PO Walter Dennis Robertson J/90352 RCAF



Walter was born on 13 December 1924 in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, the only son of Walter Edward Robertson and Catherine Elizabeth Robertson nee McAllister.

Educated at South Park Public School and Central Junior High School, Victoria, British Columbia, Walter was employed as an Ordinary Seaman in the Merchant Marine onboard the R S Restorer in Alaskan waters when, in February 1943, he enlisted in the RCAF.

Walter completed his flying training in Canada in October 1943 with the award of his Air Gunner badge and embarked for the UK the following month.

Following advanced training at 22 OTU at RAF Wellesbourne Mountford, Warwickshire, 61 Base, RAF Topcliffe, Yorkshire and 1666 HCU RAF Wombleton, Yorkshire, in June 1944 Walter 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 Walter, operating as the Rear Gunner, 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 Walter’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 George Kenneth Renaud RCAF (Nav); 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); Sgt Angus McLeod MacIver (FE)

Originally buried in Geestemunde Cemetery, in November 1946 Walter was moved to Becklingen War Cemetery, Niedersachsen, Germany.

Walter was posthumously commissioned, backdated to 27 July 1944.

Walter is commemorated on Wall Panel – 234

Photo Source: findagrave