

Seeking a proper burial

By : [Zaharah Othman in London](#)



A Dakota III similar to this one crashed into the jungle near Gua Musang 58 years ago.

DENIS Carpenter is to get his wish to see his brother Geoffrey receives a proper burial after a wait of 58 years.

Geoffrey was among 12 Royal Air Force (RAF) personnel and civilians killed when their Dakota III crashed near Gua Musang.

The remains of the plane were rediscovered in June after Denis sought the help of the Malaysian army.

Geoffrey was an RAF navigator, then aged 23, on a mission from RAF Changi to make drops in the jungle when the plane crashed into a ravine on Aug 25, 1950.



Geoffrey Carpenter (left) and Dennis Carpenter.

Denis said his mother had a premonition that something had happened to Geoffrey. Later, they heard the news that a plane had crashed in Malaya. "He was then reported missing and it was only 14 days later that it was confirmed that he was among those who died in the crash," said Denis, 79. "We were told that because the jungle was so thick and inaccessible, the chaplain could only conduct the burial ceremony from a helicopter circling from above."

The quest to look for his brother's grave began when Denis visited an Armed Forces Arboretum in the Midlands, England.

Denis saw his brother's name etched on a memorial plaque. With the help of his daughter, Christine, Denis searched the Internet and contacted other families to get more information on the incident.

Denis then contacted Malaysian defence adviser Col Mohd Tajri Alwi, who conducted his own extensive research and contacted the 8th Infantry Brigade in Pengkalan Cepa.

"On June 18 this year, a team of 15 people went from Gua Musang into a village called Pencong. The next day, they went on foot because the jungle was inaccessible by any form of transport.

"At 2.30 pm, they found the wreckage of the Dakota III," said Tajri during a meeting with Denis recently.

They had also discovered what seemed to be the burial site of the 12 who died in the crash.

Markings and writings on the wreckage were still visible on parts of the plane, including the tyres, in spite of the harsh conditions in the jungle.

Tajri said efforts were being made by the British Ministry of Defence and the Malaysian Armed Forces to bring the remains to the Commonwealth War Cemetery in Cheras.

"If possible, I would like to attend the ceremony when the remains are brought to the Commonwealth War Cemetery to witness a proper burial for my brother," said Denis.

Tajri, who liaised with the family and the Ministry of Defence, was satisfied with the outcome of his research which led to the discovery.

He will be meeting the armed forces chief to discuss the next step in bringing the remains to the Commonwealth War Cemetery

Latest info re Dakota KN630 (Feb 2012)

Dear Colleagues,

I have been advised by MOD of the burial of the crew of Dakota KN630 which crashed on 25th August 1950. The aircraft, from 52 Squadron left Changi carrying RAF aircrew and RASC dispatchers. It flew to Kota Bahru airfield and picked up Major Proctor and 4 civilians. It was briefed to fly a target marking sortie to drop smoke markers for a bombing attack by 8 Lincoln bombers near Kempong Jendera. The aircraft made one successful low level run but failed to clear rising ground on the second and crashed into a ravine. All on board were killed.

It was not until November 2008 that an expedition, which included the then British Defence Attaché, resulted in locating and confirming the aircraft finding human remains on the final day. There were 7 in the crew and 5 passengers. All NOK have been traced.

MOD have invited attendance at the burial which is to be held on the 15th March 2012 at Cheras Road Cemetery, Jalan Cheras off Jalan Loke Yew, Kuala Lumpur, but they will not fund attendance which must be at own cost.

Should any member of NMBVA wish to attend the burial I have further details and can arrange a connection with MOD and the BHC in KL.

Please disseminate this message to all your members.

Yours aye

Tex Pemberton

Lieutenant Colonel Tex Pemberton OBE
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