

## VETERAN OF THE WEEK 20

(29 August – 4 September, 2022)

### **R85078 Flight Sergeant David Levine**

No. 1664 Heavy Conversion Unit

Bomber Command, R.C.A.F

Second World War



Photo: Courtesy of the CVWM and the project Operation Picture Me

R85078 Flight Sergeant David Levine of Swift Current Saskatchewan was born on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October 1923 in Swift Current to Benjamin and Bella (nee Adisky) Levine. Before the war he worked as a clerk in his fathers clothing store and was a member of the Regina Synagogue. He originally enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force (R.C.A.F.) on the 19<sup>th</sup> of December 1940 in Regina, with the intention to be a pilot. He signed up for the duration of hostilities. Unfortunately, he would be discharged from the Air Force a year latter on the 15<sup>th</sup> of October 1941 due to becoming medically unfit to continue preforming his duties as he had contacted rheumatic fever.

While he had been discharged from duty, he did not let that stop him as he re-enlisted in the R.C.A.F. on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 1942 at the No. 2 Depot located in Brandon, Manitoba. F/Sgt. Levine then graduated as a bombardier and served with Bomber Command. F/Sgt. Levine would head overseas for duty in 1943. F/Sgt. David Levine was reported killed by Air Force headquarters on the 12<sup>th</sup> of December 1944. Levine and three other crewmembers (GG. Goehring, K. Willmek, and J.S. Overland) of his Halifax bomber were killed when their Halifax broke up in mid air and crashed near Rhayder, Radnorshire, Wales during a training exercise. Levine was 23 years old. He was buried six days latter on the 18<sup>th</sup> of December 1944.

F/Sgt. David Levine is buried in Section A, Grave 935 at Chester (Blacon) Cemetery, located in Cheshire, United Kingdom. He is commemorated on page 365 of the Second World War Book of Remembrance that sits in the Peace Tower and on the Bomber Command Memorial Wall located in Naton, Alberta. He also has a lake named after him; Lake Lavine located on the Alstead River east of Patuanak. He was well respected in the Swift Current Community as the Mayor of the City, James Taylor wrote a letter of recommendation to the R.C.A.F on David's behalf. Stating that he has known David his whole life and that he is of good character. He also states he comes from a well-respected family. F/Sgt. Levine is one of the many Jewish Canadians who enlisted and served in the Canadian Forces during the Second World War.

This week we honour the service and sacrifice of R85078 F/ Sgt. David Levine of Swift Current, Saskatchewan, who gave his life for King and Country during the Second World War. Thank you for your service, F/Sgt. David Levine.

Lest We Forget