

Sgt Albert Richard McWhinney R/7729 RCAF

Albert was born on 27 June 1921 in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, the son of George Gordon McWhinney and Jessie Maud McWhinney nee Heath.

Educated at Mutchmor and Hopewell Avenue Public Schools and Ottawa Technical High, Ontario, on leaving school in September 1939, Albert enlisted in the RCAF.

Employed on ground duties in Canada, in July 1941 Albert applied to re-muster as aircrew and was accepted for training in August 1943. Completing his training in Canada in June 1944 with the award of his Air Gunner badge, Albert embarked for the UK the following month.

Following advanced training at 28 OTU RAF Wymeswold, Leicestershire and Lancaster conversion at 11 Base, Albert was briefly posted to 90 Sqn at RAF Tuddenham, Suffolk, before he was posted to 514 Sqn at RAF Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire in January 1945.



On 3/4 February 1945, Bomber Command was tasked with an operation to attack the Hansa Benzol Plant at Huckarde- Dortmund, Nordrhein- Westfalen, Germany. A combined force of 149 aircraft was allocated to the op, including eleven 514 Sqn crews.

At 16:19 on 3 February Albert, operating as the Mid Upper Gunner, and the crew departed RAF Waterbeach in Lancaster III LM685 (JI-B2).

Returning crews reported slight to moderate heavy flak in the Dortmund and Ruhr areas, combined with considerable searchlight activity throughout the Ruhr. On the run up to the target, Albert's aircraft was coned by searchlights and hit by flak, crashing near Gelsenkirchen, Nordrhein- Westfalen, killing all on board.

Also Killed: FO Alan Quillam Downward (Nav); FO Warren James Keating Fisher RCAF (Pilot); FO Donald Edward Stephens RCAF (AB); PO Alfred Hector Morrison RCAF (AG); FS Ronald Hardy RAAF (WOp); FS William Barclay Warr (FE)

Originally buried in Gelsenkirchen Cemetery, Nordrhein- Westfalen, Germany, in June 1949 Albert was moved to the Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Nordrhein- Westfalen, Germany

Albert is commemorated on Wall Panel 211

Photo Source: www.veterans.gc.ca