

PO Frank Kerr Orme J/3739 RCAF

Frank was born on 12 March 1916 in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, the son of Frank Laurence Orme and Mildred Fanny Orme nee Kerr.

Educated at Mutchmor Public School and Glebe Collegiate Institute, Frank qualified as a chartered accountant through Queen's University and the Institute of Chartered Accountants. Frank was employed as an auditor and accountant in Canada and the USA when, in May 1940, he enlisted in the RCAF.

Completing his aircrew training in Canada, in January 1941 Frank was awarded his Wings, graduating top of his course, granted a commission and embarked for the UK the following month.

Following advanced training at 17 OTU RAF Upwood, Cambridgeshire, in July 1941 Frank was posted to 21 Sqn at RAF Watton, Norfolk.

On 28 August 1941, six 21 Sqn Blenheims, escorted by two squadrons of long range Spitfires, were detailed to carry out a low level attack on shipping at Rotterdam.

At 14:47 Frank and his crew departed RAF Watton, Norfolk in Blenheim IV V6436 (YH-LA). Frank's aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire from ships moored in the port of Maassluis, and crashed in the meadow behind the Govert van Wijnkade road, Maassluis, Nord-Holland, 9 miles SW of Rotterdam, killing all on board.

Two large cargo ships were hit, and damage was caused to the docks, but the operation was costly for 21 Sqn, as 4 of the 6 aircraft failed to return.

Also Killed: FO Albert Henry Collins (WOp/AG); PO Stanley Frederick Maude Gunnis (Observer)



F/O Collins, P/O Gunnis, P/O Orme

Frank is buried in the Hook of Holland General Cemetery, Zuid-Holland, Netherlands

Frank is commemorated on Wall Panel 221

Orme Lake, Ontario is named in honour of Frank

Photo Source: IBCC