

Sgt. William Andrew Melrose Anderson 1821629 RAFVR



A 626 Squadron Lancaster

William Anderson was the Scottish flight engineer of a 626 Squadron Lancaster that vanished during a raid on Berlin on the night of 30/31 January 1944.

He and his crew had been with 626, at Wickenby, for just nine weeks after completing their training with 1662 Heavy Conversion Unit at Blyton, during which time they had taken part in numerous raids, including several to Berlin.

On the evening of 30 January 1944 they left Wickenby at 1718 hours on board Lancaster ME587 UM-X2, a Mk III Lancaster which had been delivered new to the squadron earlier that month. They were part of a force of 540 aircraft which were routed across Denmark and the Baltic before turning for Berlin and back across Holland and the North Sea. It is likely UM-X2 crashed either over the Baltic or off the Dutch coast, one of 33 aircraft lost during the raid.

William came from Edinburgh and was the son of Samuel and Margaret Anderson. He was 30 years old and, unusually, part of a crew with at least three members over the age of 30.

The others who died were the pilot F/O John Wilkinson, navigator Flt. Sgt. Charles Noad, bomb-aimer P/O Albert Lafferty RCAF, wireless operator Flt. Sgt. Andrew Neeson RAAF, mid-upper gunner Sgt. James Pomeroy and rear gunner P/O Robert Allan RCAF. All are remembered on the Runnymede Memorial.

His name can be found on panel 002.

Sources: Tom Bint, 626 Squadron Association/'Avro Lancaster' by Harry Holmes/'The Berlin Raids' by Martin Middlebrook.

