

On December 3, 1943, at 23:38, Flying Officer Alexander William Edgar took off in his Halifax bomber ("P" LX968) for a night raid destined for Leipzig. He and his crew were shot down and burned over Hustedt, Germany in the early morning hours of December 4. The seven-man crew was initially buried by German locals in graves marked "Unknown American," however, in 1947, his body was "discovered" by the men of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and identified only by the names on the clothing of the two bodies adjoining his. Edgar's body was burned too badly for positive identification. The bodies were exhumed and reburied in a Commonwealth War Grave in Hanover cemetery, Germany.

The RCAF Operations Record Book entry for the day reads as follows:

"3rd Dec. (1) For the third day running, Operations were called for, and fourteen crews took off for a raid on Leipzig. P/O Rubie returned early with one engine feathered, and F/S Hewetson returned with overload tank not functioning properly. All returning crews landed after daybreak, the average time being 8:45 hours, the longest trip undertaken so far by the squadron. Unfortunately, four crews did not return: Pilots – J6276 S/L R.G. Cook, J24430 F/O A.W. Edgar, R119578 F/S R.W. Ritchie, 1335994 F/S F. Long. These included some of the finest in our Squadron."

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Re: William Edgar

Hello sir,

I researched the name of your cousin on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and according to their database your cousin is buried in Hanover cemetery in Germany.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission is the organisation that supervise and take care of war cemeteries in Europe.

I had a look on the Maple Leaf Legacy project list and we've taken pictures of half of the casualties in Hanover cemetery.

Here is the information that the Commonwealth War Graves Commission do have on Alexander William Edgar

Name:	EDGAR, ALEXANDER WILLIAM
Initials:	A W
Nationality:	Canadian
Rank:	Flying Officer (Pilot)
Regiment:	Royal Canadian Air Force
Unit Text:	431 Sqdn.
Age:	23
Date of Death:	04/12/1943
Service No:	J/24430
Additional information:	Son of Charles and Margaret Edgar;

Casualty Type: husband of Mary Rita Edgar, of Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.  
Commonwealth War Dead  
Grave/Memorial Reference: 6. A. 17.  
Cemetery: HANOVER WAR CEMETERY

Hope this will help you.

Nelson Mercier