

Sgt. Noel Alexander Lowden 1330594 RAFVR



Noel Lowden was the son of Arthur Albert and Ella Lowden (née Stone) of Arundel Sussex. He married Jessie Grace Brunton in 1940 and had one daughter. Noel died on 30 May 1942 age 24.

Noel was educated at the royal Masonic School, Bushey. Before joining the RAF he was employed by the Westminster Bank at Hove. Sgt. Pilot Lowden took part in many raids on Germany. He was over Cologne one memorable occasion when his plane was hit by flak, but he succeeded in getting back to his base. He also took part in one of the heaviest air attacks on Rostock, from which he returned unscathed.

Noel joined 142 Squadron on 25 March 1942. Here he crewed up with Flt. Lt. Peter Candler (Wireless Operator/Air Gunner), P/O Walter Gregory (Observer/Bomb Aimer), Sgt. Frederick Thornton (Wireless Operator/Air Gunner) and Sgt. Lawrence Mallon (Air gunner). On 30 May 1942, at 2306 hours, the crew took off on their fateful mission, Codenamed 'Operation Millennium', to Cologne.

Noel flew Wellington Z1208 QT-S that night on the first ever 1,000 bomber raid on Cologne. Z1208 was one of two aircraft from 142 Squadron that did not return. Nearly 4% of all aircraft were lost on that night. The exact fate of Z1208 is unclear. All 5 members of the crew are buried at Rheinberg War Cemetery, Germany.

Noel is commemorated on Panel 65.



Sources

142 Squadron Records of Events: Y AIR 27/973/10

www.kentfallen.com

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Pictures

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