



Thame Remembers



Sergeant Douglas Rolfe

Douglas Rolfe was born in Chinnor, on 17th November 1919. He was the son of Frederick Adams Rolfe and Lizzie Maud (nee Wilkinson), of Chinnor, Oxfordshire and attended Lord Williams's s Grammar School in Thame from 1931 to 1937. In 1939 he was living at home in Lower Road, Chinnor and working as a solicitor's clerk.

Douglas joined the Royal Air Force VR in September 1939 as a W/Op and served with 38 Sqn flying Wellington Mk1A & 1C bombers. The Sqn was initially engaged in bombing mainland Europe but relocated to Egypt in November 1940. They operated from RAF Shullufa from December 1940 where they flew night bombing raids against ports in Libya, Italy and the Balkans. In May 1941 the squadron received a communication from Air Officer Commanding in Chief, *"Please tell all personnel of your Squadron how deeply I admire the magnificent effort they have made during the last three weeks operations. We are passing through a critical phase of the war and it may well be that the blows struck by your squadron may prove to have a vital effect on the course of the war."*

Sergeant Douglas Rolfe of 38 Sqn died on 5th May 1941, age 21, although the circumstances are currently unknown. 911408 Sergeant Douglas Rolfe, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve is buried in El Alamein War Cemetery, Alexandria, Egypt. He is remembered in Thame on the Lord Williams's School Memorial Board and is recorded on the Chinnor War Memorial.



**The
Thame Remembers Cross
was delivered
to his grave on
19 February 2018
by
Mike Dyer**

