

FS Ian Newton Forsyth 564607 RAF

Ian was born on 18 August 1913 in Lochgelly, Fife, the son of Francis Forsyth and Elizabeth Finlay Forsyth Forsyth nee Adamson.

Educated at Beath Secondary School, Cowdenbeath, Fife, in 1930 Ian passed the entrance exam to enter the RAF under the Apprentice Scheme and graduated with the 22nd Entry from RAF Halton.

On 2/3 August 1941, 226 Sqn deployed from RAF Wattisham to RAF Manston to participate in Circus Operations, the designation for fighter-escorted daylight bombing raids by light and medium bombers of 2 Gp, Bomber Command against targets in German-occupied northern Europe.

At 07:00 on 10 August 1941, the squadron commenced standby at RAF Manston. At 11:15, reports were received of a 2000 ton ship, escorted by 2 flak ships near Calais. Three aircraft, together with fighter escort were tasked to attack.

Ian, operating as the Observer, and the crew took off at 11:50 in Blenheim IV V5854 (MQ-L). Heavy and light flak, together with fighter opposition, was encountered in the target area. Leading the low level attack (50 feet) Ian's aircraft received the full concentration of anti aircraft fire. The bombs dropped short of the target, the aircraft stalled and subsequently crashed into the sea killing all on board. One other squadron aircraft was also lost on this task.

Also killed : Sqn Ldr Martin Walter Waddington (Pilot); FS Donald Palmer (WOp/AG)

Ian has no known grave and is commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial, Surrey

Ian is commemorated on Wall Panel 165