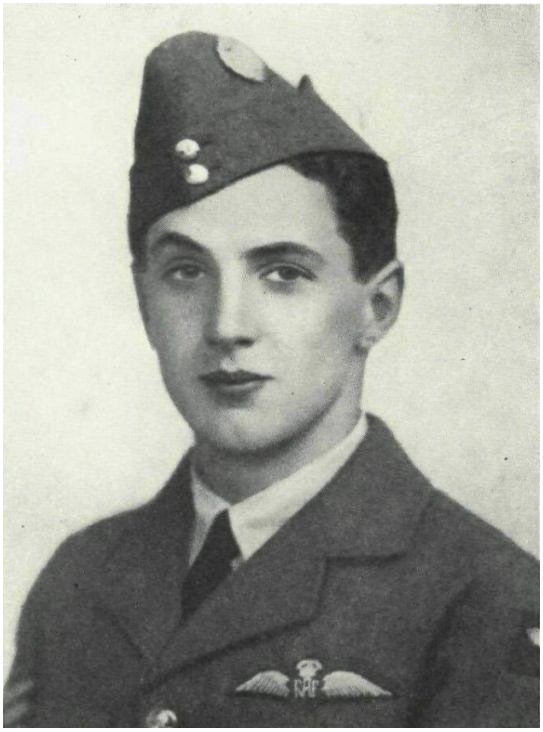
## Sgt Thomas David Weston Ross 740049 RAFVR



Thomas was born in  Oldham, Lancashire in 1918, the only son of Dr Thomas David Coulthard Ross and Isobel Weston Ross nee Black.

Educated at Oundle School, Peterborough between 1932-1936, he then studied Aeronautical Engineering in Manchester and Loughborough. He joined the RAFVR in 1937 where he trained as a Pilot.

During the Battle of Britain, Bomber Command had two distinct objectives - to deter the German Invasion Fleet from setting sail, and to attack and destroy shipping concentrated in the French Ports of Dunkirk, Calais & Ostend. More than 1,000 ships and barges were massed for invasion, including those at Antwerp, and 600 in the Scheldt estuary.

On 18 September 1940, the Germans were busy cleaning up the Channel ports from Calais to Antwerp after Bomber Command unleashed another successful night attack on the barges. It was the biggest operation yet by Bomber Command on the barge installations with 194 bombers involved. Maintaining the pressure, another raid was planned that night with a force of 174 aircraft tasked with bombing the Channel Ports. 107 Sqn contributed 12 aircraft to the mission.

At 1930, Thomas and his crew departed RAF Wattisham in Blenheim IV T1852 (OM) in the first wave of six aircraft. Intense, but generally inaccurate, anti-aircraft fire was experienced by the crews. Thomas and his crew failed to return and were believed to be lost over Calais.

Also killed were : PO Cyril Preston (Observer), Sgt William Hutchison Kilgour (WOp/AG)

Thomas has no known grave, and is commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial, Egham, Surrey

Thomas is commemorated on Wall Panel 235

Photo Source: https://oundle-heritage.daisy.websds.net/