



JOSEPH HARVEY MILTON LACELLE

J/15165

Pilot Officer, Air Gunner.

Family affairs.

Joseph Harvey Milton Lacelle was born on July 18th 1918 in Hurdman's Bridge, Ottawa, Ontario. He was not married.

He was the son of Joseph Theogene Lacelle and Victoria A Craig, who married in Ottawa on November 23th 1916. His father was an electrician at the Rockcliffe Air Station in Ontario. They lived Ottawa, 1159 Bank Street. His older brother also worked at the Rockcliffe Air Station at the photosection department. His younger sister Nora lived also in Ottawa, 340 Rochester Street.

From 1924-1931 on the Overbrooke Separate(Public) School and from 1931-1936 on the Ottawa Technical School, where he reached the Junior Matriculation. Before his enlistment he didn't work.

His hobbies were fishing and making furniture. He was a fanatic boxer (was participating the Olympic Games 1936 in Berlin, see **Remarks**) and was doing heavy physical training. He sported moderately baseball, softball and icehockey.

Military affairs.

He was enlisted on May 31th 1940 at the Royal Canadian Air Force in Ottawa. He was already attested in 1936(R/53902), but it lasted 4 years before his real enlistment. His education and training he got subsequently until June 18th in Ottawa, until June 23th in Trenton, Nova Scotia and until August 26th in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Then on August 27th 1940 to Great Britain.

He died on June 28th 1942, because his plane was shot down about 20 km south-west from Den Helder after a bombing raid on Bremen, Germany. He is temporarily buried on the Cemetery of Huisduinen near Den Helder, GSGS 4042, Sh. 3B. , 1/250.000, M.R.Y. 9787, S.129. May 29th 1947 he is reburied at the General War Cemetery in Bergen op Zoom, Plot 29, rij A, graf 7.

Remarks.

- The text on his tombstone is: "He died the helpless to defend a faithful airman's noble end".
- In 1946 the Operational Wings and Certificate are handed over to his mother. It is unknown whether he received more medals or awards.
- Total wages in just more than 2 years active service at the RCAF: 560,38 \$(Canadian).
- In the Ancestry as well as via Google many personal interesting information is found about Joseph Harvey Milton Lacelle. Also many pictures are found. In the Ancestry he is repeatedly described as an air gunner with exceptional qualities.
- **Source:**
<https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial/detail/2033962> On this site are 2 pictures.
More interesting is the text under these pictures:

This is one of many pictures I have given to me by my mother (Bernadette E. Perry). She is 94 years old and well. She met Harvey at the Chateau Laurier in Ottawa. They dated seriously before his departure for WWII as an air gunner for the RCAF. She speaks of him today, everyday and will always. They were very much in love. Thank you, Claire. Apparently he had a girlfriend, something which is not mentioned in the Ancestry. It is unknown who "Claire" is and when this text is placed.

- On this site also articles from newspapers can be found about him.
- In 1936 he was a boxing participant on the Olympic Games in Berlin. In the first round of the bantamweight he was defeated by Fidel Ortiz, the final bronze medalist.

- Lacelle's plane (Handley Page HalifaxII, W1110, LQ-C, RCAF 405 Sqdn) lift off at 23.31 hours, together with 143 other planes, on June 27th 1942 from Pocklington, York, England for a raid on the German town Bremen. From this mission the plane didn't return, because it was shot down on June 28th at 02.55 by the Germans, approximately 20 km south-west of Den Helder. All seven crew members were killed. Names and service numbers of the crew:
Pilot W.L. Scott(RCAF), R/61631

Flight Engineer G.B. Tatham(RCAF), R/70586

Navigator G.Mc L Phillips(RCAF), R/62639

Wireless operator/airgunner J.E. Cole(RCAF), R/64719

Mid - front airgunner J.H.M. Lacelle(RCAF), J/15165

Bomb aimer J.J. Hughes(RAF), 131806

Rear airgunner S.B. Rowland, 819083

The bodies of Lacelle and Tatham washed ashore at Callantsoog, Noord-Holland on respectively June 30th and September 9th 1942, the body of Phillips washed ashore at Petten, Noord-Holland on September 17th 1942. It is curious that Lacelle and Tatham are reburied in Bergen op Zoom and Phillips is not. He is buried in Bergen, Noord-Holland. The bodies of the other 4 crew members

have never been found. They are mentioned on the het Runnymede Memorial in Egham, Engeland.

Bron: <https://losses.internationalbcc.co.uk/loss/215955>