

Lancaster EE138 from RAAF No. 460 Squadron.

Shot down on the night of September the 3rd 1943.

On the night of September 3rd 1943 the Royal Air Force carried out a major bombing raid on Berlin. The mission included 316 Lancaster bombers and 4 Mosquitoes.

After the bombing raid on Berlin, the bombers continued further eastward in order to avoid German air defence. Then the planes turned north, and after passing the southern part of neutral Sweden they were flying upwards along the Swedish west coast.

Further plan was to go west and north of Jutland and return to England. According to the plans a major part of the route lay across water, where the risk of being shot down was a little less.

In this mission the bombers were going out to the limit of their range. RAAF Lancaster EE138 among others was forced to fly across Jutland on its return route flight because it was running out of fuel. The plane came from east and flew out over the coast at Houvig. At that time the crew probably breathed a sigh of relief when they saw the North Sea below.

At the German fortifications 'Kryle' and 'Rigelnatter' by Houvig the German anti-aircraft guns opened fire, and the large four-engine Lancaster must have been hit. Therefore it returned shortly after, probably to avoid crashing into the sea.

When Lancaster EE138 returned it was hit again, and a fire broke out in the plane. Shortly after the Lancaster now totally on fire crashed into the ground and exploded in the impact.

In 1943 the area west of Stadil was wetland and swamps covered in reeds. Shortly after the crash the only reminding to be seen was a large water filled hole at the crash site. Thousands of pieces

from the wreckage were scattered about in the area. The aeroplane wreck and crew had disappeared into the soft ground, where crew and all parts of the plane still are resting.

When Lancaster EE138 was shot down it was the planes seventh raid. All members of the eight-man crew were killed in the crash, and they are still buried deeply in the soft ground at the crash site together with the reminds of the bombe plane.

Short time after the crash the local population erected a wooden cross bearing the inscription: 'In memory of allied airmen.'

The Lancaster bomber crew - eight young airmen.



Sgt. H.F. Jowett.
Sgt. J. Coomers.
Sgt. A. Rolfe.
Sgt. E. Thirkettle.
S/Ldr. C. Kelaher.
F/O. S.M. Forrester.
Wt/O. C. Walsh.
Wt/O. E. Carthew.

RAF Squadron No. 460 (Royal Australian Air Force) was formed in England in November 1941. Four months later the squadron was fully operational. In October 1942 the squadron was equipped with Lancaster bombe planes. During the war 460 Squadron carried out a great number of missions against enemy Germany.

In 1949, the mother of one of the dead crewmembers wanted to see the place, where her son's plane crashed. She was deeply touched

at the sight of the cross out in Stadil Meadows. When the people out there saw her so affected by this, they decided to erect a commemorative stone at the crash site.

The memorial stone was unveiled on May 5th 1950, day of fifth anniversary of Denmark's liberation. (*

*) Bent Anthonisen, Ringkøbing. Poster (text) at memorial.

RAF-memorial at Stadil.

Newspaper: Jyllands Posten, September 5th 1993.

Memorial service for eight perished RAF airmen.

At a special remembrance service in the church and a ceremony out at place for the stone almost half of the inhabitants from the parish of Stadil were participating. Australia and England were represented by ambassadors.



Photo: P. Stroyer.

Ambassador J.R. Bruess at the Stadil-memorial. Crash site and grave with eight fallen RAF-flyers.

The local people were gathered for a remembrance service held for eight allied airmen. They were killed, when their bombe plane, Lancaster EE138 from RAAF No. 460 Squadron had couth fire after been hit badly by German anti aircraft from the near by forti-

fication at Houvig. The Lancaster crashed close to Stadil Fjord on September the 4th 1943.

Veterans from Danish Resistance, Royal Air Force representatives and ambassadors were represented. First there was a memorial service in the church. After that there were laying of wreaths out at the crash-site. Finally all participants were gathered in the town hall.

The people out at Stadil wanted to show, that allied efforts and losses during the world war were not forgotten.

Half of the perished RAF airmen came from Australia. They had gone to Brittany to fight against the Nazi's and Germany.

The German fortification at Houvig.

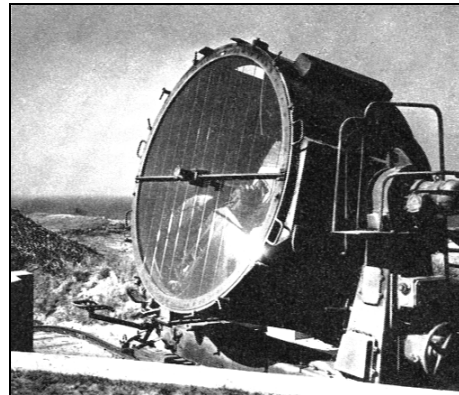
Along the Jutland west coast the Germans were building very strong fortifications with many types of heavy guns up to calibre 35 centimetres. The 'Kryle' and 'Rigelnatter' were well armed with light and very heavy anti-aircraft guns up to calibre 8,8 cm.



Around the fortification and radars at Houvig were build barracks for the soldiers. The big radar-tower is seen in the background. Barbed wire and mine fields were spread out everywhere. After the war it was a real big and tough job to find the mines in the dunes, where the windy coast mostly has drifting sand from time to time.



Jutland west coast with German tank blocking behind the dunes. In the terrain were also mine fields.



German searchlight at west coast.



Heavy 8,8 cm anti-aircraft gun at Houvig.

Edition and layout by: Arne Mosgaard, Herning.
Mail: arnemosgaard@hotmail.com



The RAF Memorial Stadil - Denmark.



RAAF No. 460 Squadron.



RAF Memorial and grave at Stadil Meadows.

Inskription:

*For at ære deres Minde og værne om deres Grav
rejste Beboerne i Stadil denne Sten den 5. Maj 1950.*

*To honour their Memory and protect their Grave
the people at Stadil sat up this stone on May the 5th 1950.*

