AC2 Robert Proctor Marriott RAFVR 1143666



Robert Marriott was a young member of the ground crew of 405 (Vancouver) Squadron RCAF who died in hospital after a tragic accident involving a Wellington stuck in snow.

He was part of the ground crew of Wellington II Z8431 which had taxied to the end of the main runway at RAF Pocklington at 11.30am on 11 February 1942 for a routine test. As it did so, the starboard wheel became stuck in snow. Robert was inside the aircraft at the time, saw what had happened, and climbed out of the front hatch to investigate the problem.

In the meantime, the pilot Sgt Robert Lonergan RAAF, was unaware the young member of the ground crew had left the aircraft and throttled the engines back to idle. It appears Robert then walked backwards and was struck by a propeller. He was severely injured and taken the York Military Hospital at Fulford on the outskirts of York but died at 03:45 the following day.

Robert came from Sheffield and was the 20-year-old son of W and Nellie Marriott. He was later buried at Shiregreen Cemetery in Sheffield. The pilot, Sgt Lonergan, was killed on operations with 405 Squadron a month later.

Robert's name can be found on panel 204.

Sources: Yorkshire aviation/405 Squadron Association.