

P/O Alexander Richard Abbott 404522 RNZAF



Alexander was born on 18 December 1918, the son of Vernon Richard and Barbara Abbott of Wellington, New Zealand, and the husband of Hazel Jean Abbott of Wellington. He attended Wellington Technical College, and was employed by the Post & Telegraph Dept., as a clerk, prior to enlisting in November 1940. He trained at 4 Air Observer School, London, Ontario, 1 Bombing and Gunnery School, Jarvis, Ontario, and 1 Air Navigation School, Rivers, Manitoba.

He was a pilot serving with 455 (Australian) Squadron, based at R.A.F. Wigsley, Nottinghamshire. The squadron had the distinction of being “the first Australian squadron to bomb Germany”.

Handley Page Hampden I P1156 UB-F took off from R.A.F. Wigsley airfield on 12 February 1942 as part of Operation Fuller, or ‘Channel Dash’, a Royal Naval and RAF combined operation in response to the break-out of the German battle cruisers ‘Scharnhorst’, ‘Gneisenau’, and ‘Prinz Eugen’, from Brest harbour. P1156 was lost without trace, a victim of either flak, fighters, or the atrocious weather.

Alexander’s body was never recovered and he is commemorated at the Runnymede Memorial, Surrey, Panel 115. He was 23 years old.

P/O Alexander Richard Abbott RNZAF (killed)
F/L Walter Edwin Perrin RAFVR (killed)
F/O Edward Graham de Twenebroke Symons RAFVR (killed)
Sgt. Ralph Edward Tomlinson RAFVR (killed)

He is commemorated on IBCC Panel 1

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