

F/Sgt. Royce Johnson 1873157 RAFVR

Royce was the son of William and Laura Johnson, of Watford, Hertfordshire, and brother of, Alfred, and Beryl.

He was a Wireless Operator 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.



Royce is buried at the Berlin 1939-1945 War Cemetery, Germany. Coll. grave 13. G. 2-7. The epitaph reads "He took, that night, the one great step beyond the stars, into the arms of God". He was 20 years old.

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

He is commemorated on Panel 56

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