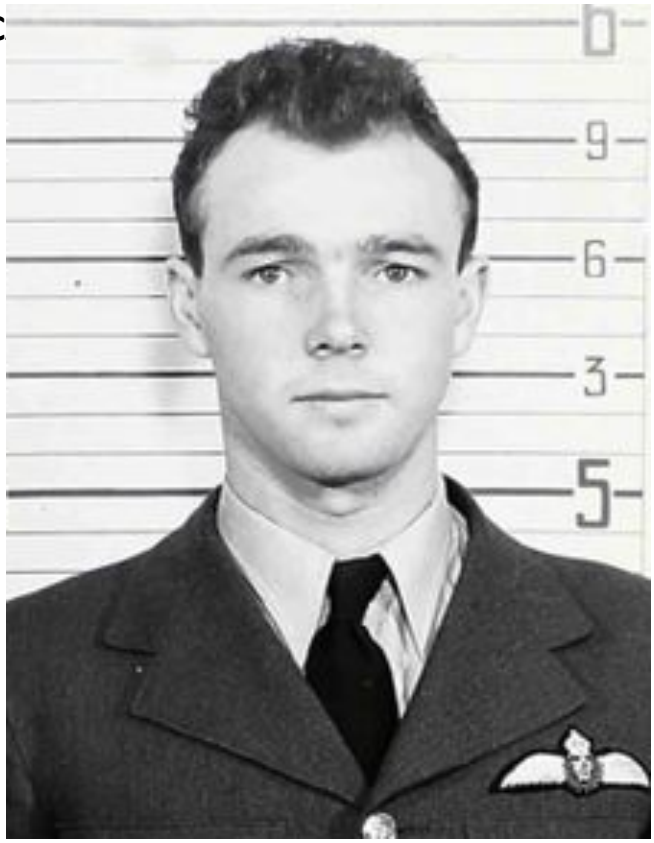
FO John Robertson Wardrope J/20142 RC



John was born on 4 November 1920, in Weston, York, Ontario, Canada, the son of Charles Wardrope and Wilhelmina Wardrope nee Robertson.

Educated at Humber Heights Consolidated, Weston High, and Shaw's Business School, Ontario, John was employed as a truck driver when, in July 1941, he volunteered for service in the RCAF.

Called up November 1941, John completed his pilot training in Canada in October 1942 with the award of his Wings, was granted a commission and embarked for the UK the following month.

Following advanced training at 17 (P) Advanced Flying Unit RAF Watton, Norfolk and 41 OTU RAF Hawarden, Flintshire, Wales, in June 1943 John was posted to 430 Sqn at RAF Dunsfold, Surrey. By November 1943 the squadron was operating from RAF Gatwick, Surrey.

On 6 November 1943 John was tasked, together with one other sqn pilot, with a "Rhubarb" op in the Beville – Boissey – Margny – Amiens – Crecy – Quend - Plage area. "Rhubarb" ops were small-scale freelance fighter sorties against ground targets of opportunity.

At 13:30 John departed RAF Gatwick in Mustang I AM 163 as No 2 in a pair.

Landfall was made at Beville, and the op continued inland to Formerie where cloud was very low. The leader considered it unsafe to penetrate further and contacted John and ordered a return to base, giving him a course to steer which John acknowledged. At 14:10 John attempted R/T contact with his lead, but he could not be understood. After crossing the French coast, the leader again attempted to contact John on R/T but was unsuccessful. Nothing further was heard from John, and it is believed he flew into the ground in bad weather.

John is buried in Dieppe Canadian War Cemetery, Dieppe, Seine-Maritime, France

John is commemorated on Wall Panel – Not Yet Erected

Photo Source: findagrave