

F/L George Peter Alexandra 127894 RAFVR



George was born on 24 March 1922, the son of Arthur Charles and Helen Pringle Alexandra of Tickhill, Yorkshire. He attended Slough Grammar School and, after gaining a degree, he moved to Billingham to work as a research chemist with ICI. It was whilst working at ICI that he enlisted in the RAF and travelled to Falcon Field, Mesa, Arizona, to train as a pilot.

Preferring to be known as Peter, he was a Pilot serving with 170 Squadron, based at RAF Hemswell, near Gainsborough, Lincolnshire; the Squadron motto being "Videre non videri" – "To see and not be seen".

Lancaster I NN739 TC-Q took off at 1633 hours on 3 February 1945 from Hemswell airfield on a night operation to bomb the Prosper benzol plant, at Bottrop, Germany. The aircraft was one of 192 Lancasters and 18 Mosquitoes. It was reported to have been shot down by flak and crashed near the railway station at Gelsenkirchen with the loss of all on board. It was the only aircraft lost in the target area.

Peter is buried at Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Germany. Spec. Memorial. No. 1. He was 22 years old.

It is reported that all the crew were taken to the Reichswald Forest War Cemetery by the German authorities, but their graves could not be identified when the permanent grave markers were placed. Thus, all are commemorated by Special Memorials.

F/L George Peter Alexandra RAFVR (killed)
Sgt. Peter Harry Malkin RAFVR (killed)
Sgt. Cecil Allen Matthews RAFVR (killed)
Sgt. Andrew McSkimming RAFVR (killed)
Sgt. Ronald Frederick Niles RAFVR (killed)
F/O Brian John O'Regan RAFVR (killed)
F/O Niels Peter William Pedersen RAFVR (killed)

He is commemorated on Panel 1

Photo courtesy of www.media.tickhillhistorysociety.org.uk