

UPDATE November 2010

It has been quite a while since I posted up the story about the British plane shot down over Ikaria during WWII. I had thought that there was not much more to tell of the story other than to relate any information that the pilot's son Sir Christopher Meyer might have to tell. The story though opened up some other lines of enquiry that were interesting as to what happened in Ikaria immediately after the war.

While in the UK, this July (2010) I was fortunate to be able to meet up with Sir Christopher in London and spend a few hours in his company discussing the sad incident of his father's death.

As previously mention Sir Christopher had certain documents in his possession relating to the incident. He very kindly gave me copies of these but has requested that, at this moment in time, they are not published here on the web. The letters were 3 in total, one from the Ikarian Priest who officiated at the funeral of the two airmen, one from the local Gendarmerie relating to the recovery of the ring and finally from a British Observer who was in Ikaria in 1946 to monitor the elections.

These letters support the facts, as previously stated in Part 1 of this story, in that indeed the ring was found and returned to Reginald Meyer's family. Sadly, Sir Christopher told me that some years later the ring was lost.

The letters do not confirm the Liverpool connection. If there is one it can only be from the Navigator's family and not the Meyer family though this seems unlikely as Peter Grieve seems to have been Scottish. Unfortunately I have not been able to find any further information on Peter Grieve's family.

Other information that was evident from the letters was that the airmen were buried in an old cemetery of the church of Profit Ilia in the Akamatra area of Ikaria. The funeral was attended by many of the inhabitants on the 10th February 1944, and a collection was started to be able to erect a monument to their honor. This seems to have never been completed, probably due to the enormous degree of poverty that was evident in Ikaria after the war (ref: British Observer's letter). At some point after the war the bodies were removed to the Official War Cemetery in Phaliron.

Sir Christopher informed me that he has visited his father's grave at Phaliron. He also told me it was always his intention to visit Ikaria as well, I extended an invitation and my hospitality to him to do so when ever it was convenient for him. He has since informed me that he will be visiting towards the end of next April (2011). At that time, hopefully he will get to talk to the eye witnesses and to see both the site of the crash and his father's first resting place.

This year, I have also managed to locate a few more people who actually witnessed the plane being chased by the German planes and crashing. I intend to try to interview them on tape.

Amazingly, some very rusty parts of the actual plane have also been found lying in someone's garden. I will be taking possession of these soon with a view to photographing them in the hope of having them identified. I have been in contact with an Aviation Museum in the UK and they have promised to try and identify the pieces despite their bad condition.

So this is where we are at today but hopefully next year this story will be once again updated with much more information.