

Sgt Douglas Alexander Ross R/176649 I

Douglas was born on 9 December 1914 in Inverness, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, Canada, the son of William Joseph Ross and Elizabeth Mae Ross nee MacDonald.

Educated at Morrison High School and St Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, Nova Scotia, Douglas was employed as a store clerk and salesman when, in July 1942, he enlisted as aircrew in the RCAF.

Douglas completed his aircrew training in Canada in April 1943 with the award of his Air Gunner badge, and he embarked for the UK the following month.

Following advanced training at 12 OCU RAF Chipping Warden, Northamptonshire and 1657 HCU RAF Stradishall, Suffolk, in July 1943 Douglas was posted to 218 Sqn at RAF Downham Market, Norfolk.

On 27/28 August 1943 Bomber Command was tasked with an op against Nuremberg, a major industrial and political centre. A combined force of 674 aircraft were allocated to the task, including eight 218 Sqn crews.

At 21:35 on the 27 August Douglas, operating as the Mid Upper Gunner, and the crew departed RAF Downham Market in Stirling III EF448 (HA-P).

On 28 August Douglas's aircraft was hit by flak, injuring Douglas and putting his turret out of action. Shortly later the aircraft was intercepted by Oblt Werner Husemann flying a Bf110 of Stab /NJG1 flying from Deelen airfield, Netherlands. The attack put the intercom, signal lights and the rear turret out of action. The pilot pulled the aircraft out of a very steep dive, and a few minutes later they were attacked from above which put the port inner engine on fire. The Navigator moved down the aircraft and signalled for the crew to bale out. The Rear Gunner and Wireless Operator, who had escaped through the astrodome, were the only crew members to escape, and both were taken as POW.

At 03:15 the aircraft crashed at Munstermaifeld, Mayen-Koblenz, Rhineland-Palatinate, Germany, 13 miles SW of Koblenz, killing Douglas and the rest of the crew.

Also killed: FS Noel Michael Davis RAAF (Pilot); Sgt John Curson (AB); Sgt Daniel Joseph Mullen RCAF (Nav); Sgt George Louis Terry (FE)

Originally buried in Munstermaifeld Cemetery, in February 1948 Douglas was moved to the Rheinberg War Cemetery, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany

Douglas is commemorated on Wall Panel 216

Photo Source: www.veterans.gc.ca

