

OWEN, Richard Francis [UNTD MALAHAT '53 U-57735] - (1937 - 1960) Age: 23~



This below from a UBC 1960 Yearbook;

"Richard Francis Owen, BA, was killed June 13 in the crash of a timber-spraying plane, near Fredericton, New Brunswick. In his second year as a medical student here, and an experienced pilot, Mr. Owen was working on a summer job. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Owen of 6583 Marguerite Street, and leaves many friends in the University."

He obtained his Pilot Wings in those halcyon days of the UNTD Program, when Reserve Units had Flying Squadrons.

He was appointed as a Naval Cadet (UNTD) RCN(R) 1953. He was appointed as a Midshipman RCN(R) 1955. He served in HMCS Discovery 1955. He served in RCAF Penhold for Flying Training School 1956. He was appointed as an A/Sub-Lieutenant (P) RCN(R) (With seniority dated 01/07/1956). He served in HMCS Discovery for VC-922 (Reserve) Squadron 1956. He was Awarded Wings 24/08/1956. He was appointed as a Sub-Lieutenant RCN(R) (With seniority dated 01/07/1956). He served in VT-40 Squadron 1957. He served in VU-33 Squadron 1958 & 1959.

In the 1956 White Twist, p67, the following snippet appears in the Air Branch write-up;

"Cadet Richard Owen, the youngest member, has often returned to the briefing room with many stories of how he frightened the farmer off his tractor while doing low flying at less than 25 ft. of altitude. It was quite a touching moment when once he returned to the base and commenced to remove the branches from the engine cowling"

[As with many/most Divisional write-ups, this is no doubt tongue-in-cheek]

Upon his death, his fellow Med School classmates set up the Richard Owen Memorial Prize;

"As a memorial to Richard Owen, a member of the Class of 1962 who, in the summer of 1960, lost his life in an accident, a fund has been established by his friends in the Faculty of Medicine to provide a prize. This prize will be awarded annually to a student with outstanding personal qualities who has achieved high rank in the first two years of the medical course."

It appears this Prize is still being funded and issued, 54 years later. Quite the legacy.