FO Arthur George Stein J/19151 RCAF



Arthur was born on 28 December 1918 in Neudorf, Saskatchewan, Canada, the son of Russian born Peter Stein and Austrian born Barbara Stein nee Armbruster.

Educated at Connaught Public School and Luther College, Regina, in February 1941 on leaving education Arthur volunteered for service in the RCAF.

Called up in May 1941, Arthur completed his flying training in Canada in December 1941 with the award of his Wings and embarked for the UK the following month.

Following advanced training at 6 (P) Advanced Flying Unit RAF Little Rissington, Gloucestershire, in May 1942 Arthur was posted to 2(O) Advanced Flying Unit RAF Millom, Cumbria, as a staff pilot. In October 1943 whilst at 2(O) Advanced Flying Unit Arthur was granted a commission.

In January 1944 Arthur commenced training for operational flying and, following training at 22 OTU at RAF Wellesbourne Mountford, Warwickshire, 61 Base, RAF Topcliffe, Yorkshire and 1666 HCU RAF Wombleton, Yorkshire, in June 1944 Arthur 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 Arthur and his 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 Arthur’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); 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 Arthur was recorded as having no known grave, and was commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial, Surrey; however, in 1952 his grave was identified at Stotel, and he was moved to the Sage War Cemetery, Niedersachsen, Germany.

Arthur is commemorated on Wall Panel – 247

Stein Lake, Central Saskatchewan, is named in his honour.

Photo Source: findagrave