

## Allan Thompson



Photo thanks to Bill Berry

**Rank:** - Flight Sergeant

**Number:** - 1111877

**Regiment:** - Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve 15 Sqdn. Roll: Air Gunner

**Died on final RAF raid on Berlin:** - 24/03/1944 Age: 24 years

**Cemetery:** - Rheinberg War Cemetery, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany 11. E. 14.

**Epitaph:** - FORTITER NON IGNAVE (Latin: Bravely and without cowardice)

Allan was born in Batley on the 29 January 1920, the son of Harry and Lily Thompson nee Oxley. He attended Batley Grammar School. In 1939 he was living with his parents at 16 Oakdene, Soothill Lane, Batley and his father was employed as an elementary school teacher.

The date when Allan enlisted in the Royal Air Force has not been found but he was on board Avro Lancaster 111 LM 441 LS-T along with W.G. Grove, F.G. Holland, A.R. Jackson, J.A. Jackson, J.A. Sills and I. Tvrdeich . They left Mildenhall for what would be the last major raid on Berlin. A force of 811 aircraft carried out the attack on the night of 24-25 March 1944 and losses were 72 aircraft (8.9%). The night was known as the “night of the strong winds”, a very powerful wind from the north tended to push the aircraft south at every stage of the operation. As a result, the bomber stream became very scattered, allowing fighters to pick off stragglers, although 50 of the aircraft lost were hit by flak. The aircraft in which Allan was in was hit by flak on the homeward leg and crashed north of Bonn.

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

He is remembered with Honour at Hanging Heaton War Memorial (St Paul's); Batley Grammar School; Royal Air Forces Association Club, Batley and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of  
Batley History Group