

Flt. Lt. Somerville Russell Galloway 179290 RAFVR



Somerville Galloway was a Pilot who served in 49 Squadron. He was killed on 8 February 1945 on the crew's 26th operation. He was the 24-year-old son of William and Janet Galloway.

The synthetic-oil plant at Pölitz was selected to receive a double attack by 475 Lancasters and 7 Mosquitoes from 1, 5 and 8 Groups. It was decided to send 5 Group in first using their own marking method, to be followed by 1 Group using 8 Group Pathfinders.

The raid proved to be a total success with accurate bombing from both waves, which caused tremendous damage. The squadron had 15 Lancasters attacking the target, flying at between 9,000 and 11,000ft. Most crews reported large yellow and red explosions with billowing black smoke. Defences within the target area had been tough with heavy, accurate flak; 13 Lancasters failed to return.

He and five fellow members of his crew have their graves in Poznan Old Garrison Cemetery, Poland. It was unknown at the time that Flt. Sgt. Ernie Ellis, the mid-upper gunner, had managed to escape with his life.

The rest of the crew of Lancaster ME353 (EA-Q) were:

Sgt. H W J Hardy – Flight Engineer (Killed)
Flt.Sgt. T O Bolton - Navigator (Killed)
Flt.Sgt. L Randall – Wireless Operator/Air Gunner (Killed)
Flt.Sgt. E Ellis – Air Gunner (P.o.W.)
F/O G W A Kidd – Bomb Aimer (Killed)
F/O W Dron – 2nd Pilot/Air Gunner (Killed)

His name can be found on Panel 38.

Photo and biography courtesy of the 49 Squadron Association.