

FOREWORD

By Sidney S Fox

Flight-Sergeant L H Fox, the writer of these stories, was a young man in the famous Rhodesian Squadron No.44, who lost his life in the Second World War. He participated in all the 1,000 bomber raids, and was the navigator of a Lancaster in the Le Creusot attack that took place one Saturday afternoon in 1942.

After the sinking of the ship carrying children to the U.S.A., he joined the R.A.F.V.R. Older in experience than most of the boys to whom we owe so much, he was the father of his Lancaster, which was lost with all its crew over Hamburg on November 9 1942. He and his seven comrades now lie in a military cemetery in Luneburg.

As a boy, my son Leslie Fox attended Cowper's School, where he showed a flair for drawing and modelling. When he left the secondary school, he went to Barts. for two years; but he then decided that he did not want to become a doctor, and for the next three years he devoted himself to pharmaceutical chemistry. Wishing to become an optician, he attended the Northampton Institute, where he produced a Christmas play that he had written. After he had qualified, he practised for about six months before joining the A.B.C. cinema staff. With this combine he became a relief manager, operating from Canterbury to Dover, Margate, Hythe and London; and he worked in this capacity until the outbreak of war.

In his spare time Leslie did a considerable amount of designing and painting, in which he showed great ability in the use of colour; whilst his many penknife carvings show a fertile and creative imagination. He was also a fine pianist, and has entertained many a Mess with his playing.

Sidney [Leslie?] Fox has written many books, of which these stories are the first to be published. His undoubted ability is shown in many different guises, for his writings include thrillers, novels, short stories and poems. Some of his verse is distilled from his experiences in the R.A.F., which are depicted with his customary vividness and imaginative power.