

FS Ernest Joseph St. Germain R/7817 RCAF

Ernest, known as “Bud”, was born on 23 October 1919 in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, the son of Ernest St. Germain and Lillian Isabelle St. Germain nee Carrigan.

Educated at Connaught School and Ottawa Technical College, Ernest was employed in the family firm of Roofing Contractors when, in September 1939, he enlisted in the RCAF.

Employed as a security guard on RCAF Stations in Canada, in June 1942 Ernest re-mustered to aircrew and commenced Air Gunner training. Ernest completed his aircrew training in Canada in September 1942 with the award of his Air Gunner badge, and he embarked for the UK in November.

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 Ernest 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 Ernest, operating as the Rear Gunner, and the crew departed RAF Holme-on-Spalding Moor in Lancaster III ED987 (SR-A)

At 02:26 on 13 June Ernest’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 William Douglas McMurachy RCAF (AG); Sgt Richard George Claydon (Pilot); Sgt Ronald Vincent Fielding (WOp); Sgt Alexander McIntyre Law (FE)

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

Ernest is commemorated on Wall Panel 100

Photo Source: www.veterans.gc.ca