





102596 RAF Acting Flight-Lieutenant	Norman Harold Scrivener DFC DFO	Royal Air Force, navigator. Enlisted 1939, commissioned 1941	Source: Newspaper reports
Born	Birmingham, 24 November 1915		
NOTE:	<p>Norman Scrivener's award of DFC was reported in the Grantham Journal of 19<sup>th</sup> March 1943: In fact he came from Birmingham. His wife accompanied him as he was posted between various RAF stations. He spent some time at RAF Syerston and his wife "lived in a small town nearby", which was presumably Bingham. [See Scrivener's <a href="#">memoir</a>]</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>BINGHAM</b></p> <p><b>Awarded D.F.C. — Acting Flight-Lieut. Norman Harold Scrivener, R.A.F.V.R., No 106 Squadron, whose home is in Bingham, has been awarded the D.F.C. He has completed numerous operational sorties in the course of which he has made many attacks on enemy industrial targets in Germany and Italy. He enlisted in the R.A.F.V.R. in 1939 and was commissioned in 1941.</b></p>	
War service	No 35 squadron RAFVR. (from London Gazette) 1943 106 Squadron 1944 83 Squadron		

	<p>No 35 squadron reformed on 5 November 1940 at RAF Linton-on-Ouse in Yorkshire as the first Handley Page Halifax squadron. In August 1942 it was one of the five squadrons selected to create the Pathfinder Force. The squadron was based at RAF Graveley. When the Pathfinder Force was enlarged 35 Squadron was a part of the newly designated No. 8 Group. In March 1944 the squadron converted to the Avro Lancaster, which it used till the end of the war.</p>		
	<p>In 1943 106 Squadron Lancaster Bombers took part in the first "shuttle-bombing" raids (when the targets were Friedrichshafen and Spezia) and the famous attack on Peenemunde. At some point the squadron was based at RAF Syerston. In 1944 83 Squadron also flew Lancasters before being transferred to pathfinding duties at Coningsby.</p>		
1939 Register	<p>19 Plaistow Avenue, Birmingham          Frank Scrivener, b. 24 October 1890          Edith Scrivener, 4 January 1889          Norman H Scrivener, b. 24/11/1915, single          Kathleen M Scrivener, b. 16 May 1920</p>	<p>Wiremill foreman           leading aircraftsman, home on leave RAFVR, Observer          shorthand typist, cable manufacturer</p>	
Father's Family Census 1911	<p>Father Frank unmarried living with sister and brother in-law in Solihull</p>	Wire drawer	Had been railway cleaner
Mother's Family Census 1901	<p>Mother Edith Deeley, married Frank 1915. Born and lived Handsworth,</p>	Rule Marker	
Marriage	<p>Norman H Scrivener married Kathleen Senior, St Margaret's Church, Birmingham September 28th 1940 6d 113. They appear not to have had children.</p>		
Wife's family	153 Highfield Road, Birmingham		

1939	Fred Senior, b.15 Sep 1881 Annie Senior, b. 6 Sep 1885 Kathleen Senior, b. 11 April 1914	Tool Maker  Shorthand Typist	
Item in "Free Library" web site	<p><b>Reference</b> - "Pilot who flew with RAF elite, dies, 91; OBITUARY." <a href="#">The Free Library</a>. 2007 Birmingham Post &amp; Mail Ltd 25 May. 2021</p>	<p>Byline: By Neil Connor Chief Reporter</p> <p>A Birmingham war hero who flew on bombing missions with pilots involved with the Dam-busters raids has died aged 91.</p> <p>Squadron Leader Norman Scrivener - who suffered from air sickness and had never seen a plane before the war - flew on 60 raids over Germany which represented two tours of operation.</p> <p>He flew under Commanding Officer Guy Gibson at the Leicestershire-based 106 squadron, joining him on his last raid before he went on to form the Dambusters 617 Squadron.</p> <p>Scrivener, one of the RAF's best navigators, then joined the elite 'Pathfinder' 83 squadron, where he completed his second tour under John Searby.</p> <p>After completing more than the required number of operations, Scrivener was asked to go on one final mission before the end of the war by the new Squadron Commander at the Pathfinders.</p> <p>However, when the crew list was sent to Group Headquarters, it was spotted, by coincidence, by his old friend Searby. Searby ordered Scrivener's name to be removed from the list and another navigator was found for the mission. The crew was lost over Berlin that very night.</p> <p>Scrivener went on to train other navigators at Bomber Command.</p> <p>Norman Harold Scrivener was born in Birmingham on November 24 1915 to a working class family. He began his education at a school in Ward End before going onto Suffolk Street Central Secondary school, and then gaining admission to King Edward VI grammar school, which was then based in New Street.</p> <p>Scrivener was a member of St Margaret's Church in Ward End and worked at Esso Petroleum and Thomas Cook (bankers) Ltd in the years after he left school.</p> <p>However, Scrivener decided to join one of the armed forces after he saw the threat of war emerging at the end of the 1930s.</p> <p>Writing about this period in his life two years ago, he said: "I soon found that the Royal Air Force was most hospitable (after being turned down by both Army and Navy). They were pleased that I liked Maths and Geometry as they were short of navigators. Without much thought I joined up but I had to admit that I had never flown - indeed never even seen an aircraft on the ground. However, the die was cast. Shortly afterwards we started lessons in navigation at Handsworth and I began to realise what it was all about."</p> <p>Scrivener also admitted to suffering "terrible" air-sickness, but he refused to give up on a career in the RAF.</p>	

	<p>His first flight was at Castle Bromwich Aerodrome where he was forced to wear a helmet that was too large for him while he sat in an open cockpit. He got through the ordeal by ducking behind the level of the cockpit for the duration of the flight.</p> <p>Training took Scrivener from Pembroke College, Cambridge, to Staverton Aerodrome, the Isle of Man and Aldergrove in Ireland before he was posted to 75 New Zealand Squadron Feltwell Aerodrome on the Norfolk/Suffolk border.</p> <p>At this time, he had been in a relationship with Kathleen Senior whom he had known from his church in Ward End. She moved to a small village near the base.</p> <p>During his 30 trips from Feltwell, Scrivener used three days leave to marry his sweetheart at St Margaret's church on September 28 1940 - almost getting court martialled for returning back to the aerodrome late. The pair set up home near the aerodrome, and Kathleen got a job in the office of a local chicken farm.</p> <p>When Scrivener returned from raids he would whistle to his wife on his way back to barracks, so she knew he had come back safe.</p> <p>After receiving more training in Canada, Scrivener joined Gibson at 106 Squadron, and would later recall the influence that the talis-manic pilot - and his dog - had on the squadron. At this time, Scrivener was flying with the cream of Bomber Command as air raids over Germany were intensified.</p> <p>Following his completion of 60 trips over Germany he was awarded a Distinguished Flying Cross and the Distinguished Flying Order.</p> <p>Sq Leader Scrivener died on May 6 at the Royal Worcester Hospital aged 91 years.</p>
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