Sgt Tom Allan Auld 406320 RAAF

Tom was born on 25 June 1917 in Cottesloe, Western Australia, the son of Josiah Auld and Emma Bertha Auld nee Jackson. In July 1941 he married Dorothy Jean Hindle in Victoria, Australia.

Educated at Goomarin and Claremont State Schools, and Perth Technical College, Tom was employed as a bookkeeping and auditing clerk in Perth, Western Australia when, in May 1940, he applied for aircrew service in the RAAF.

Called up in November 1940, Tom completed his aircrew training in Australia in July 1941 with the award of his Observer badge, and he embarked for the Middle East in September.

Arriving at Wadi Gazouza, Sudan, Tom commenced advanced training on 211 Sqn, a reserve training unit which was absorbed into 72 OTU in November.

In January 1942 Tom was posted to 223 Sqn at LG99 RAF Shandur, Egypt where they were in transition from the Maryland to the Baltimore. The squadron resumed full time bomber ops in May from LG140 Bir el Baheira.

On 8 June 1942 six 223 Sqn crews were allocated to a raid on Barce Landing Ground, an Italian Air Force base about 50 miles NE of Benghazi, Libya.

At 11:52 on 8 June Tom, operating as the Navigator, and the crew, flying in a box of six, departed LG140 in Baltimore II AG777.

Whilst over the target, a bomb prematurely detonated, destroying Tom's aircraft, killing all on board, and damaging two others in the formation.

Also killed: FS Robert Charles Addison Ash RAAF (WOp/AG); Sgt Sidney Montague Moore (AG); Sgt Frederick John Alfred Saunders RAAF (Pilot)

Originally buried in the Barce Military Hospital Cemetery, in August 1944 Tom was moved to the Benghazi War Cemetery, Libya

Tom is commemorated on Wall Panel - NYE