

Sgt Rupert Ernest Renton 412352 RNZAF

Rupert was born on 15 October 1919 in Auckland, New Zealand, the son of Alexander Cameron Renton and Adeline Jane Renton nee Broadwood.

Educated at May Road School, Mount Roskill, Rupert was employed as a glass beveller when, in May 1940, he applied for aircrew duties in the RNZAF.

Called up in April 1941, after initial training in New Zealand Rupert was sent to Canada under the Empire Air Training Scheme where, in November 1941, he was awarded his WOp/AG badge.

Arriving in the UK in December 1941, Rupert 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 Rupert, operating as the Wireless Operator, and the crew departed RAF Mildenhall, Suffolk in Wellington III X3396 (AA-R).

Homeward bound, Rupert'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 Rupert'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 Richard Alfred William Newman RNZAF (AB)

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

Rupert is commemorated on Wall Panel 231

Photo Source: 75nzsquadron.wordpress.com

