P/O Ivan Anderson Miller J/15213 RCAF



Ivan was born on 20 September 1913 in Maitland, Nova Scotia, Canada, the son of Archie Cleveland and Annie Maude Miller (née Anderson).

Educated at Roland Public School and Myrtle High School, Manitoba, Ivan was employed on the family farm and as a mechanic when, in June 1940, he applied for aircrew duties with the RCAF.

Called up in September 1940, Ivan completed his flying training in Canada in April 1941 with the award of his wings, and embarked for the UK the following month.

Following advanced training at No. 19 OTU RAF Kinloss, Scotland, Ivan was posted to 78 Squadron at RAF Linton-on-Ouse, Yorkshire, in October 1941. In January 1942 Ivan was posted to 138 Squadron at RAF Tempsford, Bedfordshire, and in February was granted his commission.

On 20/21 April 1942 three 138 Squadron crews were tasked with a Nickel raid over St. Etienne, East Central France. At 2100 hours on 20 April Ivan and his crew departed RAF Tempsford in Whitley V Z9158 (NF-V). Routing via RAF Benson, Selsey Bill and the mouth of the River Somme, Ivan and the crew arrived over the target to discover increasing cloud and a significant blackout that hampered the completion of the op.

On conclusion of the op, the crew had been briefed to land at RAF Tangmere, West Sussex, however, thick mist had descended and an order was given to divert to RAF Boscombe Down, Wiltshire. Despite the use of searchlights to aid the crew, the flarepath was missed due to poor visibility and, at 0415 hours on 21 April, the aircraft crashed at Porton Down Range, Wiltshire, probably as the aircraft was in a turn at low altitude, killing four of th five man crew.

Also killed were the 2nd pilot Sgt. Raymond Fred Shaddick, observer Flt. Sgt. Walter John Edward Lines RCAF and wireless operator/air gunner Sgt. Sydney William Francis Leigh. The injured survivor was the air gunner Sgt. K Hubbard.

Ivan is buried in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey.

Ivan is commemorated on Wall Panel 212.

Photo Source: www.veterans.gc.ca