FS James Henry Batt R/189665 RCAF



James was born on 7 March 1923 in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, the son of James Batt and Cecilia Batt nee Parry.

Educated at Connaught School, Strathearn High and Commercial High School, Montreal, James was employed as a secretary and stenographer by the Canadian Pacific Railway, Montreal when, in August 1942, he volunteered for service in the RCAF.

Called up in September 1942, James completed his aircrew training in Canada in June 1943 with the award his Air Gunner badge and, following additional training at 34 OTU RAF Pennfield Ridge, New Brunswick, in October 1943 he embarked for the UK.

Following advanced training at 13 OTU RAF Bicester, Oxfordshire, in June 1944 James was posted to 226 Sqn at RAF Hartford Bridge, Hampshire.

On 17/18 August 1944 six 226 Sqn crews were detailed to drop flares over the River Risle, between Bretigny and Nassandres, to enable attacks to be made by Boston aircraft.

At 01:25 on 18 August 1944 James, operating as the Air Gunner, and the crew departed RAF Hartford Bridge in Mitchell II FV989 (MQ-J).

After leaving the target area, James's aircraft exploded mid-air, probably after being hit by ground fire, and the aircraft crashed over a wide area near Les Fretils, Eure, Normandy, France, killing James and the pilot. The other two crew members evaded.

Also killed: PO Robert Arthur Brett RCAF (Pilot)

Originally buried at the scene of the crash, James is now buried in St. Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen, Seine-Maritine, France

James is commemorated on Wall Panel - Not Yet Erected

Photo Source: veterans.gc.ca