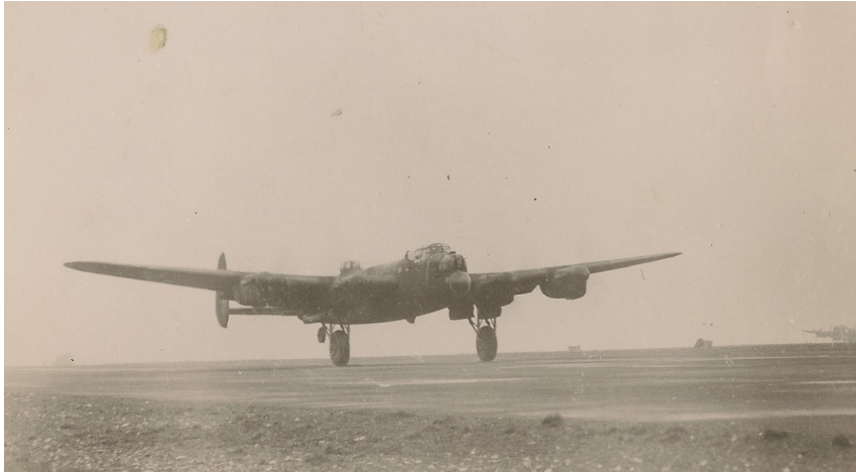


## **Sgt. Clifford Frank Allen 1604285 RAFVR**



**A 625 Squadron Lancaster pictured at Elsham**

Clifford Allen was the rear gunner of a 625 Squadron Lancaster lost from RAF Kelstern in an attack on Stuttgart in July 1944.

He was part of F/O Harry Tuck's crew with 625 at Kelstern and was nearing the end of his tour after joining the squadron in April 1944. On 28 July his crew's aircraft, LL962 CF-U, was providing support for the Pathfinders for an attack on Stuttgart by almost 500 Lancasters, 39 of which were shot down by night fighters in bright moonlight on the outward leg over eastern France. One of those was CF-U from Kelstern.

The Lancaster crashed at Schalbach, near Sarrebourg, killing the pilot, navigator and rear gunner. The flight engineer died later in hospital from his injuries while the other three crew members survived as prisoners of war.

Clifford was 21 and came from Tamworth. He was the son of William and Jessie Allen and is buried in Choloy War Cemetery.

Those of his crew who also died were the pilot P/O Harry Tuck DFC, flight engineer Sgt. Fred Dean and navigator F/O Alan Hewetson. The bomb-aimer F/O Robert Morrison, wireless operator Sgt. Patrick Dowling and mid-upper gunner Flt. Sgt. Allan Maxwell RCAF spent the remainder of the war in captivity.

His name can be found on IBCC panel 002.

Photographic source: 625 Squadron Association.