

FS Reginald Marcus Lawrence R/60620 RCAF

Reginald was born on 30 January 1917 in Maple Creek, Saskatoon, Canada, the eldest son of James Russell Lawrence and Iva Annie Lawrence nee Colquhoun.

Educated at Maple Creek Public School and Saskatoon Technical Collegiate, Reginald was employed as a Forester with the Department of Natural Resources when, in March 1940, he volunteered for service with the RCAF.

Called up in October 1940, Reginald completed his aircrew training in Canada in August 1941 with the award of his Wings, and he embarked for the UK the following month.

Whilst undergoing advanced training at 12 OTU RAF Chipping Warden, Oxfordshire, on 17 January 1942 Reginald and his crew departed for a night flying exercise in Wellington X9931. On return from the cross country and flying in the circuit and NE of the runway, at 00:05 on 18 January the aircraft crashed near Redhill Wood, injuring the whole crew. After 3 weeks sick leave the crew was soon back in training, and on 6 April 1942 they were posted to 214 Sqn at RAF Stradishall, Suffolk.



On 14/15 April 1942, Bomber Command was tasked with an attack on Dortmund, located in the heart of the Ruhr Valley. Dortmund was home to steelworks, military production factories and synthetic oil plants, all vital to the German war effort. A combined force of 208 aircraft, including six 214 Sqn crews, were allocated to the op.

At 23:12 on 14 April Reginald and his crew departed RAF Stradishall in Wellington IC Z1148 (BU-L).

At 03:30 on 15 April Reginald's aircraft was intercepted by Oblt Alois Lechner flying a Ju88 of the E./NJG2 from Gilze Rijen Airfield, and crashed at Overrepen, Tongeren-Borgloon, Limburg, killing all on board.

Also Killed: PO Robert Balfour Halliday RCAF (Obs); FS Billy Orin Gates RCAF (Pilot); FS Douglas Harold Morton Jacques RCAF (WOp/AG); Sgt Samuel Cox (AG); Sgt Eric Mason (WOp/AG)

Originally buried in St Trond (Brustem) Cemetery, Limburg, Belgium, in January 1947 Reginald was moved to Heverlee War Cemetery, Vlaams-Brabant, Belgium.

Reginald is commemorated on Wall Panel 197

Photo Source: findagrave