

Sgt. Walter Gordon Austen 3031942 RAFVR

Walter was a Flight Engineer serving with 170 Squadron, based at R.A.F. Hemswell, near Gainsborough, Lincolnshire; the Squadron motto being "Videre non videri" – "To see and not be seen".

Lancaster III ME418 TC-V took off at 1653 hours 7 March 1945, from Hemswell airfield, with 12 others from the squadron, on a night operation to bomb the jet engine factory supplying Junkers, at Dessau, Germany. Its intention was to dislocate supply lines, and disorganise the Germans. The weather for take-off was good, but very soon afterwards, due to heavy cloud, it was reported, instructions had been sent to the crews to bomb the Wanganui flares (target indicators). ME418 was shot down by a night fighter, crashing at Morsleben, near Helmstedt, in Lower Saxony, with the loss of all the crew.



Walter is buried at the Berlin 1939-1945 War Cemetery, Germany. 13. G. 1.

Sgt. Walter Gordon Austen RAFVR Flight Engineer(killed)
Sgt. Thomas Dixon RAFVR Air Gunner (killed)
F/O Harry William Fuller RAFVR Pilot (killed)
Sgt. Donald Underwood Hart RAFVR Navigator (killed)
F/S Royce Johnson RAFVR Wireless Operator (killed)
Sgt. Patrick Kane RAFVR Air Gunner (killed)
F/O William Sidney John Moore RAFVR Air Bomber (killed)

He is commemorated on Panel 4

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