

Sgt Charles William Hartin 1432989 RAFVR

Charles was born in 1911 in Gloucester, Gloucestershire, the eldest son of Charles Henry Hartin and Alice Hartin nee Church. In 1935 he married Doris Edith Salter in Gloucester.

Before joining the RAF and training as a Navigator, Charles was employed as a Power Station Engineer.

Following Navigator training, Charles crewed up at 1657 Conversion Unit RAF Stradishall, Suffolk before the crew was posted to 161 Sqn at RAF Tempsford, Bedfordshire, in March 1943.



On 22 June 1943, Charles's mission (Operations St Paul, Harrow and Catarrh) was to blind-drop 2 Dutch Agents and their equipment into Holland in the area of Marienberg, East of the Overijssel town of Ommen.

At 23:35 Charles, operating as the 2nd Navigator, and the crew departed RAF Tempsford in Halifax V DG405 (MA-Y). Both Agents, the container with equipment and transmitting equipment were dropped successfully and the aircraft set course for home.

At 02:06 on 23 June, the Halifax was engaged over the Noordoostpolder by Major Helmut Lent of the Stab IV./NJG1, flying a Bf110 from Leeuwarden airfield. The Halifax crashed into the IJsselmeer, 7km West of Urk, killing all on board. On 2 July Charles's body was recovered from the IJsselmeer near Harderwijk and buried in the local cemetery.

Also Killed: PO Robert Geoffrey Higgins (Pilot); FS Maynard Hazlett Moore RCAF (Nav); Sgt Norman Blanchard (FE); Sgt George Noel Cochrane (AG); Sgt Gordon George (AB); Sgt Frank Groom (WOp/AG); Sgt Robin Douglas Pryde-Watson (AG)

Charles is buried in Harderwijk General Cemetery, Gelderland, Netherlands.

Charles is commemorated on Wall Panel 178

Photo Source: www.teunispats.nl