

“Lest we forget”

Today **73 years** ago on *18 November 1943* the '**Battle of Berlin**' begins.....

The 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 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 much damage and loss at farms.

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



C.P. Mc Manus
Pilot
Ireland

K. Jones
Flight Engineer
England

G.D. Spyers
Navigator
England

G.P. Herman
Spec. OPS
Canada

A.E. Rosen
Wireless Operator
England

B.K. Petyt
Air Bomber
England

C.H. Downs
Air Gunner
England

G.H. Gittins
Air Gunner
England

Let's keep the remembrance alive of what **Barry Kingsley Petyt, Anthony Ezra Rosen, Charles Harold Downs, George Philip Herman, Guy Dermot Spyers, Kenneth Jones, George Herbert Gittins** and **Charles Patrick McManus** did for our freedom.

The entire crew of **Lancaster LM370 SR-K2** is buried on the cemetery in **Schoonebeek** in the Netherlands.

Rest in Peace.