WO2 Roderick Charles Mutch R/75869 RCAF



Roderick was born on 13 September 1921 in Truro, Nova Scotia, the son of the Rev Dr John Maurice Gregg McCurdy Mutch and Marjory McCurdy Mutch nee Fraser.

Educated at South Road School, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Victoria and Central Schools, Regina, Saskatchewan and Westdale Collegiate High School, Hamilton, Ontario, in September 1940 on leaving education Roderick volunteered for service in the RCAF.

Called up in November, Roderick commenced pilot training; however, when his training was terminated in March 1941, he re-mustered as a WOp/AG.

Roderick completed his training in Canada in October 1941 with the award of his Air Gunner badge and, following additional training at 31 OTU RCAF Debert, Nova Scotia, he embarked for the UK the following month.

Following advanced training at No. 2 Signal School RAF Yatesbury, Wiltshire, Roderick qualified for his WOp/AG badge and was posted to Malta in July 1942, before joining 223 Sqn in October 1942 at LG86, Bir Abo Ogus II, Egypt.

On 5 November 1942, seventeen 223 Sqn crews were tasked with an op to bomb retreating enemy motor transport at the road and rail crossing south of Maaten Baggush, 35 miles east of Mersa Matruh, Egypt.

At 14:14 on 5 November Roderick, operating as the Gunner, and the crew departed LG86 Bir Abo Ogus II, Egypt in Baltimore III AG941.

Whilst over the target, two squadron aircraft - AG941 and AG966 collided. Four members of the two crews were seen to bale out, and only three parachutes were seen to open.

At 15:15 Roderick's aircraft crashed 200yds left of the Daba Matruh road. On 7 November, four bodies were recovered by the First Armoured Division and buried at the crash site.

Also Killed: Sgt Harold Paull Stanfield Annells RAAF (Nav); Sgt Robert Henry Stevens (WOp/AG)

In October 1943 Roderick was moved to the El Alamein War Cemetery, Egypt

Roderick is commemorated on Wall Panel - NYE

Photo Source: www.veterans.gc.ca