

FS John Davidson Gill R/62821 RCAF

John, known as Jack, was born on 11 May 1921 in Maryculter, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, the son of Robert Gray Gill and Margaret Gill nee Davidson. In 1925 the family emigrated to Canada and settled in Quebec.

Educated at Buckingham High and River Bend High Schools, Quebec, John was employed as a technician in a paper mill when, in June 1940, he applied for aircrew duties in the RCAF.

Called up in August 1940, John commenced pilot training, but when his pilot training was suspended in April 1941, John re-mustered as WOp/AG. In November 1941 John further re-mustered to Air Gunner and qualified in January 1942.

Arriving in the UK in February 1942, on 21 August 1942 John completed his advanced training at 12 OTU RAF Chipping Warden, Northamptonshire, and was posted to 101 Sqn at RAF Stradishall, Suffolk.

On 4/5 September 1942, Bomber Command were tasked with an op against the military and industrial facilities and shipyards of Bremen. A combined force of 251 aircraft, including nine 101 crews, were allocated to the op.

At 01:00 on 5 September John, operating as the Rear Gunner, and the crew departed RAF Stradishall in Wellington III BJ891 (SR).

Returning home, John's aircraft was intercepted between 04:15 and 05:09 by Oblt Ludwig Becker of 6./NJG 2 flying from Leeuwarden. The aircraft crashed in the North Sea off the Frisian Islands, killing all on board.

Also Killed: PO Norman Ingram Gill (Pilot); PO Robert Walter Harrison (Obs); FS Joseph Norbert Tapp RCAF (WOp/AG); Sgt George Smith Jennings RNZAF (WOp/AG)

John has no known grave and is commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial, Surrey

John is commemorated on Wall Panel 169

Photo Source: IBCC

