

Sgt Alexander Coutts Mee 40656 RNZAF

Alexander was born on 20 November 1917 in Dunedin, South Island, New Zealand, the son of Alexander Mee and Jessie Mee nee Coutts.

Educated at Mt Albert Grammar School, and Otago Boy's High, Alexander was an Accountancy Student at Otago University before being employed as a Clerk for New Zealand Paper Mills Ltd, Dunedin.

In May 1939 Alexander enrolled in the Civil Reserve of Pilots, being transferred to service in RNZAF on the outbreak of war.

Alexander completed his pilot training in New Zealand with the award of his wings in August 1940, transferring to the UK in November.

In March 1941 Alexander was posted to 75 (NZ) Sqn at RAF Feltwell, Norfolk. On the night of 18/19 March 1941 whilst operating as the 2nd Pilot returning from a raid on Kiel, Alexander and crew became lost and flew over the coast too far north after encountering bad weather and with their wireless out of action. Eventually, being unable to obtain searchlight assistance because of an enemy air-raid at the time, the crew baled out over the Ryhill area to the south of Wakefield, Yorkshire when the aircraft ran out of fuel. Five of the six man crew survived.

On 6 May 1941 115 aircraft, including ten from 75(NZ) Sqn, were tasked with a night bombing op against the industrial port of Hamburg.

Shortly before midnight Alexander and his crew departed RAF Feltwell, Norfolk, in Wellington IC R3169 (AA-O).

Poor visibility hindered the bombing force in locating the targets, and only 12 bombs hit the target area.

On return to base Alexander's aircraft was well north of the planned track, primarily as a result of a major variation in the forecast winds. After a change of course to the south, at 04:45 the aircraft collided with a barrage balloon and crashed into the River Humber near Trinity Sands, 6 miles ENE of Grimsby, Lincolnshire. Only the Rear Gunner from the crew of six survived. This was Alexander's 8th Op.

Also Killed: PO Clifford Frederick Page (Observer); Sgt John Hall (WOp/AG); Sgt David Leo Nola RNZAF (Pilot); Sgt Walter Russell (WOp/AG)

Alexander is buried in Scartho Road Cemetery, Grimsby, Lincolnshire Cemetery, Yorkshire

Alexander is commemorated on Wall Panel 211

Photo Source: findagrave

