

FS Lawrence Donald Hiltz R/88319 RCAF

Lawrence was born on 19 June 1922 in St. Louis, Nova Scotia, Canada, the son of Lawrence Carlton Hiltz and Freda Jean Hiltz nee Steck.

Educated at Truro Public School and Louis Academy, Nova Scotia, Lawrence was employed as a store clerk when, in February 1941, he applied for aircrew duties in the RCAF .

Called up in April 1941, Lawrence completed his Air Gunner training in Canada with the award of his badge in November 1941, and embarked for the UK in January 1942.

Following advanced training at 22 OTU RAF Wellesbourne Mountford, Warwickshire, on 17 August 1942 Lawrence was posted to 75(NZ) Sqn at RAF Mildenhall, Suffolk.

On 28/29 August 1942, Bomber Command was tasked with an op against Nuremburg, Germany. A combined force of 159 aircraft were despatched, with ten 75(NZ) Sqn crews allocated to the raid. Two aircraft failed to return.

At 21:00 Lawrence, operating as the Rear Gunner, and the crew departed RAF Mildenhall in Wellington III DF673 (AA).

At 23:26 whilst outbound, Lawrence's aircraft was intercepted by Hptm Dr Horst Patuschka flying a Ju88 of the 7/NJG 2 flying from Grove Airfield, Denmark. Lawrence's aircraft crashed 10 miles W of Sint Niklaas, 13 miles SW of Antwerp, Belgium, killing all on board. This was Lawrence's 1st Op.

Also Killed: FS Sydney Bernard Thomas Davis (Pilot); FS Horace David Baittle RCAF (Obs); FS Daniel Archibald McKay RCAF (WOp/AG); FS Charles Henry Vickers (WOp/AG)

Originally buried in Moerbeke Cemetery, Belgium, in April 1953 Lawrence and the crew were moved to the Adegem Canadian War Cemetery, Oost-Vlaanderen, Belgium

Lawrence is commemorated on Wall Panel 182

Photo Source: 75nzsquadron.wordpress.com

