

F/O Kenneth Douglas Farrow J/39321 RCAF



Ken Farrow (back row, second right) with his Canadian colleagues at Kirmington

Ken Farrow was the navigator of a No. 166 Squadron Lancaster lost in a daylight raid aimed at helping the advance of American ground forces in November 1944.

His Lancaster III, PB648 AS-B, was one of 25 provided by 166 for the attack on Düren during the afternoon of 16 November involving 485 aircraft from Nos. 1 and 5 Group. The raid utterly destroyed the town, which lay in the path of the US advance towards the Rhine. Only three aircraft were lost, all to flak, and Ken's was one of them, crashing close to the American lines in Belgium. There were no survivors.

Ken and his crew, which was made up of six Canadians and a Welsh flight engineer, had left RAF Kirmington at 1235 hours on what would have been their seventh operation since joining the squadron on 16 October 1944.

The 23-year-old son of Walter and Evelyn Farrow, Ken lived in Stratford, Ontario, with his wife, Doris. He was a former student of Stratford Vocational Institute and had completed two years of a course in chemical engineering at Toronto University before joining the RCAF. He is buried along with five of his fellow crew members in Rheinberg War Cemetery.

Those killed with Ken were the pilot F/O Ted Coles RCAF, flight engineer Sgt. David Orme, bomb-aimer Flt. Sgt. Ralph Carroll RCAF, wireless operator Sgt. Ralph Schnaufer RCAF, mid-upper gunner Sgt. Neil Smith RCAF and rear gunner Flt. Sgt. Joe Leaman RCAF.

His name can be found on IBCC panel 034.

Photographic source: 166 Squadron Association.