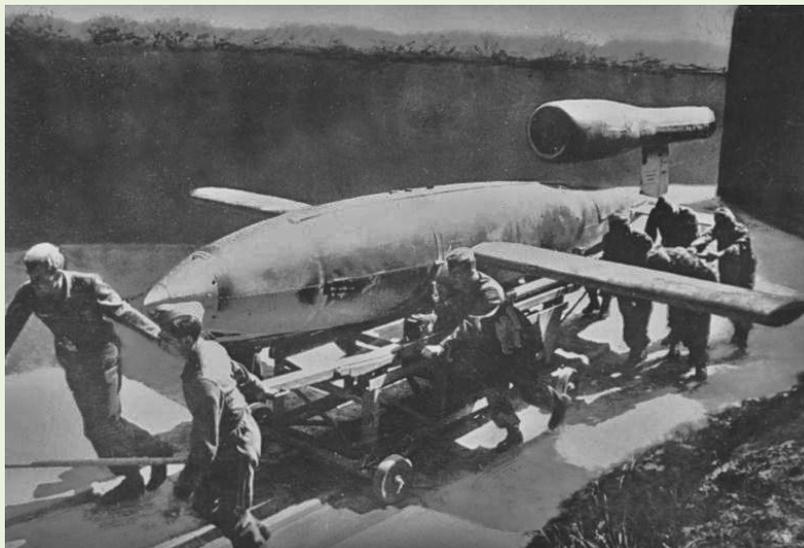


VISIT TO POIX-DE-LA-SOMME WAR CEMETERY, FRANCE **by Susanne Pescott June 2017**

Whilst visiting Normandy recently Association members Susanne & Roger Pescott travelled north to lay a wreath at the graves of the 10 Squadron crew members of Halifax Mk III, MZ584 (ZA-V) who lost their lives on 1 July 1944 during operations to St Martin L'Hortier.

This was the same daytime operation in which Susanne's father, Flt Lt Harold "Homer" Lawson DFC, had also participated in with his crew led by Flt Lt J.T. Hewitt (RCAF) and where he was to return twice more that week, almost a month after D-Day. St Martin L'Hortier is in the department of Seine-Maritime in the Haute-Normandie region of France and is part of the Dieppe district. The target for this raid was a V-1 "flying-bomb site" and it is believed that this and some other such sites had perhaps not been completed prior to their destruction by the Allies in the first week of July 1944.



The V-1 Flying Bomb (Doodlebug)

The 10 Squadron F540 Operations Record Book for 1 July 1944 reads.....

"Seventeen crews took off in daylight to attack the Flying Bomb Base at St Martin L'Hortier. Sixteen crews bombed primary target, a good deal of cloud was experienced, but most crews were able to visually identify their target. A good concentration of bombing was observed. No enemy fighters were encountered but the aircraft captained by F/O Rosen was seen to be hit by flak and go down near the target in a controlled glide, some of the crew were observed to escape by parachute.

Fg Off Rosen's aircraft had taken off from RAF Melbourne at 15:14 hrs in the afternoon, just 3 minutes before that of Susanne's father's crew.

The crew members are buried at Poix-De-La Somme CWGC



Fg Off R.A. Rosen	Pilot
FS H.C. Williamson-Ratray	Navigator
Fg Off J.C. Lelliott	Air Bomber
Sgt D. Daley	Flt Eng
Sgt A.S. Fordham	Air Gunner
Sgt G.S.Lind	Wireless Op
Sgt A.W.D. McKinnon	Air Gunner - survived



There are nearly 150 war casualties commemorated in this site. All are airman who crashed or were shot down in the county around Poix during the war years. Mainly young men are laid to rest in this cemetery, cared for so well by the local community.

***“They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.”***

The Fallen: by Laurence Binyon