



77 SQUADRON ASSOCIATION

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77 SQUADRON 100TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION



Veterans Bill Ball, Jeff Strain and Ted Matthews cut the cake at our 77 Squadron Association 2016 Reunion Dinner to celebrate 100 years since the Squadron was formed in 1916



OPERATIONS RECORD

13 FEBRUARY 1945

Target – Bohlen. Braunkohle-Benzin Synthetic Oil Plant.

Load : Aircraft A, B, C, G, H, J, K, M, R, U, V, W, X, Y, Z

2 x 1000lb ANM59. 8 x 500lb ANM64

Load: Aircraft L, N, O, S, T

8 x 500lb ANM64. 4 x 250lb GP TD 0.025

Load: Aircraft D

2 x 1000lb ANM59. 6 x 500lb ANM64. 2 x 500lb MC

Camera – All aircraft, 29 secs delay, 3' f/tilt, day camera in Aircraft H

Opposition and general remarks

The flares were rather scattered and a large explosion was seen but no other results were observed. There was only light flak opposition in target area. There were no combats and no flak damage. This was a big mission with 21 aircraft from the squadron. At least six of the pilots have been members of our Association.

Halifax III. MZ803 KN 'G'

Flt Sgt A G Simmons, Pilot; Flt Sgt J C R Bignell, Navigator; Flt Sgt R E Nicholas, Bomb Aimer; Sgt J Swain, Wireless Operator; Sgt G Robinson, Flt Engineer; Sgt J A Hubbard, Mid Upper Gunner; Sgt H J Vidamour, Rear Gunner.


Up at 1845 hours. No news received from this aircraft since take off. How this aircraft met its end is not known, however all the crew were killed and are buried in Berlin 1939-1945 War Cemetery, where the Rear Gunner occupies grave 5.G.9. The remainder are buried together in a collective grave 5.G.10-15.

Halifax III. PN379 KN 'H' 'Y' Type

Flt Lieutenant J P Braund, Pilot; Flying Officer J Ritchie, Navigator; Flying Officer A Wood, Bomb Aimer; Flt Sgt M Eddleston, Flt Engineer; Sgt D S Watson, Mid Upper Gunner; Sgt R E Russell, Rear Gunner.

Up at 1815 hours. Down at 0250 hours.

Target was bombed on green glow on cloud at 2202 hours from 17,400 feet. There was a ground haze. Two large explosions were seen.

 "In connection with a minelaying operation on the night before 15 February 1945 a "Halifax" crashed into the sea somewhere south of Zealand. All of the crew perished." (FAF) The crash was maybe [about here](#). See [photo of a propeller from this plane](#). See [Google Map p396](#).

The airmen of **HAL MZ924** are buried in [Skælskør \(1\)](#), Brarup (2), Stubbekøbing (1), Svinø (2) and Bogø (1). 7 airmen.

John Prower Braund was buried in Skælskør. His brother Marwood Paul Braund (never found) is also remembered there.