

Sgt Denis Patrick Hogan 412331 RNZAF

Denis was born on 23 July 1919 in Otahutu, Auckland, New Zealand, the youngest son of John Joseph Hogan and Hilda Agnes Hogan nee McAnulty.

Educated at Otahuhu Convent School, Denis was employed by the New Zealand Railway Department when he applied for aircrew duties with the RNZAF.

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

Denis was sent to the UK in December and completed his advanced training at 11 OTU RAF Bassingbourn, Hertfordshire. In early August 1942 Denis arrived on 75(NZ) Sqn at RAF Mildenhall, Suffolk.

On 27/28 August 1942, 306 aircraft were dispatched for an attack on Kassel, Hessen, Germany. The city was a high profile target for Bomber Command. Kassel contained both the Fieseler aircraft plant, which built the Bf109 and Fw190, and Henschel armaments works responsible for the production of the Dornier Do17 bombers and Tiger and Panzer tanks. Twelve 75(NZ) Sqn Wellingtons participated in the raid.

On the night of 27 August Denis, operating as the Wireless Operator, and the crew departed RAF Mildenhall in Wellington III BJ708 (AA).

In the early hours of 28 August Denis's aircraft crashed at Melsungen, 21 km S of Kassel, probably as a result of flak damage, killing all on board. This was Denis's 4th op.

Also killed: Flt Lt Andrew Francis Atterbury Osborn DFC (Pilot); PO Errol Thomas Paterson Dalzell RNZAF (Obs); Sgt Roderick McGregor (Obs); Sgt Victor Arthur Tunbridge RNZAF (WOp/AG)

Originally buried in Korle Civilian Cemetery, Melsungen, Germany, in May 1947 Denis and the crew were moved to the Hanover War Cemetery, Niedersachsen, Germany

Denis is commemorated on Wall Panel 183

Photo Source: aucklandmuseum.com

