

Flt Lt Jack Douglas Royal 82951 RAFVR

Jack was born on 17 May 1917 at Wandsworth, London, the only son of James William Royal and Sarah Ellen Royal nee Cooper, and was married to Jean.

Educated at Emanuel School Battersea, Jack commenced his service in the RAF as a Sergeant Pilot, before he was commissioned as a Pilot Officer in July 1940. He trained and operated as a Wellington Pilot.

Following his Operational tour, Jack was posted as an instructor on 20 OCU based at RAF Lossiemouth.

Departing RAF Lossiemouth on a blind flying training flight on 18 May 1942, the port main wheel of Wellington P2516 (XL-C) burst during the take-off run and the aircraft swung off the runway, colliding with a mechanical digger. The resulting explosion blew the aircraft apart killing the crew instantly, and mortally wounded the excavator driver Mr G Duncan.

Jack was Mentioned in Despatches for his previous service, which was Gazetted posthumously on 11 June 1942.

Also killed in this accident were Flt Sgt Edward Robert Hamilton R/92180 RCAF (Pilot) and Sergeant George Walker 1378888 RAF (Pilot)

Jack is buried at the Lossiemouth Burial Ground, Moray

Jack is commemorated on Wall Panel 93

Photo source: <https://emanuelschoolatwar>

