

Sgt Sydney Allan Dyer 40101 RNZAF

Sydney was born on 8 October 1921 in Dunedin, Otago, New Zealand, the son of Sydney Samuel Dyer and May Elizabeth Dyer nee Espie.

Educated at King Edward Technical College, Dunedin, Sydney was employed as a radio serviceman when, in November 1939, he applied for aircrew duties with the RNZAF.

Called up in January 1940, Sydney completed his Wireless Operator training in New Zealand and, in January 1941, embarked for the UK.

Continuing his training in the UK, Sydney was awarded his WOp/AG badge in April 1941 and was posted to 75(NZ) Sqn at RAF Feltwell, Norfolk.

On 15/16 July 1941 Bomber Command was tasked with an op against individual targets in Duisburg, Germany, a major logistical centre in the Ruhr Area and location of chemical, steel and iron industries.

A combined force of 38 Wellingtons, including nine 75(NZ) crews, were allocated to the op.

At 23:00 on 15 July 1941 Sydney, operating as the Wireless Operator, and the crew departed RAF Feltwell in Wellington IC R3171 (AA).

At 03:00 on 16 July, Sydney's aircraft was hit by flak, setting the port engine on fire, and the aircraft crashed in the North Sea off the Dutch coast, killing all on board. Only two crew members were recovered for burial. This was Sydney's 21st Op.

Also killed: Sgt Robert Ewen Ernest Fotheringham RNZAF (Pilot); Sgt Phillip Edgar Hare RNZAF (WOp/AG); Sgt Eric Vincent Keiran Higgins RAAF (Pilot); Sgt Douglas Malcolm MacKinnon RNZAF (AG); Sgt Joseph Harold Campbell Roberts RCAF (Obs)

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

Sydney is commemorated on Wall Panel 158

Photo Source: findagrave

