

F/L Raymond William Newton J/17196 RCAF



Raymond was born on 26 March 1918, the son of William and Mona Agnes Newton (nee Barlow), of Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, and the husband of Margaret Ellen Newton (nee Murray), whom he married on 14 April 1942 at Winnipeg. He had a brother, Gerald, and worked for C.P. Steamships as a porter during the summer holidays, and as an apprentice at Cunningham Drug Store, before enlisting in May 1941. He enjoyed playing football, baseball and tennis, and his hobbies were pharmacy, and photography. He went overseas in May 1942, just a few weeks after his wedding, and was given a commission in February 1943.

He was a Navigator serving with 428 (Ghost) R.C.A.F. Squadron at RAF Middleton St. George, County Durham. This entire crew were on their second tour, and they had completed a further 13 operational flights.

Lancaster X KB846 NA-I took off at 1644 hours from RAF Middleton St. George on 15 March 1945 on a night operation to attack the German city of Hagen; one of 267 aircraft. With clear visibility this proved to be a devastating attack, with most of the bombing falling in the centre and eastern districts. 505 people were killed and 30000-35000 were bombed out. On the return journey the aircraft was repeatedly attacked by enemy night fighters. The attack was so severe KB846 was set on fire, and crashed near Krefeld, west of the target area, with the loss of five of the crew. Those killed were identified by the U.S. Army, and initially buried in the U.S. Military Cemetery, at Margraten, Holland.

Raymond was reburied at Nederweert War Cemetery, Netherlands. IV. B. 1. He was 26 years old.

F/L Raymond William Newton RCAF, Navigator (killed)
F/L Ross Curtis Hamill RCAF, Air Bomber (killed)
F/O Earle Robert Evans DFC RCAF, Air Gunner (killed)
P/O George Tucker Llewellyn RCAF, Flight Engineer (killed)
F/O Donald Curry Graham RCAF, Wireless Operator (killed)
F/L James Douglas Crawford Craton DFC RCAF (survived)
F/O Bruce Bernard Gray DFC RCAF (survived)

He is commemorated on Panel 218

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