

Sgt David Leo Nola 39930 RNZAF

David was born on 1 July 1914 in Ruawai, Northland, New Zealand, the son of Ivan John Nola and Kate Nola nee Versalko.

Educated at Sacred Heart College, Auckland, David studied Accountancy at Auckland University College where he was awarded a Bachelor of Commerce degree in Accountancy. David was employed in Local Government when in January 1939 he enrolled in the Civil Reserve of Pilots flying from Wellington Aero Club, being transferred to service in the RNZAF in October 1939.

David completed his pilot training in New Zealand with the award of his wings in May 1940, transferring to the UK the same month.

Following advanced training, David was posted to 75(NZ) Sqn in January 1941, completing 8 ops as 2nd pilot before training as aircraft Captain. David returned to the squadron as a qualified Captain in March 1941.

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 David 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 David'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 David's 16th Op.

Also Killed: PO Clifford Frederick Page (Observer); Sgt Alexander Coutts Mee RNZAF (Pilot); Sgt John Hall (WOp/AG); Sgt Walter Russell (WOp/AG)

David is buried in Scartho Road Cemetery, Grimsby, Lincolnshire

David is commemorated on Wall Panel 219

Photo Source: IBCC