

FS Joseph Eli Rodgers R/92207 RCAF

Joseph was born on 9 March 1912 in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, the only son of Donald Edgar Rodgers and Freda Rodgers nee Anderson.

Educated at Robertson School and King George High, Vancouver Joseph was employed as an attendant at the Provincial Mental Hospital, Essondale, British Columbia when, in July 1940, he volunteered for service with the RCAF.

Called up in February 1941, Joseph completed his aircrew training in Canada with the award of his WOp/AG badge in January 1942 and embarked for the UK in February.

Following advanced training at 27 OTU RAF Lichfield, Staffordshire, in September 1942 Joseph was posted to 101 Sqn at RAF Stradishall, Suffolk.

On the 21/22 September 1942 a combined force of seventeen aircraft, including eight 101 Sqn crews, were allocated to gardening ops in the Heligoland Approaches and Kiel Bay. Joseph's target was Kiel Bay. Joseph, operating as the Wireless Operator, and the crew departed RAF Stradishall in Wellington III X3457 (SR-R). All squadron aircraft were airborne by 19:55.



A joint claim was made for the downing of Joseph's aircraft. Both Ofw Karl Haisch flying a Do217 from Westerland/Sylt airfield, Germany, who claimed a 'Wellington' at 00:18 into the sea 47 km W of Römö island, and by Major Günther Radusch of Stab II./NJG 3 based at Schleswig airfield, Germany, who claimed a 'Wellington' destroyed over the sea 20 km NW of Sylt at 01:01. Nothing further was heard from the crew and it is probable that they were the victim of one of these claims.

Also Killed: FS John Rimmer (Pilot/AB); FS Whitby Shankland (AG); Sgt Hedley Maurice Hawkins RAAF (Pilot); Sgt John Sanderson Sagar (Obs)

Joseph has no known grave and is commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial, Surrey

Joseph is commemorated on Wall Panel 234

Photo Source: IBCC