

FS George Douglas Maluish R/68700 RCAF

George, known as "Bucky", was born on 25 February 1919 in Fort William, Ontario, Canada, the son of George Albert Maluish and Violet Maluish nee Ward.

Educated at Kenora Public and High Schools, Ontario, George was employed as a Clerk and an Assistant toolmaker at an aircraft factory, and also volunteered as a reservist in the 16th Medium Battery Company, Royal Canadian Artillery.

George volunteered twice for service in the RCAF, attested in October 1940 and commenced pilot training in March 1941. Unable to reach the standard required quickly enough, George re-mustered as an Observer and was awarded his Observer Badge in October 1941. Transferring overseas in December 1941, following advanced training he was posted to 21 Sqn at RAF Bodney, Norfolk at the beginning of July 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 George, operating as the Observer, and the 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 Frank Brown Graham Heron RCAF (Pilot); Sgt George Edward Step (WOp/AG)

George is buried in St Mary Churchyard, Watton, Norfolk

George is commemorated on Wall Panel 204

Photo Source: www.veterans.gc.ca