



Flying Officer William (Bill) Smith Johnston (Johnson)
Service Number J16150

Bill Johnston (Johnson) was born on October 28, 1917 to parents Frank H. and May Johnston of Renfrew. Bill was a member of the Renfrew Collegiate Rugby team and played hockey. RCI Principal Bert Troop called Bill “an excellent student, thoroughly reliable” and suggested he was a model carpentry student. Bill trained in Toronto, Moncton, and Goderich before receiving his wings at Camp Borden to become a member of the Royal Canadian Air Force. After four months of training, he served in Egypt before becoming an instructor in England. Bill was killed on January 21, 1944 after an attack on the Pas-de-Calais region in France after his plane was hit from anti-aircraft fire and crashed into the English Channel seven kilometers north of Dieppe. He is commemorated at the Runnymede Memorial in Surrey, United Kingdom.

Research Completed by: Alexa Narezny and Adam Noack

Disclaimer: All efforts were made by RCI (2015) to ensure the accuracy of this research; however, if you would like to report a correction (or to add details), please email noacka@rcdsb.on.ca.

Information is courtesy of Veterans Affairs Canada, Library Archives Canada, and the Legion Canada Magazine

<https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/second-world-war/second-world-war-dead-1939-1947/Pages/item.aspx?IdNumber=17821&>

<https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial/detail/1802200?William%20Smith%20Johnston>

<https://legionmagazine.com/en/2018/06/resurrecting-the-memory-of-a-ww-ii-pilot/>