PO Allen Bruce Pattison J/94414 RCAF



Allen was born on 16 September 1920 in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, the son of Daniel John Pattison and Mary Pattison nee Hope.

Educated at Billing's Bridge Public School and Ottawa Technical High, Ontario, Allen was employed as an apprentice craftsman by the Royal Canadian Mint in Ottawa, Ontario when, in September 1941, he enlisted in the RCAF.

Allen commenced pilot training in Canada; however, when his training was terminated in November 1942 he re-mustered as Air Bomber. In May 1943 Allen was awarded his Air Bomber badge and embarked for the UK the following month.

Following advanced training at 4 (O) Advanced Flying Unit RAF West Freugh, Dumfries, Scotland, 17 OTU RAF Silverstone, Northamptonshire, 1678 HCU Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire and Lancaster conversion at 31 Base, RAF Stradishall, Suffolk, in January 1944 Allen was posted to 514 Sqn at RAF Waterbeach.

On the night of the 30 March 1944, 795 aircraft were dispatched for an attack on Nuremberg. This was the last act of Bomber Harris's "Battle of Berlin", an attempt to destroy German morale by battering its cities night after night before the bomber force turned its attentions to preparing the way for D-Day in June. A direct route, full moon and a new German weapon, the upward firing gun fitted to many fighters, would make this an incredibly challenging and dangerous mission. More than 200 night-fighters based around the Ruhr and the Rhine took to the skies this night. Twenty-one 514 sqn crews were allocated to the op.

At 22:19 Allen, operating as the Bomb Aimer, and the crew departed RAF Waterbeach in Lancaster II LL645 JI-R.

At 05:50 on 31 March returning from the op in the semi-light of dawn and in bad visibility, the Captain informed Flying Control that they were low on fuel and requested an immediate landing. Forced to complete a left-hand circuit due to an aircraft ahead of them, the aircraft descended too low, probably in order to follow the airfield lighting, and the wing tip hit the ground. The aircraft crashed 2 miles SW of RAF Waterbeach, killing Allen and the Mid Upper Gunner.

Also Killed: Sgt Joseph Shepherd (AG)

Allen is buried in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey

Allen is commemorated on Wall Panel 224

Allen was posthumously commissioned, backdated to March 1944

Allen's brother, Signalman John Douglas Pattison, 1st Canadian Division, Royal Canadian Corps of Signals, was killed on 15 December 1943 serving in Italy.

Photo Source: findagrave