

P.A. - R<sup>17107</sup>~~152758~~ 001 - 1st WR

POSTGRAM. - P423393

ORIGINATORS REFERENCE NUMBER  
18PTC/G126/P.1

TO Air Ministry :  
Kingsway, London,

Date 9.10.45.

From O.C. No. 18 P.T.C? R.A.F. c/O B.A.O.R.

STIRLING LJ988 crashed 20/Sept/1944.

With reference to your signal PC 2583-E248 dated 4th October 1945 the following is a full report on the location of the graves of the crew of the above mentioned aircraft.

2. The aircraft is located at NATUURBAD in a wood at the side of a swimming pool. It is marked Inspected J.M.S.P/O 26th July, 1945 151 R.U.. At the side of the aircraft is a grave marked Unknown British Airman J.M.S. P/O 151 R.U. 26 July, 1945 656772 (This grave has now been reported to No. 37 G.R.U. at Tilburg).

3<sup>2</sup> Renkum civil cemetery was then visited, but the caretaker could throw no light on graves nos. 26-29 mentioned in your signal. Most of the graves have been removed from renkum to OOSTERBEEK airborne cemetery.

4. A visit to Oosterbeek revealed the grave of 14435628 Pte. Neal G. (Driver) R.A.F.C. located at Plot No. 1 Row C. Grave No. 1

5. The following information was obtained from No. 37 G.R.U. at Tilburg:- Graves 26-29 at Renkum do not contain the bodies of the crew from Stirling LJ 988. The graves of the crew of this aircraft are at Oosterbeek Airborne Cemetery, Plot 4, Row A Graves No. 10-13.. The only means of identification to date are as follows :-  
Grave No. 10. An observer badge (Canadian) was found and a bible marked George Bancraft. Grave no. 11 An Air Gunners badge was found  
Graves No. 12 and 13 No means of identification found.

Signed C.R. King F/O.

Copy/R. M.C.

*N.M.*

*Bancroft's file will be passed to me from BUR. JRM*

16<sup>th</sup> October 1945.

F. 423393/44/1.4 B.4.

Officer in Charge,  
North Section (Holland)  
Missing Research and Enquiry Service,  
C/O No. 18 Staging Post,  
R.A.F. B.A.O.R.

Casualty Enquiry H. 134

Stirling aircraft LJ 988 was reported missing on the 20th September 1944 as a result of resupplying operations for the Airborne Army at Oosterbeek, Arnhem.

2. Crew :-

R. 141092	W/O	Tait.	W.R.	Pilot.
1537420	F/S	Habbott.	G.	Nav.
R. 152458	W/O	Bancroft.	E.W.	Air/Bomb.
1525459	F/S	Gragg.	T.B.	Wop/A.G. Missing.
628480	F/S	Murphy	A.J.	F/Eng.
183895	F/O	Benning.	D.E.	A/G.
(ex/S 1425469)				
T/10679269	Drv.	Nye.	A. R.A.S.C.	Despatchers.
T/14435628	Drv.	Neale.	G. R.A.S.C.	"
				Missing.

3. A report from 151 R. (E) Unit states that this aircraft crashed near Arnhem (Map ref E.656772) in September 1944 and one Un-identified" was buried near the scene of the crash by 37 Graves Registration Unit.

Information from War Office Casualty Branch states that Driver G. Neale is buried in the Public Cemetery at Redlam,

/Gilderland

23 OCT 1945

Gelderland, Holland. :

No information has been received regarding the other missing members of the crew.

4. It would be appreciated if you could make an investigation to establish the identity of the "unknown" buried near the scene of the crash, confirm that Driver Neale is buried in the Cemetery at Redkam, and establish the fate and burial particulars of the remaining members of the crew.

L. B. MAPP

for Director of Personal Services.

Copies to :-

RAF IO, AXXRE.

CAN/CAS.

WAR OFFICE.

R. C. A. F.

C O P Y

From:- No.5 (Holland) Section, M.R. & E. Service, The Hague, Holland.

To:- Air Ministry P.4 Cas. 77 Oxford Street, London, W.1.  
Air Ministry P.4 Cas. Jan. 77 Oxford Street, London, W.1.

Date:- 6th November, 1945.

Ref:- 5MRES/601/H.134.

CASUALTY ENQUIRY NO. H.134.

This aircraft crash is at Map Ref. E.56772, 6 miles west of Arnhem 265<sup>0</sup>. It is at the edge of a peating lake adjoining an artificial wave swimming bath. The aircraft was identified by its number.

The unknown had been exhumed and taken to Oosterbeek Cemetery. I also called at the Cemetery of RENKUM (Map Ref. E.6277). The bodies from there had also been removed to Oosterbeek Military Cemetery, so I called upon the local undertaker, a Mr. V.D. Dorn. He said that Driver Neale had been buried in the Cemetery and four "Unknowns" from the aircraft too. His son stated that one had escaped alive and had been in the Temporary Red Cross Hospital at HEELSUM, (Map Ref. 6477). None of the sisters of this hospital is in the neighbourhood at the moment, but he will communicate with one of them and endeavour to find out this airman's name. On hearing this I went to the swimming bath again and questioned the Manager, who was there at the time of the crash. He also stated that one had escaped. He said that the man told him that he was a gunner. He was about 5'9 $\frac{1}{2}$ "", fair haired. He had a broken hip bone and a wound in the head. He was of the opinion that in ordinary circumstances he would have recovered. Next day I called upon Dr. Visser, at Heelsum, who had attended many British soldiers in hospital at the time of the Arnhem landing (he had also bandaged some who were not wounded, on order to hoodwink the Germans). He could not remember having assisted an airman at the time. (As a matter of human interest, this doctor told me that once when an airman had baled out and was coming down a German was just taking aim to shoot him when his - the doctor's ten year old daughter who saw what was happening, said to the soldier "How mean you are". and the soldier did not shoot). Dr Visser will also find out all he can concerning the escapee.

Next day, on November 5th. I called at Oosterbeek Military Cemetery, (Map ref. E.704795) and saw the Officer Commanding No.37 G.R.U. He has the following bodies at the Cemetery: W/O Tait, who was the airman buried near the aircraft.

Driver Neale.  
1 Canadian, presumably W/O Bancroft.  
1 Air Gunner, Presumably P/O Benning.  
1 Unknown R.A.S.C. presumably Driver Nye.  
2 Unknowns.

The Officer hopes to be able to give more definite information later, it would seem, as he described himself as a gunner, that the escapee was F/S Cragg, but I do not think one can rule out the possibility that F/S Cragg may be buried and F/O Benning is the escapee, though I would have thought that P/O Benning would also have stated that he was a W.O.P.

Squadron Leader, Officer I/C  
No.5 (holland) Section. M.R.E.S. R.A.F. D.A.O.R

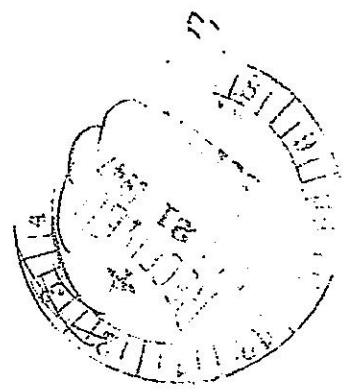
POST PRESUMPTION MEMORANDUM NO. 5062

Relating to Stirling IJ. 988, Missing on 20.9.44, Crashed 6 miles W. of Arnhem, S. 7. (Cas. C. 5.)

Date: 3.2.47

FILE NO.	RANK	NUMBER	NAME	INFORMATION																								
P.423393/44	W/O	R141092	TAIT, V. R.	<p>HOLLAND Army Form #. 3372 from M. K. E. shows that these personnel are buried in the Airborne Cemetery, Oosterbuk as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Plot</th> <th>Row</th> <th>Grave</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>D</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>A</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>A</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>X ( 4</td> <td>A</td> <td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>( 4</td> <td>A</td> <td>12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>( 4</td> <td>A</td> <td>13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>C</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>X collective marking. One member safe.</p> <p><u>CASE CLOSED</u></p>	Plot	Row	Grave	4	D	20	4	A	9	4	A	10	X ( 4	A	11	( 4	A	12	( 4	A	13	1	C	1
Plot	Row	Grave																										
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1	C	1																										
	P/O	183895	BENNING, D. G.																									
	W/O	R152458	BANCROFT, E. W.																									
	F/Sgt.	628480	MURPHY, A. J.																									
	F/Sgt.	1525459	ORRIG, T. B.																									
	F/Sgt.	1537420	MABBOTT, C.																									
	Driver	14435628	NEALE, G.																									
			(Army)																									

- Circulation to:
- Amendments (B. 1.)
  - Chron. Cards (B. 1.)
  - S. 7. (Cas. C. 5.)
  - Presumptions (B. 3.)
  - Miss Crabbe (A. 3. for A. G. 13.)
  - Cas. Can. ✓ O. H. 2.
  - R. A. F. O. H. 2.
  - P. File
  - B. 1. (MEM)
  - C. 1. Barton



G. 97962.