

Cecil William Kelsey-Wilkinson, 919407
Sergeant, Glider Pilot Regiment, 1st, Army Air Corps

Cecil was the son of William Charles Kelsey-Wilkinson and Sybil Hilda, née Nichols.

William and Sybil married in 1917 in the Bethnal Green registration district. Cecil's birth was registered at the Shoreditch Register Office in 1918. He had a brother Ronald, born in 1920.

After completing basic training at the Regiment's Depot at Tilshead, Sgt Kelsey-Wilkinson transferred to RAF Burnaston in January 1942. He was one of the first to be accepted at the newly formed Glider Pilot Regiment. Over a twelve-week course at No 16 Elementary Flying Training School glider pilot students were taught to become proficient in flying light aircraft using Tiger Moths and Miles Magisters.



Cecil Kelsey-Wilkinson

Sgt Cecil W Kelsey-Wilkinson married Rosamund Adams on Saturday 28 November 1942 at St Wystan's Church. In the marriage register Cecil was recorded as aged 24, a pilot in the AAC. His home address was given as 1 Cranley Drive, Ilford, Essex. Cecil's father was an Inspector of London Passenger Transport Board. Rosamund Evelyn Adams, aged 23, lived at Gordon Villa, High Street, Repton. She worked as a clerk at the County Bacteriological Laboratory. Rosamund's deceased father, James Percy Adams, had been a Railway Clerk.

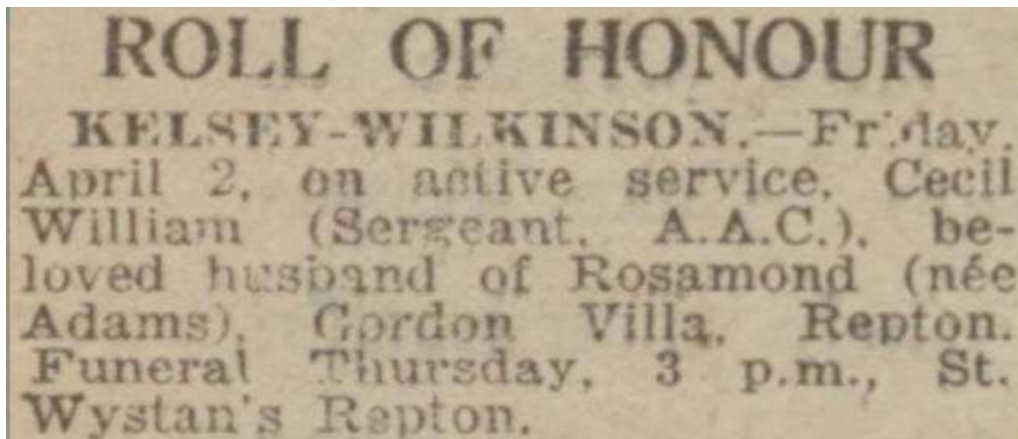
Rosamund was the daughter of James Adams and Stella, née Pattinson. Stella grew up in and worked at the Post Office in Repton's High Street. Rosamund had a brother Reginald and a sister Dorothy. All three were baptised at St Wystan's Church, attended the village school and passed their scholarship examinations. Rosamund attended Kemp's College, Derby and she was an attendant to Repton's first carnival queen. She joined the ATS. Dorothy was

bridesmaid at Rosamund's wedding and she later went on to marry Cecil's best man, Alexander Gordon McDonald, at Repton in 1943. Alexander, born in Scotland, was also an airman who trained at Burnaston.



Derby Evening Telegraph, Monday November 30 1942

Cecil died on Friday 2 April 1943 aged 24 while on active service near Bournemouth. He and Rosamund had been married for four months.



Derby Daily Telegraph, 5 April 1943.

It was reported in the Derby Evening Telegraph in June 1944 that Rosamund's brother, Reginald Adams, RAFVR, had been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. The official citation stated that the award was made "in recognition of many successful operations against the enemy in which he displayed high skill, fortitude and devotion to duty."

The widowed Rosamund remarried in 1949.



Cecil's grave is with the other Commonwealth war graves in St Wystan's churchyard.