

### **Lancaster III LM479 crashed Dejbjerg 30/8 1944.**

Cyril was an air bomber in 101 Squadron. The crew took off in Lancaster LM479 SR-F from Ludford Magna on 29 August 1944 on an operation to Stettin providing ABC support.

The crew were:

Pilot F/O Thomas Foster RCAF

Flight Engineer Sgt George F Gibson

Navigator F/S Alfred R Chalmers RCAF

Air Bomber F/O Samuel A MacKenzie RCAF

Wireless Operator/Air Gunner P/O Hubert J Linn

Air Bomber P/O Cyril Cousin Special Operator

Air Gunner Sgt Andrew Stewart

Air Gunner W/O William Owen

On the return flight LM479 was attacked by a German night fighter and crashed at Dejbjerg. Apparently, it exploded in the air and crashed in the fields belonging to Kjærgaard farm at 03:58 hours. The night fighter was a JU 88G-1 of 6/NJG 3 piloted by Oberleutnant Rudolf Szardenings.

After the crash the Wehrmacht buried what could be found of the crew next to the crash site. On 7 September the Wehrmacht had finished collecting the metal from the Lancaster and had left the area. Two Danish police constables then searched the area and realised that the Germans had not been very thorough in their search for the crew and a search was organised under the command of Captain Kisbye of C.B.U. in Herning. Several body parts were found and together with the contents of the 'German' grave were placed in four coffins and taken to the cemetery in Dejbjerg where members of the resistance had dug a grave. During the search at the crash site two ID tags had been found and these were now given to the Vicar to keep until the end of the war when they could be used to identify the crew members. The tags read OWENS W and T FOSTER. To Fosters tag was attached a good luck charm.

On the 14 September 1944 at 19:30 a ceremony was held by Vicar Hans Pedersen and the crew were laid to rest.

Thanks to Soren Flensted for allowing the information from his website at <http://www.flensted.eu.com/>