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At no time were we able to pin-point a ground feature, and thus we had no way of calculating our ground speed. After some hours, the pilot was asked to try to windmill the port outer engine propellor. It was from this engine that the power for the Gee radar was sourced. The pilot was successful in freeing the propeller to turn and from this energy, a very weak single signal was obtained from Gee. The Gee chart indicated that the signal could be identifying Southern England but the data was so weak as to be unreliable and indeed it was discarded. No secondary signal which could have given a fix, was discernable. The propeller was feathered. Height continued to diminish.

Shortly afterwards, the W/O observed a flashing beacon transmitting its call-sign in morse. The whole of the U.K. was net-worked with such beacons and there was a chance that we were indeed nearing home. The W/O was unable to identify the beacon from his code book and this confirmed that we were still over enemy territory. At this time, an orbit of the area was made just in case a ground location could be identified. To everyones initial delight, an airfield <sup>\*</sup>revealed itself with flare and perimeter lights fully on. The Navigator hopefully keyed a standard S.O.S. on the downward recognition light located under the centre fuselage aft of the wings. The appearance of an illuminated arrow brought swift recognition that this was an enemy airfield, and offering a crippled aircraft, safety and sanctuary. The westward course was hastily resumed.

A considerable time had elapsed since leaving Berlin and all hands were primed to spot a coast line, visibility having improved. The highly broken coast-line and waterways around the south of Rotterdam was picked up by the Navigator and for the first time a true position was established. Almost at once, as if reluctant to let it go, the attack resumed. There was concentrated and very accurate Flak which literally peppered the aircraft, mainly hitting aft of the main spar. Our height at the time was well within accurate AA range and the enemy made the most of it. The sounds of impact were quite different from the Berlin assault.

Continued/

\* who was also a qualified wireless operator