

Sgt. Cecil Alexander Ebbs 1901246 RAFVR



Cecil was the third of five sons of Albert Edward and Florence Mary Ebbs of Dublin, and was born on 7 May 1925 into a very close family. He worked for the Great Northern Railway on Amien Street, Dublin before volunteering, against his father's wishes, to join the RAF. His brother, William, also served, and survived the war, as did, his other brothers, George, Jack, and, Albert.

He was an Air Gunner serving with No.170 Squadron based at RAF Hemswell near Gainsborough, Lincolnshire; the Squadron motto being "Videre non videri" – "To see and not be seen".

Lancaster III ME320 TC-L took off at 1700 hours on 5 March 1945 from Hemswell airfield, one of 760 aircraft, and part of 'Operation Thunderclap', a mission to attack Chemnitz, Germany. It is thought ME320 may have been clipped by another allied plane, causing it to crash near the target area. WO McNally managed to parachute to safety, but surviving records, and family correspondence, indicate he was captured, and then killed by the German police.

Cecil's body was never recovered, and he is commemorated at the Runnymede Memorial, Surrey. Panel 274. He was 20 years old.

His name is inscribed on his parents' headstone, and on the War Memorial, at Mount Jerome Cemetery, Dublin

Sgt. Cecil Alexander Ebbs RAFVR (killed)
F/L Edward Ross Thornton RAFVR (killed)
F/O Wilfred Earl Weber RCAF (killed)
F/O Wilbert Alexander Brydon RCAF (killed)
WO John Joseph McNally RAAF (killed)
Sgt. John Percival Plant RAFVR (killed)
Sgt. Donald Wager RAFVR (killed)

He is commemorated on IBCC Panel 31

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