

Flt Lt John Allan Kidd 152342 RAFVR

John was born on 23 November 1923 in Bath, Somerset, the youngest of the twin sons of Roland Arthur Kidd and Olwen Mary Kidd nee Hopkins.

John, together with his twin, enlisted as aircrew in 1942, and completed his pilot training in Canada. Commissioned in May 1943, John joined 138 Sqn at RAF Tempsford, Bedfordshire in April 1944 from 419 Sqn. John's twin brother joined the squadron on the same day.

At 22:30 on 18 July 1944 John and his crew departed RAF Tempsford in Halifax V LL364 (NF-B) destined for France to drop supplies to the Special Air Service (SAS) who were operating in the area. This was one of two parachute drops expected in the area, the second by a Liberator of the 850th Bomber Squadron, 801st/492nd Bombardment Group, USAAF who were tasked with a drop to the Resistance of the Maquis Camille at Peinture.

Using the Rebecca/Eureka radio navigational system, as the Halifax turned towards the Eureka beacon and crossed over the route for the drop zone (DZ Dick 89), the Liberator turned over a nearby village to line up its run to drop its supplies on DZ Dick 28A. At 01:00 the two aircraft collided in mid air near Marigny-l'Eglise, France some 9 miles south of Avalon, Eastern France. Both aircraft crashed, killing all on board.

The crew were buried by German forces in the nearby cemetery where they remain today.

Also Killed: FO Kenneth Robertson Urquhart RCAF (Nav); PO Cyril Frederick Thomas Miles (FE); FS Bernard Stroud (AB); Sgt James Revill Moody (AG); Sgt Grayham Bancroft Byrne (AG); Sgt Charlie Taylor (WOp)

John is buried in Marigny-L'Eglise Communal Cemetery, Nièvre, France, the crew are the only CWGC burials in the churchyard.

John is commemorated on Wall Panel 194

Photo Source: Aircrew Remembered

