

## **Pilot Officer Charles David Boyce J/88500 Royal Canadian Air Force**



Charles Boyce was born in 1924, the son of G W and Eva M Boyce of Toronto, Ontario, Canada. He attended the Western Technical School in Toronto.

Charles joined No. 207 Squadron as an air gunner, based at RAF Spilsby in Lincolnshire. He was on Lancaster LM578 EM-C when it took off on 21 June 1944 at 2321 hours, one of 133 Lancasters which set off to attack the synthetic-oil plant at Wesseling. The weather forecast over the target area was for clear conditions but the bombers encountered full cloud cover. German night fighters made contact with the bomber force and 37 Lancasters were lost, including Charles' aircraft.

Lancaster LM578 crashed in the North Sea off Overflakkee on the Dutch coast, killing all eight crew members. (Unusually, the Lancaster was carrying a second bomb aimer). Charles' body was washed up on the Dutch coast and buried in Castricum Protestant Churchyard, Holland. He was 20 years old.

He is also commemorated on panel 249 at the Runnymede Memorial and on the Canadian virtual war memorial.

Charles' crewmates who died with him were:

Sgt. Ronald Arthur McArthur RAFVR

F/O Douglas John Faires

Flt. Sgt. Henry Archibald Shaw

F/O Lyle Edward Bowes

Sgt. Kenneth Walter Sansom

F/O Lyle Edward Bowes

Flt. Sgt. Leslie Frederick Jackson

Charles' name can be found on IBCC panel 011

Photo from Canadian Virtual War Memorial