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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Allied bomber crew commemorated**

**Next Sunday it will be 73 years since a bomber was shot down at Karlsminde on Als. An air crash that cost the lives of all of the crew except one man.**

On that occasion a memorial ceremony is carried out at the memorial stone to the fallen airmen

**on Sunday 23rd April 2017 at 10:00 at the memorial stone at Karlsminde, North Als**

The memorial stone is placed some 200 metres from the place where the bomber crashed into to sea on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1944.

This year First Lieutenant J.P. Rasmussen of "Hjemmeværnsdistrikt Syd og Sønderjylland" will make the memorial speech, and after the speech he will lay the bunch of flowers from the Army. There will also be laid flowers by the Archive of Local History for the Parish of Svenstrup, the Municipality of Sønderborg, and others. Personnel of the Air Force Home Guard will attend the ceremony. The memorial ceremony is carried out by The Contact Committee for Military Traditions in the Sønderborg area that comprises 19 societies. A number of them bring their standards.

The commemoration of the 73rd anniversary is a cooperation between the Archive of Local History for the Parish of Svenstrup, the Home Guard and the Hounsgaard brothers. Back in 1944 the Halifax bomber that later crashed was heading for the Baltic Sea to lay mines. It took off from RAF Elvington in Mid England at 21:00. A little more than 2½ hours later it was spotted over Danish territory by German radar stations, and a night fighter was dispatched.

The German night fighter found the British bomber and shot it ablaze. The British pilot presumably attempted to make a forced landing in the fields at Karlsminde, tragically ending some 200 metres into the sea. All of the crew drowned except the rear gunner, who was rescued and taken to land by two citizens of the area, fisherman Christian Hansen and Erik Agergaard.

Everybody is welcome to participate in the commemoration of the 73rd anniversary in honour of the Allied aircrew.

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