

TRIBUTE TO WING-COMMANDER FULTON

One of the most popular squadron commanders in the Royal Air Force, Wing-Commander John "Moose" Fulton, D.F.C., A.F.C., of Kamloops, B.C., is missing.

This big, red-headed man, who joined the R.A.F. in 1934, who gained his A.F.C., for outstanding experimental work, and his D.F.C. for the courage and leadership he displayed in bombing operations, failed to return from the last raid on Hamburg.

His last words were characteristic.

In a message to his base he told the anxiously waiting ground staff that some of his crew had been wounded, that one engine had failed, that he was only about 500 feet above the North Sea and about five miles from enemy-occupied territory, and that he was being attacked by fighters.

Search of the sea area where he would presumably have landed has so far failed to reveal any trace of him.

"The Moose", a nickname by which all members of the squadron knew him, was missing within a week of receiving, at British Columbia House, a tribute from his fellow-citizens of Kamloops. It was a silver cigarette case which was presented to him on behalf of his home town by the Lord Mayor of London. At the presentation were his two brothers, one a lieutenant in the army, the other a private.

They saw "The Moose", face blushing, embarrassed that he should have been singled out for this honour, reply to the tributes that were paid to him by Wm. McAdam, Agent-General for British Columbia, the Lord Mayor and Viscount Bennett, former Prime Minister of Canada. For "The Moose" was a modest man. In a position of that kind he was at a loss for words.

But in action, according to the boys of his squadron, any one of whom would have followed him blindly to the hottest target in Europe, he was a calm, courageous leader.

Those same boys, who pleaded with the station C.O. to go out immediately and search for the Commander in the North Sea, did go out again the following night, to Saarbrucken. The squadron dropped tons of bombs that night.

Wing-Commander Fulton was born 29 years ago in Kamloops, B.C., the son of the late F.J. and Mrs. Fulton, who still resides in that city.

He received his education at Kamloops High School and St. Michael's School, Oak Bay, Victoria, and learned to fly at Oakland, California, receiving his licence there in 1931.

He joined the R.A.F. in 1934, serving in bomber squadrons in the Middle East as well as in Britain.

He had approximately 60 operations to his credit before being reported missing.

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