

# Abell, Royston James Harding

**Age:** 28

**Nationality:** Canadian/British

**Rank:** Flight Sergeant

**Unit:** RCAF

**Occupation:** PT Instructor

**Service No:** R225540

**Birth:** 29, October 1917  
Folkestone, Kent,  
England

**Home Town:** Vancouver, BC,  
Canada

**Death:** 30, March, 1946  
Vancouver, BC  
Natural Causes

**Burial:** Mountain View Cemetery,  
Vancouver, BC, Canada



# **Biography**

Royston served in the Royal Air Force for more than 8 years before he enlisted in the RCAF. Born in England, he immigrated with his family to Canada a year later and grew up in Vancouver, BC.

In August 1933, after graduating from Vancouver Technical School, Royston returned to England to enlist in the RAF for Ground Duties. After a short period as an aircraft hand, he became a PE and drill instructor. He was excellent at his job and was progressively promoted until he reached the rank of Flight Sergeant. Although his service covered almost all of WWII, Royston never served outside England.

In January 1945, when he was serving in Spalding Moor, Yorkshire, he was discharged from the RAF and a day later, on January 4<sup>th</sup>, enlisted in the RCAF, in London, for Ground Duties.

On enlistment Royston was appraised:

“an outstanding N.C.O. who has above average experience, excellent qualifications and is very strongly recommended for retention in the service”.

After reaching Canada, he was again appraised:

“this N.C.O. provides capable and enthusiastic leadership at all times and his trade knowledge is well above average”.

Royston was posted to Patricia Bay, BC, 23<sup>rd</sup> October 1945. In early 1946, due to frequent sickness, he was examined and found to have metastatic melanoma. By 3<sup>rd</sup> March he was considered dangerously ill and on 27<sup>th</sup> March he was sent to the hospital at Jericho Beach, where he died on 30<sup>th</sup> March.

Royston James Abell was born 29<sup>th</sup> October 1917 in Folkestone, Kent, England, to Royston Benjamin Abell, an Aircraft Factory worker, and Winifred Norwood. The family immigrated to Canada in 1918 and by the time Royston James died his parents had returned to England and were living in Cowes, Isle of Wight, Hants.


On 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1941, Royston married Dorothy Joan Fountain in Ottershaw, Surrey, England. They had a daughter Brenda, born early 1944, a son Bruce, born early 1945, shortly after Royston enlisted in the RCAF and a second daughter, a Susan Joan, born May 1946, after her father's death.

By 1949, Dorothy had remarried and was Dorothy Butler, living in Nanaimo, BC.

Extract from Medical Report on Royston:

This N.C.O. had a "mole" removed from right posterior auricular region in November, 1943 while with R.C.A.F. in England. The specimen was apparently not sent for biopsy. During 1944 and 1945 he reported on sick parade while in England because of a small "cyst" in the same area. On return to Canada while at Patricia Bay Station had a biopsy of a gland which was reported as "secondary carcinoma". Subsequent biopsy on November 26th, 1945 showed on section "Malignant melanoma". On December 17th, 1945 a block dissection of glands of his neck was made. This was followed by extensive course of deep x-ray therapy. About the time he completed his therapy he developed pain in posterior pelvic region and although there was no x-ray verification it was felt he was suffering from metastasis. Later glands appeared at the site of operation and at various places under the skin of his chest and back. Within past six weeks he developed more and more metastasis to scalp, in abdomen and latterly in his brain and along spinal cord and on March 30th he expired.

Cause of death "Malignant melanoma Metastasis from primary in right auricular area.

  
(L.S. Chipperfield) S/I,  
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Vancouver, B.C.



SIG 4105 FUNERAL F/S ABELL, R.I. 3 APRIL 1946