

WO2 Geoffrey Eaton Milligan R/76763 RCAF

Geoffrey was born on 10 January 1922 in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada the son of John Milligan and Edith May Thates Milligan nee Hewitt.

Educated at Bon Accord High School, Alberta, in May 1940, on leaving school, Geoffrey volunteered for aircrew duties in the RCAF.

Called up in November 1940, Geoffrey completed his pilot training in Canada in August 1941 with the award of his Wings, and embarked for the UK the following month.

Following advanced training at 20 OTU RAF Lossiemouth, Scotland for multi crew/multi engine training on the Wellington, in May 1942 Geoffrey was posted to 218 Sqn at RAF Marham, Norfolk where the squadron was converting to the Stirling. In July 1942 the squadron moved to RAF Downham Market, Norfolk.

On 10/11 September 1942 Bomber Command was tasked with an op against Dusseldorf, a significant centre of steel, armament, and engineering industries. The attack also intended to disrupt transport networks essential for supplying the German war effort. A combined force of 479 aircraft, including ten 218 Sqn crews, were allocated to the op. Two squadron crews failed to return.



At 21:25 on 10 September Geoffrey and his crew departed RAF Downham Market in Stirling I BF351 (HA-C).

At 23:54 Geoffrey's aircraft was intercepted by Hptm Heinrich Prinz zu Sayn-Wittgenstein of 9./NJG 2 flying a Ju88 from Gilze-Rijen Airfield, Netherlands, and the aircraft crashed at Sint Philipsland, Zeeland, killing all on board.

Also Killed: FS Dick Emeny (WOp/AG); Sgt Reginald William Bowler (AG); Sgt Jack Ward Humphrey (Obs); Sgt Raymond Edgar Graham RNZAF (AG); Sgt Maurice Varey Tate RNZAF (WOp/AG); Sgt Robert Vallance (FE)

Originally buried in the Bergen-op-Zoom German Military Cemetery, in April 1946 Geoffrey was moved to the Bergen-op-Zoom Canadian War Cemetery, Noord-Brabant, Netherlands

Geoffrey is commemorated on Wall Panel 212

Photo Source: IBCC