FO William David Wendt J/39857 RCAF



William was born on 6 May 1916 in Turton, North Dakota, USA the son of German born father August W Wendt and Neva K Wendt nee Harvey.

Educated at Glenwood Public School and Excelsior and Glenwood High, Minnesota, William was employed as a salesman and mechanic by the Mitzlaff Motor Company, Hibbing Minnesota when, in February 1941, he crossed into Canada and volunteered for service in the RCAF.

Called up in March, William completed his flying training in Canada in November 1941 with the award of his Wings and immediately embarked for the UK.

Following advanced training at 9(P) AFU RAF Tealing, Angus, and 58 OTU RAF Grangemouth, Falkirk, in May 1942 William was posted to 421Sqn RCAF at RAF Fairwood Common, Swansea.

In October 1942 William joined 249 Sqn operating from RAF Ta Kali, Malta. Whilst serving with the squadron, in November 1942 William's Spitfire was hit by flak over Gila Aerodrome, Italy and he was forced to bale out and was taken as POW. In November 1943 William returned safely to the UK and was granted his commission.

Following a period of leave in Canada, in January 1944 William returned to the UK and joined 421 Sqn RCAF RAF Kenley, London. In May 1944 William was posted to 19 sqn at RAF Funtington, Sussex.

On 7 June 1944, 19 Sqn was tasked with an armed reconnaissance from Argenton - Verneuil, south of Caen, in support of the allied invasion in Normandy.

At 12:00, twelve 19 Sqn pilots departed RAF Funtington in two formations, William flying Mustang III FZ141 (QV-).

William's aircraft was seen to be hit by flak and he baled out; however, he was unfortunate to land on the burning wreckage of his aircraft and was killed.

William is buried in Eturqueraye Churchyard, Eure, France

William is commemorated on Wall Panel - Not Yet Erected

Photo Source: www.veterans.gc.ca