

FS Arthur Thompson Stone 425298 RNZAF

Arthur was born on 9 August 1921 in Hastings, Hawke's Bay, New Zealand, the son of Arthur Thompson Stone and Eva May Stone nee Porter.

Educated at Otago Boys' High School, Arthur was employed as a radio and wireman by the Dominion Radio Company, Auckland when, in July 1940, he volunteered for service in the RNZAF.

Called up in May 1942, following basic flying training in New Zealand, in February 1943 Arthur was sent to Canada to continue his training under the Empire Air Training Scheme.



In April 1943 when his pilot training was terminated, Arthur re-mustered as Navigator, and in October 1943 he was awarded his Navigator badge and immediately embarked for the UK.

Following advanced training at 4 (O) Advanced Flying Unit, RAF West Freugh, Dumfries, Scotland, 84 OTU RAF Ossington, Nottinghamshire, 1653 HCU RAF Chedburgh, Suffolk and 31 Base RAF Feltwell, Norfolk, on 10 July 1944 Arthur was posted to 514 Sqn at RAF Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire.

On 20/21 July 1944, Bomber Command was tasked with an operation to target the Steinkohlen- Bergwerk Rheinpreussen plant located in Mors-Meerbeck, Nordrhein-Westphalia, Germany, near the Rheinpreussen coal mine, where it converted coal into petroleum and other oil-based products. A combined force of 158 aircraft, including twenty-four 514 Sqn aircraft, was allocated to the op. Four 514 Sqn crews failed to return.

At 23:08 on 20 July Arthur, operating as the Navigator, and the crew departed RAF Waterbeach in Lancaster I LM181 (JI-E).

Several claims were made for the loss of Arthur's aircraft. Between 01:16 and 01:34 on 21 July Arthur's aircraft was reported as intercepted by Fw Klaus Moller of the 12./NJG3, Fw Hubert Allemeier of the 8./NJG2 and Ofw Heinrich Schmidt of the 2./NJG3. An additional claim was made by the anti-aircraft unit, Flak Abt.401, at Neukirchen at 01:22.

Arthur's aircraft crashed at Neukirchen, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany, killing all on board. This was Arthur's 1st op.

Also Killed: FO Lamont Weir McLean RNZAF (Pilot); FS Thomas Kerr Durie RNZAF (WOp/AG); FS William Simpson McIlraith RNZAF (AB); Sgt George William Bumstead (FE); Sgt Ronald Ernest Digby (AG); Sgt Malcolm Duncan (AG)

Originally buried in Neukirchen Communal Cemetery, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany, in June 1947 Arthur was moved to Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany.

Arthur is commemorated on Wall Panel 248

Photo Source: www.aucklandmuseum.com