

## **FS Colin Valentine McPherson 404912 RNZAF**

Colin was born on 2 March 1921 in Rotorua, Bay of Plenty, New Zealand, the son of Alexander McGregor McPherson and Margaret Mary McPherson nee Prendergast.

Educated at Seddon Memorial Technical College, Auckland, in October 1938 Colin was accepted as a territorial with the Civil Reserve of the RNZAF.

Employed as a salesman by a local paint merchants in Auckland, in October 1939 Colin applied for aircrew service in the RNZAF.

Called up in December 1940, Colin completed his basic pilot training in New Zealand before he was sent to Canada in April 1941 under the Empire Air Training Scheme for the completion of his flying training. Awarded his wings in August 1941, Colin embarked for the UK immediately.

Following advanced training at 11 OTU RAF Bassingbourn, Hertfordshire, in May 1942 Colin was posted to 75(NZ) Sqn at RAF Feltwell, Norfolk.

On 26/27 July 1942 Bomber Command was tasked with an op against Hamburg, Germany, regarded as a maximum effort for the regular bomber squadrons. A combined force of 403 aircraft, including fifteen 75(NZ) crews, were allocated to the op. Two 75(NZ) aircraft failed to return.

Shortly before midnight on 26 July 1942 Colin and his crew departed RAF Feltwell in Wellington III X3714 (AA).

Nothing further was heard from the crew, and the circumstances of their loss is unknown. This was Colin's 17th Op.

Also killed: PO Philip Charles Spittal RNZAF (Obs); FS Norman Albert Bryson RNZAF (AG); FS Louvain Trevor Cairns RNZAF (WOp/AG); FS Stanley David Ross RNZAF (Pilot); Sgt Raymond Patrick Coppersmith RNZAF (WOp/AG)

Colin has no known grave and is commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial, Surrey

Colin is commemorated on Wall Panel 210

Photo Source: [75nzsquadron.wordpress.com](http://75nzsquadron.wordpress.com)

