

Morse, John

Age: 23

Nationality: English

Rank: Flying/Officer

Unit: No. 3 OTU

Occupation: Pilot

Service No: 163513 (RAFVR)

Birth: 1921
Birmingham,
England

Home Town: Erdington, Birmingham,
England

Death: 13, November, 1944

Crash of Consolidated Canso 11022,
Saanich Inlet, BC,
Canada

Burial: Commemorated on Ottawa Memorial

Others: Sgt Ernst Gordon, Flight Engineer



Biography

John Morse was the son of Frederick Thomas and Frances May Morse, born about 1921, probably in Birmingham, Warwickshire, England. In 1939, Frederick and Frances were living at 24 Ryland Rd. Birmingham with one other person, probably John, which suggests he had no younger siblings. Frederick died in 1942, leaving his estate to his widow, who died in 1979. John bequeathed his estate to his mother.

John joined the Royal Air Force and by 1944 he was with No. 3 OTU in Patricia Bay, BC. On 13 November 1944, John was captain and pilot of Consolidated Canso 11022. On landing at the seaplane base in Saanich Inlet the aircraft hit the water nose first and sank, taking John and his Flight Engineer with it. The bodies were not recovered and John is commemorated on the Commonwealth Air Forces Memorial in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

No information on John's training or service is available. Service records of RAF personnel can only be accessed by family members at this time.



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 this cannot be confirmed.



Consolidated Canso

