

Sgt Douglas Haig Randle 405454 RNZAF

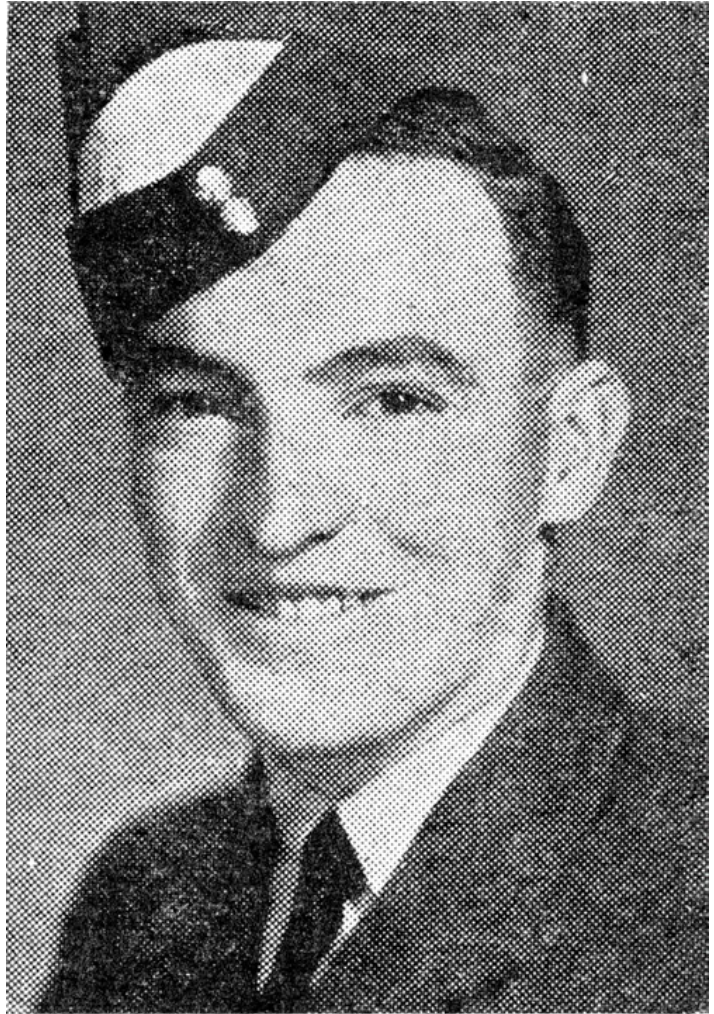
Douglas was born on 6 February 1919 in Dunedin, Otago, New Zealand, the son of John Daniel Randle and Elizabeth Cossar Daniel nee Sommerville.

Educated at the Otago Boys' High School, Douglas was employed as a law clerk by a local firm of solicitors in Dunedin when, in March 1940, he applied for aircrew duties in the RNZAF.

Called up in December 1940, after initial training in New Zealand, in May 1941 Douglas was sent to Canada under the Empire Air Training Scheme.

In September 1941 Douglas was awarded his Observer's badge and, after a further training course in Canada was posted to the UK.

Arriving in December 1941, Douglas completed his training at 11 OTU RAF Bassingbourn, Hertfordshire, and arrived on 75 (NZ) Sqn at RAF Feltwell, Norfolk in June 1942.



On 29 June 1942 Bomber Command were tasked with an op against the industrial target of Bremen. A combined force of 253 aircraft, with sixteen 75 (NZ) crews were allocated to the op.

At 23:25 Douglas, operating as Observer, and the crew departed RAF Feltwell, Norfolk in Wellington III X3539 (AA-T). Successfully attacking the target, extensive damage was reported in the industrial area of Bremen, with the Folke-Wolf factory and AG Weser U-Boat construction yard significantly damaged.

Whilst on the return, Douglas's aircraft was intercepted by Oblt Egmont Prinz zur Lippe-Weissenfeld of the 5./NJG 2 flying a Bf110 from Gilze Rijen. At 03:08 Douglas's aircraft crashed into the Waddenzee, south of Ameland, Friesland, killing all on board. This was Douglas's 5th op.

Also Killed: PO Walter Jack Monk RNZAF (Pilot); Sgt Murdoch Gordon McGregor RNZAF (AG); Sgt Ernest Francis Sydney Moncrief RNZAF (WOp/AG); Sgt John Gordon George Hegan (WOp/AG)

Douglas's body was recovered and he is buried in Westdongeradeel (Holwerd) Protestant Cemetery, Friesland, Netherlands.

Douglas is commemorated on Wall Panel 230

Photo Source: www.aucklandmuseum.com