FO Robert Edward Lee J/18745 RCAF



Robert, known as Bob, was born on 23 February 1920 in Chelsea, Quebec, Canada, the son of Horace Roderick Lee and Lily S Lee nee Brittan.

Educated at St Etienne School, Chelsea and Hull Technical School, Robert was employed as a machinist by E B Eddy Co. Ltd, a Canadian pulp and paper company when, in August 1940, he volunteered for service in the RCAF.

Called up in December 1940, Robert completed his pilot training in Canada in September 1941 with the award of his Wings and embarked for the UK the following month.

On arrival in the UK, in November 1941 Robert was posted onto staff pilot duties with 10(O) Advanced Flying Unit at RAF Dumfries, Scotland.

In August 1943 Robert was granted a commission and posted for advanced training at 12 (P) AFU RAF Grantham, Lincolnshire and 51 OTU RAF Debden, Essex. In May 1944 Robert was posted to 409 Sqn at RAF Hunsdon, Hertfordshire.

On the night of the 10/11 July 1944, ten squadron aircraft were tasked with an anti-diver (V-1) patrol. “Op Diver” was the British code name for the V-1 flying bomb campaign launched by the German Luftwaffe in 1944 against London and other parts of Britain. Diver was the code name for the V-1, against which the defence consisted of anti-aircraft guns, barrage balloons and fighter aircraft.

At 22:45 on 10 July Robert and his Navigator departed RAF Hunsdon in Mosquito XVIII MM547.

Robert was vectored onto a target, possibly a V1 or enemy aircraft, before disappearing from the controller’s radar. Nothing further was heard from the crew and it is believed they were either shot down by an enemy aircraft or were caught in the blast of the V-I they were attacking.

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

Robert is commemorated on Wall Panel – Not Yet Erected

Photo Source: www.veterans.gc.ca