

Sgt Phillip Edgar Hare 401227 RNZAF

Phillip was born on 18 August 1921 in Napier, Hawke's Bay, New Zealand, the son of George Edgar Hare and Margaret May Elizabeth Hare nee Barker.

Educated at Hamilton High School, Phillip was employed as a clerk when, in November 1939, he applied for aircrew duties with the RNZAF.

Called up in May 1940, Phillip completed his training in New Zealand in July 1940 with the award of his WOp/AG badge, embarking for the UK immediately.

Following advanced training at No 1 Air Armament School, RAF Manby, Lincolnshire, in December 1940 Phillip 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 Philip, operating as the Front Gunner, and the crew departed RAF Feltwell in Wellington IC R3171 (AA).

At 03:00 on 16 July Phillip'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 recovered for burial. This was Philip's 21st Op.

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

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

Philip is commemorated on Wall Panel 177

Photo Source: aucklandmuseum.com

