

Name: KELLOW, Leslie George

Service: Royal Air Force

Rank: P/O


Crew Position: Pilot

Date of Death: 31/03/1944 at age 25

Buried: Hannover War Cemetery, Germany



14

 **CANADIAN PACIFIC**
TELEGRAPHS
World Wide Communications

MAIL DEL. TIMES & WEEKLY MAIL DEL. TIMES & WEEKLY MAIL DEL. TIMES & WEEKLY MAIL DEL. TIMES & WEEKLY

VBA559 33/32 2 EX GB REPORT DELIVERY

OTTAWA ONT 3 1045P

1944 APR 13 PM 11 22

MISTER A KELLOW
378 BURNSIDE RD VICTORIA BC

M9420 REGRET TO ADVISE THAT YOUR SON PILOT OFFICER LG KELLOW
RAF FIVE FOUR THREE ONE NOUGHT IS REPORTED MISSING AFTER AIR OPERA-
TIONS OVERSEAS MARCH THIRTY FIRST STOP LETTER FOLLOWS

RCAF CASUALTIES OFFICER



No. 49 Squadron,
Royal Air Force,
Fiskerton,
Lincoln.

31st March, 1944.

Dear Mr. Kellow,

I am sorry to have to confirm the telegram you will have received informing you that your son is reported missing as the result of air operations last night, and I want to convey to you the sympathy of all members of this Squadron, and myself, in your anxiety while waiting for news.

Your son was flying as the Captain and pilot of an aircraft which set out to attack a target at Murnberg, and since then we have heard nothing from it, wireless silence being maintained on operational missions. In these circumstances he is reported missing, but I hope that later we shall receive news that he is safe, though this will probably mean he is a prisoner of war. You will be informed by Air Ministry immediately any further information is available.

During the short time your son had been with the Squadron he had shown himself to be an efficient and capable pilot, and the Captain of a sound crew. I am sure he would do everything possible for the safety of his crew. This was his second operational sortie, and I am most sorry to have lost him in this way.

His kit has been collected and safeguarded and will be forwarded to you in due course under arrangements between the Air Ministry and Canadian Authorities.

Please do not hesitate to write to me if there is any way in which I can help you.

Yours sincerely,

A. A. Adams

Wing Commander, Commanding,
No. 49 Squadron.

Mr. A. Kellow,
378, Burnside Road,
Victoria,
British Columbia.



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

The Queen and I offer you our
heartfelt sympathy in your great
sorrow.

We pray that your country's
gratitude for a life so nobly given
in its service may bring you some
measure of consolation.

George R.I.

A. Kellow, Esq.



To Mrs. C. Krellme

*This commemorates the gratitude of
the Government and people of Canada for the life of
a brave man freely given in the service of his Country.*

Silver Officer L. G. Krellme, R.C.A.F.

His name will ever be held in proud remembrance.

John G. Brown

March 31, 1944 Minister of National Defence for Air.

THIS PAMPHLET IS DEDICATED TO
THE AIRCREW OF THE R.C.A.F. WHO
DIED IN THE SERVICE OF THEIR
COUNTRY, AND HUMANITY. IF IT
BRINGS A MEASURE OF SOLACE TO
THEIR PARENTS AND LOVED ONES,
IT WILL HAVE FULFILLED
ITS PURPOSE.

*An honoured Tribute to
Pilot Officer L. G. Kellow,
and with deepest
sympathy on presumption
of his Death on active
Service. F. V. Heakes.*

AIR VICE-MARSHAL F. V. HEAKES, C.B.

November 18, 1944.

The complete pamphlet is stored in the [Documents](#) section

30/31 March, 1944; NUREMBERG:

Bomber Command suffered its biggest loss of the war; 31 Halifaxes and 64 Lancasters, 11.9 per cent of the force dispatched failed to return. The unit's contribution to the night's proceedings involved 16 Lancasters; the first aircraft lifting away from Fiskerton at 21.55hrs.

Sadly two of those aircraft 'going down' were from the squadron: P/O Leslie Kellow (a Canadian in the RAF(VR) and crew were only on their

first operation and were the 36th aircraft to be brought down. Mid-upper gunner, Sgt McAvoy survived from the burning Lancaster; with his face badly burned and crusted, he crawled around for two hours bumping into trees until villagers found him. He was then left in a coal cellar for twelve hours without any attention at all. Cold and in great pain he was placed in a cart with another injured airman; the other airman was in fact the crew's navigator, Sgt David Rowcliffe, who couldn't recognise Sgt McAvoy. At the local hospital, both received devoted nursing attention but sadly David Rowcliffe passed away the next day. Sgt McAvoy underwent thirty surgical operations for his burns. The remaining five members of the crew had all died in the aircraft, and are buried alongside each other in Hannover War Cemetery.