

FS Kensington Campbell Jackson 42330 RNZAF

Kensington was born on 20 February 1920 in Feilding, Manawatu, New Zealand, the son of Albert Ernest Jackson and Maude Alice Jackson nee Holton.

Educated at Hamilton Technical School, Kensington was employed as a clerk by Maoriland Timber Company Ltd, Frankton Junction, Hamilton when, in November 1940, he volunteered for service in the RNZAF.

Called up in January 1942, following basic training in New Zealand, in March Kensington was sent to Canada to train under the Empire Air Training Scheme. In November 1942 Kensington was awarded his WOp/AG badge and embarked for the UK the following month.

Following advanced training at No 2 (O) Advanced Flying Unit, RAF Millom, Cumberland, 11 OTU RAF Westcott, Buckinghamshire, and 1651 HCU RAF Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire, in July 1943 Kensington was posted to 75 (NZ) Sqn at RAF Mepal, Cambridgeshire.



On 31 August/1 September 1943 Bomber Command was tasked with an op against Berlin, Germany. A combined force of 622 aircraft was allocated to the op, including eighteen 75(NZ) crews.

At 20:19 on 31 August 1943 Kensington, operating as Wireless Operator, and the crew departed RAF Mepal in Stirling III EE918 (AA-D).

Whilst on the return, at 23:59 on 31 August, Kensington's aircraft was intercepted by Lt Heinz Grimm of Stab IV./NJG1 flying a Bf110 from Leeuwarden Airfield, Netherlands. The aircraft flew on for a further 10-15 minutes during which time the Captain requested that the Mid Upper Gunner, who was the closest to the rear gun turret, go back and check on the Rear Gunner because he had heard nothing from him since the attack. The Mid Upper Gunner reported that the Rear Gunner had been killed in the attack.

Returning to his position, there was an explosion which broke the plane into two pieces and the Mid Upper Gunner, the only member of the crew not in his position, was not in his harness and fell out of the plane which went down with the rest of the crew all still harnessed in.

The aircraft crashed at Derental, Lower Saxony, Germany, 5 miles SSE of Hoxter, Neidersachsen, Germany, killing six of the seven-man crew. The Mid Upper Gunner was captured and was taken as a POW. This was Kensington's 9th op.

Also killed: FO Robert Gorman Rainford (Nav); PO John Cecil Giles (AB); FS Darcy Leslie Conrad Haub RNZAF (AG); FS Eric John Roberts RNZAF (Pilot); Sgt Eric Saunders (FE)

Originally buried in Hoxter Cemetery, Neidersachsen, Germany, in October 1947 Kensington was moved to the Hanover War Cemetery, Neidersachsen, Germany.

Kensington is commemorated on Wall Panel 188

Photo Source: aucklandmuseum.com