## FO John Robert Steepe J/22804 RCAF



John, known as Jack, was born on 13 March 1921 in Sudbury, Ontario, Canada, the son of Robert John Steepe and Alma B Steepe nee Sweet.

Educated at St Thomas School, and Sudbury High, Ontario, John was employed as a nickel miner by the International Nickel Company, Sudbury, Ontario when, in June 1941, he volunteered for service in the RCAF.

Called up in August 1941, John completed his aircrew training in Canada in July 1942 with the award of his Wings, was granted a commission and was selected for instructor duties.

In March 1943 John embarked for the UK and, following advanced training at 12 (P) Advanced Flying Unit RAF Spitalgate, Lincolnshire and 51 OTU RAF Cranfield, Bedfordshire, in April 1944 John was posted to 410 Sqn at RAF Hunsdon, Essex.

On 23/24 June 1944, the squadron was continuing with air support over the Normandy beaches, and John and his Navigator were tasked with a night patrol. At 00:15 on 24 June they departed RAF Zeals, Wiltshire in Mosquito XIII HK463 (RA-R).

The only transmission made by the crew was at 02:00 on 24 June stating they had been hit by flak, and the aircraft was on fire. The aircraft crashed in the English Channel, 18 miles off Barfleur, Normandy, France.

Also Killed: FO Douglas Haig Baker RCAF (Nav)

John has no known grave and is commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial, Surrey

John is commemorated on Wall Panel – Not Yet Erected

Photo Source: veterans.gc.ca