

AIR FORCE MEMORIAL CENTER ALS



Introduktion

I Sønderborgområdet, blev der hhv. nedskudt eller nødlandede 11 allierede bombefly, samt ét P-51 Mustang jagerfly, primært i de sidste 3 år af 2. Verdenskrig (se link for detaljer: <https://www.airmen.dk/SDBG.htm>). Det er deres historier vi vil forsøge at skildre med moderne AV midler. Centret er ikke tænkt som et „montre-museum“.

Vores vision

- Et kommende center skal have en museumsafdeling med flydele og personlige dele fra de nedstyrtede fly, samt et arkiv med ikke preserveerede dele, der venter på en kærlig hånd. Her vil vi engagere teknisk kyndige frivillige personer til at restaurere disse effekter.
- Der vil, både på storskærm og i forbindelse med udstillinger, blive fremvist historiske film og film om renoverings- og genopførelses-projekter af fly og lignende.
- Med jævne mellemrum afholdes forelæsninger og foredrag på centret.
- Hvert objekt der tænkes fremskaffet, bærer på en historie. Det er historien bag hvert objekt der gør det interessant. Eksempelvis guldure der er gået i arv, maskingeværer der er kastet over bord inden nødlanding og nedgravet i hønsegård osv. Det er historierne bag effekterne vi prioriterer.
- Der opføres en flysimulator, efter inspiration fra RAF-museet i Colindale, London (se mere her: <https://bit.ly/2lrAisF>) der giver publikum en Virtual Reality oplevelse, når de flyver i lav højde hen over Sønderjylland under krigen.
- I museumshoppen kan man købe modelfly og bøger om WW2-flyvemaskiner, Als og Sundeved under 2. Verdenskrig, Danmark under besættelsen osv.
- Umiddelbart udenfor centret ,er der et smukt og enkelt mindesmærke, – monumentet kan være lavet af kalksten fra Lancasterområdet i England. Der vil være årlig kransenedlæggelse og højtidelighed med overlevende besætningsmedlemmer og efterkommere.
- En stab af frivillige skal bemane centret og shoppen, være kustoder og være historieformidlere. Dertil kommer de hjælpere, der vedligeholder det centret. Foreningen arrangerer studieture til RAF museer samt Lincolnshire Aviation Centre i England, hvor en gruppe er i gang med at restaurere et af de få tilbageværende Lancaster bombefly i Europa.

Sønderborg kan blive venskabsby med en relevant engelsk by og årligt enten besøge *eller* modtage besøg. Der vil i den forbindelse også skulle være officielle repræsentanter til stede under mindehøjtidelighederne, der afholdes. Overlevende bombesætningsmedlemmer samt deres efterkommere inviteres også.

Med den brede interesse projektet ventes at få, forestiller vi os, at overstående ikke kun forbliver en drøm, men er et realiserbart projekt.

Memorial Centret vil sandsynligvis få stor appel blandt gæsterne i det kommende ferieresort på Nordals.

Økonomisk satser vi på, at samarbejde med fonde og regner foreløbig ikke med at skulle bede om kommunale midler.

Vi håber med dette forhåndsindtryk at have givet et positivt og konstruktivt indtryk af projektet.

Projektet vil sætte Sønderborg Kommune på landkortet i en tid, hvor vi oplever en stigende interesse for vores fælles fortid.

2. Verdenskrig er ved at være lang tid siden. Vi vil gøre alt hvad vi kan, for at være med til at ære og mindes besætningerne og deres flyvemaskiner.



Introduction

In the Sønderborg area (southern Denmark), there were respectively shot down or emergency landed 11 Allied bombers, as well as one fighter, primarily in the last 3 years of World War II (see link for details: <https://www.airmen.dk/SDBG.htm>). These are their stories we will try to portray with modern AV means. The centre is not intended as a "showcase museum".

These aircraft were either on their way to Germany with their bomb loads, or on their way back home to England via the airspace over the Danish island of Als. The bombers had a crew of seven to ten young airmen who were on average 21 years of age. Many died when they were shot down or had to make an emergency landing. The survivors were sent to Germany as prisoners of war.

We would like to honour the 81 airmen from these crash sites and commemorate their sacrifices for our peace and democracy.

Our vision

- An upcoming centre will have a museum department with aircraft parts and personal effects from the crashed aircraft, as well as an archive of non-preserved parts waiting for a caring hand. Here we will involve the technical knowhow of the volunteers to restore these effects.
- Both on the big screen and in connection with exhibitions, historical movies and films about renovation and reconstruction projects of aircraft and the like will be shown.
- Courses and lectures are held at the centre at regular intervals.
- Every object that is thought to be obtained, carries a story. It is the story behind each object that makes it interesting e.g., gold watches that have been inherited, machine guns that have been thrown overboard before an emergency landing and buried in a chicken coop, etc. These are the stories behind the effects we will focus on.
- A flight simulator is being built, inspired by the RAF Museum in Colindale, London (see more here: <https://bit.ly/2lrAisF>) which gives the audience a Virtual Reality experience when flying at low altitude over Southern Jutland during the war.
- In the museum shop you can buy model planes and books about WW2 airplanes, Als and Sundeved during World War II and Denmark during the occupation and other items.
- Immediately outside the centre, there is a beautiful and simple memorial; - the monument may be made of limestone from the Lancaster area of England. There will be annual wreath laying and solemnity with surviving crew members and descendants.
- A staff of volunteers must staff the centre and the shop, be custodians and be storytellers, in addition, the helpers who maintain that centre. The association organizes study trips to RAF museums as well as the Lincolnshire Aviation Centre in England, where a group is in the process of restoring one of the few remaining Lancaster bombers in Europe.

Sønderborg can become a twin city with a relevant English city and annually either visit or receive visits. In this connection, official representatives will also have to be present during the commemorations that will be held. Survivor bomber aircrew as well as their descendants are also invited.

With the broad interest the project is expected to receive, we imagine that the above not only remains a dream, but is an achievable project.

The Memorial Centre will probably have a great appeal among the guests in the upcoming holiday resort at Nordals.

Financially, we are betting on donations from foundations and do not expect to have to ask for public funds for the time being.

With this advance idea, we hope to have given a positive and constructive impression of the project.

The project will put Sønderborg locality on the map at a time when we are experiencing a growing interest in our common past.

World War II is about to be a long time ago. We will do everything we can to help honour and commemorate the crews and their aircraft. These are their stories.