

**Sgt. Colin Frederick Allen 403890
RAAF**



Colin Allen was an Australian pilot killed when his 9 Squadron Lancaster was shot down during a costly operation by Bomber Command to hit a series of targets across northern Germany.

He was one of five men killed when his aircraft was shot down during a raid on a small town in Lower Saxony, his Lancaster I W4155 WS-D crashing near Quakenbruck.

His aircraft was one of 27 Lancasters from 5 Group sent to raid small towns on the night of 17/18 December 1942. Nine of them were shot down, including two from 9 Squadron. Colin's aircraft was detailed to attack Diepholz, south of Bremen, crashing close to the road between Oherle and Grafeld at 1932 hours on the evening of December 17, two and a half hours after leaving Waddington.

The Lancaster is believed to have been attacked by a night fighter and was set on fire; two of the crew managed to bale out at low level. The five who died were all buried locally before being reinterred in Rheinberg War Cemetery.

Colin was born in London in 1917, although his family emigrated after the Great War and settled in Killara, a suburb of Sydney where he enlisted in March 1941. He was the son of Frederick and Kate Allen.

The others who died were the flight engineer Sgt. Charles Nadin, navigator F/O Laurence Newman, wireless operator Sgt. Charles Dickens and rear gunner Flt. Lt. Charles Bain, who was 9 Squadron's Gunnery Leader.

His name can be found on panel 002.

Sources: *Bombers First and Last* by Gordon Thorburn/Australian War Memorial.