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Speech by Kristian Ahle

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Ceremony held at Englændergraven, Tarm 12 March 2015

to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the shooting down of
RAF Lancaster ME449

Photo by Birthe Holme Kasch



I will make my speech in Danish, but say a few words in English.

I will say thank you to Gail (Michener) and to Sue (Westcott) and to Kirsten (Kolby) as the main persons to make this amazing day for us today. They have not planned the weather, but they have planned the arrangement and all these people who are invited. Thank you. And it is grateful to see these three flags here behind me from Great Britain, Australia, and Denmark. Thank you all for coming.

Translation of Danish speech by Anni Guldberg Madsen and Gail Michener

A big thank you to Gail Michener as well as to Tarm Church and the Parish Council for the initiative to hold this 70th anniversary event.

I am happy to see the great attention given to this occasion, especially the huge participation of international guests and relatives.

It has now been 75 years since the occupation of Denmark, and at numerous events we have looked back on those terrible years in the world's history. A couple of years ago the movie "Hvidstensgruppen" was seen by a record number of people, which testifies to the enormous interest in this era in Denmark - and world history!

Today I wish to express thanks and admiration that the air forces of England, Australia, and the US put their lives at risk to contribute to the liberation of occupied territories.

I want today – 12 March 2015 – to mark the 70th anniversary of the death of two airmen: Donald Morris and Harvey Porter. At the same time I am grateful that five of the airmen on board managed to survive. Thanks to all.