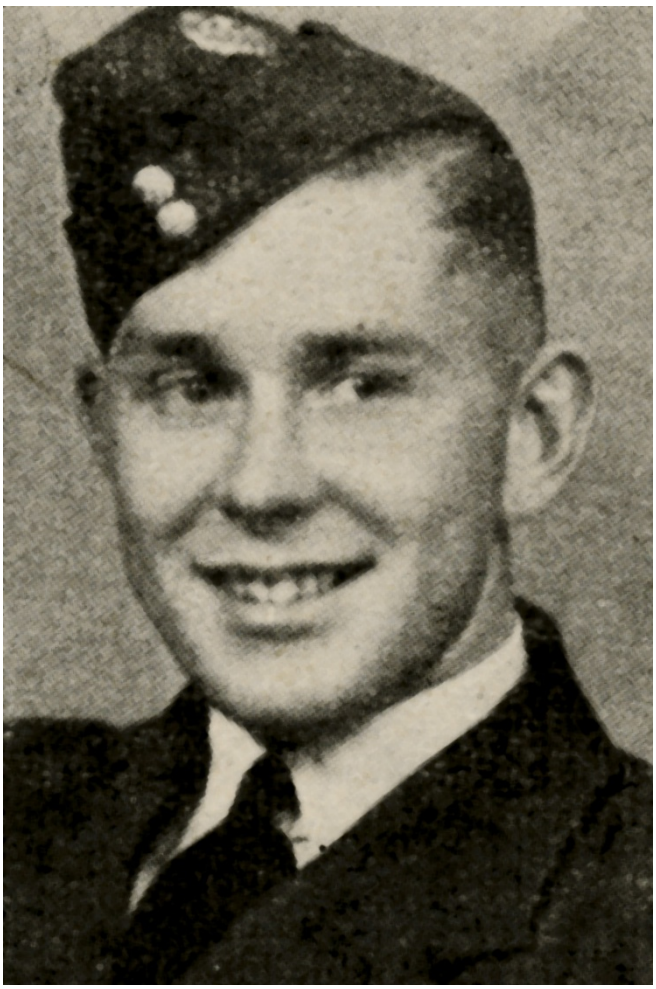
FS Arthur Stafford Christie 402982 RNZAF



Arthur was born on 25 April 1921 in Wellington, New Zealand, the son of Arthur Humphries Christie and Jessie Mareia Christie nee Ruthberg.

Educated at Wellington Technical College, Auckland, Arthur was employed by the Post & Telegraph Department, Wellington when, in September 1939, he applied for aircrew duties with the RNZAF.

Called up in September 1940, after initial training in New Zealand, Arthur was sent to Canada under the Empire Air Training Scheme where, in April 1941, he was awarded his WOp/AG badge.

Arriving in the UK in June 1941, Arthur completed his advanced training at 20 OTU RAF Lossiemouth, Scotland, before he was posted to 75 (NZ) Sqn at RAF Feltwell, Norfolk in September 1941.

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 Arthur, operating as the Wireless Operator, and the crew departed RAF Feltwell, Norfolk, in Wellington III X3760 (AA-L).

Homeward-bound, at 01:56 Arthur'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. This was Arthur's 35th Op.

Also killed: FO Allen Armistice Fraser RNZAF (Pilot); PO Raymond Wickliffe John Trengrove RNZAF (AG); PO Wallace Edward Buckley RNZAF (Obs); Sgt Clifton Robert Brailey RNZAF (AG)

On 12 July Arthur was washed ashore on the North Coast of Schiermonnikoog, Frisian Islands, Netherlands and buried in Schiermonnikoog (Vredenhof) Cemetery.

Arthur is commemorated on Wall Panel 144

Photo Source: www.aucklandmuseum.com