

George 'Buzz' Beurling

These questions can help to guide a student's viewing of the George 'Buzz' Beurling biography.

1. What was Buzz Beurling's full name?
2. How old was Beurling when he died?
3. Where did Beurling grow up?
4. What was notable about this community during the First World War?
5. What important aspect of Beurling's childhood does biographer Brian Nolan feel shaped Buzz?
6. Why did Richard Beurling disagree with Nolan?
7. Why did Beurling often skip classes in school?
8. Nolan believes that Beurling felt inadequate. Why?
9. What did Beurling hope to achieve by sailing to Great Britain?
10. Why couldn't he achieve this goal in Canada?
11. Explain Dr. Serge Durflinger's theory about Beurling's difficulties with authority throughout his military career?
12. What physical attribute did Beurling possess that initially got him in trouble, but later earned him admiration?
13. What was the strategic significance of the island of Malta during the Second World War?
14. In what ways were Squadron 249 a good fit for Beurling?
15. Explain the concept of deflection shooting.
16. The term Ace is unofficially reserved for a pilot that shoots down how many enemy aircraft?
17. How many enemies did Beurling shoot down during the four months he spent in Malta?
18. How did Beurling's military accomplishments become well-known throughout Canada during the summer of 1943?

19. Why does Durlinger think Beurling felt uncomfortable as an officer?
20. What was Beurling's original nickname? Why was it changed, and by whom, shortly after he returned to Canada?
21. How did the Canadian government use Beurling and his achievements upon his return to Canada? What were they hoping to achieve?
22. Was this exploitation of Beurling justified? Explain.
23. What were the circumstances surrounding Beurling's death?
24. What does Nolan believe led to his death?
25. The press tended to treat Beurling as if he were a film star, how else was he represented?
26. Why might British and Canadian veteran testimonies about Beurling be different?