FO Edgar Coutts Watt 404434 RNZAF



Edgar was born on 15 February 1918 in Gore, Southland, New Zealand, the son of Edgar Johnston Watt and Amy Gertrude Mataura Watt nee Coutts.

Educated at Southland Boys' High School, Otago University where he was awarded a B.A., followed by the Teacher's Training College, Edgar was employed as a teacher by the Southland Education Board when, in October 1939, he applied for aircrew service in the RNZAF.

Called up in November 1940, Edgar completed his aircrew training in New Zealand in May 1941 with the award of his Wings, and immediately embarked for the UK.

Following advanced training at 54 OTU RAF Church Fenton, Yorkshire, in February 1942 he was posted to 4 Sqn at RAF Middle Wallop, Hampshire where he completed 17 ops.

In July 1942 Edgar was posted to 488 Sqn at RAF Church Fenton, with a move to RAF Ayr, Scotland in September.

On 13 July 1943 Edgar and his Navigator departed RAF Ayr in Beaufighter VIF X8221 on a training exercise. At 19:00 whilst at 3000 feet over the airfield, Edgar attempted a very steep turn to port; however, the aircraft "mushed" (the wing is nearing the stall and not providing lift), and crashed, killing both on board. Edgar had completed 24 ops.

Also killed: FO Peter Ernest Adkins (Nav)

Edgar is buried in Ayr Cemetery, Ayrshire, Scotland

Edgar is commemorated on Wall Panel - NYE

Photo Source: aucklandmuseum.com