

AMERICAN PILOT SAVED DOZENS OF LIVES IN 1944

Community gathers to remember a hero

By Lynn Grainger – Thursday 15th July 2010

July 4th may not have had great significance in the UK but for one Stafford Borough community, this year's US Independence Day marked the 66th anniversary of the plane crash which killed an American pilot – but saved dozens of local lives.

Captain John Perrin has been described as a “true hero” by residents in Creswell.

The ace WWII pilot crashed his Mustang fighter close to Home Farm to avoid hitting a primary school and homes in the north end of Stafford on July 4, 1944.

On Sunday, July 4th, residents and local dignitaries gathered at the Perrin Memorial on Mustang Drive, ProLogis Park, close to the spot where his plane came down.

Creswell Parish Clerk Tom Doubtfire said: “Approximately 80 people attended the event including representatives of the councils and a Colour Party from the Staffordshire Regiment ex- Servicemen's Association. Thankfully, the rain held off and Creswell Parish Council would like to thank all those who came to support the event at the Perrin Memorial.”