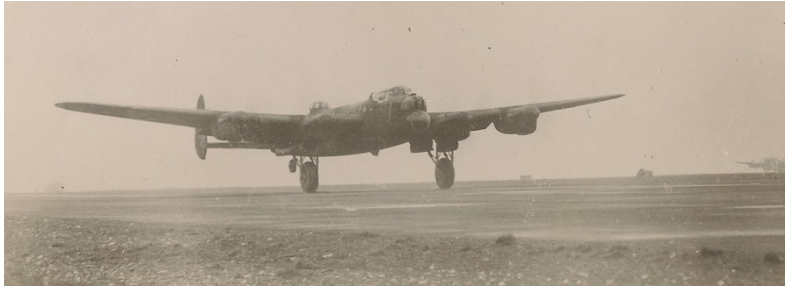


## **Sgt. Alfred William Aiston 1532964 RAFVR**



**A 625 Squadron Lancaster pictured at Kelstern 1944**

In the early hours of 16 March 1944 South African-born flight engineer Alfred Aiston and his Lancaster crew were only 20 miles away from their home airfield at Kelstern after a long flight to Stuttgart when disaster struck.

As their aircraft, ND637 CF-L of 625 Squadron, approached the Lincoln area it collided with another Lancaster of 463 Squadron, which was circling before landing at Waddington. Both aircraft crashed together near the village of Branston, four miles from Lincoln. All 14 young men – eight Englishmen, three Canadians, two Australians, a Scotsman and a South African – on board the two aircraft were killed.

Alfred was born and raised in South Africa and was the 35-year-old son of Alfred and Eleanor Aiston. He had an English wife, Jean, who lived in the coastal village of Whitburn, near Sunderland, and he is buried in Newport Cemetery in Lincoln.

The other members of his crew were pilot P/O John Bulger RCAF, navigator WO2 Gordon Ivey RCAF, bomb-aimer F/O Robert Jones RCAF, wireless operator Sgt. Dennis Hewitt, mid-upper gunner Sgt. John Dadswell and rear gunner Sgt. Richard Fettis.

His name can be found on panel 001.

Sources: Bill Chorley/625 Squadron Association.

