

Sgt James Watt R/222387 RCAF

James was born on 18 October 1925 in Banff, Alberta, Canada, the son of British born parents James Melles Watt and Margaret Edith Watt nee Garner.

Educated at Banff High School, on leaving education James applied for service in the RCAF.

Called up in April 1943, James completed his aircrew training in Canada in December 1943 with the award of his Air Gunner badge. In March James embarked for the UK.

Following advanced training at 83 OTU RAF Peplow, Shropshire, and Lancaster conversion at 11 Base, on 31 August 1944 James was posted to 101 Sqn at RAF Ludford Magna, Lincolnshire.

At 19:05 on the 13 September 1944 James, operating as the Rear Gunner, and the crew departed RAF Ludford Magna in Lancaster III PB456 (SR-D) on a cross country training flight.

At 22:10 on 13 September, witnesses described the aircraft breaking cloud and, already on fire, the Lancaster broke up before hitting the ground 3 miles East of Drymen, SE of Loch Lomond, killing all on board. The forward and rear fuselage, tailplanes, outer wings and outer engines had separated from the main body of the aircraft before impact.

Despite an investigation by the Accident Investigation Branch, the cause of the crash was not determined.

Also killed: FO Clare Edward Brooks RCAF (Pilot); FO Lloyd George Peardon RCAF (AB); FS Victor Jack Ward (WOp/AG); Sgt Francis Alfred William Blerkom (FE); Sgt Edmund Foweather (Nav); Sgt John Ridley Stokes RCAF (AG)

James is buried in Dumbarton Cemetery, Dunbartonshire, Scotland

James is commemorated on Wall Panel 112

Photo Source: www.veterans.gc.ca

