

Sgt Robin Douglas Pryde-Watson 1572859 RAFVR

Robin was born on 21 October 1919 in Jaipur, Rajasthan, India, the son of William Pryde-Watson and Harriet Alice Pryde-Watson nee Melville-Smith. Robin's family returned to the UK in 1930, and Robin was educated at George Heriot School, Edinburgh, Scotland.

In March 1939 Robin was serving in the Army as a Sapper in the Royal Engineers, before transferring to the Kings Own Scottish Borderers the following year.

In 1942 Robin transferred to the RAF and trained as an Air Gunner. He was posted to 161 Sqn at RAF Tempsford, Bedfordshire, in January 1943.



On 22 June 1943, Robin'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 Robin, operating as the Air Gunner and Despatcher, 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 7 July Robin was washed ashore near Urk and his body was transferred to Amsterdam for burial.

Also Killed: PO Robert Geoffrey Higgins (Pilot); FS Maynard Hazlett Moore RCAF (Nav); Sgt Norman Blanchard (FE); Sgt Gordon George (AB); Sgt Frank Groom (WOp/AG); Sgt Charles William Hartin (Nav); Sgt George Noel Cochrane (AG)

Robin is buried in Amsterdam New Eastern Cemetery, Noord-Holland, Netherlands

Robin is commemorated on Wall Panel 229

On 23 October 1944 Robin's brother, Sgt David Bruce James Pryde-Watson RAFVR, was killed flying a Wellington from RAF Shawbury, Shropshire

Photo Source: www.teunispats.nl