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Subject: Re: Dodenherdenking and an educational watch  
Posted by [Jenneke](#) on Wed, 04 May 2022 20:07:17 GMT  
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The first info I got was that the watch belonged to one of the airplane crew from a crashed plane in Tongeren (near Epe in the Netherlands). It was received from 1 of them as a thank you after the crash.

A search for a crashed aircraft in the correct period let us conclude it must be the one on location 14. On June 13, 1944 the aircraft Lancaster Mk III LM581 A-X was shot down by a night-fighter from the German Luftwaffe. The pilot was T.W. Boyce from New Zealand. It took a while before the fire brigade found it in the dark woods.

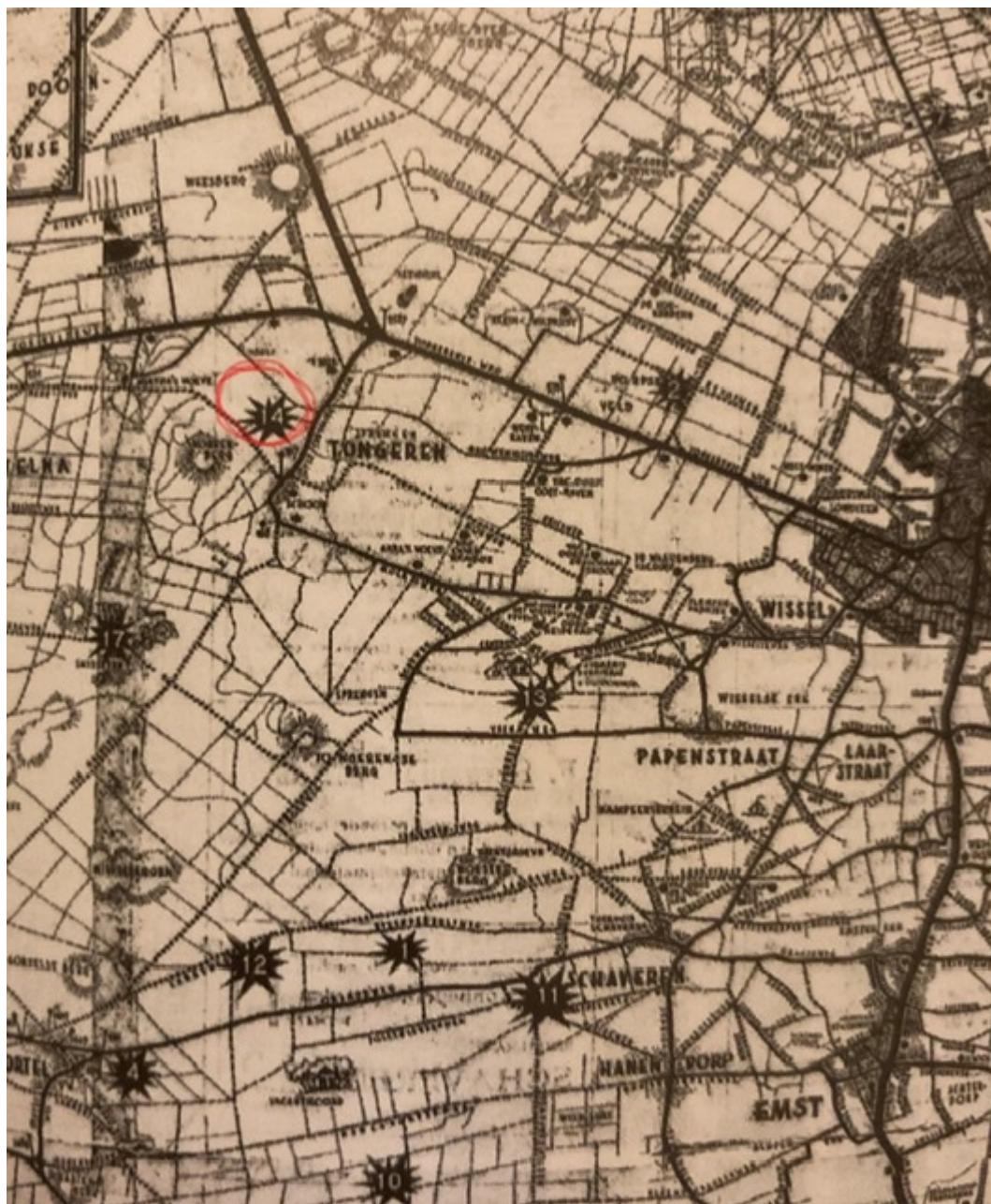
A present would be crazy, there were no survivors from this plane... Confirmed by several police reports. There is a greater chance this watch has been "found" shining in the night and taken opportunistically. The finder was a person in hiding ("onderduiker") who had been detained at the police station, but had to help the police recover the bodies.

It is impossible to say for sure who this pocket watch belonged to. Not the pilot though. His wristwatch turned up after the war. It was turned in to a mayor along with a shadowy tale of a chopped off wrist. The most logical owner is the navigator Andrew Burgess Leonard who used a pocket watch when navigating in the dark.

What did I learn (or was really a shock)... The amount of planes that didn't make it. Average flying time for a crew was 1 month. The age of these brave men, or should I say boys, all 20 - 25 years. Volunteers from countries where the war didn't take part. That makes me quiet.

#### File Attachments

1) [8A595732-E4E7-4C5A-A595-5678742ECD0C.jpeg](#), downloaded 1913 times



2) 25674FBF-34C9-41FA-AABB-5A7E2947612F.jpeg, downloaded 1823 times

3) 3F1D9B54-C01D-44FE-8020-25D977154CD7.jpeg, downloaded 1894 times



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