

# Liverpool Catholic Ramblers



## THE AIR CRASH 9<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 1968



This was a momentous day in the long history of the LCRA. It was the day when eight lady members of the LCRA, travelling abroad for a walking holiday, died when their outward-bound flight crashed in Germany killing all on board.

At midnight on Thursday 8th August 1968, a group of seven girls from LCRA set off from Liverpool Lime Street Station on the first part of their journey to Seefeld in the Austrian Tyrol for a Walking Holiday. The Group consisted of Maureen McLindon [20] a nurse at Broadgreen Hospital, Barbara O'Keefe [25] a gym teacher at Blessed Ambrose Barlow Secondary School, West Derby, Valerie Humphreys [22] a teacher at St. Hugh's Primary School, Jean Baxter [24] a teacher at Our lady of the Assumption, Gateacre, Mary Byron [25] a teacher at Blessed Edmund Arrowsmith Secondary School, Whiston, Irene Rawlinson [23], a civil servant from Wavertree, and Monica Hanna a shorthand typist with an engineering firm. Two of the girls, Valerie Humphreys and Monica Hanna were last minute replacements for two other girls who could not travel.

A crowd of their rambling friends waved them off from the station after an evening spent dancing at the Club's weekly Social in the Building and Design Centre in Hope Street. The Group went off in high spirits, and there was much laughter as the train pulled out of Lime Street Station. The Girls were headed for London where they would meet up with an eighth Rambler, Mary Fletcher, a cousin of Maureen McLindon. Then they would take a British Eagle scheduled flight from Heathrow Airport to Innsbruck in Austria.

Mary was anxious about flying; she had not flown before and was a little scared. Likewise, Barbara had never been on board an aeroplane and she had been having premonitions of a crash but decided she was just being fanciful. She was due to meet up with her boyfriend, Mike, in Innsbruck so she was looking forward with anticipation to seeing him. Mike's sister, Valerie, one of the Group, was also looking forward to seeing her brother.

The next day, Friday 9th August, 1968, British Eagle Flight number EA802, lost all electrical power and crashed at 13.04 BST on an embankment of the Nuremberg-Munich autobahn near Langenbruck, Bavaria, killing all 48 people on board.

The girl's bodies were brought home for burial and the many funerals were attended by numerous friends from the Liverpool Catholic Ramblers. On Sunday 25th August, some weeks later, a Memorial Mass was held at the Metropolitan Cathedral celebrated by Bishop Harris. The Girls will be especially remembered at the Clubs Annual Mass, at the Cathedral Crypt on Sunday 23rd September 2018 at 11.30 a.m.

The church in Langenbruck is St. Katharina and the priest is Father Michael Schwertfirm - he was there 10 years ago for the 40th anniversary. There will be a Mass for all the victims of the crash on Sunday, 12th August and then the community will process to the graveyard to say prayers at the memorial.

Chris Dobbin Hilda Laycock and Ed Quinn

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**Langenbruck Memorial in memory of the 48 who died in the plane crash**



**The people of Langenbruck have tended this memorial for 50 years**

