



### **P/O Thomas Wilkie Adam J/21975 RCAF**

Thomas Adam was born on 30 March 1921 to Thomas Wilkie and Elsie Sarah Adam, who had both emigrated from England, and who lived at 9262-110 A Avenue, Edmonton in Alberta, Canada. He went to school locally, and left Victoria High School at the age of 17, when he went to work as a Messenger with CPR Telegraph. After a year he joined the firm of HH Cooper in Edmonton, as a Bookkeeper, where he worked until he enlisted into the Royal Canadian Air Force in February 1942. In his assessment, the Medical Officer described him as "A good type of lad for aircrew – keen and wide awake".

His initial training took him to the RCAF Station at Calgary, Alberta, before returning to Edmonton for a further five months. It was during this time that he was married, in December 1942, to Freda Doreen Groves in Edmonton. After only 8 weeks of married life he set sail from Halifax, Nova Scotia, on 3 February 1943, in transit for his posting to England. When he arrived he was transferred, on 20 April of that year, to 12 OTU stationed at RAF Chipping Warden in Northamptonshire. There he trained as a pilot on the Vickers Wellington bomber.

On the night of 16 June 1943, he took off from Chipping Warden at 0323 hours to undertake a night training exercise in a Wellington III, Z1721, with four other crew members on board. It was reported that after only about 15 minutes in the air, when the aircraft was approaching the flarepath, for some reason Thomas, as Pilot, decided to go round again at a height of about 300 feet. The aircraft passed the flarepath and was seen to be on fire, with flaming wreckage falling from it, at between 300/400 feet. The aircraft then dived to the ground, crashing at Broomhill Farm at Compton Wynyates. All five crew members were killed. The cause of the fire was never established.

Thomas is buried in the Cemetery at Banbury, Oxfordshire.

He is commemorated on Panel 1.

Photo source : [www.veterans.gc.ca](http://www.veterans.gc.ca)