

Flt Lt Stuart Reginald Fillmore J/6386 RCAF

Stuart was born on 11 March 1919 in Alma, Albert County, New Brunswick, Canada, the only son of Roy Nixon Fillmore and Annie Grace Fillmore nee McKinley.

Educated at Alma Superior and High Schools and Provincial Normal School, Stuart was employed as a forestry Pulp scaler by R E McLeod, St Martins, New Brunswick when, in July 1940, he volunteered for service in the RCAF.

Called up in September 1940, Stuart completed his training in Canada in July 1941 with the award of his Wings, was granted a commission and embarked for the UK the following month.

Following advanced training at 20 OTU RAF Lossiemouth, Scotland, in December 1941 Stuart was posted to 419 Sqn at RAF Mildenhall, Suffolk. On completion of his tour in August 1942, Stuart was posted to instructor duties at 11 OTU RAF Westcott, Buckinghamshire.

On completion of his rest tour, Stuart converted to the Stirling at 1651 HCU RAF Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire and, in June 1943, he was posted to 218 Sqn at RAF Downham Market, Norfolk.

On 10/11 August 1943 Bomber Command was tasked with an attack on Nuremburg, Franconia, Germany. Nuremberg was an important target due to its strong economic and infrastructural hub. It also had symbolic importance as the "City of the Nuremberg Rally". A combined force of 653 aircraft, including fifteen 218 Sqn crews, was allocated to the op.

At 21:58 on 10 August Stuart and his crew departed RAF Downham Market in Stirling III EE885 (HA-G).

At 01:25 on 11 August Stuart's aircraft was coned by searchlights and hit by anti-aircraft fire. Unable to continue, Stuart ordered the crew to bale out and he circled above the village of Offenhausen twice whilst the crew exited the Stirling before the aircraft crashed into woods 1 mile SE of the village. Stuart's body was found 1/2 mile from the wreckage, and it is believed he baled out too late. The remainder of the crew were taken as POW.

Originally buried in Offenhausen Civil Cemetery, Bavaria, Germany, in June 1948 Stuart was moved to Durnbach War Cemetery, Bayern, Germany.

Stuart is commemorated on Wall Panel 163

Photo Source: findagrave

