

## **F/Sgt. John Mahoney 1800604 RAFVR**

John was the son of Patrick and Mary Mahoney, of Orpington, Kent.

He was a Navigator 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". He had survived, with slight injuries, after baling out of a stricken aircraft in October, 1944, which killed his pilot, flight engineer, and wireless operator.

Lancaster III ME388 TC-H took off at 1704 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). At 2031 hours ME388 was attacked by a night fighter, exploding in the air, and crashing at Leckmart, Germany, with the loss of all the crew.



John is buried at Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Germany. Coll. grave 30. E. 1-7. The epitaph reads "Sweet Jesus, have mercy on his soul. R.I.P.". He was 22 years old.

F/Sgt. John Mahoney RAFVR, Navigator (killed)  
F/Sgt. Wilfred Henry Charles Fuller RAFVR, Flight engineer (killed)  
F/Sgt. David Charles Palmer RAAF, Air Gunner (killed)  
F/Sgt. William Desmond Callaghan RAAF, Air Gunner (killed)  
F/O John Stennett Walker RAAF, Pilot (killed)  
F/O Kenneth George Powell RAF, Wireless operator (killed)  
F/Sgt. Leslie Thomas RAFVR, Air Bomber (killed)

He is commemorated on Panel 67

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