

PO Wallace Edward Buckley 391379 RNZAF

Wallace was born on 24 November 1913 in Auckland, New Zealand, the son of Augustus Asbury Buckley and Ada Jane Buckley nee Cummins. In 1942 he married Doreen Buckley in Henley, Oxfordshire.

Educated at Seddon Memorial Technical College, Auckland, Wallace was employed as a clerk when, in September 1939, he applied for aircrew duties with the RNZAF.

Called up in November 1939, Wallace trained in New Zealand and was awarded his Observer badge in April 1940.

Arriving in the UK in June 1940, Wallace completed his advanced training at 15 OTU RAF Harwell, Berkshire, where he remained until he was posted to 75 (NZ) Sqn at RAF Feltwell, Norfolk in October 1941. Wallace was granted his commission in March 1942.

On 20/21 June 1942 Bomber Command were tasked with an op against the port of Emden. A combined force of 185 aircraft, including twelve 75(NZ) crews, were allocated to the op.

Just before midnight on 20 June 1942 Wallace, operating as the Observer, and the crew departed RAF Feltwell, Norfolk, in Wellington III X3760 (AA-L).

Homeward-bound, at 01:56 Wallace's aircraft was intercepted by Olt Egmont Prinz zur Lippe-Weissenfeld of 5./NJG 2 flying from Leeuwarden, Netherlands. The aircraft crashed in the North Sea, North-West of Ameland, Friesland, Netherlands, killing all on board.

Also killed: FO Allen Armistice Fraser RNZAF (Pilot); PO Raymond Wickliffe John Trengrove RNZAF (AG); FS Arthur Stafford Christie RNZAF (WOp/AG); Sgt Clifton Robert Brailey RNZAF (AG)

Wallace was washed ashore at Neuharlingersiel and originally buried in Heldenfriedhof, Wittmund, Lower Saxony, Germany. In April 1947 he was transferred to Sage War Cemetery, Niedersachsen, Germany.

Wallace is commemorated on Wall Panel 138

Photo Source: 75nzsquadron.wordpress.com

