

Flt. Sgt. Douglas John Tresidder 415104 RAAF

Douglas was born on 1 September 1922 in Guildford, Swan City, Western Australia, the son of Ernest Victor Tresidder and Dorrit Tresidder (née Huffam).

Educated at Guildford Grammar School, Douglas was employed as a clerk by the Colonial Sugar Refinery Company, Perth when, in December 1940, he volunteered for aircrew duties in the RAAF.

Called up in July 1941 Douglas completed his aircrew training in Australia in May 1942 with the award of his observer badge and he embarked for the UK in August.

Qualifying as an air bomber in December 1942, following advanced training at No. 27 OTU RAF Lichfield, Staffordshire, and No. 1662 HCU, RAF Blyton, Lincolnshire, Douglas was posted to 101 Squadron at RAF Holme-on-Spalding-Moor, Yorkshire, in April 1943 before the squadron moved to RAF Ludford Magna, Lincolnshire, in June 1943.

On 23/24 August 1943 Bomber Command was tasked with an attack on Berlin. A combined force of 727 aircraft, including twenty crews from 101 Squadron, was allocated to the op. Two crews failed to return.

At 2027 hours on 23 August Douglas, operating as the bomb-aimer, and the crew departed RAF Ludford Magna in Lancaster I ED328 (SR-S).

At 0050 hours on 24 August Douglas's aircraft was intercepted from below by Oblt. Werner Husemann of Stab/NJG 1, flying a Bf110 from Deelen airfield, Netherlands. The Lancaster's fuel tanks were hit causing a mid-air explosion, killing all on board. The wreckage crashed at Lanke, 6km West of Biesenthal, Brandenburg.

Also killed were the pilot Flt. Sgt. Robert Clarence Naffin RAAF, flight engineer Sgt. David Morgan Ellis, navigator Flt. Sgt. Noel Joseph Bullen, wireless operator Sgt. John Armstrong Currey, mid-upper gunner Sgt. John Henry Phillips and rear gunner Flt. Sgt. Everard John Phillips RAAF.

Originally buried in Biesenthal Friedhof, Brandenburg, Germany, Douglas was moved in November 1946 to the Berlin War Cemetery, Germany.

Douglas is commemorated on IBCC Wall Panel 108.

Photo Source: IBCC

