

VisitLincolnshire

BUSINESS

DID YOU KNOW.... *AVIATION HERITAGE*

HIGH FLIGHT

The Dam Busters raid was flown from Scampton, Lincolnshire. Considered an “almost impossible” task - flying low at night over enemy territory to drop a new, untested bomb. The bravery of 617 Squadron and the ingenuity of aircraft designer Barnes Wallis and his revolutionary bouncing bomb is commemorated at Woodhall Spa.

A much smaller memorial is in the graveyard of the village of Scopwick. High Flight, a poem loved by aviators, was written by 19 year old John Gillespie Magee, a wartime Spitfire pilot with the Royal Canadian Air Force. He was killed in 1941 when his plane collided in mid-air over Lincolnshire. High Flight, written on the back of an envelope, was sent home to his parents weeks before the crash. “Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of earth”, the poem’s first line was quoted by President Ronald Reagan after the Challenger disaster.