

## **Sergeant William Borton Cecil Winning (1914-1941) 740610 Royal Air Force (Voluntary Reserve) 49<sup>th</sup> Squadron died aged 27**



William Borton Cecil Winning was born on 4<sup>th</sup> November 1914 in Rangoon, Burma to parents Theodore Norman Winning and Florence (née Bonner). William was baptised on 13<sup>th</sup> December 1914 at Christ Church, Rangoon, Burma. His father Theodore who was born in The Orange Free State, Africa was at the time recorded as an accountant, but he went on to be a successful barrister.

By 1939, aged 25, William Borton was resident in Deansgate, Manchester working as a flying instructor.

The 49<sup>th</sup> Squadron, based at RAF Scampton, Lincolnshire, spent the first few months of the war on a mix of reconnaissance, minelaying and leaflet dropping duties, while the Allied governments held their bombers back. That caution ended on 11<sup>th</sup> May 1940, when the squadron began operations over Germany.

On the 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> January 1941, ten unit's aircraft were dispatched on minelaying sorties, five being successful. On return, the remaining aircraft were diverted to St Eval airfield in Cornwall, tragically aircraft Hampden P4322 failed to land. The aircraft is believed to have crashed into the sea 20 miles off the South coast, all four crew members, Pilot officer Gordon Price DFM, Sgt T Chamberlain, Sgt C Small and Sgt WBC Winning (second pilot), were reported missing.



*Hampden bomber*

William (Boughton) is commemorated at the Runnymede Memorial, Surrey. He is remembered locally at the war memorial at The Green, Castle Bromwich as B Winning.

His elder brother Gerry Winning also lost his life in similar circumstances during the war in 1945. Another brother, Flight Lieutenant Deryck Selkirk Winning served throughout the war with the Reserve Air Force Officers.

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