

Flt. Sgt. John Alban Allen 1588012 RAFVR

John Allen was a Lancaster navigator who joined his squadron a month after the war ended and was killed a few weeks later on a routine ferry flight.

His aircraft, Lancaster PA236 AS-B2 of 166 Squadron, had taken another crew to Stradishall in Suffolk on the afternoon of Monday 30 July 1945. It was returning to north Lincolnshire, after the 37-minute flight, when it suddenly stalled on its approach into Kirmington and dived into the ground at Barnetby Wold Farm virtually on the airfield boundary. All six men on board were killed and the station's emergency services were called to help prevent the resulting fire engulfing nearby farm buildings.

John and his crew had joined 166 on 3 June 1945. His home was in the Somerset village of Croscombe, near Shepton Mallett, and he was the 20-year-old son of John and Katherine Allen. He is buried in St Mary's churchyard in the village.

The others who died were the pilot F/O Geoffrey Willis, flight engineer Sgt. John Pattison, bomb-aimer F/O Leonard Roche, wireless operator Sgt. Harry Russell and air gunner Sgt. Clervaux Saunders.

His name can be found on panel 002.

Source: 166 Squadron Association/David Fell.

