

F/O Arnold Raymond Herron J/8380 RCAF

Arnold Herron was a 27-year-old Canadian Lancaster pilot who was killed when his bomber was shot down by a night-fighter during the early hours of 4 July 1943.

He was the pilot of ED820 PH-A, one of two Lancasters from No. 12 Squadron lost during the attack on Cologne. ED820 was one of 630 bombers involved in the raid on the much-bombed Rhineland city, 30 of which were lost, many of them over the target area.



Arnold's aircraft had taken off from RAF Wickenby at 2337 hours on the night of 3 July and had taken part in what was a successful heavy attack on the industrial area of Cologne. ED820 was heading home when it was attacked by a fighter flown by Hpt. Wilhelm Telge and shot down in central Belgium. The aircraft crashed at 0305 hours between the villages of Walhain and Ernage with only the bomb-aimer, Sgt. H Williams, surviving.

Arnold was the son of Leonard and Laura Herron of Waterford, Ontario, and came from the small community of Rockford, in Ontario. He had enlisted in January 1941, trained initially in Canada and was posted to England for further training in January 1942. He had a spell flying in Egypt before moving to England and joining No. 12 Squadron and was an experienced pilot, completing many operations.

He and his wife, Anne, were married in Bournemouth and it is believed she later lived in Toronto in Canada. His brother, Marvin, also joined the RCAF and was killed in a flying accident while at a Service Flying Training School in 1942.

The others who died with him were the flight engineer Sgt. Malcolm Green, navigator Sgt. Donald Baird, wireless operator Sgt. Thomas Edmondson, mid-upper gunner Sgt. Arthur Baseley and rear gunner Flt. Sgt. Maurice Combres RCAF. All were initially buried at the Le Culot military airfield in Belgium before being reinterred after the war in the Heverlee War Cemetery (Coll. grave 2. F. 7-8).

Arnold's name can be found on IBCC panel 048.

Sources: Canadian veterans/Aircrew Remembered/**B**omber Command War Diaries by Martin Middlebrook and Chris Everitt.