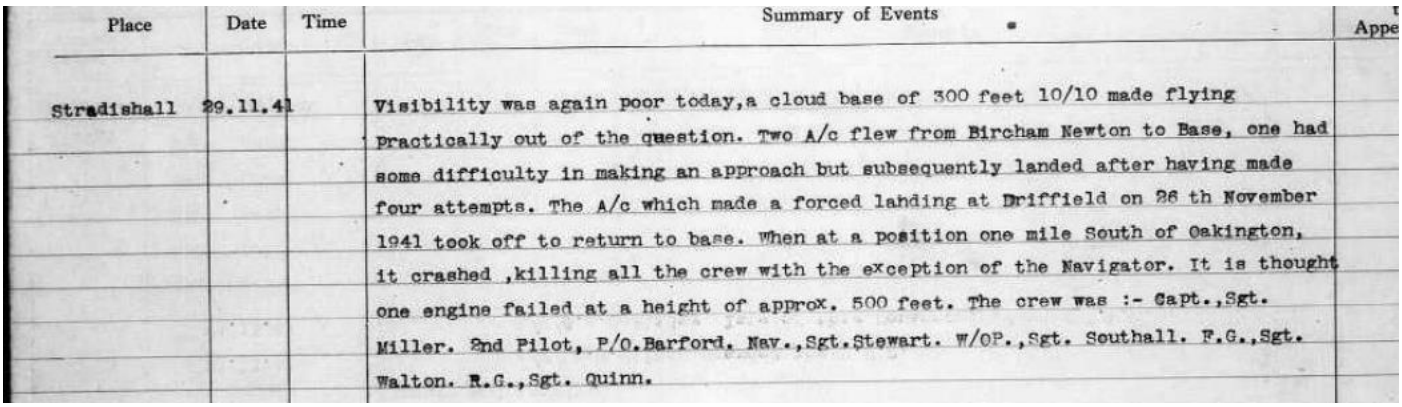
On 26th November, thirteen aircraft were tasked with attacking Emden. Three aircraft failed to take off and two returned early due to engine trouble. Again it was very cloudy. The crew were flying a different Wellington for this mission. It seems that their aircraft failed to locate Emden and were forced to jettison their bomb load in the sea before landing at Driffield rather than their home base.



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| | Sgt.Robinson | | | | |
| X.9752 | Sgt.Miller<br>P/O.Barford<br>Sgt.Stewart<br>Sgt.Southall<br>Sgt.Walton<br>Sgt.Quinn | " | 1729 | 2138 | Owing to 10/10 cloud Emden was not identified. Bombs (360 x 4 lb. incendiaries, 3 x 500, 1 x 250) were jettisoned in the sea at approx. 5430N 0130E at 2110 hours 4,000 feet. |

Three days later, visibility was still poor and although flying was out of the question, two aircraft flew into RAF Stradishall. So difficult was it to fly that it took one aircraft four attempts before landing safely. Thomas Quinn's aircraft, which had landed at Driffield on the 26th, also took off to return to

RAF Stradishall. When it was near Oakington, it is thought one engine failed at a height of 500 feet causing the aircraft to crash, killing the entire crew with the exception of the Navigator, Sgt Stewart.



| Place | Date | Time | Summary of Events | Appe |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Stradishall | 29.11.41 | | Visibility was again poor today,a cloud base of 300 feet 10/10 made flying practically out of the question. Two A/c flew from Bircham Newton to Base, one had some difficulty in making an approach but subsequently landed after having made four attempts. The A/c which made a forced lahding at Driffield on 26 th November 1941 took off to return to base. When at a position one mile South of Oakington, it crashed ,killing all the crew with the exception of the Navigator. It is thought one engine failed at a height of approx. 500 feet. The crew was :- Capt.,Sgt. Miller. 2nd Pilot, P/O.Barford. Nav.,Sgt.Stewart. W/OP.,Sgt. Southall. F.G.,Sgt. Walton. R.G.,Sgt. Quinn. | |

Thomas was buried in Haverhill Cemetery in Sec. U. Grave 138.

His headstone carries the inscription:

**GONE FROM US**

**BUT NOT FORGOTTEN**

**NEVER SHALL THY MEMORY FADE.**

**"REST IN PEACE"**