

F/L Ross Curtis Hamill J/20884 RCAF



Ross was born on 21 June 1923, the son of Hugh Clayburn and Alva Turnell Hamill, of Whitewood, Saskatchewan, Canada. He was a junior chartered accountant when he enlisted to join the RCAF in January, 1942. After graduating as an air observer, he took a commission in November, 1942, and went overseas the following month.

He was an Air Bomber serving with 428 (Ghost) R.C.A.F. Squadron at RAF Middleton St. George, County Durham. This entire crew were on their second tour, and they had completed a further 13 operational flights.

Lancaster X KB846 NA-I took off at 1644 hours from RAF Middleton St. George, on 15 March 1945, on a night operation to attack the German city of Hagen; one of 267 aircraft. With clear visibility this proved to be a devastating attack, with most of the bombing falling in the centre and eastern districts. 505 people were killed and 30000-35000 were bombed out. On the return journey the aircraft was repeatedly attacked by enemy night fighters. The attack was so severe KB846 was set on fire, and crashed near Krefeld, west of the target area, with the loss of five of the crew. Those killed were identified by the U.S. Army, and initially buried in the U.S. Military Cemetery, at Margraten, Holland.

Ross was reburied at Nederweert War Cemetery, Netherlands. IV. B. 4. The epitaph reads "Let not your heart be troubled". He was 25 years old.

Hamill Lake, in north east Saskatchewan, has been named in his honour.

F/L Ross Curtis Hamill RCAF, Air Bomber (killed)
F/O Earle Robert Evans DFC RCAF, Air Gunner (killed)
P/O George Tucker Llewellyn RCAF, Flight Engineer (killed)
F/O Donald Curry Graham RCAF, Wireless Operator (killed)
F/L Raymond William Newton RCAF, Navigator (killed)
F/L James Douglas Crawford Craton DFC RCAF (survived)
F/O Bruce Bernard Gray DFC RCAF (survived)

He is commemorated on Panel 175

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