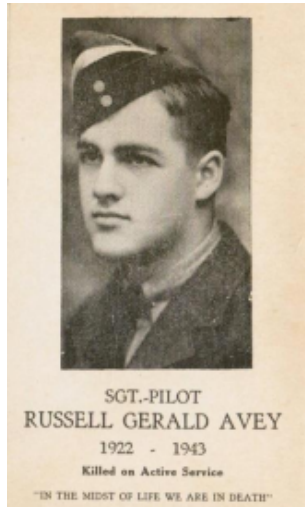


Flt. Sgt. Gerald Russell Avey R/99993 RCAF



The Crew



Rene Grey Russell John Alan
Landry Cumberbatch Avey Robinson Spence

Scratch marks appearing on the aircraft were made by the censor

Russell was the Pilot of 100 Squadron Lancaster III ED549 HW-S when he was killed on 5 March 1943.

Russell was born on 15 February 1922 in Norwich, Ontario, Canada. His father James Arthur Avey was Canadian, but his Mother Agnes Charlotte Williams (maiden name) was from Bristol, England.

He lists his hobbies as hockey, swimming, baseball, flying and making model aeroplanes on his application form. The interviewer's remarks state – "Rugged type- has private pilot's licence. Made application to obtain correspondence course from Canadian Legion War Service to bring education up to Pilot/Observer standard. Appears Pilot material"

He and his crew took off at 1832 hours from Grimsby on 4 March 1943 on a Gardening Operation (mine-laying) but crashed at 0308 hours while trying to land at Langar in Nottinghamshire. All but one of the crew, Sgt. D S Davies, were killed.

The full crew comprised:

Flt. Sgt. G R Avey RCAF Pilot - killed
Sgt. B T Hallett Flight Engineer - killed
Sgt. A H Spence Navigator - killed
Sgt. G D Cumberbatch Air Bomber - killed
Sgt. J Robinson Wireless Operator - killed
Sgt. D S Davies Air Gunner - injured
Flt. Sgt. R S Landry RCAF Air Gunner - killed

Russell is buried in St Swithun's Churchyard, Long Bennington

Gerald Russell Avey can be found on panel 004

Photographic source - The last crew of Lancaster ED549 memorial booklet – Tim Chamberlain and Michael Hardwick