

# Manttán, Reginald Keith

**Age:** 23  
**Nationality:** Australian  
**Rank:** Pilot/Officer  
**Unit:** No. 32 OTU  
**Occupation:** Navigator  
**Service No:** 414416 (RAAF)

**Birth:** 16 August 1919  
Brisbane, Queensland,  
Australia

**Home Town:** Auchenflower, Brisbane  
Queensland, Australia

**Death:** 14 March 1943  
Crash of Handley Page Hampden P5433  
Saanich Inlet B.C., Canada

**Burial:** Commemorated on Ottawa Memorial

**Others:** P/O Allan William Hunt, Pilot, RAAF ; P/O Grant Leroy Hall,  
WAG, RCAF; Sgt Howard Shurwin Piercy, WAG, RCAF.



## **Biography**

Reginald Keith Manttan was born on 16 August 1919 in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia to Reginald Francis Ryan Manttan and Dorothy Marion Threlfall. There were either two or three other children in the family.

Reginald, whose peacetime occupation was as a clerk, was enlisted in Brisbane on 14 September 1941. He was sent to Canada for the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan and arrived in San Francisco on MV Klipfontein on 3 October 1942. He was one of a group of 30 RAAF on the ship.

He was Navigator on Handley Page Hampden P5433 when it crashed into Saanich Inlet on 14 March 1943. Reginald's body was not recovered and he is commemorated on the Commonwealth Air Force Memorial in Ottawa.



Reginald Keith Manttan is on the left front row.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

045277

One of these five airmen is Reginald Keith Manttan

## Details of Crash

On 14 March 1943, Handley Page Hampden P5433 carried a crew of four; two Canadians and two Australians:

Allan William Hunt	P/O	RAAF	Pilot
Reginald Keith Manttan	P/O	RAAF	Navigator
Grant Leroy Hall	P/O	RCAF	Wireless Operator/Air Gunner
Howard Shurwin Piercy	Sgt	RCAF	“ “

The purpose of the flight was to practice low flying over water at night.

The aircraft was seen to crash into the water in Saanich Inlet. The cause of the crash was not apparent. It was suggested an earlier accident with this Hampden could have had some bearing on it, but this was dismissed. The only body recovered was that of the pilot.

