

# INVESTIGATION REPORT



<b>Investigation Site</b>	Cockayne Hatley – Potton Wood
<b>Investigation Date</b>	31 <sup>st</sup> August 2012
<b>Report By</b>	Bill King
<b>Team Members</b>	Steph, Bill, Andy, Marion, Sarah, Richard

## Background

To the best of our knowledge Potton Wood is not haunted but it was the scene of a tragic event which made it worth our while investigating the site.

On 18<sup>th</sup> September 1945 Liberator KN736 from 466 Squadron, Royal Australian Air Force crashed in the wood and four of the seven crew members died.

Those who lost their lives were:

Flight Lieutenant Patrick Joseph McNulty DFC, aged 22

Warrant Officer James Raymond Potter, age 22

Flight Lieutenant Edward John James Spiller DFC, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, aged 28

Flight Sergeant Delbert Roy Turner, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, aged 28

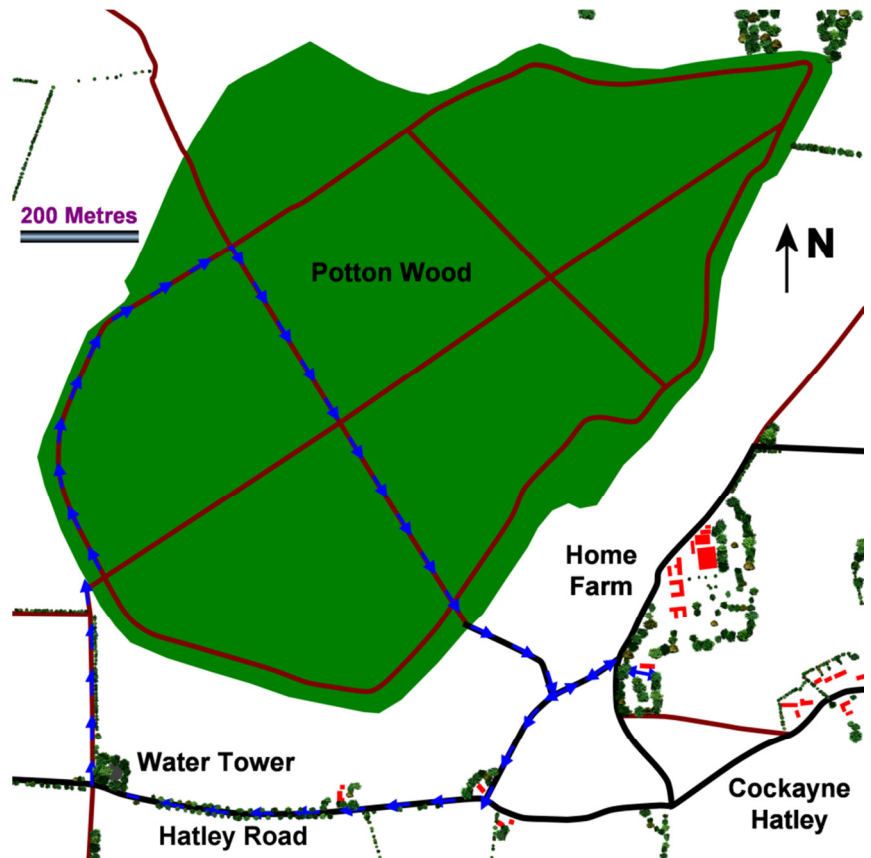
Whilst those who survived with the help of locals were: Flight Sergeant R. V. Carling RAF, Flight Officer F. G. Dorak RAAF, Flight Officer N. P. Gilmour DFC RAAF and Bitsa the dog.

## Walk

For the first part of the nights investigation we undertook a walk around the wood to see if the team members could pick anything up. For a plan of the area and the walk route see the drawing on the right.

On the journey down there was occasional light rain which continued off and on during the investigation. This area is a dark one as there are no nearby lights and a quiet one as it is well away from main roads and habitation.

21:00 We started from the parking area by the water tower and headed north across the field to the edge of the wood. Once in the wood we decided to take the smaller path that heads north-northwest away from the main firebreak through the wood. This path runs around the complete circumference of the wood just inside the trees. The first part of the path



# INVESTIGATION REPORT



**Investigation Site** Cockayne Hatley – Potton Wood

**Investigation Date** 31st August 2012

was very overgrown with brambles and stinging nettles which made progress very difficult, especially in the dark. It was in this area that Steph had sensed things when we had taken a daytime walk around the wood in the middle of July 2011 (at that time the undergrowth was a lot lower).

21:17 Bill turns on his Electrosmog meter and carries it so he can see and hear any changes.

21:21 Bill turns his Electrosmog meter off. The reading had not changed from the normal single green light.

At this point the team encountered a fallen tree blocking the path which did cause us a few problems, especially as at that point the path was very muddy and the woods dense, but we eventually managed to get past it.

21:24 Shortly after the tree we came out on one of the firebreaks. Thinking this was the main one, and as walking on the small path had been difficult, we decided to turn right and head back to the entrance to the wood as most people had sensed things in that area but not anywhere else.

21:45 Whilst walking down the firebreak Bill heard a tinkling sound like a small bell. This seemed to be coming from the southwest. At the time Bill was about 50m beyond a crossroads.

It was at this point that Bill realised that the bearing he measured did not make sense as it was in front and to the right of his location (compared to the way the team were walking). If the firebreak they were on was the main one then as it runs northeast to southwest the sound should have been in front of him if it came from the southwest. This implied the team were not on the main firebreak but one of the cross ones.

Unfortunately we had not walked as far around the perimeter of the wood as was thought so that we were not on the main firebreak but the first cross break. We discovered this when we came to a gate and found ourselves leaving the wood and heading towards the church dedicated to St John the Baptist. As we were near the church Bill led the team into the churchyard so as to show them the memorial to the crash victims (see the image on the right).

After visiting the church the team followed the roads back to the cars. As the team approached the parking area it started to rain again and continued to do so, because of this it was decided not to return to the wood to do a vigil but to end the investigation and return at a later date.

## Andy's Report

When the group entered the wood Andy was at the back. As the group stopped to take photographs of some broken trees Andy got the impression of a man's head with his left cheek slashed open on sharp metal. The slash extending from the top left cheek down to the corner of the mouth. Andy also got the colour yellow.



# INVESTIGATION REPORT



**Investigation Site** Cockayne Hatley – Potton Wood

**Investigation Date** 31st August 2012

Andy has initially thought that maybe the slash was caused by the man being attacked from behind by another man with a large bent shaped sword of some description.

## Sarah's Report

**General Notes** The evening was quite warm, bright and dry, although in the wood it was very damp and boggy in places. It seemed to get dark very quickly from 20:30 to 21:00.

21.00 We carried out our vigil whilst walking through the wood in the area where an incident happened. From early on Sarah had *plane crash* in her head, which would not go away. On the path through the wood, Sarah picked up on *circular*.

When we turned right onto a path that led toward the edge of the wood by the church, Sarah had *Lincolnshire* and *yodel* come to mind. Just as we neared the end of the wood, Sarah had a minds' eye vision of the left-hand side of the wood being open.

Sarah did not pick up on anything else on the walk to the church and back to the cars.

Nothing unusual was found on camera.

## Richard's Report

Only got one line for this investigation, although I still can't remember what time it happened - it was on the long grassy track in the middle of the wood, near the crossroads point where the tree stood on its own near to the middle. With no forewarning, Richard has a headache, more like a cold dull ache, like something has hit him in the head.

## Marion's Report

Marion notes that as soon as they started to walk the wood the rain started. The ground was already boggy in parts with deep water filled ruts in places one of which she slipped into and limped the rest of the way round.

A short way along the track she picked up 'Peter' and got the words 'Running away, running for my life'. She associates this man and his words with what she has already picked up. Prior to the investigation Marion did some pendulum work with the aerial photo of Cockayne Hatley and Potton Wood. She had already picked up *Swedish, Danish, Saxon, 11<sup>th</sup> century, Vikings* and *raided*.