

Sqn Ldr Michael Robert MacClancey 42620 RAF

Michael, known to his family as Bobby, was born on 5 June 1919 in Raheny, Dublin, Ireland, the second son of Michael Joseph McClancy, MRCVS and Annie (Nancy) MacClancy nee Widger. In February 1942 he married Beatrice Josephine Campbell in Willowfield, Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Educated at O'Connell's School and Belvedere College, Dublin, Michael was awarded a Short Service Commission in September 1939, just a few days before war was declared. Awarded his wings in just 10 weeks, by the end of 1941 Michael was a Sqn Ldr and was training new crews in addition to flying operations.

On 12 April 1942, Michael and a reduced crew were detached to RAF Hemswell, Lincolnshire in a 226 Sqn Boston III W8334 (MQ-R) to participate in a demonstration flight, which also included the display of some captured enemy aircrafts.

Shortly after take-off from RAF Hemswell, Michael pulled the aircraft into a steep turn in low-level flight, causing a high-speed stall. This developed into a flick-roll at low altitude, leaving no room to recover. At 17:06 the aircraft completed a full roll, crashing right way up. All on board were killed.

Also Killed: PO Thomas Emlyn Davies (Observer); FS Reginald John Holloway (WOp/AG); LAC Leonard Hale (AG)

Michael is buried in St Fintan's Cemetery, Sutton, Dublin, Ireland

Michael is commemorated on Wall Panel 65

Photo Source: The Tatler

