

FS Arthur Grahame Johns 41907 RNZAF

Arthur was born on 2 March 1922 in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, the son of Arthur I Johns and Eileen Mariane Johns nee Mathias.

Moving to New Zealand as a child, Arthur was educated at Wanganui Collegiate School and Seddon Memorial Technical College, Auckland, where he studied accountancy.

Arthur was employed by the New Zealand Insurance Co. Ltd when, in June 1940, he applied for aircrew duties in the RNZAF.

Called up in February 1941, Arthur completed his pilot training in New Zealand in June 1941 with the award of his wings.

Arriving in the UK in September 1941, Arthur completed his training with 11 OTU, RAF Bassingbourn, Hertfordshire, and arrived on 75 (NZ) Sqn at RAF Feltwell, Norfolk in May 1942.

On 28/29 July 1942 Bomber Command were tasked with an op against the industrial target of Hamburg. A combined force of 256 aircraft, including seventeen 75 (NZ) crews, were allocated to the op. This was planned to be a much larger raid but bad weather in the North of England prevented many squadrons from participating. The weather en-route was equally poor, and the 91OTU aircraft were recalled. Losses were heavy, and six 75(NZ) Sqn crews were lost.

On the night of 28 July Arthur and his crew departed RAF Feltwell, Norfolk in Wellington III Z1570 (AA-B).

Homeward-bound, at 02:35 Arthur's aircraft was intercepted by Lt August Geiger of the 8./NJG 1, flying a Bf 110 from Twente airfield, Netherlands. The aircraft crashed at Haftenkamp, Gölenkamp, Lower Saxony, Germany, killing all on board. This was Arthur's 17th op.

Also killed: Sgt Mark Kraljevich RNZAF (Obs); Sgt Ronald Ellis (WOp/AG); Sgt Laurie Albert Frampton RNZAF (WOp/AG); Sgt Leslie Ian Stewart RNZAF (AG)

Originally buried in Lingen New Cemetery, Lower Saxony, Germany, in June 1947 Arthur and his crew were moved to Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany.

Arthur is commemorated on Wall Panel 189

Photo Source: 75nzsquadron.wordpress.com

