FO Gordon Mundell J/23368 RCAF



Gordon was born on 23 March 1912 in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, the son of Benjamin Mundell and Kathleen Mundell nee Gannon.

Educated at St John's High School, Gordon was employed as a constable in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police when, in August 1940, he applied for service in the RCAF.

Called up in September 1940, Gordon served as a military policeman until May 1942 when he re-mustered as aircrew. Gordon completed his flying training in Canada in February 1943 with the award of his Observer badge, was granted a commission and commenced Air Bomber training. In March 1943 Gordon embarked for the UK.

Following advanced training at 10 OTU, RAF Abingdon, Oxfordshire and 1663 Conversion Flt RAF Rufforth, Yorkshire, in December 1943 Gordon was posted to the Middle East where he joined 624 Sqn, a Special Duties Squadron, at Tocra, near Benghazi, Libya. In February 1944 the squadron moved to Blida, near Algiers, to concentrate their efforts over Southern France.

On 4 March 1944 Gordon, operating as the Bomb Aimer, and the crew were tasked with a Special Duties op and at 20:05 they departed Blida in Halifax II BB386.

The aircraft appeared to depart satisfactorily after a normal take-off run with all 4 engines functioning normally. A few minutes after take-off a heavy rainstorm developed.

Shortly later, the aircraft reappeared west of the airfield at 400 feet, travelling from a southerly direction towards the north. Eyewitnesses stated that the aircraft appeared to be losing height and was not making the familiar Halifax sound. A few minutes later, Gordon's aircraft crashed 5 miles NW of Blida, killing all on board.

The aircraft was destroyed in the crash, but the subsequent inquiry suggested that the aircraft may have hit the storm and instrument failure ensued, together with a possible port inner engine failure.

Also Killed: FO Francis Ira Elliott RCAF (AG); PO Harry Alexander Edward Gordon Smith RCAF (Nav); WO George Thomas Jackson RCAF (Pilot); FS Roy Wesley Moller RCAF (AG); Sgt Donald Garforth Browne (WOp/AG); Sgt William Dennis Hazeldine (FE)

Gordon is buried in Dely Ibrahim War Cemetery, Algeria

Gordon is commemorated on Wall Panel – Not Yet Erected

Photo Source: veterans.gc.ca