

Information from the Island of Texel:

From

**Bram van Dijk, (dated 3 Oct 1998).
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Photo of the Short Stirling on the Texel beach, marked 17-12-42, which came from the German family of a man who was serving on Texel in wartime. This photo is evidence that the crash happened close by Texel. The aircraft with its bomb load, it was outward-bound, and maybe exploded in the air, and some parts came on the Texel beach.

On the same day as the crashing of the Stirling BF403, a half hour before at 18.45 there crashed on Texel the Lancaster W4126 KM-B, from which 6 men died and one jumped out and was a prisoner-of-war. Of this crash there are also photos from the same source. Because 7 men died on the same day, for a long time it was thought that these were all from the aircraft W 4126.

Municipal Hall archives on Texel show that S. Holmes was found at 15.25 on the 21 Dec 1942, by kilometer pole 30 (close by the North point of Texel Island) after washing ashore. He was buried on 22 Dec 1942.

Bomber Command Losses 1942 on page 280:

218 Squadron Stirling I BF403 HA-R Op: Fallersleben

F/I LC Shepherd RNZAF T/O 1802 Downham marked (sic).

Sgt CM Taylor

Sgt S Holmes RNZAF

Sgt AJC Lavers

Sgt JNC Hornidge RCAF

Sgt AF Copplestone

Sgt G Price

T/O 1802 Downham Market.

Hit by Kriegsmarine Flak and crashed 19.15 into the sea between Den Helder and Texel.
F/S Shepherd RNZAF lies in Bergen op Zoom War Cemetery;
Sgt Holmes RNZAF is buried in Den Burg General Cemetery,
while the others have no known graves.