

Sgt Murdoch Gordon McGregor 11079 RNZAF

Murdoch was born on 25 April 1919 in Wanganui, North Island, New Zealand, the youngest son of Evan McGregor and Flora Duff Wallace McGregor nee Ross.

Educated at Fielding Agricultural High School, Murdoch was employed as a farm hand, and in November 1938 he applied for service in the RNZAF.

Called up in February 1941, after initial training in New Zealand, Murdoch was sent to Canada under the Empire Air Training Scheme where, in November 1941, he received his Air Gunner badge. Arriving in the UK in December 1941, Murdoch completed his training at 11 OTU RAF Bassingbourn, Hertfordshire, and arrived on 75 (NZ) Sqn at RAF Feltwell, Norfolk in June 1942.

On 29 June 1942 Bomber Command were tasked with an op against the industrial target of Bremen. A combined force of 253 aircraft, with sixteen 75 (NZ) crews were allocated to the op.

At 23:25 Murdoch, operating as an Air Gunner, and the crew departed RAF Feltwell, Norfolk in Wellington III X3539 (AA-T). Successfully attacking the target, extensive damage was reported in the industrial area of Bremen, with the Folke-Wolf factory and AG Weser U-Boat construction yard significantly damaged.

Whilst on the return, Murdoch's aircraft was intercepted by Oblt Egmont Prinz zur Lippe-Weissenfeld of the 5./NJG 2 flying a Bf110 from Gilze Rijen. At 03:08 Murdoch's aircraft crashed into the Waddenzee, south of Ameland, Friesland, killing all on board. This was Murdoch's 6th op.

Also Killed: PO Walter Jack Monk RNZAF (Pilot); Sgt John Gordon George Hegan RNZAF (WOp/AG); Sgt Ernest Francis Sydney Moncrief RNZAF (WOp/AG); Sgt Douglas Haig Randle (Observer)

Murdoch's body was recovered and he is buried in Westdongeradeel (Holwerd) Protestant Cemetery, Friesland, Netherlands.

Murdoch is commemorated on Wall Panel 209

Photo Source: 75nzsquadron.wordpress.com

