

William E. Short

William Edward Short, son of William Edward Short and Lily Necham, was born in Galt, Ontario, on May 14, 1924. He attended Manchester Public School as a boy from 1929 to 1937, and then attended the Galt Collegiate Institute from 1937 to 1940, after which he was apprenticed at the Babcock-Wilcox & Goldie-McCulloch company. Among his hobbies were hockey, skating, track and field, and hunting.



Short enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force in September 1942. While in training he married Marjorie Leutwein on January 29, 1944. A few months later, Short had embarked for the United Kingdom, where he continued his training before being attached to 419 Squadron in February 1945 as a flying officer.

On the night of March 7, 1945, Short and several other crew members of a Lancaster bomber crashed outside of Dortmund during a bombing raid over Germany. Their target was an industrial centre in Dessau, but the bomber was shot down by enemy fire. Although two of the members managed to escape the bomber plane before the crash, Short and four other lost their lives. Short was survived by his wife and his baby son, John Wayne Short.

Sources:

Canadian Virtual War Memorial, accessed April 15, 2016, <http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial/detail/1807098?William%20Edward%20Short>; Service Files of the Second World War - War Dead, 1939-1947, Library and Archives Canada, Ottawa; World War II Newspaper Clippings, Galt Collegiate Institute and Vocational School Archives (GCI Archives); World War II Service Cards, GCI Archives.

Photograph from Service Files of the Second World War - War Dead, 1939-1947, Library and Archives Canada, Ottawa.