WO2 John Victor Welsh R/70984 RCAF



John was born on 16 February 1922 in Nokomis, Saskatchewan, Canada, the son of William John Welsh and Clara Elizabeth Welsh nee McDougall.

Educated at Sacred Heart School and Campion College, John was employed as a messenger by Canadian Pacific Telegraphs when, in October 1940, he enlisted in the RCAF.

Completing his aircrew training in Canada in August 1941 with the award of his WOp/AG badge, John embarked for the UK in September.

Following advanced training at 42 OTU RAF Andover, Hampshire for conversion to the Blenheim, in June 1942 John 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 John, operating as the WOp/AG, and the crew departed RAF Canrobert in Blenheim V BA785 (S).

Nothing further was heard from John'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 John's aircraft, but no official information was ever received.

Also Killed: FO Alaric Jickling MiD (Pilot); FS Hugh McDonald Martin RCAF (Nav)

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

John is commemorated on Wall Panel NYE

Photo Source: veterans.gc.ca