

WW II Enlisted Men & Women Casualties of Whitewater Region

Flight Sergeant Pilot Irwin James EADY

Irwin James Eady, son of **Harvey Thomas Eady** and **Mary Elizabeth 'Minnie' Bennett**, was born on 1 Apr 1921 in Forester's Falls, Ontario. He was the oldest of 5 children – Irwin, Archie, George, Beth & Velma.¹ He had attended Cadet Corp for Signals in Pembroke and listed the sports - long distance track, pole vaulting, hockey, swimming and softball as his interests. Following school years, Irwin was engaged in construction and operating diesel equipment.² Irwin's father and two uncles served in WWI. Unfortunately, his uncle Sgt. Calvin Eady did not make it home.¹

Irwin enlisted on Nov 4, 1940 at Toronto into #1 Manning Depot, Royal Canadian Air Force. He wanted to become a pilot. His medical assessment indicated he was 5' 10" tall, 140 lbs. with brown eyes and light brown hair.



Image 1: Flight Sergeant Irwin Eady¹

Irwin Eady was stationed or did training in Moncton, London, Camp Borden, Montreal, Toronto and Halifax. Flt-Sgt Eady became a member of the 402 Squadron, RCAF and was stationed at RAF Hurn, Dorset, England. Fifteen months after he enlisted, Flt-Sgt Eady was killed when his plane, a Hurricane Merlin Bomber, crashed during non-operations, 400 yds from RAF Hurn. He died of multiple injuries on 23 Feb 1942 in Hurn, Dorset, England aged 20 years, 11 months² and was buried in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England.^{3,4}



Image 2 & 3: Flight Sergeant Irwin Eady⁶

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Two other casualties connected with Whitewater Region were also buried in Brookwood Military Cemetery. Sapper Weldon Archibald Carnegie of Westmeath Township served with the Royal Canadian Engineers and died on Aug 5, 1943. Gunner Graydon Mills Sparling of Cobden served with the Royal Canadian Artillery and died on Jul 2, 1944.

In addition to the cemetery stone at Brookwood Military Cemetery, Flt-Sgt Eady's name is also commemorated on this parents' gravestone⁸, the WWII Honor Roll at Trinity United Church, Forester's Falls⁹, Pembroke Collegiate WWII Honor Roll¹⁰, and the Pembroke War Memorial¹¹.

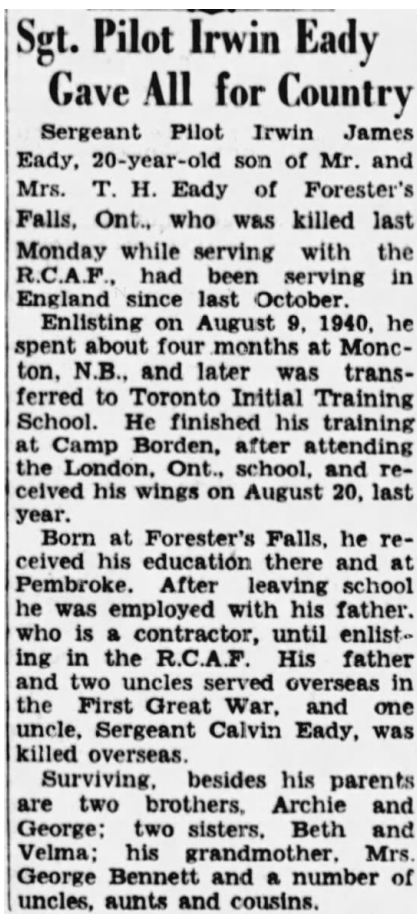


Image 4: Newspaper clipping -Obituary⁷

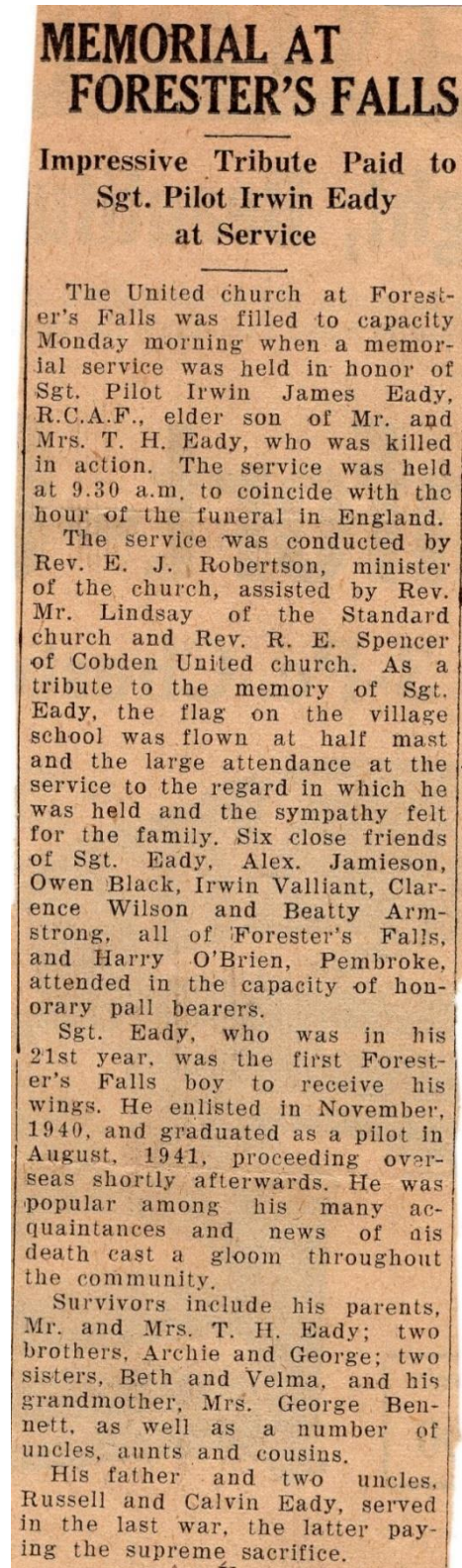


Image 5: Newspaper clipping – Memorial¹

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Image 6 & 7: Initial Marker and Current Gravestone¹



Image 8: WWII Honor Roll, Trinity United Church⁹



Image 9: Pembroke Collegiate Institute WWII Honor Roll¹⁰

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Additional information and photographs would be appreciated.

Sources:

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3. *Irwin James Eady - The Canadian Virtual War Memorial - Veterans Affairs Canada.* (n.d.). <https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial/detail/2762541>
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6. Somerville, Kim. Email to Fay Bennett, Nov 8, 2021.
7. Sgt Pilot Irwin Eady Gave All For Country. (1942, February 28). *The Ottawa Journal*, p2. <https://Newspapers.com>
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9. Moratz, Rev. Kevin. *Photograph of the WWII Trinity United Church Honor Roll*, Forester's Falls, Ontario. October 2022.
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11. Bennett, Fay E. *Photograph of WWII Pembroke War Memorial*, Pembroke, Ontario, November, 2022.