

FS Frank Brown Graham Heron R/93513 RCAF

Frank was born on 7 July 1922 in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, the son of Scottish born parents Frank Brown Graham Heron and Elizabeth McAuley Heron nee Malcolm.

Educated at Highlands and Eastwood Schools, Alberta, Frank was employed as a warehouseman when he volunteered for aircrew duties in September 1940.

Called up for pilot training in March 1941, Frank was awarded his pilot's wings in Canada in November 1941. Transferring overseas in December 1941, following advanced training Frank was posted to 21 Sqn at RAF Bodney, Norfolk in June 1942.

Having been decimated in Malta, 21 Sqn was officially disbanded in North Africa on 14 March 1942, and reformed at RAF Bodney, Norfolk the same day with Blenheim aircraft left behind following the departure of 82 Sqn. Awaiting the arrival of Venturas, training commenced as the new crews began to arrive on strength.

On the afternoon of 7 July 1942, Frank's 20th birthday, Frank and his crew departed RAF Bodney in Blenheim IV V5851 (YH) on a low level bombing exercise.

Flying at very low level about 2-3 miles south of the airfield over the village of Stow Bedon, where the land forms a deep valley, the aircraft flew up the side of the hill over Spinney Farm, towards the airfield. It was reported that the aircraft's tail hit a tree and the aircraft flew skywards before, at 17:50, it crashed behind a house in Stow Bedon, killing all on board.

Also Killed: FS George Douglas Maluish RCAF (Observer); Sgt George Edward Step (WOp/AG)

Frank is buried in St Mary Churchyard, Watton, Norfolk

Frank is commemorated on Wall Panel 181

Photo Source: www.veterans.gc.ca

