



### **ALFRED SPENCER RHODES**

**R/131818**

Wireless operator, air gunner.

#### **Family affairs.**

Alfred Spencer Rhodes is born on October 16th 1922 in Lundbreck, Alberta. He is married on August 29th 1942 with Martha McGuire from Lethbridge, Alberta, where they lived on 1920-7 Avenue North. After the war his widow remarried and moved to Edmonton, Alberta.

He was the son of James Bloor Rhodes and Nellie Gladys Gilbert, who married on November 30th 1921 in Penticton, British Columbia. He had 6 brothers and 3 sisters. Their names: Edmund James, Phillip Leslie, Harold Newton, William Allan, George Daniel, Robert Lewis, Mary Ethel, Edna May, Bertha Maria. The latter died already 8 months old. Edmund James served also at the RCAF, Mary Ethel lived at the Calgary airport, Alberta. The other lived in Bellevue, Alberta. Father's occupation was carpenter.

14 years old in 1936 Alfred left the Bellevue Public School, thereafter until 1939 studied for 3 years at the Bellevue High School. He reached Grade 11. Until 1941 he worked at W.F. Harvey in Bellevue as a carpenter. His hobby was collecting stamps. His favourite sports were softball, basketball and skating.

## **Military affairs.**

On October 2nd 1941 he was enlisted at the Royal Canadian Air Force in Bellevue, Alberta. His training and education he got subsequently in Calgary until November 13th, until December 8th in Edmonton, until October 11th 1942 in Calgary, until November 24th in Lethbridge and until December 11th in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Then to Great Britain.

In the late evening of June 21st 1943 his plane left for a bombing raid on Krefeld, Germany. On June 22th 1943 the plane crashed near Oudenbosch(at Roosendaal, Noord-Brabant). He is temporarily buried on the protestant cemetery Zuylen(near Breda, Noord-Brabant), GSGS 2541 SH4, 1/100,000, 928354. October 10th 1946 he is reburied at the General War Cemetery in Bergen op Zoom, Plot 25, row C, collective grave 1-2.

## **Remarks.**

- On his tombstone no additional text is written.
- He received: Canadian Volunteer Service Medal & Clasp, Aircrew Europe Star, 39-45 Star and the War Medal.
- Total salary in just more than 20 months active service were 301,25 \$(Canadian).
- In the Ancestry as well as via Google only limited information is found about Alfred Spencer Rhodes. The information up here in **military affairs** is found in the story about John Lionel Frederick Lown, see down here at the crew members.

The total crew, all Canadians, of the 429 squadron of the RCAF was:

R/116334 W.H. Calder Sergeant, air gunner

J/13992 J.L.F. Lown Officer, pilot

R/131818 A.S. Rhodes Wireless operator, air gunner

R/119786 A.J. Sieffert Sergeant, navigator

R/82786 J.K. Wood Warrant officer, bomb aimer

- In the Ancestry service file of AS Rhodes the first files 246 t/m 250 are not from him, but from W.H. Calder !!!!!.