



F.O. N. F. SMITH, Wiley Ave., is pilot with the R.C. A.F. Buffalo squadron.



NORMAN FRANK SMITH

J/16368

Flying Officer/Piloot.

Family affairs.

Norman Frank Smith is born on August 4th 1915 in Toronto, Ontario. He married January 16th 1943 in Hastings, England with Joyce Maud Ceerd. She lived in Hastings, 155 Athelstan Road, but later on she moved to Canada to live with her parents in law.

He was the son of Frank Smith and Dorothy Sophia Fuller, born in Toronto resp. England. They lived in 40 Wiley Avenue, Toronto 6. His father's profession was ganitor. Norman was only child.

From 1926-1930 on the Plains Road Primary School, from 1930-1934 on the East York Collegiate and from 1939-1940 on the Danforth Technical School, all in Toronto. From 1935-1938 he had two short lasting jobs, but due to reorganization and bankruptcy they ended. From 1938 until his enlistment he worked as a clerk at the American News Company in Toronto. His hobbies were hunting and art, he sported intensively swimming, tennis and American football.

Military affairs.

October 25th 1940 he was enlisted to the Royal Canadian Air Force in Toronto. His education and training he got subsequently in until December 3rd in Brandon, Manitoba, until February 21th 1941 in Mossbank, Saskatchewan, until April 8th in Regina, Saskatchewan until May 28th in St. Eugene, Ontario until September 5th in Moncton, New Brunswick, until November 9th in Charlottetown, New Foundland and Labrador and until December 9th 1941 in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Then to Great Britain.



He died December 6th 1944, because his plane crashed by unknown cause 2 km west of Huijbergen, Noord-Brabant on a recce flight to Geldern, near Kevelaer, Germany.

He is temporarily buried in Dongen, between Breda and Tilburg, Noord-Brabant, Holland , Sh4, 1/100.000, 102380. **See also remarks!!**

May 21st 1946 he is reburied at the British War Cemetery in Bergen op Zoom, plot 4, row B, grave 4-5.

Remarks.

- On his tombstone written: "For ever with the Lord! Amen; so let it be".
- He received the following awards: 39-35 Star, Atlantic Star and Clasp, Defence Medal, French and Germany Star, Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp, General Service Medal and the Operational Wings.
- Total wages in 4 year and 1 month active service at the RCAF: 1059,02\$(Canadian).
- March 10th 1944 he made, together with navigator S.A. Kessler(1399123) from the RAF an emergency landing in Wick, Scotland during a training due to very hard wind and hail showers. His plane was slightly damaged.
- **Temporarily cemetery, remark.**

According the CWGC, together with L.A. Kessler (175343) he was temporarily buried in Dongen. That is very strange, because his plane crashed near Huijbergen. It took place on December 6th 1944, so about 6-7 weeks after Western Brabant was liberated. It doesn't make sense that he is temporarily buried about 50 km far away, also because in the months September and October many soldiers have been temporarily buried in Huijbergen, Hoogerheide, Woensdrecht, Wouwse Plantage, all in Western Brabant. On the CWGC-document about the temporarily cemetery many data are crossed out and added. It is doubtful if he really was temporarily buried in Dongen.



NOTE: It is very remarkable that his fellow crew member has the same surname (Kessler) as his fellow crew member at the emergency landing in Scotland, see up here.

The given names (L.A. en S.A.) and the service numbers (175343 and 1399123) are different. Pure coincidence or isn't it correct?

- Norman's plane (De Havilland, Mosquito, FB.VI, HR357, EG-R, RAF 487 Sqdn) lift off from Rosieres-en-Santerre ,Northern France on December 6th 1944 at 22.05 hours for a recce flight to Geldern, near Kevelaer, Germany. From this mission it didn't return, because it crashed at 23.57 hours 2 km west of Huijbergen, Noord-Brabant. Names, service numbers of the crew members:

Pilot N.F. Smith(RCAF) J/16368

Navigator L.A. Kessler(RAF) 175343

Both men died and were buried in Bergen op Zoom, about an eventual temporarily cemetery nothing is mentioned.

Bron: <https://www.verliesregister.studiegroepluchtoorlog.nl/zz.php>