

Flight Sergeant Myrl Ellwood Bunn R/102867 RCAF

Myrl Bunn was a young Canadian mid-upper gunner killed when his No. 49 Squadron Lancaster was shot down on his seventh operation during an attack on Cologne in the summer of 1943.

His aircraft, Lancaster ED785 EA-A, had taken off from RAF Fiskerton in Lincolnshire on 16 June at 2211 hours. It was intercepted by a Bf110 night-fighter flown by Unteroffizier Rudolf Frank, and shot down into the Scheldt estuary near Flushing. Only one of the eight men on board, the wireless operator, survived. Six of those killed, including Myrl, are now buried in Flushing Northern Cemetery (Row E. Grave 22).

His was one of nine Lancasters from 49 Squadron to take part in the raid, which involved 202 Lancasters and Halifaxes. Fourteen aircraft were lost, including two from 49 Squadron.

Myrl came from the resort of Windermere in Ontario and was the 21-year-old son of William and Ethel Bunn. He had volunteered for the RCAF in Toronto in May 1941.

The others who died were the pilot Sqn. Ldr. George Storey, second pilot Sgt. John Burnside, flight engineer Sgt. George Underlin, navigator F/O Ronald Blythe, bomb-aimer Sgt. William Waring and rear gunner Sgt. Harold Buttery. The surviving wireless operator was Sgt. Maurice Webb RCAF, who was rescued by a German patrol vessel and taken as a PoW.

Myrl's name can be found on IBCC panel 015.

Sources: 49 Squadron Association/Canadian Veterans/Bomber Command War Diaries by Martin Middlebrook.

