

Sgt Arthur Fraser Dallas 39964 RNZAF

Arthur was born on 23 March 1918 in Wanganui, Manawatū-Whanganu, New Zealand, the son of William Arthur Dallas and Sarah Dallas nee Morrison.

Educated at Palmerston North Boys' High School and Technical College, Arthur served from 1935 - 1938 with the 7th Field Battery NZFA, and was employed as a warehouseman by Ross and Glendining Ltd, Wellington when, in September 1939, he applied for service with the RNZAF.

Called up in October 1939, Arthur completed his aircrew training in New Zealand in March 1940 with the award of his Observer badge, and he immediately embarked for the UK.

Following advanced training at 17 OTU RAF Upwood, Huntingdonshire, in August 1940 Arthur was posted to 114 Sqn at RAF Oulton, Norfolk, then transferred to 105 Sqn at RAF Watton, Norfolk, the following month.

On 28 October 1940, three 105 Sqn aircraft were tasked with an attack on the Ehrang marshalling yards, Trier, a railway junction where the Eifel Railway from Cologne joined the Koblenz-Trier line, making it a crucial point for transporting goods and personnel.

At 18:30 on 28 October Arthur, operating as the Observer, and the crew departed RAF Watton in Blenheim IV T2229 (GB-).

The initial target was obscured by clouds, and the formation diverted to the alternative target of Koblenz, the HQ of the German Army Group B.

On return, Arthur's aircraft crashed at Cranmer Hall, near RAF Sculthorpe, 2 miles NW of Fakenham Norfolk. Arthur and the pilot were killed instantly, the WOp/AG died shortly later in hospital. This was Arthur's 16th op.

Also killed: PO Ian Prosser (Pilot); Sgt Jack Hardcastle (WOp/AG)

Arthur is buried in St Mary Churchyard, Great Bircham, Norfolk

Arthur is commemorated on Wall Panel 152

Photo Source: aucklandmuseum.com

