FO George Kenneth Renaud J/27499 RCAF



George was born on 21 March 1917 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, the son of Henry Renaud and Annie Burns Renaud nee Thompson. In October 1940 he married Florence Mabel Smith in Edmonton, Alberta; they had one son.

Educated at Queens Avenue Public School and Vermillion Avenue High School, Edmonton, Alberta, George was employed as a commercial traveller by J H Samuels & Co., Edmonton when, in March 1941, he volunteered for service in the RCAF.

Called up in June 1942, George completed his flying training in Canada in June 1943 with the award of his Navigator badge, was granted a commission and embarked for the UK the following month.

Following advanced training at 6 (O) Advanced Flying Unit RAF Moreton Valance, Gloucestershire, 22 OTU at RAF Wellesbourne Mountford, Warwickshire, 61 Base, RAF Topcliffe, Yorkshire and 1666 HCU RAF Wombleton, Yorkshire, in June 1944 George was posted to 433 Sqn at RAF Skipton-on-Swale, Yorkshire, transferring to 415 Sqn on 20 July 1944 at RAF East Moor, Yorkshire.

On 28/29 July 1944 415 Sqn was tasked with an op to Hamburg, the first heavy raid since the Battle of Hamburg over a year ago. A combined force of 307 aircraft was allocated to the task, including sixteen 415 Sqn crews. This raid was the first op for the squadron on its transfer from Coastal Command to Bomber Command.

At 22:25 George, operating as the Navigator, and the crew departed RAF East Moor, Yorkshire in Halifax LW595 (6U-Q) “Queen of Them All”. Nothing further was heard from the crew.

Post war investigations revealed that George’s aircraft crashed at Stotel, Cuxhaven, south of Bremerhaven, Lower Saxony, killing eight of the nine-man crew. The Bomb Aimer survived and was taken as POW.

Also Killed: FO Dugald Morrison RCAF (Pilot); FO Arthur George Stein RCAF (Pilot); PO Lloyd William McElroy RCAF (AG); PO Alfred Wilfred Prosofsky RCAF (AG); PO George Campbell Reason RCAF (WOp/AG); PO Walter Dennis Robertson RCAF (AG); Sgt Angus McLeod MacIver (FE)

Originally George was recorded as having no known grave, and was commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial, Surrey; however, in 1956 his grave was identified at Stotel, and he was moved to the Sage War Cemetery, Niedersachsen, Germany.

George is commemorated on Wall Panel – 231

Photo Source: findagrave