

**F/O David Kenneth
Adair J/29705 RCAF**

Aircrew Remembered

David Adair was the Canadian bomb-aimer of a 101 Squadron crew lost on their first operation.

He was one of four Canadians in the eight-man crew of ABC-equipped Lancaster III LM474 SR-N2 which was shot down over Holland en route to the target, the Sterkrade synthetic oil plant near Oberhausen on the night of 16/17 June 1944.



Five of the crew, including all the Canadians, were killed, the other three became prisoners of war.

Their aircraft had left RAF Ludford Magna shortly before midnight as part of a force of 321 bombers to attack the oil plant in Germany's Ruhr Valley. Their Lancaster was intercepted at 20,000 feet by a Ju88 night fighter flown by Oblt Alfons Köster and crashed in flames on the edge of Volkel airfield, near Uden in Holland.

David came from Winnipeg and was the son of David and Mildred Adair.

He and his crew had been posted to 101 Squadron a week before their aircraft was lost. They were joined on the operation by a special operator whose job it was to use the aircraft's electronic counter-measures equipment to jam night fighter transmissions.

Those who died with him were the pilot F/O Gordon Welch RCAF, special operator Sgt. Ronald James, mid-upper gunner P/O John Winder RCAF and rear gunner Sgt. Willard Ireland RCAF. F/O Adair is buried in the Canadian War Cemetery at Groesbeek and the others in the Uden War Cemetery. Those who survived were the flight engineer Sgt. B Towse, navigator F/O Duncan McKillop and wireless operator Sgt. P West.

David's name can be found on IBCC panel 001.

Photographic source: Aircrew Remembered.