

Sgt Alexander Lewis Cox 400460 RAAF

Alexander was born on 1 November 1919 in Auburn, Victoria, Australia, the son of Arthur Joseph George Cox and Ethel Cecilia Cox nee Sutton.

Educated at Tullibigeal State School, New South Wales, and Spotswood State School and Footscray Technical College, Victoria, Alexander was employed as a warehouseman and salesman by Isherwood & Bartlett, Melbourne when, in March 1940, he volunteered for aircrew service in the RAAF.

Called up in September 1940, following basic training in Australia, in January 1941 Alexander was sent to Canada to train under the Empire Air Training Scheme. Alexander completed his aircrew training in Canada in June 1941 with the award of his Wings, and he immediately embarked for the UK.



Following advanced training at 11 OTU RAF Bassingbourn, Hertfordshire, where he converted to multi crew/multi engine ops on the Wellington, in September 1941 Alexander was posted to 458 Sqn at RAF Holme-on-Spalding-Moor, Yorkshire.

On 15/16 November 1941 Bomber Command was tasked with an attack on Emden, Lower Saxony, Germany, a significant naval port and industrial hub. A combined force of 49 aircraft, including six 458 Sqn crews, were allocated to the op.

At 17:17 on 15 November Alexander, operating as the 2nd Pilot, and the crew departed RAF Holme-on-Spalding Moor in Wellington IV R1775(FU-).

The last communication from Alexander's aircraft was received at 20:35 whilst they were over the North Sea on the return from the op. Three QDMs (magnetic headings) were sent to the aircraft at the approximate time of ETA back at base, the last being strength 6. Nothing further was heard from the aircraft, and it was assumed that the crew had lost their lives at sea. A square search by six aircraft found no trace of the missing aircraft or crew.

Also Killed: PO Ronald John Furey RAAF (Pilot); PO William Goldman RAAF (Obs); FS Henry William Duffield (AG); Sgt Douglas Bertram Pepper (AG); Sgt Eric Rowland (WOp/AG)



(L-R Goldman; Cox;
Furey; Duffield;
Rowland; Pepper)

Alexander has no known grave and is commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial, Surrey

Alexander is commemorated on Wall Panel 24

Photo Source: IBCC; naa.gov.au