PO Brian Patrick McNamara 42856 RAF



Brian was born on 18 August 1914 in Westport, New Zealand, the son of Michael McNamara and Helena McNamara nee O'Brien.

Educated at Sacred Heart College, Auckland, Brian was employed as a motor mechanic by Blaine's Garage, Cambridge and in his spare time he learnt to fly at Hamilton Airfield.

In August 1938 Brian applied, and was accepted, for service in the RAF and worked his passage as a steward on board a ship to Ireland, arriving in June 1939. In August 1939, Brian enlisted in the RAF and commenced pilot training at 7EFTS at RAF Desford, Leicestershire.

In October 1939 Brian was granted a commission and, following further training at 6 SFTS RAF Little Rissington, Gloucestershire, in March 1941 he was awarded his Wings. Following advanced training at 15 OTU RAF Harwell, Oxfordshire, in July 1940 Brian was posted to 75(NZ) Sqn at RAF Feltwell, Norfolk.

On 10 October 1941 Brian was tasked with completing an air test, and then transiting to RAF Bassingbourn, Cambridgeshire for a pilot swap.

At 11:30 Brian and his crew departed RAF Feltwell in Wellington Ic T2550 (AA-L).

The air test was completed successfully, and the crew began the transit to RAF Bassingbourn. The weather deteriorated on route and, as Brian descended to pinpoint their position, the Wellington struck trees on a hill top at Heath Farm near Stapleford, 4 miles south of Cambridge. Only one crew member of the six on board survived. Brian had completed 24 ops.

Also killed: PO Alexander James Ryan RNZAF (Pilot); Sgt Richard Booth Elliott (Obs); Sgt John Olive (WOp/AG); Sgt Matthew Roy Ritchie (WOp/AG)

Brian is buried in St Nicholas Churchyard, Feltwell, Norfolk

Brian is commemorated on Wall Panel 210

Photo Source: 75nzsquadron.wordpress.com