Sgt Alfred Henry Ritchie 40207 RNZAF



Alfred was born on 3 October 1918 in Auckland, New Zealand, the son of Robert and Ada Isabella Ritchie.

Educated at Kowhai Junior High School, on leaving Alfred commenced an apprenticeship in the motor car painting trade.

In October 1939 Alfred volunteered for aircrew duties in the RNZAF and was called up as an Air Gunner in January 1940. Alfred completed his training in New Zealand with the award of his badge in March 1940, and he was posted overseas immediately.

Following further training in the UK, Alfred was posted to 75(NZ) Sqn at RAF Feltwell, Norfolk on 3 November.

On 22 December 1940, twelve squadron aircraft were tasked with bombing attacks against a variety of German targets, in and around Mannheim.

At 17:15 Alfred, operating as the Rear Gunner, and the crew departed RAF Feltwell, Norfolk, in Wellington IC T2474 (AA-W). Whilst on the return leg, the aircraft was brought down near Thérouldeville, 42 km NE of Le Havre, killing Alfred. The remainder of the crew were taken POW. This was Alfred's 7th Op.

Alfred is buried in Thérouldeville Churchyard, Seine-Maritime, France, the only CWGC grave in the Cemetery.

Alfred is commemorated on Wall Panel 233

Photo Source: www.nzwargraves.com