



P/O Arthur Denis Johnson 138812 RAFVR

Arthur Johnson was the wireless operator/air gunner of a Wellington shot down by a night fighter over Holland.

He died along with all his crew in the early hours of 28 May 1943 when his 166 Squadron Wellington was homebound from a raid on Essen.

His aircraft, Wellington HE752 AS-W, was intercepted over Holland by a fighter flown by Oblt. Hans-Heinz Augenstein. It crashed close to the hamlet of Oele on the outskirts of the city of Hengelo, a few miles from the German border.

Arthur and his crew were flying in one of six No. 166 Squadron Wellingtons that took part in the attack by 518 Bomber Command aircraft, in which considerable damage was done to the Krupps factories in this much-bombed city. On the same night, other 166 Squadron Wellingtons were engaged in mining operations. They had left Kirmington at 2302 hours on 27 May and their aircraft was the only one not to return.

He and his crew had joined 166 at Kirmington three weeks before the Essen raid. He was married to Irene and had a son, Trevor, who was 3 years old at the time of Arthur's death.

The others who died were the pilot Flt. Lt. Donald Tonkinson, navigator Sgt. Percy Guest, bomb-aimer F/O Thomas Brown and rear gunner Sgt. Norman Rayner.

His name can be found on panel 055.

Arthur is buried in the Hengelo (Overijssel) General Cemetery in the Netherlands, Plot D Row 1 Joint Grave 65.

Sources: 166 Squadron Association/On Wings of War by Jim Wright/Air Battle of the Ruhr by Alan Cooper.