

REILANDER, S/L Aloyis Valentine (J/20359), RCAF [training officer]

Posted to #428 Ghost Squadron. Date?

Operational flights with P/O C. G. Ford:

22 August 1943, Halifax V NA-G, Operations - Leverkusen [N.C.O.] (4:45 night)

23 August 1943, Halifax V NA-G, Operations - Berlin [D.N.C.O.] (1:55 night)

27 August 1943, Halifax V NA-G, Operations - Nuremberg (8:45 night)

30 August 1943, Halifax V NA-G, Operations - Muenden-Gladback (6:45 night)

September 1943

Signed RCAF Pilot's Flying Log Book of P/O C. G. Ford

October 1943

Signed RCAF Pilot's Flying Log Book of F/O C. G. Ford

November 1943

Signed RCAF Pilot's Flying Log Book of F/O C. G. Ford

Training Flight with C. G. Ford:

03 January 1944, Halifax II NA-A, air test (1:00 day), S/L A. V. Reilander passenger

Transferred to 424 Tiger Squadron. Date?

#424 Tiger Squadron (February 1944 operations)

"The 15th, however, brought weather in which the heavies could operate in force and a very large contingent, the largest to date, visited Berlin for the 15<sup>th</sup> time in the series on which more than 8,300 aircraft had been despatched. A diversionary raid against Frankfurt on the same night had a few R.C.A.F. kites along. The route chosen elicited the approval of most crews, although one or two reported much-strengthened night fighter forces assisted by bags of flares over Denmark. A few combats ensued in which little damage was done to our kites who gave as good as they got. There was some bad flak and a small amount of icing but to most of the bombers it was merely a quiet flip over complete cloud cover. The cloak of cloud lying over the land continued all the way to the target where the tips rose to between 15 and 17,000 feet. Flak in a wide barrage form was tremendous around the aiming point, but the effectiveness of the searchlights was minimized by the heavy clouds. Aided by expert target marking the successive waves pressed home a most concentrated attack and soon pillars of smoke were rising three to four miles. Though the attack had developed rapidly and had all the earmarks of a good do, exact assessment of the results was extremely difficult. Our losses on this raid were much below average, though two experienced crews skippered by S/L A. V. Reilander of the Tigers and S/L F. Carter of the Bluenoses were among those who did not return."

Type: Halifax Serial Number: HX311 Squadron: 424, X1D Desig: QB-A

Operation: Berlin Date: 15th February 1944 / 16th February 1944

HX311 Mk. III. Delivered by Handley Page (Cricklewood & Radlett) between 26Nov43 and 08Jan44

Airborne 1721h on 15Feb44 from Skipton-on-Swale

Cause of loss not established, crashed at Ahrensfelde, 13 km NE from the centre of Berlin, where all eight (8) are buried in the 1939-45 War Cemetery

Reference:

1. Lost Bombers  
<http://www.lostbombers.co.uk/bomber.php?id=7369>
2. RCAF Pilot's Flying Log Book, C. G. Ford (J/21392)
3. 424 Squadron Research Project  
<http://www.rcaf424.ca/ROLL%20CALL/rollcallpqr.htm>
4. Commonwealth War Graves  
[http://www.cwgc.org/search/casualty\\_details.aspx?casualty=2760777](http://www.cwgc.org/search/casualty_details.aspx?casualty=2760777)
5. 1939-1945 cemetery  
[http://www.mehrow.de/Geschichte/1900\\_bis\\_1945/RAF-Bomber/HX311\\_Hf\\_Feb44\\_Ahrensfelde.html](http://www.mehrow.de/Geschichte/1900_bis_1945/RAF-Bomber/HX311_Hf_Feb44_Ahrensfelde.html)
6. Airforce Association of Canada  
<http://airforce.ca/uploads/airforce/2009/07/ALPHA-RE.R1.html>  
(no medals or awards noted)
7. The R.C.A.F. Overseas, The Fifth Year (Chapter 4, p.70)  
[http://www.ibiblio.org/hyperwar/UN/Canada/RCAF/Fifth/RCAF\\_Overseas\\_vol2\\_e.pdf](http://www.ibiblio.org/hyperwar/UN/Canada/RCAF/Fifth/RCAF_Overseas_vol2_e.pdf)
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