

HENRY, F/L Meredith Allen "Al" (J/19136), RCAF [bomb aimer]

e-mail from Tim Henry (son) on 02 April 2012:

a) Al initially joined the army in 1939 however was successful in getting transferred into the Air Force sometime in 1940. He did his training in Halifax and on one of his leaves prior to going overseas he married my mother Jan 16, 1942.

Flights with C. G. Ford (8 operational flights):

18 March 1944, Halifax NA-H, Operations - Heligoland, gardening (5:15 night)
21 March 1944, Halifax II NA-A, Kiel, recalled (3:00 night)
22 March 1944, Halifax II NA-A, Operations - Kiel, gardening (7:40 night)
23 March 1944, Halifax II NA-A, Operations - Laon, railway yards (6:45 night)
25 March 1944, Halifax II NA-A, air test (0:50 day)
26 March 1944, Halifax II NA-A, Operations - Coutrai, marshalling yards (5:20 night)
29 March 1944, Halifax II NA-A, air test (0:30 day)
29 March 1944, Halifax II NA-A, Operations - Paris, marshalling yards (6:40 night)
30 March 1944, Halifax NA-H, Operations - Heligoland, gardening (5:15 night)
13 April 1944, Halifax NA-J, Operations - Le Havre, mining (4:25 night)
14 April 1944, Halifax NA-L, air test (0:30 day)

e-mail from Tim Henry (son) on 02 April 2012:

b) Final rank was Flight Lieutenant.

c) He came back to Canada to the best of anyone's recollection mid-1945 (probably June as my oldest sister, Judy was born 9 months later on March 20, 1946). Al signed up for another tour of duty but the war came to an end before he was sent back.

d) After the war my folks lived in Lindsay for a few years but relocated to Cambridge, Ontario (then Galt, Ontario) where he became the Canadian Sales Manager for an agricultural chemical company (Galt Chemicals) where he worked for the remainder of his working life (retired when he was 71). Given our ancestors were primarily agricultural from the Lindsay area, he loved crossing the countryside talking with his farm customers and the salesmen that worked for him.

e) Al died on his 89th birthday (August 17, 2008) in a nursing home in Cambridge surrounded by his family members.

Al and Irene (my mom) had 3 children (Judy - born March 20/46; Beth - born May 24/48 and me - born Nov 27/58 (either an afterthought, or they save the best 'til last). Very productive lot, so Al and Irene have 11 grandchildren and now 6 great grandchildren (with presumably many more to follow).

References:

1. RCAF Pilot's Flying Log Book
F/L C. G. Ford, DFC
2. 6 Group RCAF, 428 Squadron, nose art
<http://www.6grouprcaf.com/428noseart.html>
3. Mr. Tim Henry, c/o Royal Bank of Canada, Wellington Tower, 181 Bay Street, Toronto, ON, M5J 2T3 (416)842-3020 <tim.henry@rbc.com>