



## **GERALD JOSEPH BOUCHER**

**J/87815**

Pilot Officer

### **Personal matters.**

Gerald Joseph Boucher was born on August 31, 1923, in Campbellton, New Brunswick. He was not married and lived with his parents at Campbellton, 9 Gerrard Street.

He was the son of Sylva John Boucher and Olive Furlotte, who were married on August 28, 1918, in Atholville, New Brunswick. His father was born in the USA, Providence, Rhode Island. His father's profession was crane operator. He had 1 younger sister Veronica who was also not married and lived with her parents. In 1934 he left Campbellton Public School at the age of 13, then Campbellton High School for another 6 years until 1940. He reached the Grade 9 level. Before joining the service in 1942 he worked for 2 years as a car inspector on the Canadian National Road in Campbellton. His hobbies were hunting and fishing. He was an excellent skier, he also occasionally participated in swimming and American football.

### **Military Affairs.**

He was enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force in Moncton, New Brunswick on 29 July 1942. He received his training and education successively until 9 October 1942 in Lachine, Quebec until 9 January 1943 in Rockcliffe, Ontario until 16 April 1943 in Mont Joli, Quebec then via Halifax, Nova Scotia on 3 May 1943 to Great Britain.

He was killed on 25 April 1944 when his plane was shot down during a bombing raid on Karlsruhe, Germany, and crashed in the Eastern Scheldt northeast of Krabbendijke, Zeeland. He is temporarily buried in the German cemetery in Bergen op Zoom, MR 627277, SH15, S.E. 1/25,000 GSGS 4427. He was reburied on 28 September 1945 at the Canadian War Cemetery in Bergen op Zoom, Plot 12, row F, grave 07.

### **Details.**

- On his tombstone is written: "In loving memory of our only son, mum and dad" which means: "in loving memory of our only son, mum and dad".
- He has received: 39-45 Star, Defence Medal Star, General Service Medal, Operational Wings, and the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp.
- Total earnings in 1 year and 7 months of active service are not known.
- According to the CWGC, Gerald Joseph Boucher was 19 years old when he died. That's NOT right, that should be 20 years.
- <https://425alouette.wordpress.com/category/gerald-boucher/>  
On the above website you can find many very nice photos.
- At the bottom, some, not all, of them are depicted.
- [https://caspir.warplane.com/perunitget/unitmilttype/RCAF\\_Sqn/qd/425/](https://caspir.warplane.com/perunitget/unitmilttype/RCAF_Sqn/qd/425/) This website discusses the history and operations of the RCAF Squadron 425 (Alouette) in detail. This is very much worth reading.
- <https://db.wingstovictory.nl/user/pages/02.database/10.crashes/382/382-rapport.pdf> This website describes in detail a report of the Air Protection Service of the Municipality of Krabbendijke of April 1944 about the crash, location and recovery of Gerald's plane. This is also very worthwhile to read.  
Gerald's aircraft (Handley Page, Halifax, MK III, MZ573, KW-G, RCAF 425 Sqdn) took off at Tholthorpe, Yorkshire, England on 24 April 1944 during a bombing raid on Karlsruhe. It did not return from this mission, because it was shot down at 02.30 hours on 25 April 1944 by a German night fighter and crashed in the Oosterschelde about 5 km northeast of Krabbendijke.

- Names and service numbers of the crew members:
 

- Pilot	J.R. Wells (RCAF)	J/19624
- Co-pilot	G.J. Boucher(RCAF)	J/87815
- Navigator	H.R. Mooney(RCAF)	J/85718
- Bomb Aimer	C. Maddin(RCAF)	J/16766
- Gunner/radio	W.B. Walker(RAF)	656931
- Gunner rudder	S.G. Hunt(RCAF)	J/28785
- Mechanical	J. Q. Railton(RAF)	1864895
- Gunner middle	P.G. Draper(RCAF)	R/150220
- Enkel Boucher heeft de crash niet overleefd. Zijn lichaam is op 20 mei 1944 aangespoeld bij Bergen op Zoom. Draper is ontkomen en ontsnapt. De andere zes zijn door de Duitsers krijgsgevangen gemaakt.
- Gerald Joseph Boucher wordt ook herdacht op de Bomber Command Memorial Wall in Nanton, Alberta.



Bottomely, Harry F.  
 Bottrell, Gerald Alp  
 Bouchard, Joseph E. Y.  
 Bouchard, Vernon John  
 Boucher, Gerald Joseph  
 Boucher, Norman Alfred  
 Boucher, Rodolphe J. L.  
 Boucher, Thomas G.  
 Boucock, Kenneth G.  
 Boudreau, Gerald C.  
 Boudreau, Lawrence J.  
 Boudreault, Joseph R.  
 Boulter, Philip Pullynn  
 Boulter, Roy Russell  
 Boulton, Clive Arkoll  
 Boulton, Russell C. H.  
 Boundy, William Allan  
 Bourdon, Gregory Ross