

F/O Earle Robert Evans DFC J/17548 RCAF



Earle was born on 12 November 1921, the son of Albert Edward and Bessie Calburn Evans, of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, and brother of Lloyd, and James. He was a university student when he enlisted on 2 April 1941, and completed his training at No 2 ITS, No 14 EFTS, and No 4 BGS. Graduating in March 1942, from Fingal, Ontario he went overseas the next month. He was commissioned in April 1943. After completing his first tour, he came home on leave for a month with his parents.

He was an Air Gunner serving with 428 (Ghost) R.C.A.F. Squadron at RAF Middleton St. George, County Durham, and had been awarded the D.F.C.; whilst serving with No 90 Squadron, the citation read "at all times he has shown courage in inspiring his crew with confidence". This entire crew were on their second tour, and they had completed a further 13 operational flights.

Lancaster X KB846 NA-I took off at 1644 hours, from RAF Middleton St. George, on 15 March 1945, on a night operation to attack the German city of Hagen; one of 267 aircraft. With clear visibility this proved to be a devastating attack, with most of the bombing falling in the centre and eastern districts. 505 people were killed and 30000-35000 were bombed out. On the return journey the aircraft was repeatedly attacked by enemy night fighters. The attack was so severe KB846 was set on fire, and crashed near Krefeld, west of the target area, with the loss of five of the crew. Those killed were identified by the U.S Army, and initially buried in the U.S. Military Cemetery, at Margraten, Holland.

Earle was reburied at Nederweert War Cemetery, Netherlands. IV. B. 7. The epitaph reads "Dear old pal how we miss you we are lonely tonight. Mother and dad". He was 20 years old.

Evans Lake, Manitoba, between Moody and Nokomis Lakes, has been named in his honour.

F/O Earle Robert Evans DFC RCAF, Air Gunner (killed)
P/O George Tucker Llewellyn RCAF, Flight Engineer (killed)
F/O Donald Curry Graham RCAF, Wireless Operator (killed)
F/L Ross Curtis Hamill RCAF, Air Bomber (killed)
F/L Raymond William Newton RCAF, Navigator (killed)
F/L James Douglas Crawford Craton DFC RCAF (survived)
F/O Bruce Bernard Gray DFC RCAF (survived)

He is commemorated on Panel 161

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