

P/O Vernon Alfred Goodwin J/89866
RCAF

Vernon Goodwin was a 19-year-old Canadian Lancaster mid-upper gunner who was killed along with his crew within three weeks of joining 630 Squadron.

He was on his third operation on the night of 21/22 May 1944 when he and his crew left East Kirkby at 2250 hours on board JB672 (LE-F), one of five Lancasters from the squadron joining a force of 530 bombers heading for Duisburg.



It is believed their aircraft was intercepted by Luftwaffe ace Martin Drewes' night-fighter over Holland, crashing near the village of Kilder, east of Arnhem. There were no survivors.

Vernon and his crew, which included three other Canadians (two also came from Alberta), had completed their training at 1654 Heavy Conversion Unit at Wigsley before being posted to 630 at East Kirkby at the beginning of May. They had already completed operations against Bour-Léopold and Amiens before the Duisburg raid.

He was born in Edmonton, Alberta, in 1925 and was the son of Alfred and Jane Goodwin. His father was born in Cheshire, in England, while his mother came from Bury in Lancashire. Vernon was educated at the Allendale School and King Edward High in Edmonton and later worked as a photographer with Blythe Studio and later with the Aircraft Repair Ltd company before enlisting in October 1942.

The others who died were the pilot F/O Howard Smith RCAF, flight engineer Sgt. Kenneth Dickinson, navigator Flt. Sgt. Raymond Coates, bomb-aimer P/O William Baxter RCAF, wireless operator Sgt. Ronald Lawrence and rear gunner P/O Leonard Spensley RCAF. Vernon and five of his crew are buried in Bergh Roman Catholic Cemetery while the wireless operator's body was never found and he is remembered on the Runnymede Memorial.

His name can be found on panel 041.

Sources: 630 Squadron Association.