

PO Cyril Light 33479 RAF

Cyril was born 23 Jan 1918 in Waterloo, Lancashire, the son of 2nd Lt George Joseph Light and Mabel E Light nee Campbell. He was born 2 months after his father was killed in WW1.

In May 1940 he married Lilia Rose Booth, a member of the WAAF, in Portslade-by-Sea, East Sussex . Cyril was killed 12 days later. Their son was born the following year.

Cyril entered the RAF in January 1935, joining 31st Entry, No 1 School of Technical Training, RAF Halton. On graduation in December 1937, he was selected for a Flight Cadetship at RAFC Cranwell. Cyril graduated in October 1939 as a Pilot on a Permanent Commission.

At the outbreak of war, 18 Sqn was sent to France as part of 70 Wing of the BEF in the reconnaissance/bombing role. Initially based at Beauvraignes, they moved to Meharicourt in October 1939 and were heavily involved in the Battle of France which commenced on 10 May 1940. Following heavy losses, the Sqn was withdrawn to RAF Watton, Norfolk on 20 May 1940. The ORB for 21 May states the Sqn had only 8 operational pilots.

At 12:00 on 21 May 1940 Cyril and his crew departed RAF Watton in Blenheim IV L9325 (WV-V) on a reconnaissance mission over Douai-Arras-Amiens-Abbeville, France. The aircraft failed to return and the crew were reported as missing believed killed and their names were recorded on the Runnymede Memorial.

Extensive post war research finally discovered the fate of the crew. The aircraft crashed at La Priez Farm, between Combles and Rancourt, Somme and was believed to have been shot down by anti-aircraft fire near Arras. The location was confirmed by the emergence of photographs of a crashed Blenheim in that place taken by German troops which clearly show the identifying number L9325. The crew had been buried at the nearby Military Cemetery in Rancourt and, until 2015, their graves had been marked as "Unknown Airmen of WW2".

In June 2015, sufficient satisfactory evidence was provided to the CWGC and the three anonymous graves in Rancourt Military Cemetery were confirmed as the crew of Blenheim L9325 and named headstones were finally installed.

Also killed: Sgt Arthur Ernest Craig (Observer); Sgt George Hawkins DFM (WOp/AG)

Cyril is buried at Rancourt Military Cemetery, Somme, France

Cyril is commemorated on Wall Panel 199

Photo Source: Aircrew Remembered

