

## PRESS RELEASE

Lochem, November 14, 2019

### **Visitors day is cancelled! Aircraft and mortal remains in Eefde have been salvaged**

**The salvage procedure of the aircraft that crashed on 26 September 1944 between Eefde and Gorssel was completed earlier than expected. The operation was successful. Wreckage parts, mortal remains, and fragments of a uniform have been uncovered and salvaged. Further investigation is needed to determine whether the mortal remains indeed belong to the missing British pilot William Hurrell. Since the work has been finished, the visitors day on 20 November is cancelled. Instead, a memorial service will be held on that day.**

#### **The aircraft number belongs to the missing pilot's plane**

The salvaged aircraft is the Hawker Typhoon MN582 of the 175th Squadron of the British Royal Air Force. This is evident from unique code numbers found on salvaged parts of the plane. The Hawker Typhoon MN582 did not return from an armed reconnaissance flight on that fatal day in September. The official description was "shot down near Apeldoorn by a Messerschmitt 109". Hundreds of grenades from the aircraft's guns and the expected eight rockets were found alongside the aircraft. The Defence Explosive Ordnance Disposal Service (DEODS) will take care of the clearance of the ammunition found on board.

#### **Mortal remains**

The Recovery and Identification Service of the Royal Netherlands Army (BIDKL) has secured the mortal remains. Further investigation in the laboratory of the BIDKL in Soesterberg should determine whether the recovered remains are from the missing pilot of the MN582, Flight Sergeant William Hurrell. The results of the investigation will be submitted to the British Ministry of Defence for approval. This can take some time. Only then will the British Ministry of Defence start preparations for a re-burial ceremony.

#### **Hurrell's Descendants**

The surviving Australian relatives of Flight Sergeant William Hurrell were informed by Mayor Van't Erve of the recovery of the aircraft and the mortal remains. They will visit the Netherlands at the invitation of the municipality to inspect the location where the aircraft crashed and attend the memorial service. Mayor Sebastiaan van 't Erve: "I am hopeful that we can finally give William Hurrell his final, honourable resting place. I am very grateful to Defence and the salvage experts for their professional and thorough work, and I look forward to meeting Hurrell's relatives."

#### **Memorial service instead of Visitors day**

Due to the unforeseen speedy completion of the salvage, the visitors day on November 20 has been cancelled. Instead, a memorial service will be held that day. All interested parties are welcome, but the number of places is limited. Access will only be granted to registered visitors, via [herdenkingberging@lochem.nl](mailto:herdenkingberging@lochem.nl).

#### **Excavation is part of the National Aircraft Wreckage Recovery Program**

The excavation of the aircraft was commissioned by the municipality of Lochem as part of the National Aircraft Wreckage Recovery Program. The project was carried out by the cooperating specialised

salvage services of the Ministry of Defence, supported by construction company 'Leemans Speciaalwerken'.

---

Note to editors:

The previously announced press meeting in the field on the Lindeboomweg on November 20 is CANCELLED. You are very welcome to attend the memorial service at the Ontmoetingskerk on the Zutphenseweg in Eefde, from 11 a.m. - 12 a.m.

Registration for this is mandatory via [communicatie@lochem.nl](mailto:communicatie@lochem.nl). We have a limited number of places available.

For more information, please contact Karin Notenboom, communications consultant for the municipality of Lochem, (0573) 28 92 21. For more background information, please visit [www.lochem.nl/vliegtuigberging-eefde](http://www.lochem.nl/vliegtuigberging-eefde).