

PO Errol Thomas Paterson Dalzell 411378 RNZAF

Errol was born on 28 January 1920 in Christchurch, Canterbury, New Zealand, the eldest son of Thomas Henry Dalzell and Gertrude Mary Dalzell nee Leahy.

Educated at Christchurch Boys' High School and Christchurch Technical College, Errol completed some study towards a BSc at Victoria University College. In June 1940 when he applied for aircrew duties with the RNZAF, Errol was employed as a draughting cadet for the Southland Electric Power Company in Invercargill. Between November 1938 and March 1941 Errol also served as a territorial with the 1st Southland Regiment.

Called up in March 1941, Errol commenced pilot training in New Zealand, but in May 1941 when his training was suspended he re-mustered as Observer. In August 1941 Errol was sent to Canada under the Empire Air Training Scheme where, in December 1941, he was awarded his Observer badge. Following a period of additional navigational training, in February 1942 Errol was commissioned and travelled to the UK.



Errol completed his advanced training at 11 OTU RAF Bassingbourn, Hertfordshire, and arrived on 75(NZ) Sqn at RAF Mildenhall, Suffolk, in early August 1942.

On 27/28 August 1942, 306 aircraft were dispatched for an attack on Kassel, Hessen, Germany. The city was a high profile target for Bomber Command. Kassel contained both the Fieseler aircraft plant, which built the Bf109 and Fw190, and Henschel armaments works responsible for the production of the Dornier Do17 bombers and Tiger and Panzer tanks. Twelve 75(NZ) Sqn Wellingtons participated in the raid.

On the night of 27 August Errol, operating as the Navigator, and the crew departed RAF Mildenhall in Wellington III BJ708 (AA).

In the early hours of 28 August Errol's aircraft crashed at Melsungen, 21 km S of Kassel, probably as a result of flak damage, killing all on board. This was Errol's first op.

Also killed: Flt Lt Andrew Francis Atterbury Osborn DFC (Pilot); Sgt Denis Patrick Hogan RNZAF (WOp/AG); Sgt Roderick McGregor (Obs); Sgt Victor Arthur Tunbridge RNZAF (WOp/AG)

Originally buried in Korle Civilian Cemetery, Melsungen, Germany, in May 1947 Errol and the crew were moved to the Hanover War Cemetery, Niedersachsen, Germany

Errol is commemorated on Wall Panel 152

Photo Source: 75nzsquadron.wordpress.com