

FS Norman Albert Bryson 40859 RNZAF

Norman was born on 25 March 1916 in Waimate, Canterbury, New Zealand, the son of Henry Albert Bryson and Alice Idoline Bryson nee Neylon.

Educated at the Normal School, Christchurch, and Christchurch Technical College, Norman was employed as a butcher when, in December 1939, he applied for aircrew duties with the RNZAF.

Called up in March 1940, Norman completed his Air Gunner training in New Zealand in May 1940 with the award of his AG badge. Norman embarked for the UK immediately and, after advanced training at 15 OTU RAF Harwell, Oxfordshire, was posted to 75(NZ) Sqn at RAF Feltwell, Norfolk.

After completing 22 ops, Norman was posted to No. 3 Photographic Reconnaissance Unit, RAF Oakington, Cambridgeshire, where he completed 8 Ops. Further postings to 214 Sqn at RAF Stradishall, Suffolk, 458 (RAAF) Sqn at RAF Market Weighton, Yorkshire, No. 1 Air Armament School at RAF Manby, Lincolnshire, No. 7 Anti Aircraft Co-Operation Unit at RAF Odiham, Hampshire and 76 Sqn at RAF Middleton St George, Durham, before returning to 75(NZ) Sqn.

On 26/27 July 1942 Bomber Command was tasked with an op against Hamburg, Germany, regarded as a maximum effort for the regular bomber squadrons. A combined force of 403 aircraft, including fifteen 75(NZ) crews, were allocated to the op. Two 75(NZ) aircraft failed to return.

Shortly before midnight on 26 July 1942, Norman, operating as the Rear Gunner, and the crew departed RAF Feltwell in Wellington III X3714 (AA).

Nothing further was heard from the crew, and the circumstances of their loss is unknown. This was Norman's 45th Op.

Also killed: PO Philip Charles Spittal RNZAF (Obs); FS Louvain Trevor Cairns RNZAF (WOp/AG); FS Colin Valentine McPherson RNZAF (Pilot); FS Stanley David Ross RNZAF (Pilot); Sgt Raymond Patrick Coppersmith RNZAF (WOp/AG)

Norman has no known grave and is commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial, Surrey

Norman is commemorated on Wall Panel 138