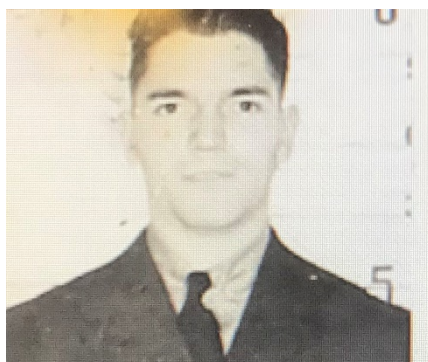


FO Alexander Allan J/24713 RCAF



Alexander Allan was born in Glasgow, Scotland, on 29 December 1916. His Scottish born parents were Alexander and Mary, but they had been divorced in 1938; he returning to Scotland, and she remarrying, becoming Mrs. Mary Coleman and living in Toronto, Ontario. Alexander had two brothers, William and Harry.

Living in Detroit at the time, he went to school there from 1922 to 1934. After leaving school, and in Toronto, he was a clerk for two years with A & P Stores, and then a shipper with McCauley Brothers of Toronto for five years.

He enlisted into the RCAF on 12 March 1941, at the recruiting centre in Toronto. He went to various locations for his training, including 6 ITS in Toronto and 4 AOS in London, Ontario. From this he was awarded his Air Navigator's badge on 19 March 1943.

The following month he embarked for service in England. Upon arrival, he first went to 3 Personnel Reception Centre, then to ACOS in July, 5AOSS in August and 12 OTU in October, followed by 1651 Conversion Unit in May 1944 before being posted to 90 Squadron for operational duties on 4 May 1944. At this time, 90 Squadron, a Royal Air Force squadron, was based at RAF Tuddenham in Suffolk and operated the Avro Lancaster Mk1 bomber.

On 12 June 1944, he was a member of the crew of Lancaster LM158, which took off from Tuddenham at 2331 hours on a bombing operation against the Nordstern synthetic oil plant at Gelsenkirchen in Germany, part of a group of 286 Lancasters and 17 Mosquitos.

Homeward bound, LM158 was shot down by night fighter pilot Lt Heinz Rolland of the 12./NJG 1, flying a Bf 110 G-4 from an airfield in Belgium. The Lancaster crashed in the area known as Soerense Zand, near Eerbeek, 10 km SW of Zutphen. One crew member survived, and was taken prisoner of war, the remaining six crew members perished.

Alexander Allan is buried in the Brummen (Hal) General Cemetery, Gelderland, Holland.

He is commemorated on IBCC Panel 1.

Photo source: www.veterans.gc.ca.