



Charles Rae Barr

J/15520

Piloot/Officier

About the family.

Charles Rae Barr was born on February 10, 1919 in Verdun, Quebec. He was not married and lived with his parents at 354 Church Avenue in Verdun. He was the son of Dr. Charles Henry Barr and Mary Ellen Vivian Carson, who were married on February 19, 1918. His father was a dentist. He had one younger sister, Lorraine, and one younger brother, William. In 1934 he left Verdun Protestant Public School at the age of 15, then 4 more years at Verdun High School until 1938 and Sir William George College in Montreal for 2 years until 1940, where he studied art, science and commerce. He has achieved Grade 11. Before he entered the service in 1940 he did not work. His hobbies were gardening, stamp collecting and woodworking. He played a lot of sports, particularly sailing, swimming, tennis, basketball, lacrosse, and baseball.

Military Affairs.

He was enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force in Montreal on 24 September 1940. He received his training and education successively until 24 October 1940 in Brandon, Manitoba until 28 November 1940 in Vancouver, British Columbia until 3 January 1941 in Regina, Saskatchewan until 21 February 1941 in Fort William, Ontario until 6 March 1941 in Picton, Ontario to 29 March 1941 in Brantford, Ontario to 18 May 1941 in Halifax, Nova Scotia and then to Great Britain. He was killed on 17 June 1942 when his plane was shot down after a bombing raid

on Essen, Germany, and crashed in the North Sea about 10 km northwest of Katwijk aan Zee. There he is also temporarily buried in the military cemetery row A, grave number 6. He was reburied at the Canadian War Cemetery in Bergen op Zoom, Plot 06, row H, grave 06, date unknown.

Details.

- His tombstone reads: "Beloved son of Dr. Charles Henry Barr and Mary Ellen Vivian Carson. R.I.P.," which means: "Beloved son of Dr. Charles Henry Barr and Mary Ellen Vivian Carson. Rest in peace".
- He has received: 39-45 Star, A/C Europe Star, General Service Medal, Operational Wings, and the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp.
- Total earnings in 1 year and 9 months of active service unknown. In the Ancestry it is reported in one document that his plane crashed 60 km west of Walcheren. Given the place where Barr and Brown's bodies washed ashore, that doesn't seem right.
- Hardly any additional interesting information about him has been found via the Ancestry and via Google. Charles' aircraft (Handley Page, Halifax, MK II, R9530, DY-J, RAF 102 Sqdn) took off from Topcliffe, England on 16 June 1942 at 23:02 for a bombing raid on Essen, Germany. It did not return from this mission, having been shot down by Oblt at 03:09 on 17 June 1942. H. Prinz zu Sayn-Wittgenstein of E./NJG2 and 10 km northwest of Katwijk aan Zee crashed into the North Sea. Names and service numbers of crew members:

- Pilot	C.R. Barr(RCAF)	J/15520
- Mechanical engineer	J.W. Brown(RAF)	531369
- Observer	D. Conter(RCAF)	R/76122
- Air gunner/Radio	R.C. Perriam(RAF)	1155037
- Gunner in the middle	D.MacN. Smith(RCAF)	R/76192
- Gunner rudder	J.G.S. Rocks(RAF)	1160674

- No one survived the crash. The bodies of Barr and Brown were washed ashore on 12 and 10 July 1942 respectively near Katwijk aan Zee and Callantsoog (North Holland). Barr is temporarily buried in Katwijk aan Zee and Brown in Huisduinen, near Den Helder, North Holland.
- The bodies of the other four have never been found. They are commemorated at the Runnymede Memorial in Egham, England.
 - Sources consulted for this story are: <https://www.veterans.gc.ca/en/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial/detail/2641443>

- <https://www.verliesregister.studiegroepvluchtoorlog.nl/ahome/lossregister/results?sglo=T1603>
- <https://www.102ceylonsquadron.co.uk/memCharlesRaeBarr.html>
- <https://losses.internationalbcc.co.uk/loss/201373>
- <https://aviation-safety.net/wikibase/52803>