

P/O Earl Herbert Brown J/15685 RCAF

Earl was born on 17 September 1915 in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, the son of Herbert James and Winnifred Brown (née Hall).

Educated at Devonshire and Connaught Public Schools, and Ottawa Technical High School, Earl was employed as a paper cutter at the British American Bank Note Company when, in October 1939, he volunteered for service with the RCAF. Accepted immediately, Earl was employed as an aircraft fitter in Canada.

Qualifying as a private pilot in December 1940, Earl volunteered for aircrew duties in March 1941 and was re-mustered for pilot training. Completing his training in Canada, with the award of his wings in August 1941, Earl embarked for the UK the following month.

After completing advanced training at No. 19 OTU RAF Forres, Scotland, in February 1942 Earl was posted to 101 Squadron at RAF Oakington, Cambridgeshire. Commissioned in July 1942, Earl moved with the squadron to RAF Stradishall, Suffolk, in early August 1942.

On 17/18 August 1942 Bomber Command was tasked with an op against Osnabrück, Germany. A combined force of 139 aircraft, including twelve from 101 Squadron, was despatched. Two squadron aircraft failed to return.

At 2145 hours on 17 August 1942 Earl and his crew departed RAF Stradishall in Wellington III X3654 (SR-K). At 0202 hours on 18 August, whilst on the homeward leg, Earl's aircraft was intercepted by Oblt. Ludwig Becker, flying a Do215 of the 6./NJG 2 from Leeuwarden Airfield. The bomber crashed 3 miles south of Harlingen, Friesland, Netherlands, killing all on board. This was Earl's 28th op.

Also killed were the 2nd pilot Sgt. Eugene Sydney Thomas, observer WO Thomas McBride RCAF, wireless operator/air gunners Flt. Sgt. Douglas Haig Methven and Sgt. William James Justice and air gunner Sgt. John Skipsey.

Earl is buried in the Kimsward Protestant Churchyard, Wonseradeel, Netherlands.

Earl is commemorated on Wall Panel 136.

Photo Source: IBCC

