

FO Kenneth Robertson Urquhart J/28220 RCAF

Kenneth was born on 10 June 1921 in Williamstown, Ontario, Canada, the son of Kenneth John Urquhart and Wilhelmina Urquhart nee Robertson, the second youngest of 14 children.

Educated at Williamstown Public and High Schools, Kenneth was employed as a Store Clerk in a General Store in Williamstown before enlisting in January 1942. Kenneth completed his training in Canada and received his Navigator badge in July 1943. Kenneth was granted his commission before transferring to England in August 1943.

Kenneth joined 138 Sqn at RAF Tempsford, Bedfordshire in April 1944 via 10 OCU and 419 Sqn.



At 22:30 on 18 July 1944 Kenneth, operating as the Navigator, and the crew departed RAF Tempsford in Halifax V LL364 (NF-B) destined for France to drop supplies to the Special Air Service (SAS) who were operating in the area. This was one of two parachute drops expected in the area, the second by a Liberator of the 850th Bomber Squadron, 801st/492nd Bombardment Group, USAAF who were tasked with a drop to the Resistance of the Maquis Camille at Peinture.

Using the Rebecca/Eureka radio navigational system, as the Halifax turned towards the Eureka beacon and crossed over the route for the drop zone (DZ Dick 89), the Liberator turned over a nearby village to line up its run to drop its supplies on DZ Dick 28A. At 01:00 the two aircraft collided in mid air near Marigny-l'Eglise, France some 9 miles south of Avalon, Eastern France. Both aircraft crashed, killing all on board.

The crew were buried by German forces in the nearby cemetery where they remain today.

Also Killed: FLt Lt John Allan Kidd (Pilot); PO Cyril Frederick Thomas Miles (FE); FS Bernard Stroud (AB); Sgt James Revill Moody (AG); Sgt Grayham Bancroft Byrne (AG); Sgt Charlie Taylor (WOp)

Kenneth is buried in Marigny-L'Eglise Communal Cemetery, Nievre, France, the crew are the only CWGC burials in the churchyard.

Kenneth is commemorated on Wall Panel 257

Photo Source: Aircrew Remembered