



**Gilbert Herbert McDonald Batten**

**Royal Air Force**

**Service No. 621459**

**World War II**

**Born:** Jan 1919

**Died:** 20 Oct 1943

**Place of Birth:** Thanet District, Kent, England

**Parents:** Gilbert and Jessie Winnifred (nee Palmer) Batten

Although born in England, Gilbert appears in the 1921 Newfoundland general census as living with his parents in Bareneed, Newfoundland. The son of World War I Royal Naval Reserve (Newfoundland) veteran, Gilbert from The Dock, Bareneed and Jessie (Palmer) war bride from England.



**The Batten Family**

Records indicated that young Gilbert and mother arrived Newfoundland on 04 July 1919 on board the SS Baltic from Liverpool, England.



**SS Baltic**

Herbert was one of four children born to the Batten's. All were boys. According to 1926 passenger ship listing arriving in Liverpool from Chile, there was Gilbert 6 born in England, Harold 3 born 1922 in Newfoundland, Arthur 1 born 1926 in the Canal Zone (Panama). Clive born in 1935 in Panama.

Both Gilbert and Harold would join the RAF or Royal Air Force. Tragically both would die in service just months apart.

Record indicates that Gilbert was flight engineer based at Little Snoring, Norfolk with the 115<sup>th</sup> Squadron Bomber Command.

He was aboard the Avro Lancaster 11 S.N. DS725 when it was “shot down by a night fighter at Engersen, 7 miles NE of Gardelegen during a raid on Leipzig.”

Gilbert is buried in the Berlin 1939-1945 War Cemetery Also known as *Britischer Soldatenfriedhof* , *Soldatenfriedhof an der Heerstrasse*, Charlottenburg, Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf, Berlin, Germany.

Memorial to Gilbert can be located at the site below.

<https://www.ipswichwarmemorial.co.uk/herbert-gilbert-mcdonald-batten/>

Page 209 from the Newfoundland Book of Remembrance is reproduced below.



# ADDENDA

## SECOND WORLD WAR

MOTOR MECHANIC	<b>Adams, George Manuel</b> <i>HMCS Racoon, Royal Canadian Naval Reserve</i>	September 7, 1942
WARRANT OFFICER CLASS 11	<b>Austin, William Wesley</b> <i>46 (R) Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery</i>	July 30, 1944
SERGEANT	<b>Batten, Herbert Gilbert</b> <i>115 Squadron, Royal Air Force</i>	October 20, 1943
PRIVATE	<b>Healey, Thomas</b> <i>Newfoundland Regiment</i>	December 12, 1942
GUNNER	<b>Mugford, Harold</b> <i>106 (Newfoundland) Field Regt. Royal Artillery</i>	October 14, 1947
GUNNER	<b>Penny, Gerald</b> <i>Royal Canadian Artillery</i>	November 29, 1947
PRIVATE	<b>Ploughman, Harris</b> <i>Royal Canadian Infantry Corps</i>	November 5, 1947
LEADING AIRWOMAN	<b>Rowsell, Triffie Pearl</b> <i>Station Moncton, Royal Canadian Air Force</i>	August 10, 1945
PRIVATE	<b>Skeard, Victor Helven</b> <i>General List</i>	October 20, 1945
LIEUTENANT	<b>Tulk, Arthur Raymond</b> <i>1st Canadian Assault Troop, Royal Canadian Armoured Corps</i>	July 11, 1944
LIEUTENANT	<b>Tulk, Waldo Eugene</b> <i>5th Armoured Regt. 8th Princess Louise's (New Brunswick) Hussars</i>	January 4, 1945

*The fore-going names were submitted too late to be included in the main body of this Book.  
They were added October 30, 1972.*