

Hunt, Allan William

Age: 27
Nationality: Australian
Rank: Pilot/Officer
Unit: No. 32 OTU
Occupation: Pilot
Service No: 420343 (RAAF)

Birth: 9 December 1915
Enfield, Sydney,
NSW, Australia

Home Town: Sydney
NSW, Australia

Death: 14 March 1943

Crash of Handley Page Hampden P5433
Saanich Inlet, B.C., Canada

Burial: Woodlawn Cemetery, Saskatoon, SK, Canada

Others: P/O Reginald Keith Manttan, Pilot, RAAF; P/O Grant Leroy Hall, Navigator, RCAF; Sgt. Howard Shurwin Piercy. WAG, RCAF.



Biography

Allan Hunt, a theatre manager at the Minerva Theatre, Walsh Bay, enlisted in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, on 1 October 1941, hoping to join an air crew.

Allan had been educated at Sydney Grammar School, where for two years he was on the senior athletic team and had been in the Militia from July 1938 to March 1939. He was accepted for aircrew and trained under the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan at No. 8 Elementary Flying School in Narrandera, NSW, from 4 February to 29 April 1942, after which he was sent to Canada to complete his pilot training.

Allan arrived at No. 5 Manning Depot in Lachine, Quebec on 20 June 1942 and was sent the following day to No.4 Service Flying Training School in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. He was commissioned as Pilot Officer and received his pilot's wings on 9 October 1942 and on that same day he married Grace Vivian (maiden name unknown). At the graduation dinner for his class in Saskatoon, Allan was chosen to give the toast for the Instructors on behalf of all the students

From 31 October to 29 December 1942, Allan was at General Reconnaissance School at Summerside, P.E.I. and on 9 January 1943 he was posted to No. 32 OTU at Patricia Bay in British Columbia. His wife travelled with him to BC and lived on Craigmiller St. in Victoria.

On 14 March 1943, Allan was the pilot of Handley Page Hampden P5433 when it crashed into Saanich Inlet while flying at low level. His was the only body recovered from the sea and he is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery in Saskatoon, SK, Canada.

Allan was born in Enfield, a suburb of Sydney, NSW, Australia, on 9^h December 1915, to William Barton Hunt and Lilian May Pearce. He had no known siblings. After his death his wife emigrated to Australia where she lived with Allan's parents. She later married an American and moved to Texas, USA.



Graduating class 9th October 1942, Sakatoon. Alan is 12th from the left in the 2nd row.



Graduating class from Course 58, No.4 SFTS, Saskatoon. Allan is second from right, front row.

These students are all members of the RAAF except the second from the right in the middle row.

Details of Crash

On 14 March 1943, Handley Page Hampden P5433 carried a crew of four, two Canadians and two Australians:

Allan William Hunt	P/O RAAF	Pilot
Reginald Keith Manttan	P/O RAAF	Navigator
Grant Leroy Hall	P/O RCAF	Wireless Operator/Air Gunner
Howard Shurwin Piercy	Sgt RCAF	“ “

The purpose of the flight was to practice low flying over water at night.

The aircraft was seen to crash into the water in Saanich Inlet. The cause of the crash was not apparent. It was suggested an earlier accident with this Hampden could have had some bearing on it, but this was dismissed. The only body recovered was that of the pilot.



