

## **Sgt Richard Alfred William Newman 405309**

Richard was born on 3 November 1917 in Wellington, New Zealand, the son of Alfred and Ada Newman.

Educated at Hutt Valley High School and Wellington College, Richard was employed as a window dresser by the D. I. C. Department Store in Wellington when, in November 1939, he applied for aircrew duties in the RNZAF.

Called up in December 1940, Richard commenced pilot training in New Zealand, but in March 1941 he was re-mustered as Observer when his flying training was suspended.

In June 1941 Richard was sent to Canada under the Empire Air Training Scheme where, in November 1941, he was awarded his Observer badge. Following further training, in December 1941 Richard was awarded his AB badge and posted to the UK.

Richard completed his advanced training at 23 OTU at RAF Pershore, Worcestershire, and in August 1942 he was posted to 75(NZ) Sqn at RAF Mildenhall, Suffolk.



On 3/4 September 1942, a small force of eleven aircraft were tasked with an op against the German port of Emden. Six 75(NZ) crews, were allocated to the op. Two squadron aircraft failed to return.

At 23:28 on 3 September Richard, operating as the Air Bomber and Front Gunner, and the crew departed RAF Mildenhall, Suffolk in Wellington III X3396 (AA-R).

Homeward bound, Richard's aircraft was intercepted by Oblt Paul Gildner of the 5./NJG 2, and at 02:20 finally brought down by flak crashing at Westermarsch I, Norden, Niedersachsen, killing all on board. This was Richard's 2nd op, the first on 75(NZ) Sqn.

Also Killed: Sgt James Law (Pilot); Sgt John Trevor Vivian Gill RNZAF (AG); Sgt Horace Llwellyn Grant RNZAF (Obs); Sgt Rupert Ernest Renton RNZAF (WOp/AG)

Originally buried in Heldenfriedhof Cemetery, Wittmund, Lower Saxony, Germany, in April 1947 Richard and the crew were moved to the Sage War Cemetery, Niedersachsen, Germany.

Richard is commemorated on Wall Panel 218

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