

F/O William Sidney John Moore 163519 RAFVR



William was born on 26 November 1914, the son of William Edgar and Mary Jane Moore, and the husband of Jessie Violet Moore, of Earlham, Norfolk. He was father to a son, and daughter, and was a police constable in the City of London Police before enlisting as aircrew, in 1944. He was Constable 172B, based at Snow Hill Police Station, and his nickname was "Ginger". He served throughout the London Blitz, and the V-1 campaign, before joining up.

He was an Air Bomber 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.

William is buried at the Berlin 1939-1945 War Cemetery, Germany. Coll. grave 13. G. 2-7. The epitaph reads "In loving memory of my dear husband and his comrades. "We will remember them"". He was 30 years old.

F/O William Sidney John Moore RAFVR Air Bomber(killed)

Sgt Patrick Kane RAFVR Air Gunner(killed)

F/S 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)

He is commemorated on Panel 75

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