

PO Francis James Kendall J/92949 RCAF

Francis was born on 26 February 1924 in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, the only son of British born parents Thomas Kendall and Eleanor Jane Kendall nee Nuttall.

Educated at St Joseph's School and Vancouver College, on leaving education Francis applied for service in the RCAF.

Called up in March 1943, Francis completed his aircrew training in Canada in November 1943 with the award of his Air Gunner's badge and, in December 1943, he embarked for the UK.

Following advanced training at 30 OTU RAF Hixon, Staffordshire, and Lancaster conversion at 11 Base, in June 1944 Francis was posted to 101 Sqn at RAF Ludford Magna, Lincolnshire. Francis was posthumously awarded a commission.



On 29/30 August 1944 Bomber Command was tasked with an op against the Baltic port of Stettin, a vital industrial centre and supply port crucial for supplying the German army on the Eastern Front. A combined force of 403 aircraft, including twenty 101 Sqn crews, were allocated to the op. Three crews failed to return.

At 21:25 on the 29 August 1944 Francis, operating as the Rear Gunner, and the crew departed RAF Ludford Magna in Lancaster I ME592 (SR-D).

At 00:30 on 30 August as the aircraft crossed the Swedish coast, Francis's aircraft was intercepted from astern by Fw Gottfried Schneider from I./NJG3. Despite evasive action, the aircraft was hit in the starboard wing which burst into flames. Following an explosion, the aircraft entered a steep dive and, at 00:53, crashed into the sea. The Bomb Aimer was the only crew member to bale out and, following internment in Sweden, was repatriated in October 1944.

Also killed: FO Gordon Leslie Piprell RCAF (Pilot); PO Wilfred Herbert Howie RCAF (AG); Sgt George Farrington (SDO); Sgt James Charles Fawcett (Nav); Sgt John Alan Gibbon Brown (FE); Sgt William George Noel Heath (WOp/AG)

Francis was recovered from the sea and is buried in Palsjo Municipal Cemetery, Helsingborg, Sweden

Francis is commemorated on Wall Panel 58

Photo Source: www.veterans.gc.ca