

FO Harold Lowe DFC 115129 RAFVR

Harold was born on 4 October 1919 in Horsham, Sussex, the son of Harold Lowe and Priscilla Lowe nee Pratt. In 1942 he married Chrissie Scott in Horsham, Sussex.

Educated at Victory Road School, Harold was employed as an Account's Clerk with Messrs Jackson Brothers, Horsham Motor Engineers, when he volunteered for aircrew service in the RAF at the outbreak of war.

Qualifying as a WOp/AG, Harold was commissioned in December 1941, and was a seasoned operator when, in August 1942, he was posted to 75(NZ) Sqn at RAF Feltwell, Norfolk. In October 1942 the squadron converted to the Stirling and moved to RAF Newmarket, Cambridgeshire, the following month.

On 3 February 1943, 263 Bomber Command crews were tasked with an operation against targets in Hamburg, Germany. Nine 75(NZ) Sqn Stirlings were allocated to the task. Two squadron aircraft failed to return.



At 18:21 Harold, operating as the Wireless Operator, and the crew departed RAF Newmarket in Stirling I R9250 (AA-W).

At 19:46 Harold's aircraft was intercepted by Hptm Reinhold Knacke of the I./NJG1 flying a Bf110 from Gilze-Rijen Airfield, and crashed in the floodplains between Eck en Wiel and Ingen, Gelderland, 8km W of Tiel, Netherlands. Several crew members baled out, but none of the crew survived. The bodies of Harold, the Captain, and the Bomb Aimer were left in the aircraft when the Germans realised that they were unable to recover it, and ordered the Dutch to bury the crashed Stirling. This was Harold's 48th op.

Harold was posthumously awarded the DFC. His citation read:

"This officer has participated in many operational sorties, the majority of which have been against strongly defended German targets. He has always shown great courage and determination in the face of the enemy and his work in the Squadron has been of the highest order and an example to all".

Also killed: PO Kenneth Howard Blincoe DFC RNZAF (Pilot); PO Andrew James Newell Scott RNZAF (Pilot); FS Edward McDermott RCAF (AG); Sgt Desmond Clearwater RNZAF (AG); Sgt George Wood Cook RNZAF (AB); Sgt Frank Arthur Boese (Nav); Sgt Desmond David Hayward (FE)

The three crew members left in the crashed Stirling were recovered in August 1949 and were buried in Amersfoort (Oud Leusden) General Cemetery, Utrecht, Netherlands

Harold is commemorated on Wall Panel 201

Photo Source: IBCC