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Royal Air Force



Douglas Southcott Hall

Royal Air Force

Service No. 798612

World War II

Born: 02 June 1920

Died: 29 November 2003

Place of Birth: Brigus, Newfoundland

Parents: Ernest Victor and Alice Edith (Lewis) Hall

Born in Brigus in 1920, Douglas was the first child of Ernest and Alice Hall. The 1921 Newfoundland general census shows Douglas then one (1) as the only entry as child for parents Ernest and Alice. The Halls appear to be quite well off as they have a live in domestic Sarah Dawe in their employ. She is just fourteen (14) years old.

By the time of the 1935 census, the family has moved to the neighbouring town of Bay Roberts, where Ernest is reportedly working as manager of the local bank, and the family has now increased to include Angus (Gus) and Helen. Another child Silvia came along later. Douglas is now twenty-three (23).

As World War II military service records are not available to the general public, it is rather difficult

to give an accurate account of Douglas' service. What is known is that he enlisted in the RAF (Royal Air Force) sometime early in the 1940's.

A 1943 notation in the UK London Gazette supplement number 36223 page 4723, dated 26 Oct 1943 provides information that Douglas had been promoted to Sergeant (Sgt) on 21 June 1943.

Another piece of information is found having to do with the M/T (motor tanker) Kaldfonn on escort duty from Clyde, Scotland to New York USA arriving on 09 Aug 1944. Douglas is on that ship as a radio operator. The M/T Kaldfonn is part of the Norwegian Merchant Fleet. It provided escort to tankers in a convoy HX-304 then from New York to Mersey, England. The Kaldfonn was armed with sixty (60) depth charges.



M/T Kaldfonn

Douglas married Florence (Florie) Mary Burt on 02 December 1944 in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Together they built a life in British Columbia and had two (2) children, David and Steve.

Florence passed away on May 31st, 1997, at age 76 in Parksville, British Columbia. Her and Douglas had been married for fifty-two years. Douglas passed in November 2003 at age eighty-three (83) in Parksville, Nanaimo, British Columbia

From Bay Roberts Guardian 13 Dec 1941

BAY ROBERTS AIRMAN RECEIVES BADGE

A Canadian Press dispatch to the Daily News on Dec. 9, datelined Lethbridge, Alberta, states: D. Southcott Hall, of Bay Roberts, Newfoundland was among the graduates to receive badges at No. 8 Bombing and Gunnery School here Sunday.

From Bay Roberts Guardian 20 Dec 1941

RECEPTION FOR SGT. DOUGLAS HALL MONDAY NIGHT

A reception for Sergeant Douglas Hall, who has completed his training in Canada for the Royal Air Force, and is now home on leave, will be held in the Public Building on Monday night, Dec. 22, at 8 p.m. A full attendance is anticipated, and a good time is assured all.

From Bay Roberts Guardian 20 Dec 1941

SERGT. D. HALL HOME ON LEAVE

Sergeant Douglas Hall has graduated from No. 8 Bombing and Gunnery School at Lethbridge, Alta., Canada, and is now qualified for service in the Royal Air Force overseas. He arrived here on Thursday to spend a short vacation with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. V. Hall, before proceeding overseas. His younger brother, Angus is now in training in Canada for the R.C.A.F. Ground Staff.

From Bay Roberts Guardian 18 Nov 1944

Flying Officer Douglas Hall, R.A.F. and his bride, the former Miss Florence Mary Burt of Winnipeg, Man., arrived here on Friday last on a visit to Douglas' parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. V. Hall. F.O. Hall, who has been 3½ years serving with the R.A.F. in North Africa and various European theatres, will shortly be returning to his unit, while Mrs. Hall will return to her home in Winnipeg.

From Bay Roberts Guardian 02 Dec 1944

F/O Douglas Hall, R.A.F. and Mrs. Hall left on Tuesday for Canada after spending their honeymoon here. Douglas will join his R.A.F. unit in Moncton and Mrs. Hall will proceed to her home in Winnipeg.

RECEPTION FOR R.C.A.F. BOYS HOME ON LEAVE

On Monday night, Dec. 22, a reception for Sergt. Douglas Hall and Aircraftsman Roy Myers of the R. A. F., was held in Snowden Hall. Despite the busy time with people doing their Christmas shopping, etc., there was a good attendance. Mr. Beth Mercer acted as chairman and Dr. Drover was master of ceremonies. Speeches were made by Revs. Torrville and Reynolds, and a presentation, on behalf of the W.P.A., was made by Miss R. F. Parsons, the President.

Mrs. J. D. Williams was in charge of the musical part of the programme and also sang an appropriate Christmas item. Mrs. Burke, Misses Fitzpatrick, Bellamy and Hillyard also contributed to the programme. A cup of tea was served and a very pleasant evening was closed with the singing of the National Anthem.

Following was the order of the programme:—

- 1.—Ode to Newfoundland.
- 2.—Chairman's Remarks.
- 3.—Solo by Miss K. Bellamy.
- 4.—Solo by Miss Susie Hillyard.
- 5.—Speech by Rev. H. Torrville.
- 6.—"There'll Always Be An England."