

**Flt. Sgt. Colin Edward Byers  
R/133135 RCAF**

Colin Byers was a young Canadian rear gunner killed on his 19<sup>th</sup> operation.

He was part of the crew of a No. 49 Squadron Lancaster lost during a raid on Berlin on the night of 22/23 November 1943. They were part of a force of over 760 heavy bombers attacking the German

city in one of the opening exchanges of what became known as the Battle of Berlin. He was one of three Canadians in the crew and also flew with an American second pilot serving in the RCAF.



Twenty Lancasters failed to return, including Colin's, when their aircraft, JB368 EA-G, failed to return. The bodies of the crew were never located after the war. They may have crashed into the sea, or on battlefields yet to be fought over, and all are now remembered on the Runnymede Memorial.

He came from the city of Vernon, in British Columbia, and had enlisted in Vancouver in September 1941. He was the 20-year-old son of Thomas and Elizabeth Byers, who lived in Kelowna, British Columbia.

The others who died were the pilot F/O Cyril Cottingham RCAF, second pilot Flt. Lt. George Bailey RCAF, flight engineer Sgt. Alex Mathieson, navigator F/O Russell Richard RCAF, bomb-aimer F/O Maurice Wright, wireless operator Sgt. Geoffrey Tabenor and mid-upper gunner Sgt. George Falck.

His name can be found on panel 016.

Sources: 49 Squadron Association/Canadian Veterans.