

Flt Lt Warren Macauley Hale J/6948 RCAF

Warren was born on 16 March 1920 in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, the only son of Henry Warren Kilburn Hale and Esther Evelyn Hale nee Macauley.

Educated at Selwyn House, Montreal and Bishop's College School Lennoxville, Warren was in his 3rd year at McGill University when he enlisted in the RCAF.

Following training in Toronto, Goderich, Prince Albert and Saskatoon, Warren was awarded his wings in August 1941 and commissioned a few days later. He proceeded to England two weeks later.

Following advanced training, Warren was posted to 107 Sqn flying Boston aircraft where, amongst other ops, he participated in Op Jubilee, the Raid on Dieppe on 19 August 1942. Before his posting to 161 Sqn, Warren participated in Air Sea Rescue and the training of new crews.

At 23:34 on 31 May 1944, Warren and the crew departed RAF Tempsford, Bedfordshire in Hudson III V9155 (MA-Q) on "Operation Beziqez", aiming to drop 2 Agents to the East of Eindhoven. Given the number of Dutch Agents that had been captured on landing, the two men were to be dropped blind.

Due to a Navigation error, the aircraft strayed over the heavily anti-aircraft defended Luftwaffe fighter base at Gilze-Rijen. Hit by flak, at 01:20 the aircraft crashed just outside the airfield near the water tower at Gilze, 10km East of Breda. All but the Air Gunner were killed instantly and, on the orders of the German authorities, were buried the following day in a communal grave in the Roman Catholic Cemetery at Gilze-Rijen. At the end of 1945, the crew were exhumed and reburied in Bergen-Op-Zoom Canadian War Cemetery, Noord-Brabant, Netherlands.

Also killed : FO John Gall RNZAF DFC (Nav); FO Michael Henry Hughes (AG); FO Arthur George Maskall DFM (WOp/AG); 2nd Lt Cornelis Martinus Dekkers (Agent); 2nd Lt Gerrit Jan Kuenen (Agent)

Warren is buried in Bergen-Op-Zoom Canadian War Cemetery, Noord-Brabant, Netherlands

Warren is commemorated on Wall Panel 175

Photo Source: Findagrave

