



Name: Roland Golding

Position: Flight Sergeant (navigator)

DOB-DOD: 1914- 16 March 1944

Roland joined the Engineering team for the Post Office in June 1942 as a Skilled Workman within the Telephone Manager Chester area.

We believe Roland must have been posted in to 76Sqn around the start of December 1943 based on a normal work-up time for a new crew before their first operation which took place in March 1944. It can be gathered that Roland joined the RAF at the height of the period known as the 'Battle of Berlin' (so-called after ACM Sir Arthur Harris' statement of intent to "wreck Berlin from end to end"). Losses were high during the 5-month campaign, accounting for almost 7% of all Bomber Command losses for the entire war.

Roland's crew were unusual in that they didn't fly any operations at all during February 1944, which may indicate that they were found to need additional training. However, on the evening of 16 March 1944, they failed to return home after operations. Squadron records report seven fighter attacks on aircrafts that did return, mostly directly over the target area during bomb release. 76Sqn gunners claimed 2 enemy aircrafts were also shot down on this night (information kindly provided by Graham Platt BT Technology).

Roland was remembered by his parents Roland and Nellie Golding; and his wife Phyllis Margaret Golding, of Coed Mawr, Caernarvonshire. Roland is buried in Durnbach War Cemetery, a small village in the south of German.

Roland is also recorded on a memorial situated in Bangor ATE. The poignant and heartbreaking inscription recorded in tribute to him on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission site is "DEAR THE MEMORY, SILENTLY KEPT, OF THE ONE WE LOVED AND SHALL NEVER FORGET".



76 Squadron History

First World War

No. 76 Squadron, RFC was formed at RFC Ripon, Yorkshire for home defense duties on 15 September 1916 in the Yorkshire area, having detachments at Copmanthorpe, Helperby and Catterick It was equipped with Royal Aircraft Factory B.E.2s and B.E.12s and, these being replaced by Bristol F.2Bs in 1918. The squadron disbanded at Tadcaster on 13 June 1919, having seen no action during this part of its service life. Despite this it is largely seen in the film "Aces High" by Jack Gold.

Second World War

The squadron reformed shortly on 30 April 1940 at RAF West Raynham as a Hampden unit before being disbanded on 2 May 1940. On 1 May 1941, the squadron reformed properly at RAF Linton-on-Ouse as the second Handley Page Halifax bomber squadron, part of the newly created No. 4 Group, RAF Bomber Command. The Squadron moved to RAF Middleton St. George in June 1941, returning to Linton-on-Ouse in July 1942. The squadron moving again, this time to RAF Holme-on-Spalding Moor in June 1943 as part of a policy to allow the newly formed Canadian 6 Group to use the better equipped RAF stations that had been built pre-war. The Squadron had a substantial number of Norwegian pilots and aircrew From August 1942 to April 1943, No 76 Squadron was commanded by Wing Commander Leonard Cheshire.

Halifaxes

76 Squadron Halifax at RAF Middleton St. George, later shot down attacking Magdeburg

