

F/Lt. James Robert Hanson

WAR MEMORIAL



Runnymede Memorial



WHS soldier profile



With a Royal Photo Associated Press Photo Associated Press Photo
Three brothers—sons of Lt.-Col. Paul R. Hanson, D.F.C. and Mrs. Hanson, of Westmount—are in the armed forces. They are, left to right, Lt. John P. Hanson, Royal Montreal Regiment, M.C., who went overseas in February, and AC-2 George F. Hanson of the R.C.A.F. at present at the Manning Depot, Toronto. All three were prominent in football and hockey at Westmount High School. Lt.-Col. Hanson served in the Great War with the Royal Montreal Regiment, with the rank of major.

Hanson Brothers' Legacy Found in Montreal Gazette

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Prelude to the War



Early Life

James R. Hanson was born on the 4th of April 1918 in Buxton, Derbyshire, England to Lt Col. Paul Rennard Hanson OBE. and Mary Edith Irwin Hanson. In 1919, they moved to Montréal, Canada. He went to an unknown elementary school from 1924 - 1931.



Youth Life

After elementary, he went to Westmount High School from 1933 to 1938. He showed proficiency in skiing, boxing, swimming, rugby, football, hockey, running, and high hurdling. It is unknown whether or not he graduated, however it is known that he found a job as a hotel clerk at several locations: Canadian Pacific Hotel, the Seignior Club, etc.

Family Members

Names	Paul Rennard Hanson	Thomas Paul Hanson	George Frederick Hanson	Pauline Hanson	Kathleen Cornfortin	Audrey Joan Atkinson
Relation	Father	Brother	Brother	Sister	Sister	Wife
Names	Mary Edith Irwin Hanson	John Philip Hanson	Dorothy Martin	Edith Anderson		Paul Robert Hanson
Relation	Mother	Brother	Sister	Sister		Son

From Enlistment to Death



Height: 5'8" Weight: 150lb

Enlistment and Training

On April 10th of 1940, James R. Hanson passed his interview to join the RCAF. He was enlisted on April 15th. He was sent to train at No.4 BGS. On July 7th 1940, he failed his flying test, but graduated October 23rd 1940. He was then sent to No.1 WS, another training centre. On November 24th 1940, he graduated.



Battle and Circumstances of Death

According to www.forfreedom.ca, F/Lt Hanson showed great devotion to duty which inspired his peers. He led a cheerful attitude towards his duty and gave his best efforts. On August 3rd, 1942, he was assigned to the Dive Bombardment Group. By February 14, 1944, he completed 35 missions (189 hours and 7 minutes), split in two tours (July 27 1941 - September 16 1942) and (April 20 1943 - February 14 1944). In between these two periods, he married Audrey Joan Atkinson in Stradishall, Suffolk, England. They had a child named Paul Robert Hanson, who was 21 months when James R. Hanson passed away. On May 23, 1944, 10:50pm, the RCAF 408 Squadron Lancaster LL 723 EQ-H, in which he was air gunner, was shot down on a night flight to Dortmund, Germany. The plane exploded over Dülmen, Germany. His body was not found.

Post - War



Distinguished Flying Cross

Legacy

In his entire duration fighting with the RCAF, he only gunned down 2 people. On July 9th, 1945, his official death was signed in Ottawa, Canada. In his name, he was anointed the Distinguished Flying Cross for high courage, valor, and infatuating devotion to duty. He was given a “burial” at the Runnymede Memorial, Surrey, UK.

His last will was to transfer all his possessions, estate, and money to his wife.



RCAF 408 Squadron

Miscellaneous Facts

4404 Western Avenue, Westmount

LOVELL'S MONTREAL STREET DIRECTORY

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1939

1942



4404 Western Avenue is the current 4404 Boulevard de Maisonneuve

454 Mount Stephen Avenue, Westmount

1945

1952



Present Owner claims that the architecture of the fireplace and the window borders are authentic to the 1940's time period.

J. A. T. P. CANADA

ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE
 (ATTESTATION PAPER)

1130-H-110

(Pages one and two, only, are to be completed in Applicant's own Handwriting)

- Surname *Hanson* FULL Christian Names *James Robert*
- Present Address *4404 Western Ave., Westmount, Que.* Telephone *Millbank 0838*
- Permanent Address *4404 Western Ave., Westmount, Que.*
- Place of Birth *3xatou, Derbyshire, England* Citizenship *British*
- Date of Birth *April 4th 1918* Married, Single, Widower, Separated, Divorced *Single*
- Particulars of Children

Name	Date of birth	Name	Date of birth
<i>Not applicable</i>			

- Occupation *Club, Serigny Club* 8. Religion *Protestant C.E.*
State denomination
- Languages *English, French, proficient*
- Next of Kin (Full Name) *Paul B. Hanson* Relationship *Father*
Address *4404 Western Ave., Westmount, Que.*
- Father (Full Name) *Paul Bernard Hanson* Birthplace *Huddersfield, Eng.*
Address *4404 Western Ave., Westmount* Citizenship *British*
Occupation *Dir. Ingr. Dunlop Rubber Co. Ltd Montreal*
- Mother (Full Maiden Name) *Mary Edith Down* Birthplace *Montreal*
Address *4404 Western Ave. Westmount* Citizenship *Canadian*

13. Details of any Naval, Military or Air Force Service:

Unit	Place	Rank	Trade	Date		Reason for discharge
				From	To	
<i>Not applicable</i>						

R.C.A.F. RECORDS SECTION
 Rec'd JUN 29 1940
 O.K. ✓
 R.C. ✓
 S.L. ✓

- Honours, Awards, Mentions *Nil*
- Are you now on any Naval, Military or Air Force Reserve? *NO*
- Have you previously made application to join the R.C.A.F.? *Yes*
When? *Oct. 1939* Result *in good standing Dec 6th/39 (Returned April)*
If so, where? *Montreal, Que.*
- Were you ever discharged from any branch of His Majesty's Forces as Medically Unfit? *No*
If so, state nature of disability *Not applicable*
- Have you ever been or are you now in receipt of a Disability Pension? *No*
If so, state nature of Disability *Not applicable*
- Have you ever been convicted of an indictable offence? *No*
- Are you in debt? *No* If so, state particulars *NA*

R.C.A.F. RECORDS OFFICE
 Rec'd MAY 4 1940
 O.K. ✓
 R.C. ✓
 S.L. ✓

14. Education:—

SCHOOLS	DATES IN ATTENDANCE		COURSES	DIPLOMAS AND DEGREES
	FROM	TO		
St. Anne's, Montreal	Sept. 1924	Sept. 1931	Grammar School	Leaving Certificate
Wendwood High School	Sept. 1933	June 1938	High School	"
Universities				
N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.

15. Special Civil Courses or Examinations other than in 14 above, Correspondence Courses, etc.

Was taking Correspondence Course in Typing when joining RCAF

16. Civil Employment, from leaving school to present in chronological order, and Reasons, if any, for leaving:—
(If space does not permit full details of civil duties supplementary memorandum should be attached to and identified with each copy of this form.)

NAME AND ADDRESS OF EMPLOYER	FROM	TO	DUTIES	CAUSE OF LEAVING
Canadian Pacific Hotel, Mr. Cyril Chapman, h.g.	July 1937	Nov. 1939	Clerk	Season position
Arginony Club, Quebec				
Armstrong Cash and Drapery Co. Ltd. Montreal	Nov. '39	Dec. '39	Clerk	Temporary
Arginony Club, Quebec	Dec. '39	Feb. 40	Clerk	Season position

17. Clubs or Organizations of which applicant is a member..... N.C.

18. Previous Service with Navy, Army, Air Force, Permanent or Non-Permanent:—
(If in the Air Force state nature of duties, e.g., Pilot, Observer, Technical or Ground duties and if entitled to wings.)

FULL NAME OF UNIT	FROM	TO	RANK	DUTIES
Royal Canadian Air Force (Canada)	April 1940	Dec 29/40	A.C. 7 WAC	Training w/RAF
Royal Canadian Air Force and RCAF				
149 Sqn. England	Aug 6/41	May 14/42	Sgt. and F. Sgt.	Acc. 9 months

19. Reason for Termination of last Service Engagement..... N.A. (Duration.)

20. Details of Ground Officer's Duties Performed..... N.A.

21. Experience as Teacher or Instructor (Service or Civilian):—

SUBJECT	FROM	TO	UNIT	PLACE
Air Gunnery	May 1942	Nov. 26. 42	RCAF	England
Air Gunnery				149 Con. F. U.
				1627 Sterling
				Commission Unit. Strathairn

22. Have you ever been or are you now, in receipt of a Disability Pension?..... N.A.

If so, state nature of disability:..... N.A.
Particulars of other Pension:..... N.A.

23. Honours and Awards (Quote authority—London or Canada Gazette)..... N.A.

ANSWER FULLY EACH QUESTION ON THIS PAGE
PARTICULARS AS TO IDENTITY

8	Full names of the deceased.	JAMES ROBERT HANSON
9	Date of his birth.	April 4th, 1918
10	Place and date of his marriage.	Stradishall, Suffolk, England. November 11th, 1942
11	Place and date of his parents' marriage.	Montreal, January 31, 1904

PARTICULARS OF DOMICILE

12	Place where deceased was born.	Buxton, Derbyshire, England
13	State, in order, the Province, State and/or County in which he resided before enlistment and the period of time in each.	(a) Province of Quebec, Canada, (b) since coming from England (c) in 1919 (d)
14	Nature of employment before enlistment.	Hotel Clerk
15	State whether he owned the premises in which he lived, and, if so, where situated.	No
16	Name place where deceased stated he intended to make his permanent home.	Montreal, P.Q. Canada

PARTICULARS OF ESTATE

17	Did the deceased leave a Will other than a Service Will? If in your custody, please forward. If not, can you state where it is?	Unknown
18	If married, and domiciled in the Province of Quebec or in a State in the U.S.A. or in a Country under the laws of which there is community of property between spouses,—was there a marriage contract dealing with property?	No ✓
19	(a) Did he have a Bank, Post Office or other deposit account? (b) Give name and address of bank, etc., and the amount on deposit. (c) Do you wish it administered with the pay account? (d) If it is a joint account, state the survivor's name and relationship to the deceased.	Bank Account Royal Bank of Canada. London. Eng Yes Not joint account
20	Amount of War Savings Certificates purchased by the deceased and registered in his name. State where located.	Nil (as far as known)
21	(a) Amount of Victory Loan Bonds left by deceased. (b) State whether bearer or registered. (c) State in whose name they are registered. (d) During what loan were they purchased? (1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.) (e) In whose possession, and address, are they?	One bearer bond held by deceased Mother. Other bonds in process of purchase by pay deductings Unknown Unknown See above
22	If deceased had life insurance, name companies and amount payable under each policy and the person named as beneficiary therein.	Nil
23	Describe other assets, if any, and estimated value thereof. Use space on page 4 if necessary.	Nil

OTHER PARTICULARS

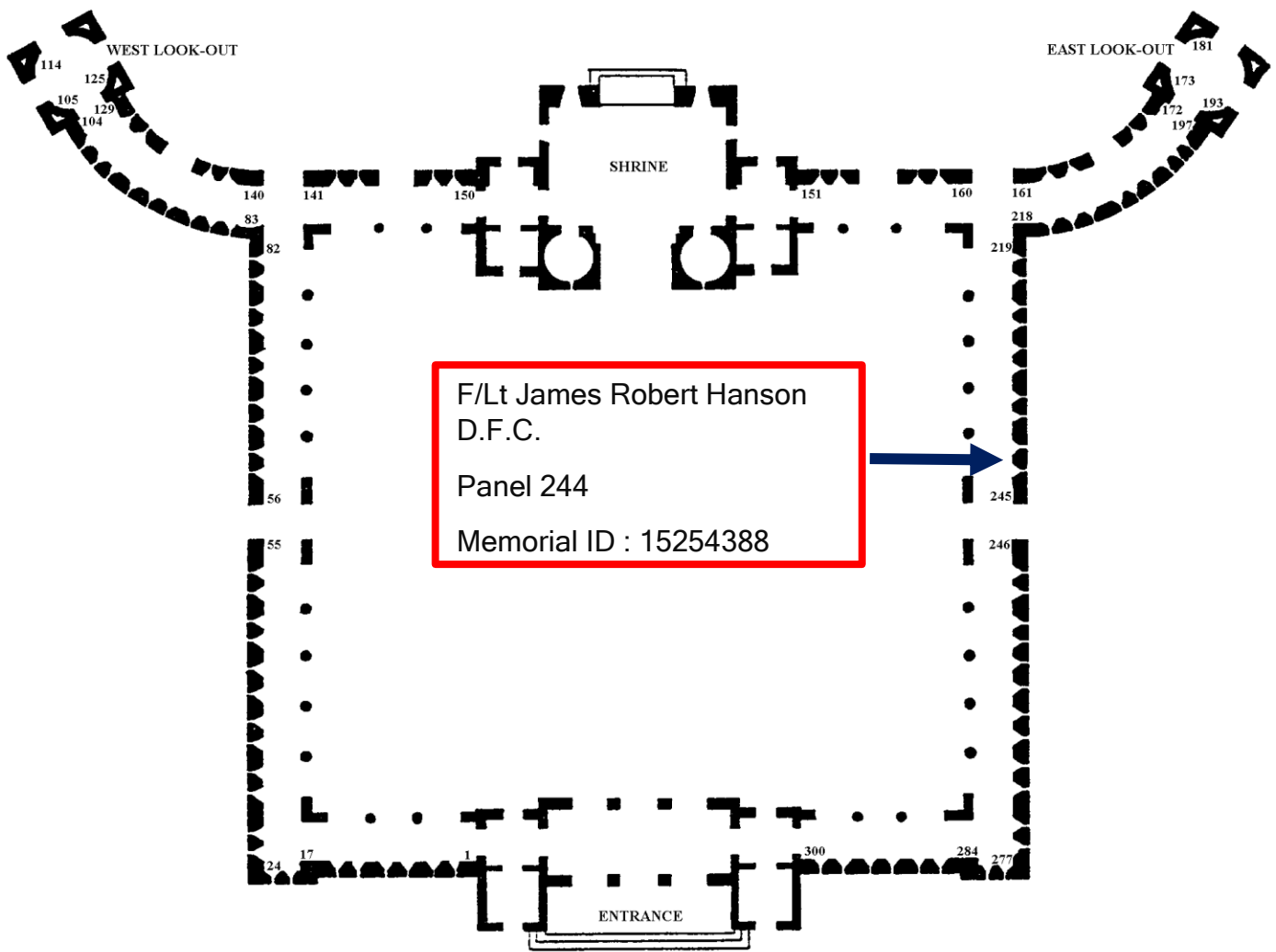
24	Did the deceased after enlistment incur any debts for— (a) His own separate board and lodging while on service. (b) Service clothing and equipment. An itemized account for each such debt should be attached hereto, and if same is correct you should mark the bill "approved" and sign same. If believed incorrect, give particulars.	No outstanding accounts known to wife.
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(PLEASE TURN OVER)

1944

BERGEN HORSHAM CASTROP RAUXEL

Pte Hamlin, William Charles	L Edmn R	Sgt Hanlon, Charles Edmund	1 Cdn Para Bn
Tpr Hamm, Gerald Francis	SALTAR	Pte Hanmore, John Alfred	Line & Well L R
WO ₂ Hammitt, Lawrence	Samuel RCAF	F/S Hann, Douglas Lurensa	RCAF
Cpl Hammitt, William John	RCIC	Sgt Hanna, Kenneth Lavern	Cameron's of C
Gnr Hammill, Clifton William	Herbert RCA	F/O Hanna, Stanley Roy	RCAF
P/O Hammond, Albert Ernest	RCAF	F/O Hannah, Lloyd Albert	RCAF
Pte Hammond, Donald Jesse	Alg R	Pte Hannah, Milton Thomas	RHC
F/O Hammond, Douglas William	RCAF	L/Sgt Hannay, Alexander	RC Sigs
Tpr Hammond, Harvey Robert	Ont R	PO Hannesson, Jack Edward	Kristjan RCAF
Sto 2c Hammond, John Andrew	RCNVR	Pte Hannigan, Marvin Joseph	RCOC
Pte Hammond, William Earl	RCIC	Pte Hanninen, Onni	Line & Well L R
P/O Hampton, William George	RCAF	Lac Hanning, John Hugh	RCAF
Bdr Hamson, Joseph Edward Robert	RCA	PO Hanon, Ingval Millar	RCAF
Pte Hamula, Michael Victor	RHLI	F/S Hans, Stanley William	RCAF
Tpr Hancharyk, Steve	Sher Fus R	Pte Hansen, Ellis Martin	4 PLDG
Tpr Hancock, Arthur Richard Hugh	1 H	PO Hansen, Ezra Mulloy	RCAF
Pte Hancock, Donald Malcolm	Essex Scot	Pte Hansen, Frederick John	Westmr R
F/O Hancock, Harold Alton	RCAF	F/S Hansen, George Quist	RCAF
Ldg Sig Hancock, Ralph Gardiner	RCNVR	Pte Hansen, Haakon	RCOC
F/O Handy, William Bertrand	RCAF	Lt Hansen, Hans Frederic	L Edmn R
PO Handzuk, John	RCAF	PO Hansen, Lloyd Leonard	Hans RCAF
PO Hanes, William Herbert	RCAF	Spr Hansen, Nels Leonard	RCE
Rfn Hany, Horace Roy Thomas	Regina Rif	Sgt Hansen, Norman Andrew	1 Cdn Spec Ser Bn
Gnr Hany, Percival	RCA	Pte Hansey, John William	Hast & PER
Tpr Hanis, George Victor	LD SHIRO	WO ₁ Hansford, George Wellington	RCAF
Tpr Hankins, Raymond	RAC	Pte Hanson, Algot George	L Edmn R
Cpl Hanlan, Newton William	L Edmn R	F/O Hanson, Edward	RCAF
Tpr Hanley, James Edgar	GGHG	L/Cpl Hanson, Edwin Archer	Gerald Hast & PER
Capt Hanley, John Alexander	RCA	FL Hanson, James Robert	DFC RCAF
Gnr Hanley, William Gerald	RCA	Pte Hanson, Kenneth Harold	Gen List
Pte Hanlon, Carl Alphonse	CB Highrs	PO Hanson, Kenneth Stewart	RCAF
		Pte Hanson, Leo Martin	RHC
		Spr Hanson, Norman Clayton	RCE
		Tpr Hanson, Robert John	LD SHIRO
		Spr Hantiuk, Nicholas James	RCE
		S/L Hanway, James Albert	AFC RCAF
		F/O Haraczay, Walter	RCAF



PLAN OF THE RUNNYMEDE MEMORIAL
INDICATING THE POSITIONS OF THE NAME PANELS

Bibliographies / Citations

1. "James Robert Hanson, War Dead Files." *Ancestry*, www.ancestry.ca/interactive/9145/44485_83024005548_0461-00233?pid=2883&backurl=https://search.ancestry.ca/cgi-bin/sse.dll?_phsrc=lpL29&_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true&gsfn=JamesRobert&gsln=Hanson&cp=0&msbdy=1918&msddy=1944&msddm=5&msddd=23&new=1&rank=1&redir=false&gss=angs-g&pcat=ROOT_CATEGORY&h=2883&recoff=5673334&dbid=9145&indiv=1&ml_rpos=1&treeid=&personid=&hintid=&usePUB=true&_phsrc=lpL29&_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true.
2. *Casualty*, www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/1799337/hanson,-james-robert/.
3. Archives Canada. "Item." *Library and Archives Canada*, 10 Nov. 2017, www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/second-world-war/second-world-war-dead-1939-1947/Pages/item.aspx?IdNumber=14775&.
4. "Flight Lieutenant James Robert Hanson (1918-1944)..." (1918-1944) - *Find A Grave Memorial*, www.findagrave.com/memorial/15254388/james-robert-hanson.
5. "1941 - 1946." *408 Goose Squadron Association*, www.forfreedom.ca/?page_id=1192.