

Aircrew of No. 57 'Blue Phoenix' Squadron Avro Lancaster Mk. III bomber NE127 (their bomber was squadron coded and with call sign DX - 'J' for Johnny)

- This bomber team was downed by a Luftwaffe night-fighter in the night of Monday 22nd / Tuesday 23rd of May 1944, at 00.16 hrs. local time, during an RAF air raid on Braunschweig (Brunswick), in Central North Germany; it was hit by gunfire, given by Uffz. Herbert Meyer + aircrew (of unit 8. / NJG. 1 - started from 'Fliegerhorst' Leeuwarden), and caught fire immediately and fell down, out of control. Then it exploded soon in mid air - because the crew couldn't drop their bomb load ! - and the remains of the craft and the killed crew came down nearby Dorkwerd village, situated NW of Groningen city, in the Province of Groningen, in the NE part of the Netherlands; only two men survived, of which one fell in a local water, without using his parachute ! (he was badly wounded, had many burns) -
- This aircraft, equipped with H2S radar (in a 'bulge' under its fuselage) etc., was in fact brand new (!), was delivered to No. 57 Sqdn. on Tuesday the 16th of May 1944, thus circa 1 week earlier; it had flown only about 7 hours ! The Luftwaffe 'Flugzeugführer' (= pilot), Uffz. Herbert Meyer, who claimed this 'victory', was only 20 years old; born on 14 Aug. 1923, at Marienwerder, in today's Kwidzyn town, in Pommeren / Poland. This was his first 'confirmed kill', and wireless supported by the 'Jäger Leit Offizier' (JLO) of the coastal radar and air control station 'Schlei' on Schiermonnikoog Island, in occupied Holland; this Luftwaffe station 'shadowed' constantly the RAF bomber with her Würzburg radar, after it was detected first with her long distance Wassermann M radar (range about 300 km. !). By the way, the German aircrew and their night-fighter (the Messerschmitt Bf. - 110G - 4, Wn. 440076, coded G9 + NS) was shot down / killed about 1 month later already, on Wednesday 21st June 1944, by S/L. Paul W. Rabone (pilot) and his F/O. Jones (navigator), flying the DH Mosquito fighter PZ203 of No. 515 Sqdn.; it happened ca. 2 kilometers off enemy airfield Eelde, in the Prov. of Drenthe, in occupied NL, when the German craft just took off !!

RAF Sgt. (Flight Engineer) **Armin**, Arthur Meakin (568867) - KIA - son of James Armin and of Mary Jane Armin (nee Meakin), of West Pelson village / Chester-le-Street town, in County Durham (UK)

Buried in the General Cemetery of Hoogkerk village, on the Kerkstraat (= Church Street), in a collective war grave, grave 21-25, in row 7, plot C (Province of Groningen / the Netherlands); he has a marble grave cross (no regular CWGC grave marker) and his final family text, written on the bottom line at the panel below the cross, says: 'Greater love hath no man than this'.

RCAF Sgt. (Mid-Upper-Gunner) **Dalseg**, Paul Ivor (R/205026) - POW - son of Paul N Dalseg (1885-1950)

and Bricken Edith Dalseg (nee?.....) 1896-1969, both buried in the Forest Lawn Cemetery, in the Rainy River District of Ontario (Central Canada); the family roots of the Dalseg family are laying in NW Europe, in Scandinavia (Norway); his parents married in 1913. He was born on August 5, 1924, on the family farm at McInnes Creek, in the Spohn Township / Kreger Road Area of Ontario (Central Canada). He had at least one, older sister, Judith Caroline Dalseg, later Mrs. J.C. Proudfoot (25 Sept. 1919 - 15 Sept. 2016, who's resting in Dryden Cemetery, Kenora District, Ontario (Can.). In 1945, after his liberation from the POW camps in Poland and Germany / his return to Canada, he settled at Dryden city, on the Wabigoon Lake, in NW Ontario (Central Canada), where he met and later married his wife Eleonor Gofton. He passed away on May 2, 2018, aged 93 years (!).

RAF(VR) Pilot Off. (Pilot / Captain) **Henley**, Francis Norman (172463) - KIA - son of Frank Henley and of A.....?..... Henley (nee?.....), of Birmingham city, in the West Midlands (UK); aged 24, thus born in 1920 likely

Buried in the General Cemetery of Hoogkerk village, on the Kerkstraat (= Church Street), in a

collective war grave, grave 21-25, in row 7, plot C (Province of Groningen / the Netherlands); the final family text on his CWGC grave marker says: 'In loving memory of Francis, always in our thoughts, dad, mother and sisters' (thus, he only had sisters !).

RAF(VR) Fl./Off. (Navigator) **Lodge**, Abraham Gordon (136816) - KIA - son of Francis John Lodge (born 29 Nov. 1872 - died xxxxx), who was a carpenter / joiner, and of Edith Lodge nee Jagger (born 24 March 1879 - died xxxx); husband of Ivy Lodge nee Robertshaw (b. xxxx - d. xxxx), of Bradford city, in West Yorkshire (UK); and father of (little) John Gordon Lodge. He himself was aged 28, born at 4 nov. 1916

Buried in the General Cemetery of Hoogkerk village, on the Kerkstraat (= Church Street), in a collective war grave, grave 21-25, in row 7, plot C (Province of Groningen / the Netherlands); he has a marble grave cross (no regular CWGC grave marker) and his final family text, written on the bottom line at the panel below the cross, says: 'Greater love hath no man than this'.

RAF(VR) Sgt. (Wireless Operator / Air Gunner) **Manson**, John (Jr.) (1097851) - KIA - son of Capt. John Manson (Sr.) and of Ivy Manson nee Readman (born 27 Jan. 1898 - died 1987), of West Hartlepool, in County Durham (UK); born at 27 Oct. 1922, thus only aged 21, when killed. He had at least one, younger brother, Guy Readman Manson (1926-1987).

Buried in the General Cemetery of Hoogkerk village, on the Kerkstraat (= Church Street), in a collective war grave, grave 21-25, in row 7, plot C (Province of Groningen / the Netherlands); he has a marble grave cross (no regular CWGC grave marker) and his final family text, written on the bottom line at the panel below the cross, says: 'Greater love hath no man than this'.

RAF Flt/Sgt. (Bomb Aimer) **Morris**, Sydney (567720) - KIA - son of Thomas Lewis Morris and of Anne Morris; husband of Ruth Elvia Morris (nee?.....), of Hitchin market town, in North Hertfordshire (UK)

Buried in the General Cemetery of Hoogkerk village, on the Kerkstraat (= Church Street), in a collective war grave, grave 21-25, in row 7, plot C (Province of Groningen / the Netherlands); on his grave is erected a regular CWGC marker, but there's no final family text on it below (!).

RCAF Sgt. (Air Gunner - Rear) **Wharf**, Norman Gordon (R/310803) - hospitalized first, brought to the Rom. Cath. Hospital (RKZ) in nearby Groningen city, on the Verlengde Herenweg; he was a patient there for many and many weeks, because of his burns. But later he was taken POW by the Germans, transported to Germany, to an interrogation camp likely (near Oberursel city, in the Hessen region of Germany ?). However, he was 'invited' before at the Luftwaffe airfield Leeuwarden, in Friesland, where he got a 'pretty Luftwaffe show', and also in the local HQ of the Luftwaffe, in the (captured) Hotel Amacitia, on the Nieuweweg, in Leeuwarden's inner city. But after about 9 months of care and prisoning, he became repatriated, already before the end of the war, because of his long recovery treatment, the high medical costs of it !; therefore he was aboard the Swedish ocean liner M.S. 'Gripsholm', which 'ferried to home' many sick and disabled POW's, via liberated Marseille harbour city (in France) to Southampton port city likely (in the UK), under the International Red Cross Committee flag. And that happened in early February 1945. Maybe he was hospitalized again then in Great-Britain, or soon back in Canada (?). Whatever, on 5 Nov. 1945 he was back in Canada and married Bernice McKinnon, at Victoria city, in British Columbia. They got 2 children likely. However, they got divorced too, and he married later Hilda Mary Wharf (nee Hartley), who was born at Salford town at 10th of May 1918, in Lancashire then (today part of Greater Manchester, UK). In later years she was a (married ?) teacher, living in Prestwich town, in Lancaster too. When married (date of his 2nd marriage?) they lived many years at Victoria city, on the Southern tip of Vancouver Island, in British Columbia indeed (W Canada). She passed away on December 30, 2014; her funeral service was in (Roman Cath.) St. Patrick's Parish of Victoria, at Jan. 9, 2015. Although a teacher, with a 'big heart' for children likely, she never had own children, as far as could be

traced; however, she had 2 step-children, Bill and Norma, from her husband's first marriage. 'Norm' himself died in 2000, as far as known; thus 56 years after his 'scary fall from the dark sky' over the Dorkwerd crash site, over the German occupied area of the Netherlands, and without a parachute !! (lucky for him, he fell into water then). Both are today resting in the Royal Oak Burial Ground Park, at Victoria city too (in BC / West Canada), on the Falaise Drive. Together with his (second) wife Hilda Mary, he revisited the crash site nearby Dorkwerd village - as he ever did earlier, in 1955 (?) - and he looked at the graves of his killed crewmates at Hoogkerk village, in the Gen. Cemetery there, early July 1988; it was a rather emotional 'pilgrimage' for him, with many sleepless nights in a nearby hotel ! (according to a newspaper article about it, in the 'Nieuwsblad van het Noorden', of Sat. 9th July 1988 - on page 31).

Reearched / collected / compiled by Willem de Jong,
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