

Sgt Laurie Albert Frampton 411753 RNZAF

Laurie was born on 4 January 1922 in Invercargill, Southland, New Zealand, the son of Harold Albert Frampton and Ellen Frampton nee Dwyer.

Educated at the Marist Brother's School, Laurie was employed as an apprentice blacksmith when, in June 1940, he applied for aircrew duties in the RNZAF.

Called up in March 1941, after initial training in New Zealand, Laurie was sent to Canada under the Empire Air Training Scheme where, in October 1941, he was awarded his WOp/AG badge.

Arriving in the UK in December 1941, Laurie completed his training at 11 OTU RAF Bassingbourn, Hertfordshire, and arrived on 75 (NZ) Sqn at RAF Feltwell, Norfolk in May 1942.

On 28/29 July 1942 Bomber Command were tasked with an op against the industrial target of Hamburg. A combined force of 256 aircraft, including seventeen 75 (NZ) crews, were allocated to the op. This was planned to be a much larger raid but bad weather in the North of England prevented many squadrons from participating. The weather en-route was equally poor, and the 91OTU aircraft were recalled. Losses were heavy, and six 75(NZ) Sqn crews were lost.

On the night of 28 July Laurie, operating as the Front Gunner, and the crew departed RAF Feltwell, Norfolk in Wellington III Z1570 (AA-B).

Homeward-bound, at 02:35 Laurie's aircraft was intercepted by Lt August Geiger of the 8./NJG 1, flying a Bf 110 from Twente airfield, Netherlands. The aircraft crashed at Haftenkamp, Gölenkamp, Lower Saxony, Germany, killing all on board. This was Laurie's 14th op.

Also killed: FS Arthur Grahame Johns RNZAF (Pilot); Sgt Ronald Ellis (WOp/AG); Sgt Mark Kraljevich RNZAF (Obs); Sgt Leslie Ian Stewart RNZAF (AG)

Originally buried in Lingen New Cemetery, Lower Saxony, Germany, in June 1947 Laurie and his crew were moved to Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany.

Laurie is commemorated on Wall Panel 166

Photo Source: 75nzsquadron.wordpress.com

