



Kevin Marcus Joy

Royal Air Force

Service No. 798592

World War II

Royal Canadian Air Force

Service No. 201 141

1952 - 1967

Born: 18 Jun 1921

Died: 29 May 2014 at age 92

Place of Birth: Bay Roberts, Conception Bay North, Newfoundland

Parents: James and Mary Jane (nee Ryan) Joy

The 1921 Newfoundland general census for Bay Roberts lists James 38, Mary Jane 33 and children Mary 10, Margaret 9, David 7, Elizabeth 4 and baby Kevin less than a year old respectively.

James originally from St. John's came to work at the West Union Cable Station at Bay Roberts as an operator. He met and married Mary Jane Ryan of North River in June 1909 and made the community their home.

By the time of the next census in 1935, the Joy family still living on Cable Avenue (exclusive housing for cable station employees) was listed as follows: James 52, Mary Jane 47, Margaret 23, David 22, Elizabeth 18, Kevin 17 and Edward Richard 11.

With the outbreak of World War II, Kevin enlisted in the RAF (Royal Air Force) and although not part of the 1st Draft Air Crew in August 1940, which included fifty (50) men service Numbers 798500 – 798551, Kevin's service number indicates that he was a member of the 2nd Draft or Contingent Air Crew.

Kevin underwent training and qualified as a wireless air gunner with the 201 Squadron. RAF recruits were trained in Canada then.

What is a wireless air gunner?

Wireless operator/air gunner – The role was to send and receive wireless signals during the flight, assisting the observer with triangulation "fixes" to aid navigation when necessary and if attacked to use the defensive machine gun armament of the bomber to fight off enemy aircraft. In the early stages of the war usually an enlisted man, he could hold any rank from aircraftman 2nd class (until 27 May 1940)^[33] upwards but most often a sergeant. A wireless operator/air gunner wore a single-winged aircrew flying badge with a wreath containing the letters AG or S on his tunic, above his left breast pocket denoting his trade specialisation and a cloth arm patch featuring lightning bolts.



Air Gunner flying badge

Kevin would serve in the 201 Squadron of the Royal Air Force from 1940 – 1946.

Below is a picture of the aircraft used by the 201 Squadron and is most likely the kind that Kevin was a crew member of. He would have been responsible for communication and gunner as needed.



Short Sunderland Mk V

The **Short S.25 Sunderland** is a British flying boat patrol bomber, developed and constructed by Short Brothers for the Royal Air Force (RAF). The aircraft took its service name from the town (latterly, city) and port of Sunderland in North East England.

From October 1941 until August 1945 the 201 squadron was based at **Castle Archdale on Lough Erne in Northern Ireland** except for April to November 1944, when it was based at Pembroke Dock to assist in covering the English Channel during the build up to and after the Normandy landings.

Kevin was part of the squadron missions, and it is safe to assume, he flew a number of dangerous reconnaissance flights.

Following his six years of service in the RAF, Kevin kind of retired from flying but it was always with him

Kevin would spend an additional fifteen (15) years in military service. He enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) in 1952 and retired in 1967. He was an officer in the Air Services Branch and Search and Rescue during that time.

Kevin married Irene Bradbury in October 1947 and together, they built a life around Kevin's service. They would have three (3) children, E. J, Doug, and Gail.

In all Kevin would spend a life of service with more than twenty-one (21) years in uniform and service to his country. Six (6) years with the RAF (1940 – 1946) and fifteen (15) years with the RCAF as part of the Canadian Armed Forces.

Kevin's medals



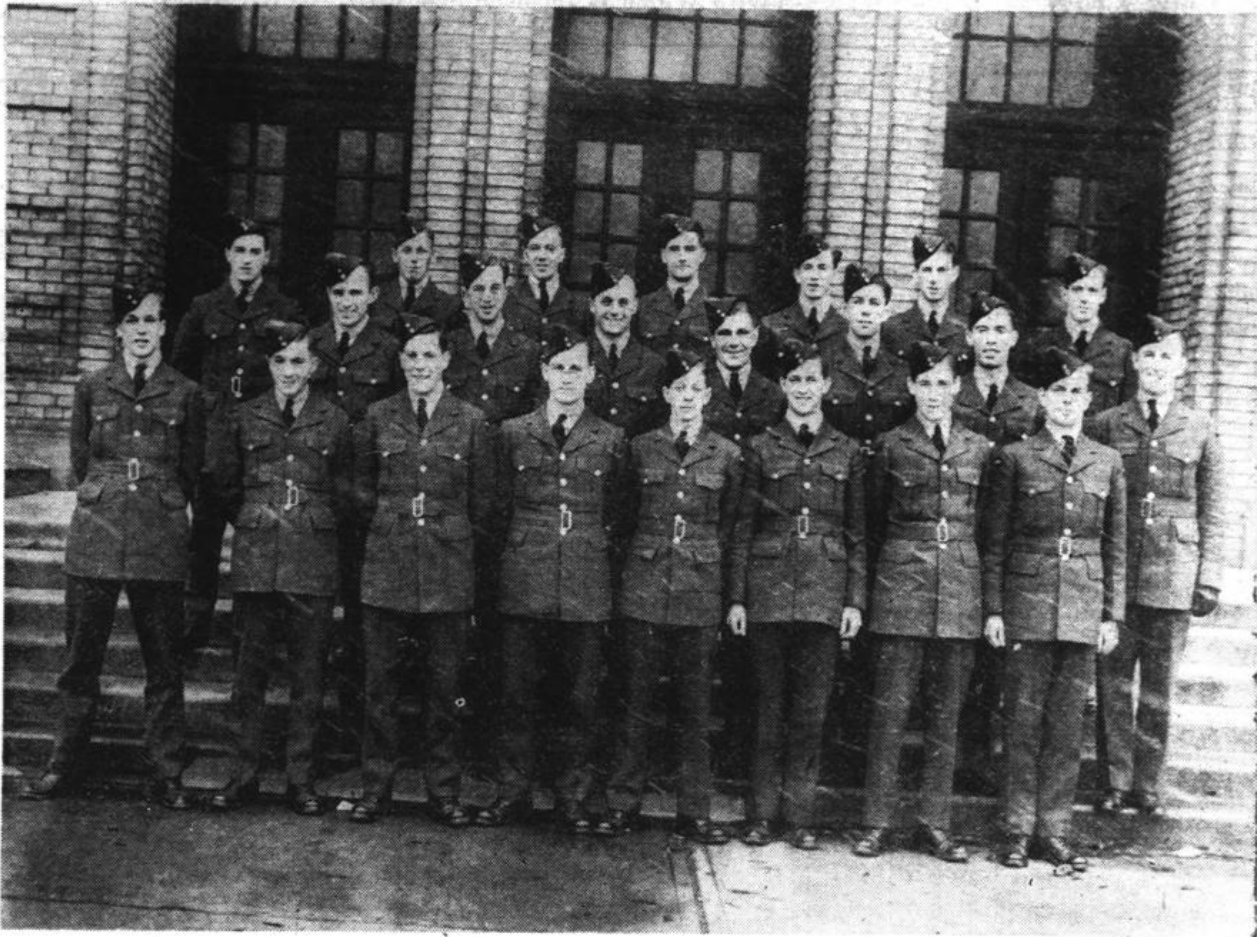
From left to right:

1. *The 1939 - 1945 Star*
2. *The Atlantic Star (Battle of the Atlantic)*
3. *The Defence Medal*
4. *The War Medal 1939 - 1945 (Sometimes referred to as the Victory Medal).*
5. *Canadian Forces Decoration (Commonly known as the CD)*
6. *The Newfoundland Volunteer War Service Medal.*

The picture below shows the class or draft. It is most likely that this is the 2nd RAF Contingent of Air Crew to go overseas from Newfoundland. Before

going overseas with RAF recruits were trained in Canada.

Newfoundland Air Force Recruits Training In Canada



Group of Newfoundland Royal Air Force air Craftsmen now in training in Canada and recently visited by F. G. Blair of Recruiting Headquarters. All the boys are quite happy, well, keen and enjoying their new life.

FIRST ROW—A. D. Rowsell, A. F. Woolaridge, R. R. Saunders, John J. Nolan, B. Carnell, W. G. Feltham, A. M. Hood, V. R. French.

SECOND ROW—H. T. Trask, N. C. Taylor, Kevin Joy, C. W. Parsons, C. U. Cutler, G. O. Bastow, W. Barnes, J. F. Power.

BACK ROW—L. C. Matthews, H. A. Bishop, D. McKay, R. L. Cheeseman, J. A. P. Bartlett, A. A. Templeton.

—Photo by George Rutherford, Toronto.

Kevin passed away in May 2014 at the age of 93. He is interred at Mount Pleasant Cemetery at St. John's, Newfoundland.

Obituary: JOY, Kevin M.

Passed away peacefully at Caribou Memorial Veterans Pavilion, St. Johns, **May 29, 2014**. Age 92. Leaving to mourn, his loving wife Irene (Bradbury), sons E.J (Dot), Doug and daughter, Gail. Grandsons Stephen and Paul (Krista); and great grandsons, Hudson, and Cameron. Born in Bay Roberts, NL, WWII Veteran Kevin served from 1940 to 1946 as a Wireless Air Gunner with 201 SQDN RAF and Air Transport Command until released in 1946. Re-enlisted in the RCAF 1952 and served as an Officer in the Air Services Branch, Search and Rescue until his retirement, 1967. Special thanks to the staff, nurses, and doctors of the 2nd and 3rd floor of the Caribou Memorial Veterans Pavilion. Cremation has taken place. Relatives and friends have visited the family at Carnell's Funeral Home, 329 Freshwater Road on Friday, May 30, 2014, from 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. Funeral service has taken place at the Carnell Memorial Chapel on Saturday, May 31, 2014, at 1:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers. Donations in his memory may be made to the Jim Shield's Memorial Garden at the Caribou Veterans Pavilion, or to a charity of one's choice.

"PER ARDUA AD ASTRA" (Translated this means "Through Adversity to the Stars.")

Below are some clippings from the local weekly newspaper – The Guardian:

28 June 1941

Kevin M. Joy, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Joy, Cable Ave, who is training for the R.A.F. in Canada, has graduated from No. 2 Wireless School in Calgary. He is now taking a course in bombing and gunnery in Manitoba.

26 July 1941

**NFLD. AIR GUNNERS
GRADUATE IN CANADA**

Twenty Newfoundlanders recently graduated as air gunners at No. 7 Bombing and Gunnery School at Manitoba, Canada. They all have the rank of Sergeant. Among those who graduated were Kevin M. Joy, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Joy, Bay Roberts, also V. R. French, Bareneed, and J. F. Power, Cupids.

02 August 1941

Sergeant K. M. Joy, R.A.F., arrived here on Monday from Canada to spend a few days with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Joy. Sergt. Joy has completed his training as a Wireless - Air Gunner and will be proceeding overseas in the near future.

23 May 1942

Secretary W. P. A.,
Bay Roberts.

Dear Friends,— I know I'm a little late in thanking you for your Christmas present, but "better late than never" as the saying goes. Anyway, thanks so much for remembering me at such a special time.

I really don't know what to say on this letter, so here is a report on some of the boys. I hear from Roy Myers quite often. He is fine. Doug Hall is well—he is in Cranwell and I see him at the dances we have here on the station. I have no news of Dave Parsons or Don Hambling. They are somewhere in England. We usually meet at the Trade Comm'rs. when we get leave and visit London.

tell me lillilliyyipnnpnpu

Thanking you all again,

Yours sincerely,

KEVIN JOY.

14 August 1943

PROMOTED TO WARRANT OFFICER

Information has been received from the Air Ministry that 798592 Sergeant Kevin Marcus Joy, R.A.F., of Bay Roberts has been promoted to Warrant Officer. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James Joy of Bay Roberts, Newfoundland.

07 October 1944

Sergt. Kevin Joy, R.A.F., arrived here on Monday last from overseas, to spend a short furlough with his mother, Mrs. Jas. G. Joy.

Dave Joy, District Agriculturist, on the West Coast, arrived here last Sunday, accompanying the remains of his father, the late Jas. G. Joy, who died suddenly at Gander.

27 July 1946

Kevin Joy came in from Gander this week to spend a few days with his mother, Mrs. J. G. Joy, Cable Ave.