WOII Joseph Amedee Grenier R/145806 RCAF



Joseph was born on 30 April 1919 in Ste Delaide de Pabos, Gaspe, Quebec, Canada, the son of Jeremie Grenier and Theophita Grenier nee Larade.

Educated at St Gertrude's Separate School, Ontario, Joseph was employed in an ammunition plant when he volunteered for service with the RCAF.

Called up in December 1941, Joseph was employed on ground duties until July 1942 when he re-mustered as aircrew and commenced Air Gunner training.

Joseph completed his trade training in Canada in November 1942 with the award of his Air Gunner badge and, following advanced training at 34 OTU RCAF Pennfield Ridge, New Brunswick, in March 1943 he embarked for the UK.

Following advanced training at 13 OTU RAF Bicester, Oxfordshire, in August 1943 Joseph was posted to 226 Sqn at RAF Foulsham, Norfolk, followed by a move to RAF Swanton Morley, Norfolk.

On 8 November 1943, No. 2 Group of the 2nd Tactical Air Force were tasked with an attack, consisting of 3 waves, on the Fortress Of Mimoyecques, Landrethun-le-Nord, France, the underground military complex under construction for the purpose of housing a battery of V-3 rockets permanently aimed at London. Fifteen 226 Sqn aircraft were allocated to the third wave of the op.

At 08:15 on 8 November 1943 Joseph, operating as the Air Gunner, and the crew departed RAF Swanton Morley in Mitchell II FV927 (MQ-R). Flying in a box formation of six aircraft at 1000 ft, Joseph's was number three, positioned to the rear of the lead aircraft. Intense and accurate flak was encountered from the coast to the target and, as Joseph's aircraft approached the target, the Mitchell received a direct hit from an anti-aircraft shell on the port engine and wing. The aircraft burst into flames and crashed. Despite returning crews reporting the sight of 2 or 3 parachutes, all on board were killed.

Also Killed: WOII John Harrison Cowieson RCAF (WOp/AG); WOII Carl Martin Berg RCAF (Nav); FS Keith McRae Smith RAAF (Pilot)

Originally buried in the Marquise Communal Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France, in August 1945 Joseph was moved to the Calais Canadian War Cemetery, Leubringhen, Pas de Calais, France

Joseph is commemorated on Wall Panel NYE

Photo Source: www.veterans.gc.ca