



REMEMBRANCE DAY



N O V E M B E R 1 1



8 pages

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Lynda Paul of Ballinafad surveys the vast collection of information, documents and old photos she's collected in her quest to piece together the events leading up to her uncle, F/Sgt Ken Buck, being shot down over the Netherlands during the Second World War. Paul visited his grave last spring, on the 60th anniversary of his death.
Photo by Ted Brown

The niece who never forgot...

Sixty years after her uncle was killed in action, Lynda Paul finds 'closure' in a Dutch cemetery

The night was clear May 4, 1943, as 14 Halifax bombers lifted off from the airfield near Pockington, Yorkshire, England.

The mission was a night bombing raid targeting a steel mill complex located in Dortmund, Germany. The raid was part of a campaign to cut off steel resources thereby crippling the Nazi war machine as it rolled across Europe.

As part of the 102nd (Ceylon) Squadron of the Royal Air Force (RAF), squadron records show the North Sea crossing for the 14 aircraft was uneventful, with a clear night in front of those bombers loaded down with 500 lb. bombs, en route to their objective in Germany.

It's impossible to know what was going through the minds of the seven crew members in bomber HR 667 DY-O as they set off on that mission. Some were veteran airmen, having flown numerous such raids, while others were not so experienced.



F/Sgt Kenneth Howard Buck's official service portrait.

Photo courtesy of Lynda Paul

The rear gunner, 20 year-old Flight Sergeant Kenneth Howard Buck, was the only Canadian on board that night. On loan from the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF), F/Sgt Buck was already a veteran of numerous bombing raids, in spite of his relatively young age. He'd seen his fair share of action already, being the lone survivor in an earlier air crash in which he had suffered major injuries.

Born on Manitoulin Island in October of 1922, and later growing up in Owen Sound, Buck was the youngest of 11

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