FO John Henry Vanular J/26359 RCAF



John was born on 22 August 1914 in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, the son of Russian born parents Albert Vanular and Edith Vanular nee Ginsburg. In October 1944 he married Sonia Audrey Taylor in Overton, Flintshire.

Educated at Aberdeen High School, St John Technical School and the University of Manitoba where he gained a BA, John was employed as an actuary underwriter by Industrial Life Assurance, Quebec when, in May 1942, he enlisted in the RCAF.

John completed his aircrew training in Canada in May 1943 with the award of his Navigator badge, granted a commission and, in June 1943, he embarked for the UK.

Following advanced training at 81 OTU and 1665 HCU, RAF Whitchurch, Shropshire, John served with 620 Sqn before, in January 1945, he was posted to 190 Sqn at RAF Dunmow, Essex.

On 10 May 1945, 190 Sqn participated in "Op Doomsday", the transportation of the British 1st Airborne Division to Norway where they were to act as a police and military force during the Allied occupation of Norway following the German capitulation. Unable to land at Gardemoen due to weather, John's aircraft commenced a return to base; however, an engine failure forced the aircraft to divert to Base 78 (Eindhoven).

At 16:30 on 11 May 1945 John, a passenger on the aircraft, departed Base 78 (Eindhoven) in Wellington XIII NC489, returning to his base at RAF Dunmow, Essex.

On the take-off run the aircraft swung violently to starboard, travelling off the runway, then proceeded in a straight line about 70-80 degrees to the runway across rough ground. About 125 yds from trees bounding the airfield, and having passed through the Wellington dispersal, the aircraft became airborne but struck a brick building with the starboard wing, rupturing the petrol tank. The aircraft hit some trees beyond the building, crashed and burst into flames. Four 190 Sqn crew and three 69 Sqn crew were killed.

Also killed: WOI Joseph Arthur Hay RCAF (WOp/AG/Passenger); WO John Coghlan (Air Gunner/Passenger); FS Noel Vivian Ryder (Pilot); FS Wallace Dexter (FE/Passenger); Sgt John Sheddon Alderson (AB); Sgt James Arthur Keeping (Nav)

John is buried in Eindhoven (Woensel) General Cemetery, Noord-Brabant, Netherlands

John is commemorated on Wall Panel - Not Yet Erected

Photo Source: www.veterans.gc.ca