

PO Joseph Jacques Rodolphe Vannier J/89739 RCAF

Joseph was born on 5 October 1920 in Sturgeon Falls, Ontario, Canada, the son of Wilfred Ernest Vannier and Annociade Vannier nee Fortier.

Educated at Holy Cross Separate School and Haileybury School of Mines, Joseph was employed in a variety of short-term positions and had completed some training as an apprentice carpenter when, in February 1941, he volunteered for service in the RCAF.

Called up in July 1941, Joseph completed his flying training in Canada in June 1942 with the award of his WOp/AG badge. Following additional training, in December 1942 he embarked for the UK.

Following advanced training at 11 Radio School, RAF Hooton Park, Cheshire, 10 Radio School, RAF Carew Cheriton, Pembrokeshire, Wales and 5(Coastal) OTU, RAF Long Kesh, Maze, Lisburn, Northern Ireland, in August 1943 Joseph was attached to No2 Overseas Air Preparation Unit (OAPU) RAF Filton, Bristol, followed by a posting to 301 Ferry Training Unit at RAF Lyneham, Wiltshire.

In November 1943 Joseph was sent to train at 23 OTU at RAF Pershore, Worcestershire before he was posted to 407 Sqn at RAF Chivenor, Devon in December. In February 1944 Joseph was posted to 415 Sqn at RAF Bircham Newton, Norfolk. By July the squadron was based in RAF Docking, Norfolk.

On 13 July 1944 three 415 Sqn crews were tasked with an anti-shipping patrol of the Frisians, Dutch Coast and Dunkirk. The squadron had transferred to Bomber Command the day before; however, this was essentially a Coastal Command task.

At 00:46 Joseph and the crew departed RAF Docking, Norfolk in Wellington MF494 (NH-G). The crew were due on patrol at 02:20 and off patrol at 02:47 just south of Heligoland. Nothing further was heard from the crew, although the two other aircraft on the patrol reported a sighting of a night-fighter.

Post war investigations revealed that Joseph's aircraft was shot down 20 miles North of Ameland, Friesland, at 02:03 by Uffz Rudolf Wilsch, flying a BF110 of 7./NJG1 from Leeuwarden Airfield.

Joseph was posthumously commissioned, backdated to 12 July 1944.

Also Killed: Flt Lt Robert Leonard Harman RCAF (Nav); FO Robert Jordan Sheen RCAF (Pilot); PO Edward George Crawley RCAF (WOp/AG); PO Lloyd Eby Findlay RCAF (WOp/AG); PO Gordon Keith Huish RCAF (WOp/AG); FS John Hands (FE)

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

Joseph is commemorated on Wall Panel - 257

Photo Source: findagrave

