

**“Lest we forget”**



Today **75 years** ago on *18 November 1943* the '**Battle of Berlin**' begins.....

The RAF 101 squadron Lancaster **LM370 SR-K2** took part as a *ABC* equipped Lancaster in the first massive raid of the “**The Battle of Berlin**” on *18-19 November 1943*.

**Berlin** was the main target, and was attacked by 440 Lancasters aided by 4 Mosquitos. Few German fighters intercepted the Bomber force, 9 Lancasters were lost.

**Berlin** was that evening completely cloud-covered and both marking, and bombing were carried out blindly. Bomber Command could make no assessment of the results; many bombs fell outside the city and the local report lists much damage and loss at farms.

On its return flight from **Berlin** the Irish pilot Flying Officer **Charles Patrick McManus** and his crew, flying the Lancaster **LM370 SR-K2** were attacked at *23.12 hrs.* close to **Schoonebeek** and shot down by German night fighter pilot Feldwebel Rudi Frank flying a JU 88 of 2./NJG 3.

The Lancaster **LM370 SR-K2** crashed after a severe mid-air explosion in the field close to **Schoonebeek** and the entire crew lost their lives, parts of the aircraft were scattered over a large area.



C.P. Mc Manus  
Pilot  
Ireland  
KIA

K. Jones  
Flight Engineer  
England  
KIA

G.D. Spyers  
Navigator  
England  
KIA

G.P. Herman  
Spec.OPS  
Canada  
KIA

A.E. Rosen  
Wireless Operator  
England  
KIA

B.K. Petyt  
Air Bomber  
England  
KIA

C.H. Downs  
Air Gunner  
England  
KIA

G.H. Gittins  
Air Gunner  
England  
KIA

Let's keep the remembrance alive of what Flying Officer **Charles Patrick McManus**, Sergeant **Kenneth Jones**, Flying Officer **Guy Dermot Spyers**, Warrant Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class **George Philip Herman**, Sergeant **Anthony Ezra Rosen**, Flying Officer **Barry Kingsley Petyt**, Sergeant **Charles Harold Downs** and Flight Sergeant **George Herbert Gittins (DFM)** did for our freedom.

All crew members of **Lancaster LM370 SR-K2** are buried in the Commonwealth War Graves section of the Municipal Cemetery at **Schoonebeek** in the Netherlands.

**Rest in Peace.**