Flt Lt Godfrey Addison Argument J/15764 RCAF



Godfrey, known as "Ed", was born on 28 August 1921 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, the son of Godfrey Argument and Kathleen Mary Argument nee Rook. In March 1943 he married Ethel Josephine Robson in Newcastle upon Tyne, Northumberland; they had one daughter.

Educated at Keele Street School and Humberside Collegiate Institute, Toronto, Godfrey was a student when, in April 1940, he volunteered for service in the RCAF.

Called up in August 1940, Godfrey completed his aircrew training in Canada in May 1941 with the award of his Wings and embarked for the UK the following month.

Following advanced training at 59 OTU RAF Crosby-on-Eden, Cumbria, in August 1941 Godfrey was posted to 409 Sqn at RAF Digby, Lincolnshire. The following month Godfrey was attached to 1451 (Fighter) Flt at RAF Hunsdon, Hertfordshire and in November to 1453 (Fighter) Flt at RAF Wittering, Cambridgeshire.

In January 1942 Godfrey was posted to 289 Sqn at RAF Turnhouse, Edinburgh, Scotland. The squadron operated a variety of aircraft in detachments at different airfields in the south of Scotland and the north-east of England where they were used for gunlaying training and for target towing.

Commissioned in July 1942, in October Godfrey completed refresher training at 53 OTU RAF Kirton-in-Lindsey, Lincolnshire and 2 Tactical Evaluation Unit, RAF Grangemouth, Falkirk, Scotland, before he was posted in May 1944 to 33 Sqn at RAF North Weald, Essex on the squadron's return from the Middle East in preparation for the Allied invasion of Normandy. The squadron operated fighter support on D-Day, moving to the continent in August where it concentrated on ground-attack operations. By September the squadron was operating from B53 Merville, Pas de Calais, France.

On 17 September 1944, in support of Operation Market Garden (17 - 25 September 1944), 33 Sqn was tasked with bombing the railyards at Roosendaal, Noord-Brabant, Netherlands.

At 10:20 on 17 September 1944 Godfrey departed B53 Merville in Spitfire LFIX NH318 (5R-) together with eleven other squadron pilots.

The Spitfires encountered very heavy flak in the target area and, after bombing the target, Godfrey reported on R/T that he had been hit by flak and with his engine about to stop he was going to attempt a crash landing in a field. Godfrey's No.2 shadowed him and saw him open his hood; however, the aircraft went into a gentle dive and crashed in a field near Wommelgem, Antwerp, Belgium before he was able to bale out.

Originally buried next to his aircraft at the crash site, in July 1947 Godfrey was moved to Schoonselhof Cemetery, Antwerp, Belgium.

Godfrey is commemorated on Wall Panel – Not Yet Erected

Photo Source: veterans.gc.ca