FO Robert Edwin Baker J/20144 RCAF



Robert, known as Bob, was born on 12 February 1922 in Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada, the son of Alfred Allen Baker and Jeanie Jeffrey Baker nee Muirhead.

Educated at Mirno Public and General Schools, Sedgewick, Alberta, Robert was employed as a farmer and sawmill worker when, in July 1941, he volunteered for service in the RCAF.

Called up in August 1941, Robert completed his training in Canada in October 1942 with the award of his Wings, granted a commission, and embarked for the UK the following month.

Following advanced training at 17(P) Advanced Flying Unit, RAF Watton, Norfolk and 41 OTU RAF Old Sarum, Wiltshire, in July 1943 Robert was posted to 414 Sqn at RAF Gatwick, Surrey. By August 1943 the squadron was based at RAF Ashford, Kent.

On 8 September 1943, flying as No 2 of a two-ship, Robert was tasked with a photographic reconnaissance patrol over St Omer, Armentieres, Mersin and Ypres.

At 12:30 Robert and his leader departed RAF Ashford in Mustang I AP197 (RU-Z).

On completion of the task and re-crossing the French coast through a flak barrage at Mardyck, Hauts-de-France, France at between 4-5000 ft, Robert called “break left” to his leader when he observed an enemy aircraft on his tail. At 14:20 Robert was then intercepted by Uffz Gerhard Wiegard of 8./JG26 flying a FW190.

Trailing a white stream from his radiator, Robert was instructed to fly straight ahead and try to cross the Channel. The last sighting of Robert was when he was seen diving slightly at an estimated speed of 300 mph in a NW direction. A “Mayday” call was then transmitted.

Robert crashed into the sea near Dunkirk and, after engaging the enemy aircraft, Robert’s leader returned to base, landing at 13:50.

On 6 October 1943, Robert was washed ashore at Pole 32.4, Bergen an Zee, Netherlands, and is buried in the Bergen General Cemetery, Noord-Holland, Netherlands.

Robert is commemorated on Wall Panel – Not Yet Erected

Photo Source: findagrave