



**JOSEPH GORDON BRADY**

**R/93554**

Air Gunner.

**Family affairs.**

Joseph Gordon Brady is born April 16th 1916 in Ponoka, Alberta. He was not married and the son of Michael Joseph Brady and Anna Margarita Donovan. Both his parents were born American and naturalized in 1908 to Canadian. No brothers/sisters were found in the Ancestry, but according the Dambusters Blog he must have had three brothers/sisters, their names however are unknown.

15 years old Joseph left Public School in Ponoka in 1931 and then studied for 3 years at the Ponoka High School and reached Grade 10. He had no specific hobby, but practiced many sports, like tennis, swimming, rugby, baseball, golf, skating and curling.

After school he worked shortly as a truck driver and subsequently almost 7 years in the drugstore of the Bird Drug Company Limited in Ponoka.

## **Military affairs.**

Nearly 25 years old he was enlisted to the Royal Canadian Air Force in Edmonton, Alberta on March 15th 1941.

His training and education he got subsequently in Edmonton until June 22th 1941, until December 9th in Calgary, Alberta until January 2nd 1942 in Trenton, Nova Scotia and until February 27th 1942 in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Then to Great Britain.

He died May 17th 1943, because his plane crashed at Gilze-Rijen, in between Breda and Tilburg. He is temporarily buried on the Protestant Cemetery Zuylen near Breda, 198 GSGS 2541, Sheet 4, 928354. On October 10th 1946 he is reburied at the General War Cemetery in Bergen op Zoom, plot 23, row A, grave 1.

## **Remarks.**

- On his tombstone no additional text is written.
- He received the 1939-45 Star, Canadian Volunteer Service Medal & CLASP, Aircrew Europe Star, War Medal and the Defence Medal.
- Total earnings during active service are unknown.
- In the Ancestry hardly any interesting additional information could be found about Joseph Gordon Brady. Through Google, Dambusters Blog, on the contrary very interesting information is found. Also pictures are found, about himself and the other crew members.
- Joseph was selected to join the top-secret 617 Squadron flying out of RAF Scampton, which had been specially formed on 21 March 1943 for a secret mission under Wing Commander Guy Gibson. There followed rigorous low level night flying exercises while they practiced highly accurate dropping of Barnes Wallis' novel bouncing

bomb flying Lancasters. It was only at the pre-flight briefing that the crews learned they were to attack the Möhne, Eder and Sorpe dams in Germany in an effort to cripple the Ruhr industrial area. There are pictures of all the crews at [Dambuster Heroes](#). They flew in the Third Wave, plane code AJ-S, which took off some 2 and a half hours after the first, intended as back-up. They drifted slightly off course over Holland, flew too close to the night fighter base Gilze-Rijen and a single search light caught them, may be also hit by flak, dazzling Lewis Johnstone Burpee who flew through some trees and into the ground. The aircraft exploded, followed a few seconds later by the bomb. The aircraft struck the airfields MT section and also blew over the operations control building in the resulting explosion. No one survived the crash.

- The 6 other crew members were:
  - Bomb aimer James Lamb Arthur. Canadian(R/119416). Plot 24-rij A-coll. graf 5-6-7
  - Flight Engineer Guy Pegler. British(573474). Plot 24-rij B- coll. graf 5-6-7
  - Navigator Thomas Jaye. British(1299446) . Plot 24-rij B- coll. graf 5-6-7
  - Wireless operator Leonard Weller. British(142507). Plot 27-rij A-graf 6
  - Air gunner front William Long. British(1600540). Plot 24-rij A- coll. graf 5-6-7
  - Pilot Lewis Johnstone Burpee. Canadian(J/17115). Plot 23-rij B-graf 3.