

By Jayla Owen-Lafontaine & Ashanna Smith-Bergeron

# John Smith Seaton Aird

## LIFE:

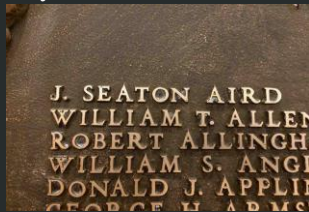
**Born:** July 26<sup>th</sup>, 1914

**Died:** September 18<sup>th</sup>, 1944

**Family:** Son of James Albert and Margaret Nicholson Aird, of Windsor, Ontario, Canada. After John died his family was not heard from.

## Westmount High School

John did graduate from Westmount High School around 1930. His name is on the wall in the main lobby at WHS.



## Remembering John Aird:

His name is in the seven books of remembrance located in the Parliament building. There are more than 118,000 people who have made the sacrifice to serve our country.



## Role in World War II

John Smith Seaton Aird was a flying officer in the RCAF (Royal Canadian Air Force) for 14 years before his death.

## Flying Officer:

It's a junior commissioned rank in the RAF (Royal Air Force) which has a historical British influence. It ranks above pilot officer and below flight lieutenant. It is used as the English translation of a similar rank in countries that have a non-English air

force-specific rank structure. The term "Flying officer" was originally used in the Royal Flying Corps as a flying appointment for junior officers, not a rank.



## Royal Canadian "Dash" Force:

It was founded on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 1924 (93 years ago). It has two forces-the regular force with 14,500 people and the reserved force 2,600 people and 2,500 were civilians. The RCAF is responsible for all aircraft operations for the Canadian Forces. They also provide aircraft support for the Royal Canadian Navy and the Canadian Army. Its role is to provide the Canadian Forces with relevant, responsive and effective airpower. In 1939, the BCATP (British Common Air Training Plan) led to the expansion of the RCAF. More than 131,000 trained in Canada and almost 73,000 were Canadian and others would fulfill their wartime service in Canada. The first RCAF squadrons were sent to England during the first six months of 1940.



## His grave:

His grave is in the United Kingdom, at the Brookwood Military Cemetery located 30 miles away from London. There is a large Royal Air Forces section in the South East corner of the cemetery for those who served with the Royal Air Force. It contains approximately 2,400 Canadian graves of the Second World War.



Bibliography: [www.cwgc.org/history-and-archives/second-world-war/campaigns/war-in-the-west/norway](http://www.cwgc.org/history-and-archives/second-world-war/campaigns/war-in-the-west/norway).+ [www.findagrave.com/memorial/17661911/john-smith-aird/flower](http://www.findagrave.com/memorial/17661911/john-smith-aird/flower). [www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/second-world-war/second-world-war-dead-1939-1947/Pages/Item.aspx?idNumber=199&](http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/second-world-war/second-world-war-dead-1939-1947/Pages/Item.aspx?idNumber=199&) [www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/books/page?page=235&book=2&sort=pageAsc](http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/books/page?page=235&book=2&sort=pageAsc). [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flying\\_officer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flying_officer) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal\\_Canadian\\_Air\\_Force](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Canadian_Air_Force)

