

ROYAL AIR FORCE DEATHS

Leading Aircraftman Roderick George Lyall Mackenzie 1104259
Sergeant Douglas Macdonald 1118837
Aircraftman 2nd Class Ian Mackenzie 1361427
Flying Officer John Douglas Wallace 130163
Sergeant Robert William Fraser 616009

RODERICK GEORGE LYALL MACKENZIE

Leading Aircraftman (Pilot U/T) 1104259
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve
Died on 12th December 1940 aged nearly 18

Roderick was the son of Kenneth and Mary Mackenzie (née McDonald), of Ullapool who had married at the Crown Hotel Tillicoultry, Clackmannanshire on 17th November 1922, Kenneth (21), Tailor, bachelor, usual residence Crown Hotel, Tillicoultry - hotel proprietor. Mary Jessie McDonald (24), domestic servant, spinster, of West Terrace, Ullapool. Roderick George Lyall was born in 1923 at Tillicoultry, Clackmannanshire (Ref. 468/18).

The family lived in Custom House Street, Ullapool during WW2.

On 12 December 1940 Roderick was flying in **Audax I K7445** of No. 9 Flying Training School, based at RAF Hullavington, near Chippenham in Wiltshire. It crashed at Longbridge, Birmingham, and burnt out after hitting a balloon cable while lost.

The Pilot and crew were all killed:

BALDRY, KENNETH ALDRED, Sergeant, 741301, 23, RAFVR
CLATWORTHY, EDWARD ROBERT JOHN, Leading Aircraftman, 923468, 21, RAFVR
COLLINS, GILBERT ALAN, Sergeant, 742684, 23, RAFVR
MACKENZIE, RODERICK GEORGE LYALL, Leading Aircraftman, 1104259, 17, RAFVR
MARSTON, KENNETH JOHN, Pilot Officer, 83715, 22, RAFVR
PHILLIPS, STANLEY RICHARD, Leading Aircraftman, 1161590, 12/12/1940, RAFVR

Roderick is buried in Ullapool Parish Church in West Argyle Street



Photo: Roddie Macpherson

DOUGLAS MACDONALD
Sergeant 1118837
No. 42 Squadron, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve
Died on 11th May 1942 aged 28

Douglas's parents married on 16th July 1901 at Oban, - Hugh a labourer, and Catherine née MacColl. Douglas was born on 23rd October 1913 at 12 Nevis Road, Kinlochleven.

It is suggested that Hugh and Catherine were living in Ullapool during WW2 but moved away afterwards to Ardchattan.

Douglas is not commemorated on the Ullapool War Memorial but information below indicates that he was resident in this area, as is also confirmed by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

A few notes regarding Douglas's death have been found on a website www.rafcommands.com with the following messages.

"I know one of the crew was a chap called Douglas MacDonald, 1118837, and in a letter he sent home a week before he died he stated one of his crew was Australian."

"I have a photo of MacDonald along with a letter home written a matter of days before he was killed. He talks about his crew and how great they are, and how he can't wait for his next leave to bring them all back. He was from the Ullapool area so not a million miles from home. He also talks about being stuck in Wick after engine problems after an op but not being able to go and see a family friend up there."

Douglas was flying in a Beaufort when he was killed. Beaufort AW 366 was engaged on 11th May 1942, in a non-operational training day formation flight on light torpedo attacks, when it collided with AW310. AW366 crashed into the sea in flames after breaking in two in the Firth of Forth, Scotland. Two of the crew were killed and 2 were missing. The aircraft were formatting on a navex when they collided. AW310 'P' was badly damaged but returned to belly-land at Leuchars.

Crew:

RAF Sergeant B F J Page, Captain (Pilot)

RAAF 407899 Sergeant J L Jones, (Observer)

RAF Sergeant S Counsell, (Wireless Air Gunner)

RAF Sergeant D MacDonald,(Wireless Air Gunner)

Sergeant's Page and Jones are buried in the Leuchars Cemetery, Fifeshire, Scotland. Sergeant's Counsell and **MacDonald** have no known grave and their names are commemorated on the Memorial to the Missing, Runnymede, Surrey, UK on Panel 88.

The family gravestone is situated at Ardchattan Churchyard Argyll and Bute. Hugh died on 21st August 1951 aged 77 and Catherine 25th June 1935 aged 55. There were three other children Robert, Mary and Catherine who died in infancy. Also mentioned on the gravestone is Douglas. He is not listed on Ardchattan War Memorial in the church.

IAN MACKENZIE
Aircraftman 2nd Class 1361427
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve
281 Squadron
Died on 8th November 1942 aged 21



No.281 Squadron was formed on 29th March 1942 at RAF Ouston as an air-sea rescue squadron that served all around the British coast in a large number of detachments. It was equipped with Boulton Paul Defiants, then being phased out as night fighters. The squadron was intended to provide short range cover for



fighter command aircraft operating close to the British coast, and as such was part of Fighter Command.

Ian died of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and Tuberculous Meningitis in Bangour Hospital, Broxburn, West Lothian and is buried in **Lochbroom Churchyard** at Clachan.



Lochbroom Church

Photo: Clare Church

JOHN DOUGLAS WALLACE
Flying Officer 130163
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 57 Squadron
Died on 13th May 1943 aged 21



John was the younger son of Dr and Mrs Wallace, Ullapool, and was educated at Ullapool HG School and Inverness Royal Academy, where he gained the Leaving Certificate in 1939. Always keen on flying, he applied at the age of 17½ years for enlistment in the RAF. He was passed by the Selection Board but failed in his medical test. On the outbreak of war he again volunteered for an air crew, was eventually passed in grade 2 and was accepted as a fitter, in which capacity he served for 9 months. Again volunteering for an air crew, he passed fit and went to Florida for training and became a navigator. On returning to the UK he received a commission and after a brief spell in the Coastal Command was transferred to a Lancaster Bomber.

Photo courtesy of Ullapool Museum Trust

No.57 Squadron began the Second World War as a Blenheim squadron, and in September 1939 was one of the first RAF squadrons to move to France, where it operated as a strategic reconnaissance unit. On 13 January 1941 the squadron flew its first night bombing mission, the role it would continue to perform for the rest of the war. The Lancasters arrived in September 1942, by which time the squadron was part of No.5 Group. The squadron operated as part of Bomber Command's main force from then until the end of the war.

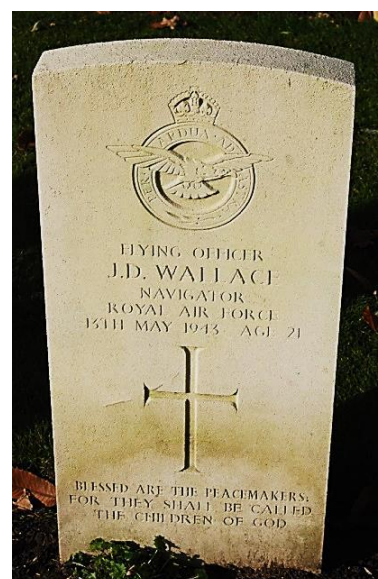
John was flying in an Avro Lancaster Mk I REG ED3297 Target: Duisburg
Call Sign: DX- Departure airport RAF Scampton. Take-off time: 2359, Crashed 0244. at
Maasneil, behind the brickworks factory, at Limburg, Netherlands
7 occupants, 6 fatalities, one taken prisoner. Aircraft written off, damaged beyond repair.

Crew:

Pilot F/O. V.A. Wilson 126985 RAF
Flight engineer Sgt. S. Laughlin 980462 RAF
Navigator F/O. J.D. Wallace 130163 RAF
Bomb aimer W/O P.G. Kehl 1335521 RAF Survived pow
Wireless Op/Air Gunner Sgt. R.B. Loveseed 1198322 RAF
Air gunner F/Sgt. C.L. Gerding R/115979 RCAF
Air gunner Sgt. A. Steel 1409336 RAF

Shot down by night fighter pilot Major Walter Ehle of the
Stab II./NJG 1, flying a Bf 110 G-4 from St Trond airfield,
Belgium

John is buried in **Jonkerbos War Cemetery** in Grave 24 D 4.



ROBERT WILLIAM FRASER

Sergeant 616009

159 Squadron, Royal Air Force

Died on 3rd February 1944 aged 23

Robert William Fraser was the son of Robert and Margaret (née Hendry), and husband of Isabel Fraser, of Mennock, Dumfriesshire. Robert Fraser and Margaret Hendry married on 4th April 1919 at Ord Farm, Invergordon (his home). He was a chauffeur (bachelor) aged 23. Margaret Elizabeth was a munitions worker (spinster) living at the same address.

Robert William was born in 1920 at Ord Farm. During his early years the family relocated to the Croy area, southeast of Inverness. Robert senior died of pulmonary tuberculosis on 5th July 1925 aged 29 years at Easter Galcantray, Croy, Nairnshire. The movements of Margaret and her son Robert William are not known until 1934 when she re-married on 8th March in Lochbroom Registration District, to Alexander Cameron, a widower, aged 46. Both Alexander and Margaret are listed as resident at Leckmelm, Alexander worked as a forester and Margaret a dairymaid.

Robert joined the Royal Air Force and was posted to 159 Squadron which was formed at Molesworth in England on January 2nd 1942. The ground crew served in the Middle East from February. 12th 1942 (without aircraft) and were then posted to India on May 10th, (still without aircraft). The squadron's aircraft were flown to Palestine in July 1942, from whence they carried out raids on North Africa, Italy and Greece before leaving for India on September 30th, with their first operation taking place on November 17th 1942. The squadron operated in SEAC (South East Asia Command) for the remainder of the war, flying bombing, mining, and reconnaissance operations over Burma, Siam, Malaya, Indo-China and the Dutch East Indies. The squadron only flew Liberator aircraft; Mk's II, III, V, VI, VII.

Robert married **Isabel Turnbull** (1920-1977) at St Ninian's Manse, Sanquhar, Dumfries (right) on 11th April 1942. His marriage certificate states he was a motor mechanic, Corporal, serving with the Royal Air Force, with home address at Leckmelm, presently resident at RAF Acklington, Northumberland. Isabel, a domestic servant, Assistant in the Navy, Army and Air Force Institute (NAAFI) lived at Mennock, Sanquhar.



It is not known when Robert arrived in India and the details of his death are scant. His death certificate states that he died at Digri, an airbase in West Bengal.

FRASER Robert William	Sgt. 616009 159 Sqdn.	23	Scotland.	3.2.44.	Digri, India.	Whilst on active service.
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He was buried at RANCHI WAR CEMETERY, India among 703 casualties, in plot 9.F.4. Ranchi is a town in the State of Jharkhand, 419 kilometres. north-west of Calcutta



Headstones arranged in a perfect geometrical symmetry at Rancho War Cemetery



Photo courtesy of Stephen Rogers

Isabel, now a widow, remarried on 4th June 1946 to John Hiddleston (1920-1986) at St Bride's Manse, Sanquhar, Dumfries. She was a housekeeper.

Isabel died in 1977 at Glasgow and her husband died in 1986.