PO Lloyd William McElroy J/90348 RCAF



Lloyd was born on 23 March 1924 in Morden, Manitoba, Canada, the eldest son of William Lorne McElroy and Frances Mary McElroy nee Greenacre. In December 1943 he married Isabel Helen Pearce in Daringford, Manitoba.

Educated at Darlingford Public School and Lorne High School, Lloyd was employed on the family farm when, in January 1943, he enlisted in the RCAF. Completing his flying training in Canada in December 1943 with the award of his Air Gunner badge, in March 1944 Lloyd embarked for the UK.

Following advanced training at 22 OTU at RAF Wellesbourne Mountford, Warwickshire and 61 Base, RAF Topcliffe, Yorkshire, in July 1944 Lloyd was posted to 415 Sqn at RAF East Moor, Yorkshire.

On 28/29 July 1944 415 Sqn was tasked with an op to Hamburg, the first heavy raid since the Battle of Hamburg over a year ago. A combined force of 307 aircraft was allocated to the task, including sixteen 415 Sqn crews. This raid was the first op for the squadron on its transfer from Coastal Command to Bomber Command.

At 22:25 Lloyd, operating as the Mid Upper Gunner, and the crew departed RAF East Moor, Yorkshire in Halifax LW595 (6U-Q) “Queen of Them All”. Nothing further was heard from the crew.

Post war investigations revealed that Lloyd’s aircraft crashed at Stotel, Cuxhaven, south of Bremerhaven, Lower Saxony, killing eight of the nine-man crew. The Bomb Aimer survived and was taken as POW. This was Lloyd’s first op.

Lloyd was posthumously commissioned, backdated to 27 July 1944.

Also Killed: FO Dugald Morrison RCAF (Pilot); FO George Kenneth Renaud RCAF (Nav); FO Arthur George Stein RCAF (Pilot); PO Alfred Wilfred Prosofsky RCAF (AG); PO George Campbell Reason RCAF (WOp/AG); PO Walter Dennis Robertson RCAF (AG); Sgt Angus McLeod MacIver (FE)

Originally buried in Geestemunde Cemetery, in November 1946 Lloyd was moved to Becklingen War Cemetery, Niedersachsen, Germany.

Lloyd is commemorated on Wall Panel – 208

McElroy Lake, Manitoba is named in his honour.

Photo Source: findagrave