PO Alfred Wilfred Prosofsky J/90354 RCAF



Alfred was born on 8 October 1923 in Davidson, Saskatchewan, Canada, the son of Russian born parents Christian Prosofsky and Mary Prosofsky nee Fahlmann.

Educated at Lothian Public School, Davidson, Alfred was employed as an Apprentice Tailor and Steam Presser by New York Tailors, Regina, Saskatchewan when, in December 1942, he enlisted in the RCAF.

Alfred completed his flying training in Canada in October 1943 with the award of his Air Gunner badge and embarked for the UK the following month.

Following advanced training at 22 OTU at RAF Wellesbourne Mountford, Warwickshire, 61 Base, RAF Topcliffe, Yorkshire and 1666 HCU RAF Wombleton, Yorkshire, in June 1944 Alfred was posted to 433 Sqn at RAF Skipton-on-Swale, Yorkshire, transferring to 415 Sqn in July at RAF East Moor, Yorkshire.

On 28/29 July 1944 415 Sqn was tasked with an op to Hamburg, the first heavy raid since the Battle of Hamburg over a year ago. A combined force of 307 aircraft was allocated to the task, including sixteen 415 Sqn crews. This raid was the first op for the squadron on its transfer from Coastal Command to Bomber Command.

At 22:25 Alfred, operating as the Mid Upper Gunner, and the crew departed RAF East Moor, Yorkshire in Halifax LW595 (6U-Q) “Queen of Them All”. Nothing further was heard from the crew.

Post war investigations revealed that Alfred’s aircraft crashed at Stotel, Cuxhaven, south of Bremerhaven, Lower Saxony, killing eight of the nine-man crew. The Bomb Aimer survived and was taken as POW.

Alfred was posthumously commissioned, backdated to 27 July 1944.

Also Killed: FO Dugald Morrison RCAF (Pilot); FO George Kenneth Renaud RCAF (Nav); FO Arthur George Stein RCAF (Pilot); PO Lloyd William McElroy RCAF (AG); PO George Campbell Reason RCAF (WOp/AG); PO Walter Dennis Robertson RCAF (AG); Sgt Angus McLeod MacIver (FE)

Originally Alfred was recorded as having no known grave, and was commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial, Surrey; however, in 1956 his grave was identified at Stotel, and he was moved to the Sage War Cemetery, Niedersachsen, Germany.

Alfred is commemorated on Wall Panel - 229

Photo Source: findagrave