

FS Walter Harrison Irvine R/75436 RCAF

Walter was born on 9 August 1917 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada, the son of Joseph Christopher Irvine and Mary Flora Irvine nee McNab.

Educated at the Victoria School and Nutana Collegiate, Saskatoon, Walter was employed as a salesman in the auto-parts industry when, in July 1940, he applied for aircrew duties in the RCAF.

Called up in December 1940, Walter completed his WOp/AG training in Canada with the award of his badge in January 1942, and he embarked for the UK the following month.

Following advanced training at 20 OTU RAF Lossiemouth, Scotland, on 15 August 1942 Walter 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 Walter, operating as the Wireless Operator, and the crew departed RAF Mildenhall in Wellington III X3389 (AA).

In the early hours of 29 August, Walter's aircraft was hit by flak and crashed at Niederhochstadt North West of Frankfurt, killing all on board.

Also Killed: FS Eric Perks RNZAF (Pilot); Sgt Reginald George Arthur Lee (Obs); Sgt John David Robert Macgillivray (WOp/AG); Sgt Percy Oaten (AG)

Originally buried in Frankfurt Oberrad Cemetery, in April 1948 Horace and the crew were moved to the Durnbach War Cemetery, Bayern, Germany

Walter is commemorated on Wall Panel 187

Photo Source: 75nzsquadron.wordpress.com

