



COLDWATER REMEMBERS F/O MANLEY LYALL BRECHIN

Born in Coldwater, Ontario, on March 28, 1923, Manley Lyall Brechin was the son of John and Lila Brechin of Coldwater. After graduating from Orillia Collegiate Institute he worked as a junior clerk at a bank in Orillia. He was quite involved in sports, particularly hockey and basketball.

During the Second World War Manley enrolled with the Royal Canadian Air Force on August 18, 1941. He was 18 years old. On his Attestation Form, he is described as 5 feet 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches tall, with blue eyes and brown hair. He was single, and he identified his religious denomination as Presbyterian. He had no previous military experience.

Leading Aircraftman Brechin (RCAF service number J20439) completed his basic flying training at No.14 Elementary Flying Training School at Portage LaPrairie, Manitoba. He was awarded his pilot wings upon graduation from No.11 Service Flying Training School in Yorkton, Saskatchewan, in July 1942, and was later given an officer commission.

Flying Officer Brechin was eventually posted to No.458 Squadron (Royal Australian Air Force) in North Africa, operating in the Mediterranean along the coast of Italy.



Manley's last flight was on August 24, 1943, when he and his crew took off aboard their Vickers Wellington bomber for an anti-shipping reconnaissance mission over the Mediterranean, along the coast of Italy. The aircraft failed to return to base. There are no details available as to the circumstances of the aircraft being lost at sea. Flying Officer Brechin and his crew members were declared "officially presumed dead".

Flying Officer Brechin has no known grave. He is commemorated on the Malta Memorial, in Malta. In Canada he is commemorated on page 139 of the *Second World War Book of Remembrance*, located inside the Memorial Chamber in the Peace Tower in Ottawa.

We will remember him.