

Sgt Colin Maurice Thompson 404427 RNZAF

Colin was born on 3 November 1917 in Christchurch, New Zealand, the son of Thomas James Thompson and Mabel Bessie Mackay Thompson nee Steel.

Educated at Christchurch Boys' High School and Christchurch Technical College, Colin was employed as a shipping clerk by the Union Steam Ship Company when, in January 1940, he applied for aircrew duties with the RNZAF.

Called up in November 1940, following basic training in New Zealand, in February 1941, Colin was sent to Canada to train under the Empire Air Training Scheme. In June 1941 Colin was awarded his Wings and embarked for the UK.



Following advanced training at 23 OTU RAF Pershore, Worcestershire, in September 1941 Colin was posted to 75 (NZ) Sqn at RAF Feltwell, Norfolk.

On 10/11 October 1941 Bomber Command was tasked with an op to Cologne a major industrial centre and a vital railway hub for German war efforts. A combined force of 69 aircraft were allocated to the op, including eight 75(NZ) Sqn crews.

At midnight on the 10/11 October Colin, operating as the 2nd pilot, and the crew departed RAF Feltwell in Wellington 1c Z8909 (AA).

Returning crews reported active searchlights in two cones, one each side of the target, and intense AA fire in the target area. Colin's aircraft was brought down close to the target, killing all on board. This was Colin's 3rd op.

Also killed: Sgt Raymond Fullerton Curlewis RAAF (Pilot); Sgt Allan Clifford Edwards (Obs); Sgt Fred Garde (WOp/AG); Sgt Timothy Rowley Murphy RNZAF (AG); Sgt Robert Lea Warburton (WOp/AG)

Originally buried in Cologne South Cemetery, in May 1946 Colin was moved to Rheinberg War Cemetery, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany

Colin is commemorated on Wall Panel 253

Photo Source: 75nzsquadron.wordpress.com