

Sgt Harold John Sharood 1246257 RAFVR

Harold, born Harold John Barcroft, was born on 10 May 1910 in Weymouth, Dorset, the son of John Barcroft and Beatrice Sharood nee Lush. In 1932 he married Winifred Gurd in Bridport, Devon. They had two sons.

A bus conductor in civilian life, Harold joined the RAF as an Air Gunner and was posted to 138 Sqn at RAF Tempsford, Bedfordshire.

On 14 March 1943, Harold and the crew were tasked with "Operation Bronse", the insertion of a 3 man Czechoslovakian SOE Bronse team to Bohemia. The team was tasked to organize the resistance, carry out intelligence surveillance activities, and transmit information back to London. The group radio was codenamed "Blanka" .

Harold, operating as the Air Gunner, and the crew, together with the 3 man Czech team departed RAF Tempsford, Bedfordshire, in Halifax II BB281 (NF-O) destined for a drop zone near Brno, SE of Prague. Deteriorating weather conditions in the drop area prevented the planned operation continuing and the decision was made to return to base. Whilst flying to the south of Munich, the aircraft was hit by German anti-aircraft fire and crashed in the Perlacher Forest. Only one crew member and one Agent survived the crash, but they died later of their injuries.

Also Killed: Sqn Ldr Christopher Francis Gibson DFC (Pilot); WO1 Douglas Clark Lisson RCAF (Pilot); WO2 Maurice Tallier Peter Myers RCAF (WOp/AG); FS Arthur Stokes DFM (WOp/AG); FS John Stanley Rigden (Nav); Sgt Malcolm John Hudson (FE) died 11 April; Sgt Leo Peter Ward (AG); Lt Bohumir Martinek (Agent); František Vrbka (Agent) died 23 March; Antonin Kubec (Agent)

Originally buried in Munich West Cemetery, in November 1947 Harold was moved to Durnbach War Cemetery, Bayern Germany

Harold is commemorated on Wall Panel 239