

Visit to the memorial stone in 2010

By Helge Christiansen

On the night 20 – 21 April 1943 a Stirling bomber crashed at Kongsmark and 7 airmen perished. One bailed out and evaded to Sweden. It was the Canadian Donald Smith. He was here together with his wife in 1993, when he unveiled the memorial stone.

All of the 7 perished airmen were buried in Svinø Churchyard on South Zealand.

Among them was the English Squadron Leader Wilfred Blake. He used to be an instructor in flying and he had joined the crew as an extra man to learn more about bombing raids. It was his fourth bombing raid and it turned out to be his last. He was married and the father of a girl, 3 weeks old. He never managed to see her. He lived to the age of 28.



This daughter is now a lady, 66 years old, and she lives in Canada. She and her children and grandchildren, 11 persons altogether, visited us on 4 May. They also went to see the memorial stone and the place where her father perished. One of her grandchildren, a boy 10 years old, was lucky to find a piece of metal from the plane. In the evening all of them attended the memorial service at Svinø.

Wilfred Blake was the eldest of 8 brothers and sisters, and his youngest brother and a sister were also among the 11 who visited us, so 4 generations were gathered.