

Sgt Lewis Harry Parkinson 412518 RNZAF

Lewis was born on 28 November 1921 in Wanganui, North Island, New Zealand, the son Harry Parkinson and Cecily Maud Parkinson nee O'Sullivan.

Educated at Opotoki District High School and Druleigh College, Lewis was employed as a compositor and linotype operator by the "Opotoki News" when he applied for aircrew duties with the RNZAF.

Called up in April 1941, Lewis commenced pilot training in New Zealand; however, when his training was terminated in July, Lewis re-mustered as Observer and was sent to Canada for training under the Empire Air Training Scheme.

In February 1942 Lewis was awarded his Observer badge and, following further navigation training, in March he embarked for the UK.

Following advanced training at 11 OTU RAF Bassingbourn, Hertfordshire, in September 1942 Lewis was posted to 75(NZ) Sqn at RAF Mildenhall, Suffolk.



On 13/14 October 1942 Bomber Command was tasked with an op against Kiel, Germany, one of the major naval bases and shipbuilding centres in Germany. A combined force of 288 aircraft, including thirteen 75(NZ) crews, were allocated to the op.

At 18:30 on 13 October 1942 Lewis, operating as the Navigator, and the crew departed RAF Mildenhall in Wellington III X3954 (AA).

At 23:10 Lewis's aircraft was coned by searchlights and was hit by heavy Flak of the 1.4./Schw. Flak Abteilung 613 and 2./Res Flak Abteilung 225 and crashed at Darenwuth, Schleswig-Holstein, killing all on board. This was Lewis's 4th Op.

Also killed: Sgt Ellison George Firth RNZAF (WOp/AG); Sgt Henry Edward Goldsack (AG); Sgt Albert Cyril Orr (AB); Sgt Ventry Watters RNZAF (Pilot)

Originally buried in the Brunsbuettelkoog Cemetery, Schleswig-Holstein Germany, in June 1947 Lewis was transferred to the Kiel War Cemetery, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany

Lewis is commemorated on Wall Panel 223

Photo Source: 75nzsquadron.wordpress.com