

FS Maurice Basil Laing 414992 RNZAF

Maurice was born on 26 July 1913 in Dunedin, Otago, New Zealand the son of Arthur Andrew Laing and Charlotte Ferguson Murray Laing nee Glanville.

Educated at Dunedin Technical High School, Maurice was employed as a Salesman by Electrolux Ltd, Dunedin when, in July 1940, he volunteered for service in the RNZAF.

Called up in September 1941, Maurice commenced pilot training; however, when his training was terminated in November 1941, he re-mustered as Observer and was sent to Canada in April 1942 for training under the Empire Air Training Scheme.

Following basic navigational training, in November 1942 Maurice re-mustered as Air Bomber and in February 1943 he was awarded his Air Bomber badge and immediately embarked for the UK.

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 September 1943 Maurice was posted to 623 Sqn at RAF Downham Market, Norfolk.

On 7/8 November 1943, five 623 Sqn crews were tasked with a mining op off the coast of Bordeaux in the Deodar (Bordeaux) and Furze (St Jean de Luz) areas.

At 22:55 on the 7 November Maurice, operating as the Bomb Aimer, and the crew departed RAF Downham Market in Stirling III EF156 (IC-E).

Nothing further was heard from the crew. This was Maurice's 3rd op

Also killed: FS Reginald Vivian Love RNZAF (Pilot); FS Kenneth Owen Schultz RNZAF (WOp/AG); Sgt Leslie Collier Grant (Nav); Sgt James Aikman Johnstone (AG); Sgt Geoffrey Oswald Payne (FE); Sgt Phillip Grenville Roberts (AG)

Maurice has no known grave and is commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial, Surrey

Maurice is commemorated on Wall Panel 195

Photo Source: findagrave

