

From David Whiting 27 September 2023 with thanks to Lars Hansen, Verner Pedersen and others about James Forsey's tour to Denmark as told by Jim Hoff:

- And thank you Lars for chasing the newspaper report and Verner for James' great reception.

Lars FaceTimed me this sunny morning in the Algarve to explain that he had asked for the report on your expedition to Vesterlund, by Jim Hoff, the journalist.

Anyway, Lars spoke to Jim again, and as you see the link from their archives is here:

<https://www.voreslokalavis.dk/nyheder/engelske-james-cyklede-1100-kilometer-for-at-besoege-sin-oldefars-mindesten>

Lars tells me that Jim has followed the annual activities at [the memorial](#) and I met him during my last visit 22 May 2014. (More about [Lancaster LL950](#), [the 7 airmen](#) and [Vesterlund 1944 – 2019](#) on [AirmenDK](#) - ABS)



## Engelske James cyklede 1100 kilometer for at besøge sin oldefars mindesten

AF JIM HOFF [jimhoff@voreslokalavis.dk](mailto:jimhoff@voreslokalavis.dk) 05. AUGUST 2023

My Danish is not so good, so I asked Google for a translation:

# **Englishman James cycled 1,100 kilometres to visit his great-grandfather's memorial stone**

AF JIM HOFF 05. AUGUST 2023.

The actual meeting between James and his great-grandfather was of course touching, but the meeting was also highlighted by the fact that James Forsey had made the trip from England to Vesterlund - by bicycle.

It turned into a trip of 1100 kilometres, where the start of the iron horse, after a trip by ferry from England, went from the port city of Hook of Holland a little south of Rotterdam.

In connection with the moving and historic meeting between James and his great-grandfather, James had been in contact with Verner Pedersen, who is one of the faithful guardians of the memorial stones in Vesterlund. In the run up to the meeting at the memorial stones, Verner, with the help of good friends, had made sure that things looked good at and around the memorial stone when James arrived.

In this connection, Verner has received a message from James Forsey, in which the Englishman thanks for the warm hospitality in Vesterlund.





*"Thank you very much for meeting me yesterday at the crash site. It was a very special experience, and after 7 days of solo travel on my bike, it was a fantastic way to end the trip. Not least, it was a great experience to be invited to coffee and pastry with Niels Vestergaard and his wife Lis in their house afterwards, said Forsey.*

*"It is absolutely fantastic that you have all managed to keep the memorial stones so well preserved after all these years. Being there on the spot really gave me a sense of belonging to my great grandfather. He and the team on the plane made a huge sacrifice for the sake of our future, and it all just became extremely relevant, as Max (James' great-grandfather, ed. <https://www.airmen.dk/a014240.htm> ) was the same age when he died as I am today.*



After the historic meeting in Vesterlund, James Forsey took the train back to Hamburg, and he is looking forward to making the trip to Vesterlund again to meet Verner and Niels – and his great-grandfather's memorial.



James Forsey together with Verner and Niels at the memorial stones in Vesterlund.





After the visit to his great-grandfather's memorial stone, James was invited to coffee and pastry with Niels Vestergaard and his wife Lis. Photo: James Forsey







Also see: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TSgaWc5Tr1c&ab\\_channel=LarsHansen](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TSgaWc5Tr1c&ab_channel=LarsHansen)

Congratulations James, and thank you again to Lars, Verner, Niels and all the team who make our occasional visits so memorable.

David.



Thanks to James Forsey for photos for this article

and to David Whiting for his photo some years ago.  
See the full photo and more on [DW+Medals](#) on [AirmenDK](#).

Pilot Officer [Jack Maxwell Whiting](#) was the Flight Engineer of [Lancaster LL950](#) that crashed near Vesterlund in Jutland, Denmark, on 22 May 1944. See [the big memorial stone](#) and [stones to the 7 airmen](#) on [AirmenDK](#).

[Jack Maxwell Whiting](#) was awarded 3 [British campaign medals](#):

[1939-45 Star](#) with [Bomber Command Clasp](#) \* [Air Crew Europe Star](#) \* [War Medal 1939-1945](#), see [Perkins](#).

Here worn by his son David Whiting seen at [East Kirkby](#) where his father flew from in front of "[Just Jane](#)" used for the [Lancaster Take Ride Experience](#).

**David Whiting** added:

"I wear my father's medals on the **right** side of my blazer as they are not medals that I earned, but were those of a close relative (my father). He would have worn them on the left side if he had survived."