

“Lest we forget”



Today 77 years ago, in the night of *25th-26th of March 1942*, the air battle continues and Bomber Command increase the campaign of strategic bombing against **German** cities.

The **214 RAF Squadron Vickers Wellington Z1143 BU-G** with its crew took off from **Stradishall** airfield near **Haverhill**, for their fatal mission. After a 11-day break in major operations, Bomber Command dispatched 126 aircraft for the second major attack on **Essen**.

The force comprised: 254 Wellington's, Stirling's, Hampden's and Manchester's aircraft, 7 aircraft failed to return and were lost, 2.7 % of the force.

The bombing force encountered heavy Flak at the target area and many night-fighters on the routes. Hits on the *“Krupps works”* and fires in **Essen** were claimed but the raid was actually another failure on this difficult target and the effective **German** decoy fires near **Rheinberg** drawn many bombers from their actual target.

The **Wellington Z1143 BU-G** was on its route homewards from their target **Essen**, with the Australian pilot **Pilot Officer Eric William Cuthbert Creed** and his crew, when they were attacked close to the **Dutch/German** border by the **German** night-fighter pilot Oberleutnant *Herbert Lütje* flying a Bf 110 or Do 215 B-5 of the III/NJG 1 from Luftwaffe airbase **Twente**. Oberleutnant *Herbert Lütje* was guided from Luftwaffe radar *Himmelbett* sector 4A to the **Wellington Z1143 BU-G**.

The **Wellington Z1143 BU-G** crashed at *23.50 Hrs.* close to **Vriezenveen** in **The Netherlands** after the attack of the **German** night-fighter. None of the six crewmembers could bail out in time and unfortunately no one didn't survived the attack and crash.



E.W.C. Creed
Pilot
Australia
KIA



W.W.R. Norton
2nd Pilot
Australia
KIA



W.I. Christsen
Navigator
Australia
KIA



A.F.M. Emms
1st WOP / AG
England
KIA



J.R. Payne
2nd WOP / AG
England
KIA



A.P. Mair
Airgunner
England
KIA

Let's keep the remembrance alive of what **RAAF** pilot **Eric William Cuthbert Creed**, **RAAF** 2nd pilot **William Wynes Robey Norton**, **RAAF** navigator **Walter Irvine Christsen**, **RAF** 1st wireless operator air gunner **Albert Frederick Mons Emms**, **RAF** 2nd wireless operator air gunner **John Routledge Payne** and **RAF** air gunner **Alfred Peter Mair** did for our freedom.

The entire crew is buried in the Commonwealth War Graves section on the cemetery in **Vriezenveen** in **The Netherlands**.

Rest in Peace.