

WO2 George Philip Herman R/128322 RCAF

George was born on 8 June 1917 in Dundurn, Saskatchewan, Canada, the son of Polish born Anton Herman and Russian born Lydia Herman nee Schmaultz.

Educated at Elstow Public School, Saskatchewan, George worked as a mechanic and tractor driver before enlisting in the RCAF in September 1941.

Originally serving as a General Duties airman, in July 1942 George re-mustered as an Air Gunner. After training in Canada, George was awarded his Air Gunner badge in October 1942 and was posted to England the next month. After advanced training, in July 1943 George was posted to 101 Sqn at RAF Ludford Magna, Lincolnshire .

On the morning of 18 November 1943 "Bomber Harris" decided the offensive against Berlin would resume. The weather was forecast favourable. That night, an all Lancaster force of 440 aircraft were tasked with the raid on Berlin, with 101 Sqn contributing 23 crews.

At 17:21 George, operating as one of the Air Gunners, and the crew departed RAF Ludford Magna, Lincolnshire in Lancaster III LM370 (SR-K2), routeing out over the Lincolnshire coast to rendezvous with the rest of the force and commencing a route to Berlin South of the Ruhr across Belgium.

The visibility over the target area was poor, and winds were not as forecast making the task extremely difficult. The 101 Sqn Lancasters arrived just before 21:00 and completed blind drops. Despite this, German reports stated that bombs fell in most parts of the city with reasonable impact on the industrial areas.

At 23:11 whilst on the homeward flight, George's aircraft was intercepted over the Dutch province of Drenthe on the Dutch/German border by Fw Rudolf Frank of the 2./NJG3, flying a Ju88 from Wittmund Airfield. The Lancaster crashed on an area of peatland on the outskirts of Oud-Schoonebeek killing all on board.

Also Killed: FO Charles Patrick McManus (Pilot); FO Barry Kingsley Petyt (AB); FO Guy Dermot Spyers (Nav); FS George Herbert Gittins DFM (AG); Sgt Charles Harold Downs (AG); Sgt Kenneth Jones (FE); Sgt Anthony Ezra Rosen (WOp/AG)

George is buried in Schoonebeek (Oud Schoonebeek) General Cemetery, Drenthe, Netherlands.

George is commemorated on Wall Panel 48

Photo Source: www.veterans.gc.ca

