

FS Albert Thomas Couch R/208208 RCAF

Albert was born on 8 February 1925 in Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada, the son of Leonard Thomas Crouch and Clarissa Gelena Crouch nee Potter.

Educated at Stamford School and Collegiate, Niagara Falls, on leaving education, in October 1942 Albert volunteered for service in the RCAF.

Called up in November 1942, Albert completed his training in Canada in September 1943 with the award of his Air Gunner badge, and embarked for the UK the following month.

Following advanced training at 30 OTU RAF Hixon, Staffordshire and 11 Base, RAF Blyton, Lincolnshire, for conversion to the Lancaster, in April 1944 Albert was posted to 101 Sqn at RAF Ludford Magna, Lincolnshire.



On 30 June/1 July 1944 Bomber Command was tasked with an op against railway yards at Vierzon, a small town 60km south of Orleans, France - 118 aircraft, including ten 101 Sqn crews, were allocated to the op. Three squadron crews failed to return.

At 22:19 on the 30 June Albert, operating as the Rear Gunner, and the crew departed RAF Ludford Magna, Lincolnshire, in Lancaster I DV301 (SR-Y).

At 01:30 on 1 July, shortly after Albert's crew had finished their bombing run, the aircraft was intercepted at low level by a night fighter and crashed at L'Autiere near Langon, a village 12 miles E of Vierzon, killing all on board. This was the crew's 17th op.

Also killed: FO William Roberts Cuthbertson (Nav); PO James Nelson Brown (Pilot); FS Carl Victor Krieg RAAF (SDO); FS John Pritchard RAAF (AB); FS David Urquhart RCAF (AG); Sgt Thomas Lyth (WOp/AG); Sgt John William Offord (FE)

Albert is buried in the Langon Communal Cemetery, Loir-et-Cher, France

Albert is commemorated on Wall Panel 23

Photo Source: www.veterans.gc.ca