

F/L Stefan Karol Alberti P.0031 PAF



Stefan was born 23 October 1907, in Wadowice, Poland. He had escaped serious injury during the German invasion of Poland on 3 September 1939, whilst flying with No. 21 Eskadra Bombowa Lekka. He later escaped his homeland and continued his fight against the Nazis from the UK.

He was a Navigator in the Polish Air Force, serving with 18 OTU at RAF Bircotes, South Yorkshire, and had been awarded the ML (Air Force Medal) twice.

Wellington III BK471 took off at 1917 hours, from Bircotes airfield, on 21 October 1943 on a night cross country training exercise. After setting out the crew sent a radio message to say there was a problem with one of the engines so were returning to base. At 1957 hours the aircraft undershot the landing and flew into trees around two miles north of Bircotes airfield, in the area of Rossington Hall. Four of the five crew were killed; subsequent inspection established a taper pin had sheared within one of the engines causing the catastrophic failure.

Stefan is buried at Newark upon Trent Cemetery, Nottinghamshire. Polish Plot. Sec. I. Grave 319A. He was 35 years old.

F/L Stefan Karol Alberti PAF, Navigator (killed)

F/Sgt. Roman Kot PAF, Air Gunner (killed)

Sgt. Jerzy Sawicki PAF, Air Bomber (killed)

Sgt. Mieczyslaw Solecki PAF, Pilot (killed)

Sgt. Zbigniew Antoni Marynowski PAF, Wireless Operator/Air Gunner (injured)

He is commemorated on IBCC Panel 1

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