PO James Andrew Taylor Dick J/94185



James was born on 13 July 1921 in North Bay, Ontario, Canada, the son of James Simpson Dick and Isabella McKay Dick nee Taylor.

Educated at the Prince of Wales School and Central High School of Commerce, Hamilton, Ontario, James was employed as a production clerk by the Donald Rope and Wire Cloth Company, Hamilton, Ontario when, in June 1942 he volunteered for service in the RCAF.

Called up in August 1942, James completed his aircrew trade training in Canada in September 1943 with the award of his WOp/AG badge and, after reconnaissance training at 31 OTU RAF Debert, Nova Scotia, in May 1944 he embarked for the UK.

Following advanced training at 13 OTU RAF Bicester, Oxfordshire, James converted to the Mitchell and in September 1944 was posted to 98 Sqn at RAF Dunsfold, Surrey. The following month the squadron moved to Melsbroek Airfield (Base 58), near Brussels. James was commissioned in December 1944.

On 10 February 1945 fifteen 98 Sqn crews were tasked with a bombing attack on Xanthen Town, Nordrhein-Westfalen. By the spring of 1945, the Allies had driven German troops into a defensive pocket near Wesel, on the Rhine's west bank, and the Canadian Infantry was assigned to take Xanten. The Battle for Xanten was one of a series of operations designed to bring the Allies to the banks of the Rhine in preparation for the final assault on Hitler's Reich.

At 15:05 James, operating as the Wireless Operator, and the crew departed Melsbroek in Mitchell II HD365 (VO-C)

At 16:02 after completing the bombing run, James's aircraft turned to the right when it was hit by flak and flames were seen from both the port and starboard engines and the nose had blown in. The aircraft crashed at Winnekendonk, 26 miles SE Nijmegen, killing all on board.

Also Killed: FO Dudley Ernest Gordon Williams (Pilot); WOII Jarvis Erwin Gallop RCAF (WOp/AG) FS Cyril John Bridgett (Nav)

Originally buried in Winnekendonk Cemetery Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany, in December 1946 James was moved to the Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Nordrhein-Westfalen.

James is commemorated on Wall Panel - Not Yet Erected

Photo Source: www.veterans.gc.ca