Flt Lt Kenneth Earle Cullen J/9198 RCAF



Kenneth was born on 23 November 1921 in Vernon, British Columbia, Canada, the son of Capt Earle Cullen, British Columbia Dragoons and Lillian Valentine Cullen nee Lewis.

Educated at Vernon Public and High Schools, Kenneth was employed as a bank clerk by the Royal Bank of Canada when, in November 1940, he volunteered for aircrew duties with the RCAF.

Called up in May 1941, Kenneth competed his aircrew training in Canada in December 1941 with the award of his Wings. Granted a commission, Kenneth was posted to 7 Flying Service Training School at RCAF Fort Macleod, Alberta, where he served for 15 months as a flying instructor.

In May 1943 Kenneth was sent to 34 OTU RAF Pennfield Ridge, New Brunswick for multi crew training and conversion to the Ventura. In September 1943 he embarked for the UK.

Following advanced training at 13 OTU RAF Bicester, Oxfordshire, in January 1944 Kenneth was posted to 98 Sqn at RAF Dunsfold, Surrey.

On 13 April 1944 twelve 98 Sqn crews were tasked with an early morning attack on the German Naval gun positions, 2 miles East of Dieppe. The gun site consisted of three 175mm Channel guns, three Howitzers and two 20mm AA guns.

At 06:58 Kenneth and his crew departed RAF Dunsfold in Mitchell II FL181 (VO-R), flying as No. 2 to the leader.

The attack was successfully pressed home against heavy flak; however, on leaving the target area Kenneth's aircraft was hit in the port engine. The escape hatches were seen to be jettisoned but returning crews did not report seeing any survivors escape the aircraft before it went into a spin and crashed into the sea. Fortunately, the Rear Gunner managed to bale out, and was taken POW at Dieppe, the rest of the crew were killed.

Also Killed: PO Glen Richard Dunn RCAF (Pilot); WOII Joseph Edward Allen RCAF (WOp/AG)

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

Kenneth is commemorated on Wall Panel - Not Yet Erected

Photo Source: www.veterans.gc.ca