

Name: William ANDREWS



Service No: 421492

Armed Force: RNZAF

Enlistment: 27 February 1942

Training: Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 3 Service Flying Training School, Calgary, Alberta Course 1: Class 74. Graduation Date: 26/05/1943.

Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 31 General Reconnaissance School, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Quebec.

Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 32 Operational Training Unit, Patricia Bay, British Columbia

Embarkations: WW2 Vessel was Bloemfontein Royal New Zealand Air Force

Rank/s: Flying Officer/Military

Royal Air Force, No. 224 Squadron

Service: Europe (Air) Pacific Theatre of War

CIVILIAN LIFE

Next of Kin on Embarkation: Mrs. M E Andrews 3 Lincoln Road, Spreydon, Christchurch
Relationship Status: Mother

MILITARY DECORATIONS

Medals and Awards: War Medal 1939-1945 New Zealand War Service Medal

OTHER DETAILS

Date of Birth & Place: 1 August 1920 Ashburton, Canterbury
Date of Death & Place: 12 August 1944
Cause of Death: Killed in Action
Burial/Cremation:
Age: 24
Memorial: Commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial

Service Person Record & Images: Military Service Years

MILITARY SERVICE BIOGRAPHY:

<https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/war-memorial/online-cenotaph>

421492: Flying Officer William ANDREWS.

MOTHER: Mrs. M.E. Andrews of Christchurch.

William Andrews was born at Ashburton on the 1st August 1920. He received his secondary education at Temuka High School and Christchurch Boys' High School. He was interested in football, cricket, tennis and athletics.

Prior to enlisting in the RNZAF, he was employed as a display artist by Messrs. Hallenstein Bros. Ltd., Christchurch.

He applied for enlistment in the RNZAF in June 1941 and was enlisted at Rongotai on the 27th of February 1942. From March till October 1942 he was employed on ground staff duties, being posted to the Initial Training Wing, Rotorua on the 3rd of October 1942 to commence training as a pilot. After completing his elementary flying training at No. 3 Elementary Flying Training School, Harewood, Flying Officer Andrews embarked for Canada, commencing advanced flying training at No. 3 Service Flying Training School, Calgary, Alta. He was awarded the Flying Badge and promoted to Sergeant on the 28th of May 1943. Shortly after he was granted a commission in the rank of Pilot Officer with effect the same date.

On the 24th of September 1943 he proceeded to No. 32 Operational Training Unit (RAF), Patricia Bay, Vancouver Island, where he carried out operational training on Oxford and Hampden aircraft. On the completion of his training in Canada, he was granted a short leave which he spent in New York and then departed for Great Britain, arriving at No. 18 Advanced Flying Unit, Church Lawford, Warwickshire on the 1st of February 1944. William Andrews was promoted to Flying Officer on 28th November 1943.

For the following two months he was engaged on operational exercises and beam approach training, mostly in Oxford aircraft until early in May he was posted to No. 224 Squadron, St. Eval, Cornwall where he converted to flying Liberator aircraft and was engaged in anti-U-boat patrols.

Flying Officer Andrews was a member of the crew of a Liberator aircraft which took off on an anti-U-boat patrol on 12th August 1944. The aircraft failed to return to base, and it is believed to have been shot down by surface forces. All the crew were classified as missing. Further information which subsequently came to hand indicated that the aircraft was severely raked by enemy aircraft fire and disintegrated, the crew being reclassified to missing believed killed.

5/2/11440

345 hours.

Mrs. M.E. Andrews, (M)

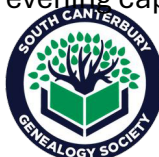
3 Lincoln Road, Spreydon,

CHRISTCHURCH.

Anti U-boat patrol

224 Squadron, RAF (St Eval, Cornwall – 19 Group)

Liberator GR.VI EV878/C – took off in the evening captained by Sqn Ldr E W Lindsay, RAF,



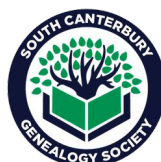
Service Person Record & Images: Military Service Years

and over the Bay of Biscay, about 25 miles off Pointe de Penmarc'h, blew up when fired on in error by the destroyer **HMS Onslow**.

The ten crew are commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial.

NZ421492 Fg Off **William ANDREWS**, RNZAF – Age 24. 345hrs.

Martyn Errol W. 1999 *For Your Tomorrow* Vol 2 Volplane Press Christchurch page 261



Service Person Record & Images: Military Service Years

USEFUL WEB LINKS FOR REFERENCE:

1. [Auckland War Memorial Museum - Online Cenotaph](#)
 - A comprehensive database of New Zealand service personnel.
2. [New Zealand War Graves Project](#)
 - Contains images and information about New Zealand war graves and memorials around the world.
3. [New Zealand History - NZ Wars and Conflicts](#)
 - Provides detailed accounts and images of New Zealand's involvement in
 - various wars, including WW1 and WW2.
4. [Archives New Zealand - War History](#)
 - Access to war-related records and images held by Archives New Zealand.
5. [Te Papa Tongarewa - Collections Online](#)

Features war-related collections, including personal stories and photographs of New Zealand soldiers

DATA SOURCE AND COPYRIGHT INFORMATION

All information and images included in this document have been sourced from various archives, databases, and personal contributions. The primary sources include:

- Lois Shears
- South Canterbury Genealogy Society
- Auckland War Memorial Museum - Online Cenotaph
- New Zealand War Graves Project

The content is provided for educational and research purposes. If you have any questions or require further information regarding the sources or usage rights, please contact SC Genealogy directly.

Contact Information:

South Canterbury (SC) Genealogy

Website: <https://scgenealogy.nz/>

Email: info@scgenealogy.nz

Please respect the copyright and usage rights of the original sources. Unauthorised reproduction or distribution of this content without permission of the owner and SC Genealogy may violate copyright laws.

