

Air crash at Karlsminde, Tranerodde, Als during World War II 23 April 1944

Bomber Halifax V LL235 (KN-L)



77. Squadron

Royal Air Force

Crew:

Pilot Flight Lieutenant **Edward N. Thompson** DFC

Navigator Pilot Officer **Gerald Mc Clelland** DFM

Bomb Aimer Flying Officer **Alfred E. Robbins** DFC

Wireless Operator Flight Sergeant **Frederick W. Harvey**

Flight Engineer Sergeant **J. Armstrong**

Mid Upper Gunner Sergeant **Roy Redall**

Survivor:

Rear Gunner Sergeant **D.M.M. Harris** POW

DFC = Distinguished Flying Cross
DFM = Distinguished Flying Medal
POW = Prisoner of war = krigsfange





Halifax V LL235 77 Squadron RAF med besætning og jordpersonale apr.1944

A WW2 Event

The Halifax V LL 235 was shot down by a German nightfighter, a Messerschmitt Bf-110 from NJG-3, over northern Als the 23rd of April, 1944.

Above the village Svenstrup an explosion occurred into the aircraft, and it crashed in the sea at Karlsminde about 200 metres offshore and 500 metres northwest of the light house at Tranerodde.

The Halifax V LL235 belonged to the 77 Squadron and it took off at 21.00 hrs from the airbase Elverton in Mid-England. The mission was mine laying (gardening) in the Baltic Sea. Two and a half hour later the crew met their fate at this island.

The rear gunner Sgt D.M.M. Harris was lucky. He was saved by a local fisherman, Chr. Hansen and two other eyewitnesses after having spent more than half an hour in the cold water. An ambulance should bring him to the hospital in Soenderborg, but the Germans pulled up the ambulance and took Harris to the barracks in Soenderborg and he was later sent to a the prison camp Stalag Luft VI at Heydekrug in Germany.

The body of the pilot, Flight Lieutenant Edward N. Thompson, was found the 27th of April in the water at the wreck of the aircraft.

The body of the mid upper gunner, Sergeant Roy Redall, was found the 31th of May on the beach at Himmark.

Both were buried in Aabenraa.

The navigator P/O Gerald Mc Clelland was washed ashore by Assens on the other side of the strait. He was buried in Assens.

The wireless operator F/Sgt Frederick W. Harvey was washed ashore by Faaborg and was buried there.

The flight eng. Sgt J. Armstrong was never found.

The bomb aimer F/O Alfred E. Robbins was not official found, but it seemed as it was him who was washed ashore by Havnbjerg Forrest. His identification was removed and he is buried in Aabenraa as unknown.

Parts of the plane wreck included mines were shortly after the crash removed, but many parts of the aircraft still lays on bottom of the sea.

A propeller was in April 1972 saved by sport divers and is preserved.

This is the last memorial stone raised for 48 allied airman who perished on this island Als during World War 2.

**They made the sacrifice supreme
So that you and I may go
In peace, with freedom
to sit and dream**