

FO John William Elliott J/5318 RCAF

John was born on 11 July 1915 in Penetanguishene, Ontario, Canada the son of John William Elliott and Ida May Elliott nee Wright . He married Margaret Wilson Warwick in May 1941.

Educated at Pape Avenue Public School and Riverdale College, before enlisting in September 1940, John was employed as a commercial traveller for Lever Brothers in Toronto.

John completed his gunnery and air observer training in Canada and was awarded his Air Observer Badge in April 1941. Commissioned in May 1941, he was deployed to the UK in July 1941. Having completed his aircraft type training, John was posted to 57 Sqn at RAF Feltwell in September 1941 and was promoted to FO at the end of the year.

On 16 March 1942 John, as part of a small crew, departed RAF Feltwell at 10:45 on a cross-country exercise to Aldergrove, Northern Ireland in 57 Sqn Wellington (X3599). Also on board were 3 station personnel with family in Ireland who were taking the opportunity to fly home on leave. Bad weather was encountered over the Irish Sea and, in order to continue visually, the pilot descended from 5000 feet to 800 feet to keep below cloud. As they approached the coast, they commenced a climb to avoid the hilly terrain but, despite both engines running normal, the aircraft flew into Eagle Rock, Slieve Donard, Co Down killing 6 of the 7 on board. Only the rear-gunner who was at the back of the aircraft survived.

Also killed were : Flt Lt Hugh Lamour Magee, FO Harold Eric Hunter RNZAF, Section Officer Barbara Kathleen Blakiston-Houston WAAF, Sgt William Swordy Taylor, Reverend James Dawson Crawford

John is buried in the Belfast City Cemetery, Northern Ireland

John is commemorated on Wall Panel 160

Photo Source: <https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials>

