FO George Dewar MacLeod J/22008 RCAF



George was born on 7 January 1922 in Halifax, Nova Scotia, the eldest son of Lauchlin George MacLeod and Marion Lawson MacLeod nee Hall.

Educated at Le Merchant School, Halifax County Academy, and Dalhousie University where he was awarded a Bachelor of Commerce Degree, George was employed as an accountant and auditor when, in October 1941, he volunteered for service with the RCAF.

George completed his pilot training in Canada in December 1942 with the award of his Wings, granted a commission and selected for flying instructor training.

George served as a flying instructor in Canada until March 1944 when he was sent to advanced training at 36 OTU RCAF Greenwood, Nova Scotia, and in April 1944 he embarked for the UK.

Following further training at 13 OTU, RAF Bicester, Oxfordshire, and 2 Group Support Unit, RAF Swanton Morley, Norfolk, in August 1944 George was posted to 21 Sqn at RAF Thorney Island, West Sussex.

At 23:59 on the 28 September George and his Navigator departed RAF Thorney Island in Mosquito VI NT179 (YH), one of eleven 21 Sqn aircraft tasked with attacks on the Rheine-Munster-Hann Railway, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany, and a small area east of the battle lines.

On return from the raid inside enemy territory, George's aircraft approached Brussels on a track and height that was identified as suspicious by an RAF ground control interception radar unit. George's Mosquito was not transmitting IFF (Identification, Friend or Foe) and thus the GCI controller was unable to determine whether this was a friendly or enemy aircraft, and the Mosquito was eventually considered an enemy aircraft. A controlled interception was made by a Mosquito from 219 Sqn.

At 02:44 on 29 September George's Mosquito crashed at Wolfshagen near Neerijse, 9 miles SE of Base 58 (Melsbroek aerodrome), killing both crew. The crew were buried at the crash site with a British Padre officiating and 21 Belgian soldiers in attendance. In August 1946 both men were re-located to the Leopoldsburg War Cemetery, Limburg, Belgium.

Also killed: FO Alan Charles Wiggins (Nav)

George is buried in Leopoldsburg War Cemetery, Limburg, Belgium

George is commemorated on Wall Panel – Not Yet Erected

Photo Source: veterans.gc.ca