

572/5112

412179 Flight sergeant John Edwin ALBERTSON.

Parents: Mr. & Mrs. G.W. Albertson of Paraparaumu.

John Albertson was born at Westport on the 5th. February 1917. He finished his secondary education at St. Patrick's College, Silverstream, passing the University Entrance Examination. He played football for his College 1st. XV. From the time of leaving school in 1934 until applying for enlistment in aircrew on the 16th. June 1940 he was employed by the Texas Co (Aust) Ltd. at Lower Hutt and Wellington.

Flight Sergeant, Albertson, was enlisted at the Initial Training Wing, Levin, on the 13th. April 1941 and <sup>was</sup> posted to Taieri on the 24th. May for his elementary flying training. After completing this, he proceeded to No. 1 Service Flying Training School, Wigram, early in July. Here, he was awarded the flying badge on the 16th. August and promoted to the rank of Sergeant on the 27th. September. Later, while serving overseas, he was further promoted to Flight Sergeant on the 1st August 1942. Meantime, on the 21st. October 1941, he had embarked for the United Kingdom.

Flight Sergeant Albertson arrived at No. 3. Personnel Reception Centre, Bournemouth on the 23rd. November and remained there until posted to No. 3 Service Flying Training School. South Cerney, Gloucestershire on the 12th. January 1942. During February, he completed a beam approach course at Middleton St. George Durham, before proceeding late the same month to No. 21 Operational Training Unit, Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire for crewing up and completion of his training as pilot of Wellington bomber aircraft. From this base he took part in an operational flight to a target at Essen.

Flight Sergeant Albertson was posted to Harwell, Berkshire on the 11th. June for embarkation overseas to the Middle East. He flew as a member of the crew of a Wellington aircraft by way of Portreath in Cornwall, Gibraltar and Malte,

FILE.

673/1950 W.E.A. initials