WHY IS THE SEARCH FOR ONE MISSING AIRMAN STILL IMPORTANT?

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

In October 1944, an American B-24 bomber crashed into a foggy moor in northern England. The aircraft was connected to Operation Carpetbagger, a secret mission that carried supplies and parachutists to resistance fighters behind Nazi lines in occupied Europe. Eight men died in the crash, but the body of Corporal Clarence Watson was never found. Watson's family later learned that early rescuers may have discovered a piece of parachute, a watch and part of a hip bone, but the evidence was never properly connected to him. Now, 82 years later, archaeologists and the United States government have reopened the search. The wet peat of the moor may have preserved objects or remains beneath the ground. The team hopes to discover enough evidence to confirm what happened and give Watson's family an answer.

WHY IS THIS INTERESTING?

World War Two did not end every mystery. Families of missing soldiers sometimes waited for news for decades, unsure whether a loved one was dead or might somehow return. This story shows how archaeology, military records and modern science can still help families understand the past, even long after a war has ended.

THINK LIKE A HISTORIAN

"What can the search for Clarence Watson tell us about war's lasting effects?"

Source: Smithsonian Magazine

https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/after-an-american-bomber-crashed-into-an-english-moor-during-world-war-ii-a-corporal-was-declared-missing-in-acti