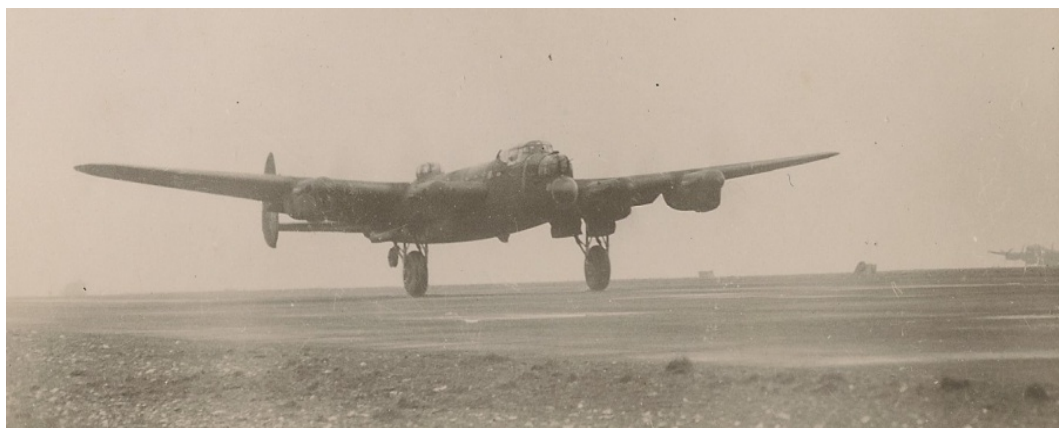


Sergeant Nelson Bolt 1836087 RAFVR



A No. 625 Squadron Lancaster at RAF Kelstern

Mid-upper gunner Nelson Bolt was part of a Lancaster crew which was the first to be lost by 625 Squadron following its formation in the autumn of 1943.

They had left RAF Kelstern, one of the highest and most isolated airfields in Lincolnshire, on board ED809 CF-T at 1720 hours on the evening of 26 November as part of a force of 443 Lancasters and seven Mosquitoes sent to Berlin. They had bombed successfully, and were on the homeward leg when they were caught by an Me110 night fighter flown by Unteroffizier Amsberg and crashed on the Varena estate near Appeldoorn in Holland. There were no survivors.

The crew had previously served with No. 100 Squadron and had been part of C Flight which was detached to form 625 before its move to Kelstern.

Nelson is remembered on the Runnymede Memorial (panel 143).

While at RAF Waltham with 100 Squadron he and his crew had adopted a stray dog they named Darkie, and it was to fly with them on most of their training operations, recording some 150 hours in its own unofficial 'log book'. Darkie went with them to Kelstern but disappeared three days before the Berlin raid.

The others killed with him were the pilot F/O Rob McSorley RCAF, flight engineer Sgt. Brien Gooding, navigator F/O George Green, bomb-aimer F/O John Lynch RCAF, wireless operator Sgt. Eric Foulkes and rear gunner F/O Peter Paice.

His name can be found on IBCC panel 010.

Photographic source: P H T Green.