

On May 21, 1944, at 21.57 o'clock, the bomber, Lancaster ND960, took off from the Royal Air Force station in East Kirkby, East England, with a seven-man crew. It was to take part in a mine deployment operation in the Bay of Kiel.

When Lancaster ND960 had crossed Jutland and started the approach over the southern part of the Little Belt, it was attacked at a height of 4300 meters by the German night fighter Bf 110G-4. On May 22, at 00.27 o'clock, an air raid warning sounded in Assens and heavy shooting was then heard from the sky above Emtekær.

At 00.44 o'clock, Lancaster ND9600 was hit and crashed on Nakke Skovgård's field where one of its mines exploded with tremendous power. The entire crew died. Ten minutes later another mine exploded – probably set off when Jørgen Andreas Brandt, who worked on the nearby farm Hjorte Nymarksgård, came nearer to help possible survivors. He was killed on the spot.

The German Wehrmacht closed off the place. The bodies of the two British flyers, the marksman, Harold de Gray Griffiths, and the rear gunner, Cyril J. Woodmas, were found 500 meters from the scene of the crash, and body parts were scattered within a radius of several kilometers. The next day, the German Wehrmacht made sure to bury the killed flyers at Assens Cemetery. After the war, the rest of the crew were identified: pilot Arthur T. Richards, Sergeant Arthur W. Bugden, navigator William T. Woodall, bomber George Ferguson and Sergeant Thomas Edwards.

A local committee set up the memorial stone and unveiled it on the two-year anniversary of the crash. Thereafter it was made over to Tanderup Parish Council. Today Middelfart municipality sees to the care of the grounds.

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