

PO Winton Selwood Shann 43711 RAFVR

Winton was born on 23 April 1917 in Christchurch, Canterbury, New Zealand, the son of Charles Raynor Shann and Nellie Ellis Shann nee Clarke.

Educated at Christchurch Boys High, he then studied accountancy at a Commercial College and on graduation was employed as an Accountant with the Co-Operative Assurance Co, Wellington. In February 1939 Winton applied for and was accepted on a Short Service Commission in the RNZAF. Winton trained at Taieri and Wigram, New Zealand and received his Pilot's Wings in February 1940.

Winton arrived in the UK in June 1940 and relinquished his RNZAF commission and joined the RAF. After a short time as a ferry pilot, Winton commenced conversion training at 13 OTU, RAF Bicester, Oxfordshire before his posting in August 1940 to 107 Sqn at RAF Wattisham, Suffolk.

On 25 September 1940, nine 107 Sqn aircraft were despatched at 3 minute intervals to attack the docks at Calais.

At 04:05, Winton and his crew departed RAF Wattisham in Blenheim IV T1883 (OM). Whilst over the target Winton's aircraft was engaged by enemy fire and they crashed in Guemps, about 10km SE of Calais, killing all on board. This was his 6th Op.

Also killed : PO Arthur Frederick Etherington (Observer); Sgt William Henry Powell (WOp/AG)

Winton is buried in Guemps Churchyard, Pas de Calais, France

Winton is commemorated on Wall Panel 239

Photo Source : aucklandmuseum.com

