

# American WWII Volunteers in the Royal Canadian Air Force & Royal Air Force RCAF & RAF-AMERICANS

Before the U.S. Entered WWII

**8,864  
Americans**  
joined the RCAF and  
**6,136  
Americans**  
joined the RAF

**850+**  
RCAF-Americans  
were killed-in-action  
**1 out of every 10**  
became a casualty



4,450 RCAF & RAF-Americans transferred to the U.S. Army Air Force in 1942 -1943 when America was desperate for leaders in fighters and bombers. More than 5,100 RCAF-Americans remained in the RCAF until their terms of service were fulfilled.



The Top 6 U.S. Army Air Force  
Fighter Aces  
in the 4th Fighter Group  
were all RCAF-Americans.

Dominic Salvatore Gentile  
Duane Beeson  
John T. Godfrey  
James A. Goodson  
Ralph K. Hofer  
Donald Blakeslee

## Lack of Remembrance & Recognition

Many Americans killed-in-action are inaccurately listed as Canadian or UK citizens.

Over 110 Americans were killed in action while flying Canadian aircraft. Although they had technically transferred to the USAAF, they perished before the USAAF mobilized in England.

Many RCAF-Americans did not receive any military benefits from the U.S. or Canada.



TOM WITHERS (Richmond, Virginia) wrote letters to his family about WHY he joined the RCAF to fight for freedom. Withers, an Air Gunner on a RCAF Halifax of 405 Squadron was killed in action on July 27, 1942.



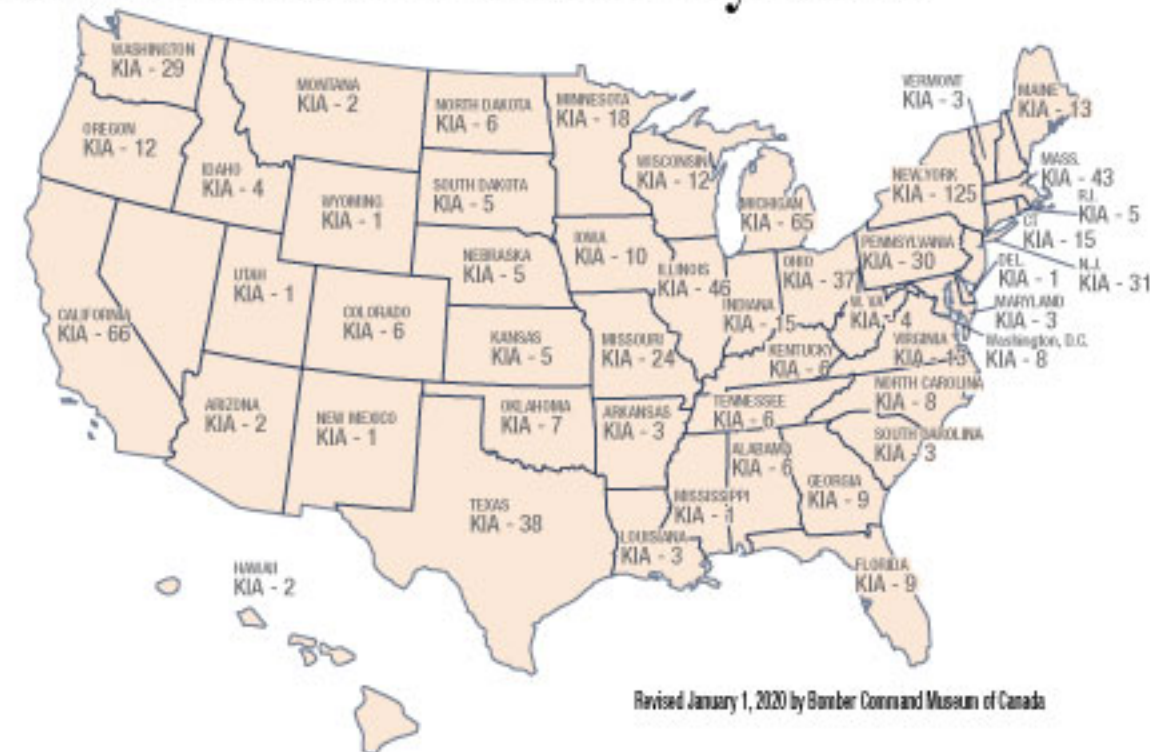
To his Mother on Nov 20, 1941 from England:  
*"I hope you do not worry about me and Henry too much. We are doing the only possible thing that we can do - the thing we should do. We are both, I believe, satisfied. You and Dad have made our lives full ones by the very freedom that we have been taught to use in enjoying life. Now we have a more serious job to do, that of preserving this freedom."*

About **25%** of the pilots comprising the legendary RAF Eagle Squadrons were trained by Canada and wore RCAF wings.



## RCAF Americans Killed In Action by State

U.S. citizens  
from all  
**48 states**  
and Hawaii  
joined the  
Royal Canadian  
Air Force.



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