

WW II Casualties of Whitewater Region

Private William Edwin BLACK

Pte. William Edwin Black, son of **Thomas Edwin Black** and **Maria Wilson**, was born on 7 Mar 1913 in Ross Twp., Renfrew, Ontario. Both of Bill's parents were born and farmed in Ross Township. Bill was the fifth of six children with four older sisters and one younger brother: Violet Whitton, Hilly Rankin, Vera Eady, Iris Wagner and L.Cpl. Hugh Black, R.C.A.F.¹

William Edwin Black enlisted on May 4, 1943 at London, Ontario, aged 30 years old. He was described as 5' 11", 165 lbs. with hazel eyes and light brown hair. His wish was to join the RCAF but he was determined to have unsafe color vision and therefore was unsuitable for aircrew.²

He lived in Forester's Falls for 21 years; Valdor, QC for 2 years, working at the Lemarque Gold Mine; Sudbury for 5 years working at the Frood Mine; and London, ON for 2 years working at the Crumlin Airport as a mechanic. He had attended technical school sometime in there and earned his commercial pilot's licence.²

Pte. Black's hobbies were listed as flying (he owned his own plane), fishing and hunting. Pte. Black served in the Western Ontario Regiment, Royal Canadian Regiment, Canadian Army, Service Number A106773.²



Image 1: Bill Black on Harley Davidson, 1934³



Image 3: Bill Black in Italy⁸

served with Canada's Fighting Forces, 1939-1945.⁹ His name is engraved on his parents' gravestone in Ross Presbyterian Cemetery¹⁰ and also is commemorated on the Pembroke War Memorial.¹¹ Pte. Black was eligible for the following campaign medals: 1939-45 Star; Italy Star, War Medal; CVSM & Clasp.²

Pte. Black was killed in action on 3 Sep 1944 in the Mediterranean Theatre of War, Italy. He was providing covering fire with his Bren gun for the evacuation of casualties.² Pte. Black was 31 years old, and was buried in Ancona War Cemetery, Ancona, Provincia di Ancona, Marche, Italy.^{2,4,5,6}

A large crowd attended the memorial service in Ross, for Pte. Wm. Black, on Sunday, who was killed in Italy on Sept. 3rd. Leaving to mourn his loss are his parents, four sisters and one brother, Mrs. J. B. Whittan, of Renfrew, Mrs. C. Wagner, of Port Arthur, Ont., Mrs. C. Rankin, of Kirkland Lake and L. Cpl. Hugh Black R.C.A.F., of Fingal, Ont.

Image 2: Memorial Service⁷

A memorial service was held in Ross Presbyterian Church⁷ and his name appears on the plaque dedicated to Members of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Ross, who

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THURSDAY, DEC. 31st, 1936.

Optical Goods

Flys Plane North

FIRST PLANE HERE THIS SEASON

Piloted by former mine man, Bill Black formerly of Lamaque flies first craft in from Hamilton.

(Copied from Val D'or News)

Sputtering nonchalantly down main Street about a hundred feet in the air was the first airplane to arrive in this section this winter. People rushing home to supper on Thursday night were treated to this interesting sight and conjecture was rife as to what airways outfit had started operations.

Checking upon the identity disclosed that a Mr. Wm. Black, formerly employed at Lamaque Gold Mines and a person who had a yen for things aeronautical, had just flown by easy stages from Hamilton, Ont., to Bourlamaque.

Arriving after sundown, he managed to carry out a landing in little Stabell Lake from which location he set out to renew contact with his former friends and associates. Testing out his take-off performance on Friday, he managed to carry out several flights in the neighbourhood of the lake, leaving a friend of his for Rouyn.

Having arrived in this neck of the woods last year the intrepid Mr. Black worked hard and gathered himself sufficient funds to leave for Hamilton and continue his studies and training as a pilot. This he apparently accomplished as he is now a holder of a private pilot's license and the proud owner of a cabin Curtis Robin, three place ship similar to that operated by the Amos Air Service.

There is no doubt but what the veteran pilots of the North will shake their heads at Mr. Black's performance, but as he has performed creditably, and made a rather record-shattering trip, and set the pace as being the first plane to operate this winter, it is hoped that he will continue his performance and create his own niche in the annals of Northern flying.

(Bill Black is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Black of Forester's Falls.)

Image 4: Commercial Flight¹²

DIES GALLANT DEATH COVERING RESCUE PARTY



Pte. W. E. Black

While providing covering fire with his Bren gun for the evacuation of casualties, Pte. William Edwin Black, former Frood miner, met a gallant death. This is the message contained in a letter from Pte. Black's captain to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas E. Black, of Forester's Falls, Ont. Pte. Black was killed in action in Italy on September 3, according to word forwarded by the boy's parents to friends in Sudbury.

While working at Frood Mine, Black resided with Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Fitzgerald, of 71 Wembley Drive. A memorial service was held at Ross Presbyterian Church in Forester's Falls on Sunday, September 24, for Pte. Black.

Following is part of the letter written to Pte. Black's parents: "It is with deepest regret that I write this letter because 'Blackie' was well loved by all in the company. He died a gallant death as a Bren gunner covering the evacuation of casualties suffered in his platoon. His courage and action under fire was an example and an inspiration to the remainder of his platoon. All the company join me in expressing deepest regrets that 'Blackie' has left us, but I assure you he will remain with us in spirit and mind for many a day."

Pte. Black trained at Crumlin, Ont.

Image 5: Gallant Death¹³

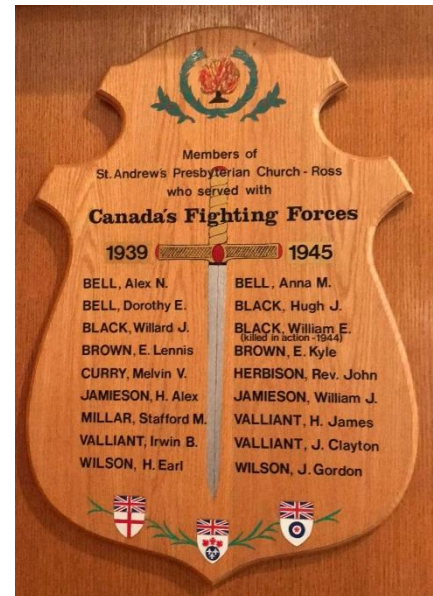


Image 6: WWII Honor Roll, Ross Presbyterian Church⁹

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Image 7: Gravestone at Ancona War Cemetery¹⁴



Image 8: Black Family Gravestone¹⁰



Image 8: Pembroke War Memorial¹¹

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