PO Andrew Donald Mackay 411919 RNZ

Andrew was born on 22 March 1920 in Te Awamutu, Waikato, New Zealand, the son of David Ferguson Mackay and Maud Frances Mackay nee Skevington.

Educated at King's College, Auckland, Andrew was employed as a bank clerk with the Bank of New Zealand when, in July 1940, he applied for aircrew duties with the RNZAF.

Called up in March 1941, Andrew completed his pilot training in New Zealand with the award of his wings in July 1941. In September, Andrew was granted a commission and embarked for the UK.

After completing advanced training at 21 OTU RAF Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire, and 12 OTU RAF Chipping Warden, Oxfordshire, in April 1942 Andrew was posted to 75 (NZ) Sqn at RAF Feltwell, Norfolk.

At 03:15 on 22 May 1942 Andrew and his crew departed RAF Feltwell, Norfolk, in Wellington III Z1566 (AA) on a night cross country training flight.

Flying into unforecast bad weather, whilst descending through cloud to ascertain their position, the aircraft struck ground near Grindon in the Peak District, Staffordshire, killing 5 crew members. The Rear Gunner survived. Andrew had completed 3 ops.

Also killed: Sgt James Wilfred Beaven RNZAF (WOp/AG); Sgt John William Bode (Obs); Sgt Cyril Hayton (WOp/AG); Sgt Wilfred Hubert Smeaton RNZAF (Obs)

Andrew is buried in Buxton Cemetery, Derbyshire

Andrew is commemorated on Wall Panel 202

Photo Source: IBCC