

## **Information from Peter Harvey regarding his father A.B. (Len) Harvey DSO RAFVR**

One of the most amazing stories of endurance to come out of RAF Portreath/Predannack began at last light on 7<sup>th</sup> June 1942 when Beaufighter BQ-O - X7946 from 600 Squadron was engaged on convoy patrol. The pilot was P/O Harvey with F/O Wicksteed as his observer.

They sighted a Heinkel (which later was proved to be a JU88) flying at sea level lining up to attack the convoy. Harvey engaged the Heinkel and, in spite of the fact that his starboard engine was set on fire, he pressed home his attack and set fire to the port engine of the enemy, which was later confirmed as destroyed. The Beaufighter also crashed into the sea and after struggling free from the wreckage. Harvey managed to lift Wicksteed up into the one man dinghy and, by swimming, he proceeded to push the dinghy towards the coast which was 7 miles away. Finally, exhaustion overcame him and he also climbed into the dinghy.

After being afloat for 5 hours and, judging himself to be approximately 200 yards from the shore, he slid back into the sea, swam to the shore and scaled the cliff in front of him in pitch darkness at Basset Cove Portreath. He then walked to the Ops room of RAF Portreath and organised a search party which found his observer. This action earned P/O A B Harvey an immediate DSO and his observer F/O B. Wicksteed the D.F.C.

Although claimed as a Heinkel, the aircraft shot down on 7<sup>th</sup> June 1942 at 11.14pm was in fact a Junkers JU 88 D5 Serial No 1748 3<sup>rd</sup> Flight, long range Reconnaissance Group 123

Markings: 4U + DL. (Pilot) Oberleutenant Wolfgang Baumung.  
( Nav) “ Camillo Kleemann  
(W/Op) Feldwebel Friedrich Fug  
( AG ) “ Otto Maier

Only the bodies of Baumung and Fug were ever found, Fug was found on the 15<sup>th</sup> June in the sea off Lands End as reported by Military Historian Phil Irwin of Torquay.

Ironically 69 years later to the day I visited the web site of The War Graves Photographic Project looking for German War Graves to find that Oberleutenant Wolfgang Baumung and Feldwebel Friedrich Fug are both buried in Cannock Chase German Military Cemetery in Staffordshire.