

FO Gordon Leslie Piprell J/86656 RCAF

Gordon was born on 4 November 1921 in Borden, Saskatoon, Canada, the son of British born Charles Gordon Piprell and Dorothy Margaret Piprell nee Clark.

Educated at Halcyonia Public and High Schools, Gordon was employed as a farmer on the family farm when, in May 1942, he applied for service in the RCAF.

Called up in June 1942, Gordon completed his aircrew training in Canada in August 1943 with the award of his wings and, in September 1943, he embarked for the UK.

Following advanced training at 30 OTU RAF Hixon, Staffordshire, and Lancaster conversion at 11 Base, in May 1944 Gordon was granted a commission and posted to 101 Sqn at RAF Ludford Magna, Lincolnshire the following month.

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 Gordon and his crew departed RAF Ludford Magna in Lancaster I ME592 (SR-D).

At 00:30 on 30 August as the aircraft crossed the Swedish coast, Gordon'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: PO Wilfred Herbert Howie RCAF (AG); PO Francis James Kendall RCAF (AG); Sgt George Farrington (SDO); Sgt James Charles Fawcett (Nav); Sgt John Alan Gibbon Brown (FE); Sgt William George Noel Heath (WOp/AG)

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

Gordon is commemorated on Wall Panel 85

Piprell Lake Saskatchewan is named in his honour.

Photo Source: www.veterans.gc.ca

