

# **George Saunders Memorial Trophy**

## **2017**

### ***The War Torn Skies of East Anglia***

Previously called the East Anglian Trophy, the competition has from this year been renamed the George Saunders Memorial Trophy in memory of club member George Saunders who passed away in 2016. George was a stalwart of the BMW Owners Club for many years at both regional and national level holding a variety of committee posts during his time with the club.






East Anglia has long had an association with aviation, both civilian and military. The flat landscape, and, particularly during World War 2, its proximity to Hitler's Europe, has meant that a huge number of RAF and USAAF airfields were constructed. Regrettably, not all flights ended successfully, and many young aircrew perished as a result. Many, but by no means all of these crashes, have been remembered with some sort of memorial or marker. Your task therefore is to visit a maximum of 15 of the 20 locations and to photograph them together with your bike, or if that is not possible, your crash helmet or perhaps even yourself. There aren't bonus points for visiting more, but don't let that stop you, and the winner will be whoever has visited the most places up to fifteen. Of course it's the taking part that counts, so there are certificates for visiting 5, 10 or 15 of the locations.

In the event of a tie then the entry that is judged to contain the best photo will be the winner. So everyone has the opportunity to submit their best photos, entries can include up to two photos for each place.

Departing from previous years of the East Anglian Trophy the OS map and gps co-ordinates are provided for each location so you'll have more time for riding your bike and enjoying the roads of East Anglia. For some of the locations you may have to park a short distance away.

Entries need to be submitted to Roger Newark, 1a Benwick Road, Doddington, Cambs, PE15 0TG and to arrive by midnight 31st October 2017. If you prefer you can email your entry in pdf format to shutterbug43@btinternet.com, but please remember you will need to provide a hard copy for people to browse through at the Christmas lunch.

*The pain has stopped,  
For I am dead,  
My time on Earth is done,  
But in a hundred years from now,  
I'll still be twenty-one.  
  
My brief sweet life is over,  
My eyes no longer see,  
No summer walks,  
No Christmas trees,  
No pretty girls for me.  
  
I've got the chop, I've had it,  
My nightly ops. are done,  
Yet in another hundred years,  
I'll still be twenty-one.*

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>1</b>      <b>GPS</b> N 52.48538, W 0.03068      <b>OS</b> TL 3382 8933</p> <p>American pilot Captain Donald Roberts was flying his A-10 aircraft on his way back to RAF Bentwaters after a practice bombing run in the Wash when he crashed into a field south of Benwick on April 17 1989. Reports indicated that he stayed with his plane to avoid crashing down in the village saving many innocent lives.</p>   |    |
| <p><b>2</b>      <b>GPS</b> N 52.353878, E 0.038205      <b>OS</b> TL 3891 7482</p> <p>On 17 January 1942, a Stirling bomber and a Hurricane fighter collided, and crashed near this spot. There were no survivors.</p>  |     |
| <p><b>3</b>      <b>GPS</b> N 52.492469, W 0.225145      <b>OS</b> TL 2060 8976</p> <p>On 22 November 1940, Spitfire X4593 crashed at this spot, with the loss of its young pilot, Pilot Officer Harold Penketh. The excavation was only carried out in October 2015, so this is a very recent memorial.</p> <p>Further west along New long Drove are the Holme Posts", which are worth visiting, as they mark the lowest point in the British Isles at 9 feet below sea level.(GPS N 52.489379, W 0.230230, OS TL 2026 8941</p> |    |
| <p><b>4</b>      <b>GPS</b> N 52.596351, W 0.035447      <b>OS</b> TF 3316 0165</p> <p>About 8 miles east of Peterborough is the remote location of Thorney Dyke. On 28 August 1976, a United States Air Force Lockheed C-141 Starlifter, 67-0006, on a flight from McGuire Air Force Base to RAF Mildenhall crashed near the village; the aircraft entered bad weather and the pilots lost control of the aircraft. The accident killed all 18 passengers and crew on board.</p>  |  |
| <p><b>5</b>      <b>GPS</b> N 52.627288, E 0.98732      <b>OS</b> TG 0228 0747</p> <p>Here you will find a memorial at the back of the playing field, plus a plaque on the outside of the Village Hall. They are dedicated to the memory of the "Garveston Twelve", ten aircrew and two USAAF firemen who died on the 4th June 1944 when a B24 Liberator of the 492nd Bomb Group flying out of North Pickenham crashed here.</p>   |   |

**6**      **GPS** N 52.45077, E 1.52267      **OS** TM 3946 8948

A B24 Liberator was returning to its home base on 22 April 1944, when it was shot down by a German fighter. Three of the crew of seven survived the crash, although two of the survivors were lost later in the war.



**7**      **GPS** N 52.11147, W 0.06795      **OS** TL 3240 4767

When, in October 1996, the houses in this Cambridgeshire location were being built, excavations threw up the remains of a USAAF Mustang fighter. It had crashed in March 1944, killing the pilot, Lt. William H. Momberger. No memorial has ever been erected in his memory.



**8**      **GPS** N 51.71084, W 0.11860      **OS** TL 3008 0302

On 3 September 1916 the German airship SL 11 was shot down and crashed in Cuffley during an aerial bombardment intended for London. This incident is commemorated by a memorial on East Ridgeway to Lieutenant W. Leefe Robinson, the pilot who shot the airship down; he was awarded the Victoria Cross.



**9**      **GPS** N 51.97128, E 0.87376      **OS** TL 9749 3421

In a cruel twist of fate, Lt. Chuck Gumm's (a relative of the entertainer, Judy Garland) career ended very unexpectedly on 1st March 1944, when he made the ultimate sacrifice. The P-51 Mustang (P-51B1, 43-12165) he was checking out crashed after its engine lost power on take-off. It crash landed on the banks of the river Stour near 'Court Knoll' but, unfortunately, at the last moment his Mustang hit a tree and he was thrown out of the cockpit and killed.



**10**      **GPS** N 52.382989, W 0.004954      **OS** TL 3588 7798

In Autumn 1942 a 156 Sdn. Wellington bomber returning from a raid over Germany crashed in the village whilst returning to its Warboys home airfield. The plane ploughed into a number of houses at the site where Carpenters Court on the High Street now stands. Ten Somersham residents died in the crash, although the crew parachuted to safety. Ironically, they were all lost on their next mission.





**11** GPS N 51.95332, E 0.03765 OS TL 4013 3028

On the 22nd April 1944, Flight Officer Archie "Sonny" F. Daniels of 83rd FS was observed to take off from Duxford airfield, in his P47 Republic Thunderbolt and, after becoming airborne, seemed to be having trouble getting his wheels to retract. He appeared to try and make an emergency landing, just to the north of Great Hormead, but lost his life in the attempt.



**12** GPS N 51.87212, E 0.35476 OS TL 6221 2190

This seat is in memory of Pilot Officer Ernest Douglas Woods, aged 26, killed with the rest of his crew, when Short Stirling Bomber LK276 crashed near this location on 21st November 1944, as the result of enemy action.



**13** GPS N 51.60462, E 0.55029 OS TQ 7671 9261

This fine modern memorial is dedicated to Pilot Officer W H Hodgson DFC a 19-year-old New Zealander from 85 Squadron, who narrowly avoided the village of Shotgate whilst crash landing his burning Hurricane on this site after combat over London on 31st of August 1940. You might notice that the roads on this estate are named after World War Two airfields.



**14** GPS N 51.78461, E 0.70617 OS TL 8676 1301

Great Totham is a village of two halves. Make sure you are in the northern half, where you will find a plaque on the village signpost. It remembers F/O Charles Muldownie and P/O Ian Carmichael who died on 17th October 1952 when two of the Gloster Meteor planes of No.72 squadron crashed near the village.



**15** GPS N 52.56440, E 1.65950 OS TG 4812 0258

This is an air crash from which all the crew escaped unharmed. On 25 August 1944, a B24 Liberator, "Belle of the East" was returning from a raid over Germany, when it experienced fuel problems. Four of the crew bailed out, while the remaining three "rode her down". The aircraft crash landed in a plum orchard.



**16** GPS N 52.41083, E 1.32955 OS TM 2655 8442

In April 1945, two B24 Liberators collided in the air near this spot. 22 men died. This memorial was erected privately, by a local resident who was a schoolboy at the time of the incident, and heard the crash as he sat in his classroom. The co-ordinates for this point are at the start of Cook's Lane along which you'll find the memorial.



**17** GPS N 52.90925, E 0.75611 OS TF 8543 3820

On 27 April 1944, a de Havilland Mosquito fighter bomber on a night training exercise crashed in the centre of the village, killing the crew of two. On the 60th anniversary of the crash in 2004, a plaque on the approximate location of the crash was unveiled by a Royal Air Force guard of honour and other dignitaries, including relatives and friends of those killed.



**18** GPS N 52.40672, E 0.99179 OS TM 0360 8296

On the village war memorial can be seen a plaque to the memory of 18 American servicemen who died on 29 January 1945, when two B17 Flying Fortresses collided over the village. The airmen belonged to the 96th bomb group, which was based at Snetterton, Norfolk.



**19** GPS N 52.93138, E 1.18867 OS TG 1441 4187

Hit by flak, trying to get back to base, the crew of B-24 'Alfred,' serial no.427485, lost 3 engines but got them restarted; lost fuel and realised they might have to ditch in North Sea. They did manage to make it back to land and crashed near Sheringham. This memorial can be seen in the churchyard of Upper Sheringham All Saints.



**20** GPS N 52.640760, E 1.312748 OS TG 2423 0993

This memorial on Mousehold Heath, Norwich, commemorates two separate crashes, a Beaufort and a Hampden. Five crew members died altogether, coming from New Zealand, Canada and the United Kingdom.

