

P/O Robert Edward Allan J/86012 RCAF

Robert Allan was the Canadian rear gunner of a 626 Squadron Lancaster that vanished during a raid on Berlin on the night of 30/31 January 1944.

He and his crew had been with 626 at Wickenby for just nine weeks after completing their training with 1662 Heavy Conversion Unit at Blyton, during which time they had taken part in numerous raids, including several to Berlin.

On the evening of January 30 they left Wickenby at 1718 hours on board Lancaster ME587 UM-X2, a Mk III Lancaster that had been delivered new to the squadron earlier that month. They were part of a force of 540 aircraft that were routed across Denmark and the Baltic before turning for Berlin and back across Holland and the North Sea. It is likely UM-X2 crashed either over the Baltic or off the Dutch coast, one of 33 aircraft lost during the raid.

The others who died were the pilot F/O John Wilkinson, flight engineer Sgt. William Anderson, navigator Flt. Sgt. Charles Noad, bomb-aimer P/O Albert Lafferty RCAF, wireless operator Flt. Sgt. Andrew Neeson RAAF and mid-upper gunner Sgt. James Pomeroy. All are remembered on the Runnymede Memorial.

His name can be found on panel 001.

Sources: Tom Bint, 626 Squadron Association/Canadian Virtual War Memorial/'Avro Lancaster' by Harry Holmes/'The Berlin Raids' by Martin Middlebrook.

