FS Evered Arthur Reginald Rex Leavers DFM 745760 RAFVR



Evered, known as Reg, was born on 27 May 1917 in Bridgford, Nottinghamshire, the only son of 2nd Lt Evered Herbert Leavers RAF and Jessie Leavers nee Hales. Educated at Lady Bay Primary, West Bridgford, on leaving school aged 14 he was employed in the laboratory of the Boots Pure Drug Company at Beeston, Nottingham.

Evered joined the RAF in 1939 and trained as a pilot. In February 1941 Evered and his crew were posted to 21 Sqn at RAF Watton, Norfolk.

In April 1941 Evered's crew was one of 5 squadron crews detached to Malta, returning the following month. In April 1941 Evered, together with his Observer, was awarded the DFM. Their citation read:

"In April, 1941, Sgt Leavers and Sgt Overheu were the pilot and observer respectively in an aircraft which participated in an attack on a large enemy convoy. In the face of heavy anti-aircraft fire, Sgt Leavers displayed great determination and tactical ability which enabled Sgt Overheu to score two direct hits on a large ship. In March 1941, these airmen successfully attacked an enemy destroyer which was escorting a convoy of some 13 ships. Pressing home his attack from an extremely low level, Sgt Leavers machine gunned the deck while Sgt Overheu scored two direct hits on the destroyer with his bombs. These airmen have completed many operational missions and both have displayed outstanding team work, together with great courage and determination".

A detachment to RAF Lossiemouth, Scotland followed at the beginning of June. Their next flight from RAF Watton would be their last.

On 16 June 1941, 6 Blenheims from 21 Sqn were allocated to carry out a daylight attack on shipping off the East Frisian Islands. At 13:19 Evered and his crew departed RAF Watton, Norfolk in Blenheim IV V6034 (YH-D) as number 2 in a three ship. The formation flew out over the North Sea and after one hour's search, a small patrol vessel was spotted and they prepared to attack. This vessel was a "Squealer", a small patrol vessels with radio transmitters used as an early warning screen to spot the Blenheims well before the convoys were reached.

Flying in as the second attack aircraft, the crew bombed the vessel, but the wing tip struck the mast of the ship and the aircraft cartwheeled into the sea, killing all on board. This was his 30th op.

Also Killed: Sgt Ian Overheu DFM RNZAF (Observer); Sgt Joseph William Howell Phelps (WOp/AG)

On 30 June 1941 Evered's body was recovered in Noordpolder on the coastline outside the sea dike of North Groningen.

Evered is buried in the Baflo (Den Andel) Protestant Cemetery, Groningen, Netherlands, the only CWGC grave.

Evered is commemorated on Wall Panel 197

Photo Source: www.rafwatton.info