FO Alan Charles Wiggins 153253 RAFVR



Alan was born on 7 August1922 in Abingdon, Berkshire, the son of Harry Wiggins and Julia Ellen Wiggins nee Moldin.

Educated at Abingdon School, Alan was employed as an assistant brewer by Morland's Brewery in Abingdon when he volunteered for aircrew duties in the RAF.

Qualified as a Navigator, following further training at 13 OTU, RAF Bicester, Oxfordshire, and 2 Group Support Unit, RAF Swanton Morley, Norfolk, in August 1944 Alan was posted to 21 Sqn at RAF Thorney Island, West Sussex.

At 23:59 on the 28 September Alan, operating as the Navigator, and his pilot departed RAF Thorney Island in Mosquito VI NT179 (YH), one of eleven 21 Sqn aircraft tasked with attacks on the Rheine-Munster-Hann Railway, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany, and a small area east of the battle lines.

On return from the raid inside enemy territory, Alan's aircraft approached Brussels on a track and height that was identified as suspicious by an RAF ground control interception radar unit. Alan's Mosquito was not transmitting IFF (Identification, Friend or Foe) and thus the GCI controller was unable to determine whether this was a friendly or enemy aircraft, and the Mosquito was eventually considered an enemy aircraft. A controlled interception was made by a Mosquito from 219 Sqn.

At 02:44 on 29 September Alan's Mosquito crashed at Wolfshagen near Neerijse, 9 miles SE of Base 58 (Melsbroek aerodrome), killing both crew. The crew were buried at the crash site with a British Padre officiating and 21 Belgian soldiers in attendance. In August 1946 both men were re-located to the Leopoldsburg War Cemetery, Limburg, Belgium.

Also killed: FO George Dewar MacLeod RCAF (Pilot)

Alan is buried in Leopoldsburg War Cemetery, Limburg, Belgium

Alan is commemorated on Wall Panel – Not Yet Erected

Photo Source: Abingdon School