

## **FS Kenneth Owen Schultz 417238 RNZAF**

Kenneth was born on 28 April 1918 in New Plymouth, Taranaki, New Zealand, the son of Augustus Heinrich Schultz and Ruby Florence Schultz nee Johnson. In 1941 he married Lorna Doreen Rutherford in New Zealand.

On leaving school, Kenneth worked on several dairy and sheep farms in the Taranaki area before travelling to Australia where he was employed as a lorry driver. Eventually returning to New Zealand, Kenneth opened a boot repair business in Inglewood, Taranaki. In November 1940 Kenneth volunteered for service in the RNZAF.

Called up in December 1941, following basic aircrew training in New Zealand, in March 1942 Kenneth was sent to Canada to continue training under the Empire Air Training Scheme. In January 1943 Kenneth was awarded his WOp/AG badge and immediately embarked for the UK.

Following advanced training at 3 (O) Advanced Flying Unit, RAF Bobbington, Staffordshire, 11 OTU RAF Westcott, Buckinghamshire and 1651 HCU RAF Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire, in September 1943 Kenneth was posted to 623 Sqn at RAF Downham Market, Norfolk.

On 7/8 November 1943, five 623 Sqn crews were tasked with a mining op off the coast of Bordeaux in the Deodar (Bordeaux) and Furze (St Jean de Luz) areas.

At 22:55 on the 7 November Kenneth, operating as the Wireless Operator, and the crew departed RAF Downham Market in Stirling III EF156 (IC-E).

Nothing further was heard from the crew. This was Kenneth's 3rd op.

Also killed: FS Maurice Basil Laing RNZAF (AB); FS Reginald Vivian Love RNZAF (Pilot); Sgt Leslie Collier Grant (Nav); Sgt James Aikman Johnstone (AG); Sgt Geoffrey Oswald Payne (FE); Sgt Phillip Grenville Roberts (AG)

Kenneth has no known grave and is commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial, Surrey

Kenneth is commemorated on Wall Panel 238

Photo Source: findagrave

