

FS Douglas Conway Houghton 420469 RAAF

Douglas was born on 20 January 1923 in Hunter's Hill, New South Wales, Australia, the son of William Donald Houghton and Florence Annie Elizabeth Houghton nee Vickery.

Educated at Drummoyne Boys' School, Manly Technical High and Sydney Technical College, Douglas was employed as a photographic lithographic printer by Richard Hughes Ltd, Five Dock, Sydney when, in November 1941, he enlisted in the RAAF.

In August 1942 Douglas completed his aircrew training in Australia with the award of his Air Gunner badge, and in September 1942 he embarked for the UK.

Following advanced training at 7 Air Gunners School RAF Stormy Down, Bridgend, Wales, 26 OTU RAF Wing, Buckinghamshire and 1651 HCU RAF Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire, in July 1943 Douglas was posted to 214 Sqn at RAF Chedburgh, Suffolk.



On the night of 31 August/1 September 1943 Bomber Command was tasked with an operation against Berlin. A combined force of 622 aircraft were allocated to the op, including eleven 214 Sqn crews. Three squadron crews failed to return.

At 20:28 on 31 August Douglas, operating as the Air Gunner, and the crew departed RAF Chedburgh in Stirling III EE970 (BU-B).

Whilst over Berlin, Douglas's aircraft was hit by flak and caught fire. As the aircraft started to go down, the Captain ordered the crew to bale out.

On reaching for his parachute, Douglas found it on fire and unusable. Douglas wrapped his arms around another crew member and the two jumped together; however, when the parachute snapped open, Douglas was unable to hold on and his body was found a few days later in woods. The aircraft crashed at Charlottenfelde, Brandenburg, Germany. The pilot was also killed, the remaining crew were taken as POW.

Also killed: PO Kenneth John Simpson RAAF (Pilot)

Originally buried in Merzdorf, Germany, in August 1947 Douglas was moved to the Berlin 1939-1945 War Cemetery

Douglas is commemorated on Wall Panel 184

Photo Source: IBCC