

Sgt Henry Percival Hartridge R/58086 RC

Henry was born on 9 September 1919 in Murree, Punjab, India, the son of British born Captain Percival James Hartridge, formerly the Durham Light Infantry, and Ellen Mary Hartridge nee Morrell. The family emigrated to Canada in 1929, settling in Balfour, British Columbia.

Educated at Balfour Public School and Nelson High School, Henry was employed as a miner with the Gold Belt Mining Company when, in December 1939 he volunteered for service with the RCAF.

Called up in June 1940, Henry completed his training in Canada with the award of his wings in January 1941, transferring to the UK the following month.

Following advanced training, Henry was crewed with his Observer and WOp/AG at 17 OTU at RAF Upwood, Cambridgeshire, and was posted to 21 Sqn at RAF Watton, Norfolk on 8 July 1941.



On 17 July 1941, 21 Sqn was sent from RAF Watton to RAF Manston in preparation for anti-shipping ops in the Channel.

At 14:00 on 23 July 1941 Henry and his crew departed RAF Manston in Blenheim IV V6321 (YH-Z) as part of a 6 ship, with fighter escort, tasked with a daylight attack on shipping. A 4000 ton tanker with 4 Flak ships was identified off Ostend. Following a successful attack on the convoy, Henry's aircraft was hit by flak and crashed into the sea 2 miles North of Ostend, killing all on board.

Also Killed: Sgt Kenneth Buck Minty (WOp/AG); Sgt Charles Douglas Phillips (Observer)

Henry is buried in Flushing (Vlissingen) Northern Cemetery, Zeeland, Netherlands

Henry is commemorated on Wall Panel 178

Photo Source: www.veterans.gc.ca