

FS John Robert Collins R/91184 RCAF

John was born on 30 May 1912 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, the son of English born Harold Collins and Hilda Collins nee Morton.

Educated at Alexander Muir Public School and Western Commerce, John worked as a miner and a brakeman for the Canadian National Railway.

In December 1940 John applied for aircrew service with the RCAF and was called up for WOp/AG training in March 1941.

After several months of training, John failed to make the grade as a Wireless Operator, and re-mustered as an Air Gunner. John was awarded his AG badge in November 1941 and embarked for England.

Arriving in England in December 1941, John completed further training before he was posted to 107 Sqn at RAF Great Massingham, Norfolk in May 1942.

On 28/29 July 1942, twelve 107 Sqn crews were tasked with night intruder ops against Dutch airfields. John's target was Alkmaar Airfield.

At 22:01 John, operating as the Air Gunner, and the crew departed RAF Great Massingham in Boston III AL765 (OM).

At 23:10 the aircraft was hit by light flak from 3./Lei Flak and 5./Res Flak Units whilst attacking the airfield, and crashed at Krommedijk, Egmond aan den Hoef, Noord-Holland, killing all on board.

Also killed : FS Richard Anderson Russell RCAF (Pilot); Sgt Joseph Eric Percival (WOp/AG); Sgt Siddle Henry Schofield RNZAF (Observer)

John is buried in the Bergen General Cemetery, Noord-Holland, Netherlands

John is commemorated on Wall Panel 147

Photo Source: www.veterans.gc.ca

