

# VETERAN OF THE WEEK

24-30 September 2023

**J19429 Flying Officer Philip William Luchsinger**

132, 33, & 73 Squadrons

Royal Canadian Air Force Special Reserve

Second World War



Philip William Luchsinger was born on the 12<sup>th</sup> of March 1919 near Kyle, Saskatchewan to Sabastian and Hulda Luchsinger. Before the war he had worked as a tractor, combine driver and general farm labourer. Philip had previous military service as he had served thirty days with the Kings Own Rifles of Calgary (NPAM/ Reserves). Philip enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force on the 27<sup>th</sup> of December 1940 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Upon enlistment, he was posted to the No. 2 Manning Depot at Brandon, Manitoba and in mid March of 1941, he was sent to the No. 2 Initial Training School in Regina for his basic training. From there he would take his elementary flying training at Portage La Prairie and took his Service Flying training at the No. 11 SFTS near Yorkton. That August he was transferred to the No. 1 “Y” Depot in Halifax in preparation for heading overseas to the United Kingdom.

He would arrive in the U.K. in late September and serve there until mid April of 1942 when he was transferred to the Middle East. While serving in the Middle East he would contract both malaria and hepatitis but would recover from both. In addition, he would be appointed to commissioned rank (became an officer) while stationed there. Philip served in the Middle East until mid April of 1944 when he was transferred back to the U.K. He would return to Canada in September 1944 and would serve back home in Canada until 16<sup>th</sup> of March 1945 when he was discharged via reason of retirement upon completion of voluntary service during an emergency. Over the course of his military career, he flew several different aircraft but flew Hurricanes and Spitfires operationally. Thank you for your service Flying Officer Luchsinger.