



ALFRED JOSEPH CHILDS

R/68206

Wireless operator, air gunner.

Family affairs.

Alfred Joseph Childs is born on September 2nd 1919 in Woodstock, Ontario. He was not married.

He was the son of George Childs and Johanna Collins. It is unknown when they were married. It is also unknown if he had more brothers and/or sisters. They lived in Woodstock, 112 Oxford Street. His mother already died before his enlistment in the RCAF. His father's occupation was molder in the arts.

13 years old he left in 1932 Saint Mary Separate School and until 1936 he studied 4 years at the Woodstock Collegiate Institute. Until 1940 he did banking courses, while he was working as ledgerkeeper at the Dominion Bank in Woodstock.

He had no specific hobby but sported very intense, especially rugby and more or less badminton and golf.

Military affairs.

He is enlisted on July 22th 1940 at the Royal Canadian Air Force in London, Ontario. His training and education he got subsequently until August 16th in Toronto, Ontario until August 31th in Regina, Saskatchewan until February 14th 1941 in Calgary, Alberta until March 28th in Fingal, Ontario and until April 5th in Debert, Nova Scotia. Then to Great Britain.

He died October 11th 1941 because his aircraft was shot down near Haamstede(Zeeland) on a raid on Cologne(Germany). He is temporarily buried at the municipal cemetery in Haamstede.

On June 20th 1946 he is reburied at the British War Cemetery in Bergen op Zoom, Plot 4, row D, grave 7.



Remarks.

- No additional text is written on his tombstone:
- The following awards he received: War Medal, 39-45 Star, Canadian Volunteer Service Medal & Clasp and the Aircrew Europe Star.
- Total salary in just more than 15 months active service was 175,96\$(Canadian).
- The CWGC stated a couple of times that his age at decease was **20** years. This is not correct, that must be **22** years.
- Neither in the Ancestry nor via Google much information about Alfred Joseph Childs has been found. Also a picture of him could not be found. With the help of Peter van Kaathoven important and interesting information has been found via Wings of Victory. His aircraft de Wellington W5379 left on October 11th 1941 at 00.20 hours from Binbrook, Lincolnshire, Groot Brittanië. At 03.25 hours the plane wanted to make an emergency landing on the beach of Haamstede, because of an engine failure. However, a German night fighter shot the plane down.

The crew members were:

- Pilot Officer Douglas William Drummond Faint, British, Captain
- Pilot Officer William Arthur Wise, British, 2nd pilot
- Pilot Officier Garth Campbell Frew, British, Air observer
- Sergeant Kenneth Herbert Price, British, Wireless operator
- Sergeant Arthur Joseph Childs, Canadian, Wireless operator, air gunner front.
- Sergeant William George Morton, British, air gunner rear.

W.A. Wise en W.G. Morton survived the crash, but were injured and became prisoners of war by the Germans.