

Gerard finally knows who he brought away

- English version – concept 001 -

07 Aug 2019 - 10:19 am

Vollenhove - After more than 76 years, 92-year-old Gerard Huisman from Blokzijl finally knows the name of the aviator who came knocking on the parental farm "de Werf" just outside Blokzijl on August 24th, 1943.

It was the Wireless Operator Sgt. Albert E. Henry (RAFVR) from Grimsby, who, together with four crew members of the Lancaster LM333, jumped out of the burning aircraft above the Noordoostpolder / Noordwest Overijssel. Eventually the aircraft crashed with two more crew members on board near Bergen (NH).

After the successful landing, Henry approached hiding-farm "de Werf" of Wicher Huisman, just outside Blokzijl (Steenwijkerweg 2). The family never knew who this crew member was, says his son Gerard. Huisman says that as a 16-year-old he brought the Englishman, after intervention by veterinarian Drijfhout who spoke English, by bicycle to the station in Steenwijk.

Leapfrog

Incidentally, that was about a kind of leapfrog; cycling for a kilometer and then walking again. They never sat on a bicycle together. In Steenwijk Henry boarded the train to Eindhoven. The family has not heard from him since.

Deventer

However, Henry has not got far, as it appears now. He probably already got off the train in Wijhe or Olst. An interview taken from him on 14 May 1945 states that he was arrested in Deventer. *"On Thursday, Aug. 26, 1943 - 5:00 p.m. - Albert Edward Henry, b. May 28, 1921 London, was found in a meadow on the Rembrandtkade (on the IJssel)."* During his captivity, the radio operator was also treated in a hospital in Germany and probably died on November 10, 1945 from what is nowadays called a PTSD, given the location of his CWGC war grave in London.

Teunis Schuurman from Vollenhove wanted to solve the mystery of this aviator. 'While searching through the many' helpers' questionnaires that were filled in at the time by the resistance people from the NOP and NW-Overijssel, the list of Wicher Huisman, 'de Werf', District 5, Blokzijl provided a lot of information and a textile label, but no name, "says Schuurman.

Schuurman had to work with the data: sept'43, 21 years and the place Grimsby. "That was quite a job because I couldn't link this person to any crash in the Blokzijl area."

Senior WW2 researcher Jan Mennink from Hoogeveen gave him an important key, namely the police reports from Bomb Aimer - 1341382 - Sgt. James Noble (RAFVR) and Sgt. John Adelstein (RCAF) from the crashed Lancaster near Bergen. "Everything fell into place at the time. Jack Noble had landed near the Marknesse "Dorp-B" labor camp and was found by warehouse manager Cornelis Lindeloof (Marknesse - Room 11) in company of a number of labourers near "Dorp-B" at 7 am. Marknesse labor camp

Jack had indicated that he wanted to report to the nearest police station. Because Lindeloof was on his way to work (Central Workshop Vollenhove), he took the soldier on foot up towards lot S-20. Here he left Jack at 8.30 am, under the surveillance of a few workers, and informed Ing. Wim Corstiaensen from Vollenhove, working at Cultuurmaatschappij "De Wieringermeer".

At 8.45 a.m. contacted Chief Watchmaster Laurens C. Segaar of the Vollenhove post. Jack was picked up at 9.30 am by said engineer and Segaar from lot S-20 (Voorsterweg 28, Marknesse) and transferred to the Ortskommandantur in Zwolle. "

Royce Fidler

The escape story of Rear Air Gunner - Sgt. Royce Fidler (RAFVR) was known, the details towards Meppel not. The questionnaires related to this area provided new names and also the route via Kalenberg, Oldemarkt, Belt-Schutsloot to the "group" Peter van den Hurk in Meppel. In the meantime, it had also become clear to me that "our" man from Grimsby belonged to the same crew as Fidler. On January 21st, 1944, Max Fidler returned by boat from Tréboul (Bretagne) safely to Falmouth (Cornwall).

Navigator - Sgt. Eric Gargini (RAFVR) was arrested on 26 August 1943 in Zwolle. His landing location is unknown to date. Mid Upper Gunner - Sgt. John Adelstein hid in a shed in the yard of cattle farmer Teunis de Boer on Lageweg 94 in Blankenham (Kuinre). With a broken left ankle, he was discovered there at 5.15 am and arrested as a prisoner of war.

Mystery

Why Pilot - P / O. Francis Albert Preston (RAAF) and Flt. Engineer - Sgt. Harold Chadwick (RAFVR) did not jump off simultaneously with the other five crew members remains a mystery until now. Both are buried in Bergen (NH).

www.teunispats.nl/wo2.htm

*** this article is a quick Google translate, so it might be 'bumpy' ****

<https://denoordoostpolder.nl/artikel/1037298/gerard-weet-eindelijk-wie-hij-wegbracht.html>