

Gordon, Ernest

Age: unknown

Nationality: English

Rank: Sergeant

Unit: No. 3 OTU

Occupation: Flight Engineer

Service No: 985480 (RAFVR)

Birth: unknown

Home Town: unknown

Death: 13, November, 1944
Crash of Consolidated Canso 11022,
Saanich Inlet, BC,
Canada

Burial: Commemorated on Ottawa Memorial

Others: P/O John Morse, Pilot, RAF



Biography

Service records of RAF personnel are only available to family members.

No records can be found of Sergeant Ernest Gordon other than his name on the Commonwealth Air Forces Memorial, and in the No. 3 OTU Daily Diary on the day of his death.



Commonwealth Air Forces Memorial, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

Details of Crash

On 13 November 1944, Consolidated Canso 11022 was on a day navigation exercise carrying a crew of seven. P/O John Morse was Captain and pilot of the aircraft and Sergeant Ernest Gordon was Flight Engineer. When attempting to land at Patricia Bay base, the aircraft hit the sea, nose down, and sank to the bottom. Five crew members escaped from the sinking aircraft and were rescued, John Morse and Ernest Gordon were missing and their bodies were never recovered. They are commemorated on the Commonwealth Air Forces Memorial in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

The No. 3 OTU Diary entry for 13 November 1944 reads:

“The ceiling was 1,000-2,000 feet for the first 3 hours; for the next 7 hours it was 2,000-3,000 feet and unlimited for the balance of the day. Visibility was 8 miles throughout, and surface winds were light variable throughout.....”

Canso 11022, returning from day Nav. No.2 had no flare path in the bay – asked and received permission to drop flame floats for emergency landing practice. When landing by flame floats, aircraft nosed in and main plane and forward part of fuselage went to the bottom. Time of crash was 1302032 (sic). Crew consisted of Pilot Officers Morse, Booth, Rae, Harris, and Sergeants Gordon, Young, and Jones. P/O Morse and Sergeant Gordon, Captain and Engineer respectively, are missing, and the remainder of crew are in Station Hospital. P/O J. Morse RAF.173787 and Sgt. E. Gordon GB.985480 are missing presumed dead. P/O J. Booth RAF.164684, P/O N. J. Harris RAF.641621, P/O W. Rae, Sgt. Young, G. W. GB.751248, Sgt. James, V. GB1450848, are at present in Patricia Bay Hospital.”

Status:

Date:

Monday 13 November 1944



Type:

[Canadian Vickers PBV-1A Canso A \(PBV-5A\)](#)

Operator:

[Royal Canadian Air Force - RCAF](#)

Registration:

11022

C/n / msn:

CV-300

First flight:

Crew:

Fatalities: / Occupants:

Passengers:

Fatalities: / Occupants:

Total:

Fatalities: 3 / Occupants:

Airplane damage:

Damaged beyond repair

Location:

Patricia Bay, BC ([🇨🇦](#) [Canada](#))

Phase:

Landing (LDG)

Nature:

Military

Departure airport: ?

Destination airport:?

Aviation Safety Network cites the fatalities as three. There is no mention of a third death in the No. 3 OTU Diary, and it cannot be confirmed.



Consolidated Canso

