



JOHN DAVID ARMSTRONG

J/5707

Pilot/Squadron leader.

Personal affairs.

John David Armstrong is born on December 18th 1914 in Toronto, Ontario.

He was married to Hilda Charman on January 9th 1943 in Vancouver, British Columbia. They had no children and lived in 985 West 15th Avenue, Vancouver.

He is the son of Claude Hickmann Armstrong and Winifred Russell. He had two older sisters. For more information about them see **Remarks**. His father was a banker. His mother was already deceased at his enlistment and his father died shortly after the war.

When he was 14 years old he left the John Ross Robinson Public School, from 1928-1934 he went to the the North Toronto Collegiate High School and afterwards two courses electrical engineering at the same High School. Until his enlistment he worked for 5 years as a bank employee. His hobbies were photography and sports in particular swimming, shooting and badminton.

Military affairs.

He was enlisted on December 19th 1940 in the Royal Canadian Air Force in Toronto, Ontario.

His training and education he got subsequently until October 20th 1940 in Brandon, Manitoba until December 21st 1940 in Vancouver until January 21st 1941 in Regina, Saskatchewan until April 8th 1941 in Fort William, Ontario until June 29th 1941 in Brantford, Ontario until September 17th 1941 in Trenton, Ontario until March 18th 1942 in Moncton, New Brunswick until February 21st 1944 in Camp Borden, Ontario. Then he left for Great Britain.



He died in the evening of March 7th 1945, because his plane had an engine failure, returning from a bombing raid on Berlin.

The plane crashed at airfield Gilze-Rijen, between Breda and Tilburg, Noord Brabant. He is temporarily buried at Breda Cemetery, Princenhage, 931354, Sh16, NE, 1/25.000. July 6th 1945 he is reburied at the Canadian War Cemetery in Bergen op Zoom, Plot 08, row D, grave 12.

Remarks.

- On his tombstone is written: "Be thou faithfull unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life".
- He received: Canadian Volunteer Service Medal & Clasp, Aircrew Europe Star, 39-45 Star, General Service Medal, Operational Wings en de Defence Medal.
- Totale verdiensten na bijna 4,5 jaar actieve dienst: 654,78 \$ (Canadian).
- In de Personal affairs is already mentioned that he had 2 older sisters:
 - = **Mrs. Joyce Hughson**, lived in Ottawa, Ontario.
 - = **Mrs. Freda Lawson**, lived in Toronto, Ontario.
- Only after 3,5 years after his enlistment he went to Great Britain.
- April 1st 1945 his comrades of the R.A.F. wrote a letter to his widow, in which they gave their admiration for him.
- The crash of his initiate an extensive investigation, which resulted in recommendations for more practice in flying with one engine and in emergency cases to allow the crew to leave the plane.
- John's plane (De Havilland, Mosquito, MK B.XVI, RV306, M5-U, RAF 128 Sqdn) lift off from Wyton, Engeland on March 7th 1945 at 19.34 hours for a bombing raid on Berlin. While returning on his way back one engine failed and the plane crashed in the emergency landing on the airfield Gilze-Rijen.
Names, service numbers of the crew members:
Pilot J.D. Armstrong (RCAF) J/5707
Navigator W.E. White (RCAF) J/42207
They didn't survive the crash.

- John David Armstrong is also commemorated on the Bomber Command Memorial Wall in Nanton, Alberta. See below.



The sources consulted for this story are :

- www.ancestry.com
- <https://aircrewremembered.com/armstrong-john-david.html>
- <https://aviation-safety.net/wikibase/49045>
- <https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial/detail/2641419>
- <https://verliesregister.studiegroepluchtoorlog.nl/ahome/lossregister/results?sglo=T5355>