



Pilot Officer William James Glass

1923 - 1945

SECOND WORLD WAR

Air Force: RCAF, #12 (RAF) Squadron, Pilot Officer-Bomb
Aimer

William "Billy" was born in Courtright in 1923, the son of William Sr. and Emma Glass. William Sr. and Emma had five children together. He had several jobs prior to joining the military: deckhand; lathe operator; bricklayer's helper; and a pipefitter. At the age of nineteen and single, Billy enlisted in the RCAF in November 1942 in Sarnia. A year into his training, in December 1943, he married Frances Webb in Fort Saskatchewan. He was awarded his Air Bombers Badge in February 1944, and a month and a half later, the newlywed embarked overseas arriving in England in April 1944.

Seven months later, in November 1944, Pilot Officer-Bomb Aimer Billy Glass became a member of RAF #12 Squadron, part of Bomber Command. On January 16, 1945, approximately nine months after arriving overseas, Billy Glass was part of a crew aboard a Lancaster aircraft on a night mission to bomb the huge synthetic oil plant at Zeitz, Germany. The aircraft was shot down over Bentheim, Germany and five crew members, including Billy Glass perished and one was taken as a POW.

At the time when Billy was lost in action, his wife was serving with the CWAC and one of his brothers was serving with the RCAF. Billy Glass, 21, was buried at Bentheim, Germany, but was later exhumed and reburied in the Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Germany.



THE SARNIA
WAR REMEMBRANCE
PROJECT

by Tom Slater and Editor Tom St. Amand