



## **GORDON EDOUARD AITKEN**

**R/127496**

Sergeant/Air gunner.

### **Family affairs.**

Gordon Edouard Aitken (**see also remarks**) is born July 3rd 1923 in Verdun, Quebec. He was not married. His parents lived in Verdun, 291-2nd Avenue. He was the son of Edouard Aitken and Eglantine Sauv , born in resp. Montreal, Quebec and Alexandria, Ontario. His father was in military service overseas in the Royal Canadian Armed Service Corps. Gordon had 2 brothers and 2 sisters, their names are unknown. One of his brothers already died at birth.

From 1929-1937 he studied 8 years on the St. Willibrord's High School in Verdun(6 years Primary and 2 years High School).

He worked from 1937-1939 as a clerk in Berlin's fruit shop and until 1941 as assistant shipper at Troy Laundry and Dyeing Cie., both in Verdun.

His hobby were gasoline machines. He was moderately active in the sports: lacrosse, basketball and American football.

### **Military affairs.**

September 1st 1941 he was enlisted to the Royal Canadian Air Force in Montreal. His education and training he got subsequently until September 16th in Montreal, until November 1st in Toronto, until March 28th 1942 in Camp Borden, Ontario until December 6th in Montreal, until March 19th 1943 in Mont Jolie, Quebec and until March 27th 1943 in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Then he went to Great Britain.



He died October 22nd 1943, because his plane was shot down near Ostaaijen, between Zundert and Achtmaal, Noord-Brabant during a bombing raid on Kassel, Germany.

He is temporarily buried at the Protestant Cemetery Zuylen near Breda, Noord-Brabant, Sh 16 NE, 930355.

July 20th 1945 he is reburied at the Canadian War Cemetery in Bergen op Zoom, Plot 10, row C, grave 6.

### **Remarks.**

- In several CWGC-documents and website's Gordon **EDWARD** Aitken is stated as his name. That is not correct, it must be Gordon **EDOUARD** Aitken.
- On his tombstone is written: "In memory of our dear son who is always in our hearts".
- He received the following awards: Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp, 39-45 Star, War Medal and the Aircrew Europe Star.
- Total wages in more than 2 years active service in the RCAF are unknown.
- In an Ancestry document John James Aitken is mentioned as a legal next of kin. It is not known whether that is his brother. From January until October 1942 he has been condemned five times, three times for absent without leave, once for failing taking advantage of instructions offered and once for dirty brass at the 07.30 Hour parade. The punishments varied from 3-7 days C.B.
- Aitken's aircraft (Handley Page Halifax V, LK959, ZL-D, RCAF 427 Sqdn ) lift off at 17.36 hours on June 22th 1943 from Leeming, North-Yorkshire, Engeland for a raid on airport Gilze-Rijen. It didn't return because it was shot down on June 22th at 20.10 hours by the Germans between Achtmaal and Zundert. All eight crewmembers were killed. Names and service numbers of the crewmembers:  
Pilot W.J. Weston(RCAF) C/22761  
2<sup>e</sup> Pilot J.O.A. Lapointe(RCAF) R/136601  
Navigator C.E.Oakley (RAF) 143878  
Wireless operator S.H. Hopson (RAF) 1386575  
Mid - front air gunner W.G. Crain(RCAF) R/143669  
Bomb aimer E.T. McDermott (RCAF) J/19392

Rear air gunner G.E. Aitkin (RCAF) R/127496

Flight engineer P.H. Maulding (RAF) 575342

They are all temporarily buried at the Protestant Cemetery Zuylen near Breda and later on he is reburied at the British/Canadian War Cemetery in Bergen op Zoom.

**Source:** <https://verliesregister.studiegroepvluchtoorlog.nl/>