WOII William Balduff R/127491 RCAF



William was born on 23 June 1917 in Fairfax, Oklahoma, USA, the son of Wilhelm Frederick Balduff and Beulah Balduff nee Tate.

Educated at Marland High and Fairfax High Schools, Oklahoma, William was employed in the Sales and Service department of Kay Home Appliances Company, Ponca City, Oklahoma when, in August 1941, he enlisted in the RCAF (no oath of allegiance was taken).

William completed his pilot training in Canada in July 1942 with the award of his Wings and embarked for the UK the following month.

Following advanced training at 5 (P) Advanced Flying Unit, RAF Tern Hill, Shropshire and 57 OTU RAF Eshott, Northumberland, in January 1943 William was posted to the Mediterranean area of operations.

In March 1943 William returned from Gibraltar to the UK, and in April was posted to 416 Sqn at RAF Wellingore, Lincolnshire, moving to RAF Digby the next month.

On 29 July 1943 William departed RAF Digby in Tiger Moth II EM805 for a transit to USAAF Polebrook, Northamptonshire.

At 20:30 William crashed at Polebrook, probably due to a strong cross wind, and burst into flames. William was declared dead due to 3rd degree burns.

William is buried in Scopwick Church Burial Ground, Lincolnshire.

William is commemorated on Wall Panel – Not Yet Erected

Photo Source: www.veterans.gc.ca