FO Alan William Wilson 416568 RNZAF



Alan was born on 17 February 1923 in Invercargill, South Island, New Zealand, the son of Charles David Wilson and Olive Alice Catherine Wilson nee Scott.

Educated at Christchurch Boys' High School and Canterbury University College, Alan was employed as an electrical engineer by the District Engineering Department of the Public Works Department, Christchurch when, in February 1940, he applied for service in the RNZAF.

Called up in November 1941, following basic pilot training in New Zealand, in March 1942 Alan was sent to Canada to train under the Empire Air Training Scheme. In May 1942 Alan's pilot training was terminated and he re-mustered as Observer. In March 1943 Alan was awarded his Navigator badge, granted a commission and embarked for the UK the following month.

Following advanced training at 62 OTU RAF Usworth, Durham, and 54 OTU RAF Charterhall, Berwick on Tweed, in October 1943 Alan was posted to 488 Sqn at RAF Bradwell Bay, Essex where he converted to the Mosquito.

On the night of 24/25 March 1944, Alan was scrambled on a night coastal patrol over the Thames Estuary. At 22:55 on 24 March 1944, Alan and his Pilot departed RAF Bradwell Bay in Mosquito XII HK222 (ME-).

Information from the GCI Sector Operations confirmed that at 02:00 on 25 March Alan was closing in on a fleeing Luftwaffe aircraft and, just as the 'Tallyho' was expected, the plots ceased and nothing more was heard from the crew. Their last known position was off the North Foreland, near Ramsgate, Kent. This was Alan's 19th op.

Also Killed: FO Chisholm Martyn Wilson RNZAF (Pilot)

Alan has no known grave and is commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial, Surrey

Alan is commemorated on Wall Panel - NYE

Photo Source: aucklandmuseum.com