

PO James Edward Cartman J/93432 RCAF

James was born on 13 January 1920 in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, the son of British born parents Robert Stanley Cartman and Mary Cartman nee Holland.

Educated at Victoria School, Montreal and Bridgeville High, on leaving education James was employed as an Usher at Loews Theatre, Toronto and, following a brief period as a Clerk, he began work as a miner with Dome Mines. In June 1941 he joined the Canadian Army as a Signaller in Montreal, before transferring to the RCAF in November 1941.

James completed his Air Gunner training in Brandon and Winnipeg, gaining his AG Badge in October 1942.

James was transferred to the UK in January 1944 and was posted onto the strength of 161 Sqn at RAF Tempsford, Bedfordshire in March 1944. Further training was completed throughout the year, including at 10 OCU, and he had just completed his parachute training at Ringway on 6 December 1944.

In late December 1944, James was spending some leave in London. Whilst staying at the Craven Hill Hotel, Craven Hill Gardens, London W2, at 10:15 on 31 December he was found unconscious in his hotel room. In lighting the gas burners in the fireplace used for heating the room, he only turned on half of the burners, leading to a leak of coal gas into the room.

Despite immediate medical attention in the hotel, he died in an ambulance on route to St Mary's Hospital Paddington. His official cause of death was recorded as accidental due to coal gas poisoning.

James is buried in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey

James is commemorated on Wall Panel 142

Photo Source: veterans.gc.ca

