



Friends of RAF Skellingthorpe
(Home of No.50 & No.61 Squadrons)
Newsletter
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FIND US AT

Facebook—Friends of RAF Skellingthorpe (Home of 50 & 61 Squadrons)

www.friendsofrafskellingthorpe.co.uk (under construction 8/18)
www.no-50-and-no-61-squadrons-association.co.uk

OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS/REFERENCES

<https://www.helloblackswan.co.uk/>
<https://internationalbcc.co.uk/>

&

<https://internationalbcc.co.uk/history-archive/losses-database/>

Operation Failed to Return

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QNEMHp_c8Vg

<https://raflincolnshire.blogspot.com/2013/05/hidden-gems-of-housing-estate.html>

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the 5th edition of our newsletter for Friends of RAF Skellingthorpe. Previous newsletter can be viewed on our web site Unfortunately because of the current pandemic restriction little has been happening and this reflects on the content of the newsletter, We have however managed to get together one or two interesting stories to tide us over until the next edition. We do however welcome any stories from members for publication.

ED

CHAIRMANS REPORT

This has been a difficult year for everyone, least of all the “Friends of RAF Skellingthorpe”. Little has happened to report on, since our last newsletter.

We did manage to hold a service on Remembrance Sunday, all socially distanced, with minimum attendance. It was however videoed for Facebook by Scott Frances; you can



find it on our Facebook page and thanks to our Chaplain Kevin Hart for conducting the service.

A service was also held at the village memorial on the 11th November.

Little progress has been made on the airfield trail, although a lot of the concrete paths and access to the bomb dump have been cleared.

We grateful to the City of Lincoln Council for this and to Hill Holt Wood who did the work

Our Facebook page goes from strength to strength with more members every day. It proves to be a wonderful forum for discussion and research.

The memorial weekend was proposed for 5/6th June 2021. Because of the current lockdown, we do however have to consider how long it will last and what restrictions we might be under in June. We have thus decided that because of the uncertain future the event will be somewhat curtailed. To that end we will not be having anything on the Saturday, but the Sunday service will go ahead but planned around any restrictions there may be in place at the time. Let us hope we can get back to normal for 2022.

I would also remind everyone that subs of £10 are now due for 2021.

If you are in doubt as to if you are paid up, then please email me at m.connock2@ntlworld.com for details.

There is light at the end of the tunnel, although, at the moment, that tunnel seems to be rather a long one.
Stay safe

Mike Connock



THE BELGIANS REMEMBER THEM

We were recently contacted by Wilfred Burie who is president of the organisation “The Belgians Remember Them”. They are dedicated to remembering all the aircraft and crews that came down on Belgian soil. Many of these are from 50 & 61 squadrons. Wilfred explains that this came about when he became aware that no database existed for all the aircrew lost over Belgium. The web site was thus created to remember all these men. Many memorials have been erected and the work continues to commemorate and remember the aircrew.

He most recent is a memorial to the crew of Lancaster W4317, QR-R of 61 squadron. The aircraft on a raid to Pilzen, was shot down by a German night fighter and crashed near Givry, Hainault, with the loss of all crew.

<http://www.belgians-remember-them.eu/crash-hai-givr.php>

The organisation is supported by the Belgian government and it is expected that the memorial to this crew will be unveiled in 2022

You can follow this link to an excellent web site for more information on the crews concerned,

["Belgians Remember Them": Places of RAF aircraft's crashes \(belgians-remember-them.eu\)](http://www.belgians-remember-them.eu)

Copy and paste these link to your browser.

Other aircraft listed by this web site are for 61 squadron;

- Crash of Lancaster R5613-QR fallen to La Hulpe, on 3/06/1942

- * Crash of Lancaster JA695-QR-W fallen to Kievermont on 11/04/1944
- * Crash of Manchester L7470-QR fallen to Piringen on 07/04/1942
- * Crash of Lancaster PA165-QR-V fallen to Houffalize on 5/01/1944
- * Crash of Lancaster W4236-QR-K fallen to Marbehan on 10/08/1943
- * Crash of Lancaster R5734-QR-V fallen to Monin on 31/03/1944
- * Crash of Lancaster W4317-QR-R fallen to Givry on 17/04/1943
- * Crash of Lancaster LM454-QR-Z fallen to Melsele on 12/05/1944
- * Crash of Lancaster PD199-QR-C fallen to Verviers on 2/11/1944
- * Crash of Lancaster LL777-QR-S fallen to Ursel on 6/12/1944

Those for 50 squadron are;

- * Crash of Lancaster ED810-VN Fallen to Ekeren on 15/06/1943
- * Crash of Lancaster ED488-VN-N fallen to Hamont-Achel on 2/02/1943
- * Crash of Lancaster NE135-VN-F fallen to Bas-Oha on 13/08/1944
- * Crash of Lancaster ME441-VN-W fallen in Germany on 21/03/1945
- * Crash of Lancaster R5728-VN-L fallen to Braine-le-Comte on 30/07/1942
- <* Crash of Lancaster LM429-VN-C fallen to Oostvleteren on 11/05/1944
- * Crash of Manchester L7301-ZN-D fallen to Bree on 31/05/1942
- * Crash of Hampden L4097 fallen off coast on 10/09/1940
- * Crash of Hampden AE380-VN fallen off coast on 15/12/1941

These can all be found by searching on their web site by squadron

Mike Connock

1937 MORGAN AND 50 SQUADRON

This is an interesting story of the relationship of a Morgan car and the pilot of a 50 squadron Lancaster.



Last year David Jackson visited the Lincoln area with his 1937 Morgan car that he had been researching its history. He discovered that it had been rallied by pre war by John Frankland Heaton. Flying Officer Heaton was tragically killed on 4th June 1942 flying Manchester, L7432, VN-Z on a raid to

Bremen. The aircraft was shot down by a night fighter, (Oblt Victor Bauer, III, / NJG1) and crashed at Beekbergen. Four of the crew were killed and are buried at Apeldoorn (Ugchelen-Heidehof) General Cemetery .

David has been in touch with the Nephew of John Heaton, who still, has his flying log book..



J Heaton during train-



Researching the 1937 Morgan history he has found more information on the car.

Having been used for hill climb rallies by John Heaton.

Thanks to David Jackson for getting in touch and supplying the details.



As stated previously In this newsletter, some work has been done to the area around the bomb dump on the Birchwood side of the by-pass. This photo shows what has been done to clear the original access road to the bomb dump. Thanks to Danny Witty for the photo, originally published on our Facebook page.

