WO George Thomas Jackson R/133848 RCAF



George was born on 25 May 1920 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, the son of George Jackson and Mary Jackson nee Nichinski.

Educated at Charles G Fraser School and Central Technical School, Ontario, George was employed as a sole stitcher by Grover Shoe, Toronto when, in February 1941, he volunteered for service in the RCAF. Called up in September 1941, George completed his flying training in Canada in November 1942 with the award of his Wings and embarked for the UK the following month.

Following advanced training at 14 (P) Advanced Flying Unit, RAF Ossington, Nottinghamshire, 10 OTU, RAF Abingdon, Oxfordshire and 1663 Conversion Flt RAF Rufforth, Yorkshire in December 1943 George was posted to the Middle East where he joined 624 Sqn, a Special Duties Squadron, at Tocra, near Benghazi, Libya. In February 1944 the squadron moved to Blida, near Algiers, to concentrate their efforts over Southern France.

On 4 March 1944 George and his crew were tasked with a Special Duties op and at 20:05 they departed Blida in Halifax II BB386.

The aircraft appeared to depart satisfactorily after a normal take-off run with all 4 engines functioning normally. A few minutes after take-off a heavy rainstorm developed.

Shortly later, the aircraft reappeared west of the airfield at 400 feet, travelling from a southerly direction towards the north. Eyewitnesses stated that the aircraft appeared to be losing height and was not making the familiar Halifax sound. A few minutes later, George's aircraft crashed 5 miles NW of Blida, killing all on board.

The aircraft was destroyed in the crash, but the subsequent inquiry suggested that the aircraft may have hit the storm and instrument failure ensued, together with a possible port inner engine failure.

Also Killed: FO Francis Ira Elliott RCAF (AG); FO Gordon Mundell RCAF (AB); PO Harry Alexander Edward Gordon Smith RCAF (Nav); FS Roy Wesley Moller RCAF (AG); Sgt Donald Garforth Browne (WOp/AG); Sgt William Dennis Hazeldine (FE)

George is buried in Dely Ibrahim War Cemetery, Algeria

George is commemorated on Wall Panel – Not Yet Erected

Photo Source: findagrave