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**MEMORANDUM ON THE PROJECT OF THE ERECTION OF A MONUMENT IN
MEMORY OF THE CRASH OF AN AIRCRAFT AT REBECQ 27 MAY 1944.**

The project was to erect a monument in memory of crewmen of the R.A.F. aircraft "Lancaster" who crashed on 27 May 1944 in a field in Rebecq-Belgium. On the seven members of the crew, only two survived. They were extracted and hidden by the villagers and members of the Belgian Resistance. The Germans discovered the bodies of Airmen killed in the accident several days later. They took harsh measures against the villagers and arrested 30 persons who were deported in Germany. Three villagers did not come back from deportation: Louis Deneyer, Giovanni and Giuseppe Vecchiato.

A Comity for the monument was constituted and contacts have been taken since November 2009 with the municipal administration of Rebecq. It has been excited by the project and will collaborate with the Comity for this project.

Members of the Committee to erect the monument are: the *Fédération Nationale des Anciens Combattants (FNC)*, the *Rebecq Historical Association*, and the *Cercle d'Histoire et de Généalogie de Rebecq (Rewisbique)*.

The monument will be erected at the location where the aircraft crashed. His inauguration date is fixed on Saturday 07 May 2011. It will result in an official and protocol ceremony which will involve the Belgian civil and military authorities, and the British, Canadian and Italian diplomatic civil and military representatives who will be invited to the circumstance.

Along with this opening, it will be organized at Rebecq an exhibition relating the event and focused on assistance from the allies forces for the liberation of our country. This exhibition will be open to the public, and a program will be established so that all of the children from primary schools of Rebecq will visit this exhibition. This action will have future extensions in the

sense where action dedicated to the souvenir will be organized in schools of Rebecq to a date fixed annually. The Rebecq municipality has approximately 1,000 students.

The monument will be simple, consisting of three beams steel, erected vertically. Each will have a transparent plate on which different texts in English, French and Italian and the emblems of the RAF Squadron 550th, the commune of Rebecq and the *Fédération Nationale des Anciens Combattants* will be engraved.

-Panel No. 1 (left): the names of the crew of the Lancaster, emblem of the 550th Raf Squad.

-Panel No. 2 (central): the reminder of the facts, the name of the authorities who inaugurated the monument (Mayor of Rebecq, British, Canadian and Italian representatives, possibly names of provincial, regional, and federal representatives of Belgium), the opening date, Belgian, British, Canadian, and Italian and Rebecq's emblems,.

-Panel No. 3 (right): names of the three villagers died in deportation, the reminder of the arrest and deportation of the other one, the emblem of the patriotic associations and veterans.

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