

FS Reginald Vivian Love 392049 RNZAF

Reginald was born on 17 January 1912 in Dannevirke, Manawatu-Whanganui, New Zealand, the son of William John Love and Jessie Louisa Love nee Stirling.

Educated at Taumarunui District High School, Reginald was employed as a millhand by the Dominion Timber Co. Ltd., Owango when, in October 1939, he volunteered for service in the RNZAF.

Called up in December 1939, Reginald was employed on ground duties until November 1941 when he re-mustered as pilot. Completing his training in New Zealand, in June 1942 Reginald was awarded his Wings and following additional training at the Central Flying School, Tauranga, in October Reginald was posted to Wigram Airbase as a staff pilot. A brief posting, in November 1942 Reginald embarked for the United Kingdom.

Following advanced training at 15 (P) Advanced Flying Unit, RAF Greenham Common, Berkshire, 11 OTU RAF Westcott, Buckinghamshire and 1651 HCU RAF Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire, in September 1943 Reginald 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 Reginald and his crew departed RAF Downham Market in Stirling III EF156 (IC-E).

Nothing further was heard from the crew. This was Reginald's 4th op.

Also killed: FS Maurice Basil Laing RNZAF (AB); 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)

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

Reginald is commemorated on Wall Panel 201

Photo Source: findagrave

