

## Operation Market Garden

Mark made four supply flights over Arnhem in Stirling LK 557; Took off from Keevil on the 17 Sep at 10.55 and returning at 16.00; from Wethersfield on the 18<sup>th</sup> at 11.50 towing a Horsa and returning at 17.25; on the 19<sup>th</sup> at 13.10, returning at 18.20 having dropped 24 containers and 4 panniers but sustaining damage from light and heavy flak at the TRV and LZ. His logbook states 'Re-supply containers (Glider, Operation Market-Arnhem). Badly hit by flak-counted 27 holes'

At 12.00 on Thursday 21 September Mark took off from Keevil airfield in Wiltshire with 10 other aircraft of 196 Squadron and dropped by parachute 24 containers of supplies for the British troops at Arnhem. It was Yom Kippur and Mark could have taken leave that day but refused as men at Arnhem were waiting for supplies.

Bert Turner recalled: *'When we got out to our Stirling and started up we could not get revs and boost on one of the engines so the aircraft was U/S. We had to take the spare which entailed rushing across the airfield with all our kit and paraphernalia which all takes time. Consequently, we were about thirty minutes behind everyone else. We cut every corner to catch up with rest of the squadron, but it was hopeless, and we arrived just as the rest of the lads had come out. There was nothing for it but to go on our own, the natives were hostile, and they threw everything at us, but we got through badly damaged. As we flew out of the target area, Mark asked the navigator for a course to Brussels, before we could do anything else, we were attacked by 5 enemy fighters.'*

The aircraft was hit by flak from German anti-aircraft guns on the ground and then chased by several German FW109 fighters. Sgt Bode the rear gunner fired at the enemy aircraft and hit one of them. Bode was then shot dead by enemy gunfire. Fire and smoke were pouring from the engines and the aircraft began to dive. Mark instructed the crew to bale out. Less than 15 metres above the ground, Mark jumped from the plane and was shot dead by German gunfire whilst parachuting down. The Stirling bomber landed in a field with the body of Peter Bode on board.

Mark's index card at the AJEX Museum says that he was originally buried at Nieuweweg alongside the house of Mr J van Uum, a farmer of B.31, Wijchen, Netherlands, at map ref. 630592 1:25,000.

The crew:

F/O M Azouz, DFC, KIA  
F/S P H Bode, KIA  
F/S G D Greenwell, Evaded, Awarded DFM  
F/S L Hartman, Evaded  
F/S J McGuigan, Evaded  
Sgt H A Turner, Evaded  
L/Cpl Day, Evaded, Awarded MM  
Driver A E Norton, Evaded

The evaders landed at Wijchen behind enemy lines where they hid in a farmhouse before they were evacuated to allied lines and returned home. Mark is buried at 17.G.2, Jonkerbos War Cemetery, Netherlands

*Information from Mark's logbook at the Jewish Museum via Spink Auctions for the sale of Rear Gunner Peter Bode's sale of logbook and medals. [47 - 'Then they got nasty ... they raked us. God they gave us a hammeri... \(spink.com\)](#)*