

F/O David Carson Evans, J/21016, Royal Canadian Air Force.



David Evans was born on 4 April 1923, the son of Arthur Evans and his wife Margaret, in Toronto, Canada. The family lived at 363 Courtleigh Boulevard in Toronto.

For five years from 1930 he attended Blythwood School in Toronto after which he spent four years at the Toronto University before matriculating in 1941. He thereafter worked at the Steel Works at St. Catherines, before enlisting into the RCAF later that year.

He undertook his training at No.13 Service Flying Training School St. Hubert in Quebec, qualifying as a pilot in November 1942. He was then posted abroad to England and after further training was posted to 434 Squadron.

434 (Bluenose) Squadron was at the time equipped with the Handley Page Halifax V bomber and operated out of RAF Croft in Yorkshire.

On 18 March 1944 David was one of the two pilots, and part of the crew of eight, which took off at 1834 hours from RAF Croft, Yorkshire, in Halifax LL178, Code WL-R, (which bore the name "The old straw Hat"), to undertake a mine laying operation in the Heligoland area. This operation was a diversionary raid whilst Frankfurt was being bombed by 846 other aircraft. This aircraft was one of 98 which had taken off for this diversion.

All went well on the outward trip with the mines being successfully dropped. Returning home the crew were advised that bad weather had developed over Croft. For reasons unknown, LL178 descended through cloud over the North Yorkshire Moors, something they and all crews were briefed not to do. The crew may have thought that they were over the last hill and in poor visibility began their descent to land. The aircraft struck the ground and crashed near Kepwick Bank Top, 7 miles ESE of Northallerton, at 2300 hours killing all on board. The crash report stated that the aircraft crashed whilst flying at a steep angle.

David Evans was 20 years old.

He is buried in the Harrogate (Stonefall) Cemetery, Yorkshire.

He is commemorated on IBCC Panel 161.

Photo source: [www.veterans.gc.ca](http://www.veterans.gc.ca).