

Flt. Sgt. Harry Douglas Bryant R/70448 RCAF

Harry Bryant was a 26-year-old Canadian second pilot who is believed to have drowned after baling out of his Wellington during a series of attacks on the battleships *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau* in the French port of Brest.

He was part of the crew of Wellington W5514 PH-S of No. 12 Squadron, which was one of 31 1 Group Wellingtons taking part in the almost-nightly raids on Brest on the night of 6/7 January 1942.



During the attack, in which a near-miss left the *Gneisenau* holed, W5514 dived to take evasive action following an attack by a night fighter. The captain ordered a bale out, but only Harry baled before control was regained and the order rescinded. The Wellington recovered and made it back to England, clipping high tension cables and a lorry while attempting to make an emergency landing on the unfinished airfield at Ashbourne in Derbyshire. The other five members of Harry's crew were uninjured in the crash-landing.

Harry came from Hamilton in Ontario and was the youngest son of Ernest and Mariane Bryant. He was a member of the Church of Ascension in Hamilton and was a noted marksman during his youth, winning several trophies. He was educated at Hamilton Technical College before joining the Steel Company of Canada. After he enlisted, he was selected for pilot training and was posted to

England in the late summer of 1941. Harry's body was never recovered from the sea, and he has no known grave. He is remembered on the Runnymede Memorial.

The other members of his crew were the pilot P/O John Garlick, observer Sgt. N Erskine, wireless operator/air gunners Sgt. B Schauenberg and Sgt. E Matthews and rear gunner Sgt. K Stevens.

Harry is remembered on panel 014.

Sources: Aviation Safety Network/CASPIR/Canadian veterans(photos)/Bomber Command Losses 1942 by Bill Chorley/Bomber Command War Diaries by Martin Middlebrook and Chris Everitt.