

Sgt Ellison George Firth 412218 RNZAF

Ellison was born on 6 January 1923 in Wellington, New Zealand, the son of Ernest John Firth and Gladys Mary Firth nee Collins.

Educated at Wellington Technical College, Ellison was employed as a storeman when, in June 1940, he applied for aircrew duties with the RNZAF.

Called up in April 1941, Ellison commenced pilot training in New Zealand; however, when his training was terminated in August, he re-mustered as WOp/AG and was sent to Canada for training under the Empire Air Training Scheme.

In March 1942 Ellison was awarded his WOp/AG badge and embarked for the UK the following month.

Following advanced training at 11 OTU RAF Bassingbourn, Hertfordshire, in September 1942 Ellison was posted to 75(NZ) Sqn at RAF Mildenhall, Suffolk.

On 13/14 October 1942 Bomber Command was tasked with an op against Kiel, Germany, one of the major naval bases and shipbuilding centres in Germany. A combined force of 288 aircraft, including thirteen 75(NZ) crews, were allocated to the op.

At 18:30 on 13 October 1942 Ellison, operating as the Wireless Operator, and the crew departed RAF Mildenhall in Wellington III X3954 (AA).

At 23:10, Ellison's aircraft was coned by searchlights and was hit by heavy Flak of the 1.4./Schw. Flak Abteilung 613 and 2./Res Flak Abteilung 225, and crashed at Darenwuth, Schleswig-Holstein, killing all on board. This was Ellison's 4th Op.

Also killed: Sgt Henry Edward Goldsack (AG); Sgt Albert Cyril Orr (AB); Sgt Lewis Harry Parkinson RNZAF (Nav); Sgt Ventry Watters RNZAF (Pilot)

Originally buried in the Brunsbuettelkoog Cemetery, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, in June 1947 Ellison was transferred to the Kiel War Cemetery, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany

Ellison is commemorated on Wall Panel 164

Photo Source: 75nzsquadron.wordpress.com

