

# James C. Holder

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James Caulfield Holder was born at his grandparents' home at 72 Ainslie Street North in Galt, Ontario, on April 1, 1922. Sometime after the death of his mother, Holder's father moved to Princeton, Ontario, where he worked as a farmer, while Holder remained living with his grandparents. He attended Victoria Public School and the Galt Collegiate Institute, where he was known to be a popular student.



After graduation in 1939, Holder started work as a pharmacist's assistant at Spencer Dalton's drug store. He enlisted with the Royal Canadian Air Force in April 1942. After training, he graduated at Dunnville as the following April and was overseas by August 1943 as a flying officer. He was attached to 137 Squadron, flying Typhoon fighter bombers.

Holder was reported missing on August 4, 1944, when he went on a shipping reconnaissance flight. After two weeks, when the details of his disappearance were eventually made known, he was officially reported to have been killed when his plane crashed into the sea after heavy damage from anti-aircraft fire south of Oosterchilde, Holland. He had attacked an enemy coastal vessel there and was soon thereafter subjected to heavy enemy fire. He received a posthumous award of the Gold Operational Wings of the Royal Canadian Air Force for gallantry.

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## Sources:

Canadian Virtual War Memorial, accessed April 15, 2016, <http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial/detail/2649401?James%20Caulfield%20Holder>; Service Files of the Second World War - War Dead, 1939-1947, Library and Archives Canada, Ottawa; World War II Newspaper Clippings, Galt Collegiate Institute and Vocational School Archives (GCI Archives); World War II Service Cards, GCI Archives.

Photograph of James C. Holder, RCAF (Library and Archives Canada, Ottawa).