

HAABJORN, Erik, W/C, DFC (1056, Royal Norwegian Air Force) - No.124 Wing - Distinguished Service Order - award approved 5 June 1944. Citation in Public Record Office Air 2/12419.

"On 22nd May 1944, despite fierce opposition, Wing Commander Haabjorn led an attack against a special target in Dieppe. Since being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross this officer has completed a further 85 sorties in several of which he has had trying experiences. Wing Commander Haabjorn's consistently high standard of skill and devotion has been most praiseworthy."

Haabjoern was lost on a flight from Canada in the late 1940's.

Erik appeared in the hall of Doone House signalling by beating the gong, the arrival of no doubt astonished newcomers, with daffodils in his hair since the party had been in full swing for some time. Some of Erik 's aircraft on 609 Squadron were—DN 300, DN 360. DN416, DN547, DN 448, DN 547, DN298, DN 406, **R88J0**, R8940, **R77J3**, R 7752.

An excerpt from Sir Hugh Dundas'book Flying start for 5 Nov 43 says that he, HD, took off with Lt Erik Haabjorn, F/O Wallis Coombes and Sgt Cluderay on an operation over the islands in the Zuider Zee. Taking off from Coltishall they were flying at 100ft in order to keep under the enemy's radar. Squally patches and low cloud limited their visibility to about one hundred yards and below was a grey rough sea. If anyone had to bale out there would be little hope. When flak ship opened fire they took evasive action but Dundas was hit in the leg and bleeding profusely. Calling Haabjorn on the radio he told him to take over while he, Dundas, went back to Matlask to make an emergency landing. Erik radioed this to Control and, climbing ahead, took the other two on to complete the task. This was when Dundas said he had never sat so long and so close to death.