

FS William Douglas McMurachy R/116366

William was born on 2 October 1920 in Elphinstone, Manitoba, Canada, the son of William John McMurachy and Anna Catherine McMurachy nee Rogers.

Educated at Elphinstone School, Manitoba, William was employed on the family farm when, in June 1941, he applied for aircrew duties in the RCAF. Called up in July, William completed his aircrew training in Canada in August 1942 with the award of his Air Gunner badge, and he embarked for the UK in October.

Following advanced training at 28 OTU RAF Wymeswold, Leicestershire where he converted to multi crew/multi engine ops on the Wellington, and 1656 HCU RAF Lindholme, Yorkshire for Lancaster conversion, in May 1943 William was posted to 101 Sqn at RAF Holme-on-Spalding Moor, Yorkshire.

On 12/13 June 1943, Bomber Command was tasked with an op against Bochum, part of a series of strategic bombing ops against the industrial heartland of Germany during the "Battle of the Ruhr". A combined force of 503 aircraft, including twenty-three 101 Sqn crews, were allocated to the op.

At 22:41 on 11 June William, operating as the Mid Upper Gunner, and the crew departed RAF Holme-on-Spalding Moor in Lancaster III ED987 (SR-A)

At 02:26 on 13 June William's aircraft was intercepted by Obfw Hermann Sommer of the Ergänzungsstaffel/NJG2 (attached to 1./NJG1) flying a Bf110 from Gilze-Rijen Airfield. The Lancaster crashed into the North Sea, West of Zandvoort, Noord-Holland, killing all on board.

Also killed: FO Denis Charles Goodwin (Nav); WO Norman Harry Lavin RNZAF (AB); FS Ernest Joseph St. Germain RCAF (AG); Sgt Richard George Claydon (Pilot); Sgt Ronald Vincent Fielding (WOp); Sgt Alexander McIntyre Law (FE)

William has no known grave and is commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial, Surrey

William is commemorated on Wall Panel 72

Photo Source: www.veterans.gc.ca

