

Wg Cdr George Watson DFM MiD 13

George was born on 23 May 1915 in Oswaldtwistle, Lancashire, the eldest son of Herbert Watson and Mary Watson nee Westall. Educated at Stretford Grammar School, Lancashire, before joining the RAFVR. George was employed as a Local Government Clerk and volunteered as an ARP Warden.

George joined the RAFVR soon after the outbreak of war and trained as an NCO Pilot. He served with 149 Sqn, where he was awarded his DFM in December 1942, and 138 Sqn. George was commissioned in October 1942 and was MiD in June 1944. In January 1945 he was appointed Commanding Officer of 161 Sqn.

At 21:10 on 20 February 1945 George, operating as supernumerary crew, departed RAF Tempsford, Bedfordshire in Hudson III T9405 (MA-K), on Operation CROC, a Secret Intelligence Service mission to Germany. George had elected to fly with a crew to familiarise himself with operations.



At 00:24, about 10 miles east of the Dutch frontier, the aircraft crashed between Bokeloh and Lammersfelde some 3 km E and 6 km SE respectively from the centre of Mappen, after being engaged by a night-fighter at low level. George survived the crash and was taken POW, but died from his wounds later that day.

This was the last Hudson to be lost on a sortie with Bomber Command. 161 Sqn left Bomber Command soon after this sortie, although they continued to use Hudsons on clandestine missions until the end of the war.

Also killed : FO John Montague Hartman (Air Gunner) MiD

George is buried in the Rheinberg War Cemetery, Nordrhein-Westphalen, Germany, his remains were transferred from Lingen New Cemetery, Niedersachsen in August 1947.

George is commemorated on Wall Panel 260

Photo Source: IBCC