

“Lest we forget”



Today **77 years** ago on *18 November 1943* the '**Battle of Berlin**' begins.....

The RAF 101 squadron Lancaster **LM370 SR-K2** took part as a *ABC* equipped Lancaster in the first massive raid of the “**The Battle of Berlin**” on *18-19 November 1943*.

Berlin was the main target, and was attacked by 440 Lancasters aided by 4 Mosquitos. Few German fighters intercepted the Bomber force, 9 Lancasters were lost.

Berlin was that evening completely cloud-covered and both marking, and bombing were carried out blindly. Bomber Command could make no assessment of the results; many bombs fell outside the city and the local report lists some minor damage and loss of some farms.

On its return flight from **Berlin** the Irish pilot, Flying Officer **Charles Patrick McManus** and his crew, flying the Lancaster **LM370 SR-K2** were attacked at *23.12 hrs.* close to **Schoonebeek** and shot down by the German night fighter pilot Feldwebel Rudi Frank flying a JU 88 of 2./NJG 3.

The Lancaster **LM370 SR-K2** crashed after a severe mid-air explosion in the field close to **Schoonebeek** and the entire crew lost their lives, parts of the aircraft were scattered over a large area.



C.P. Mc Manus
Pilot
Ireland
KIA

K. Jones
Flight Engineer
England
KIA

G.D. Spyers
Navigator
England
KIA

G.P. Herman
Spec.OPS
Canada
KIA

A.E. Rosen
Wireless Operator
England
KIA

B.K. Petyt
Air Bomber
England
KIA

C.H. Downs
Air Gunner
England
KIA

G.H. Gittins
Air Gunner
England
KIA

Let's keep the remembrance alive of what Flying Officer **Charles Patrick McManus**, Sergeant **Kenneth Jones**, Flying Officer **Guy Dermot Spyers**, Warrant Officer 2nd Class **George Philip Herman**, Sergeant **Anthony Ezra Rosen**, Flying Officer **Barry Kingsley Petyt**, Sergeant **Charles Harold Downs** and Flight Sergeant **George Herbert Gittins (DFM)** did for our freedom.

All crew members of **Lancaster LM370 SR-K2** are buried in the Commonwealth War Graves section of the Municipal Cemetery at **Schoonebeek** in the Netherlands.

"For they did give, so we might live.
And hear their stories told.
Remember now the nations' youth.
Who gave, and grow not old."

Rest in Peace.