

MISSION 115Z

“GOING HOME”

FROM THE TINY UK PARK WITH THE MIGHTY HEART



BEHIND THE BARN AT TALLY HO FARM, CROUCH LANE, WINKFIELD, BERKSHIRE SL4 4RZ UK
Co-ordinator: Hugh Gibbons, 75 Qualitas, Roman Hill, Bracknell RG12 7QG
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MISSION 115Z “GOING HOME”



A UNIQUE GALLERY as a memorial to people today. With outposts scattered far and wide. That's the happy function of Mission 115Z.

These pages show some unusual conversation pieces,

sometimes as full pages for their accompanying display stands.

Its origin? As part of the liberation of Europe, on 14 October 1943 the USAAF Eighth Air Force in England's East Anglia staged Mission 115.

This became remembered as the historic Second Schweinfurt Raid *aka* Black Thursday. Mission 115 involved the greatest ever air battle; over 70 American aircraft and 600 crew lost; heroism and compassion in the air and on the ground on both sides; and poignant aftermaths.

One B17F that took part was #3351Z, of the 92nd Bomb Group based at Podington. Its crew endured what has been described as one of the most remarkable sagas of WW2. Z battled its way to and from Schweinfurt, didn't manage to drop its bombs, limped back to the UK and, out of fuel, was one of the last down. At 6.24pm, Z crashlanded and burned up in a field at Tally Ho Farm in Winkfield, Berkshire – witnessed by local schoolchildren, now senior citizens. All the crew were safe, and most returned to long and happy lives back in the USA. The wreckage was salvaged within a few days, and the field reverted to peaceful pasture.

Until, by chance, on 20 October 2013 a few .5inch cartridges and burnt fragments of the plane were unearthed by Hugh Gibbons on a dig with the Berkshire Metal Detectorists

Club. Thanks to the cartridge TW43 markings, the tiny Tally Ho Hoard was unusual in having both a provenience and a provenance. In the following months, Hugh undertook on-line and local research into the plane, the people and places involved – then and now.

The stories that emerged were linked by a common spirit of humanity and generosity. They sparked the creation in June 2014 of a small fenced-off area of what was now named Thanksgiving Field at Tally Ho – not as another sombre war memorial but a tiny park dedicated to all those hidden heroes who help lives and hope recover whenever and wherever conflict is over.

The concept has been much praised locally, in the USA and in Germany. The Field is stocked with Giving Thanks and Thinksgiving Seats, a solar guardian angel, apple trees planted in soil brought from Podington, Germany and the USA, and some cheery plaques for visitors to enjoy. In May 2015, Corners were dedicated to two humanitarians: “Unbroken” US airman Louis Zamperini and Henri Dunant, inspirer of the International Red Cross. Everywoman's Corner pays tribute to the hidden heroines in families – the ones who so often pick up the pieces after war.

Hugh's intention was always to distribute the items in the hoard to people and places connected with Thanksgiving Field. In July 2015, Lily Hill Park in Bracknell Forest Council provided some oak from a 20+-year-old tree that had been skimmed by Z just before touchdown. This has meant the fragments have been transformed into these modest works of art and conversation pieces for their new homes and families.

Each has to be an interesting piece of art in its own right, regardless of the back story – fun for the eyes, mind and soul.

And that's the spirit of Mission 115Z.



HUGH GIBBONS says welcome to a glimpse of some of fragments of stories behind Thanksgiving Field in the UK – a tiny park with a big heart and VGSOH.

You should find much to surprise and delight you – and get you thinking, giving thanks, and enjoying our Park – as many people like those below have done.



FAMILY-FRIENDLY. Bob and Colleen Disher from Denver CO visit the Field in May 2106. Bob's uncle Jack was the ballgunner on B17F 3351Z which made a happy crashlanding in the middle distance on 14th October 1943 –“ Black Thursday”. Seventy years later, the debris field yielded two handfuls on burnt duralumin and spent cartridges for metal detectorist Hugh Gibbons – inspiring the creation of Thanksgiving Field not as a war memorial but one that pays tribute to hidden heroes after any conflict.

BUCKETSFUL OF HISTORY.

At the opening of the Field in June 2014, the first person in was Hilda, nigh on 100, one of several witnesses to the B17 come tumbling into Tally Ho in 1943. She was led in by a local 5-year and a 9-year-old from Ohio. We planted trees in soil brought from a church and memorial garden in Schweinfurt, Podington, and (illegally) the USA. And we all got the first enjoyment of the bottled breathing space provided by pupils at Sidcot Quaker school down in Somerset – the silence they've been getting for 300 years.



LOCAL FRIENDS gather on the Thinksgiving Seat on 8 May 2105 at the dedication of Corners to Henri Dunant, inspirer of the International Red Cross; Louis Zamperini, for his great example of courage and compassion; and Everywoman – as so often it's women who have to piece together lives and hope after conflict. The informal ceremony included readings from The Forgiveness Project by the remarkable Marina Cantacuzino – to help underline the spirit of the Field which has as its theme Henri Dunant's definition of Civilisation: helping each other – people to people, nation to nation.

CAMPERS try the Giving Thanks Seat in summer 2016. They sat and thought about who to give thanks for (dads and mums came easily to mind), and enjoyed a tour of the tiny park, watching bees and birds and butterflies. Then they were the slightly amused and bemused audience for a brief concert of the Whiffenpoof Song with which the crew would have been familiar.

And they finished by joining in our anthem Be Kind To Your Webfooted Friends – music by JP Sensate children include the Adkins twins from the Tally Ho Farm family –

who'll be Wardens of the Field for the rest of the 21st century.



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SPECIAL ENVOYS



Mission 115Z could have happened all by mail.

But a happy feature of Mission has been good sports volunteering to help escort some of the conversation pieces to their new homes.



JAMES PUXLEY Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire

James is the representative of HM The Queen in the county where Z ended its days. So it seemed appropriate to sound him out on taking responsibility for National Treasures, the piece of art made for Elizabeth Windsor's 90th birthday – and her and the people of the UK. (It happens that she's near-neighbour of Thanksgiving Field.

James kindly accepted Treasures in May 2016. The suggestion is that he can make a home for Treasures anywhere that seems fit – in his office, in a museum, schools,

or wherever. But he said that he'd have a word with the Queen's Private Secretary. So it may settle down in Windsor Castle, amusing corgis.



MAEV KENNEDY Art & Archaeologist national journalist SAMUEL KENNEDY History Student

Maev works on The Guardian newspaper, and is a prolific author and broadcaster. It happens that in 2015-16 her son Samuel was at the University of Minnesota, just a few miles from where .5" cartridges were made at the Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant in 1943. Maev was the envoy

of Image of Peace as it headed for the Ramsey County CAAP Regeneration team, with the intention of one home being the Ramsey County Historical Society. Like #3351Z, Image is having quite a saga. Sam brought it back to the UK, and it will be collected in May 2017 by Heather Worthington, Deputy Manager of Ramsey County.



BOB DISHER Mailman, Denver CO

Bob is the nephew of the ballgunner on #3351Z, and has been a great encourager of the spirit of the Field. So it was appropriate that in May 2016 he and his wife Colleen took time out from their vacation in London to visit the Field. Bob took personal charge of Jack's Eye View back for Disher family duties back home. He presented Field co-

ordinator Hugh Gibbons with a 48-star & stripes flag believed to date from the 1940s, and plaques for the fence from the family and from the Second Schweinfurt Memorial Association. In a nearby pub later, Colleen and Bob were made members of the Happy Landings Club.



MISSION 115Z ITEMS

First Wave 2014-15



“GIVEN IN THANKS”

This was the first of new homes for bits of Z – the chapel of the US Air Force Academy.

In September 2014, the Second Schweinfurt Memorial Association held its annual reunion at Colorado Springs. As part of the program they visited the Academy.

SSMA Secretary Sue Fox Moyer presented a slice of duralumin from Z to one of the Air Force chaplains in the Cadet Chapel, together with a citation.



“HAPPY LANDINGS”



With the Gibbons family on Christmas Day 2014, family friend and US citizen Sarah Nikkel was given a little extra

present - a duralumin brooch to take back from her temporary location by Windsor Great Park to her resumed home in New Haven CN.

Sarah played a key part in the opening ceremony of the Field – serving the drinks and sharing smiles.

In front of the Field, daughter Anja is seen modelling the RAF flying helmet whose ear plug is on the Presidents' Pinboard and microphone connection is on Rich In History.



“DETECTORISTS”

In March 2015, a duralumin brooch and citation was presented to Kelly LeDvon, secretary of the Berkshire Metal Detectorists Club, under whose aegis Hugh Gibbons found the Thanksgiving Field Hoard at Tally Ho Farm.



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MISSION 115Z ITEMS

Second Wave August 2015



AT THE US EMBASSY LONDON, 25 August 2015

Defense Attaché Brigadier General Dieter Barheis and members of his team welcomed Anne and Hugh Gibbons with their set of 115Z gifts and goodies.

The Embassy were also made members of the Happy Landings Club, giving them the day off on the anniversary of the birth of Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross.

A few days later, Ambassador Matthew Barzun invited Anne and Hugh to join the celebrations at his residence on the 70th anniversary of the end of WWII.

While there, Hugh offered to make an extra gift - something for POTUS...



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MISSION 115Z ITEMS

Second Wave August 2015 US Embassy London



MAIN ITEM: "RETURNED WITH THANKS"

Made for the people of the USA in handing back their Government property

- TW43 cartridge made in Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant, St Paul MN
- Fragments of burnt B17 duralumin – 10mm cylindrical (maybe control rod)
- Fragment of B17 duralumin tubing about 15mm diameter
- Finger-operated 25mm diameter wheel with fine cross-grooving - possibly from oxygen kit
- Black Thursday pin from the Second Schweinfurt Memorial Association
- UK/USA friendship badge
- Gibbons family 1943 threepenny bit as thanks and to pay for the celebratory beer, wherever

"VERÄNDERUNG"

Made as present from USA to the people of Germany via their London Embassies

- Unused and pristine 0.5 inch bullet placed head down as symbol of burying past conflicts USA and Germany, with a friendship badge. The hollow end suggests it was a tracer bullet (er, the damp fine powder found inside the cavity has been disposed of...)
- Veränderung is German for Change

"LUCKY BASTARD BULLET"

Made as personal present for General Dieter Bareihs, Defense Attache

- Unused 0.5 inch bullet supported by B17 duralumin slices. Over half a million similar bullets were fired during Black Thursday, but this was one of the few not fired. The title is a reference to the cheery certificate given to 8th Air Force aircrew who completed their required number of operational missions.

"A SPECIAL SLICE OF HISTORY"

Made for Matthew Barzun, US Ambassador

- This slice of B17 duralumin and UK/USA friendship badge aims to echo the "special relationship". The 1943 halfpenny piece from the Gibbons' family vaults is in case of hardship or emergency.

"THANKSGIVING ROSIE BROOCH"

Made for Barbara Brown, Executive Assistant USDAO London Embassy

- This slice of burnt duralumin from our B17 made at Long Beach is superglued to a pin, making it a wearable item as well as one for the family showcase. The pin rests on two rivets from the C17 production line at Boeing Long Beach in 2014 – like the duralumin, perhaps touched by the legendary 1942 Rosie the Riveter Elinor Otto still riveting on C17s in 2014!



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MISSION 115Z ITEMS

Third Wave during 2016

THE THANKSGIVING ROSIE



MADE FOR THE LONG BEACH ROSIE THE RIVETER FOUNDATION and Memorial Park, this is a delightful happenstance for a lump of burnt duralumin from our B17F 42-3351 - made in the Douglas factory in Long Beach in early 1943.

Exactly as dug up, she shows the classic muscle of the many Rosies across the USA – playing a big role in the production of military ships, planes, ammunition, and vehicles, *inter alia*.

The rivets are from the Boeing C17 line just before it closed down. It's possible that they were touched by the legendary Elinor Otto, a Rosie in 1942 and still working as riveter on C17 wings! Rosie was couriered to California by Culver City businessman Aaron Sholok to hand to Gerrie Schipske in Long Beach. Gerrie is well-known as a historian of the city, and as councilwoman played a leading role in the establishment of the Rosie the Riveter Foundation Memorial Park.

Many of the Rosies are alive and well and taking part in the Guinness World Book of Records! In August 2016, Kay Morrison, Marian Wynn, and Priscilla Elder were among the estimated 2265 people gathered in one place - Richmond CA - dressed as Rosie the Riveter. They could do it!



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RICH IN HISTORY

Stork Visits Home Of Veteran of 22 Bombing Missions

Brother Is Born Sept. 18;
Wife Gives Birth to
Daughter Nov. 21.

Lt. Richard Lyng, 23 years old, 7521 Wabash ave., flying fortress pilot, has had to contend with two



LT. RICHARD LYNG

winged forces in the past three months — the German Luftwaffe and the stork. The latter delivered a baby brother on September 18 and returned to the Lyng home on November 21 to deliver a daughter to his wife, the former Rita Cook. The brother's name is Patrick Lyng and the daughter has been named Patricia Margaret.

Lieutenant Lyng, who has been stationed in England as pilot of a flying fortress since March, 1943, recently completed his 22nd successful mission over Nazi-held Europe. During this mission the crew was unable to drop their bombs on the target—Schweinfurt, Germany—because the bomb control release was frozen. This meant that the crew had to work against time to release the explosive load before landing at their home base. They finally dropped the explosives over France and none too soon, for the plane hit an embankment and caught fire while landing at the home base.

Lieutenant Lyng enlisted in the air corps a year ago last April. A graduate of De LaSalle institute, he received his wings and officer's bars in February, 1943. On September 9 he was promoted to the rank of first lieutenant. He has been awarded the DFC and two oak leaf clusters.

Having completed 22 missions, the young lieutenant expects to get leave soon so he can go home and meet the two new members of his family.



MADE FOR THE FAMILY OF RICHARD LYNG, pilot of B17 42-3351Z, Rich in History is even more unusual than the other conversation pieces by Hugh Gibbons.

Unearthed in the small B17 debris field at Tally Ho Farm, the front item is some form of control wheel, possibly from an oxygen supply. The plug on the left is a sort of VGSOH. In contrast to Rich's headset as a daytime bomber pilot, this is from the helmet of RAF pilot Reg Keep who trained in the USA and later flew Mosquito night-fighters - but never fired a round in anger. Reg later lived in Bracknell and gave Hugh his wartime relics, including the helmet and fascinating logbook.

The newspaper cutting has the news that Rich became a father just a month after his Schweinfurt experience — around the time he was crashlanding another B17!

Like many 8th Air Force veterans — including James Stewart who also flew many missions as a bomber pilot — Rich spoke little of his experiences. The wife of his great nephew recalled in 2015: "He was a quiet force when he entered a room -tall, lanky, charming smile. Very humble man. I did not realize his war heroics until the eloquent tribute that was paid to him when he died several years ago."



THANKSGIVING FIELD





THE EMPATHY PINBOARD

where US Presidents can leave a memento of understanding

THIS SIMPLE AND UNIQUE little item was made by Hugh Gibbons in Bracknell UK as a gift to the office of the President of the USA. Art with its sleeves rolled up, it has reminders and examples of Empathy, which has been defined as “the ability to step into the shoes of another person, understand their feelings and perspectives, and – crucially- to use that understanding to guide our actions”.

PRESIDENTS can use the Pinboard to fix some small memento of empathy during their time in office.

THE WOOD IS ENGLISH OAK salvaged from a fallen tree in Lily Hill Park in Bracknell. It's believed to be at least 200 years old – and perhaps from an acorn planted when the United States was just a twinkle in the eye. The tree was overflown by B17 42-3351Z of the USAAF just before it tumbled into the tiny RAF Winkfield at the end of the Second Schweinfurt Raid on “Black Thursday” 14 October 1943 – burning up in what is now Thanksgiving Field at Tally Ho.

THE BULLET was found there 70 years later – together with fragments of duralumin. It was made in 1943 at the Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant in Ramsey County MN. It's intended as a symbol of the need for empathy between all sides after conflict – hence is placed point down. NB The bullet is deliberately loose, and needs wedging in place from time to time.

THE SHOE HORN is a reminder of the importance of the key element in empathy – walking in other people's shoes. So it's there to help any POTUS do just that, or help others. The horn is believed to be one of the few items that survived the air raid in Birmingham in 1940 through which baby Hugh slept while the house lost its whole front and most possessions.

THE SOCKET PLUG is a reminder of a key factor in Empathy – the value of listening. For pilots and presidents alike. It comes from the ear phone connection on the helmet issued to RAF pilot Reg Keep, who trained in the USA before before serving 1943-5 as a night fighter pilot (though he never fired his guns in anger.) He later became a policeman in Reading and resident of Bracknell.

ON THE END are some examples of empathy in action chosen by Hugh to get things started.

THE BLACK THURSDAY PIN was given by the US-based Second Schweinfurt Memorial Association. One of their actions has been a memorial garden in the city as a collaboration between the flyers and the flak gunners on the ground that day. It says: “Dedicated by some who witnessed the tragedy of war, now united in friendship and the hope for lasting peace among all people”.

THE REMEMBER BADGE comes from Sandhurst School in Bracknell Forest, a memento of when they started their Reaching Rwanda – a very fine example of empathy backed by action. The project lets the school provide practical support with feet on the ground by students sent out to help communities there – contributing to the hope and unity rebuilt after conflict.

THE HORSESHOE has three purposes. It's about the need for empathy and understanding with things other than human beings - exemplified by helping horses walk on their own four feet. It's a reminder that Thanksgiving Field happened because of the generosity and empathy of the Tally Ho Farm family. And it echoes Benjamin Franklin: “*Diligence is the mother of good luck*”.

THE FLY2 HELP BADGE exemplifies the empathy of all those who give their time and resources to help others. It's from a small UK charity, much of whose work helps those with disability, illness, bereavement and isolation, by letting them experience the wonder of flight.

THE FAIRTRADE BADGE symbolises the action and empathy with social justice in countries as means of countering poverty and inequality

THE US RED CROSS BADGE from the time of WWII is in tribute to all international organisations with empathy at their heart – particularly during and after conflicts. It's also a reminder of Red Cross inspirer Henri Dunant, first to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize: “*Civilisation is helping each other; people to people, nation to nation.*”



THE SHOE HORN'S PROVENANCE



ON THE EMPATHY PINBOARD is a shoe-horn – there for any POTUS to help anyone putting on someone's else's shoes – especially when they're a tight fit. The shoe horn has its own history as a survivor. Founder of Thanksgiving Field Hugh Gibbons has a first-hand account – and why he has an

affinity with the people of Schweinfurt and anywhere else experiencing bombing from the air.

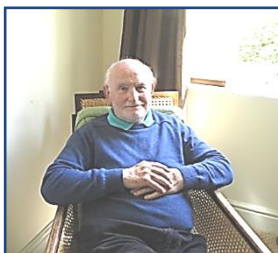
The shoe horn was one of the few Gibbons family possessions to survive our house in Birmingham being rearranged by an aerial mine on the night of 19/20 November 1940. Sheltering in the cellar were me age 2, mother Ilma, sister Bunny, and brother Paul. Dad was away that night – otherwise he'd have been stationed at the top window as a volunteer fire watcher.

When the raid was over, Mum – unaware of events – said let's have a cup of tea. So we went up into the untouched kitchen at the back of the house. Then in walked two air raid wardens. Mum said I locked the front door - how did you get in? They looked at each other and said in classic Brummagen: Yow'd better come and see this, missus.

The house was in a residential area, Moseley. This was under the flight path for Luftwaffe bombers up from Brittany and aiming for the industrial area of the city. They used radio beams to signal release, and in RV Jones Secret War there's evidence that the RAF were deceiving them by sending out false signals. The effect was to release early, so homes took the hit.

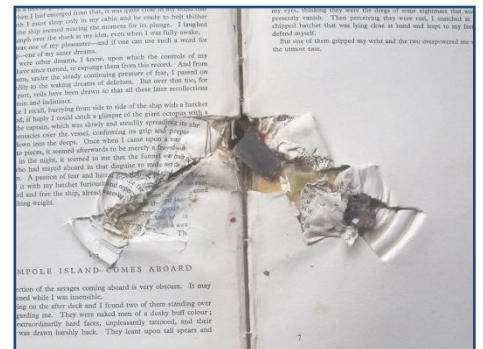
Nearly everything was lost, as most of the house was unsafe to enter. So whatever was available – including the shoe horn – went into bags as we went to a place of greater safety.

But two other items are family heirlooms seventy years on. One is a novel by HG Wells, one of a set in the room on the left. It has a small puncture hole in the back. Inside, the pages are scrunched up by tiny fragments from the bomb – indicating the force of arrival. The book includes a note on the story of that night.



And in the room on the right of the house is an upturned bergere cane chair – part of a three-piece suite bought earlier in the year. Two of the chairs survived, to wander as refugees in Old Bilton, Rugby, Birmingham again, Somerset, Leicestershire, Surrey and Bracknell. They're now alive and well in living with our son Matthew in Warfield -

just a couple of miles from Thanksgiving Field.



So you can see there are good reasons why the shoe horn fits well on The Empathy Pinboard – and why I have understanding and respect for families suffering bombs. And tea-makers!





IMAGE OF PEACE

This little work of art from England reflects an unusual slant on history and humanity – and returning home to Minnesota.

The backstamp shows that the cartridge was made at the Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant at Arden Hills in 1943. It was part of a handful of relics unearthed by metal detectorist Hugh Gibbons in a field at Tally Ho Farm near Windsor. On 14 October 1943, USAAF B17F 42-3351Z crashlanded there returning from the historic Second Schweinfurt Raid. All the crew were safe, and most went home to long and happy family lives. The wreckage was salvaged a few days later, save a few fragments buried in the pasture for 70 years.

Hugh's research on the people and places involved – in the UK, USA and Germany – unearthed many warm-hearted stories of humanity and empathy, then and since.

This led to a small slice of Tally Ho becoming Thanksgiving Field After-War Memorial Park in 2014 – an off-beat site in tribute to all the hidden heroes in families, communities and nations who help life and hope recover after conflict.

The tiny Park has seats, thoughts, special corners, apple trees, vistas, and

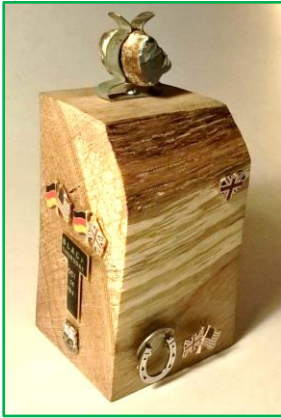
neighbouring horses and visiting birds and wandering bees as wardens!

Hugh created Mission 115Z "Operation Going Home" to send the fragments as tiny works of art with their sleeves rolled up to homes which would treasure them for their history and touch of humanity. These include families of crew members, Long Beach Rosie the Riveter Foundation, churches in Schweinfurt, and the US and German embassies in London. The Empathy Pinboard - with a TCAAP bullet nose downwards - has gone to the White House for US Presidents' use; and Queen Elizabeth II has a companion item giving thanks on her 90th birthday.

Each is set on a slice from a fallen oak tree in Lily Hill Park in Bracknell - believed to be well over 200 years old – skimmed by the B17 just before touchdown. The wood grain offers something extra for the eye to enjoy.

It seemed appropriate for a cartridge to come home to Ramsey County, as a tiny, different and portable addition to the stock of art and historical items. So it's a tiny complement – and compliment – to Vision of Peace, and in the same spirit of common humanity and shared history.





NATIONAL TREASURES

THIS unusual piece is a work of art with its sleeves rolled up.

It was made by Hugh Gibbons for Mission 115Z – the distribution of fragments to new homes in the UK, USA and Germany. And it

shows a treasure to cherish: VGSOH.

In part, it's an unusual 90th birthday gift to leading National Treasure Elizabeth Windsor, representing the thanks and admiration from people in the UK, USA and Germany.

But it's also meant to as a reminder that national treasures come in many forms.

The main item is a fragment of duralumin from USAAF B17F #3351Z after its "most remarkable saga" during Mission 115. This was the historic Second Schweinfurt Raid on 14 October 1943, in the liberation of Europe. This greatest-ever air battle was a day of heroism and humanity in the air and on the ground by soldiers and civilians of both sides.

Over Schweinfurt, Z's bombs hung up. Limping back to its base in East Anglia, at 6.24pm it tumbled into the tiny RAF Winkfield near Windsor, but over-ran and became fireworks in a field at Tally Ho Farm. All the crew were safe. The wreckage was salvaged, the field left in peace, and the event mostly forgotten locally (except by local schoolchildren).

On 20 October 2013, fragments were found by local metal detectorist Hugh Gibbons. Internet research dug up the stories of the people and the places involved, then and since. This led to the happy landing site being named Thanksgiving Field, as a tribute to all those hidden heroes who bring life and hope after conflict. So it's a memorial to people today.

Embedded in a leading equine centre, the tiny park is somewhere for anyone to visit and have a quiet place to smile and give thanks for things

in their own lives. The Field's ethos is set by Henri Dunant, inspirer of the International Red Cross: "*Civilisation is helping each other: person to person, nation to nation.*" The park also has Louis Zamperini and Everywoman's Corners, as well as comfy seats, funny plaques, a solar-powered guiding angel as a beacon for planes, breathing space sent by a Quaker school, and a vista with resident horses and visiting birds.

THE DURALUMIN at the top is a reminder that even the humblest of items has a hinterland – and is part of the national treasure.

THE WOOD symbolises nature and a sense of taking the long view as national treasures. It's from an oak tree in Bracknell Forest Council's Lily Hill Park – which the B17 may have skimmed just before touchdown – and is believed to be at least two hundred years old.

THE HEARTSHAPED UNION JACK is to suggest the national treasures: all the people, as individuals and communities.

THE HORSESHOE symbolises the national treasures in flora and fauna – and the sense to appreciate good luck in life.

THE COIN is a George V 1925 halfpenny, to suggest that nations should treasure leaders with a sense of duty. (It's also in case the Queen ever wants a flutter on the Ascot Gold Cup.)

THE T-BADGE represents reconciliation as a national treasure. It's a gift from the USA's Second Schweinfurt Memorial Association, in which the opposing USAAF airmen and young flakhelfers founded a small memorial park in the city with a beautiful artwork "*Dedicated by some who witnessed the tragedy of war, now united in friendship and the hope for lasting peace among all people.*"

THE THREE FRIENDSHIP BADGES represent the national treasures of empathy, understanding and forgiveness.



TWO GEORGES, TWO ELIZABETHS, ONE JIMMIE

George Roberts, Radio Operator, 367th Bomb Squadron 306th Bomb Group, USAAF, on record in 2005. He's seen in the crew line-up below on the left at Thurleigh in 1944.

As of May 2016, George was alive and well in Mississippi, and a fan of Thanksgiving Field!



The weather then turned bad and we stood down until October 14th when we flew to Schweinfurt, Germany to attack the ball bearing plants. This was an extremely tough mission and German fighters had a field day. Our plane was the only one from the 367th to reach the target and get back. Our group lost 10 bombers and the five that returned all had dead and/or wounded aboard. Out of a force of 241 attacking planes, the 8th Air Force had 60 bombers shot down and an additional 5 crashed landed in the UK. In my first four missions, the 8th AF lost a total of 148 bombers. About this time I figured we could never completed a 25 mission tour.

Following the Schweinfurt mission, there were insufficient crews and planes to conduct missions and we stood down until October

20th on a mission to Duren, Germany. We were hit in one engine and since the pilot could not feather the propeller, it began to vibrate and shake the plane. We reduced air speed to the minimum and descended to 1000 feet. We were given a choice to bail out or try to ride the plane down. We all chose to stay with the plane. After 15 minutes the engine fell off and the vibration ceased. We returned to base alone with no further problems. All of our original officers were killed while flying with other crews. Our right waist gunner and myself were the only ones to stay together and complete the tour of combat.

We flew many different planes thereafter until March of 1944 when we received a new G model named "Princess". After one mission we renamed it "Princess Elizabeth" in honor of the daughter of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth of England. While the Royal family was encouraged by the name, the Lord Mayors of London and Bedford thought it would be a bad omen should the plane be shot down. Accordingly, we changed the name to "Rose of York", and a white rose, symbol of the house of York was painted on the front of the airplane.



aircraft. My final 16 missions were flown as the radio operator on this plane.

I completed my combat tour a few days later, and was returned to the States.

The King, Queen and Princess Elizabeth and General Jimmie Doolittle came to our base on July 6, 1944 to christen the



The Gladsome Riveter

GIVEN IN THANKS TO GLADYS SAUNDERS FOR HER SERVICES TO THANKSGIVING FIELD AND HISTORY.

A member of the Warfield Library Reminiscence Group, during WWII Gladys was a riveter of Wellington bombers, and by way of irony got blown up by a V1 Flying Bomb.

The duralumin here was part of a handful of fragments unearthed by metal detectorist Hugh Gibbons in a field at Tally Ho Farm near Windsor. On 14 October 1943, USAAF B17 bomber F 42-3351Z crashlanded and burned up there returning from the historic Second Schweinfurt Raid during the liberation of Europe. All the crew were safe, and most went home to long and happy family lives.

Hugh's research on the people and places involved unearthed many warm-hearted stories of humanity, reconciliation and empathy, then and since. This led to a piece of Tally Ho becoming the tiny Thanksgiving Field After-War Memorial Park in 2014 – in tribute to all the hidden heroes in families, communities and nations who help life and hope recover when conflict is over.

The wood was salvaged from a fallen oak tree believed to be well over 200 years old, in Bracknell's Lily Hill Park - skimmed by the B17 just before touchdown, and close to Gladys' home. The rivets came from the Boeing C17 production line in Long Beach, California, where our B17 was made in in 1943 by Rosie the Riveters – the US counterparts of Gladys. They may have been touched by a surviving 1943 Rosie still at work for Boeing in 2014.

The pot of earth is a mix gathered from churches in Schweinfurt, the plane's base at Podington, and Tally Ho Farm. It's said to include soil from Central Park in New York, from a thimbleful gathered by Gladys on her 90th birthday and smuggled into the UK. But as that's illegal, it's unlikely that Glad would have countenanced it.

Happy landings, and be glad for all riveters like ours.





DIALOG

A CONVERSATION PIECE
MADE IN THANKS AND
APPRECIATION FOR
THE HD CENTRE, GENEVA

This little work of art from England is aimed at letting anyone reflect on common humanity and history.

The bullet was part of a handful of relics unearthed by metal detectorist Hugh Gibbons in a field at Tally Ho Farm near Windsor in the UK. On 14 October 1943, USAAF B17F 42-3351Z crashlanded there returning from the historic Second Schweinfurt Raid during the liberation of Europe. All the crew were safe, and most went home to long and happy family lives.

The wood was salvaged from an oak tree believed to be well over 200 years old in Lily Hill Park in the nearby town of Bracknell - and skimmed by the B17 just before touchdown.

Hugh's research on the people and places involved unearthed many feel-good and warm-hearted stories of humanity, reconciliation and empathy, then and since.

This led to a small piece of Tally Ho becoming Thanksgiving Field After-War Memorial Park in 2014 – an off-beat site in tribute to all the hidden heroes in families, communities and nations who help life and hope recover after conflict. The tiny Park has seats, thoughts, special corners, apple trees, vistas, and neighbouring horses and visiting birds and wandering bees as wardens!

It includes Henri Dunant Corner, in thanks to all people supporting his definition of civilisation: *"helping each other, people to people, nation to nation"*.



Some of fragments found have been made into tiny works of art with their sleeves rolled – sent to new homes as a tiny conversation

pieces about humanity. These include families of crew members, churches in Schweinfurt, and the US and German embassies in London. The Empathy Pinboard – also with a bullet nose downwards – was made for US Presidents' use; and Queen Elizabeth II has a companion item given in thanks on her 90th birthday.

The HD Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue seemed an appropriate home for a left-over bullet.

The wood grain offers something extra for the eye and imagination to enjoy.

The dove's name? Perhaps Henri.



THANKSGIVING ANGEL



This little work of art from England reflects an unusual slant on history and humanity. In mind is St Josef's Catholic Church in Schweinfurt which was destroyed on 14 October 1943 - using relics of one

plane that didn't drop its bombs!

The Angel is made from fragments of B17F 3351Z taking part in USAAF Mission 115, known afterwards as the Second Schweinfurt Raid. "Black Thursday" saw the greatest ever air battle, with heroism and humanity on both sides, in the air and on the grounds, by soldiers and civilians alike.

With Z limping back, pilot Rich Lyng made a crashlanding in the tiny RAF Winkfield. The plane caught fire and was destroyed. All the crew were safe, and most went home to long and happy family lives. The wreckage was salvaged a few days later, save a few fragments buried in the pasture.

In October 2014, metal detectorist Hugh Gibbons found them. His internet research into the people and places involved – in the UK, USA and Germany – unearthed many warm-hearted stories of humanity and empathy, then and since.

This led to a small slice of Tally Ho becoming Thanksgiving Field After-War Memorial Park in 2014 – a unique tribute to all the hidden heroes in families, communities and nations who help life and hope recover after conflict. The tiny Park has seats, thoughts, special corners, apple trees, vistas, and neighbouring horses and visiting birds and wandering bees as wardens!

Soil to plant apple trees in the Field came from St Josef's parish, the poignant German American Air Memorial garden in Schweinfurt, Z's base at Podington – and a thimbleful said to be from Central Park New York, representing mainland USA.

Hugh created Mission 115Z "Operation Going Home" to send the fragments as tiny works of art to new homes which would treasure them for their history and touch of humanity. These include families of crew members, Long Beach Rosie the Riveter Foundation, and the US and German embassies in London. The Empathy Pinboard was made for the White House for US Presidents' use; and Queen Elizabeth II has National Treasures. Each is on a slice from a 200-year-old oak tree in Lily Hill Park in Bracknell – overflowed by Z just before its crashlanding.

The head and body of Thanksgiving Angel are burnt duralumin. The wings are made from other chunks, sliced to show their shine.

So Thanksgiving Angel is a tiny complement – and compliment – to the fine plinth in the Garden in Schweinfurt which says:
"Dedicated by some who witnessed the tragedy of war, now united in friendship and the hope for lasting peace among all people".





“JACK’S EYE VIEW”

THIS CONVERSATION PIECE was made by Hugh Gibbons for the family of Staff Sergeant Jack Disher, ball gunner in B17 42-3351Z of the USAAF 92nd Bomb Group based at Podington.

Returning from the historic Second Schweinfurt Raid – aka Black Thursday - on 14 October 1943, Z tumbled into tiny RAF Winkfield and burned up at Tally Ho Farm. All the crew were safe, though Jack was wounded in the foot after the turret was hit by a 20mm cannon shell – similar to that above. He shared his experiences of the aerial battle in a 1944 BBC broadcast.

The plane was salvaged a few days later, save for a few cartridges and burnt duralumin. These tell-tale relics were unearthed by metal detectorist Hugh 70 years later.

Hugh’s research on the people and places involved – in the UK, USA and Germany – unearthed many warm-hearted and uplifting stories of common humanity and empathy, then and since.

This led to an area of Tally Ho being called Thanksgiving Field Memorial Park in June 2014 – an off-beat site in tribute to all the hidden heroes in families, communities and nations who help life and hope recover after conflict. The tiny Park has Giving Thanks and Thanksgiving Seats, Zamperini and Henri

Dunant Corners, apple trees, uplifting plaques, and vistas – with resident horses and visiting birds and wandering bees as wardens!

Hugh created Mission 115Z Operation Going Home to send the fragments as tiny works of art with their sleeves rolled up – for new homes which would treasure them for their history and touch of humanity. These include families of crew members, Long Beach Rosie the Riveter Foundation, churches in Schweinfurt, the USAF Academy, Ramsey County MN where the cartridges were made in 1943, the US and German embassies in London, the White House and Windsor Castle. Each is set on a slice from a fallen oak tree in Lily Hill Park in Bracknell - believed to be well over 200 years old – skimmed by the B17 just before touchdown. The wood grain offers an extra graphic element.

Jack had quite a telling war beyond Black Thursday, flying 41 missions and winning a DFC and Cluster. He survived a ditching in the English Channel in September 1943, joining the Goldfish Club. After completing his tour of duty and becoming a member of the Lucky Bastards’ Club, he returned to the USA, but then – unusually -re-volunteered to come back to help the liberation of Europe. Jack was killed on 18 March 1945, just a few weeks before VE Day, and is buried at Margraten Cemetery in the Netherlands.



Jack's Family Eye View

Monday 23 May 2016 was a red letter day for the Field – and Mission 115Z.

Nephew of ballgunner Jack, Bob Disher and his wife Colleen broke into their holiday in London to come and see things at first hand.

Hugh Gibbons took them first to Lily Hill Park where our oak lived for over 200 years.

At Tally Ho, they were greeted by manager Chris Adkins on behalf of the Thomas family.

After a tour of the tiny Park – including time on the Giving Thanks Seat – Bob took possession of Jack's Eye View. Arrived safely in Colorado, JEV was put to happy family duties – including a visit to the grave of his brother Robert (below).



Bob & Colleen brought gifts – including the 40-star Annin flag believed to date from the '40s.

They also brought plaques to go on the fence – from

the Disher family and the Second Schweinfurt Memorial Association.

And there was a Lucky Bastard's sort of find for Bob. Coming out of the far field which contains the debris site, Bob spotted a lump of metal in the hedgerow. This turned out to be a chunk of B17 duralumin – found not by a metal detector but a sharp eye and prepared mind!



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MISSION 115Z

National Museum of the US Air Force



DOWN IN FLAME. HEY!

This item was for the Second Schweinfurt Memorial Association to give to the USAF Museum at Dayton OH – during their 2016 Reunion.

The picture below shows SSMA Education Director Sue Fox Moyer presenting Hey! To Jane Leach, their liaison officer on 16 September.

The fragments of duralumin are from B17 #3351Z which – according to an eyewitness age 10 – may have been on fire when it tumbled into what is now Thanksgiving Field and burned up with fireworks. The left one may suggest descent in flames; and the right, the exclamation mark!

The title comes from the official USAF Song, written (as you might guess) in 1938 by **Robert MacArthur Crawford** (July 27, 1899–March 12, 1961) who tried to become a WW1 pilot in the US Army Air Service but was found to be underage (cf the RAF's Thomas Dobney flying bombers at age 16...) *Off we go into the wild blue yonder/ Climbing high into the sun/ Here they come zooming to meet our thunder/ At 'em boys, Give 'er the gun! /Down we dive, spouting our flame from under/ Off with one helluva roar! /We live in fame or go down in flame. Hey!/ Nothing can stop the U.S. Air Force!*



THANKSGIVING FIELD



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THREE MUSKETEERS!

In July 2016, three more families of the crew of #3351Z surfaced – to great delight all round.

The three crew were the tail and two waist gunners in the rear part of our B17F #3351Z. They're seen in this 1943 photo at their Podington airbase: "Jack" Radney; Nick Barbato and Clarence Hultquist. Hugh Gibbons used three of the tools of their trade unearthed at Thanksgiving Field as art. The TW43-stamped cartridges were among the half million fired by B17 gunners on Black Thursday.

- **HOKEY POKEY** in the centre is made for Clarence Hultquist's son Chris, in Phoenix AZ – an echo of You Put Your Left Gun In, Your Left Gun Out – now a Thanksgiving Field song for gatherings! Presentation of Hokey Pokey is planned during a lunch for Honorary Commanders – of which Chris is one – at Luke AFB in Arizona.
- **6-O-CLOCK LOW** on the right is for the Radney family in general but especially Jack's daughter-in-law Elaine in Colorado Springs. The title is a reference not only to the tailgunner's location and the fine 1949 film 12-o-Clock High, but also to the officially logged time at debriefing of #3351Z's arrival time at Winkfield: 6.24pm on the sunny evening there of 14 October 1943. Handover is being planned – and could well involve the USAF Academy.
- **ARRIVEDERCI!** On the left (above) was made for the Barbato family in Erie PA – with Italian in their blood! Arrival in its new home happened in early October 2016 – carried by special envoy Sue Fox Moyer of the Second Schweinfurt Memorial Association. Seen here are grandson Corey, and son Nick and wife Lisa. Sue spoke of laughter and tears at this historic occasion.



THE SCHWEINFURT 2016 GALLERY

THESE CONVERSATION PIECES were made by Hugh Gibbons in 2016 by for the enjoyment of communities in the city of Schweinfurt. They are meant to be a contribution to the common humanity, courage and kindness shown by peoples after conflict of any sort anywhere. All of them feature fragments from the USAAF B17 #3351Z, which crashlanded at what is now Thanksgiving Field on its return from Schweinfurt on 14 October 1943 – having failed to drop its bombs. All are set on oak from a 200-year-old tree in Lily Hill Park, Bracknell – passed by the plane in its final minutes.



HEBRAER 13:2

This little work of art is a small gift to the parish of St Josef and the Catholic community of Schweinfurt. It is to thank them for their humanity, compassion and kindness. The church was destroyed on Black Thursday, and



the parish suffered loss of life. The title comes from the Hebrews 13:2 passage in the Bible that says: *Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.*

PHENIX

has been made for all the city and people of Schweinfurt. Like the Angel, the wings of the Phoenix – if that is what they are – are made from burnt duralumin. The fact that these fragments can be made into even a tiny work of art is another example of rebuilding after conflict.



JESAGA 2:4

This little work of art is a small gift to Pastor Dieter Schorn and the Lutheran communities of Schweinfurt – to thank them for many years of common humanity, kindness, compassion and work for social justice. The title of the piece is a reference to the Isaiah 2:4 passage in the Bible that speaks of swords being made into ploughshares. The use of a man-made bullet in a natural oak setting may help suggest kindness after conflict.

HEIMKEHR

is a piece made for FAG, the ballbearings manufacturer in Schweinfurt. The fragment of burnt aluminium may suggest a human figure. Deliberately, the metal pieces are not fixed.



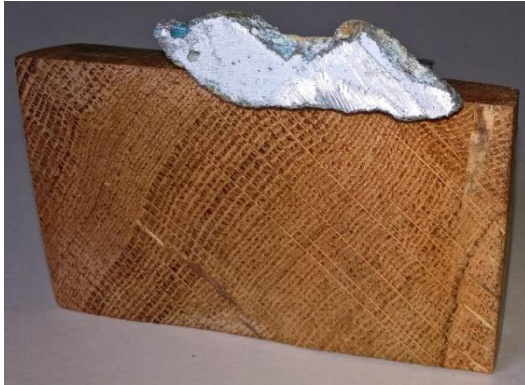
MUSTERERKENNUNG

is an educational gift for schools, colleges, museums, associations and other communities in the city. The title means Pattern Recognition – seeing a meaning in everything, even scarps of burnt duralumin (which may suggest a person). This element is not fixed in place, so that different arrangements may be tried. The bright metal underneath the scarred skin suggests a reference to the British saying of hope that “every cloud has a silver lining.”



OVER THERE!

THESE FIRST TWO CONVERSATION PIECES were made in October 2016 to add a little extra fun and thoughts to a handover ceremony at an Air Force Base in the USA.

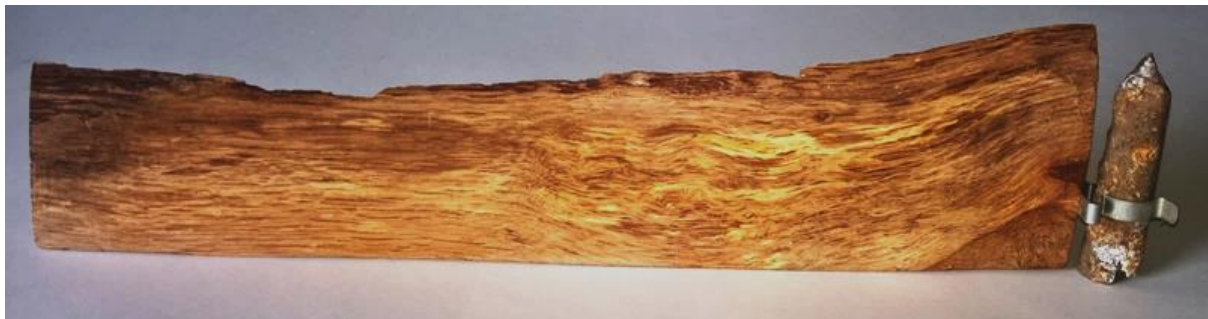
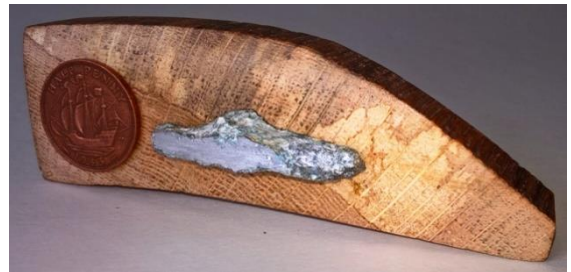


People's Service Medal

is for someone representing all those who willingly turn to help other people in need. The medal is in the form of a pin, and is held in place by two rivets from the 2014 Boeing C17 line in Long Beach – where our B17 was made in 1943.

Every Cloud Has One.

It's a small tribute to all who volunteer to give help, courage and hope to others in need. The 1943 halfpenny goes with the fragment of our 1943 plane and event. It's to help pay for the celebratory beer. (In those days, it would have gone a long way to that!)



On a Wing and a Prayer

has been made as a gift with the USAF communities at Lakenheath in East Anglia in mind. The base will shortly become the last flying airfield of the USAF in the UK after a presence since 1942. The piece is 15" wide but little more than 1/4" deep – and has an aerofoil shape. The grain of the 200-year-old oak on the front back may suggest a scene. The scrap of duralumin is actually a piece of slightly crushed tubing about 3/4" in diameter from an unidentified part of our B17. The title is a reference to the popular WW2 song – which we sang at the opening of the Field in 2014, led by Gladys The Riveter Saunders. She was a riveter helping build Wellington bombers, and got blown up by a V1 flying bomb – presumably for her spirit not her voice!



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FOR THE RECORD

Martin Caidin in "Black Thursday"

It is generally agreed by many veterans of the raid that 351Z was the outstanding performer in defending itself...This airplane's saga during Mission 115 is one of the most remarkable of all World War Two".

The harried crew stated to the debriefing officers that they were 'too god-damned busy to worry about what time and where they hit us. There were fighters everywhere, and they never let go.

Ball gunner Jack Disher interviewed on BBC in early 1944

Well – the worst experience I guess was Schweinfurt October 14th. Just over the target and some fighters came, then about forty and sixty of them at a time. I ran out of ammunition – got up to reload it – just had my right foot hanging in the ball and got a direct hit on the turret with a 20mm – kind of blew pieces out of it.

In "Black Thursday"

Pilot Rich Lyng added: 'Disher never said a word about his injury. It was 10 minutes before I knew he was hit'.

S/Sgt Dorwin "Jack" Radney in personal notebook on or about 15 October 1943

"A day I'll never forget. Moderate to heavy flak – more than 600 fighters hit us. Plane got shot up so bad we wonder how it flew. Ball turret gunner hit in foot by 20 mm. Our crew got nine fighters for sure. I got one positive and three probables.

"We limp back alone – low on gas over England. Crashed. Landed on small field. Plane completely destroyed. All got out safely. We lost a hell of a lot of buddies on this raid. God sure was with us today. I pray that he sees us through the rest as safely. Don't believe any mission can be any rougher than this was."

In Some Ramblings of an Old Bogonian by Percy Hathaway of Ascot, Berkshire UK – published in 1995.

"Later in the war a group of us were standing down by Bog Bridge in South Ascot when we heard the noise of an aircraft approaching from the south. Looking up, we saw an American Flying Fortress coming towards us about one hundred feet up. It had great big holes in it, as well as bits and pieces hanging from it. We thought that it was going to crash on Ascot, but it carried on and crashed in a field in Crouch Lane in Winkfield."

Marie Andrews in a letter to Hugh Gibbns on 29 May 2014

In 1943 I was about nine years of age at the time, and on a late sunny afternoon I was playing in the back yard of our house in North Street, Winkfield.

I gradually became aware of an aeroplane overhead that seemed to be constantly coming and going. I could see it was an American plane by the stars on its wings.

I began to wonder if it was in trouble, and then as it became lower and lower still on the same flight path its engines began to sound rough and I become convinced something was wrong.

As the plane became out of view over fields and trees that stretched beyond the track of our house, we suddenly heard a sickening thud (it had hit a tree) and a terrible scraping noise and we guessed the plane had crashed.

People started to appear and began to run across the fields towards the noise. The plane's ammunition began to fire off in bangs and pops, very fast one after the other. My mother, sister and I began running over the fields, but all these bangs became so loud that my mother decided we should go back.

We heard the following day that, thankfully, all the men had got out of the plane, including one that had an injured ankle and who was helped out by a farm worker who was on hand. This casualty was taken to hospital.

I went to view the crashed plane a few days later with some of my friends. It had caught fire and was just a shell.



THANKSGIVING FIELD

