Newenden

Second World War
1939 – 1945

TRILL, STANLEY RICHARD. Pilot Officer (Pilot), 149616.
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 106 Squadron, Royal Air Force.
Died 23 September 1943. Aged 21.
Son of Richard S Trill and Marjorie Trill of Newenden, Kent.
Commemorated on Newenden, Kent, civic war memorial, and on Wittersham, Kent, civic war memorial.
Buried Rheinberg War Cemetery, Kamp Lintfort, Nordrhein-Westfal, Germany.
Grave Ref: Collective grave 21. A. 5-8.
Stanley was the pilot of Lancaster bomber DV271 ZN-?, which took off from R.A.F. Syerston, Newark, Nottinghamshire, on 23 September 1944 at 1845 hours to take part in a bombing mission to Mannheim, Germany. The bombing force for the raid numbered 628 aircraft, which were comprised of 312 Lancasters, 193 Halifaxes, 115 Stirlings, and 8 Mosquitos. In addition to which 5 B-17 Flying Fortresses also took part. 32 aircraft were lost on the raid, they being 18 Lancasters, 7 Halifaxes, and 7 Wellingtons. The Pathfinder plan worked well, and initially concentrated bombing fell on the intended target area, although later stages of the raid crept back across the northern edge of the port of Ludwigshafen, on the opposite shore of the River Rhine from Mannheim, and with the bombs dropping out into the open country. Stanley's aircraft crashed at Grunstadter Berg, at the little village of Neuleiningen Pfalz Six crew members of the Lancaster who died, were initially laid to rest at Heuleiningen, but since the cessation of hostilities they have been moved to Rheinberg War Cemetery. Pilot Officer R Hetherington survived the crash and was captured, later being interned in Camp L3, as prisoner of war No.2619. Having been delivered to Stanley's squadron on 18 September 1943, when lost the Lancaster was on its first operation and had a total of 6 hours.