

Sgt. Harry McClements 1592648 RAFVR



Harry was the son of Harry and Elsie McClements, of Hillsborough, Sheffield. He was the eldest of three children and lived with his grandparents until he joined the RAF at 16 years old. After his training, he was added to the other 5 crew members together with Jim Cornwall in HCU 1668. Harry was engaged and planned to marry after the war.

He was a Flight Engineer in 7 Squadron.

Lancaster PB667 MG-Q took off from RAF Oakington at 1031 hours 20 March 1945 to bomb railway tracks over Recklinghausen, Germany; their 22nd mission and just 49 days before the end of the war. On its return it was badly damaged and caught fire over Zuid Belevand in Holland. Watching the bomber from the ground was a group from 4th Commando Brigade. They saw the bomber on fire and losing altitude but F/O Bacon managed to control it long enough to avoid crashing into a town before the engine exploded and the Lancaster crashed into a field. The fire was immense and all perished. The seven bodies were later recovered by the commandos and buried next to the wreckage.

Harry was reburied at Bergen-Op-Zoom War Cemetery. Grave 13.A.10. His epitaph reads "Eternal rest give unto him, O Lord; and let perpetual light shine upon him." He was 19 years old.



One of the original propellers emerged from the soil in the summer of 2010 and forms the heart of a monument, unveiled in 2013, in Nieuwdrop honouring the sacrifice of the crew.

Sgt. Harry McClements, Flight Engineer (killed)
F/O George Henry Huttleston, Air Bomber(killed)
F/O Lindsay Page Bacon RAAF, pilot (killed)
Flt. Sgt. Richard Roy Evans, Navigator (killed)
Sgt. Jim Alex Cornwall, Air Gunner(killed)
Sgt. Johnny Edward Taylor, Air Gunner (killed)
WO Philip Athol Tennant RNZAF, Wireless Operator (killed)

Harry is commemorated on Panel 125

Photos taken from tracesofwar.com & databankzeelandwo2.nl