

WW I Enlisted Men & Women of Whitewater Region Project

Flt. Cadet Vernon William Graham



V. GRAHAM

Image 1: Sgt. Vernon Graham⁸

He was killed accidentally in a mid-air collision between two Avro airplanes near Napsbury, England. Eye witnesses saw the two planes diving before they collided. A court of enquiry was of the opinion that the fatal accident of 2nd Lt Duncan and Flt Cadet Vernon Graham was caused by collision in the air and that the accident was due to misadventure.^{2,3} Flt. Cadet Vernon Graham was buried in St. Albans, St. Albans, Hertfordshire, England.^{4,5,6,9}

Flt. Cadet Graham's name is commemorated on the original Cobden Memorial Hall Plaque⁹, the Cobden Legion's WWI Honour Roll¹⁰ plaque, Cobden United Church WWI Honour Roll¹¹, the Renfrew Collegiate WWI Honour Roll¹², as well as on the Westmeath¹³ and Beachburg¹⁴ War Memorials.

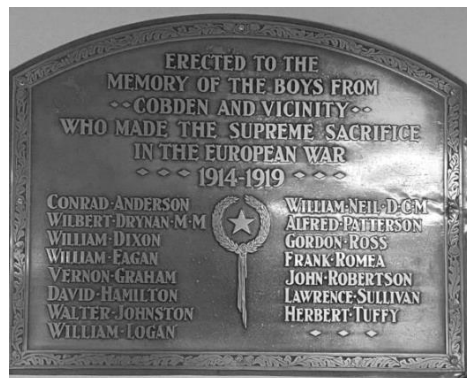


Image 2: Cobden Legion's WWI Honour Roll¹⁰

Flt. Cadet Vernon William GRAHAM, son of **Robert B GRAHAM** and **Isabella MONTGOMERY**, was born on 5 Dec 1893 at Cobden. He was the youngest of four boys, the older three being Delmer, Hector and Elston. Some of the family members later moved to McLeod Valley, Alberta.¹

Vernon graduated as a druggist and lived in Toronto. He enlisted into the 34th Battery, 9th Brigade Canadian Field Ambulance on 13 Dec 1915 at Toronto age 22 years. He was 5' 8" with brown eyes and dark hair.² He worked his way up the ranks to Sergeant. His military career did not follow the usual path. Sgt. Graham was discharged from the Canadian Forces so he could re-enlist into the UK Royal Air Force as a Flight Cadet on March 29, 1918.^{2,3} He was assigned to the Royal Air Force, 41st Training Depot Station (Denham).³ A few days later he married **Jessie Ivy Chandler** on 3 Apr 1918 in Shottermill, Surrey, England. Jessie was born about 1892 in Surrey, England.¹

It was only 3 months later that Flight Cadet Graham died on 16 Jul 1918 in Napsbury, England, aged 24 years, 7 months.^{3,4,5}

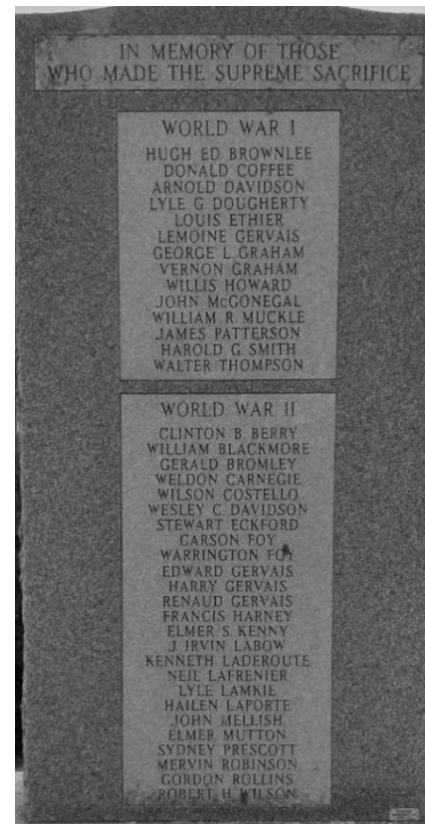


Image 3: Westmeath War Memorial¹³

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Sources:

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13. Bennett, Fay. *Photograph of The Westmeath War Memorial*. Westmeath, Ontario. November 2022.
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