

WO1 Donald Alexander Joseph Cameron R/65249 RCAF

Donald was born on 17 December 1913 in Mabou, Nova Scotia, Canada, the son of John Donald Cameron and Catherine Cameron nee Beaton.

Educated at Mabou Public School and St Joseph's Convent School, Donald was employed by his father as a Steam Fitter's helper when, in July 1940, he enlisted in the RCAF.

Donald completed his training in Canada in March 1941 with the award of his WOp/AG badge, and in April 1941 he embarked for the UK.

Following advanced training at 19 OTU RAF Kinloss, Scotland, in August 1941 Donald was posted to 77 Sqn at RAF Topcliffe, Yorkshire. On completion of his tour, in April 1942 Donald was posted to instructor duties at 24 OTU RAF Honeybourne, Worcestershire. Volunteering to return to ops, in February 1943 Donald was posted to 138 Sqn at RAF Tempsford, Bedfordshire.

On the night of the 12/13 August 1943, 138 Sqn mounted fifteen sorties in support of the French Resistance. Donald's op, "Op SPRUCE 20 & 21" was the drop of supplies to the Spruce network in the Lyon area.

At 22:30 on the 12 August Donald, operating as the WOp/AG, and the crew departed RAF Tempsford in Halifax II BB334(NF-X).

After the aircraft coasted in at Cabourg, the crew set course for the Loire Islands and descended to 1000ft for the transit. A searchlight caught the Halifax and a single gunshot put the port outer engine on fire. At the same time, Donald's aircraft was attacked by Uffz Ernst Petretti flying a Fw190 of the 2./JG2, resulting in the death of the Rear Gunner. At 23:10 the crew crash landed in an open field near Ecorcei, Orne, France, killing Donald. Of the remaining crew, two evaded, and three were taken as POW.

Also killed: WO1 Allan Gerald Foster RCAF (AG)

Donald is buried in Ecorcei Churchyard, Orne, France

Donald is commemorated on Wall Panel 140

Photo Source: www.veterans.gc.ca

