

Sgt. Norman Sinclair Allan 966502 RAFVR



The original grave marker for the crew in Durnbach War Cemetery and, below, a 625 Squadron Lancaster at Kelstern

The night of 15/16 March 1944 was to prove a tough one for Bomber Command and, in particular, for 625 Squadron at RAF Kelstern, high on the Lincolnshire Wolds.

Thirty-seven aircraft were lost that night in a raid on Stuttgart, three of them from Kelstern, one shot down off the French coast, a second in a tragic mid-air collision near Waddington as bombers were returning and the third, Lancaster III DV194 CF-F. The aircraft was believed to have been attacked by a night fighter and exploded, scattering debris all around the village of Obereschach, near Villingen in southern Germany. There were no survivors from 21 men on board these three aircraft.

The flight engineer of CF-F was Norman Allan. His aircraft left Kelstern late in the evening of 15 March and is believed to have been intercepted by a night fighter en route to the target.

Killed with him were the pilot Flt. Sgt. Frank Hodgkins, navigator WO2 Arthur Fox RCAF, bomb-aimer Sgt. Allen Ward, wireless operator Sgt. Arthur Smith, mid-upper gunner Sgt. John McIntyre and rear gunner Sgt. Harold Chapman. All seven are buried together in Durnbach War Cemetery.

Norman's name can be found on panel 001

Photographic sources: Aircrew Remembered and 625 Squadron Association.

