

F/O Clare Edward Brooks J/35328 RCAF

Clare was born on 26 February 1913 in Young's Point, Peterborough, Ontario, Canada, the son of William Edward Brooks and Helena Brooks (née Kearney). In October 1942 he married Helen Frances McDiarmid in Toronto.

Educated at Young's Point Public School, Peterborough Collegiate and Vocational College, Clare was employed as an aero engine fitter by the De Havilland Aircraft Company when, in October 1941, he applied for service in the RCAF.

Called up in June 1942, Clare completed his aircrew training in Canada in September 1943 with the award of his wings and was granted a commission. In October 1943 Clare embarked for the UK.

Following advanced training at 83 OTU RAF Peplow, Shropshire, and Lancaster conversion at 11 Base, on 31 August 1944 Clare was posted to No. 101 Squadron at RAF Ludford Magna, Lincolnshire.



At 1905 hours on 13 September 1944 Clare and his crew departed RAF Ludford Magna in Lancaster III PB456 SR-D, on a cross-country training flight. This was Clare's first flight on the squadron.

At 2210 hours on 13 September witnesses described the aircraft breaking cloud and, already on fire, the Lancaster broke up before hitting the ground 3 miles East of Drymen, SE of Loch Lomond, killing all on board. The forward and rear fuselage, tailplanes, outer wings and outer engines had separated from the main body of the aircraft before impact.

Despite an investigation by the Accident Investigation Branch, the cause of the crash was not determined.

The other members of the crew who died with him were the flight engineer Sgt. Francis Alfred William Blerkom, air bomber F/O Lloyd George Peardon RCAF, wireless operator/air gunner Flt. Sgt. Victor Jack Ward, navigator Sgt. Edmund Foweather, air gunner Sgt. John Ridley Stokes RCAF and air gunner Sgt. James Watt RCAF.

Clare is buried in Dumbarton Cemetery, Dunbartonshire, Scotland.

Clare is commemorated on IBCC Wall Panel 13.

Source: www.veterans.gc.ca (photo)/lakefieldwarvets.ca/CASPIR