

PO Rupert Edward Short 403118 RAF

Rupert was born on 23 February 1917 in Otahuhu, Auckland, New Zealand, the son of Thomas Edward Short and Alice Maud Short nee Jeffries.

Educated at Cromwell Park School and Auckland Grammar, Rupert later attended night classes at Seddon Memorial Technical School. After leaving school, Rupert was employed as a carpenter with a building contractor in Auckland and joined the Territorial Army as a gunner in the 4th Field Battery.

In August 1938 Rupert applied for a short service leave commission with the Army, but this application was deferred pending further vacancies. In the meantime he was accepted for service in the civil Reserve of Pilots and gained his wings in March 1939. The following month he applied and was accepted for a Short Service Commission in the RAF, embarking for England in June 1939.

Rupert completed advanced training in England, finally qualifying on the Blenheim and crewing up prior to being posted to 101 Sqn at RAF West Rayham, Norfolk in July 1940.



At 16:20 on 25 July 1940, Rupert and the crew departed RAF West Raynham, Norfolk in Blenheim IV N6174 (SR) tasked with a weather recce over the English Channel and, if favourable, to bomb an oil storage depot at Cherbourg. Whilst over Cherbourg, Rupert 's aircraft was intercepted by Lt Herbert Wasserzier flying a Bf109 of 7./JG27 and, at 19:25. they were shot down, crashing into the sea. This was his 2nd operational flight.

Also killed : Sgt Jack Parkinson (Observer); Sgt Kenneth Victor Gibson (WOp/AG)

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

Rupert is commemorated on Wall Panel 241

Photo Source: NZ War Graves Project