

PO Kevin John Devlin 41334 RNZAF

Kevin was born on 11 September 1916 in Wellington, New Zealand, the son of Joseph Calixtus Devlin and Dorothy May Devlin nee Burch.

Educated at Wellington Technical College, Kevin was employed as a clerk when he volunteered for aircrew duties with the RNZAF in June 1940.

Called up in June 1941, after initial training in New Zealand Kevin was sent to Canada for training under the Empire Air Training Scheme. In December 1941 Kevin was awarded with his Observer badge and, following advanced navigator training in May 1942 he was transferred to the UK.

Kevin completed advanced training at 11 OTU, RAF Bassingbourn, Hertfordshire, and in August 1942 he was posted to 75(NZ) Sqn at RAF Mildenhall, Suffolk.

On the night of the 10/11 September 1942, 479 aircraft were dispatched for an attack on Dusseldorf. Thirteen 75(NZ) Sqn Wellingtons participated in the raid.



Shortly after 21:00 on 10 September Kevin, operating as the Observer, and the crew departed RAF Mildenhall in Wellington III BJ974 (AA).

In the early hours of 11 September, the aircraft crashed at Klasheider Weg in the Königsforst, 15km East Cologne, killing all on board. This was Kevin's 2nd op, and his 26th birthday.

The op was considered a success, with the city hit in all areas other than the North. The industrial area was heavily damaged, limiting production for a considerable time; however, the raid took its toll on Bomber Command with 33 aircraft lost, 60 crew killed and 13 taken POW. Three 75(NZ) Sqn aircraft failed to return with the loss of 15 men.

Also Killed: Sgt Walter Foch Kelcher RNZAF (Obs/AB); Sgt Alexander John Lock (AG); Sgt Thomas Otto Metcalfe RNZAF (Pilot); Sgt Desmond James Walshe RNZAF (WOp/AG)

Initially buried in Cologne South Cemetery, Germany, in May 1946 Kevin was re-located to the Rheinberg War Cemetery, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany

Kevin is commemorated on Wall Panel 155

Photo Source: findagrave