

# A HISTORY OF BEER AND BREWING

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**A HISTORY OF BEER  
AND BREWING**

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**RS•C**

advancing the chemical sciences

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This book is dedicated to the memory of Les Knight, DSO, an unheralded, 22-year-old Australian pilot, who, after successfully participating in the Dam Busters raid of 6<sup>th</sup> May, 1943, set out again on September 14<sup>th</sup> 1943, to breach the banks of the Dortmund-Ems canal. Their Lancaster flew in over Germany at no more than 30ft, but when they had found their target, the plane crashed through treetops. Knight got his Grand Slam bomb away, and then ordered the six-man crew to bale out, which they all did successfully. Knight stuck to the controls of his aircraft, and ultimately perished with it, having previously wished his comrades “all the best” as they jumped. I’ll bet that Les drank beer, and I can only rue the fact that, at his tender age, he didn’t get the chance to drink much of it. Like thousands of others, Les was a true hero; I only hope that we prove to be worthy of being regarded as their successors. If all goes according to plan, the appearance of this book should coincide with the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Les’s death.

