

Sgt Timothy Rowley Murphy 404037 RNZAF

Timothy was born on 21 September 1921 in Gisborne, Auckland, New Zealand, the youngest son of John Rowley Murphy and Madeleine Mary Murphy nee Bennett.

Educated at Christ's College, Christchurch, Timothy was employed on the family sheep farm at Kotemaori when, in October 1939, he applied for aircrew duties with the RNZAF.

Called up in October 1940, following basic training in New Zealand, in December 1940, Timothy was sent to Canada to train under the Empire Air Training Scheme. In April 1941 Timothy was awarded his Air Gunner badge and embarked for the UK.

Following advanced training at 23 OTU RAF Pershore, Worcestershire, in August 1941 Timothy was posted to 75(NZ) Sqn at RAF Feltwell, Norfolk.

On 10/11 October 1941 Bomber Command was tasked with an op to Cologne a major industrial center and a vital railway hub for German war efforts. A combined force of 69 aircraft were allocated to the op, including eight 75(NZ) Sqn crews.

At midnight on the 10/11 October Timothy, operating as the Rear Gunner, and the crew departed RAF Feltwell in Wellington 1c Z8909 (AA-).

Returning crews reported active searchlights in two cones, one each side of the target, and intense AA fire in the target area. Timothy's aircraft was brought down close to the target, killing all on board. This was Timothy's 14th op.

Also killed: Sgt Raymond Fullerton Curlewis RAAF (Pilot); Sgt Allan Clifford Edwards (Obs); Sgt Fred Garde (WOp/AG); Sgt Colin Maurice Thompson RNZAF (Pilot); Sgt Robert Lea Warburton (WOp/AG)

Originally buried in Cologne South Cemetery, in May 1946 Timothy was moved to Rheinberg War Cemetery, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany

Timothy is commemorated on Wall Panel 217

Photo Source: 75nzsquadron.wordpress.com

