

FS David Gifford Chattell R/60713 RCAF

David was born on 10 March 1916 in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, the only son of Major Arthur Paul Chattell DSO, MID, and Mary Eileen Chattell nee Gifford.

Educated at Westward Ho School and Alberta College, Edmonton, after completing a commercial course at McTavish Business College David was employed as an accounts clerk and book-keeper.

On the declaration of war, David served in the territorial army as a Lance Cpl with the Edmonton Fusiliers Machine Gun Battery before he was accepted for aircrew training with the RCAF in June 1940. Trained in Canada, David was awarded his Wireless Operator's badge in November 1940 before completing his Air Gunner's course in December and qualifying as a WOp/AG.



In March 1941 David arrived in the UK and, after advanced training, on 9 September 1941 he was posted from 20 OTU at RAF Lossiemouth, Scotland, to 101 Sqn at RAF Oakington, Cambridgeshire.

On 20 September 1941 four crews from 101 Sqn were tasked with an attack on Ostend.

At 19:12 David, operating as one of two WOp/AGs, and the crew departed RAF Oakington in Wellington1C X9922 (SR).

Believed to have successfully attacked the target, the Wellington was known to be returning with unserviceable radios. Unable to establish communication to enable a fix on their position, in order to try and get a visual reference point the pilot descended through thick cloud and at Park Farm, Preston Deanery, Northamptonshire, impacted trees on high ground. At 23:00 the starboard wing hit the ground and the aircraft flipped and broke up, killing five of the six man crew.

Also Killed: PO David Ivor Evans (Pilot); PO William Rand Lugar RCAF (Obs); Sgt William Robert Dil RNZAF (Pilot); Sgt Frank Denis Rogers (WOp/AG)

David is buried in Cambridge City Cemetery, Cambridgeshire

David is commemorated on Wall Panel 143

Photo Source: www.veterans.gc.ca