

Flt Lt Andrew Francis Atterbury Osborn DFC 73033 RAF

Andrew was born in 1916 in South Australia, the eldest son of Professor Theodore George Bentley Osborn DSc and May Edith Osborn MSc nee Kershaw. In 1942 he married Marjorie May Biggin in Paddington, London.

Educated at Cranbrook College, New South Wales, Australia, Andrew returned to the UK when his father accepted a position at Magdalen College, Oxford.

Volunteering for service with the RAF, in September 1940 Andrew was awarded his wings and granted a Commission.

Whilst serving on 148 Sqn, Andrew was awarded the DFC. His citation read:

"One night in January 1941, this officer was the captain of an aircraft which carried out an attack on the aerodrome at Catania. Pressing home his attack with great determination, he dropped his bombs in the target area, in the face of intense and accurate antiaircraft fire, and then descended to 400 feet, and machine gunned searchlights and anti-aircraft guns, several of which he put out of action. Although his aircraft was severely damaged, FO Osborn flew a distance of 140 miles before being compelled to alight on the sea. He placed his aircraft near a naval vessel, and supported an injured member of his crew for half an hour until rescued. This officer has completed 27 operational flights and has shown courage and determination throughout".

On 24 August 1942 Andrew was posted to 75(NZ) Sqn at RAF Mildenhall, Suffolk.

On 27/28 August 1942, 306 aircraft were dispatched for an attack on Kassel, Hessen, Germany. The city was a high profile target for Bomber Command. Kassel contained both the Fieseler aircraft plant, which built the Bf109 and Fw190, and Henschel armaments works responsible for the production of the Dornier Do17 bombers and Tiger and Panzer tanks. Twelve 75(NZ) Sqn Wellingtons participated in the raid.

On the night of 27 August Andrew and his crew departed RAF Mildenhall in Wellington III BJ708 (AA).

In the early hours of 28 August Andrew's aircraft crashed at Melsungen, 21 km S of Kassel, probably as a result of flak damage, killing all on board. This was Andrew's first op on the squadron.

Also killed: PO Errol Thomas Paterson Dalzell RNZAF (Obs); Sgt Roderick McGregor (Obs); Sgt Denis Patrick Hogan RNZAF (WOp/AG); Sgt Victor Arthur Tunbridge RNZAF (WOp/AG)

Originally buried in Korle Civilian Cemetery, Melsungen, Germany, in May 1947 Andrew and the crew were moved to the Hanover War Cemetery, Niedersachsen, Germany

Andrew is commemorated on Wall Panel 221