FS Thomas Neil Bain R/105334 RCAF



Thomas was born on 7 August 1919 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, the only son of Thomas Bain and Jessie Bain nee Stewart.

Educated at Pape Avenue School, Toronto, Thomas was employed as a stock clerk when, in July 1940, he volunteered for service with the RCAF.

Called up in May 1941, Thomas was employed on ground duties until July 1942 when he re-mustered as Air Gunner.Thomas completed his trade training in Canada in October 1942 with the award of his Air Gunner badge.

Following conversion to multi crew ops at 34 OTU RCAF Pennfield Ridge, New Brunswick, Canada, in December 1942 Thomas embarked for the UK. Completing training at 1482 Gunnery Flt, RAF West Raynham, Norfolk, in April 1943 Thomas was posted to 18 Sqn at Canrobert Airfield, Algeria. On 1 June 1943 the squadron re-located to Grombalia Airfield near Tunis.

On 6 June 1943, twelve 18 Sqn crews were tasked with an attack on two gun emplacements at Karuscia on the Island of Pantellaria, Sicily.

At 05:45 on 6 June 1943 Thomas, operating as the Air Gunner, and the crew departed RAF Grombalia, Tunisia in Boston III AL492 (M).

Whilst in the target area, Thomas's aircraft was attacked by Bf109s and was last seen 10 miles West of Pantellaria with the starboard engine on fire, but apparently under control. Nothing further was heard or seen of the aircraft and they were believed to have crashed or ditched in the sea.

Also Killed: FO David Robert Lambie Wilson RCAF (Pilot); FO Peter Opruk RCAF (Nav); Sgt William Royal Oak (WOp/AG)

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

Thomas is commemorated on Wall Panel NYE

Photo Source: veterans.gc.ca