

Sgt Jesse Clemence Brakeman R/68117 RCAF

Jesse, known as Clem, was born on 7 August 1920 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, the son of Jesse Clair Brakeman and Rose Adele Brakeman nee Clemence.

Educated at Lochiel Street School and Sarnia Collegiate, Ontario, Jesse was still a student when, in May 1940, he volunteered for service with the RCAF.

Called up the following month Jesse commenced Observer training; however, when his training was terminated in November 1940 he re-mustered as Air Gunner.

Completing his aircrew training in Canada in December 1940 with the award of his Air Gunner badge, Jesse embarked for the UK in February 1941.

Following advanced training at 20 OTU RAF Lossiemouth, Scotland, in May 1941 Jesse was posted to 214 Sqn at RAF Stradishall, Suffolk.

On 2/3 September 1941, Bomber Command was tasked with an attack on Frankfurt, Hesse, Germany, a key industrial and transportation centre and home to numerous industrial installations. A combined force of 126 aircraft, including twelve 214 Sqn crews, was allocated to the op. The squadron's main target was the Frankfurt Marshalling yards.

At 20:25 on 2 September Jesse, operating as the Rear Gunner, and the crew departed RAF Stradishall in Wellington Ic R1717 (BU-R).

Approaching the French coast, Jesse's aircraft was shot down by enemy fire and crashed into the sea off Dunkirk, Hauts-de-France, killing all on board.

Also Killed: F/L Reginald Hubert May (Pilot); FS James Patrick McKay RCAF (Obs); Sgt Lionel Black (WOp/AG); Sgt Clifford Hambleton (Pilot); Sgt Leslie Whitehouse Price (WOp/AG)

Jesse is buried in Dunkirk Town Cemetery, Nord, France

Jesse is commemorated on Wall Panel 134

Photo Source: veterans.gc.ca

