



RICHARD JOHN WATTS ASKWITH

C/1611

Pilot officer.

Family affairs.

Richard John Watts Askwith was born October 3rd 1919 in Ottawa, Ontario. He was not married. He is the son of James Fotheringham Askwith and Joan Watts, Their date of marriage is not known. He had 1 two years younger brother Gordon. They all lived in Ottawa, 188 Russell Avenue, later his father lived 24 Alexander Street. His mother died to the effects of appendicitis in 1936. The father's profession is described as "gentleman".

Richard left Public School in 1933, 13 years old. Until 1937 he studied at the Lisgar Collegiate High School and obtained Junior Matriculation. His hobbies were sailing and collecting stamps. His favourite sports were ice hockey, ski, cricket, tennis and swimming. For almost 2 years, from 1937-1939 , he worked as a junior clerk for Canadian General Electric in Ottawa.

Military affairs.

January 29th 1940, 20 years old, he is enlisted to the Royal Canadian Air Force in Toronto. His training he got subsequently in Ottawa until April 20th, until May 17th in Toronto, Ontario until June 16th in Trenton, Nova Scotia until October 5th in Camp Borden, Ontario until November 26th again in Trenton until July 3rd 1941 in Calgary, Alberta and until February 12th 1942 in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Then to Great Britain.

April 28th 1942, on his first mission above Europa, he was killed because his plane was shot down at Noordschans near Moerdijk, Noord-Brabant. Target of the mission was to bomb military strategic airports in Western Europe, for instance Gilze-Rijen.

He is temporarily buried on the Protestant Cemetery Zuylen near Breda, GSGS 2541, Sheet 4, 928354, nr. 209.

October 9th 1946 he is reburied on the General War Cemetery in Bergen op Zoom, plot 27, row A, grave 5.

Remarks.

- On his tombstone is no additional text is written.
- He received the 1939-45 Star, Canadian Volunteer Service Medal & CLASP and the General Service Medal.
- Total salary in 2 years and 3 months active service are 241,13\$(Canadian).
- In the Ancestry not much extra information is found about Richard John Watts Askwith.
- Besides two pictures, through Google very much information is found, in particular in the link below. In 37 pages the complete war history of Richard is described, with many pictures, maps, cards,

data a.s.o., it is for real splendid.

The original source of this detailed story is not known.

<https://www.mygrandfatherswar.ca/wp-content/uploads/pdf/askwith.pdf>