

PO Frederic William Raukawa Cumpsty 413386 R

Frederic, known as "Buster", was born on 25 June 1918 in Otaki, Wellington, New Zealand, the son of Charles Edwin Cumpsty and Mary Cumpsty nee McClaren.

Educated at Gisborne and Whangarei High Schools, and Auckland University College, Frederic was employed as the head teacher at the Ngaroma District School when, in May 1940, he applied for aircrew duties in the RCAF.

Called up in June 1941, Frederic commenced pilot training in New Zealand; however, when his training was terminated in December, he re-mustered as Observer/Air Bomber and was sent to Canada to train under the Empire Air Training Scheme.

In August 1942 Frederic was awarded his Air Bomber badge and immediately embarked for the UK. Following advanced training at 11 OTU RAF Westcott, Buckinghamshire, and 1651 HCU RAF Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire, in April 1942 Frederic was posted to 75(NZ) Sqn at RAF Newmarket, Cambridgeshire. In July 1943 Frederic was awarded his commission.

On 30/31 July 1943 Bomber Command was tasked with an op against the industrial target of Remscheid, Noord-Rhein Westphalia, the first attack on this target, and one that marked the end of the Battle of the Ruhr. A combined force of 273 aircraft, including thirteen 75(NZ) crews were allocated to the op. Two crews failed to return.

At 22:41 Frederic, operating as the Bomb Aimer, and the crew departed RAF Mepal, Cambridgeshire in Stirling III BF458 (JN-P).

At 01:22 on 31 July Frederic's aircraft was intercepted by Uffz Otto Steinhagen flying a Bf109 of the 5./NJG 2. The aircraft crashed at Uerdingen, NE of Krefeld, Nordrhein-Westfalen, killing five of the seven man crew. The Navigator and Wireless Operator survived and were taken as POW. This was Frederic's 16th op.

This was a very successful attack. A post war British survey estimated that 83% of the city was destroyed and most of the town's industry lost 3 months of production, never regaining full capacity.

Also Killed: PO Alfred John Thomas (Pilot); WO2 Ernest Frank Henry RCAF (AG); Sgt John William Gale (FE); Sgt John Hubert O'Farrell (AG)

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

Frederic is commemorated on Wall Panel 151

Photo Source: 75nzsquadron.wordpress.com

