

Sgt Ian Ignatius Friend 404350 RNZAF

Ian was born on 16 August 1915 in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, the son of Edward Friend and Frances Friend nee Rawson.

Sent to the UK for his education, Ian was a pupil at Preston College, Brighton, West Sussex.

In 1938 Ian emigrated to New Zealand where he continued his studies at Warwick Tutorial College, Auckland, where he gained the University Entrance Examination and studied Chemistry at Auckland University College.



In September 1939 Ian volunteered for service with the RNZAF. Called up in November 1940, Ian commenced pilot training; however, when his training was suspended in March 1941 he re-mustered as Observer/Air Bomber. In May 1941 Ian was sent to Canada to train under the Empire Air Training Scheme where, in October 1941, he was awarded his Observer badge. Following additional training at No.1 Advanced Navigation School, Rivers, Manitoba, in November he was awarded his Navigator badge and immediately embarked for the UK.

Following advanced training at No 1 Air Observers School, RAF Wigtown, Dumfries, Scotland, 11 OTU RAF Bassingbourn, Hertfordshire and conversion to the Stirling at 218 Conversion Flight, RAF Downham Market, Norfolk, in August 1942 Ian was posted to 218 Sqn, also at RAF Downham Market.

On 9/10 November 1942 Bomber Command was tasked with an attack on Hamburg, a key industrial hub housing significant military production facilities, including oil refineries and factories that supported the German war effort. The Port housed shipyards and U-boat pens and was also crucial for the transportation of goods and military supplies. A combined force of 213 aircraft, including five 218 Sqn crews, were allocated to the op, although only four departed.

At 17:15 on 9 November Ian, operating as the Navigator, and the crew departed Downham Market in Stirling I W7475 (HA-H).

Whilst returning to base, at 21:15 on 9 November Ian's aircraft was hit by heavy flak of 1.-3./schwere Flak-Abteilung 461. The Stirling crashed at Hufe Farm near Lashorst, Nordrhein-Westphalia, 20 miles ENE of Osnabruck, Lower Saxony, Germany, killing all on board. This was Ian's 29th op.

Also Killed: S/L Peter Frank Hickling DFM (Pilot); Sgt Henry William Bending (FE); Sgt Ronald William Arthur Follett (AG); Sgt Vivian Howe (AG); Sgt William Wynne Morgan RNZAF (WOp/AG); Sgt Adam Hadden Thomson DFM RNZAF (WOp/AG)

Originally buried in Alswede Cemetery, Minden-Lubbecke, Nordrhein-Westphalia, in August 1947 Ian was moved to the Hanover War Cemetery, Niedersachsen, Germany

Ian is commemorated on Wall Panel 167

Photo Source: IBCC