



EDWARD SUDBURY ALEXANDER

J/15543

Squadron leader.

Family affairs.

Edward Sudbury Alexander was born on August 11th 1920 in Hornsea, Yorkshire, England. Exactly 21 years later, on August 11th 1941 he married with Karenena Rosalia Sawchuck. They lived in Montreal, Quebec. He was the son of Dare Robertson Alexander and Mary Sybil Sudbury. His father was a shipper. He had 2 brothers Robert Remfry en Donald Robertson and 1 sister Mildred Helen.

14 years old Edward left the school and went to the Lord Byng High School for 4 years with photography as a speciality. Thereafter still 1 year typing and bookkeeping at the Bitman Business College. He enjoyed sports in general but was not active in anyone special. His greatest hobby was scouting. After his study he worked half a year as a reporter at World Wide News, followed by 2 years as a clerk at the Dominion Bank Vancouver.

Military affairs.

20 years old he was enlisted in Vancouver on September 11th 1941 for the Reserve for the Canadian Air Force. On June 4th 1942 he was enlisted at the Royal Canadian Air Force. His training was until August 23th 1942 consecutively in Brandon en Vancouver(British Columbia), then in Regina and Mossbank(Saskatchewan) and Halifax(Nova Scotia) before he left to Great Britain.

On January 14th 1944 He was killed because his plane crashed in in the neighborhood of Barsingerhorn/Kolhorn, Noord-Holland after a raid op Brunswick(Germany). He was temporarily buried in Huisduinen(Den Helder), Y(0787), graves 214-215-216. May 29th 1947 he is reburied on the British War Cemetary in Bergen op Zoom, plot 29, row B, collective grave 2(A).

The Commonwealth War Grave Commission says that he was 24 years old, when he died. That must be 23 year.



Remarks.

- On his tombstone is written: "My love goes with you my darling".
- He received the 1939-45 Star, Canadian Volunteer Service Medal & CLASP, Aircrew Europe Star and the Distinguished Flying Cross and Medal..
- Total earnings in 28 months active service were 958.32 \$(Canadian).
- In May 1943 the excellent navigation of Edward Sudbury Alexander was responsible for the safe landing of a plane that was severely damaged on the rear and hydraulic system. The rear gunner was locked up at the landing. Despite Edward also was slightly wounded at his arm he forced two doors with an axe and freed the rear gunner.
- In the night from January 14/15th 1944 his plane (Lancaster) crashed at Barsingerhorn/Kolhorn. An eye witness, a butcher Mr. A. van Zoonen, describes that the plane makes a crater of about 6 metres dept, which immediately was filled with water out of a 2 metres broad mill stream, which flew next to it. According him Germans merely removed wings and motors, which were spread over a great area.
- The crew existed, besides Edward Sudbury Alexander, out of 6 English soldiers, named N.R. Mansfield (43707), C.R. Swinney (52075), V.N. Cawdery (1316026), G.N. Penrose (80423), B.A. Trott (169548) en C.H. Lawrance (1268110). The crash was so intense that only pieces of limbs were found, for instance two heads of a white and a dark man. That is why only 2 members could be identified, B.A. Trott and C.H. Lawrance. They were buried in grave 215 resp. 216 in Huisduinen, the other in a collective grave 214.
- 6 years after his reburial his family got to know this. This turned out of a letter from his mother of August 6th 1953 to the Minister of Defence, although the latter send on September 9th 1948 a letter to his widow. Because she removed several times in that period, the letter is probably not arrived at the right address.
- The Ancestry file contain a number of letters his widow send to the Minister of Defence. Most of them go about personal belongings which she wanted to receive or about financial allowance which she hoped to get because she was in financial troubles. Because of her bad handwriting the letters are difficult to understand what she really means.
- His two former employers had very positive references about him as also the scouting. The latter awarded him even a special medal.