

Trevor Powis: Resources for Beavers and Cubs

Trevor Powis lived in Leominster, he was a member of 2nd Leominster Boy Scouts.

When war started Trevor was only 14 years old. He joined the RAF when he was 18 and was a crew member on a British Bomber.



The Aeroplane was a Handley Page Halifax. There would have been 8 men on board.

It was used for bombing ships in the North Sea.

The Pilot was very experienced, on that day they had a very important officer flying with them as well.

They took off from an Island near Scotland and flew to Norway. It took a long time, they left at quarter past two in the afternoon and arrived at about 7 o'clock. Nothing much happened in the journey,

Do you think they would have been bored or worried?

- Flying was very dangerous, even without an enemy trying to shoot you down. The planes broke down a lot and a lot of the men remember being very scared, but they also said it could be very boring as well.

What sort of things could they do to take their mind off it?

- They would talk to each other, tell each other jokes, but they had to keep their minds on the job. If the pilot thought they weren't concentrating he'd have to remind them.

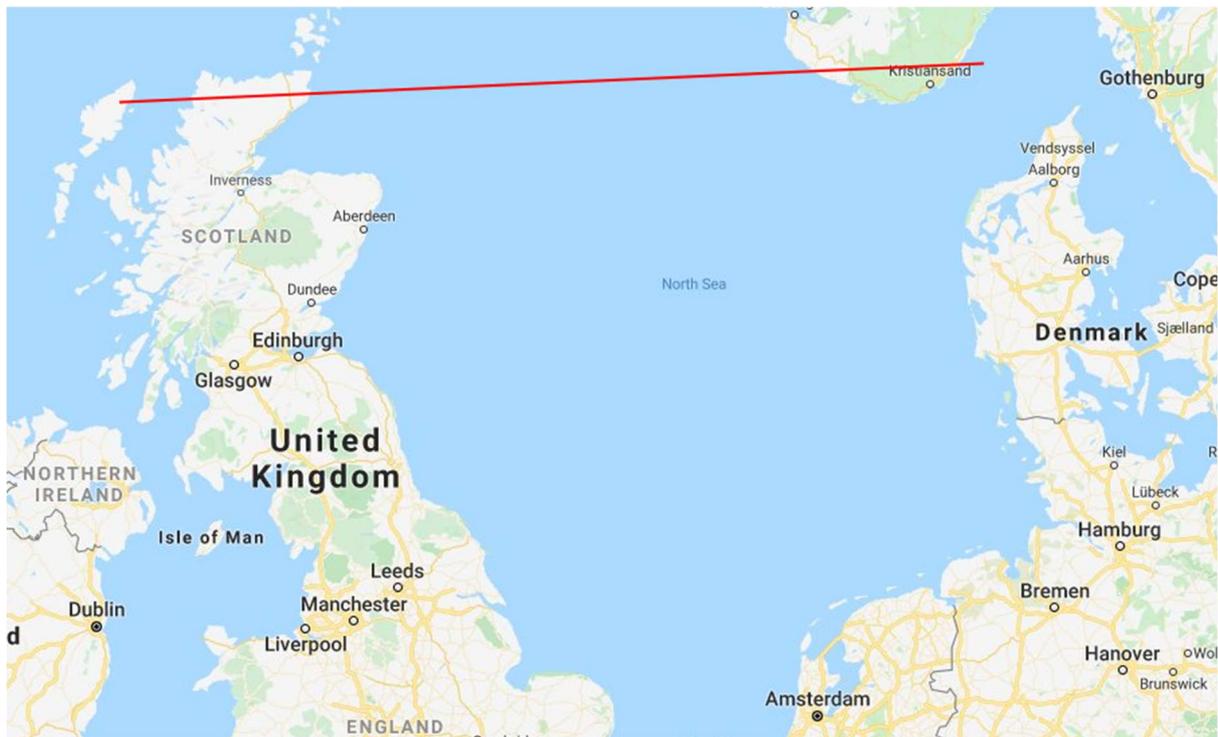
It would have been very dark, cold and noisy in the plane.

How do you think they found their way across the sea in the dark?

- They didn't have any star navs or computers. The navigator used a compass and special maps called charts. Sometimes the wind used to blow them the wrong way and they'd have to look out for landmarks to help them get back on track. If you look at the picture, just behind the pilot is a dome shaped window. This was called the "Astrodome" it was used by the navigator to see the stars and if he knew the time of day he could use these to find his way.

How did they keep warm?

- They wore thick coats and boots made from sheepskin. They also took flasks of hot tea or soup.



Soon after arriving near Norway the plane was shot down and crashed into the sea.

What do you think about the German sailors who shot them down? Where they bad men?

- Some were, that's why there was a war but many were just ordinary men trying to protect themselves