## Flt Lt John Campbell Younge J/22819 RCAF



John was born on 11 September 1914 in Camrose, Alberta, Canada, the only son of Joseph Adair Younge and Margaret Mae Younge nee Campbell.

Educated at Camrose Public and High Schools, John was employed as a salesman by the Supertest Petroleum Corporation Ltd of Canada, heading the Niagara Peninsula office, when in September 1941 he enlisted in the RCAF.

John completed his training in Canada in January 1943 with the award of his Wings, was granted a commission and in March 1943 he embarked for the UK.

Following advanced training at 7 (P) AFU RAF Peterborough, Cambridgeshire and 41 OTU RAF Hawarden, Flintshire, Wales, in August 1943 John was posted to 414 Sqn at RAF Ashford, Kent flying the Mustang. In August 1944 the squadron converted to the Spitfire and moved into mainland Europe. By September, the squadron was based at Base 26 Illiers l'Eveque, Eure, France.

As the British and Canadian forces moved eastwards towards Belgium and the Netherlands, 414 Sqn were tasked with reconnaissance of enemy positions, troops and equipment movement that would impede the Allied advance. By early September, although Antwerp had been taken, the Germans still held the canals and approaches to the harbour and some of the channel ports preventing allied shipping landing supplies.

On 6 September 1944, John was tasked with a tactical reconnaissance of the Dunkerque, Bruges and Ghent area.

At 08:50 John, flying Spitfire LFIX MK416 (RU-), and his No 2, departed Base 26 Illiers l'Eveque, France.

Whilst flying over Ghent, John observed barges on the canal carrying enemy supplies and commenced a strafing run. During the attack John's aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire and, at 10:30, crashed along the Schelde at the Heusden Bridge.

Originally buried in Melle, East Flanders, Belgium, in October 1945 John was moved to the Adegem Canadian War Cemetery, Oost-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

John is commemorated on Wall Panel – Not Yet Erected

Photo Source: findagrave