



N105

16,500 kilometers

... the Fairey Battle was a British bomber-fighter that performed poorly and was very vulnerable: It was slow, insufficiently armed and lacking an armoured cockpit. And yet, on the orders of Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur Sheridan BARRATT (1891, +1966), thirty-two Fairey Battles of the Royal Air Force took part in an air raid launched on 10 May 1940 from the Reims air base against the German invaders who were advancing in occupied territories. FO (Flying Officer) Douglas Alexander CAMERON's Fairey Battle was seriously hit by FLAK (Flugabwehrkanone, German anti-aircraft defence) in the vicinity of Wallendorf and had to crash-land near Hierzenhaff on the heights south of Bettendorf. Sergeant C. S. HART and AC1 (Aircraftman 1st class) J. G. WARD managed to extricate themselves from the burning aircraft with a few scratches and bruises. The pilot was less fortunate: severely injured in the right arm, he died the same day at around 11 p.m. at the Clinique du Sacré-Cœur in Diekirch, where Dr Georges TANDEL (*1910, +1968) had taken charge of him. There are now 16,500 km between Diekirch, the final resting place of Douglas Alexander CAMERON (*1915, +1940) and his native Australia. Since the end of the war, Valérie WINTER-GEORGES (*1911, +2006), then John 'Boy' NEVEN (*1949, +2006) and finally the staff of the Musée National d'Histoire Militaire (MNHM), under the leadership of curator Roland GAUL, have devoted themselves to maintaining and flowering the grave of FO Doug A. CAMERON at Diekirch cemetery. (bp, fg, rg, bn, 2014-10-13)



Diekirch Cemetery, Tomb and epitaph of D. A. CAMERON : ' Flying oficer D. A. CAMERON - Pilot - Royal Air Force - 10th May 1940 - Age 25 - In Loving Memory '. [Photographs and editing: bp_2014-09-22]



Air crash of 10 May 1940 near Hierzenhaff: 1), 2), 3) and 4) German soldiers, 5) Sgt C. S. HART and 6) FO Douglas Alexander CAMERON; AC1 J. G. WARD, slightly wounded, is not in the photograph. The position, pallid complexion and 'absent' expression of the wounded pilot - could he be suffering from haemorrhagic shock? - the white sheet covering the upper part of his body and the posture of the unknown carer 2) who is working with vigour and determination on the wounded man's right arm 6): everything suggests that carer 2) is an expert - a nurse or a military doctor - carrying out haemostasis of a major wound on the wounded man's right upper limb 6). [Photographs: left: NN_1940-05-10; publication: J. DERNEDEN, *Das Schicksal der Fairey Battle vom Hierzenhaff*. In: 70 Joer duerno, *Erënnerungen un den Jean JOHN an den F.O. Doug CAMERON*, 2010, p. 25-30; right: silhouetting for character identification : bp_2014-09-22]



Références

- J. DERNEDEN: *Das Schicksal der Fairey Battle vom "Hiirzenhaff" in 70 Joer duerno, Erënnerungen un den Jean JOHN an den F.O. Doug CAMERON*, 2010, p. 25-30
- B. DITSCH: [Odyssee eines Diekircher Zwangsrekrutierten 1940-1945, 1986, p. 8-9](#) (1 image composée, jpeg, 881 KB) (lien actualisé le 2025-08-11)
- B. NIEDERKORN: [Cérémonie de commémoration F. O. D. A. CAMERON du 10 mai 2025 au cimetière de Diekirch](#) (1 image, jpg, 3 MB) (lien actualisé le 2025-08-11)
- Commonwealth War Grave Commission > [CAMERON Douglas Alexander > Casualty Details](#) (lien actualisé le 2023-05-09)
- Commonwealth War Grave Commission > [CAMERON Douglas Alexander > Certificate](#) (1 page, pdf, 302 KB) (lien actualisé le 2023-05-09)
- Commonwealth War Grave Commission > [CAMERON Douglas Alexander > Graves Registration Report Form](#) (1 image, png, 2 MB) (lien actualisé le 2023-05-09)
- Commonwealth War Grave Commission > [CAMERON Douglas Alexander > Graves Registration](#) (1 image, png, 4 MB) (lien actualisé le 2023-05-09)
- Commonwealth War Grave Commission > [CAMERON Douglas Alexander > Graves Headstone](#) (1 image, png, 3 MB) (lien actualisé le 2023-05-09)
- RAF-Web > Biographies > [Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur BARRATT](#) (lien actualisé le 2014-10-13) •
Avions de légende > Bombardiers > Anglais > [Fairey Battle](#) (lien actualisé le 2014-10-13)
- Google Earth > [Distance Melbourne – Diekirch](#) (1 image, png, 4 MB) (lien actualisé le 2023-05-09)