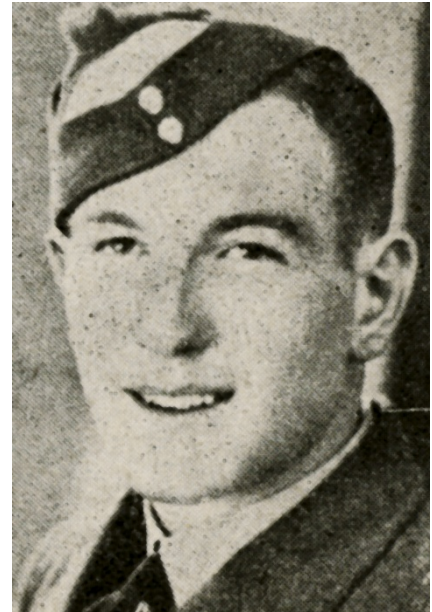


## **Sgt Adam Hadden Thomson 41612 DFM RNZAF**

Adam, known as "Eddie", was born on 23 November 1919 in Wallyford, Midlothian, Scotland, the son of Peter Thomson and Joan King Thomson nee Hadden. In 1924 the family emigrated to New Zealand and settled in Christchurch. Educated at Christchurch Boys' High School, on leaving school Adam became a partner in the family Grocery Store business in Christchurch. Volunteering for service in the RNZAF in January 1940, Adam was called up in January 1941.



Following basic training in New Zealand, in February Adam was sent to Canada to train under the Empire Air Training Scheme where, in September 1941, he 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 and conversion to the Stirling at 218 Conversion Flight, RAF Downham Market, Norfolk, in August 1942 Adam was posted to 218 Sqn, also at RAF Downham Market. Originally operating as an Air Gunner, by 16 August Adam was operating as a Bomb Aimer.

On 9/10 November 1942 Bomber Command was tasked with an attack on Hamburg, a key industrial hub housing significant military production facilities, including oil refineries and factories that supported the German war effort. The Port housed shipyards and U-boat pens and was also crucial for the transportation of goods and military supplies. A combined force of 213 aircraft, including five 218 Sqn crews, were allocated to the op, although only four departed.

At 17:15 on 9 November Adam, operating as the Bomb Aimer and the crew departed Downham Market in Stirling I W7475 (HA-H).

Whilst returning to base, at 21:15 on 9 November Adam's aircraft was hit by heavy flak of 1.-3./schwere Flak-Abteilung 461. The Stirling crashed at Hufte Farm near Lashorst, Nordrhein-Westphalia, 20 miles ENE of Osnabruck, Lower Saxony, Germany, killing all on board. This was Adam's 29th op.

Also Killed: S/L Peter Frank Hickling DFM (Pilot); Sgt Henry William Bending (FE); Sgt Ronald William Arthur Follett (AG); Sgt Ian Ignatius Friend RNZAF (Obs); Sgt Vivian Howe (AG); Sgt William Wynne Morgan RNZAF (WOp/AG)

Originally buried in Alswede Cemetery, Minden-Lubbecke, Nordrhein-Westphalia, in August 1947 Adam was moved to the Hanover War Cemetery, Niedersachsen, Germany

Adam is commemorated on Wall Panel 253

In July 1943 Adam was posthumously awarded the DFM with effect from 22 October 1942. His citation read:

*Sgt Thomson as a Bomb Aimer has always displayed remarkable skill. In August 1942 he participated in an attack on Osnabruck releasing bombs on the target although his aircraft was held in a cone of searchlights and subjected to anti-aircraft fire for eleven minutes. Two nights later, flying to Frankfurt, his aircraft was attacked by three enemy fighters and trouble developed in both starboard engines. The pilot, however, continued on his journey and Sgt Thomson succeeded in releasing his bombs over the target area. He is a flight bombing leader possessing extensive knowledge. He has also made a high percentage of most successful and valuable photographs. He is courageous and his sole purpose is to ensure hitting the target"*

Photo Source: IBCC