

Sergeant Eugene Bunt R/261281 RCAF



Eugene Bunt was born on 23 August 1924, the son of Andrew and Michalina Bunt of Windsor, Ontario, Canada; brother of Michael and Edward. Educated locally, he was an assembly line worker with Chrysler Corporation prior to enlisting in his home town in August 1943. He was posted overseas in April 1944.

Eugene was an air gunner serving with No. 18 Operational Training Unit at RAF Finningley in South Yorkshire, having been posted there on 23 May 1944. His all-Canadian, all-NCO crew had only formed a month earlier.

His aircraft, Wellington III Z1592, took off from Finningley at 1335 hours on 27 June 1944, on a routine cross-country training sortie. The subsequent inquiry established it was struck by lightning as it came out of the clouds. It apparently caught fire and lost power in the air, which caused the pilot to lose control. The aircraft crashed at 1715 hours in the top field at Braemer Farm, Middle Rasen, in Lincolnshire. It missed the farmhouse, church, and school, but the whole crew was lost.

Eugene is buried in Harrogate (Stonefall) Cemetery, North Yorkshire. Sec. B. Row G. Grave 18. He was just 19 years old.

A funeral for the entire crew took place on 1 July 1944, with full military honours, and with officers and airmen of his unit attending.

The crew lost with Eugene that day were:

Sgt. George Henry Durham RCAF
Sgt. Gilbert Keith Cameron RCAF
Sgt. Richard Stephen Cracknell RCAF
Sgt. Eric Arthur Crowe RCAF
Sgt. George Frederick Marchington RCAF

He is commemorated on IBCC Panel 15

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