

WO1 Allan Gerald Foster R/85356 RCAF

Allan was born on 27 November 1919 in Poplar Grove, Saskatchewan, Canada, the son of William Gerald Marriner Foster and Dorothy May Foster nee Hemmingway.

Educated at Whitewood School, Saskatchewan, Allan was employed as a grain buyer by the Canadian Consolidated Grain Company, Saskatchewan and was also a member of the territorial forces, serving with the 110th Field Battery when, in December 1940, he volunteered for aircrew duties in the RCAF.

Called up in February 1941, Allan completed his training in Canada in February 1942 with the award of his Air Gunner badge, and embarked for the UK the following month.

Following advanced training at 14 OTU RAF Cottesmore, Rutland and 1664 HCU RAF Dishforth, Yorkshire, in September 1942 Allan 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. Allan'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 Allan, operating as the Rear Gunner, 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, Allan's aircraft was attacked by Uffz Ernst Petretti flying a Fw190 of the 2./JG2, resulting in his death. At 23:10 the crew crash landed in an open field near Ecorcei, Orne, France, killing th WOp/AG. Of the remaining crew, two evaded, and three were taken as POW.

Also killed: WO1 Donald Alexander Joseph Cameron RCAF (WOp/AG)

Allan is buried in Ecorcei Churchyard, Orne, France

Allan is commemorated on Wall Panel 165

Photo Source: www.veterans.gc.ca

