



CANSO 9879

Crashed ~ 30 July, 1943

Flight Crew of 9879 9 BR Squadron Bella Bella

Pilot - PO JA Joseph J23027 - slight injury

2nd Pilot - FSgt KL Brown R122924 - slight injury

1st Nav WO1 - LR Travis R91892 - slight injury

2nd Nav PO - JL Jones 27441 - serious burns

1st WAG FO - RB Shirra J13152 - serious burns

2nd WAG - Sgt HAS Rawlinson R140236- uninjured

WM SGT - EA Kershsaw R72192 - slight injury

1st FE Sgt - JA Cowman R75569 - killed

2nd FE LAC - WJ Johnston R118425 - serious burns

REQUIESCAT EN PACE FRATRES

On the 30 July 1943 a sub had been sighted earlier and Canso 9879 was sent on an urgent patrol. The weather was 800' and three miles with light drizzle, the sea was calm. The aircraft became airborne at 0552 after an abnormally long run and circled while climbing to 700'. Seaforth Channel to the west was closed by fog so they headed south via Lama Passage. The ceiling lowered and they descended to stay under cloud, but the fog closed in and the pilot attempted to return to base on a reciprocal course. Altitude could not be maintained in the 35 degree turn. The aircraft was levelled off after turning through 120 degrees and put into a steep climbing position. The speed had dropped to 70 kts when the pilot saw a wooded ridge and was down to 50kts on impact, 100' short of an 800' ridge. They had been airborne five minutes. On impact the aircraft caught fire. The crew escaped from the aircraft but could not find Sgt Cowman. They headed down the hill to Alarm Cove where they saw a Fire Ranger in a rowboat which three of them took and set off for Bella Bella. A fishing boat picked them up and dropped them off at Bella Bella store to phone the station. The search crew found Sgt Cowman's body. He had been killed in the crash.



Veterans Affairs Canada
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The Denny Island Community
Development Association