

FO Lamont Weir McLean 422420 RNZAF

Lamont was born on 7 April 1921 in Paisley, Renfrewshire, Scotland, the son of John McLean and Elizabeth McLean nee Palmer. In 1922 the family emigrated to New Zealand and settled in Auckland.

Educated at Seddon Memorial College, Lamont was employed as a golf club maker by Sportsply Limited, Auckland when, in April 1941, he volunteered for service in the RNZAF.

Called up in March 1942, following basic flying training in New Zealand, in January 1943 Lamont was sent to Canada to continue his training under the Empire Air Training Scheme.

Lamont completed his aircrew training in Canada in June 1943 with the award of his Wings, was granted a commission and embarked for the UK the following month.

Following advanced training at 18 (P) Advanced Flying Unit, RAF Church Lawford, Warwickshire, 82 OTU RAF Ossington, Nottinghamshire, 1653 HCU RAF Chedburgh, Suffolk and 31 Base RAF Feltwell, Norfolk, on 10 July 1944 Lamont was posted to 514 Sqn at RAF Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire.

On 20/21 July 1944, Bomber Command was tasked with an operation to target the Steinkohlen-Bergwerk Rheinpreussen plant located in Mors-Meerbeck, Nordrhein-Westphalia, Germany, near the Rheinpreussen coal mine, where it converted coal into petroleum and other oil-based products.

A combined force of 158 aircraft, including twenty-four 514 Sqn Lancasters, was allocated to the op. Four 514 Sqn crews failed to return.

At 23:08 on 20 July Lamont and the crew departed RAF Waterbeach in Lancaster I LM181 (JI-E).

Several claims were made by for the loss of Lamont's aircraft. Between 01:16 and 01:34 on 21 July Lamont's aircraft was reported as intercepted by Fw Klaus Moller of the 12./NJG3, Fw Hubert Allemeier of the 8./NJG2 and Ofw Heinrich Schmidt of the 2./NJG3. An additional claim was made by the anti-aircraft unit, Flak Abt.401, at Neukirchen at 01:22.

Lamont's aircraft crashed at Neukirchen, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany, killing all on board. This was Lamont's 2nd op.

Also Killed: FS Thomas Kerr Durie RNZAF (WOp/AG); FS William Simpson McIlraith RNZAF (AB); FS Arthur Thompson Stone RNZAF (Nav); Sgt George William Bumstead (FE); Sgt Ronald Ernest Digby (AG); Sgt Malcolm Duncan (AG)

Originally buried in Neukirchen Communal Cemetery, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany, in June 1947 Lamont was moved to Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany.

Lamont is commemorated on Wall Panel 210

Photo Source: www.aucklandmuseum.com

