

P/O Leslie George Kellow 54310 RAFVR



Leslie Kellow, a Canadian, was a Pilot in the RAFVR who served in 49 Sqn based at RAF Fiskerton. He was killed on his first operation, the notorious Nuremburg raid on the night of 30/31 March 1944.

He and his crew took off from RAF Fiskerton at 2210 hours on board Lancaster JB314 EA-Q, part of a force of 795 Lancasters and Halifaxes heading for southern Germany. The expected cloud coverage did not materialise, with the bombers left in bright moonlight, and they were attacked almost constantly by night-fighters eventually losing 95 aircraft, the heaviest loss of the entire war.

Leslie's aircraft was shot down on the outbound leg, crashing near the village of Quotshausen, west of Marburg. Two members of the crew escaped with severe burns, one dying the following day. Theirs was the 36th of the 95 to be shot down.

Leslie came from Victoria, in British Columbia, and was the 25-year-old son of Alfred and Jessie Kellow. The others who died were the bomb aimer Sgt. Terence Baker, flight engineer Sgt. Sydney Silver, navigator Sgt. David Rowcliffe, wireless operator Sgt. Leonard Walford and rear gunner P/O Jim Latham RCAF. All are buried in Hanover War Cemetery. The survivor, mid-upper gunner Sgt. A J McAvoy, spent much of the rest of the war in hospital.

Leslie can be found on Panel 58

Photo and biography courtesy of the 49 Squadron Association.