

George Racine Herbert

Born 1922 (calculated from CWGC age of 21 in 1943)

The Births, deaths and marriages register shows

Births quarter ending Sep 1920

<i>Surname</i>	<i>Forenames</i>	<i>Mothers maiden name</i>	<i>District</i>	<i>index</i>
Herbert	George R	Newman	Lambeth	1d615

From the same source his father George Angelo Herbert was born quarter ending Dec 1883

HERBERT	George Angelo	Lambeth	1d482
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(His mothers name not shown)

Air 78 records show that George Racine Herbert was allocated service number 1176946 on enlisting. This is in the series for enlistments in April 1940 at RAF Cardington.

London gazette 27 April 1943 page 1908 shows promotion from flight sergeant to pilot officer with effect from 16 February 1943, with the issue of a new service number. From 1176946 to 142149

It was normal for a new service number to be issued when commissioned as an officer

During the posting to 76 squadron the following missions can be found (only October and November 1941 so far purchased from the National archives)

76 squadron Missions

26/10/1941 target Cherbourg take off at 18.34 landed at 00.02

Aircraft Halifax MkI serial L 9534 squadron code 'MP-T'

Crew:

Sergeant Herbert

Sergeant Williams

Sergeant Roberts

Flight/Sergeant Flannigan

Sergeant Toski

Sergeant Glover

Sergeant Denton.

This aircraft did not attack the target due to 10/10 cloud. The bombs were jettisoned safe. This aircraft returned safely to base

31/10/1941 target Hamburg take off at 18.11 landed at 00.15

Aircraft Halifax Mk I serial L 9534 squadron code 'MP-T'

Crew:

Sergeant Herbert

Sergeant Williams
Sergeant Roberts
Sergeant Fanning
Sergeant Toski
Sergeant Glover
Sergeant Hall

This aircraft bombed the primary target on E.T.A. but no results were observed owing to cloud over the target preventing location of the aiming point. Flak and searchlights were encountered at 21.16 hours at a height of 16,000 feet, from where bombing was carried out. Good pinpointings were obtained on Horsstrand and Kiel Canal where there was no cloud and visibility good.

7-8/11/1941 target Berlin take off at 23.24 landed at 07.17.

Aircraft Halifax Mk I L9604 squadron code 'MP-W'

Crew

Sergeant Herbert
Sergeant Bingham
Sergeant Roberts
Sergeant Fanning
Sergeant Fulton
Sergeant Glover
Sergeant Hall

Bad weather was encountered by all aircraft and as a result of the extreme cold Air Speed Indicators and compasses were rendered unserviceable. Sgt Herbert landed at West Raynham(Norfolk).

25/11/1941 target cruisers moored at Brest. Take off at 16.11 landed at 22.28

Aircraft Halifax Mk I L9604 Squadron code 'MP-W'

Crew

Sergeant Herbert
Sergeant Bingham
Sergeant Roberts
Sergeant Fanning
Sergeant Fulton
Sergeant Glover
Sergeant Street

Notes for this mission of 25/11/1941 show:

Lights were seen in the target area at 18.45 hours Aircraft L9604'W' was hit and there were a few small holes in the front turret, but nobody was injured. An aircraft believed to be British was seen in the sea at 48° 18' N 04° 40' W. The port engine of aircraft L 9620'O' failed with the result that it had to land at Boscombe Down. All other aircraft returned safely to base. Weather conditions were ideal: a clear sky, good moon and visibility excellent up to the

30/11/1941 target Hamburg. Take off at 17.18 landed at 23.35

Aircraft Halifax Mk I L9604 Squadron code 'MP-W'

Crew

Sergeant Herbert GR

Sergeant Bingham JHG

Sergeant Roberts MH RCAF

Sergeant Fanning JB

Sergeant Fulton

Sergeant Glover MC

Sergeant Street

Note:

RG Herbert was the sergeant pilot of Halifax L9604 with 76 squadron (Airborne 17.18 hours 30Nov41 from Middleton St.George. On return over-ran the runway and crashed 2335 attempting to land at Linton-on-Ouse. No crew injuries.)

Thus a sergeant at 30/11/1941 a flight sergeant February 1943 and a pilot officer from 16/2/1943.

Award of DFM (London gazette 26/5/1942) shows serving with 76 squadron The citation covers awards for gallantry and devotion to duty in the execution of air operations

The timing of posting to 77 squadron is uncertain, further investigations are being undertaken. At present identified it to be between November 1941 and April 1943.

77 squadron missions based at RAF Elvington

28-29/4/1943 Minelaying take off at 20.18 landed at 03.29

Aircraft Halifax Mk II serial JB852 squadron code 'KN-C'

Crew

Pilot Officer Herbert G DFM

Sergeant Stewart F

Sergeant Cassingham K (*possibly E*)

Sergeant Makin RH

Flight Sergeant Greenwood FJ

Sergeant Boone RH

Flight Sergeant Holmes KJP

P/O Herbert experienced 8/10th cloud, down to 1,500 feet. Mines (1G 708 IV) and (1B.200 IV) were dropped from 1,000 feet, in position ordered. Flak from two flak ships encountered, no damage to aircraft, which returned safely to base on completion of operation.

30.4/1.5.1943 target Essen

Aircraft Halifax Mk II serial JB850 squadron code 'KN-B'

Crew

Pilot Officer Herbert G DFM

Sergeant Stewart F
Sergeant Cassingham K
Sergeant Makin RH
Flight Sergeant Greenwood FJ
Sergeant Boone RH
Flight Sergeant Holmes KJP

This crew were briefed, but aircraft did not take off. (two other aircraft on this mission were lost, JB803 and JB846)

35 squadron orb shows posting from 77 squadron to 35 squadron 7/5/43

35 squadron missions based at RAF Graveley

12/13.5.1943 target Duisberg take off at 00.26 landed at 04.52

Aircraft Halifax MkII DT 488 squadron code TL-Q

crew

P/O GR Herbert

Sgt Makin RH

Sgt Cassingham E

F/S Greenwood FJ

Sgt Boone RH

P/O AV Wallace

Sgt Stewart F

Part of Main Force (usual notation for new crew to squadron)

[debriefing note]

Time 02.37 hours, height 16,000 feet heading 180 degrees magnetic, 15x90x4lb incendiaries dropped with green target indicators in bomb sight as reds were out at time of bombing. Weather nil cloud with slight haze on ground, bombing appeared to be undershooting to the North slightly but a lot of fires starting up near the red target indicators. Start of a good show.

13/14.5.1943 target Bochum take off 23.53 landed at 04.54

Aircraft Halifax Mk II DT 488 squadron code TL-Q

Crew

P/O GR Herbert

Sgt Makin RH

Sgt Cassingham E

F/S Greenwood FJ

Sgt Boone RH

P/O AV Wallace

Sgt Stewart F

Part of Main Force

[debriefing note]

Time 02.9½ hours height 16,000 feet, heading 140 magnetic. 1260x4 incends and 90x4lb type X incends dropped. Weather clear and identified by one red target indicator which was in bomb sight at time of bombing. Bursts seed just between red and several green target indicators. Markers were very well grouped. Good fires and black smoke seen as aircraft left target.

25/26.5.1943 target Dusseldorf take off 23.38 landed at 04.45

Aircraft Halifax Mk II HR673 squadron code TL-B

Crew

P/O GR Herbert

Sgt Makin RH

Sgt Williams W

F/S Greenwood FJ

Sgt Boone RH

P/O AV Wallace

F/O EE Stocker

Part of Main Force

[debriefing note]

Time 01.43½ hours, height 16,000 feet heading 029 degrees magnetic.

M.11x500M.C, and 1x1,000 GP (LD) dropped on green target indicator.

8/10th cloud up to 16/18,000 feet. Much haze and smoke below. Many incendiaries seen scattered over wide area mostly undershot to the south.

1x200 H.C. jettisoned safe in sea at 5210 N 0200 E at 04.07 hours, height 4,500 feet as hung up over target..

27/28.5.1943 target Essen take off 22.53 landed at 03.52

Aircraft Halifax Mk II JB 785 squadron code TL-Q

Crew

P/O GR Herbert

Sgt Makin RH

Sgt Cassingham E

F/S Greenwood FJ

Sgt Boone RH

P/O AV Wallace

F/O EE Stocker

Part of Main Force

[debriefing note]

Time 01.25 hours, height 16,000 feet heading 190 magnetic. 2x1,000lb G.P target indicators, 1x1,000lb GP LD 12x500lb M.C. bombs dropped with red, green and white skymarkers in bomb sight. In weather of 5/ to 8/10ths cloud, with tops 10/12,000 feet, misty on ground, target was identified by skymarkers. First skymarkers seen ahead at 01.11½ hours. others followed at intervals and made approach to target easy. Many explosions were seen at time of bombing. Everything seemed concentrated below the skymarkers and spreading slightly to N.E. in the middle of big area of fires there was one particularly yellow flare up at 01.23 hours – looked like an ammunition dump going up.

29/30.5.1943 target Wupperall take off 22.35 landed at 03.22

Aircraft Halifax Mk II HR795 squadron code TL-M

Crew

P/O GR Herbert
Sgt Makin RH
Sgt Cassingham E
F/S Greenwood FJ
Sgt Boone RH
P/O AV Wallace
Sgt Stewart F

Fire Raiser

[debriefing note]

Time 01.02 hours, height 17,500 feet, heading 030degrees magnetic, 1x2,000lb H.C. and 1164x 4lb incendiaries dropped. There was ground haze and smoke but no cloud. At 00.46.9 hours first red target indicator seen from distance. Many explosions and very good fires with smoke coming up in pillar, and drifting across town.

11/12.6.1943 target Munster take off 23.29 down at 04.16

Aircraft Halifax Mk II JB 785 squadron code TL-Q

Crew

P/O GR Herbert
Sgt Makin RH
Sgt Cassingham E
F/S Greenwood FJ
Sgt Boone RH
P/O AV Wallace
Sgt Stewart F

Main Force

[debriefing note]

this aircraft did not return nothing being heard from it after taking off.

Shot down by night fighter and killed. *(There is a night fighter claim for Halifax JB785 in Theo Boitens book 'Nachtjagd War Diaries Vol 1'*

11/12 June 1943

Lt. Werner Baake 1./NJG1 Hoornaar, 5 km, N.W. Gorkum: 5.000 m.

02.43)

Buried at – Rotterdam (Crooswijk)
General Cemetery



Picture taken from 'Find a grave' website.(see links.)

Photograph of Halifax (DT805 (TL-T) of 35 squadron (ww2images.com).



links

Find a grave:

<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSIn=herbert&GSiman=1&GScid=400173&GRid=14042676&>

DFM award

<https://www.thegazette.co.uk/London/issue/35574/supplement/2290>

loss of Halifax L9604

<http://lostaircraft.com/database.php?lang=en&mode=viewentry&e=8403>

Commonwealth Graves Commission entry:

<http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/2634965/HERBERT,%20GEORGE%20RACINE>

Photo of halifax found on:

<http://www.wingleader.co.uk/ww2-photo-library/>