

The following account was provided by Barry Elson, a relative of Sergeant Cutting.

I spent a couple of years in the pre-internet days of corresponding with various people in Belgium, Holland and Germany. At that time, I could not find out from MOD or the Public Records Office in Kew, England, what the identification letter of the Halifax was other than LQ-? Correspondence with the Air ministry did not give the answer, and I was told by them that I would probably never find out, so I sent letters to various people in Europe who also carried out this type of research.

It was some time later that I got a letter from a man in Belgium who at the time of Sept 3rd 1942 was a young boy working at the local church in Lesves. and his name was now Father Phillip Vereker at the same church. At the time of the crash, he saw the final moments of DT487 as it hit the ground, the aircraft ablaze, and saw that one of the engines tore off the aircraft before crashing into a house. The next morning, before the Germans arrived, he went to the wreck and recovered what it was recoverable. He had also been able to note that the number on the aircraft was still visible as LQ-M.

I had found that missing letter! The young Fr Vereker then put everything he had collected away in the church where it had remained untouched for over 40 years, until he read a translated version of my letter in a magazine and immediately knew that was the aircraft whose ending had been locked away, and contact was made with me. One of the things he told me was that he had Sergeant Cutting's watch which had stopped at 01:46 , so now I had discovered the time the crew had died.

Later in the year I received a letter that had originated in Germany, sent to me fully translated by someone in The Netherlands, and it told me that LQ-M had been shot down by Oblt Martinek who had recorded his 'kill' as 01:47.

All information I had was forwarded to relevant departments of Air Ministry/RAF. and DT 487 is now fully documented on the internet by several sources.

This plaque commemorates not so much the crew, but civilian victim Eveline Beaupère-Jacques. She was 45 years old when the Halifax came down in this neighborhood. Eveline suffered severe burns and died on September 6, 1942, three days after the crash. The commemorative plaque was an initiative of the local branch of the national association of veterans

The house at 3 Rue de la Blanchisserie was destroyed by the crash of the Halifax. The resident, Eveline Beaupère-Jacques, stayed with the neighbours. On September 6, when she returned to her destroyed house to fetch water from a well in the basement, she tried to light a candle because the electricity had gone out. When she lit a match, an explosion followed, presumably caused by leaked fuel from the bomber. Eveline had third degree burns. A German soldier who had been standing guard at the wreckage pulled the victim out of the rubble. The burns were so severe that Eveline Beaupère died the same day.