Sgt John (Jack) Maxwell Osborne R/68081 RCAF



Jack was born on 24 August 1914 in Woodstock, Oxford, Ontario, Canada, the son of Louis John Osborne and Emma Maud Osborne nee Wiltshire.

Educated at the Public School in East Zorra, Ontario and the Woodstock Collegiate Institute, between 1935 -1939 Jack was employed as a machine operator for the Firestone Company in Woodstock, Ontario. Following a short time as a Medical Attendent at the Woodstock Hospital, Ontario, Jack enlisted in the RCAF in June 1940.

Jack completed his training in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan receiving his Pilot Wings in February 1941. He arrived in the UK in April 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 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. Jack'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 Kenneth Allen McManus RCAF (Observer); FS Wynne Roberts (WOp/AG)

On 17 August 1941 Jack's body was washed ashore on Juist, Frisian Islands. Originally buried in the Nordenay Military Cemetery, Frisian Islands, in April 1947 his remains were transferred to the Sage War Cemetery, Niedersachsen, Germany

Jack is commemorated on Wall Panel 221

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