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.

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 1: Flight Sergeant Irwin Eady¹





Image 2 & 3: Flight Sergeant Irwin Eady⁶

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 Artillary 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.

Sgt. Pilot Irwin Eady Gave All for Country

Sergeant Pilot Irwin James Eady, 20-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Eady of Forester's Falls, Ont., who was killed last Monday while serving with the R.C.A.F., had been serving in England since last October.

Enlisting on August 9, 1940, he spent about four months at Moncton, N.B., and later was transferred to Toronto Initial Training School. He finished his training at Camp Borden, after attending the London, Ont., school, and received his wings on August 20, last year.

Born at Forester's Falls, he received his education there and at Pembroke. After leaving school he was employed with his father. who is a contractor, until enlisting in the R.C.A.F. His father and two uncles served overseas in the First Great War, and one uncle, Sergeant Calvin Eady, was killed overseas.

Surviving, besides his parents are two brothers, Archie and George; two sisters, Beth and Velma; his grandmother, Mrs. George Bennett and a number of uncles, aunts and cousins.

*Image 4: Newspaper clipping -Obituary*⁷

MEMORIAL AT FORESTER'S FALLS

Impressive Tribute Paid to Sgt. Pilot Irwin Eady at Service

The United church at Forester's Falls was filled to capacity Monday morning when a memorial service was held in honor of Sgt. Pilot Irwin James Eady, R.C.A.F., elder son of Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Eady, who was killed in action. The service was held at 9.30 a.m. to coincide with the hour of the funeral in England.

The service was conducted by Rev. E. J. Robertson, minister of the church, assisted by Rev. Mr. Lindsay of the Standard church and Rev. R. E. Spencer of Cobden United church. As a tribute to the memory of Sgt. Eady, the flag on the village school was flown at half mast and the large attendance at the service to the regard in which he was held and the sympathy felt for the family. Six close friends of Sgt. Eady, Alex. Jamieson, Owen Black, Irwin Valliant, Clarence Wilson and Beatty Armstrong, all of Forester's Falls, and Harry O'Brien, Pembroke, attended in the capacity of honorary pall bearers.

Sgt. Eady, who was in his 21st year, was the first Forester's Falls boy to receive his wings. He enlisted in November, 1940, and graduated as a pilot in August, 1941, proceeding overseas shortly afterwards. He was popular among his many acquaintances and news of ais death cast a gloom throughout the community

Survivors include his parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Eady; two brothers, Archie and George; two sisters, Beth and Velma, and his grandmother, Mrs. George Bennett, as well as a number of uncles aunts and cousins

uncles, aunts and cousins.

His father and two uncles.
Russell and Calvin Eady, served in the last war, the latter paying the supreme sacrifice.

*Image 5: Newspaper clipping – Memorial*¹





Image 6 & 7: Initial Marker and Current Gravestone¹



Image 8: WWII Honor Roll, Trinity United Church⁹



Image 9: Pembroke Collegiate Institute WWII Honor Roll¹⁰

Additional information and photographs would be appreciated.

Sources:

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 Note: photographs & newspaper clippings are documented in original database as from Beth Somerville and Kim Somerville.
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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
- 4. C. (n.d.). Flight Sergeant Irwin James Eady | War Casualty Details 2762541 | CWGC. CWGC. https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2762541/irwin-james-eady/
- 5. Flight Sergeant (Pilot) Irwin James Eady. . . (1942, February 23). Flight Sergeant (Pilot) Irwin James Eady (1921-1942) Find a Grave Memorial. https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/17663393/irwin-james-eady
- 6. Somerville, Kim. Email to Fay Bennett, Nov 8, 2021.
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- 8. Bennett, Fay E. *Photograph of Gravestone-Eady, Harvey & Minnie Eady; Sgt Irwin Eady;* Howard Cemetery, Forester's Falls, Ontario.
- 9. Moratz, Rev. Kevin. *Photograph of the WWII Trinity United Church Honor Roll*, Forester's Falls, Ontario. October 2022.
- 10. Bennett, Fay E. *Photograph of Pembroke Collegiate WWII Honor Roll*, Champlain Trail Museum, Pembroke, Ontario, November, 2022.
- 11. Bennett, Fay E. *Photograph of WWII Pembroke War Memorial*, Pembroke, Ontario, November, 2022.