



## **WILLIAM ALBERT SPARROW**

**J/16368**

Flying Officer/Air Gunner.

### **Family affairs.**

William Albert Sparrow is born on July 22<sup>st</sup> 1915(**see also remarks**) in Toronto, Ontario. He was not married and lived in Indian Road, Toronto. He was the son of William George Sparrow and Sadie Casswel, both born in Toronto. His father lived in The Evening Telegram Building, 227-245 Bay Street, Toronto. His mother was already deceased before his enlistment. His father's profession was advertising solicitor. No brothers and/or sisters of William have been found.

From 1930-1932 he went to the Queen Victoria Primary School in Howard Park, from 1932-1937 to the Parkdale Collegiate Institute, both in Toronto. His final level was Junior Matric / Grade 12. From 1937-1940 he worked for 2,5 years at the Arntfield Goldmine Company in Arntfield, Quebec. He had no specific hobby. Sports: Swimming, ice-hockey and baseball all quite intensive. He volunteered as canoe instructor and guide.

### **Military affairs.**

October 29th 1940 he was enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force in Toronto. He received his education and training subsequently in Brandon until December 19th 1940, Manitoba, until January 28th 1941 in Portage La Prairie, Manitoba until May 28th in Regina, Saskatchewan until August 12th in Medicine Hat, Alberta until January 19th 1942 in Trenton, Nova Scotia, until April 30st in Rockcliffe, Ottawa, Ontario until June 20st again in Trenton, until August 2nd in Macdonald, Manitoba and until August 21st 1942 in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Then to Great Britain.



He died on June 25<sup>th</sup> 1943, because his plane was shot down during a bombing raid on Wuppertal, Germany.

He is temporarily buried at the Protestant Cemetery Zuylen, near Breda, Noord-Brabant, Sh4, 1/100.000, GSGS 2541, 928354.

October 9<sup>th</sup> 1946 he is reburied at the British War Cemetery in Bergen op Zoom, Plot 25, row C, grave 9.

### **Remarks.**

- On his tombstone is written: "Loyal a Mort".
- He received the following awards/medals: 39-35 Star, War Medal, Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp, Aircrew Europe Star and the Operational Wings.
- Total wages in 2 years and 8 months active service in the RCAF: 386,61\$(Canadian).
- A number of documents in the service file from the Ancestry stated **March 22<sup>th</sup> 1915** as birthdate for William Albert Sparrow. That is not correct, that must be **July 22<sup>th</sup> 1915**, like the other documents claim. Also his date of death on June 25<sup>th</sup> 1943, 27 years, is then correct.
- Surprising is the fact that in three found newspaper articles (**see data and pictures**) always **October 1941** is mentioned as his enlistment date in the Royal Canadian Air Force. The documents in de service file either prove that this must be **October 29<sup>th</sup> 1940**.
- William's aircraft (Vickers, Wellington, MK X, HF572, QO-J, RAF 432 Sqdn) left from Skipton-on-Swale, Thirsk, Northern-England on June 24<sup>th</sup> 1943 at 23.05 hours for a bombing raid on to Wuppertal, Germany. From this mission it didn't return, because it was shot down on June 25<sup>th</sup> at 01.15 hours at Kerkdriel, Noord-Brabant by the German nightfighter from Lt. W. Baake van I/NJG-1.

Names, service numbers of the crew members:

Pilot N. Goldie (RAF)	1216316
Navigator G. Liddle (RAF)	1390957
Bomb aimer F.W.N. Trowbridge (RAF)	658650

Wireless operator/ air gunner C.K. Killick (RAF) 1331007

Rear air gunner W.A. Sparrow (RCAF) R/80865

Four of the five crew members were also from the RAF, only William Albert Sparrow was from the RCAF. No one survived the crash. They are all temporarily buried near Breda and later on reburied in Bergen op Zoom.

**Source:**

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

<https://www.heroesofthesky.com/maasdriel/c/0/i/51720217/vickers-wellington-mk-x-hf-572>

In upper link the last flight of William Albert Sparrow is also extensively described.