

## **Sgt. Donald Addy 1684394 RAFVR**

Donald was born on 29 July 1922 in Hemsworth, Yorkshire, the son of Thomas Alfred Addy and Alice Elizabeth Addy (nee Senior). In 1942 he married Eileen Mary Summerfield in Hemsworth, Yorkshire.

Before joining the RAF and training as a Flight Engineer, Donald was employed as a Clerk in a Brewery.

Posted to 101 Sqn in February 1944, from 1662 HCU, this was his 5th Op on the Squadron.

On the night of 30 March 1944 795 aircraft were dispatched for an attack on Nuremberg. This was the last act of Bomber Harris's "Battle of Berlin", an attempt to destroy German morale by battering its cities night after night, before the bomber force turned its attentions to preparing the way for D-Day in June. A direct route, full moon and a new German weapon, the upward firing gun fitted to many fighters, would make this an incredibly challenging and dangerous mission. More than 200 night-fighters based around the Ruhr and the Rhine took to the skies that night. Twenty-six 101 Sqn Lancasters participated in the raid.



At 2205 hours on 30 March 1944 Donald, operating as the Flight Engineer, and the crew departed RAF Ludford Magna, Lincolnshire, in Lancaster III DV290 (SR-X), tasked with ABC duties for the raid.

At 0503 hours on 31 March, whilst returning from the raid, they hit the ground in a 30 degree dive from an overcast sky, close to RAF Welford, Berkshire, killing all on board. They were just 120 miles from home. The terse, 3-line accident report merely concludes that nobody was to blame. However, it is likely that they were a combat loss and that damage from enemy action led to the eventual crash at Welford. They were the 101st British bomber lost that night.

Seven 101 Sqn aircraft were lost on the raid, with 47 men killed.

The raid was a major disaster for Bomber Command with the loss of 105 aircraft - Bomber Command's heaviest loss of the war. There were 721 casualties: - 542 men died, 6 injured, 161 POWs, with just 12 airmen evading capture. The damage to Nuremberg itself was slight - 256 buildings destroyed and 75 enemy dead.

Also Killed: WO2 Alan Norman Rice RCAF (Nav); F/Sgt. Irvin Robert McNay RCAF (AB); F/Sgt. Edwin Robert Thomas (Pilot); F/Sgt. Ernest Hugo Traeger RAAF (AB); F/Sgt. Allen Howard Wilson RAAF (WOp/AG); Sgt. Dennis Roland Billson (AG); Sgt. Richard Alfred James Collier (AG)

Donald is buried in Hemsworth Cemetery, Wakefield, Yorkshire

Donald is commemorated on IBCC Wall Panel 1

Photo Source: RAF Welford Commemorative Panel