

# Sergeant Roy Gallop

## No. 625 Squadron Lancaster JB122



### History of the Squadron



Figure 1: Squadron 625

Aircrew Remembered. 2019. *No. 625 Squadron Lancaster III JB122 CF-H P/O. Roy Gallop.* [Online]. [14 June 2023]. Available from: [30/31.01.1944 No. 625 Squadron Lancaster III JB122 CF-H P/O. Roy Gallop \(aircrewwremembered.com\)](https://www.aircrewwremembered.com)

On 30<sup>th</sup> January, the crew took part in their final operation. Two men in the crew were filling in for others as 'spare bods', including Sergeant SJ Harrison and Flight Officer A:J Norman. Two of the men from Warrant Officer JD Owen were also volunteered as spare bods to other crews. These two crews were said to share the same bus (Aircrew Remembered, 2019).

The Lancaster III K.E. 7683 departed from Kelstern at 16:52 pm on 30<sup>th</sup> January 1944 for a raid on Berlin. Approximately three hours later, an aircraft of similar build was said to have crashed at LINUM N 53/X 4875, a village thirty miles North-West of Berlin. Accounts of villagers such as Herr A Kemp report seeing the Lancaster shot down in mid air, exploding before the debris landed within a 1 kilometer radius of Linum.

The No. 625 Squadron consisted of the following men, all of whom were killed: Pilot Roy Gallop 171215, age 18, Flight Engineer Sergeant Stanley John Harrison 1652715, RAFVR; age 21., Navigator George Arthur Prigg 1323852 RAFVR Age 23, Air bomber Peter Rawlings 1323852 RAFVR, age 23, Flight Sergeant and Air Gunner Patrick Moylann 420478, age 21, Air Gunner: Alexander James Normandin J27320 RCAF, age 23, Air Gunner David Walter Thomas Johnson DFC 1013070 RAFVR, age 30.

Following the crash, a total of seven bodies were removed from the aircraft and buried in Linum Cemetery. It was not until Frau Kate Schleh visited the cemetery on 30<sup>th</sup> October 1946 that the bodies were identified as belonging to the No. 625 Squadron (Aircrew Remembered, 2019). Official exhumations of the crew were performed by Captain Jones of 56 G:C:U and the bodies were relocated to the Berlin 1939-1945 War Grave Cemetery in Heerstraße (Aircrew Remembered, 2019).

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Figure 2 and 3: Aircrew Remembered. 2019. *No. 625 Squadron Lancaster III JB122 CF-H P/O. Roy Gallop.* [Online]. [14 June 2023]. Available from: [30/31.01.1944 No. 625 Squadron Lancaster III JB122 CF-H P/O. Roy Gallop \(aircrewwremembered.com\)](https://www.aircrewwremembered.com)

Gallop was born the son of William G Gallop (a Baker) and Louisa J Gallop nee Pickett on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1925 in Essex. He was the second youngest of four children, William L C Gallop, George P Gallop and Joan L Gallop.

In his early years, Gallop worked at the family bakery as a roundsman. It is expected that Gallop was as young as sixteen when he enrolled in the Royal Air Force.

On 10<sup>th</sup> November 1942, Gallop completed his training as a pilot in the US in the class of 42J. Gallop is thought to be the NO. 625 youngest ever pilot to be killed in action, losing his life at the age of 18 (Aircrew Remembered, 2019).

### David Walter Thomas Johnson



Born on 18<sup>th</sup> April 1913 at Newport Monmouthshire, David Walter Thomas Johnson was the son of mason Walter Thomas Johnson and Mary Maud Johnson. Johnson was the eldest of three children, including two sisters, Beatrice M Johnson and Muriel S Johnson. The family lived at 61 Seymour Street, Cardiff in Wales. Before joining the RAAF Johnson had worked as an insurance agent. In the course of Johnson's career, he participated in several operations in North Africa, as member of the No. 38 and No. 40 squadron.

He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for the length of his service on 29<sup>th</sup> January 1944, which is commemorated in the *London Gazette* on 21 December 1945 (Aircrew Remembered, 2019).