

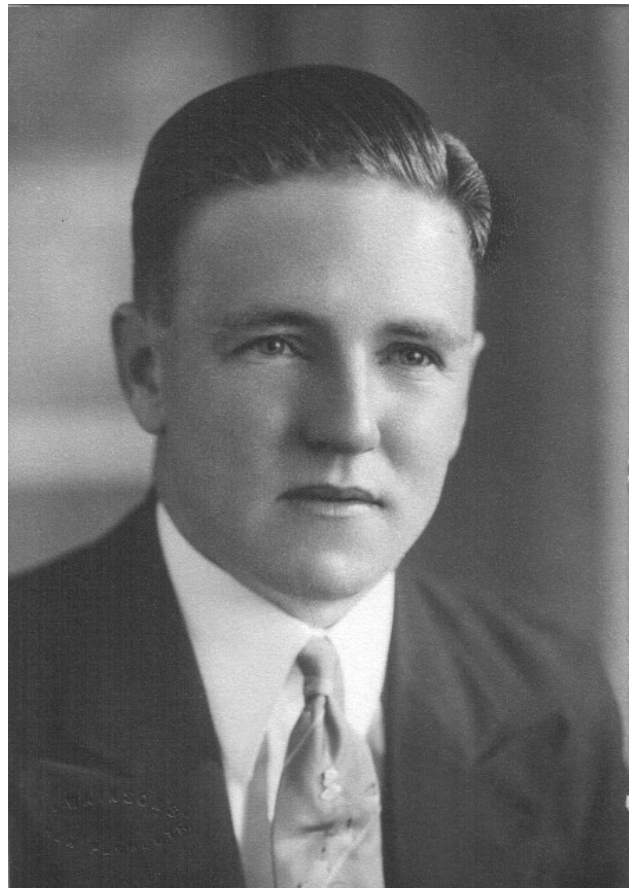
## **Sgt Maurice Varey Tate 41611 RNZAF**

Maurice was born on 15 October 1913 in New Plymouth, Taranaki, New Zealand, the son of Varey Clifton Tate and Mary Tate nee Gaustad. In 1941 he married Hilda Lilian Hobman in New Zealand. They had one son.

Educated at Waitara School, Maurice was employed as a taxi driver by Gibsons Motors, New Plymouth when, in January 1940, he volunteered for aircrew duties in the RNZAF.

Called up in January 1941, Maurice completed his basic flying training in New Zealand before, in February, he was sent to Canada to continue his training under the Empire Air Training Scheme. In September 1942 Maurice was awarded his WOp/AG badge and immediately embarked for the UK.

Following advanced training at No. 2 Signals School RAF Yatesbury, Wiltshire, 11 OTU RAF Bassingbourn, Hertfordshire for multi crew/multi engine training on the Wellington, and 218 Conversion Flight, RAF Marham, Norfolk for conversion to the Stirling, in September 1942 Maurice was posted to 218 Sqn at RAF Downham Market, Norfolk.



On 10/11 September 1942 Bomber Command was tasked with an op against Dusseldorf, a significant centre of steel, armament and engineering industries. The attack also intended to disrupt transport networks essential for supplying the German war effort. A combined force of 479 aircraft, including ten 218 Sqn crews, were allocated to the op. Two crews failed to return.

At 21:25 on 10 September Maurice, operating as the Bomb Aimer and Front Gunner, and the crew departed RAF Downham Market in Stirling I BF351 (HA-C).

At 23:54 Maurice's aircraft was intercepted by Hptm Heinrich Prinz zu Sayn-Wittgenstein of 9./NJG 2 flying a Ju88 from Gilze-Rijen Airfield, Netherlands.

The aircraft crashed at Sint Philipsland, Zeeland, killing all on board. This was Maurice's 4th op.

Also Killed: WO2 Geoffrey Eaton Milligan RCAF (Pilot); FS Dick Emeny (WOp/AG); Sgt Reginald William Bowler (AG); Sgt Jack Ward Humphrey (Obs); Sgt Raymond Edgar Graham RNZAF (AG); Sgt Robert Vallance (FE)

Originally buried in the Bergen-op-Zoom German Military Cemetery, in April 1946 Maurice was moved to the Bergen-op-Zoom Canadian War Cemetery, Noord-Brabant, Netherlands

Maurice is commemorated on Wall Panel 251

Photo Source: IBCC