PO Joseph Cosoff R/77205 RCAF



Joseph was born on 17 May 1918 in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, the son of Russian Jewish immigrants Isaac Cosoff and Ida Cosoff nee Leipis.

Educated at Aleander School and Baron Byng High School, Montreal, Joseph was employed as a clerk by Gray's Drug Store in Montreal when, in September 1940, he applied for service in the RCAF.

Called up in October, Joseph completed his aircrew training in Canada in June 1941 with the award of his Observer's badge and, after completing additional training at 1 Advanced Navigation School, RCAF Rivers, Manitoba, in July 1941 he embarked for the UK.

On arrival in the UK, in August 1941 Joseph was posted to 23 Sqn at RAF Ford, West Sussex. In July 1942 Joseph was posted to 605 Sqn when it reformed at RAF Ford before he was posted to the Aeroplane & Armament Experimental Establishment at RAF Boscombe Down, Wiltshire in September.

In preparation to return to ops, in November 1943 Joseph completed additional training at No 1 Radio School RAF Cranwell, Lincolnshire, 18(P) Advanced Flying Unit RAF Snitterfield, Warwickshire and No 3 School of General Reconnaissance RAF Squires Gate, Blackpool, before he was posted in December to 400 Sqn at RAF Redhill, Surrey. In February 1944 the squadron moved to RAF Odiham, Hampshire.

On 20 February 1944, Joseph and his pilot were tasked with completing a local area photographic sortie and they departed RAF Odiham in Mosquito MM277.

After they had been airborne for 35 minutes, the crew returned to base and were observed making a "hurried" circuit for a twin engined aircraft. The pilot's approach was considered high, but he had the wheels and flaps down. On attempting to land the pilot overshot and endeavoured to go around; however, the pilot made the wrong selection of flaps up first before the wheels with the result that, at 10:40, the aircraft mushed into the ground and hit the No 2 Guard Room, killing both aircrew and a member of the RAF Regiment returning to base from leave. Two service personnel in the Guardroom were injured.

Joseph was posthumously commissioned, backdated to the 19 February 1944.

Also Killed: Flt Lt Orlin Ronald Alexander RCAF (Pilot); Cpl Edward Hall, (RAF Regiment).

Joseph is buried in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey

Joseph is commemorated on Wall Panel – Not Yet Erected

Photo Source: www.veterans.gc.ca