Alan Lodge





Rank: - Pilot Officer (Air Gunner)

Number: - 100631

Regiment: - Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve 40 Squadron Code letters BL

Died: - 26th October 1941 aged 26

Cemetery: - Wyton (St. Margaret and All Saints) Churchyard Houghton and Wyton, Hunts.

Batley News, 1 Nov 1941 (photo)

Alan was born in 1915 the son of Willie and Ada Lodge (nee Shaw, m. 1899, registered Dewsbury) Raymond Hutton was born in 1900, Marshall Shaw 1902, Eric 1909. William was a specialist bone setter and lived at "Holmefield" Whitaker Street, Batley.

Alan attended Batley Grammar School and served in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. He volunteered in April 1940 as an aircraft man, became a sergeant –gunner and as then promoted to a pilot-officer. He was friends, before

his marriage, with two Canadians, Pilot-Officer Roy Fielding and Pilot-Officer “Bud” Saunders and the three had been inseparable being in the same crew. They had to toss to see who was to be best man at Alan’s wedding to Miss Kathleen Joan Thomas of Raglan Circus, Weston-super-Mare. Roy won the toss and “Bud” was the groomsman. This was only seven weeks before Alan was killed. “Bud” Saunders lost his life in the same plane and Roy Fielding was missing after a raid on Germany. The couple were looking forward to a visit to Batley and spoke on the phone to his parents, probably within hours of his death.

Ten airmen were killed when Wellington (X 9974) aircraft crashed soon after take-off from RAF Hampstead Norris. The Wellington had set out on a ferry mission

The ten casualties were: -

RAF Sergeant Edward John Beard, RCAF Sergeant David Young Nurse Crosby, RAFVR Corporal George Ian Frederick Davies, RAFVR Sergeant Victor John Hale, RAF Flight Sergeant Harry Higginson, RCAF Sergeant Allister Nelson Irving, RAFVR Pilot Officer Alan Lodge, LAC Clifford Robson, Pilot Officer Clyffurde George Randall Saunders and Sgt. Hoyt Leslie Steadman (Canadian).

Alan was awarded the 1939-45 Star; 1939-1945 War Medal

He is remembered with Honour at Batley Grammar School; Royal Air Forces Association Club, Batley and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group