

FS Alan Arthur Margrett R83550 RCAF

Alan was born on 11 June 1922 in Los Angeles, California, USA, the son of Canadian parents Robert Arthur Margrett and Orlie Grace Margrett nee Mason.

Educated at Bradford School, George Innes School and Montclair High, New Jersey, USA, Alan was employed as an Assistant Church School Superintendent until he enlisted into the RCAF in November 1940.

Alan originally commenced training as a Pilot, but he failed to show the aptitude and was placed in the pool for either Observer or Air Gunner, dependent on the needs of the RCAF. Alan proceeded to the UK in December 1941 and commenced Air Gunner training, receiving his Air Gunner Badge in April 1942. Alan was posted on to 107 Sqn in May 1942 and was promoted to FS the same month.

On 9 June 1942, 107 Sqn deployed 12 aircraft from RAF Great Massingham, Norfolk to RAF Exeter, Devon to participate in the Circus 9 raid on Lannion Airfield, Brittany with fighter escort provided by Spitfires from the Exeter (Czech) Wing.

In the early morning of the 10 June 1942, the 12 aircraft departed but were recalled at 09:07 due to poor weather. A second attempt was to be made when the weather improved. At 12:50 Alan, operating as the Air Gunner, and the crew took off from RAF Exeter in Boston III Z2283 (OM) together with 10 other Bostons. At 13:49, bombs were dropped on the airfield from 12,300 feet and photographs showed a successful strike across two dispersal areas containing many aircraft. On the return journey, when just 25 miles from the English coast, the aircraft were attacked by Me109s from 8/JG-2. Alan's aircraft was hit and seen to crash in to the sea in flames, killing all on board.

Also killed : PO Thurstan Barns Skinner (Pilot); PO Lloyd Douglas Bowman RCAF (Observer); Sgt Arthur Prince DFM (Wop/AG)

Alan has no known grave and is commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial, Surrey

Alan is commemorated on Wall Panel 204

