

PO John Cobean Fisher R/15136 RCAF

John, known as Jack, was born on 17 October 1917 in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada the son of Joseph Thomas Fisher and Margaret Fisher nee Cobean. In February 1941 he married Hilda Karoline Nelson in Orangeville, Ontario, Canada.

Jack was educated at Secord and Gledhill Public Schools and Darnforth Technical School in Toronto, where he was awarded the medal for the most outstanding student for 1939-40.

Jack enlisted in the RCAF in July 1940 in Toronto and completed his training in Canada before transferring overseas in December 1941.

Jack flew over 30 missions and survived so many flying accidents that fellow airmen on his squadron nicknamed him "Lucky". Whilst over enemy territory his aircraft was damaged by fire

and an inspection after landing revealed his Navigator's position was surrounded by bullet holes. Another incident saw his aircraft flip on landing, fortunately the whole crew escaped unhurt. On return from one mission his aircraft was so damaged that whilst limping home at very low level the starboard wing and part of the engine dipped into the sea but they made it home unscathed. Another time his aircraft crashed in the Irish Sea. Although injured, he was able to clamber out of the sinking plane and, together with the crew, took to their dinghy where they were picked up by a Scottish fishing boat one hour later.

In February 1942, 110 Sqn commenced intensive training prior to their transfer to India, and Jack and his crew were attached to the A&AEE (Aeroplane & Armament Experimental Establishment) at RAF Boscombe Down, Wiltshire for flight trials.

On 28 Feb 1942 Jack and the crew departed RAF Boscombe Down in Albermarle I P1368. Whilst in flight, the starboard engine failed, leading to the feathering of the propeller on that side. By this time, the aircraft was on the brink of a stall. The pilot attempted a flat turn to the right but the starboard wing dropped and the aircraft spun-in from 500ft at Shalborne, near Hungerford, Wiltshire. All on board were killed - Jack's luck had finally run out.

Also killed : PO Thomas Walker Caston (Pilot); FS David Lewis Mullins (WOp)

Jack is buried in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey

Jack is commemorated on Wall Panel 164

Photo Source : www.veterans.gc.ca

