

FO Robert Weir Herron 422282 RNZAF

Robert was born on 26 July 1920 in Auckland, New Zealand, the son of David Craig Herron and Edith Stewart Herron nee Smart.

Educated at Otago Boys' High School and Otago University where he graduated with a MA, Robert was employed as a school teacher at the Otago Boys' High School when, in July 1941, he applied for aircrew service with the RNZAF.

Called up in April 1942, Robert completed his flying training in New Zealand in November 1942 with the award of his Wings. Commissioned in February 1943, Robert embarked for the UK in March.

Following advanced training at 11 OTU at RAF Westcott, Buckinghamshire for multi crew/multi engine conversion on the Wellington, and 1657 HCU at RAF Stradishall, Suffolk where he converted to the Stirling, in January 1944 Robert was posted to 75(NZ) Sqn at RAF Mepal, Cambridgeshire. Robert undertook fourteen ops on the Stirling before he converted to the Lancaster in March.



On 27/28 April 1944 Bomber Command was tasked with an op to Friederichshafen, a significant industrial hub key to the German war industry, particularly in the production of engines, tank gearboxes, aircraft components and radar development. A combined force of 323 aircraft, including sixteen 75(NZ) Sqn aircraft were allocated to the op.

At 22:05 on 27 April 1944 Robert and his crew departed RAF Mepal in Lancaster III ND796 (AA-J).

At 01:37 on 28 April Robert's aircraft was intercepted by Fw Gunther Bahr flying a Bf 110 of the 3./NJG6. The aircraft crashed NW of the target, 500 metres SE of Langenhard, killing all on board. This was Robert's 15th op.

Also Killed: FO Peter Ernest Chilman (AG); FO Euan Wilfred McLachlan RNZAF (WOp/AG); WO Keith Alfred Smith RNZAF (AG); FS Matthew Roland Henderson RNZAF (Nav); Sgt John William Germing (FE); Sgt Walter Reginald Percival (AB)

Originally buried in Langenhard Cemetery, in August 1948 Robert was moved to Durnbach War Cemetery, Bayern, Germany

Robert is commemorated on Wall Panel 181

Photo Source: 75nzsquadron.wordpress.com