

PO Douglas Anthony Hayman 409996 RAAF

Douglas was born on 29 January 1919 in Newcastle upon Tyne, Northumberland, the eldest son of Samuel William Hayman and Amy Hayman nee Shorrocks. The family emigrated to Australia in 1926 and settled in Victoria.

Douglas was employed as a progress worker in the Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation factory when, in July 1941, he volunteered for aircrew duties with the RAAF. Called up in November 1941, Douglas completed his training in Australia in August 1942 with the award of his Wings, and in January 1943 he embarked for the UK.

Following advanced training at 15 OTU RAF Harwell, Oxfordshire, where he converted to multi crew/multi engine flying on the Wellington, and 1664 HCU RAF Croft, Durham for conversion to the Halifax, in November 1943 Douglas was posted with his crew to 138 Sqn at RAF Tempsford, Bedfordshire. Douglas was commissioned in February 1944.



Shortly before midnight on 1 June 1944 Douglas and his crew departed RAF Tempsford in Halifax V LL289 (NF-P). Their mission, "Operation Percy 7", was to drop supplies to the French Resistance at Longue-Jumelles, Maine-et-Loire.

In the early hours of 2 June, whilst over the drop zone, Douglas's aircraft was hit by flak, damaging the port wing and engines. The aircraft crashed in a field outside Longue, 10 miles NNW of Saumur.

The tail section broke off and the Rear Gunner escaped. The port wing broke away and the Mid Upper Gunner escaped through a hole in the wreckage. Both Air Gunners survived to be taken POW, although one was so seriously injured he was re-patriated to the UK before the end of the year. Douglas and the rest of the crew were killed. This was the crew's 34th op.

Also Killed: FO Dennis Hargreaves (Nav); PO John Charles Fardon RAAF (AB); FS Alfred Henry Dickel (WOp/AG); Sgt Dennis Arthur Page (FE)

Douglas is buried in Longue Communal Cemetery, Maine-et-Loire, France.

Douglas is commemorated on Wall Panel 179

Photo Source: IBCC