

William Emerslund put this on Facebook on 24 September 2022:

80 Years Ago - Sergeant William Emerslund RCAF Lancaster R5679

It was 80 years ago tonight (September 24, 1942) that 51 Lancaster bombers of several Royal Air Force squadrons took off from their English airbases and headed on a mission towards Denmark. The mission was to drop sea mines into the waters off of the coast of Denmark in order to disrupt the travel of German Navy vessels. Two of the Lancasters were also assigned to fly over land for a distance into Denmark in order to test German radar installations. It was shortly after midnight on September 25 that these two bombers were attacked by German night fighters. One was badly damaged but was able to return. The other Lancaster was shot down near the Danish village of Grønhøj and the crew of seven were all killed. The crew included five British airmen and two Canadians. The upper mid-turret gunner of Lancaster R5679 was Sergeant William Young Emerslund. William was just 22 years old and was the son of Hjalmer Emerslund who was the brother of my grandfather Kristian Emerslund and my father Gordon's Cousin.

This was a great tragedy for the Emerslund family as only 13 days prior Arnold Emerslund (my father's brother-my uncle) was killed when the HMCS Ottawa was torpedoed and sunk.

In May of 2015 Gordon and I attended a ceremony in Grønhøj, Denmark for an annual ceremony marking Liberation Day for the Danish people. This day also marks a Memorial Ceremony to William and his fellow crewmates. The Danish Military, National TV news and over 150 other Danish citizens of all ages also attended.

