

Sgt. Alan McKenzie
1594165 RAFVR



Alan McKenzie was a rear gunner who was killed along with his crew on their 19th operation together.

He was part of the crew of Lancaster LL972 LE-T, of No. 630 Squadron, which was shot down by a night-fighter during a major raid on the port and industrial area of the city of Stettin.

The raid involved 461 Lancasters on the night of 16/17 August 1944, a raid that marked Bomber Command's switch from supporting the battles in France to attacks on German targets.

LL972 had taken off from East Kirkby in Lincolnshire at 2057 hours and was reported to have crashed at Medewtiz, killing all seven crew members plus a 21-year-old second pilot, who had joined the raid for battle experience.

Alan and his crew had joined 630 Squadron early in May 1944, after completing their training, and flew their first operation together in an attack on Amiens on 19 May.

The others who died were the West Indian-born pilot Flt. Lt. Alfred Henriquez, second pilot F/O Walter Filby, flight engineer Sgt. Philip Secretan, navigator Flt. Sgt. Peter Jarvis, bomb-aimer P/O Daniel Carter RCAF, wireless operator Flt. Sgt. Thomas Nottingham and mid-upper gunner Sgt. Ronald Williams. All are buried in Poznan Old Garrison Cemetery.

His name can be found on panel 071.

Sources: 630 Squadron Association.