

# George Patterson “Pat” Christie

By Nathan Shepherd

## Background:

Born on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 1917, he grew up in Westmount, Quebec, the son of Mrs. Christie and Professor C.V. Christie (Chairman of the McGill Electrical Engineering Department). He went to school at Westmount High School where he participated in many activities. He was a part of the ski team, rugby team, leaders’ corps and water polo. It was here in high school where he got his nickname, “Pat”. His ambition at the time was to eventually become a Police officer, but that never did happen. He died on July 5<sup>th</sup>, 1942 in Lake St. Louis, Qc.

## Time In The War:

Pat enlisted for the RCAF (Royal Canadian Air Force) on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1937. By May 1938, he joined SQND. 43 where he became a Flying Officer. In April 1940, he was then posted to SQND. 212, which was the first photoreconnaissance Squadron. While he was on duty, he encountered an enemy bomber nearby. Even though he was in an unarmed aircraft, by repeatedly diving at the enemy bomber, he was able to force it into the water. This was his most notable moment in his career and he even received an award for it (Distinguished Flying Cross). He was later posted to SQND. 66 but he became

sick so was sent to the hospital. He returned and was promoted to Flight Lieutenant and was awarded the same award for his leadership and bravery for destroying over 7 enemy aircraft. He was sent back to Canada at the start of 1941 where he joined Ferry Command. He was promoted to SQND. Leader on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 1942. Unfortunately, later that year, on a routine flight out of Dorval airport, there was a malfunction with the plane. Pat and a few others crash-landed in Lake St. Louis, Qc.

Burial Info: Pat’s grave is located at the Pointe Claire Lake View Memorial Gardens, Montreal, Quebec. Masonic Sec. Row W. Grave 5.

### References:

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Veterans Affairs Canada. “Canadian Virtual War Memorial.” *Health and Well Being - Services - Veterans Affairs Canada*, 19 Feb. 2019, [www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial/detail/2688318?George%2BPatterson%2BChristie](http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial/detail/2688318?George%2BPatterson%2BChristie).

