

Sgt. Richard Allison 953183 RAFVR

Richard, known as Dick, was born on 21 June 1912 in Hartlepool, Durham, the youngest son of Frederick William Allison and Ada Elizabeth Allison (née Sherwood). In December 1935 he married Mary Taylor in Hartlepool. They had one daughter.

Before joining the RAF, and training as an Observer, Richard was employed as a driver and salesman for a local bakery. In April 1943, after completing further training to qualify as a Navigator, Richard joined 101 Squadron at RAF Holme-on-Spalding-Moor, Yorkshire.

On 4 May 1943 Bomber Command was tasked with "Operation Sprat", the largest non-thousand plane raid of the war to date, and the first major attack on Dortmund as part of the Ruhr Offensive. Of the 596 aircraft despatched on the raid, 101 Squadron contributed 18 crews. Two squadron aircraft failed to return and 4 crash landed killing a further 7 crew members.

On the evening of 4 May Richard, operating as the Navigator, and the crew departed RAF Holme-on-Spalding-Moor, Yorkshire, in Lancaster I W4863 (SR-G). The crew successfully bombed the target area, however, as the squadron aircraft started to return to base the area around Holme-on-Spalding-Moor was covered by fog. After two aircraft had crashed near the base, the rest were diverted north to land at other airfields. Richard's crew was ordered to divert to RAF Scorton, 5m ESE of Richmond, Yorkshire.

The pilot made one low circuit of RAF Scorton, passing over the control tower. The aircraft was then seen to make a much wider, but still low, circuit of the airfield and struck a tree with the port wing, damaging both the port engines. The aircraft swung to port, losing height, and crashed onto a dispersal pan at Scorton where it caught fire. Four of this crew, including Richard, were killed and three admitted to hospital with injuries.

Also Killed: Flt. Sgt. Martin David Davis RCAF (AG); Sgt. James Ronald Browning RNZAF (Pilot); Sgt. James Hornby Stretton (FE).

Richard is buried in Stranton Cemetery, Hartlepool, Durham.

Richard is commemorated on Wall Panel 2.