

## F/L Allan John Rate 423892 RAAF

Allan was born on 22 April 1920 in Carlton, New South Wales, Australia, the son of George William Rate and Alice May Rate nee Nolan. Allan was employed as a cost accountant with Nally Ltd, Glebe, new South Wales when, in April 1941, he volunteered for aircrew service in the RAAF.

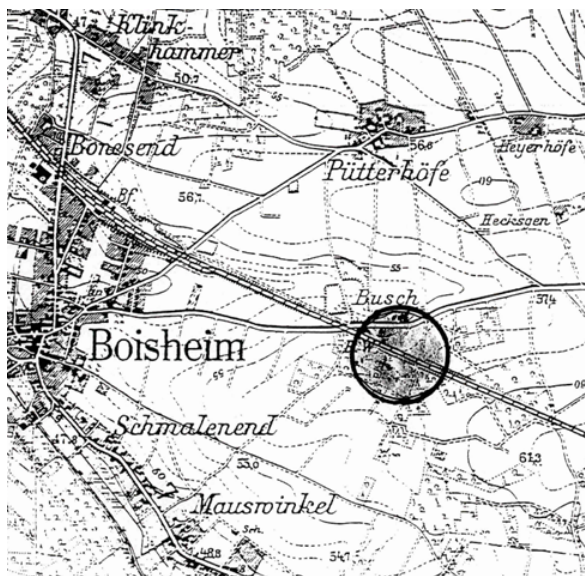
Called up in July 1942, following basic training in Australia, in February 1943 Allan was sent to Canada to complete his training under the Empire Air Training Scheme. In July 1943 Allan was awarded his Wings and immediately embarked for the UK.

Completing advanced training at 3(P) Advanced Flying Unit, RAF South Cerney, Gloucestershire, 21 OTU RAF Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire and 1658 HCU RAF Riccall Yorkshire, in June 1944 Allan was commissioned and in August 1944 he was posted to 462 (RAAF) Sqn at RAF Driffield, Yorkshire. The squadron moved to RAF Foulsham, Norfolk in December.



On 24/25 February 1945, Bomber Command was tasked with operating a diversionary sweep over Northern France to draw enemy fighters into the air.

A combined force of 74 training aircraft was allocated to the op, and 462 (RAAF) Sqn were detailed to carry out a "Spoofing" flight in the Ruhr area. Of the ten squadron aircraft allocated to the op, four failed to return.



At 16:58 on 24 February 1945 Allan and his crew departed RAF Foulsham in Halifax III MZ447(Z5-A).

At 21:30 on 24 February Allan's aircraft was hit by flak and crashed near Boisheim, 2 miles SE of Breyell, Nordrhein-Westfalen Germany, killing seven of the crew (crash site map). The Bomb Aimer survived and was taken as POW.

Also Killed: PO Desmond Noel Kehoe RAAF (AB/SDO); PO Victor Joseph Trunk RAAF (WOp); FS Edwin Joseph Maslin (Nav); Sgt James Holloway (AG); Sgt Malcolm John Husband (AG); Sgt Stewart John Alfred Pegram (FE)

Originally buried in the Breyell Communal Cemetery, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany, in October 1947 Allan was moved to the Reichswald Forest War Cemetery,

Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany.

Allan is commemorated on Wall Panel 230

Photo Source: AWM