

Sgt Raymond Patrick Coppersmith 3916

Raymond was born on 3 December 1920 in Denniston, Westport, New Zealand, the son of Charles Edward Coppersmith and Alice Coppersmith nee Smith.

Educated at Denniston District High School, Raymond was employed by the Post and Telegraph Department, Wellington, when, in October 1939, he applied for aircrew duties with the RNZAF.

Called up in December 1939, Raymond completed his basic WOp/AG training in New Zealand in June 1940, and embarked for the UK the following month. After further training in the UK, Raymond was awarded his WOp/AG badge in October 1941.

Following advanced training at 11 OTU RAF Bassingbourn, Hertfordshire, in May 1942 Raymond was posted to 75(NZ) Sqn at RAF Feltwell, Norfolk.

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 Raymond, operating as the Wireless Operator, 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 Raymond's 10th Op.

Also killed: PO Philip Charles Spittal RNZAF (Obs); FS Norman Albert Bryson RNZAF (AG); FS Louvain Trevor Cairns RNZAF (WOp/AG); FS Colin Valentine McPherson RNZAF (Pilot); FS Stanley David Ross RNZAF (Pilot)

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

Raymond is commemorated on Wall Panel 148

Photo Source: 75nzsquadron.wordpress.com

