



COLDWATER REMEMBERS **F/SGT ROSS J.H. JOHNSTONE**

Born in Coldwater, Ontario, on January 12, 1924, Ross John Hugh Johnstone was the son of James and Jean (Doherty) Johnston of Coldwater. He was the seventh of eight siblings. He attended school in nearby Orillia, and was employed as a boiler maker for a year after his graduation.

Ross joined the Royal Canadian Air Force on March 30, 1943. He was 19 years old and single. On his Attestation Form, Ross is described as 5 feet 5 inches tall, with blue eyes and brown hair. He identified his religious denomination as United Church, and his previous employment as service station attendant. He had no previous military experience other than three years with the cadets (Signals Corps) while in school.



His first months were spent training as aircrew and air gunner at various RCAF stations including Fingal and Jarvis, in Ontario, and Valleyfield and Lachine, in Quebec. Then, Flight Sergeant Johnstone (RCAF service number R221221) proceeded overseas to serve as an Air Gunner on Lancaster bombers with No. 625 and, later on, No.170 Squadrons (RAF).

On February 23, 1945, Ross and his crew were on a mission to Pforzheim, Germany, when their Lancaster (PB 595) was shot down and crashed by the village of Mühlacker, near Stuttgart. Johnstone and two other crew members were killed, while four others managed to bail out, were taken prisoners, and returned home at the end of the war. Flight Sergeant Ross Johnstone was 21 when he died.

For his service to his country, Flight Sergeant Ross J.H. Johnstone was entitled to the 1939-1945 Star, the Aircrew Europe Star, the Defence Medal, the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal, and the 1939-1945 British War Medal.

Flight Sergeant Ross J.H. Johnstone is buried in the Durnbach War Cemetery, south of Munich, Germany. In Canada he is commemorated on page 528 of the *Second World War Book of Remembrance*, located inside the Memorial Chamber in the Peace Tower in Ottawa. He is also commemorated on the *World War II Memorial* in Orillia.

We will remember him.