

Historien om et amerikansk bombefly nødlanding ved Skærtøft under 2. verdenskrig

Den 24. maj 1944, kl. 14:25 nødlandede det amerikanske bombefly "Stormy Weather" 100m nord for dette sted i lavningen i marken.

Flyet var af typen B-17G "Flyvende Fæstning" og tilhørte 351st Bomb Group, 8th U.S. Air Force og var stationeret på luftbasen Polebrook i England.

Lederflyet "Stormy Weather" havde denne dag været på et togt over Berlin, da det blev ramt af motorstop på flere motorer.

Flyets pilot, capt. Robert Clay overlod ledelsen af gruppens 18 fly til et supplerende lederfly og søgte med besætningen alene tilbage mod basen i England efter at have kastet sin bombelast.

Over Helgoland blev en tredje motor ramt af FLAK skyts og flyet vendte om for at søge mod Sverige.

Da flyet passerede Als var flyvehøjden så lav at en nødlanding blev nødvendig. Over Lillebælt drejede flyet ind over Nordals og piloten gav besætningen ordre til at forlade flyet.

8 besætningsmedlemmer sprang ud med faldskærm over Svenstrup, og Piloten og co-piloten nødlandede flyet på kun en motor under dramatiske omstændigheder.

Hele besætningen overlevede tysk fangenskab i Stalag III og vendte hjem til USA, da krigen var slut.

I taknemmelighed for jeres indsats under 2. verdenskrig for befrielse af Europa er dette mindesmærke sat.

Mindesmærket er udført af EUC – Syd

Stormy Weather



8. U S Air Force



351. Bomb Group

Besætningen på B-17G 42-38005 "Stormy Weather" 351. Bomb Group J USAAF

GRAD	NAVN	FUNKTION	HJEMSTED
Capt.	Robert B. Clay	pilot	Brigham City, Utah
i.Lt	Frank Hatten	co-pilot	Ranger, Texas
i.Lt	Marshall R. Pullen	navigator	Pittsburg, Texas
i.Lt	George W. Arnold	bombeskytte	Seattle, Washington
T/Sgt	Charles B. Jilcott	tårnskytte	Spokane, Washington
T/Sgt	Frank H. Belsinger	radiooperatør	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
S/Sgt	Daniel H. Surprise	venstre sideskytte	Wichita, Kansas
S/Sgt	Franklin L. Travis	højre sideskytte	Newton, North Carolina
S/Sgt	Michael De Marie	bugskytte	White Plains, New York
i.Lt	James H. Wimmer	agterskytte	Omaha, Nebraska

On the 24th May 1944 the American bomber 'Stormy Weather' made a crash landing in the field hollow which is 100 meters north of this place.

The aircraft was a B-17G 'Flying Fortress' and was part of the United States 8th Air Force, 351st Bomb Group, based at Polebrook, England.

The lead aircraft for this day (Stormy Weather) was on a mission to Berlin when trouble occurred with two of the four engines.

As the aircraft lost height, the pilot, Capt. Robert Clay handed over the leadership of the group to the aircraft, second in command.

Capt. R. Clay ordered to drop the bombs and decided to return to his base in England.

Over Helgoland a third engine was hit by FLAK and as the pilot found it impossible to cross the North Sea with only one active engine, he turned the aircraft and set course for Sweden.

When the aircraft passed the island of Als its height was so low that a landing was essential. Above Lillebælt the pilot turned the aircraft towards Northern Als and ordered the crew to bail out. 8 of the crew bailed out over the village of Svenstrup but as Capt. Clay had no parachute he and the co-pilot 1st Lt Frank Hatton crash landed 'Stormy Weather' under dramatic circumstances with only one engine running.

The entire crew survived as POWs in the prisoner of war camp, Stalag 3 and returned to the USA when the German's capitulated and the war in Europe ended.

This monument has been raised in gratitude for your efforts during World War II and your contribution to the liberation of Europe.



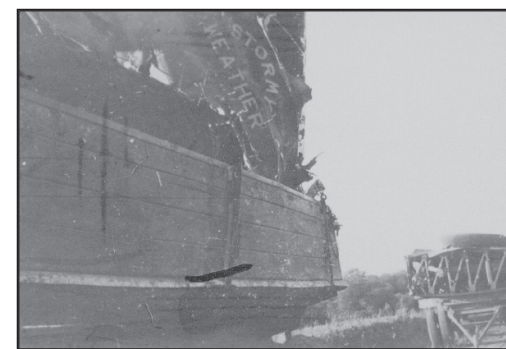
Stormy Weather under optankning på basen i Polebrook i England.



Første foto efter Stormy Weather's nødlanding, den 24. maj 1944.



Skrotning af Stormy Weather - Myrholm i baggrunden.



Stormy Weather læsset som skrot køres til smeltovnen.