

I am going to write about my GreatGrandMother's family (my Mum's Dad's Mum), her name was Norah, and she was born in 1920.

She had seven brothers and I am going to tell you a little about four of them who all joined the Royal Air Force, the "RAF", to help fight the second World War, they were my GreatGreatUncles!

Their names were:

Ronnie who was born in 1912;

Frank - 1913;

Terry (1915); and

Bob (1924).

Ronnie and Frank both worked on RADAR systems, Terry was a Spitfire pilot and Bob flew Lancaster bombers.

Here is a photograph of Terry taken close to his home shortly before he was killed in 1941, he was only twenty-five but I am told that wasn't young for a Spitfire pilot and that the average life expectancy during a famous battle called "The Battle of Britain" in 1940 was four weeks. I am glad that I wasn't alive then, I don't know what I would have done.



The pilots from the UK often learned to fly in Canada, one of the main reasons was because it was too far away for enemy aircraft to threaten them, and my great great uncle Bob went to a place called Saskatchewan. When he was trained he flew Lancaster bombers. He was not killed and he only died a few years ago.

Here is a picture of Bob (second from left) with his companions, the blond man (third from right) died on the next mission, so dangerous.



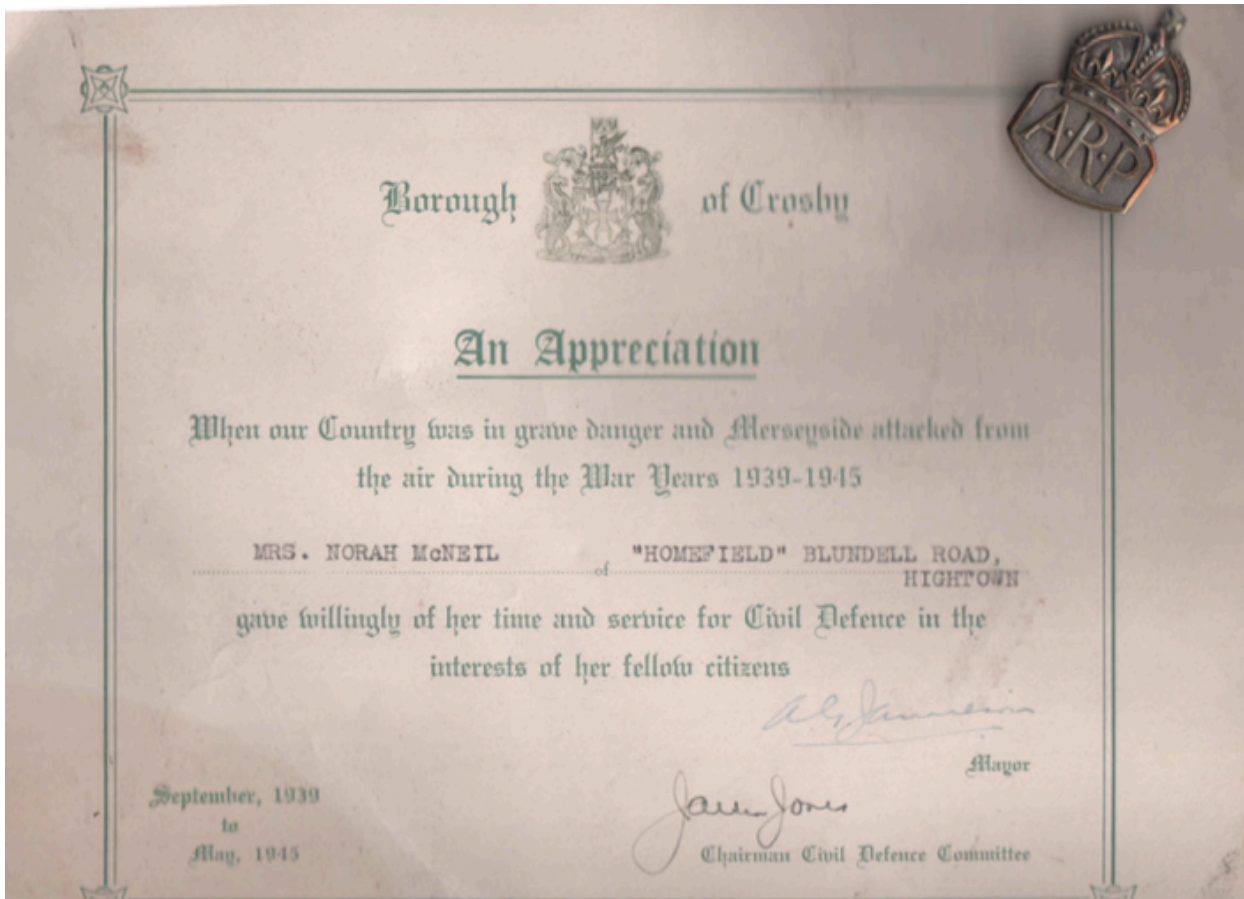
The two older brothers, Ronnie and Frank, did not fly on the “front line”, they were engineers working out where enemy planes were using RADAR, which I am told is something to do with sending out radio waves, a bit like a microwave oven. Because they were “safe at home” the younger brothers made fun of them!

Frank stayed in the RAF until he retired and worked on the “Distant Early Warning Line” which joined lots of RADAR places together to make a sort of wall.

I think that all of them might have been good at science because their older brother, Fred, who was born in 1906, was a radio engineer at a company called Bush.

I think that I will finish with a note on Norah herself, although she was not a pilot, she worked for “Air Raid Precautions” as a warden. I looked on Wikipedia, it says that “*ARP wardens ensured the blackout was observed, sounded air raid sirens, safely guided people into public air raid shelters, issued and checked gas masks, evacuated areas around unexploded bombs, rescued people where possible from bomb damaged properties, located temporary accommodation for those who had been bombed out, and reported to their control centre about incidents, fires, etc. Also, they called in other services as required.*”

I think that she must have been quite brave as well, here is a picture of her certificate and her badge, the badge is made of silver!



Borough  of Crosby

An Appreciation

When our Country was in grave danger and Merseyside attacked from the air during the War Years 1939-1945

MRS. NORAH McNEIL of "HOMEFIELD" BLUNDELL ROAD, HIGHTOWN

gave willingly of her time and service for Civil Defence in the interests of her fellow citizens

Al. Jamieson
Mayor

September, 1939
to
May, 1945

Jan Jones
Chairman Civil Defence Committee

Leo Carrelli