

Flt Lt Allan Frayne Penhale J/22610 RCAF

Allan was born on 1 October 1920 in Exeter, Ontario, Canada, the only son of Asa John Penhale and Venetta Margaret Penhale nee Frayne.

Educated at Stephen Public School and Exeter High, Allan also completed a correspondence course in Diesel Engineering through the Chicago Vocational Institute, Illinois, USA.

Allan had a variety of jobs, including working with various music bands, before joining the RCAF in December 1941 in London, Ontario.

Allan completed his Wireless training at Guelph, Ontario and was badged in November 1942. His Gunnery training followed and he was further badged in December 1942.

In May 1943 Allan arrived in the UK and completed further training before he was attached to Coastal Command and in October 1943 was based in Gibraltar. Returning early in 1944, Allan was posted to 161 Sqn at RAF Tempsford, Bedfordshire in March 1944.

On 20 March 1945, 161 Sqn despatched 8 Stirlings and 5 Hudsons tasked with dropping agents and supplies to the resistance. At 21:20 Allan, operating as the WOp/AG, and the crew departed RAF Tempsford, Bedfordshire in Hudson III T9445 (NA-O) tasked with dropping an agent behind enemy lines at Remagen, Germany on Op Norvic, a sabotage mission.

The agent was successfully dropped but, on the return to the UK in the early hours of 21 March, the Hudson, thought to be a Dornier, was mistakenly shot down by a USAAF P-61 Black Widow night fighter from the 422nd Night Flying Sqn, based at Florrenes/Juzaine Airfield, Belgium. The Hudson crashed at Fraiture near Samre, 30 miles E of Namur, Belgium, killing all on board.

The aircraft crash site was located on 22 March 1945 by a detachment of American Army personnel, and buried the crew at the crash site.

Also killed : Flt Lt Richard Ameen Nicholas Ferris RCAF (Pilot); FO James Edward Traill RCAF (WOp/AG); WO1 Robert Gerald Hutton RCAF (Nav)

Originally buried at the scene of the crash, in November 1946 Allan's remains were transferred to Heverlee War Cemetery, Vlaams-Brabant, Belgium

Allan is commemorated on Wall Panel 271

Photo Source: www.veterans.gc.ca

