WO2 Joseph Borden Nault R/69378 RCAF

Joseph was born on 17 December 1914 in Maniwaki, Quebec, Canada, the son of Eusete Nault and Mary Nault nee McElroy.

Educated at the Separate School and High School, Iroquois Falls, Ontario, Joseph was employed as a timekeeper and assistant paymaster by the Abitibi Power and Paper Company when, in July 1940, he applied for aircrew duties with the RCAF.

Called up in January 1941, Joseph completed his training in Canada in December 1941 with the award of his WOp/AG badge, and embarked for the UK the following month.

Following advanced training at 23 OTU RAF Pershore, Worcestershire where he converted to multi crew/ multi engine ops, in July 1942 Joseph was posted to 218 Sqn at RAF Marham, Norfolk where he converted to the Stirling, and the squadron moved to RAF Downham Market, Norfolk the same month.

On 17/18 December 1942 Bomber Command was tasked with a minor op against Fallersleben, Lower Saxony, Germany, home of the Opel Works. A combined force of 22 aircraft, including ten 218 Sqn crews, were allocated to the op. This type of limited op proved to be a costly failure. Eight crews were lost, and only three aircraft successfully bombed the target.

At 17:32 on 17 December 1942 Joseph, operating as the Wireless Operator, and the crew departed RAF Downham Market, Norfolk, in Stirling I W7614 (HA-J)

At 20:36 Joseph's aircraft was coned by searchlights and hit by flak of the 1.-3./schwere Flak-Abteilung 801 (o), schwere Flak-Abteilung 619 and Alarmzug Langenhagen airfield. The aircraft crashed West of Kaltenweide, Langenhagen, Niedersachsen, Germany, killing Joseph on his 28th birthday, and two other crew members. Four of the crew managed to bale out.

Also killed: FO Charles Curtis Merrill McCann RCAF (Obs); Sgt Michael William Lavelle (FE)

Originally buried in Limmer Civil Cemetery, Lower Sxony, Germany, in December 1946 Joseph was moved to the Hanover War Cemetery, Niedersachsen, Germany

Joseph is commemorated on Wall Panel 217

Photo Source: www.veterans.gc.ca