

STICHTING WINGS TO VICTORY

AIRWAR MUSEUM / AIRMEN MEMORIAL ZEELAND



Crash No 71

Blenheim R3898

01-08-1940

Haamstede



01 augustus 1940

Twaalf Blenheims van Nos. 101, 139 en 114 squadrons (No. 2 Group) werden uitgezonden naar meerdere doelen in Nederland maar wegens te geringe wolkendekking keerden zes toestellen voortijdig terug.

Twee Blenheims van No. 114 squadron – R3891 en R3898 – voerden hun missie naar het vliegveld van Haamstede uit waarbij (helaas) laatstgenoemde door twee in der haast opgestegen Bf-109's van 4./JG 54 werd neergeschoten. Deze machine stortte – na enkele bommen nabij Westerschaar te hebben afgeworpen – neer op een tarweveld (Kraaiestein) in de gemeente Burgh, niet ver van de nabij Haamstede opgestelde kustbatterij 3./202.

Day Raid Sheets Bomber Command (Air 14-336)

--/-- Bomb Raid No. 455 - Five out of twelve Blenheims attacked Leeuwarden and Haamstede aerodromes and a Flakship between 06.30 and 14.43 hours from heights between 1.500 and 700 feet and 10 x 250 lbs and 10 x 40 lbs bombs were dropped. Hit observed on new hangar at Haamstede aerodrome where two Me 109's and one lorry were attacked and hit by machine gun fire.

Operations Record Book No. 114 squadron.

--/-- Blenheim Mk.IV (R3891) on bombing mission – Plt.Off. N.Tasker, Sgt. Summers and Sgt. Levack.

Time up/ down 1405 – 1540 hours. Seven crews stood by to attack airfields in enemy occupied territory. Four stand-by crews were ready to take off, when a message was received that the weather was unsuitable.

The English coast was left at Orfordness at 1433 hours and over the North Sea cloud cover was 10/10ths at 1000 to 2500 feet, but commenced breaking up to 8/10ths at the Dutch coast.

Landfall was made at Haamstede and our aircraft altered course to south and turned to approach from inland. A shallow dive-attack was made down to 600 feet and the stick fell across the hangars, the first bomb dropping on a newly constructed camouflage hangar.

The rear gunner machine gunned and damaged two Me 109's on the aerodrome and also a moving lorry which stopped abruptly when hit. The observer, using the blistergun, fired at buildings.

No Flakfire was encountered. The pilot climbed into cloud and turned for Base. He reports that he was followed by an unidentified aircraft to within two miles of Orfordness.¹

Blenheim Mk.IV (R3898) on bombing mission – Plt.Off. J.D.Goode, Sgt. Will and Sgt. Barrow. Time up 14.15 hours. This aircraft took off at 1415 hours also to attack Haamstede aerodrome and nothing further has been heard of the aircraft or crew and they have been reported missing (it was thought that the Blenheim may have run into two enemy aircraft put up after the first attack on the airfield).

¹ Volgens de opgave “Endgültige Zusammenstellung der Bombenabwürfe” vielen 12 explosieven op het vliegveld en werd de koelinstallatie van een brandweerauto licht beschadigd. Eén Nederlander liep verwondingen op.

