

FS Robert Kitchen Griffith R/84183 RCAF

Robert was born on 26 March 1911 in Grimsby, Ontario, Canada, the son of Harry Kitchen Griffith and Caroline Griffith nee Udell. In February 1942 he married Miriam Ida Kelterborn in Grimsby, Ontario.

Educated at Grimsby Public and High Schools, Robert was employed as salesman in the garden nursery department of E. D. Smith & Sons Ltd, Winona, Ontario, when, in August 1940 he volunteered for service in the RCAF.

Called up in January 1941, Robert completed his aircrew training in Canada in January 1942 with the award of his Air Gunner badge, and he embarked for the UK the following month.

Following advanced training at No 7 Air Gunnery School, RAF Stormy Down, Wales and 14 OTU RAF Cottesmore, Rutland where he converted to multi crew/multi engine ops on the Wellington, on 8 September 1942 Robert was posted to 101 Sqn at RAF Stradishall, Suffolk.

On 16/17 September 1942 Bomber Command was tasked with an attack on the industrial and transport complex in Essen, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany, home to the Krupps Steel Works. A combined force of 369 aircraft, including twelve 101 Sqn crews, were allocated to the op.

At 20:30 on 16 September Robert, operating as the Rear Gunner, and the crew departed RAF Stradishall in Wellington III BJ897 (SR-).

On approach to the target area, Robert's aircraft was hit by flak and crashed, killing all on board.

Also Killed: PO Clifford Harry Grant (Pilot); PO Ronald Horace Hill (WOp/AG); Sgt Alan Watson Firth (Obs); Sgt Leonard William Stephenson RAAF (WOp/AG)

Originally buried in Dusseldorf North Cemetery, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany, in November 1946 Robert was moved to the Reichswald Forest Cemetery, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany

Robert is commemorated on Wall Panel 173

Photo Source: www.veterans.gc.ca

