

**Flt. Sgt. Kenneth James Aspell**  
**1579265 RAFVR**



Fatigue may have been one of the contributory factors which led to the death of Coventry-born Lancaster bomb-aimer Kenneth Aspell and his 630 Squadron crew.

They were returning from a raid on U-boat pens at Trondheim in Norway when their aircraft ran into the ground on a remote spot in Sunk Island on the Humber estuary, east of Hull 40 miles from 630's base at East Kirkby, on the night of 22/23 November 1944.

It is believed that six of those on board, including Kenneth, were killed in the crash. The wreckage was only found three days later by a local farmer who found the 20-year-old flight engineer still alive, though very badly injured, and he was later to die in hospital on 1 December.

An inquiry later found the aircraft had been flying low on the return leg and was very low on fuel. It was also pointed out that less than 24 hours earlier Kenneth's crew took part in a highly-successful bombing raid at Gravenhorst, on the Mittelland Canal in Germany, adding that fatigue could now have led to the Sunk Island crash.

The Trondheim raid was his crew's 20<sup>th</sup> operation together and the crash was the first operational loss for 630 for almost 10 weeks. Kenneth came from the Foleshill area of Coventry where he lived with his wife Constance, and he was the 26-year-old son of William and Dora Aspell. He was later buried in St Paul's churchyard in Coventry.

The others who died were the pilot F/O George Flood RNZAF, flight engineer Sgt. Leslie Woodward, navigator P/O Charles Agnew RNZAF, wireless operator Flt. Sgt. William Ingram RNZAF, mid-upper gunner Sgt. Frederick Hughes and rear gunner Sgt. Maurice Henley.

His name can be found on panel 003.

Sources: 630 Squadron Association.