



ROBERT JAMES KEE

R/86226

Sergeant, Wireless Operator, Air Gunner.

Family affairs.

Robert James Kee is born on March 27th 1921 in Graysville, Manitoba. He was not married.

He was the son of Matthew Kee and Sarah Donelly, respectively born in Plumas, Manitoba and Silkworth, England. They lived in Graysville, name of the street is unknown. His father was a farmer. The Ancestry states that he had 2 brothers and 4 sisters, but their names are not mentioned.

From 1927-1935 on the Graysville Public School (Grade 8) and from 1935-1939 on the Graysville High School (Grade 11), then 2 years tractor driver on his father's farm.

He had no specific hobby, his favorite sports were baseball and ice hockey.

Military affairs.

December 28th 1940 he was enlisted at the Royal Canadian Air Force in Winnipeg, Manitoba. His education and training he got subsequently until June 22th 1941 in Brandon, Manitoba, until November 9th in Calgary, Alberta until December 9th in Mossbank, Saskatchewan and until January 12th 1942 in Halifax and Dafoe, both Nova Scotia. Then to Great-Britain.

He died on January 3rd 1943, because his aircraft crashed near Middenmeer (Noord-Holland) in a raid on the German town Essen. It is not clear whether his plane is shot down or crashed by another failure. He is temporarily buried at Cemetery Huisduinen near Den Helder, GSGS 4042, Sh. 3.B., 1/250.000, M.R.Y. 9787, S174.

May 29th 1947 he is reburied at the British War Cemetery in Bergen op Zoom, Plot 33, row A, grave 9.



Remarks.

- The text on his tombstone: "He shall not grow old as we do. As the sun rises and sets, we shall remember him".
- He received the following medals and awards: 39-35 Star, Aircrew Europe Star, Defence Medal, War Medal, Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp and the Operational Wings.
- Total wages in just more than 2 years active service at RCAF are: 283,09 \$(Canadian).
- In the Ancestry and via Google very little information about Robert James Kee is found.
- Kee's aircraft (AVRO Lancaster, MK1, W4769, QR-V, RAF61 Sqdn) lift off at 17.21 hours on January 3rd 1943 from Syerston, Engeland for a raid on the German town of Essen. From this mission it didn't return, because it crashed at 20.00 hours on January 3rd 1943 on the Zuiderdijkweg, about 3 km east of Middenmeer (Noord-Holland). It is not clear whether the plane is shot down or crashed by another failure. An explosion mid-air is mentioned as a possible cause. All seven crew members were killed. Names, service numbers and grave numbers in Bergen op Zoom:
Pilot R. H. Bird (RAF), 139610, 33-A-11
Flight engineer J. Davis(RAF), 643447, 33-A-10
Navigator H. J. R. Tickle(RAF), 119747, 33-A-7
Wireless operator/Air gunner R. J. Kee (RCAF), R/86226, 33-A-9
Rear Air gunner R. C. Gait (RCAF), 1499876, 30-B-7
Bomb aimer G. J. Inglis(RAF), 1052249, 33-A-8
Air gunner mid-front L. G. Gunning(RAF), 139201, 33-A-12
All crew members were temporarily buried in Huisduinen and on May 29th 1947 reburied at the British War Cemetery in Bergen op Zoom.

Source:

<https://www.verliesregister.studiegroeppluchtoorlog.nl/zz.php>