

PO Philip Charles Spittal 404420 RNZAF

Philip was born on 1 August 1915 in Christchurch, New Zealand, the son of Charles Edward Spittal and Maud May Spittal nee Coote.

Educated at Auckland Grammar School and Auckland University College, Philip gained a Bachelor of Commerce degree and was employed as an accountant.

In October 1939 Philip applied for aircrew duties with the RNZAF and in November 1940 was called up for pilot training. When his training was terminated, in March 1941 Philip re-mustered as Observer and was sent for training in Canada under the Empire Air Training Scheme.

In October 1941 Philip was awarded his Observer badge and, following advanced navigational training, in November he was awarded his commission and embarked for the UK the following month.

Following advanced training at 11 OTU RAF Bassingbourn, Hertfordshire, on 8 July 1942 Philip was posted to 75(NZ) Sqn at RAF Feltwell, Norfolk.

On 26/27 July 1942 Bomber Command was tasked with an op against Hamburg, Germany, regarded as a maximum effort for the regular bomber squadrons. A combined force of 403 aircraft, including fifteen 75(NZ) crews, were allocated to the op. Two 75(NZ) aircraft failed to return.

Shortly before midnight on 26 July 1942 Philip, operating as the Navigator, and the crew departed RAF Feltwell in Wellington III X3714 (AA).

Nothing further was heard from the crew, and the circumstances of their loss is unknown. This was Philip's 4th Op.

Also killed: FS Norman Albert Bryson RNZAF (AG); FS Louvain Trevor Cairns RNZAF (WOp/AG); FS Colin Valentine McPherson RNZAF (Pilot); FS Stanley David Ross RNZAF (Pilot); Sgt Raymond Patrick Coppersmith RNZAF (WOp/AG)

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

Philip is commemorated on Wall Panel 246

Photo Source: IBCC

