

FS James Clark R/175980 RCAF

James was born on 14 July 1921 in Gateshead, Durham, the only son of John Clark and Agnes Elizabeth Clark nee McShane. In 1923 the family emigrated to Canada and settled in Vancouver.

Educated at Mount Pleasant and King Edward High, Vancouver, James was employed in a repair shop by the Canadian Telephone Company, Vancouver when, in July 1942, he volunteered for service with the RCAF.

Called up in September 1942, James completed his aircrew training in Canada in December 1942 with the award of his Air Gunner badge, and he embarked for the UK the following month.

Following advanced training at 27 OTU RAF Lichfield, Leicestershire and 1662 HCU at RAF Blyton, Lincolnshire, in May 1943 James was posted to 101 Sqn at RAF Ludford Magna, Lincolnshire.



On the night of the 3/4 September 1943 Bomber Command was tasked with a raid on Berlin, the Nazi capital and a major industrial centre. A force of 316 Lancasters, including twenty one 101 Sqn crews, were allocated to the op . Three 101 Sqn crews failed to return.

At 19:36 on 3 September James, operating as the Mid Upper Gunner, and the crew departed RAF Ludford Magna in Lancaster III ED659 (SR-T).

At 02:33 on 4 September James's aircraft was hit by a flak barrage. A post war Missing Research and Enquiry team report stated *"the aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire and exploded in mid-air over the Gatow airfield, approximately 24 miles south west of Stettin, Germany."* All on board were killed.

Also Killed : PO James Samuel Kevin Dalziel RAAF (Nav); WO Dennis Arthur Tucker (Pilot); FS John Lloyd Russell Stubbings RAAF (AG); Sgt George Cheadle (WOp/AG); Sgt Lionel Hobson (FE); Sgt Daniel Hopkins (AB)

Originally buried in Doberitz Garrison Cemetery, in October 1946 James was transferred to the Berlin 1939-1945 War Cemetery, Germany

James is commemorated on Wall Panel 20

Photo Source: veterans.gc.ca