

FORD, F/L Charles George "Chuck" (J.21372), DFC [pilot]

Born Melfort, Saskatchewan, 2 August 1921
Enlisted in Regina, 20 March 1941 as Aero Engine Mechanic
Posted to No.1 Manning Depot
To Technical Training School, 9 May 1941
Promoted AC1, 12 September 1941
To No.15 SFTS, 17 September 1941
Promoted LAC, 13 December 1941
Remustered to aircrew and posted to No.4 ITS
Graduated 14 (8?) March 1942, reverting to AC2 that date
Restored to LAC, 1 April 1942
Graduated 8 May 1942
Posted to No.10 EFTS 6 June 1942
To No.5 EFTS, 20 June 1942
Graduated 14 August 1942 and posted next day to No.4 SFTS
Graduated and commissioned 4 December 1942
To "Y" Depot, 27 December 1942
To RAF overseas, 14 January 1943
Promoted Flying Officer, 4 June 1943

F/O C. Ford was attacked by an enemy aircraft. The rear gunner, Sgt. P. Emms RAF, was killed and mid-upper gunner, Sgt. H. Proctor RAF, was injured (22/23 Oct 1943)

F/O C. Ford from 428 squadron landed at East Moor on return (26/27 Nov 1943)

Promoted Flight Lieutenant (27Nov43)

F/Lt C. Ford from 428 squadron returned early as P/O N. Pearson RAF, the navigator was sick. (21/22Jan44)

F/Lt. C. Ford from 428 squadron was attacked by an enemy aircraft on return. The Halifax caught fire and 3 crew bailed out on the pilot's orders. F/Lt. Ford was able to get the Halifax under control and the fire was put out. They were able to crash land at Attlebridge with injuries to the rest of the crew. Unfortunately the rear gunner, P/O A. Shaw, RAF died of his injuries. (20/21Apr44)

Distinguished Flying Cross - No.428 Squadron - Award effective 13 June 1944 as per London Gazette of that date and AFRO 1660/44 dated 4 August 1944

DFC citation:

Flight Lieutenant Ford is a fine captain and a skilful and resolute pilot. He has completed a notable tour of operations during which he has attacked such strongly defended targets as Berlin, Mannheim and Stuttgart with success. On one night in April 1944 his aircraft was badly damaged and several members of the crew were injured in an encounter with a fighter. Nevertheless, Flight Lieutenant Ford flew back to friendly territory. Whilst attempting to land his crippled aircraft safely this brave pilot was injured. Despite this he did everything possible to extricate the members of his crew from the burning bomber before he collapsed. He displayed great courage and determination throughout.

1944/176 428/JP113 13/11/08 After JP113 NA-A add GIT UP THEM STAIRS
[Peter Cunliffe, 13/11/08]

Repatriated 4 September 1944
To Station Edmonton, 24 December 1944
To No.1 School of Flying Control, 22 April 1945
To Western Air Command, 21 June 1945
Retired 29 September 1945
Died in Sidney, British Columbia, 11 February 1995.

References:

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<http://www.6groupcaf.com/428noseart.html>
2. Air Force Association of Canada
<http://airforce.ca/awards.php?search=1&keyword=&page=242&mem=&type=rcaf>
(discrepancy in graduation date from No.4 ITS)
3. Air Force Association of Canada
<http://airforce.ca/uploads/airforce/2009/07/ALPHA-FO.html>
(discrepancies in graduation date from No.4 ITS)
4. London Gazette (p.2814)
<http://www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/36560/supplements/2814/page.pdf>
5. Flight (24 August 1944, p.216)
<http://www.flightglobal.com/pdfarchive/view/1944/1944%20-%201770.html>
6. The RCAF Overseas, The Fifth Year (Volume 2, p.88)
http://www.ibiblio.org/hyperwar/UN/Canada/RCAF/Fifth/RCAF_Overseas_vol2_e.pdf
7. 6 Group RCAF (October 22/23, 1944)
<http://www.6groupcaf.com/Oct43/Oct22~2343.html>
8. 6 Group RCAF (November 26/27, 1943)
<http://www.6groupcaf.com/Nov43/Nov26~2743.html>
9. 6 Group RCAF (January 21/22, 1944)
<http://www.6groupcaf.com/Jan44/Jan21~2244.html>
10. 6 Group RCAF (April 20/21, 1944)
<http://www.6groupcaf.com/April44/April20~21.html>
11. Legion Magazine notice of death
http://www.legionmagazine.com/en/lastpost/browse.asp?tfm_order=ASC&tfm_orderby=LastName&alpha=F&offset=3500

12. Legion Magazine Last Post
http://www.legionmagazine.com/en/lastpost/details.asp?tfm_order=ASC&tfm_orderby=LastName&alpha=F&offset=3500&LastPostData_ID=150983

13. RAF
<http://www.rafinfo.org.uk/BCWW2Losses/1944.htm>

14. Juno Beach Centre, Brick Memorial Wall
http://www.junobeach.org/Centre/english/contributions/brick/bricklocator_v.cfm?BrickKiosk=K15&BrickPanel=1&BrickPosition=73