

Sergeant Gilbert Keith Cameron R/180812 RCAF



Gilbert Cameron was born 20 December 1921, the son of James Daniel and Eileen Mabel Cameron, of Metcalfe, Ontario, Canada; brother of Kenneth, Cecil, and Evelyn. Educated locally, he was a machinist prior to enlistment in his home town in August, 1942. He was posted overseas in October 1943.

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

Wellington III Z1592 took off from Finningley airfield at 1335 hours on 27 June 1944, on a routine cross-country training sortie. The subsequent inquiry established the aircraft 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 with the loss of all the crew.

Gilbert is buried at Harrogate (Stonefall) Cemetery, North Yorkshire (Sec. B. Row G. Grave 19). The epitaph reads "A silent thought a secret tear keeps his memory ever dear". He was 22 years old.

He is also remembered on a family monument at Springhill Cemetery, Spring Hill, Ontario.

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

Those lost with Gilbert that day were:

Sgt. Eugene Bunt RCAF
Sgt. George Henry Durham RCAF
Sgt. Richard Stephen Cracknell RCAF
Sgt. Eric Arthur Crowe RCAF
Sgt. George Frederick Marchington RCAF

He is commemorated on IBCC Panel 17

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