



## **WILFRED FERDINAND VORNBROCK**

**J/87663**

Flying Officer, Pilot.

### **Personal Affairs.**

Wilfred Ferdinand Vornbrock was born on October 12, 1919 in Allerston, Alberta. He married Margaret Marie Reeder on October 6, 1942 in Toronto. Their son Ronald Wilfred was born on May 8, 1943. They lived in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, 1022 Avenue H. North. He was the son of George Vornbrock and Bertha Allers, both born in Minnesota, USA, who married in Allerston, Alberta. His father was a farmer. He had 4 younger brothers Milton, Arnold, Donald and William who all still lived in Allerston. Education: from 1926-1933 at Allersville Public School, from 1933-1938 at Milk River High School and from 1937-1938 a correspondence course all in Calgary, Alberta. As a final level he obtained Junior Matriculation. At the age of 19 he left school and worked on his father's farm for 3 years. His special hobby was woodworking, his sports were baseball, skiing, ice hockey and golf.

### **Military affairs.**

He was enrolled in the Royal Canadian Air Force in Ottawa, Ontario on October 31, 1941. He received his training and education until November 23, 1941 in Toronto, until January 31, 1942 in Dunnville, Ontario, until March 28, 1942 in Toronto, until June 6, 1942 in Malton, Ontario until October 9, 1942 in Brantford, Ontario. Then via Halifax, Nova Scotia to Great Britain. He died on April 23, 1944 when his plane was shot down by a German night fighter during a bombing raid on Düsseldorf and crashed near Goirle, Noord-Brabant. He was temporarily buried there at the Roman Catholic Cemetery Goirle, GSGS 4427, MR 147278, Sh 17, Z.W., 1/25,000 and was reburied on 29 October 1945 at the Canadian War Cemetery in Bergen op Zoom, Plot 11, row E, grave 09.

## **Special features.**

- His gravestone reads: "To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die" ever loved Marge and Ronald, which means "To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die", forever loved by Marge and Ronald.
- He has received: A/C Europe Star, 39-45 Star, War Medal, Defence Medal, Operational Wings and the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp.
- Total earnings in over 2.5 years of active service, including last pay: \$564.46 (Canadian). • His service file is quite extensive, almost 80 sheets. There are also quite a few sites about him via Google. Despite this, little really interesting information was found.
- <https://www.cwgc.org/stories/stories/pilot-officer-wilfred-ferdinand-vornbrock-424-sqdn-rcaf/>
- [https://wikimiddenbrabant.nl/Vornbrock,\\_Wilfred\\_Ferdinand](https://wikimiddenbrabant.nl/Vornbrock,_Wilfred_Ferdinand)

More sources of information about him are mentioned in the above sites. However, even here, little important additional information can be found.

- Wilfred's plane (Handley Page, Halifax, MKIII, LV780, QB-M, RAF 424 Sqn) took off from Skipton-on-Swale, Great Britain, on 22 April 1944 at 22:30 for a bombing raid on Düsseldorf, Germany. It did not return from this mission, because it was shot down at 02.04 by Hptm. E.-W. Modrow of 2./NJG 1 and crashed at the Abcovensedijk near Goirle. All crew members were killed except one.

Names and service numbers of the crew members:

- Pilot W.F. Vornbrock(RCAF) J/23393
- Navigator J.S. Laird(RCAF) J/87503 - Engineer L. Walters(RAF) 1850361
- Bombardier F.P. Cammaart(RCAF) J/88363 - Gunner helm F.P. Morissey(RCAF) J/91170 - Gunner,mid J.J. Renning(RCAF) J/91048 - Radio/Air Gunner L. Hanson(RAF) 1131665

Only Morissey survived the crash and was taken prisoner of war. The other six are all (temporarily) buried in Goirle. Walters and Hanson (RAF) are not reburied in Bergen op Zoom, the four RCAF crew members are.

This life story was written by HvR.

Sources consulted for this story are:

<https://www.cwgc.org/stories/stories/pilot-officer-wilfred-ferdinand-vornbrock-424-sqdn-rcaf/>

[https://wikimiddenbrabant.nl/Vornbrock,\\_Wilfred\\_Ferdinand](https://wikimiddenbrabant.nl/Vornbrock,_Wilfred_Ferdinand)

<https://nl.findagrave.com/memorial/12724974/wilfred-ferdinand-vornbrock>

<https://www.veterans.gc.ca/en/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial/detail/2642410>

<https://www.rafcommands.com/database/wardead/details.php?qnum=46868>

<https://losses.internationalbcc.co.uk/loss/228978/>

<https://asn.flightsafety.org/wikibase/50556>

<https://verliesregister.studiegroepluchtoorlog.nl/ahome/lossregister/results?sglo=T3612>