

FS Joseph George Spouler R/71030 RCAF

Joseph was born on 30 Nov 1920 in Saint-Boniface, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, the eldest son of Joseph John Spouler and Mary Spouler nee Duczyczyn.

Educated at Carberry Public School and St Vital High, Manitoba, Joseph was employed as a labourer by Canadian National Railways when, in September 1940, he volunteered for service with the RCAF.

Called up in March 1941, Joseph completed his aircrew training in Canada in August 1941 with the award of his WOp/AG badge, and he embarked for the UK in September.

Following advanced training at No. 2 Radio School, RAF Yatesbury, Wiltshire and 20 OTU RAF Lossiemouth, Scotland, in June 1942 Joseph was posted to 214 Sqn at RAF Stradishall, Suffolk.

On 13/14 September 1942, Bomber Command was tasked with an attack on Bremen, Germany's second largest port and home to military-industrial facilities including the shipyards of Vulkan, AG Weser and Atlas Werke, the Valentin submarine pens, oil refineries and the aircraft works of Focke-Wulf. A combined force of 446 aircraft, including eight 214 Sqn crews, were allocated to the op.

At 00:37 on 14 September 1942, Joseph, operating as one of the Air Gunners, and the crew departed RAF Stradishall in Stirling I R9166 (BU-H).

Approaching the target area, at 03:46 on 14 September Joseph's aircraft was hit by flak and exploded in the air. The Stirling crashed on the south bank of the River Weser, Habenhausen, South of Bremen, killing six of the seven-man crew. The Navigator was taken as POW.

Also Killed: PO Robert Joseph Cartmell RCAF (Pilot); PO Harry Edward Orr RCAF (WOp/AG); Sgt Ronald Dicks (FE); Sgt Roy Frederick Reynolds (WOp/AG); Sgt Stanley Watson (AG)

Originally buried in the Russian Cemetery, Vechta, Lower Saxony, Germany, in October 1947 Joseph was moved to the Rheinberg War Cemetery, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany

Joseph is commemorated on Wall Panel 246

Photo Source: findagrave

