

## **Sgt William Swordy Taylor 1381318 RAFVR**

William was born on 3 October 1914 in Newcastle upon Tyne, Northumberland the son of John Taylor and Alice Jane Taylor nee Swordy. He married Audrey Stewart in 1941.

Educated at Heaton Grammar School, he was employed as a Clerk prior to joining the RAF as a Wireless Operator/Air Gunner.

On 16 March 1942, William was part of a small crew that departed RAF Feltwell at 10:45 on a cross-country exercise to Aldergrove, Northern Ireland in 57 Sqn Wellington (X3599). Also on board were 3 station personnel with family in Ireland who were taking the opportunity to fly home on leave. Bad weather was encountered over the Irish Sea and, in order to continue visually, the pilot descended from 5000 feet to 800 feet to keep below cloud. As they approached the coast, they commenced a climb to avoid the hilly terrain but, despite both engines running normal, the aircraft flew into Eagle Rock, Slieve Donard, Co Down killing 6 of the 7 on board. Only the rear-gunner who was at the back of the aircraft survived.

Also killed were : Flt Lt Hugh Lamour Magee, FO Harold Eric Hunter RNZAF, FO John William Elliott RCAF, Section Officer Barbara Kathleen Blakiston-Houston WAAF, Reverend James Dawson Crawford

William is buried in Byker & Heaton Cemetery, Newcastle upon Tyne, Northumberland

William is commemorated on Wall Panel 252