

## **Sgt. George Rogerson Wheatley 1677247 RAFVR**

George was the son of Frederick and Gladys Wheatley, of Sunderland, County Durham.

He was a Flight Engineer serving with 1663 Heavy Conversion Unit based at RAF Rufforth, North Yorkshire.

Handley Page Halifax V, DG412 -B, took off from Rufforth airfield on 27 August 1943, on a daytime Bullseye exercise; it was the final flight before completing their training, and was returning from a mission to bomb Brest, in France. During the flight, the pilot lost control while practicing evasive action, and in the dive that followed, the aircraft came apart under the excessive loads imposed upon its airframe. It was considered almost certain the crew were trapped by the centrifugal force, and their bodies were recovered from the crash site at Langtree, four miles south west of Great Torrington, Devon.



George is buried at Corsenside (St. Cuthbert) Churchyard, Hexham, Northumberland. N.W. Corner. He was 18 years old.

A granite memorial stone in the village of Langtree commemorates the loss of the crew; the dedication service being held on the 66<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the crash, with members of the airmen's families attending.

Sgt. George Rogerson Wheatley, Flight Engineer (killed)  
Sgt. Raymond Frederick Stainsby, Navigator (killed)  
Sgt. Hugh Patrick Henry RAAF, Air Gunner (killed)  
F/O William Henry Graham, Air Bomber (killed)  
Sgt. John Peter Williams, Pilot (killed)  
F/Sgt. Peter Chadwick Bartle RAAF, Air Gunner (killed)  
Sgt. James Taylor, Wireless Operator/Air Gunner (killed)

He is commemorated on Panel 263

Picture courtesy of Patrick Otter