

FO Rodney Sigsworth Campsall MiD J/18

Rodney was born on 31 May 1917 in Hartington, Ontario, Canada, the only son of Harry Campsall and Caroline Maude Campsall nee Sigsworth.

Educated at Hartington Public School and Sydenham High, Ontario, Rodney was employed on the family farm when, in April 1940, he volunteered for service with the RCAF.

Called up in June 1940, Rodney completed his training in Canada in January 1941 with the award of his Air Gunner badge, and he embarked for the UK immediately.

Rodney served with 409 Sqn and 425 Sqn, including overseas service in North Africa in the summer of 1943, and also completed instructor duties at 7 Air Gunnery School, RAF Stormy Down, Bridgend, Wales.



Commissioned in July 1943, Rodney was Mentioned in Despatches in January 1944. On 17 April 1944 Rodney was posted to 101 Sqn at RAF Ludford Magna, Lincolnshire from 82 OTU.

On 27/28 April 1944 Bomber Command was tasked with an attack on Friedrichshafen, home to factories involved in the production of gearboxes and engines for the German tank force. A combined force of 322 aircraft, including seventeen 101 Sqn crews, were allocated to the op. Two 101 Sqn crews failed to return.

At 21:39 on 27 April Rodney, operating as the Mid Upper Gunner, and the crew departed RAF Ludford Magna in Lancaster III LM493 (SR-X)

At 01:31 on 28 April, Rodney's aircraft was intercepted by Oblt Wilhelm Johnen flying a Bf110 of the 6./NJG5 flying from Hagenau Airfield. Rodney, the Rear Gunner and the Special Duties Operator were killed during the intercept before the aircraft crashed at Oberwinden, 3km SW of Elzach, Baden-Württemberg, Germany. Five of the crew were able to bale out and were taken as POW.

Also Killed: PO Gerhard Edgar Herbert Schultz RCAF (AG/SDO); Sgt John Vincent Bramhall (AG)

Originally buried in the Oberwinden Cemetery, Baden-Württemberg, Germany, in August 1948 Rodney was moved to Durnbach War Cemetery, Bayern, Germany.

Rodney is commemorated on Wall Panel 17

Photo Source: veterans.gc.ca