

## **Flt. Lt. William Joseph Allison J/20861 RCAF**



William Allison was born on 1 December 1915 to his parents William Earle and Mary Ruth Allison, living at 3781 Vendome Avenue, Montreal in Quebec. He was one of seven children, the only boy amongst six sisters.

All of his schooling was undertaken locally in Montreal, and after he left school he graduated through McGill University in Statistics. During that time his hobbies enabled him to become a proficient skier and also an expert amateur glider pilot. After leaving university he then worked from 1938 until 1941 for the General Exchange Insurance Corporation, before enlisting with the Royal Canadian Air Force.

After his initial training he undertook an Air Bomber's course for 5 months, until October 1942, and his report described him then as "a conscientious worker – an above average pupil". He then embarked for England, sailing from Halifax, Nova Scotia at the end of April 1944, arriving on 7 May.

He was posted for further training to 22 OTU, which was located at the time at RAF Atherstone, some miles to the south of Stratford upon Avon. There he completed his training on the Vickers Wellington X bomber.

On the night of Monday 20 November 1944, Wellington MP509 took off at 2050 hours from Atherstone on a non-operational night cross country exercise. There were six crew members on board, including the Pilot, P/O Charles Hamel. Shortly before 2100 hours the crew radioed that they were having problems with the starboard engine, apparently due to icing, and they were given permission to drop below cloud cover.

Minutes later the aircraft crashed into the terraced southwest face of Carreg Goch, in the area of the Black Mountains in South Wales. The aircraft was completely destroyed and there were no survivors. Other than P/O Hamel, the remaining crew consisted of Flt. Lt. William Allison, Sgt. Joseph Burke, Sgt. Joseph Du Sablon, Sgt. Joseph Groulx and Sgt. Jules Villeneuve. They were all Canadian nationals.

William Allison is buried in the Chester (Blacon) Cemetery.

He is commemorated on Wall Panel 2.

Photo source : [www.veterans.gc.ca](http://www.veterans.gc.ca).