

Sgt Raymond Fullerton Curlewis 402230 RAAF

Raymond was born on 8 April 1916 in Warwick, Queensland, Australia, the son of Leslie Graham Curlewis and Laura Fullerton Curlewis nee Hankins.

Educated at The King's School, Queensland, Raymond was employed as a salesman when, in December 1939, he applied for aircrew duties with the RAAF.

Called up in July 1940, following basic training in Australia, in November 1940, Raymond was sent to Canada to train under the Empire Air Training Scheme. In April 1941 Raymond was awarded his Wings and embarked for the UK.

Following advanced training at 11 OTU RAF Bassingbourne, Hertfordshire, in June 1941 Raymond was posted to 75 (NZ) Sqn at RAF Feltwell, Norfolk.

On 10/11 October 1941 Bomber Command was tasked with an op to Cologne a major industrial centre and a vital railway hub for German war efforts. A combined force of 69 aircraft were allocated to the op, including eight 75(NZ) Sqn crews.

At midnight on the 10/11 October Raymond and his crew departed RAF Feltwell in Wellington 1c Z8909 (AA).

Returning crews reported active searchlights in two cones, one each side of the target, and intense AA fire in the target area. Raymond's aircraft was brought down close to the target, killing all on board.

Also killed: Sgt Allan Clifford Edwards (Obs); Sgt Fred Garde (WOp/AG); Sgt Timothy Rowley Murphy RNZAF (AG); Sgt Colin Maurice Thompson RNZAF (Pilot); Sgt Robert Lea Warburton (WOp/AG)

Originally buried in Cologne South Cemetery, in May 1946 Raymond was moved to Rheinberg War Cemetery, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany

Raymond is commemorated on Wall Panel 151

Photo Source: 75nzsquadron.wordpress.com

