

Memorial for B-17 Bomber Crash

St Margaret's-at-Cliffe --- Denise Lee

At 2pm on Saturday 18th May 2019 members of the St Margaret's Historical Society and relatives unveiled a plaque to mark the spot of a WWII B-17 [Flying Fortress] plane crash. Organised by Mr Brian Cole the plaque is fixed to a 1 metre high memorial near to the junction of Station Road and Nelson Park Road.



487 Bomb Group

In the early hours of 8th January 1945 the American B-17 bomber, part of the 837 Bombardment Squadron, 487 Bombardment Group, took off from Lavenham, Suffolk for a raid over Germany. The bomber suffered damage over Frankfurt but managed to reach England. As it crossed the coast the engines failed and just before 2pm the pilot Lt Frank Casey brought it in for a crash landing on farmland. In all he flew 54 missions without any of his crew being

injured.

Mr Cole's father, an Air Raid Protection [ARP] warden after hearing the crash was first on the scene. He was very surprised to see all eight crew walk away from the crash uninjured. He then invited them in for tea while a neighbour contacted the authorities for the crew to be

picked up.

Frank Casey was born in Cave Springs, Floyd County, Georgia USA on 16th December 1919. In 2011, then a resident of Cedartown, Polk County, Georgia he received a shard of metal from the plane after it had been dug up in the field at the crash site. He died 3rd November 2013 at Cedartown and is buried at the local cemetery at Cave Springs.



Casey Crew - 837th Squadron

Back Row L to R:

T/Sgt Robert W. Keene (radio operator), S/Sgt Roy E. Emery (nose-turret gunner), S/Sgt Bruce R. MacFarland (ball turret gunner), T/Sgt George M. Ogle (flight engineer)

Front Row L to R:

2nd Lt Charles P. Mundorf (navigator), S/Sgt Albert C. Harmon (tail gunner), 2nd Lt Edward J. Wilkowski (co-pilot), 2nd Lt Frank L. Casey (pilot)