

Commemorative words by Gunnar Hounsgaard
at the memorial stones at Broballe.

Welcome to all present here today 29 January 2007.

If we go 63 years back in time my brother and I were standing with our father outside the co-op, which is down there.

I had just become 17 years and my brother was close to 19 years.

It was a little before 02:30 and there was heavy overflight - -
700 bombers were on their way to Berlin ("The great city" as the airmen called it.)

Suddenly we hear a plane throttling and de-throttling the engines, and then they stop. – We had not heard any bursts from guns, but a clanking sound like from a collision.

We were aware that something was wrong, and as we see a plane in flames coming out of the clouds we realize the danger and rush into the house to get down into the basement behind the shop.

I run in front through the hall and 2 living rooms and down into the shop. When I suddenly see an enormous glimpse of fire I throw myself down behind the counter and feel 3 detonations.

I look back for my family and see the rooms lit by the explosions and blinds and curtains are horizontal due to the air pressure from the explosions.

We continue into the basement, where we stay till the noise from planes stop. As we get up from the basement the rooms are lit by glare from the crash site, and a heavy stench of fuel has spread all over the area.

Next morning when we get out into the field we see parts of bodies and of the plane scattered around the big crater from the explosion.

The tail part with the two oval rudders tells it was a Lancaster.

Behind the dairy 2 airmen lie dead on the ground. They had bailed out too late for the parachutes to be released.

Today we commemorate the 2 crews, whose names are on these two memorial stones. 10 Englishmen, 3 Australians and 1 Canadian.

Allied airmen, who here on the northern part of Als gave their lives in the battle for the liberation of Europe – and that we about 1 year later were able to celebrate the liberation on 5 May 1945.

THEY SHALL NOT BE FORGOTTEN – ALL HONOUR TO THEIR MEMORY.