

Sgt Roderick McGregor 1100964

RAFVR

Roderick was born in 1921 in Newcastle upon Tyne, Northumberland, the eldest son of Roderick McGregor and Bertha Emily McGregor nee Bullock.

Volunteering for aircrew duties with the RAF, Roderick qualified as an Observer and, following advanced training at 11 OTU RAF Bassingbourn, Hertfordshire, in early August 1942 was posted to 75(NZ) Sqn at RAF Mildenhall, Suffolk.

On 27/28 August 1942, 306 aircraft were dispatched for an attack on Kassel, Hessen, Germany. The city was a high profile target for Bomber Command. Kassel contained both the Fieseler aircraft plant, which built the Bf109 and Fw190, and Henschel armaments works responsible for the production of the Dornier Do17 bombers and Tiger and Panzer tanks. Twelve 75(NZ) Sqn Wellingtons participated in the raid.



On the night of 27 August Roderick, operating as the Front Gunner and the crew departed RAF Mildenhall in Wellington III BJ708 (AA).

In the early hours of 28 August Roderick's aircraft crashed at Melsungen, 21 km S of Kassel, probably as a result of flak damage, killing all on board.

Also killed: Flt Lt Andrew Francis Atterbury Osborn DFC (Pilot); PO Errol Thomas Paterson Dalzell RNZAF (Obs); Sgt Denis Patrick Hogan RNZAF (WOp/AG); Sgt Victor Arthur Tunbridge RNZAF (WOp/AG)

Originally buried in Korle Civilian Cemetery, Melsungen, Germany, in May 1947 Roderick and the crew were moved to the Hanover War Cemetery, Niedersachsen, Germany

Roderick is commemorated on Wall Panel 209

Photo Source: Newcastle Evening Chronicle