

*No Picture
Available*



Raymond Augustus Keefe

Royal Canadian Air Force

Service No. 798817

World War II

Born: 18 February 1925

Died: 04 May 2009

Place of Birth: Coley's Point, Bay Roberts,
Conception Bay, Newfoundland

Parents: Augustus Allan and Lillian Louise "Ethel"
Rose Keefe

Raymond was born in a large family in 1925. According to the 1935 Newfoundland general census, the Keefe household at Coley's Point, Bay Roberts totaled 14 people. There were grandparents Peter 83 and Mary Jane 72. Augustus 46 and wife Ethel 38 and children; Ada 16, Gwendolyn 14, Allan (nephew) 12, Mary 12, Raymond 10, Irene 8, Elsa 6, Irving 5, Calvin 3, and Ethel 1.

Raymond enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force or RCAF in the early days of the war and was released from active service on 28 April 1946. He would rise to the rank of S/Sgt during his years in the Air Force.

He married Dorothy Mae Dewling of St. John's, Newfoundland in 1950 and together they had three (3) children of record.

When Raymond passed away at Dartmouth, Nova Scotia in 2009, he and Dorothy were married for 59 years. Dorothy passed away two (2) years later. Both were cremated.

**Write up held at the Shearwater Aviation
Museum on Sgt Raymond Augustus Keefe.**


<https://memoryns.ca/royal-canadian-airforce-flying-log-book-for-aircrew-other-than-pilot>

Raymond Augustus Keefe was born in Coley's Point, Newfoundland, and joined the Royal Air Force in 1943 during World War II. He served as a Wireless Operator and Air Gunner on Consolidated B-24 Liberator aircraft. In June 1944, LAC Keefe was sent to #3 Wireless Training School in Winnipeg, Manitoba, where he received training as a Wireless Operator until November of the same year. He was then promoted to Sergeant and sent to #7 Bombing and Gunnery School in Paulson, Manitoba, from December 1944 to January 1945 to train as an Air Gunner. In May 1945, Sgt. Keefe was sent to #5 Operational Training Unit in Boundary Bay, British Columbia, for air gunner training and practice exercises. He finished his training at #5 Operational Training Unit in Abbotsford, British Columbia, in July 1945, where he trained on Consolidated B-24 Liberators and North American Mitchells.

Sgt. Keefe's logbook also includes his Royal Air Force Service and Release Record Book SAM2015.0009.002. The service book certifies that Sgt. Keefe served with the Royal Air Force (RAF) from 19 November 1943 to 21 January 1946 and was granted 81 days of leave on release.

R.A.F. Form 2520A
AIRMAN

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ROYAL AIR FORCE
SERVICE AND RELEASE BOOK

Rank SGT
 Service Number N.F.D. 798817
 Surname KEEFE
 Initials R A
 Class of Release A
 Age and Service Group No. 57

31-0763

Here is a copy of the obituary of Raymond as published in the local newspaper at the time:

“Raymond Augustus (Ray) Keefe

Born In: Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada

Passed on: May 4th, 2009

83. Passed away May 4, 2009, at Camphill Veteran's Memorial Hospital. Born in Coley's Point, Newfoundland to the late Gus and Ethel (Rose) Keefe and later of St. John's, Newfoundland. Ray moved to Dartmouth with his family in 1968. Ray was a Sergeant in the RAF during WWII acting as wireless operator and Air Gunner on B-52s and was released from active duty on April 28, 1946. His working career led him to the position of Regional Manager for Superior Propane which saw a move to Moncton for five years until his retirement in 1989 when he returned to Dartmouth. Ray was a member of the Dartmouth Curling Club and also enjoyed bowling and lawn bowling.

A man to whom family meant everything, left to mourn are his loving wife of 59 years, Dorothy (Dewling), daughter Lynn Gracewood (Pictou), son Greg Keefe and wife Theresa, daughter Donna Gaudet, all of Dartmouth, grandchildren: Fred Gracewood, Dr. Lorri Beatty (Shawn), John Gaudet (Ashley Beckwith), Jason Keefe (Amanda Waldic), Amanda Gaudet (Graham Clements), great-grandchildren: Miguel Rodgers, Kylie Clements and Hunter Raymond Keefe, sisters: Jeanette Keefe (Brampton), Gwen Miles (St. John's), and Elsa Batten (Roy) (Edmonton). He was predeceased by sisters: Ada Fontain (Jim), Mary Dawe (Bill), Rene Havaaldsen (Nels), Marina Dawe (Mackie), Edith Ryan (Bill), brothers: Irving Keefe (Phyllis), and Calvin Keefe (Edna), a sister and brother in infancy.

Cremation has taken place. Arrangements have been entrusted to Dartmouth Memorial Gardens, 767 Main Street, Dartmouth. There will be a memorial service on Thursday, May 7 under the guidance of Reverend Catherine Bourbonnier, with a reception following. Family Flowers only. Donations may be made in Ray's memory to the Canadian Diabetes Association or a charity of your choice.”

R.C.A.F. Form 49
50M-12-43 (1997)
H.Q. 695-R-59

ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE

FLYING LOG BOOK

for
Aircrew other than Pilot

NAME KEEFE, R.A.
NFD-798817

C. L. B. NOTES

Captain Gene Farnham, Bay Roberts continues doing good service with Bay Roberts Company. All ranks miss Sergt. William White who has joined the King's Service in the Newfoundland Regiment, and Sergt. Major Raymond Keefe who enlisted in the R.C.A.F. A farewell party was held in his honour, and a gift of a cigarette lighter and a leather wallet presented on behalf of all officers and lads. The N.C.O's at the gathering made excellent speeches expressing their appreciation of his service and particularly for his high ideals of leadership in maintaining the Brigades objective and its motto "Fight the good fight". Sergt. Major Keefe was an outstanding leader in all good works, and held in high esteem by his fellows, always on parade and never shirked his duties. Sergt. White too was of the same calibre, regular in attendance and most courteous and willing. Both lads are missed, and we all wish them the best of luck.

Orders contain the following promotions: Sergt. Wells to be Sergt.-Major, Corporals J. White and Mercer to be Sergts.; Lance-Corp. Tuttle to be Corporal, Lance Corp. Starr to be Corporal. Twenty-five lads are enrolled. A fine class of recruits is in training.

Raymond Keefe, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Keefe, Coley's Point, has enlisted in the Royal Air Force.

From Ray Keefe . . .

I received today a parcel from you which I appreciate very much. I thank you for your kindness and wish you every success in your work. In closing I may say that I am enjoying life in the Air Force. Sincerely yours, R. A. KEEFE, R.A.F., Winnipeg.

PARENTS GET LONG-DISTANCE PHONE CALL FROM THEIR AIRMAN SON

The many friends of Ray Keefe of Coley's Point will be glad to hear he has recently completed a course of 42 weeks training in Canada, has received his wings and now holds the rank of Sergeant W.A.G. He is now spending two weeks leave with his sister, Mrs. Ada Girard at Springfield, Mass. Ray and Ada delightfully surprised their parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Keefe, Coley's Point, with a long-distance telephone call on Sunday evening. Mrs. Emmie Hall, Mr. Keefe's sister, was also there to greet the folks at home.

Ray will soon report to take up operational duties. He was very disappointed at not having sufficient leave to enable him to come home.