

P/O Alfred Frederick J/16970 RCAF



F/S WF Austin DFM RAFVR and crew - 103 Squadron - KIA 2nd March 1943.

Alfred Reif was the Canadian navigator in a highly-experienced 103 Squadron crew that was lost without trace following an attack on Berlin on 2 March 1943.

He was 21-years-old when he died and came from Hamilton in Ontario and was the son of Lawrence and Gisella Reif.

After his initial training, he joined the crew of Flt. Sgt. 'Bunny' Austin and they were posted to RAF Elsham Wolds where 103 was in the final stages of converting from Halifaxes to Lancasters.

By the night of 2 March 1943 they had completed 29 sorties in a tour of operations that had already earned the pilot a Distinguished Flying Medal. Their aircraft, W4361 PM-N, left Elsham at 185 hours but nothing further was heard. It was one of 17 Lancasters, Halifaxes and Stirlings lost in an attack involving 302 Bomber Command aircraft.

Killed with him were the pilot Flt. Sgt. W F Austin DFM, flight engineer Sgt. K H Chapman, bomb-aimer Flt. Sgt. P G Roberts RNZAF, wireless operator Sgt. D N D Waite, mid-upper gunner Sgt. D E J Boland and rear gunner Sgt. E J Cook.

All have no known grave and are commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial in Surrey.

Alfred's name can be found on panel 089

Photographic source: Elsham Wolds Association