



EARL STEWART RHEAUME

R/111159

Flight sergeant, air gunner.

Family affairs.

Earl Stuart Rheaume is born on February 20th 1914 in Ottawa, Ontario. January 31th 1936 he married with Dorothy Marjorie Ristow and they had 2 children. The oldest son Earl Graham is born on August 10th 1936 and died March 23th 1941. The youngest son Earl Bruce is born on June 27th 1941. They lived in Ottawa, 121 Sherbrooke Street. He was the son of Eduard George Rheaume and Lillian Robina Palmer. The profession of his father, who died on June 12th 1942, is unknown. He had one sister Dorothea May Cody, who lived together with his brother in law with his mother in Ottawa, 184 Bayswater Avenue.

13 years old in 1927 Earl left Devonshire Public School. From 1932-1937 he studied at the Glebe Collegiate Institute, where he was graduated cum laude. From 1932-1935 there are no data available. From 1935 until his enlistment he worked for 6 years, four years as a salesman at Clark Dairy Limited and Ferris Transfer, the last 2 years as a guard at the Lido Club, Ottawa. His hobby was music, his favourite sports were ice-hockey and skating.

Military affairs.

June 25th 1941, two days before the birth of his youngest son, he is enlisted into the Royal Canadian Air Force in Ottawa. His military training and education he got subsequently until August 4th 1941 in Toronto, Ontario, until November 8th in Camp Borden, Ontario until April 29th 1942 in Montreal, Quebec, until May 25th in Trenton, Ontario until June 25th unknown and then via Halifax, Nova Scotia to Great Britain.

June 12th 1943 he died, because his plane was shot down near Schagen(bij Den Helder), Noord-Holland after a bombing raid on Düsseldorf.

He is temporarily buried on the Municipal Cemetery het Zijk in Petten, Noord-Holland, Grave nummer 183. Row 10, Sheet 2A, GSGS 2541, MR923676. On April 3rd 1947 he is reburied on the General War Cemetery in Bergen op Zoom, Plot 28, Row B, Grave 12 .

Remarks.

- On his tombstone no additional text is written.
- He received the War Medal, the 39-45 Star, the Aircrew Europe Star and the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal & Clasp.
- Total salary in almost 2 years active service was 324,51\$(Canadian).
- In the Ancestry little information is found about the circumstances of the crash of Earl Stewart Rheaume's aircraft. Via Google I found a touching story by his son, including a couple of beautiful pictures. See: <http://www.airmuseum.ca/bios/earl1.html>

It appeared that the Wellington HE 392 bomber was on his way home after a raid on Düsseldorf and was shot down by a German night fighter in Northern-Holland. The plane burned and crashed on the land of mister Komen in Schagen. Only ES Rheaume could be

identified in 1943, the other 4 crew members were dugged up and identified in 1991. In 1993 these 4 men are reunited with ES Rheume on the British War Cemetery in Bergen op Zoom.

- The complete crew of the Wellington HE 392 was:
Squadronleader WE Mulford RAF (Pilot). 37202 British
Officer CA MacDougal RCAF (Navigator). J/22548 Canadian
Warrant Officer JG Breen RCAF (Bomb Aimer). B/108675 Canadian
Sergeant ES Rheume RCAF (Air Gunner). R/111159 Canadian
Sergeant JR Bell RAF (Wireless / Air Gunner). 1127149 British
- In October 2013 the Bomber Command Bar was given to his youngest son. He wrote a critical story, because he strongly disagreed about the reason how and why. See:
<https://www.unpublishedottawa.com/sites/unpublishedottawa.com/files/letter/45/Rheume,%20Earle%20Stewart%20-%20Bomber%20Command%20Bar%20Oct%2018-13.pdf>.
- The site below contains two small newspaper articles in response to the death of his oldest son Earl Graham. His youngest son Earl Bruce visited the grave of his father in June 2006.
<https://nl.findagrave.com/memorial/201914956/graham-rheume>.
- Very much information and pictures, including details from the Ancestry is found on the site below. Very remarkable is the German document about the temporarily burial place in Petten.
<https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial/detail/2034231>