

PO Harry Edward Orr J/15865 RCAF

Harry was born on 14 April 1923 in Clarkson, Peel, Ontario, Canada, the son of Frederick Henry Orr and Myrtle Irene Orr nee Manley.

Educated at Clarkson Public School and Port Credit High, Ontario, Harry was employed on the family farm when, in September 1940, he volunteered for service with the RCAF.

Called up in October 1940, Harry completed his aircrew training in Canada in July 1941 with the award of his WOp/AG badge, and he embarked for the UK in August.

Following advanced training at 20 OTU RAF Lossiemouth, Scotland, in June 1942 Harry was posted to 214 Sqn at RAF Stradishall, Suffolk. Harry was posthumously granted a commission backdated to July.

On 13/14 September 1942, Bomber Command was tasked with an attack on Bremen, Germany's second largest port and home to military-industrial facilities including the shipyards of Vulkan, AG Weser and Atlas Werke, the Valentin submarine pens, oil refineries and the aircraft works of Focke-Wulf. A combined force of 446 aircraft, including eight 214 Sqn crews, were allocated to the op.

At 00:37 on 14 September 1942, Harry, operating as the Wireless Operator, and the crew departed RAF Stradishall in Stirling I R9166 (BU-H).

Approaching the target area, at 03:46 on 14 September Harry's aircraft was hit by flak and exploded in the air. The Stirling crashed on the south bank of the River Weser, Habenhausen, South of Bremen, killing six of the seven-man crew. The Navigator was taken as POW.

Also Killed: PO Robert Joseph Cartmell RCAF (Pilot); FS Joseph George Spouler RCAF (WOp/AG); Sgt Ronald Dicks (FE); Sgt Roy Frederick Reynolds (WOp/AG); Sgt Stanley Watson (AG)

Originally buried in the Russian Cemetery, Vechta, Lower Saxony, Germany, in October 1947 Harry was moved to the Rheinberg War Cemetery, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany

Harry is commemorated on Wall Panel 221

Photo Source: veterans.gc.ca

