

PO Andrew Lorne George J/89894 RCAF

Andrew was born on 23 June 1914 in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, the son of Franklin Thomas George and Martha George nee Gemmil.

Andrew was employed as a farmhand and truck driver when, in July 1942, he enlisted in the RCAF and commenced Navigator training. In June 1943 when his training was terminated, Andrew re-mustered as Air Gunner and, in October 1943, he was awarded his Air Gunner badge and immediately embarked for the UK.

Following advanced training at 84 OTU RAF Ossington, Nottinghamshire, 1657 HCU RAF Stradishall, Suffolk and 31 Base RAF Feltwell, Norfolk, in May 1944 Andrew was posted to 514 Sqn at RAF Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire.



On 30 June/1 July 1944, Bomber Command was tasked with an operation to bomb a road junction at Villers-Bocage, SW of Caen, Normandy, through which the tanks of two German Panzer divisions would have to pass in order to attack the advancing Allied forces in Normandy that night. A combined force of 266 aircraft, including twenty-nine squadron crews, was allocated to the op.

At 18:18 on 30 June Andrew, operating as the Mid Upper Gunner, and the crew departed RAF Waterbeach in Lancaster III PB178 (JI-P). This was a late departure for the crew due to a last-minute change in bomb load.

The formation was due to assemble over Luton, Bedfordshire but due to the delayed take-off Andrew's aircraft arrived late. The Rear Gunner spotted a group of Lancasters approaching from the rear and the pilot turned to formate on the group and visually identify them. The Bomb Aimer then reported another aircraft was closing in and the pilot dived to avoid a collision. Another aircraft was then spotted slightly below the first aircraft causing the pilot to steepen his dive.

At 19:25 the cockpit area of Andrew's aircraft struck the underside of the tailfin of the second aircraft, instantly killing the Pilot and Flight Engineer. Immediately afterwards the port inner prop cut off the starboard fin and the port outer prop removed the rear turret. The Bomb Aimer and Wireless Operator successfully baled out before the aircraft crashed at Pittsham Farm, near Midhurst, Sussex, killing the remainder of the crew.

Also Killed: PO Jack Edward Kristjan Hannesson RCAF (Pilot); FS Beverley Gordon Lee RAAF (Nav); Sgt Kenneth Edward Arthur Fox (FE); Sgt Harry James Morgan (AG)

Andrew is buried in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey

Andrew is commemorated on Wall Panel 168

In November 1944 Andrew was posthumously commissioned, backdated to 29 June.

Photo Source: www.veterans.gc.ca