Sgt Kenneth Allen McManus R/66076 RCAF



Kenneth was born on 15 May 1919 in Welland, Ontario, Canada, the son of Arthur John McManus and Marguerite A McManus nee Wright. In 1940 he married Elizabeth Ann Stentel in Ontario, Canada.

Educated at the Empire School and Welland High School, Kenneth was employed by the Dominion Bank as a Ledger Keeper and Relief Teller.

Kenneth enlisted in July 1940 and completed his training in Manitoba, receiving his Air Observers badge in January 1941. He arrived in the UK in May 1941 and following conversion training was posted to 226 Sqn on 1 August 1941.

On 2 August 1941, 226 Sqn deployed from RAF Wattisham to RAF Manston to participate in Circus Operations, the designation for fighter-escorted daylight bombing raids by light and medium bombers of 2 Gp, Bomber Command against targets in German-occupied northern Europe.

At 07:00 on 10 August 1941, the squadron commenced standby. At 11:15, reports were received of a 2000 ton ship, escorted by 2 flak ships near Calais. Three aircraft, together with fighter escort were tasked to attack. Kenneth, operating as the Observer, and his crew took off at 11:50 in Blenheim IV Z7280 (MQ-M). Heavy and light flak, together with fighter opposition, was encountered in the target area. Kenneth's aircraft was attacked from the rear by a ME109 and was shot down in flames when approaching the target ship, 3 miles N of Fort Phillipe. One other squadron aircraft was lost.

Also killed : Sgt John Maxwell Osborne RCAF (Pilot); FS Wynne Roberts (WOp/AG)

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

Kenneth is commemorated on Wall Panel 210

Photo Source: https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial