



Learning @ Home

Discovery Cases

KS2

The Mosquito Story.

It was a warm summers day in England, and Lieutenant David "Daniel" McCarthy was readying himself for another mission. He checked his pockets once more to ensure he had everything he needed – including his national identity card and his military-issued aviator sunglasses. Daniel was a navigator and observer for the United States Army Air Force and he was about to fly in a de Havilland Mosquito for a mission that was part of Operation Anvil.

He looked up to see First Lieutenant Robert Tunnel walking towards him. Robert was his pilot – and his friend. They climbed into the Mosquito and prepared themselves for what was to come. They were the crew of a camera chase plane with a very important job.

Shortly after, they were heading up to the skies to follow a fellow American B-24 Liberator. Their destination was France – where the B-24 in front of them was expected to destroy a German V-3 gun. These guns were going to be used to bombard London and they would cause great destruction if they did.

They were flying over the town of Suffolk, when something went very wrong. A huge explosion sounded from the aircraft in front of them, and their Mosquito was flipped up into the air. David was knocked back half way to the cockpit as he heard Robert shout "port engine out!". Debris came flying through the plane, hitting David in the arm...

But what happened next?

We want you to finish David's story. Use what you already know happened, the artefacts and your imagination to help finish the story.



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Discovery Case Opening:

We have found some artefacts and objects that relate to David's story.

Pilots Notes

Sunglasses

USAAF Unit Badge

Purple Heart Medal

Identification Card

Piece of Wood

Do you want to know what really happened?

Another large piece of debris came through the plexiglass nose of the Mosquito, hitting David again and wounding his head. Injured and frightened, David crawled his way back to the cockpit. Robert was struggling to control the aircraft, and they both knew that if they wanted to survive, they needed to make an emergency landing. They looked around to see the B-24 Liberator that had been in front of them had completely exploded, the debris raining down onto the ground below and hurtling through the air towards their aircraft. Ahead, they could see RAF Halesworth, with its three runways glittering in the sun. They knew that it wouldn't be long before their starboard engine failed and so David hastily lowered the wheels of the aircraft, and Robert began the task of making an emergency landing.