



Walter John Dawson

Royal Canadian Air Force

(RCAF)

World War II

Born: 15 Sep 1924

Died: 09 Aug 1996

Place of Birth: North River, Conception Bay, Newfoundland

Parents: Geoffrey and Johanna (nee Hanlon) Dawson

Walter was the first child born to Geoffrey and Johanna and one of three sons who would see service in the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF). Younger brothers Gerald and Geoffrey also served, Gerald (“Jerry”) in the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) and Geoffrey in the RCAF like his older brother.

According to newspaper sources, Walter served three (3) years in World War II as part of the RCAF. This being the case and given his date of birth, he was just 18 when he enlisted.

Walter’s service appears to have been about 10 years since there is record of him on the passenger ship Carinthia on June 25th, 1959, departing

Montreal for Liverpool, England. Walter lists his address in England as RCAF Langar, Nottinghamshire and his occupation as RCAF, He was a LAC or Leading Air Craftsman.



RMS Carinthia

“The CARINTHIA of 1956 was the third of a quartet of new ships built for the Cunard Line and specially designed for the Canadian service.”

Royal Air Force Langar or more simply **RAF Langar** is a former Royal Air Force station located near the village of Langar, Nottinghamshire, England. The airfield is located approximately 6 miles (9.7 km) east-southeast of Radcliffe on Trent.

Opened in 1942 during the Second World War, it was used by both the Royal Air Force and United States Army Air Forces. During the war it was used primarily as troop carrier transport airfield. After the war it was provided to the Royal Canadian Air Force which used it as an operational base until 1963.

Walter married Phoebe Clarice Irene Noseworthy of Clarendville, Newfoundland. Together they had three (3) sons, Robert, Anthony, Andy and three (3) daughters, Beverly Ann, Patricia, and Lillian.

The newspaper clipping below taken from The Evening Telegram on 13 January 1955 provides some information. The clipping speaks of brothers, Geoffrey, and Walter.

8 Jul 1944

Geoffrey Dawson, Jr. son of Mr. and Mrs. Geoffrey Dawson arrived home this week from Manitoba. Geoffrey joined the R.C.A.F. in June last and is now on furlough until February. Another son, Walter left on Jan. 4 for St. Jean, Quebec. Walter is a veteran of World War II, having already had three years service with the R.C.A.F. we wish them every success in their chosen careers.

L.A.C. Walter Dawson, of the R.C.A.F. Ground Staff, stationed in Nfld., is now spending a few days leave here with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jeoffrey Dawson. Walter wishes to express his sincere thanks to the War Comforts Committee and the W.P.A. of Bay Roberts for comforts, etc., he has received.

Walter served in the RCAF from 1942 – 1945, then apparently enlisted in 1955 and was stationed in England for a while in the late 1950's.

16 Jun 1945

A voters list from 1965 has Walter and wife Clarice living in Bay Roberts. Walter is working as a truck driver at the time.

A Reception will be held in the Public Building on Tuesday night, in honor of Gunner Geo. Parsons, R.A., L.A.C. Walter Dawson, RCAF, and Wm. Snow, Nfld. Regt., who are now home on leave.

Walter died in August 1996 and is buried in the Old Roman Catholic Cemetery, just off Cable Avenue, Bay Roberts.

Below are a few clippings from The Bay Roberts Guardian mentioning Walter's name:

11 Sep 1943

Walter Dawson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jeoffrey Dawson, went to Canada early this summer and joined the Royal Canadian Air Force. He is now in training.

29 Apr 1944

Walter Dawson, of the R. C. A. F. Ground Staff is at present spending a short leave here with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jeoffrey Dawson.