



William A. (Bill) Robertson

Background

Born in Toronto 13 June 1921. Attended St. Francis School and graduated from Harbord Collegiate Institute. Worked about 1 1/2 years as a plant operator manufacturing explosive gases.

Service Record

Enlisted for "P and O" training April, 1942. Stationed at Toronto Manning Pool, I.T.S. Toronto, B & G. School Fingal and graduated as Sgt. Bomb Aimer 5 March 1943 at Malton. Received commission in Halifax while awaiting embarkation. Bournemouth, RAF Regiment course Sidmouth, #2 OAFU Millom, #19 O.T. U. Kinloss, Battle School Driffield, #1652 HCU. Marston Moor, #158 Squadron. Our pilot, Sgt. J. Griffith, RAF, killed over Berlin 15 February 1944 on "second dickie" trip. Returned to Marston Moor for training with new pilot and returned to 158 Squadron.

Crew

Pilot F/Sgt. J. Taffy Evans (RAF), Nav. P/O. J.B. Daniels (RAF), W/OP Sgt Douglas Lloyd (RAF), F/E Sgt Les Board (RAF), M/UP Sgt. Dick Colledge (RAAF), and R/G Sgt. Frank Tait (RAAF).

My Sojourn in Belgium

Just after completing our bombing raid on the marshalling yards of Hasselt, Belgium on 13 May 1944, we were shot down and all the crew safely bailed out. Through contact with two children of school age, an uncle supplied me with farm coveralls. I was interrogated by a resistance member (Jaak Cardineals of Bree) who arranged to hide me in a barn (Bruntix's farm at Bokrijk - now Diana's Restaurant) and where I met my pilot Taffy. We then hid in the woods of Zondhoven for 7 days with escaped Russian POWS. In that time period, we were joined by our W/Op, Nav. and F/Eng. Both gunners were POW'S. My civvies were supplied by Baron De Fille Fang and most of the food supplied by Julien ?, Louis ?, and Rene Jaspers of Zondhoven. Taken by bike to Biernaux's home in Hasselt for 2 days. Young lady guided Taffy and self by train to clearance centre in Liege. Dr. Boulanger of Liege led me to Pierre Rademakers' home Dieu Donne Avenue, Liege. Spent the rest of the time there until liberation, except for a period when Dr. Boulanger was jailed by the Germans. I was taken to the home of Mme Trokay, Quai D'orsay, Liege by Arthur Molle of Herstal and Pierre Rademaker until it was safe to return to the Rademakers'. Liberated by the U.S. Third Army early September. Hitchhiked with downed U.S. pilot Ron Moores to Brussels. Returned home in October 1944 by Queen Mary. Discharged as F/O on 22 March 1945.

Post War

Married Violet Duffy in Toronto 15 June 1946. Our two sons and daughter reside in various parts of Ontario.

I was employed by the Federal Government for over 35 years as a program administrator, residing in Belleville for the last 26 years.

