

FO John Montague Hartman MiD 172730 RAFVR

John was born on 28 July 1914 in London, the son of John Aloysius Hartman and Elsie Caroline Hartman nee Montague. In 1939 he married Constance Lena Brocklebank in Stepney, London. Educated locally, prior to joining the RAFVR John was employed as a Post Office Clerk.

John's MiD was awarded in June 1944.

At 21:10 on 20 February 1945 John, operating as the Air Gunner, departed RAF Tempsford, Bedfordshire in Hudson III T9405 (MA-K), on Operation CROC, a Secret Intelligence Service mission to Germany.

At 00:24, about 10 miles east of the Dutch frontier, the aircraft crashed between Bokeloh and Lammersfelde some 3 km E and 6 km SE respectively from the centre of Mappen, after being engaged by a night-fighter at low level. John died of very serious burns, despite an attempt to rescue him by the Wireless Operator. The new Commanding Officer was killed on this flight, the rest of the crew were taken POW.

This was the last Hudson to be lost on a sortie with Bomber Command. 161 Sqn left Bomber Command soon after this sortie, although they continued to use Hudsons on clandestine missions until the end of the war.

Also killed : Wg Cdr George Watson DFM MiD (Pilot)

John is buried in the Rheinberg War Cemetery, Nordrhein-Westphalen, Germany, his remains were transferred from Lingen New Cemetery, Niedersachsen in August 1947.

John is commemorated on Wall Panel 178

Photo Source: IBCC

