



CHARLES REGINALD WATTS

J/23393

Flying Officer, Pilot.

Personal Affairs.

Charles Reginald Watts was born on 29 March 1922 in Lloydminster, Alberta. He was unmarried and lived with his parents in Lloydminster. . He was the son of Charles David Watts and Edith Simpson, who were married on 3 September 1906 in Carberry, Manitoba. His father was a farmer. He had 3 older brothers George-Frederick, Ronald and Alexander-John and 1 older married sister Violet Helen Stubble. Alexander-John served in the Canadian Army "overseas". He attended Golden Valley Public School from 1929-1935, Golden Valley High School from 1935-1939 and a correspondence course in 1938-1939, all in Lloydminster. He reached Grade XI. He left school at the age of 17 and worked on his father's farm for 3 years. As a special hobby he played the piano, his sports were basketball, tennis, softball and ice hockey.

Military affairs.

He was registered on November 17, 1941 with the Royal Canadian Air Force in Summerside, Edmonton, Alberta. He received his training and education until January 18, 1942 in Edmonton, until March 28, 1942 in Claresholm, Alberta, until August 2, 1942 again in Edmonton, until October 10, 1942 in High River, Alberta until February 19, 1943 in Calgary until May 8, 1943 in Summerside. Then via Halifax, Nova Scotia to Great Britain. He died on August 30, 1944 when his plane was shot down by German anti-aircraft guns during a routine patrol along the Dutch coast. The plane crashed northwest of Domburg, Zeeland. His body washed up on the island of Beer at Hoek van Holland, South Holland on 22

September and was temporarily buried at the General Cemetery there, MR523827, SH4. He was reburied on 7 October 1945 at the Canadian War Cemetery in Bergen op Zoom, Plot 08, row F, grave 08.

Special features.

- His gravestone is inscribed: "Raised to a higher rank".
- He has received: Atlantic Star, 39-45 Star, War Medal, Operational Wings, Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp.
- Total services in 2 years and almost 9 months of active service, including last pay: \$510.33 (Canadian)
- <https://caspir.warplane.com/pdoc/pn/600021065/>. This site contains some photos of some of the crew members of the aircraft. Also a description is given of his aircraft, a Vickers Wellington. See below. Charles' aircraft (Vickers Wellington, MKIII, MF175, 7R-J, RAF 524 Sqdn) took off from Bircham Newton, Great Britain, on 30 August 1944 at 20.59 hrs for a routine patrol flight along the coast of the Netherlands. It did not return from this mission, because it was hit by German anti-aircraft fire and crashed in the North Sea, approximately 13 km northwest of Domburg, Zeeland. All crew members were killed.
- Names and service numbers of the crew members:
 - Pilot C.R. Watts(RCAF) J/23393
 - Navigator L.G.H. Griffiths(RCAF) J/86497 - Co-pilot D.W. Aston(RAF) 145048 - Bombardier G. Nathan(RCAF) J/13441 - Gunner helm N. Shlahetka(RCAF) J/89127 - Radio H.E. Maguire(RCAF) J/13396 - Radio/Gunner K.A. Roche(RCAF) J/87148

The body of Watts washed up on the island of De Beer near Hoek van Holland on 22 September 1944 and was temporarily buried there. In 1945 he was reburied at the Canadian War Cemetery. The body of H.E. Maguire washed up on 28 September 1944 at Oostvoorne, South Holland and was also buried there. The bodies of the other 5 crew members were never found. They are commemorated on the Air Force Runnymede Memorial in Egham, Great Britain.

<https://historischhoekvanholland.nl/?p=1141> This site was found more or less by chance. It contains an incredibly beautiful story, which is actually about his fellow crew member Derek Aston, but which also provides wonderful information about Charles Reginald Watts. In addition, beautiful old photos are shown (see below) and various other information sites are listed. A truly unique document.

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Sources consulted for this story

are: <https://www.verliesregister.studiegroepluchtoorlog.nl/ahome/lossregister/results?sglo=T3960>

<https://veterans.gc.ca/en/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial/detail/2642431>

<https://caspir.warplane.com/pdoc/pn/600021065/>

<https://nl.findagrave.com/memorial/12724995/charles-reginald-watts>

<https://www.rafcommands.com/database/wardead/details.php?gnum=47894>

<https://historischhoekvanholland.nl/?p=1141>