

Whitewater Region's WWII Casualties

Sergeant Air Gunner George BROWN

Sgt. Air Gunner George Brown, son of **Fred Brown** and **Mary Hoyer**, was born on 18 Nov 1921 in Toronto, York, Ontario, Canada. His parents separated and not much is known about his father. His mother was born in Cobden. She married a second time to Emery Bice. She signed her name Mary Bice, Taber Alberta, Mar 14, 1945, on paperwork sent back to the military, so she was remarried by then.² George Brown had an older sister Viola. In the 1921 census, Viola and George were living in Toronto with their parents.¹ By the 1931 census they were living with their grandparents Thomas & Annie Hoyer in Cobden.¹ However, on his Attestation Papers, George stated that he attended Cobden Public School from 1927. George's grandfather Thomas Hoyer was listed as Chippewa in the census. Some records indicate Thomas was born in Oka, Quebec and his Attestation Papers for WWI indicate his place of birth was Lake of Two Mountains (Lac des Deux Montagnes), Quebec.¹

George Brown enlisted on Nov 21, 1941 at Ottawa, Ontario. His hobbies and sports were hockey, baseball and swimming and his religion was United Church. George's education was summarized as attending Cobden Public School 1927-1936; Cobden High School 1936-1938; Ottawa Technical School 1940 for 3 months for sheet metal. His occupation was airframe fitter-riveter at Noorduyn Aviation Ltd. Montreal, Quebec. George was described as 5' 7" tall, weighing 125 lbs. He had a medium complexion, brown eyes and brown hair. His references were F.W. Truelove, Cobden HS principal; H. Blatt, night supervisor at Noorduyn Aviation; J. Boyle, Chief of Police, Cobden; Dr. MacKercher, Cobden.²

Sgt. Brown had postings at Montreal, Toronto, Trenton, Scoudouc, Lachine, Guelph, Camp Borden, Mt. Pleasant, and Three Rivers prior to going overseas.



Image 2: Gravestone at Cobden Union Cemetery⁵

He received his Air Gunner badge on Jan 28, 1944 and the Canadian

Volunteer Service Medal on Jan 15, 1944.

CWGC Certificate³

He arrived in the UK on Apr 2, 1944.²

On Aug 30, 1944, during a bullseye night exercise, the plane in which he was an air gunner crashed in a field near Croft Spa Railway Station, Co. Durham, England. The Aircraft hit the ground and burst into flames. It was so badly disintegrated that no evidence of a conclusive nature was found as to the cause of the crash. There was no distress call. All seven crew members were killed instantly. The plane was a Halifax III MZ. 626 "T" of

In Memory Of
Sergeant

GEORGE BROWN

Service Number: R/143614

434 Sqdn., Royal Canadian Air Force who died on 30 August 1944

Remembered with Honour

HARROWGATE (STONEFALL) CEMETERY

Sec. E. Row C. Grave 10.



|||||
COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES
|||||

COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

Image 1:

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#434 Bluenose Squadron.² Sgt. Brown was 22 years old and was buried in Harrogate (Stonefall) Cemetery, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England.^{2,3,4}

In addition to the cemetery stone at Harrogate (Stonefall) Cemetery, a cemetery stone commemorating the sacrifice of Sgt. Brown, is located in Cobden Union Cemetery, Cobden, Ontario.⁵ His name is also enscribed on the WWII Memorial Plaque at the Cobden Legion⁶ and the WWII Honor Roll at Grace United Church⁷, Cobden, Ontario. His name is also on Canada's Bomber Command Memorial Wall at Nanton, Alberta.⁸



Image 3: WWII Memorial Plaque⁶



Image 4: WWII Honor Roll at Grace United Church⁷



Image 5: Canada's Bomber Command Memorial Wall⁸

Additional information and photographs would be appreciated.

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Sources:

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3. CWGC. *Sergeant George Brown | War Casualty Details R/143614* | CWGC. <https://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/2623411/brown,-george/> Accessed Nov 2024.
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