

LANCASTER R5610

OL-G

24-25/08/1942



Mission : Frankfurt

83 Sqn. : 14 Lancasters

Take off R5610 20.51h.

Crew R5610 :

Fl./Lt. O.R. Matheson RAF DFC (evd)

Fl./Lt. R.M. Buchan RAF DFC (kia)

Fl./Lt. J.W. Dicker RAAF (pow)

Fl./Sgt. W. Cubberley RAF (pow)

Sgt. P. Squires RAF (kia)

Sgt. E.V. Norman RAF (kia)

Sgt. H.D. Quintrell RAF (kia)

“We will remember them”

Crash report

Lancaster R5610 83 Squadron R.A.F.

During the night of 24/25 august 1942 the Pathfinders from 83 Sqn. took off on a mission to Frankfurt from their home base Wyton.

The weather conditions were very poor and the target was hard to find, many of the T.I.'s fell in to open territory to the West of Frankfurt.

By this time Lancaster R5610 had some problems with the batteries ,the pilot Fl./Lt. Matheson gave the order to his navigator Fl./Lt. Buchan to plot the fastest way back home.

Because of the bombing raid on Frankfurt the German night fighters from St.-Trond were on alert . Oblt. Barte was patrolling his sector when he got a call from his "Jägerleitoffizier" Fw. Rathmann that an enemy plane was entering "Raum 6A". Oblt. Barte set a course in his Bf 110 serialnr. G9-FM to find the intruder .

The crew of R5610 didn't know what hit them. From the first salvo of Barte's cannons their Lancaster was hit in the right fuel tanks and the wing was set on fire.

Sgt. Squires tried to put out the flames, but it was too late ,the plane exploded in midair .Only three men would survive this explosion.

The remains of the plane were scattered over a wide area close to the town of Morkhoven (Belgium).

Eyewitness report from Boni Wouters "Secret Army"

Boni recalls:

"I was alert that night, we heard the sound of the bombers . I took my binoculars and saw a plane explode, it was an enormous fireball . The main parts came down in the hamlet "Berteneinde" close to Morkhoven. I hid my bike and crawled to the bank of the river "Wimp" . I avoided the main road because of the possible presence of German guards. I went through the river to the other bank and used my whistle to search for survivors ,many pieces of debris were still on fire . Then I heard a noise and found one of the crewmembers , he was in a lot of pain. I couldn't move him because of his injuries (until this day I never find out what happened to this poor airman) . Then I saw the Germans arrive, I wished him good luck and ran to the bushes . From my hide out I could see the Germans take away the bodies . They were placed next to a barn.

The next morning there was a huge crowd to see what happened . I took some small parts from the crash site which I later gave to the family members on the day of the unveiling of the memorial "

From the Barte report:

23.57h. take off patrolling Raum 6A

01.32h. first call ground control

01.40h. second call ground control

01.46h. enemy plane shot down (exploded)

Crash site 1 Km. SE Morkhoven.

This crash report is put together by Benny Ceulaers with special thanks to Wim Govaerts, Luc Cox ,Chris Vanhee ,Thijs Hellings , Fam. Willems from Berteneinde and Boni Wouters (+)



Memorial on the crash site at Morkhoven



Photo's Benny Ceulaers

Lancaster R5610 photo's



Photo IWM



Photo Chris Van Kerckhoven

Crash site then and now

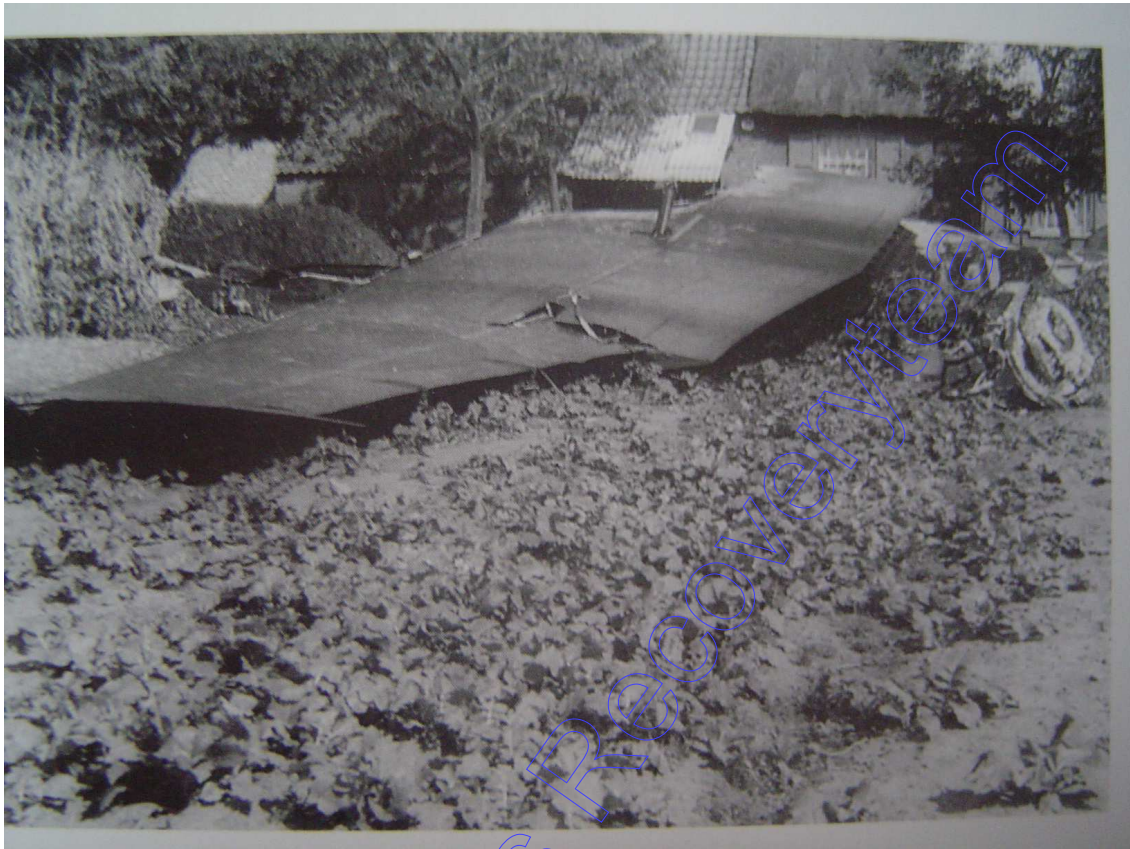


1942 photo Chris Vanhee /Barte



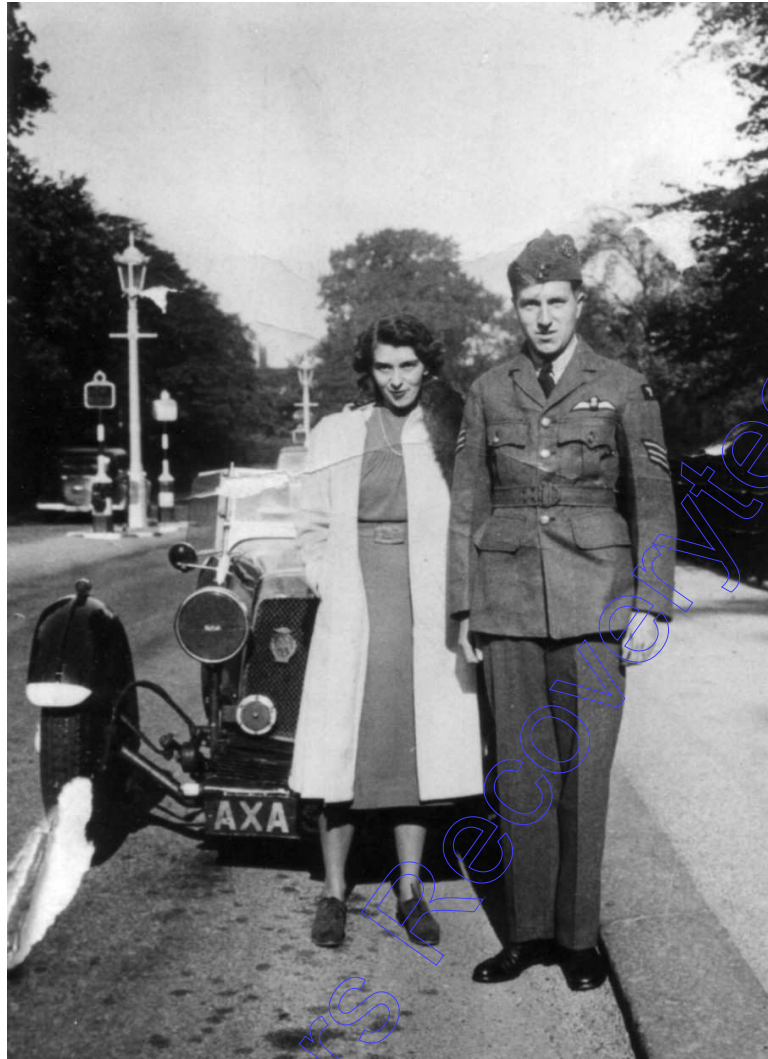
2009 same spot photo Benny Ceulaers

Crash site photo's 1942



Photo's Chris Vanhee/Barte

Crew photo's



Fl./Lt. Matheson



Sgt. Norman

Crew photo's



Fl./Lt. Dicker



Fl./Sgt. Cubberley



Sgt. Quintrell

Photo's Wim Govaerts

Night fighter Oblt. Barte



Oblt. Walter Barte and his radio operator Uffz. Pieper II./NJG1 and the BF110 at St.- Truiden airfield



Photo's Chris Vanhee/Barte