

PO Billy Davis RCAF J/86222

Billy Davis was a Canadian mid-upper gunner who died of oxygen starvation and exposure after being found unconscious in his turret as his Lancaster returned from a raid on Berlin.

He was the upper gunner in Lancaster JB294 LE-R of 630 Squadron which had taken part in a raid on Berlin on the night of 20/21 January 1944.

As his aircraft turned for home, he was found to be unresponsive and when others of the crew went to investigate, found him unconscious in the turret.

It took some time before the others managed to get him out of the turret and artificial respiration was tried several times, but he failed to recover. When the aircraft landed back at East Kirkby, medical staff went on board but found he had died.

Billy was the second mid-upper gunner from the squadron in similar circumstances, the other being an Australian found in his aircraft a week earlier, and who died some weeks later, after being treated in a specialist RAF hospital in Cheshire.

Born in Fort Francis in Ontario, Billy was the twenty-four-year-old son of Thomas and Eudokia Davis and was raised and educated in the town. He had worked for the Canadian Pacific Railway before enlisting in August 1942. He is now buried in Cambridge City Cemetery.

Billy's name can be found on panel 027.

Sources: 630 Squadron Association/Canadian veterans.

