FS Hugh McDonald Martin R/56412 RCAF



Hugh was born on 31 October 1916 in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, the youngest son of Sgt Philip Martin (KIA July 1916) and Mary Martin nee Nerney.

Educated at Belmont and St Patrick's Public School and Thomas D'Arcy McKee High, Montreal, Hugh was employed as a shipping clerk by Northern Electric Company, Montreal when, in August 1940, he enlisted in the RCAF.

Hugh commenced pilot training in Canada; however, in January 1941 when his training was terminated, he re-mustered as Observer. In August 1941 Hugh was awarded his Observer badge and, after completing reconnaissance training at 31 OTU RCAF Debert, Nova Scotia, in December 1941 he embarked for the UK.

Following advanced training at No 2(O) AFU, RAF Millom Cumbria and 42 OTU RAF Andover, Hampshire for conversion to the Blenheim, in June 1942 Hugh was posted to 13 Sqn at RAF Odiham, Hampshire.

In November 1942 the squadron re-positioned to North Africa, based at Canrobert Airfield, Algeria.

On 18 December 1942, three 13 Sqn crews were tasked with an operation consisting of dropping two containers of leaflets on La Mersa, Algeria and bombing the Bizerta Docks, Tunisia.

At 04:10 on 18 December 1942 Hugh, operating as the Navigator, and the crew departed RAF Canrobert in Blenheim V BA785 (S).

Nothing further was heard from Hugh's aircraft. An unidentified twin engined aircraft crashed in front of the allied lines at Mateur, Tunisia on the morning of 18 December, and it was thought at the time this was Hugh's aircraft, but no official information was ever received.

Also Killed: FO Alaric Jickling MiD (Pilot); WO2 John Victor Welsh RCAF (WOp/AG)

Hugh has no known grave and is commemorated on the Malta Memorial

Hugh is commemorated on Wall Panel NYE

Photo Source: veterans.gc.ca