

**Cpl Joseph Victor Raoul Beaudry RCAF  
R/74134**



At 10am on the morning of 29 November 1942, a Halifax II bomber of 405 (Vancouver) Squadron RCAF lifted off from RAF Topcliffe, near Thirsk, heading for an airfield in the New Forest in Hampshire.

Apart from the usual complement of seven aircrew, was a second aircrew, and an air frame mechanic as passengers along with quite a few bicycles. The squadron had recently moved south to RAF Beaulieu for a six-month attachment with Coastal Command and this was to be one of the final movements.

Four minutes later, they were all dead, killed in one of the worst non-operational losses during wartime in Bomber Command. Fourteen of those were Canadians.

The Halifax, DT675, headed initially north-easterly before turning over the village of Melmerby, before turning south for Beaulieu. At 300 feet high, it suddenly turned on its back and plunged into the ground, killing all on board. An inquiry later discounted the theory that the aircraft was overloaded and thought it more likely the Halifax stalled before crashing.

Passenger Joseph Beaudry was a Canadian engine mechanic with the ground crew on 405 Squadron and was due to work with the squadron in Hampshire. He was 26 and came from the city of Aylmer in Quebec. Joseph was the son of Edouard and Alida Beaudry and had worked as an electrician before joining the RCAF in September 1940. He trained as an air frame mechanic in Canada but later qualified as an aero engine mechanic and had been with 405 Squadron since January 1942.

The others who died were the **crew**: pilot WO Stephen Gannon RCAF, flight engineer Sgt Earl McGillivray RCAF, navigator Sgt George Taylor RCAF, bomb-aimer PO Allen Bradley RCAF, navigator Sgt Francis Hooton RCAF, bomb-aimer wireless operator Sgt Stanley Milne RCAF, mid-upper gunner Sgt Melville Stanley RCAF and rear gunner Sgt Orlando Hamel RCAF, **passengers**, pilot Flt Sgt Norman Ross RCAF, flight engineer Sgt Joseph Jones, navigator Sgt Samuel Clark RCAF, bomb-aimer Sgt Francis Hooton RAFVR, wireless operator FO Benjamin Enns RCAF, mid-upper gunner Sgt Ralph Milliken RCAF and rear gunner Flt Sgt William Kostenuk RCAF. He was buried along with 13 of his Canadian colleagues in Dishforth Cemetery in Yorkshire.

Joseph's name can be found on panel 128.

Sources: Yorkshire aircraft crashes/Canadian veterans/405 Squadron Association.

