

Flt. Lt. Harold Earl Brown J/8965 RCAF

Harold Brown was a Canadian-born American who became a Mosquito Pathfinder pilot and was killed when his aircraft was shot down over the city of Kaiserslautern in the autumn of 1944.

He was the pilot of Mosquito XX KB366 AZ-O from No. 627 Squadron who was killed along with his Scottish navigator in the early hours of 29 September 1944, when their aircraft crashed close to the railway station of at Einsiedlerhof in the west of Kaiserslautern after being hit by flak.



The aircraft was one of ten from 627 Squadron supporting the only major raid of the war on the city, a raid which destroyed more than a third of Kaiserslautern. It had taken off from RAF Woodhall Spa in Lincolnshire at 0250 hours and was later brought down by anti-aircraft fire.

Harold was born in Saskatoon in Saskatchewan and was the 29-year-old son of Harley and the late Mary Brown, who both came from Idaho in the United States before moving to Saskatoon, where his father worked as a pressman on a regional newspaper. Harold himself had retained American citizenship. He had worked as a maintenance official with a newspaper in Winnipeg before enlisting while his wife, Rolla, later living in North Dakota in the United States.

Both Harold and his navigator, Flt. Lt. Hugh Cowan had joined 627 Squadron at Woodhall from the 1655 Mosquito Training Unit on 17 July 1944. They are now buried in Rheinberg War Cemetery (grave ref. 2. K. 20).

His name can be found on IBCC panel 014.

Sources: Canadian veterans/Aviation Safety Network/At First Sight by Alan B Webb.