

Sgt Douglas George Osborne 581526 RAF

Douglas was born in 1917 in Bromley, Kent, the youngest son of Arthur Osborne and Harriet Osborne nee Elsdon.

Douglas joined the RAF shortly before the outbreak of war and trained as an Observer. In June 1940 Douglas was posted to 21 Sqn at RAF Watton, Norfolk, shortly before they transferred to RAF Lossiemouth, Moray, Scotland on detachment to deter the German military from crossing the North Sea following the fall of Norway.

In October 1940 the squadron returned to RAF Watton, Norfolk. For the month of November, the squadron was operating from the RAF Watton satellite airfield of RAF Bodney, Norfolk.

On 26 November 1940, seven Blenheims from 21 Sqn were ordered to attack the power station at Cologne.

At 17:15 Douglas, operating as the Observer, and the crew departed RAF Bodney in Blenheim IV R3914 (YH). Of the seven crews, 3 attacked the primary target, 3 attacked the secondary targets including the docks and marshalling yards. Douglas and the crew failed to return.

At 23:35, whilst cruising at an altitude of 1500ft above sea level, the Blenheim crashed into the hillside at Middle End Moor, Middleton in Teesdale, close to Consett, Durham, killing all on board. All of the other squadron aircraft returned safely to base in Norfolk. Why the Blenheim was flying so far off course is unknown.

Also Killed: Sgt Harry Kenneth Collinge (Pilot); Sgt Albert Gordon Moore (WOp/AG)

Douglas is buried in Holy Trinity Churchyard, Donnington, Sussex

Douglas is commemorated on Wall Panel 221

Photo Source: Sussex Chronicle & Observer

