

In Memory of Flight Sergeant Timothy Clayton Blair

1908 - 1942

(207 Squadron, Royal Canadian Air Force)

Age: 33

Parents: Timothy Blair & Elizabeth Lindsay

Conflict: World War II

Country Enlisted In: Canada

Country of Death: The Netherlands

Relation: Maternal 2nd Cousin 2X Removed



Timothy Clayton Blair was born in Pakenham, Ontario, in 1908, and belonged to a generation whose early adulthood was shaped by responsibility and public service. Before the outbreak of the Second World War, he studied agricultural engineering at the University of Saskatchewan, reflecting both technical ability and a connection to Canada's rural economy. He later owned and operated Lanigan Hardware and served for a time as a local councillor, demonstrating a commitment to civic life before entering military service.

Timothy enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force, serving overseas with No. 207 Squadron, Royal Air Force, a heavy bomber unit operating Avro Lancaster aircraft as part of Bomber Command. Trained as an Air Gunner, he flew operational sorties over heavily defended targets in occupied Europe, where the risks of night bombing were constant and severe.

In the early hours of 24 July 1942, Lancaster R5632 took off from RAF Bottesford, on the Lincolnshire–Leicestershire border, at 0048 hours, as part of a raid on Duisburg. During the operation, the aircraft was lost and crashed into the sea off the coast of Holland. Flight Sergeant Blair was the only member of the crew to be recovered from the sea. He was thirty-three years old.

Flight Sergeant Timothy Clayton Blair is buried at the Amsterdam New Eastern Cemetery, where Commonwealth airmen recovered from operations over Europe are laid to rest. The remaining members of his crew, who were not recovered, are commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial.



*Flight Sergeant
207 Squadron, Royal Air Force*

Timothy Clayton Blair's death came two years before that of his younger brother, Major Gilbert Thompson Blair, of the Loyal Edmonton Regiment, who was killed in Italy in 1944.

Together, the Blair brothers represent a family's service across branches and theatres of war, marked by leadership, sacrifice, and loss borne far from home.

Flight Sergeant Timothy Clayton Blair did not return. He is remembered.



*Gilbert (L) and Timothy (R) Blair
Both brothers were killed in action*



*De Nieuwe Oosterbegraafplaats
New Eastern Cemetery, Amsterdam, Noord-Holland, Netherlands*