

Flt Lt Earl Albert Sanderson RCAF J/9534

Earl Sanderson was an experienced pilot who was killed during a raid on Brunswick in January 1944.

He was the second pilot of Pathfinder Lancaster III ND341 LQ-S of 405 (Vancouver) Squadron RCAF which was one of three aircraft from the squadron lost during the Brunswick raid, with a loss of nineteen men, on the night of 14/15 January.



Earl and his crew had taken off from Gransden Lodge at 16.50 as part of a force of 498 bombers, of which thirty-eight failed to return. ND341 was shot down and crashed at Osterode, near Wolfenbüttel, south of Brunswick. Three of the eight men on board managed to escape by parachute but the other five, including Earl, died.

He came from the hamlet of Crooked River in Saskatchewan and was the 26-year-old son of Charles and Esther Sanderson. Earl, who had a sister and two brothers, had enlisted in April 1941, and gained his wings as a pilot the following December. He spent time as an instructor in Canada before being posted to England in July 1943 where he later joined the Pathfinders of 405 Squadron.

The others who died were the pilot Flt Lt William Cloutier DFC RCAF, wireless operator Sgt Kenneth Joslyn, mid-upper gunner PO Andrew Parker RCAF and rear gunner WOII Allan Lawrence RCAF. The survivors were the flight engineer Sgt C Dunnett, navigator FO S Neville and bomb-aimer PO J March RCAF.

Earl's name can be found on panel 237.

Sources: Canadian veterans/405 Squadron Association.