

2018

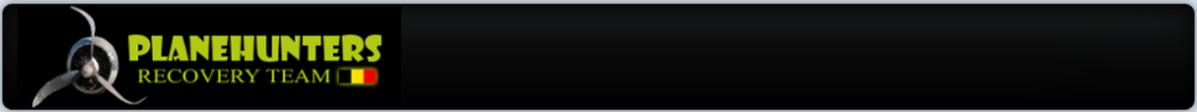
Halifax HR 719



Joop Hendrix

Han van Arensbergen

8/8/2018



1943

At 01.55 hour in the early morning of 12-06-1943 Halifax HR719 crashed in the neighbourhood of hotel "De Plasmolen" Mook Holland. From the crew 6 out of 7 were killed immediately.

Below the entry in the Operations Record Book from 158 Squadron.

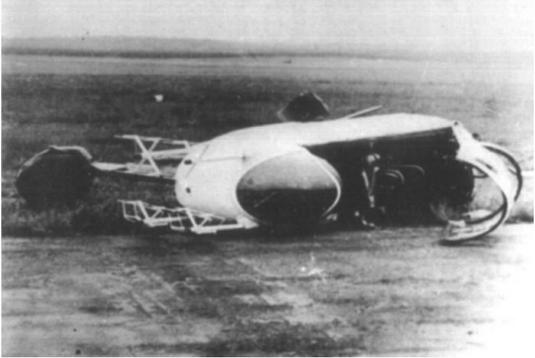
DETAIL OF WORK CARRIED OUT							
				BY No. 158 Squadron R.A.F.		SECRET	
				FOR THE MONTH OF <u>JUNE</u> 19 <u>43</u>		PAGE No. <u>137</u>	
DATE	AIRCRAFT TYPE & NUMBER	CREW	DUTY	TIME		DETAILS OF SORTIE OR FLIGHT	REFERENCES
				UP	DOWN		
11.6.43.	HALIFAX II "M" HR. 719.	Sgt. Pope, P.C.	Capt. (BORRIG)	23.10	MISSING	TARGET - DÜSSELDORF. Emergency. Load 1 x 1000 lbs. T.D.025. S.W. 540. 1 x 1000 lbs. X type 845 3789. Pilot. 600 x 4 lbs. 30 x 4 lbs. 48 x 30 lbs. T.B. 15.	Page 35
		Sgt. Potter, T.P.	Nav.			This aircraft took off at 23.10 since when nothing was heard from it.	
		Sgt. Showlar, R.A.C.	N/O.				
		Sgt. Lee, E.	N/O.				
		Sgt. Green, C.A.F.	N/O.				
		Sgt. Lev-Flaurie, F.C.	N/O.				
		Sgt. Glen, J.	N/O.				

The aircraft was on its inbound leg to the target Düsseldorf when it was attacked by a nightfighter out of Flugplatz Venlo. Major Werner Streib from 1.Nacht Jagd Geschwader 1. flew a new nightfighter the Heinkel 219 for the first time that night. He shot down 5 allied bombers including Halifax HR719 that night. On landing he crashed but he and his radio operator received just minor injuries. He survived the war with 68 aircraft shot down.

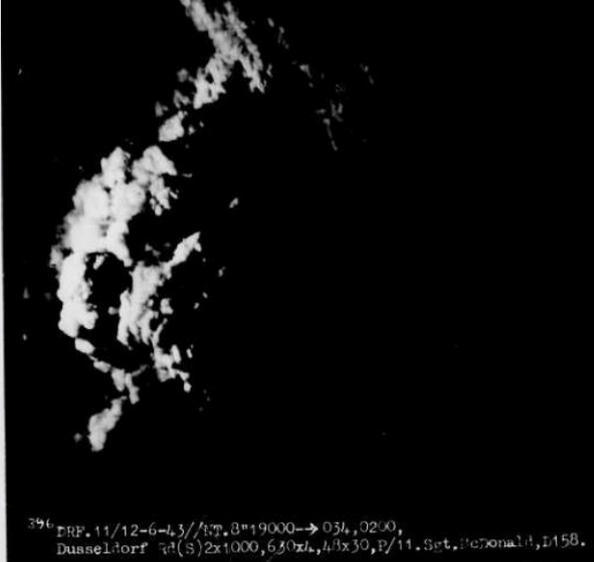


Major Werner Streib

The He-219 seen at Venlo and the crashed cockpit section of Streib's aircraft.



Some pictures from the target made by aircraft of 158 Sqn that night above Düsseldorf.



The Loss Chart with the essential information: note also the Cemetery's and grave numbers where the crew are buried.

Dutch Airwar Studygroup 1939-1945							Loss Chart on: T2420		
Day or Night of operation 11/12 Jun 43			Operation -				Target Düsseldorf		
Factory Handley Page	Aircraft Halifax	Mk II	Serial/Wnr. HR719	Call Sign NP-M	Unit 158 Sqdn	Air Force RAF	TO/t 2310	Airfield Lissett	
Time 0155	Cause of the Crash Shot down by NF Maj. W. Streib of Stab I/NJG 1		Crash Location Crashed near Plasmolen Mook			Damage	Province Limburg		
Source Chorley W.R. 'Bomber Command Losses 1943'			Mag / Page 178		Additional sources Archive H. Welting for cause				
Function	Mil Rank	Ini	Name	Hon	Mil reg	Air Force	Cemetery	Grave	Remark
Pilot	Sgt.	R.G.	Pope		1313650	RAF	Uden War Cem	5 H 13	
Flight engineer	Sgt.	A.	Glen		1370858	RAF	Uden War Cem	5 H 12	
Navigator	Sgt.	T.F.	Potter		1586102	RAF	Uden War Cem	5 G 1	
Bomb aimer	Sgt.	R.A.C.	Showler		1321156	RAF	Uden War Cem	5 G 3-4	
Wo ag	Sgt.	F.	Lee		1132146	RAF	Uden War Cem	5 G 3-4	
Air gunner	Sgt.	G.A.F.	Green		1467551	RAF	Amsterdam	69 B 21	Dow 18 Jun 43
Air gunner	Sgt.	F.G.	Lay Flurrie		613142	RAF	Uden War Cem	5 G 2	
Data on those who were killed from:						www.CWGC.org www.Volksbund.de www.abmc.gov		Design SGLO(V.1000104)	
						© Dutch Airwar Studygroup 1939-1945 / Studiegroep Luchtoorlog 1939-1945		Last update April 2018	

Documentation Research

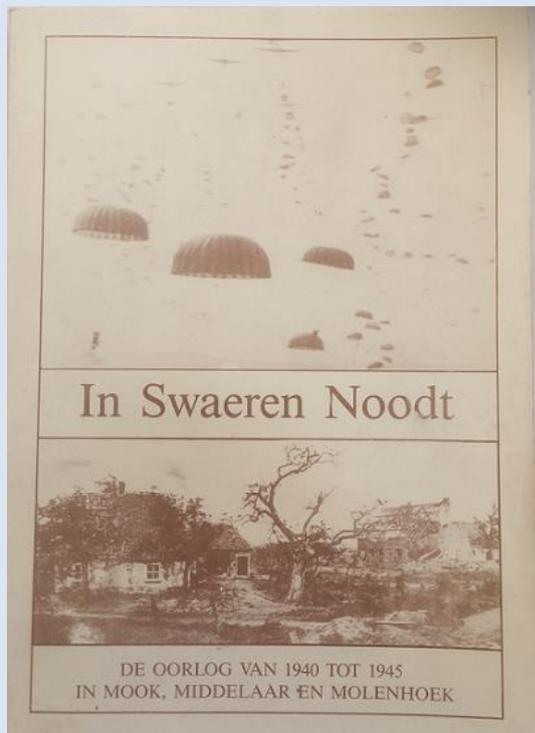
Chris van der Linden contacted me July 2018 and asked me to investigate the crash. He was in contact with 2 family members: Sally Anne Stif her uncle was Sgt. Lay Flurrie and Mike Laycock a cousin from Sgt.Lee.

Han van Arnsbergen and myself were actually in the process of investigating the crashes in Mook and Gennep when Chris made his request to me. Han had already lots of documentation from the crash.

Place	Date	Time
<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>RANK AND NAME</u>	<u>DATE POSTED</u>
		<u>TO 158 SQDN</u>
1237941	Sgt. Beavis, K.G.	
1313650	Sgt. Pope, R.G.	19. 5.43
613142	Sgt. Lay-Flurrie, FG	"
1586102	Sgt. Potter, T. P.	"
1132146	Sgt. Lee, F.	"
1370858	Sgt. Glenn, A.	"
1321156	Sgt. Showler, R.A.C.	"
1467551	Sgt. Green, G. A.F.	"

The document showing the crew's arrival date 19-05-1943 at 158 Sqn.

Han copied some pages from a local book about WW2 in the Mook area. Some witness reports talk about the crash of Halifax HR719.



Witness reports

Mr. Piet van Elsen was outside that night watching the skies above him with lots of aircraft activity going on, he was still a young boy then. He saw the Halifax bomber coming down after it exploded. The first thing he heard were the engine's plunging into the earth. The fuselage crashed about 10 meter from their house. There was 1 dead crewmember in front of their home. A little further down the road another crewmember was found dead, hanging in his parachute in top of a tree. Another 2 crewmembers were found dead about 200 yards North of the crashsite.

The tail of the aircraft with the turret came down behind Piets house close to the house of the Cousin family. 2 crewmembers were in that aircraft part and one was dead. Sgt Green in the turret was still alive but barely. He murmured some words and then lost consciousness. Piets family worked with saws to get him out of the turret and brought him into their house where they nursed him. In the morning the police came and the tailgunner Sgt Green was brought to the hospital in Arnhem and later to a hospital in Amsterdam were he died on 18 June 1943.

Another witness **Dorus Derks** who worked in hotel “De Plasmolen” (*the hotel burned to the ground in 2001 and does not exist anymore*) woke up from the noise and went outside. He found one of the crewmembers in the pond of the hotel and got him out of the water, unfortunately he was dead. One of the main wheels and part of the landing gear from the Halifax was lying close to the hotel as well a wing of the aircraft.

There is some original film footage about the war in the Mook area and a few fragments show one of the main wheels of the Halifax at the hotel and some remains of the aircraft out on the road. The link to the film is :

<https://www.gennepnu.nl/> Open *film* in the top row.

Then open: ***Gennep in de oorlogsjaren (1)*** and from minutut 2:04 untill minute 2: 34 the fragments are shown.

Below 2 pics taken from this film, a wheel from the main landinggear en big pieces of the wing that both came down at hotel “De Plasmolen”.





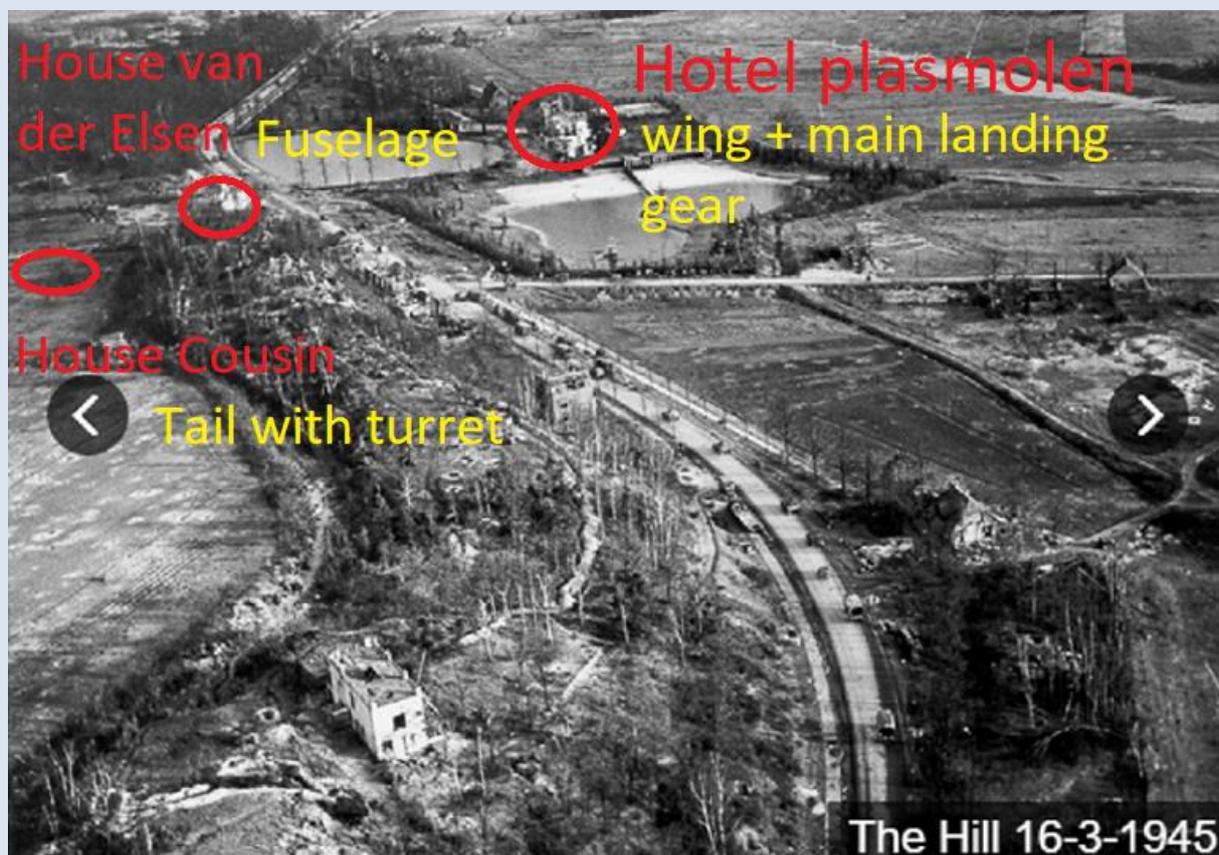
part of the wing

Also in the book an overview from the people living in that area around hotel “De Plasmolen” in 1944.



From this information combined with the story's of the witness's a overview picture from the crashsite could be reconstructed. With the emphasis on the location of the big parts that came down.

The picture used from the crashlocation is from March 1945.



The situation nowadays.



Begin august 2018 Sjaak de Veth and myself members from “Planehunters” went out with our metaldetectors and searched the area East of the house were the family van Elsen lived in 1943. **No remains of the aircraft could be found anymore .**

Some location pictures below, the pond from hotel “De Plasmolen”



Sjaak de Veth with detector across the old home fom Piet van Elsen.



www.Planehunters.be and on facebook as well “Planehunters Recovery Team Begium”.

