



Hændelsesforløb

# Flystyrt ved Karlsminde, Tranerodde på Als under 2. verdenskrig, den 23. april 1944



A WW2 Event

Efter en luftkamp med et tysk jagerfly, Messerschmitt Bf-110 fra NJG-3 blev et engelsk bombefly, den 23. april 1944, klokken ca. 2320 skudt i brand over Nordals.

Flyet kom fra vest ind over Svenstrup og det brændende fly prøvede at nødlande ved Karlsminde, hvor det fortsatte ud i vandet mod øst og sank et par hundred meter ud for kysten.

Flyet var et Halifax Mk V med betegnelsen LL 235 og tilhørte 77 Squadron, Royal Air Force. Det var startet kl. 2100 fra basen Elverton i Midt-England med sin 7-mands erfarne besætning og havde til opgave at udlægge miner et sted i Østersøen. 2½ time senere mødte de deres skæbne her på Als.

Haleskytten Sgt. D.M.M.Harris var heldig at blive reddet af en lokal fisker Chr. Hansen og Erik Agergaard efter at have ligget i vandet mere end en ½ time.

Sgt. Harris kom i tysk fangenskab og overlevede krigen. Hændelsen er beskrevet i Jydske Tidende den 30. april 1972. Sgt. Harris har besøgt stedet 10 år senere.

Piloten F/Lt. Edward N.Thompson blev fundet den 27.april i vandet ved flyvraget.

Topskytten Sgt. Roy Redall blev fundet den 31.maj på stranden ved Himmark.

Begge blev begravet i Aabenraa.

Navigatoren P/O Gerald Mc Clelland drev i land ved Assens og ligger begravet der.

Radio operatøren F/Sgt.Frederick W.Harvey drev i land ved Faaborg og ligger begravet der.

Maskinisten Sgt. J.Armstrong blev aldrig fundet.

Bombeskytten F/O Alfred E.Robbins blev heller ikke fundet officielt, men meget tyder på det var ham der drev i land ved Havnbjerg Skov.

Hans identifikationsmærke var fjernet og han ligger derfor begravet i Aabenraa som ukendt.

Dele af flyvraget inklusiv ombordværende miner blev kort efter hævet, men mange vragsdele ligger nu tilsandet på havbunden. En af propellerne blev den 9.april 1972 hævet af sportsdykkere.

Dette er den 6. og sidste mindesten rejst over de 48 allierede flyvere, som blev dræbt på Als under 2.verdenskrig.

Æret være deres minde.

## Royal Air Force



### 77. Squadron

## Bombeflyet Halifax V LL235 med betegnelsen KN-L

### Besætningen (crew):

Pilot	Flight Lieutenant	Edward N. Thompson	DFC
Navigator	Pilot Officer	Gerald McClelland	DFM
Bomb Aimer	Flying Officer	Alfred E.Robbins	DFC
Wireless Operator	Flight Sergeant	Frederick W. Harvey	
Flight Engineer	Sergeant	J.Armstrong	
Mid Upper Gunner	Sergeant	Roy Redall	

### Overlevende (survivor):

Rear Gunner	Sergeant	D.M.M. Harris	POW
-------------	----------	---------------	-----

DFC = Distinguished Flying Cross  
DFM = Distinguished Flying Medal  
POW = Prisoner of war = krigsfange

Halifax V LL235 part of 77 Squadron based at Elverton, England was shot down by a German night fighter, a Messerschmitt Bf-110 from NJG-3, over Northern Als on 23rd April 1944.

Above the village of Svenstrup an explosion occurred in the aircraft and it crashed into the sea at Karlsminde, about 200 meters offshore and 500 meters northwest of the light house at Tranerodde.

Halifax V LL235 took off at 21.00 hours on a mine laying mission (gardening) in the Baltic Sea. Three and a half hours later the crew met their fate on this island.

The rear gunner Sgt. D.M.M. Harris was lucky. He was saved by a local fisherman, Chr. Hanson and two other eyewitnesses after having spent more than half an hour in the cold water. An ambulance was taking Sgt Harris to Sonderborg hospital but the Germans stopped the vehicle and took him to the barracks in Sonderborg. He was later sent to the prison camp Stalag Luft VI at Heydekrug, Germany.

The body of the pilot, Flight Lieutenant Edward N Thompson, was found on 27th April in the water at the wreck of the aircraft.

The body of the mid-upper gunner, Sgt Roy Redall, was found 31st May on the beach at Himmark. Both airmen were buried in Aabenraa cemetery.

The navigator, P/O Gerald McClelland was washed ashore near Assens on the other side of the straight. He was buried in Assens.

The wireless operator, F/Sgt Frederick W. Harvey was washed ashore near Faaborg and buried there.

The Flight Eng. Sgt J. Armstrong was never found.

The bomb aimer F/O Alfred E. Robbins was not officially found as his identification may have been removed but a body was washed ashore near Havnbjerg Forrest and buried in Aabenraa cemetery as 'Unknown'. This may have been F/O Alfred E. Robbins.

Parts from the aircraft wreck, including mines were removed soon after the crash but many parts still lay on the seabed.

A propeller was retrieved from the wreck in 1972 by sports divers and is now preserved.

This is the last memorial stone raised for 48 allied airmen who perished on this island Als during World War 2

“They made the sacrifice supreme  
So that you and I may go  
In peace, with freedom  
To sit and dream”



Halifax V LL235 77 Squadron RAF med besætning og jordpersonale apr.1944