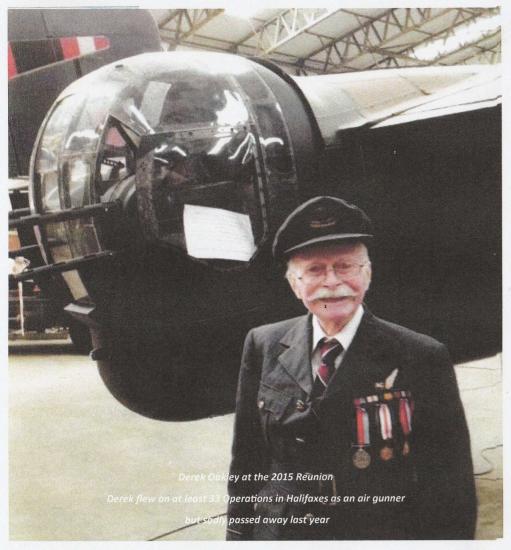


77 SQUADRON ASSOCIATION NICKEL NO 59 SPRING ISSUE 2017



This date has been selected to commemorate our member *Derek Oakley*, rear gunner in the crew of *CJC Manning*. The mission also included the *Braund* twins, who were both to lose their lives before the war was over.

Target - Hanover. Area bombing

Route – Base – Hornsea – 5400N 0500E – Enemy coast – 5306N 0700E – 5250N 0900E - Target – 5150N 0912E – 5220N 0705E – 5210N 0420E – Southwold – Base

Load: Aircraft F, H, K, U, Y, D, O

10 x 500lb ANM64, 6 x 500lb GP

OPERATIONS RECORD

Aircraft A, B,

5 JANUARY 1945

2 x 1000lb ANM59. 11 x No 14 Cluster I.B.

Aircraft J, L, T, W, X, P, C

1 x 2000lb HC. 11 x No 14 Cluster I.B.

Camera - All aircraft, 29 secs delay, 3' f/tilt, day camera in D

Opposition and general remarks

The attack was successful and the bombing was well concentrated but with slight undershooting. Flak opposition was slight to moderate and with being directed to some extent at flares. One of our crews is missing.

Halifax III. MZ379 KN 'H' 'Y' Type

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

Up at 1645 hours. Down at 2150 hours.

Target was bombed on centre of 3 R/P flares at 1922 hours from 18,500 feet. A glow on cloud below flares was seen.

Halifax III. MZ769 KN 'U' 'Y' Type

Flt Lieutenant M P Braund, Pilot; Flying Officer A J Hewett, Navigator; Flying Officer J A Masheder, Bomb Aimer; Sgt L F Connell, Wireless Operator; Sgt G Rutherford, Flt Engineer; Sgt J Donaldson, Mid Upper Gunner; Sgt D Atkinson, Rear Gunner.

Up at 1700 hours. Down at 2220 hours.

Target was bombed on 2 R/P flares at 1925 hours from 17,800 feet. Red glow was seen on cloud.