

Sgt William Wynne Morgan 411088 RNZAF

William was born on 29 July 1921 in Westport, Buller, New Zealand the son of Wynne Morgan and Jessie Morgan nee Duncan.

Educated at Westport School, William was employed as a rivetter by the Public Works Department when, in February 1940 he volunteered for service in the RNZAF.

Called up in February 1941, following basic training in New Zealand, in March William was sent to Canada to train under the Empire Air Training Scheme. In September 1941 William was awarded his WOp/AG badge and immediately embarked for the UK.

Following advanced training at No.2 Signals School, RAF Yatesbury, Wiltshire, 11 OTU RAF Bassingbourn, Hertfordshire and conversion to the Stirling at 218 Conversion Flight, RAF Downham Market, Norfolk, in August 1942 William was posted to 218 Sqn, also at RAF Downham Market.

On 9/10 November 1942 Bomber Command was tasked with an attack on Hamburg, a key industrial hub housing significant military production facilities, including oil refineries and factories that supported the German war effort. The Port housed shipyards and U-boat pens and was also crucial for the transportation of goods and military supplies. A combined force of 213 aircraft, including five 218 Sqn crews, were allocated to the op, although only four departed.

At 17:15 on 9 November William, operating as the Wireless Operator, and the crew departed Downham Market in Stirling I W7475 (HA-H).

Whilst returning to base, at 21:15 on 9 November William's aircraft was hit by heavy flak of 1.-3./schwere Flak-Abteilung 461. The Stirling crashed at Hufte Farm near Lashorst, Nordrhein-Westphalia, 20 miles ENE of Osnabruck, Lower Saxony, Germany, killing all on board. This was William's 29th op.

Also Killed: S/L Peter Frank Hickling DFM (Pilot); Sgt Henry William Bending (FE); Sgt Ronald William Arthur Follett (AG); Sgt Ian Ignatius Friend RNZAF (Obs); Sgt Vivian Howe (AG); Sgt Adam Hadden Thomson DFM RNZAF (WOp/AG)

Originally buried in Alswede Cemetery, Minden-Lubbecke, Nordrhein-Westphalia, in August 1947 William was moved to the Hanover War Cemetery, Niedersachsen, Germany

William is commemorated on Wall Panel 214

Photo Source: nzwargraves.org.nz

