

20th Anniversary of the Hercules plane crash in Glen Loch on 27th May, 2013.

This year is the 20th Anniversary of the crash of an RAF Hercules in Glen Loch. Mount Blair Community Council has awarded a Drumderg Micro Grant to have a memorial wreath placed at the RAF memorial cairn in Glen Loch and a bouquet of flowers to be placed in Kirkmichael Parish Church at the memorial plaque to the crew of the RAF Hercules on behalf of the village of Kirkmichael and the Strathardle community.

As in previous years, relatives of the crew are arranging to have flowers placed in Kirkmichael Church on the anniversary. This is being organized by Gillian Andrew.

Also, a memorial Geocache is being placed in Glen Loch at a respectful distance from the crash site. The Geocache will be published on the 20th anniversary of the crash, 27th May, 2013.

Any visitors or Geocachers visiting Glen Loch are asked to respect the crash site and memorial cairns. All the air crew of XV 193 died as a result of this accident.

Please do not remove wreckage parts as souvenirs.

This crash site and memorials are considered as a monument to those who died. Please respect their memory and remember their tragic loss.

Visit by RAF personnel.

LXX Squadron has now been disbanded and RAF Lynham closed.

However, RAF and former RAF personnel from LXX Squadron, who were comrades of the crew of Hercules XV 193, will be coming up to visit this area 26th - 28th May, 2013 and will be visiting the memorial cairns in Glen Loch to hold a short Act of Remembrance and lay their own wreath at the cairn at 3:00 pm on the 27th May.

Charlie Brown will be joining the RAF personnel, walking in from Daldhu, to lay the wreath on behalf of the Kirkmichael village and the Strathardle community.

Background to the accident.

On 27th May 1993, RAF Hercules XV193, with the call sign 'Star trek 3' was one of three Hercules aircraft from LXX Squadron, RAF Lynham, engaged in formation and low-level navigation training over Scotland. Having completed the formation element of the sortie, the three aircraft separated for individual exercises, which, for the crew of XV193, included a simulated drop of a small cargo pack onto a dummy drop zone in a valley, (Glen Tilt) eight miles north of Pitlochry. Having completed the simulated drop exercises and turned north to begin their egress from the drop zone, a rocky outcrop forced the crew to continue the left turn. After avoiding this obstacle, the crew elected to reverse their turn to enter the narrow valley of Glen Loch and regain the original route. In performing this manoeuvre, at low-level and low-speed, the aircraft stalled and crashed forcefully into the moorland in Glen Loch (East of Glen Tilt) near Loch Loch.

There were no eyewitnesses to the final moments of the flight, and the aircraft was not fitted with an Accident Data Recorder or Cockpit Voice Recorder. The Board of Inquiry's investigation found that the cause of the accident was consistent with the aircraft having stalled at an altitude from which recovery was impossible

Crew members.

All crew members died in this accident. The nine who died were:

- Sqn Ldr Graham Paul **Young** (54) AFC RAF
- Sqn Ldr Stanley Duncan **Muir** (49) RAF
- Flt Lt Graham Robert John **Southard** (33) RAF
- Flt Lt Stephen Paul **McNally** (27) RAF
- Fg Off Jonathan Huw **Owen** (23) RAF
- M Acr Terence John William **Gilmore** (39) RAF
- Sgt Craig Thomas **Hilliard** (23) RAF
- Sgt Alan Keith **King** (32) RAF
- Lt Cpl Gary Reginald **Manning** (23) Army (RLC)

Memorials to the crew.

Four memorials can be found in the area:

- An official RAF memorial cairn and plaque overlooking the crash site (see photo and details below).
- A cairn and plaque from 70 (Croft & Culcheth) Squadron ATC;
- A family memorial cairn to Sgt Craig Hilliard of Inverness.
- An official RAF memorial plaque (inside Kirkmichael Church);

Memorial photographs.



