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Royal Air Force



James “Jim” Patrick Kielly

RAF Royal Air Force

Service No. 637799

World War II

Born: June 1918

Died: 05 Aug 2003

Place of Birth: Bay Roberts, Conception Bay,
Newfoundland

Parents: John and Agnes Kielly

Born in 1918, James was the eldest child of John and Agnes Kielly of Bay Roberts. James’s dad John, originally from England, was working as a telegraph operator at the Western Union Cable Office in Bay Roberts. As a staff member, he and wife Agnes were housed in company housing on Cable Avenue in the heart of Bay Roberts and just adjacent to the Cable Building itself.

The Kielly family were “well to do” as the saying goes, being provided housing and able to have a servant/domestic working for them.

The 1921 Newfoundland general census lists John at 34, Agnes 29, James 3, and John jr at 1. Lane Mercer aged 24 is their live-in servant.

The following 1935 census again gives the appearance of an affluent family with John now 51, Agnes 49 and children James 17, John jr. 15 and Annie Moore their domestic.

By 1945, the Kielly’s have moved to St. John’s and are living on Gower street. John aged 25 is the only other listing on this enumeration census.

Although the service record for World War II service personnel is not available to the general public, what is known is that he did serve in the Royal Air Force. The following excerpt from his obituary notice provides some details:

“Jim, a veteran of WW II, served with the RAF in Europe, North Africa, and Burma. He retired from the Air Force in 1962. His love and association with aviation took him to Korea, Singapore, Cyprus, and Saudi Arabia until finally retiring to Williamsford, Ontario.”

James is buried in the St. Stanislaus Roman Catholic Cemetery at Chatsworth, Ontario.

Here is the official obituary for him as posted at the time of his passing:

“James Patrick Kielly, of Williamsford and formerly of Bay Roberts, NL., passed away on August 5, 2003, in his 86th year. Devoted husband of Wendy (nee Thompson); stepson of Annie Stapleton of St. John's, NL; dear father of Peter (Gaynor), Stephen (Anne), Martin (Diane), Neil (Margaret), Julia, Joanna, Daniel, Jane (Greg), Timothy (Stacy). He will also be missed by his eight grandchildren.”

Below are some clippings from the Bay Roberts Guardian (a local newspaper):

25 February 1939

**BAY ROBERTS BOY
TO JOIN
ROYAL AIR FORCE**

James Kielly, son of Mr. John Kielly, Cable Avenue, Bay Roberts, will be leaving here next week for London, England, where he will join the Royal Air Force and begin training in aviation.

Jim Kielly was educated at Bay Roberts R. C. Academy and St. Bon's College, St. John's. During the past year he was a popular member of the Bay Roberts Tennis Club, playing in intertown games. Other sports which he participated in were football and hockey.

His many friends in Bay Roberts and elsewhere extend to him best wishes, and may he meet with success in his chosen career.

31 March 1945

Congratulations are extended to F/Lt. J. P. Kielly, R.A.F. who has been appointed to staff duties, South East Asia Command, R.A.F. India.

25 May 1946

riage.
Jim Kielly of the RAF, arrived in St. John's this week and is visiting his father, Mr. John Kielly. Jim joined the RAF before the outbreak of war and has spent the most of that time in the Far East. Noel Howard also of the RAF, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Howard, Bay Roberts, arrived home this week.

09 November 1940

Royal Air Force

Harry Parsons, Clement Elms, Gerald Ploughman, David Parsons, Donald Hambling, Chesley Sparkes, Kevin Joy. James Kielly joined R. A. F., went to England in April, 1939. Roy Myers and Douglas Hall are awaiting the call to proceed to Canada.