Sergeant George Walker Thornton 1378888 RAFVR



George was born on 13 January 1914 in Sunderland, Durham and was the only son of George Thornton and Lily Thornton, nee Walker.

Before joining the RAF in 1940, he was employed as a Pharmaceutical Chemist in Newcastle upon Tyne, Northumberland and was married to Doris (nee Hall) with one child.

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.

Also killed in this accident were Flt Lt Jack Douglas Royal 82951 (Pilot) and Flt Sgt Edward Robert Hamilton R/92180 RCAF (Pilot).

George is buried in Newcastle-Upon-Tyne (Byker and Heaton) Cemetery, Northumberland

George is commemorated on Wall Panel 107

Photo source: Newcastle Evening Chronicle