

F/O Robert Lorne Weatherall DFM J/18150 RCAF



Robert was the son of John James and Barbara Weatherall, of Eastview, Ontario; husband of Mary Edna Weatherall. He had eight siblings; his brother Walter was killed in France on active service in 1944. He graduated from Ottawa Technical High School and was an Ottawa city bantamweight boxing champion. He joined the RCAF in late 1939 and went overseas in September 1941.

He was an Air Gunner in No. 7 Squadron and had been awarded the DFM. He completed his first tour of operations, over 200 hours of dangerous and risky bombing missions, and was assigned instructional duties before returning for a second tour.

Lancaster ND845 MG-C took off from Oakington at 2222 hours on 19 May 1944 on a night mission to attack the railway yards at Le Mans, France, as one of 112 Lancasters plus 4 Mosquitoes. SOE intelligence had reported the positioning of many V1 flying bombs on the railway rolling stock en route to sites around France. After an initially uneventful flight, and as Master Bomber, Sqn. Ldr. Baker was heard giving directions to the oncoming bomber stream when all communication suddenly ceased. Initially thought to be hit by flak, it now appears the aircraft may have tragically collided with Lancaster JB653 MG-R, the deputy Master Bomber, as at the same instant they also stopped communicating. Although the loss to 7 Squadron was heavy, the mission was deemed successful with much damage being caused to the yards.

Robert is buried at Bretteville-sur-Laize Canadian War Cemetery, Calvados, France. Grave XXVII. G. 3. The inscription reads "Safe in the arms of Jesus" He died that others might live. God bless our son". He was 23 years old.

F/O Robert Lorne Weatherall DFM RCAF – Air Gunner (killed)
Flt. Sgt. Derek William Wood – Flight Engineer (killed)
Sqn. Ldr. Philip Robert Coldwell DSO DFM – Navigator (killed)
Sqn. Ldr. John Baker DSO DFC – 2nd Pilot (killed)
P/O Albert Price – Bomb Aimer (killed)
F/O Jack William Walters DFC RNZAF – Wireless Operator/Air Gunner (killed)
WO Joseph Lamonby – Air Gunner (killed)
Wg. Cdr. James Fraser Barron DSO & Bar DFC DFM RNZAF – Pilot (killed)

He is commemorated on IBCC Panel 261

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