

Canadian Fighter Wing Hits Huns Hard

DESTROY FOUR MORE DURING LAST WEEK

F/O N. R. Fowlow is Responsible for One While Others Were Joint Efforts In Two Days' Operations

ESCORT BOMBERS ON NUMEROUS MISSIONS

DURING eight months of ops. in a highly active sector in the South of England, Canadian Fighter Wing has made itself a name as a hard-hitting outfit in scores of sweeps over enemy territory.

The May totals brought the Canadian Wing's score since the beginning of the year up to 45 German aircraft destroyed and many more probables and damaged. In addition hundreds of locomotives and other ground targets have been attacked. Protective escort has also formed part of the work of RCAF squadrons which have guarded Forts, Libs., Mitchells, Venturas and other bombers in many raids.

Canuck fighters were among the first to go along with the U.S. Force 1 in their devastating raids and have escorted them to St. Omer, Abbeville, Antwerp and many other important targets, helping to fight off the Focke-Wulf and Messerschmitts as the big fellows carried out their bombing missions.

In improving summer weather activities have been stepped up

GOT A CEREMONY AND ALSO A HUN

It was midnight when a bunch of the boys of an RCAF night fighter squadron launched an informal ceremony to honour one of their pilots—S/L George M. Bower, of Vancouver. Word had just been received that he had obtained his "third ring."

Two hours later S/L Bower was "scrambled" and took off in a Beaufighter in pursuit of raiding German aircraft. He shot down a Dornier 217 off the north-east coast. The Jerry returned Bower's fire, but didn't connect. He saw the Hun kite go down in flames, and circled to see the wreckage burning in the sea.

It was the second recent kill for this squadron, which is under the command of W/C "Wendy" Reid, of Sydney, N.S. The previous knock-out was credited to W/C George H. Elms, of Whitby, Ont., now commanding his own Canadian nightfighter squadron.

On the same night S/L Bower shot down the Dornier, Sgt. Dale M. Hilderbrand, of Vermilion, Alta., damaged a Ju88 after a lengthy combat. The Ju. disappeared into cloud cover after the crash, but Hilderbrand saw strikes all over the German aircraft before it fled.

Other promotions in the squadron include those of F/L Dave Grant, of Toronto, F/L Murray Taylor, of Blackfoot, Alta., and S/L Ronnie Hedger, of Ottawa.

LOCAL GUARDS THOUGHT NEWFIE WAS EUROPEAN

Sgt. Gregg O'Grady's first raid was almost his last. It was a trip over Emden with a New Zealand Wellington squadron. His aircraft was badly shot up, and he and a crewmate baled out over the Wash on the way home.

He must have been close to the shore for everything went black for a minute, but when he came to he was washed up on the beach.

Gregg's troubles were not over, however. He was unable to persuade the local Home Guards that Newfoundland was in the war on Britain's side. One pitchfork-bearing farmer was sure Newfoundland was some Newfoundlander in central Europe, where in the police station, where with a Newfoundland stamp on a letter, his Newfoundland shoulder patches, and a map of the world, he managed to prove he was friend and not foe.

considerably from the schedule of occasional ops. which had to be followed during the unpredictable winter months. Several times recently RCAF squadrons have been out two or three times a day. During the first half of May they shot down 15 enemy aircraft and damaged a number of others.

Four Kills Last Week

Canadian fighter pilots started last week's operations briskly with a score of four Hun kites destroyed in two days.

A couple of F.W.190s were the first to go. Two others were damaged in the same dogfight which developed as Canadian Spitfires were carrying out a diversionary sweep for bombers attacking objectives in Axis Europe.

F/O N. R. Fowlow, Windsor, N.S., of the Wolf Squadron, got one, while the second was shared by three pilots, P/O Bob Isbister, of Toronto, P/O Webb Harten, of Saulte Ste. Marie, Ont., and Sgt. David Small, of Copper Cliff, Ont.

S/L J. D. Hall, of Toronto, C.O. of the Red Indian Squadron, and F/L W. B. Quint, of Calgary, a pilot of the same squadron, each scored hits on enemy aircraft.

The squadron led by S/L C. M. Magwood, D.F.C., of Toronto, also took part in the fight.

When their Spits touched in mid-air during rapid evasive action, P/O D. H. Dover, of Toronto, and P/O D. C. Hamilton, of Moncton, N.B., both of the Wolf Squadron, suffered slight damage to their machines. They quickly regained control of their machines and were able to rejoin their mates in a short time.

The next day pilots of the Wolf and Red Indian Squadrons shot down two Me109s. F/O R. D. Bowen, D.F.C., of Edmonton, shared the first victory with the wing leader, W/C J. E. Johnson, D.S.O., D.F.C. and Bar. The Me109 was seen to crash a few moments after they opened fire. During the general melee

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Twelve cents for a dozen bananas! What a price, what a price! F/S S. Uffelman, of Waterloo, Ont., and F/S Frank Holcombe, of St. Catharines, Ont., have found their match in bargaining in this Indian fruit seller. We'd just like to find the fruit seller.

FLYING CANUCKS FIGHT ON INDIA-BURMA FRONT

Parsons Has Had Varied Assignments in Eastern Sojourn

W/O Norman Parsons, of Longueuil, Ont., has dropped a lot of things from his Wellington bomber since he left Canada. He started by "laying eggs" in Germany. Then he came out to India and began dropping bombs on the Japanese. Next he was assigned with his squadron to teach a battalion of Indian paratroops and dropped some 500 from the skies. Besides, he was engaged in dropping food for the British army as it retreated from Burma last year.

A six-footer-plus, the 24-year-old Parsons is called "Burra Moose" by his fellow fliers—the Big Moose—to distinguish him from a fellow giant in the same squadron, the Chotah Moose. Chotah is Hindustani for "small."

He was posted to Rangoon with his squadron in March of last year, but didn't happen to get there before it fell. Then he made 14 successful trips dropping food to the retreating British army and British refugees coming out of Burma over the Chindwin hills. For this he was congratulated by the British army. After that he was posted to Madras, where his squadron was engaged in anti-sub. patrols and escort jobs.

Flew Paratroops

Then Parsons went to the parachute troop task. It was exacting, he found, in that the spacing, timing and height must be just right. The paratroopers were mostly made up of Gurkhas, although other Indian races were represented.

Other Canucks in the RAF Wellington squadron that did this training job were F/S Gordon Verner, of Brantford, Ont.; F/L Jack Guest, Toronto; F/S Frank Holcombe, St. Catharines, Ont.; and F/S S. L. Uffelman, Waterloo, Ont.

Now he is back on bombing, this time with the Japs as victims. He has made several raids on their forward aerodromes. Operational flying in India is more difficult than in Europe, Parsons believes. In Europe there are flak and searchlights to face, but they are seldom as dangerous as a heavy tropical storm, he believes.

Uffelman is also Jap bombing now. A WAG, he has helped paste Akyab, Magwe and other Jap-occupied cities in Burma. RCAF fliers are playing an important part in keeping open the new "Burma Road." This artery, running from Chittagong across the Bay of Bengal from Calcutta to Mangdaw (now in Jap hands), is occupied Burma. It is the primary supply line of the Allied troops on the India-Burma front.

All winter long thousands of coolies have worked under Allied

ROYAL REPARTEE

While taking pictures recently of Their Majesties the King and Queen, F/O Ken Coleman, of St. Thomas, Ont., RCAF Press photographer, had nearly despair of getting a "shot" of the Royal pair together. However, as they were leaving the station the Queen saw Ken's difficulty and nudged the King, who posed with her. After the most careful preparations Ken went to pull out the slide, and as he did so the metal tab came off. He fumbled frantically, but to his consternation the slide would not come out.

Then the King leaned over toward him and said, "And it's never happened before, has it?"

A very embarrassed, red-faced photographer could only mumble, "No, Sir."

engineers improving the dirt track which wound through the jungle hills. More than a hundred bridges had to be built over dusty gullies that have since been transformed by the monsoons into muddy torrents. Every yard of earth cut out or filled in was carried on the heads of coolies in shallow oval baskets.

To-day Canuck fighters are defending the strip against any attempts by the enemy to bomb it. Weeks ago they saw thick dust clouds marking the course and they knew that convoys of supplies and petrol, Bren gun carriers, 25-pounder guns and ambulances were kicking up that dust. Now monsoons and three-ton lorries are making it a quagmire, but the traffic still goes through. At times dust forced convoy drivers to don respirators.

Refugees from Maungdaw are trekking along it now, rather than stay under Jap domination. Canadian pilots say that when they see trucks and soldiers and people moving they know they are on the British side. The Japs move at night in complete darkness. Several of the Canucks have yet to see their first Jap.

High Temperatures

Members of the RCAF who have been out a year or more tell newcomers to "keep cool, you haven't seen anything yet" in reference to the weather. May temperatures averaged 110 in the shade at noon in most parts of India, with recordings up to 125 in the sun.

Saturday night in the principal hotel of the Empire's largest metropolis, Calcutta, is a strange Saturday night for the pilot

PAQUIN JOINS CATERPILLARS

Fell 7,500 Feet From Lib. That Ran Out of Petrol in Fog

"It was the most wonderful thing in the world. The stars above and the earth below, and you could hear the aircraft going away."

Thus does Sgt. Roger "Eddie" Paquin of Montreal describe a parachute jump that he and eight others made from a Liberator caught in gale and fog over England after an anti-sub. patrol in the Bay of Biscay. The leap was from 7,500 feet.

The Liberator was returning when a gale came up. Airports that had been wide open were wrapped in fog within a few minutes. So strong were the winds and so deep the fog that the Lib. flew right through the balloon barrage at a great south-of-England port.

The kite was diverted to a more northerly aerodrome, but when they reached it the storm was ahead of them. The fog had closed in too, and petrol was nearly exhausted. Orders were given to abandon the craft.

"I never saw so much politeness in my life," Paquin said. "It was 'after you, Alphonse,' and 'no, you first, Gaston.'"

"I hit the ground head first, but it was the finest impression I'd ever had in my life," he went on. "I landed in a field, and the gale dragged me for 20 minutes through brooks around trees, over rocks and everything else. I couldn't release the parachute. I stopped just on the edge of a river, and I stayed put for two hours and a-half. When they picked me up, I had some bruises and scratches. They said I had nerve shock, but I am fine now."

F/L McKENZIE HAS WON U.S. FLYERS' GONG

S/L Hill Gets Bar to D.F.C. For Destroying Five Since Early April

THREE NEW D.F.C.s

THE United States Air Medal is the unusual award, for a Canadian, that F/L D. M. McKenzie, of Stellarton, N.S., has won as a result of his operational flights while in North Africa.

The citation accompanying the gong remarks that "the manner in which this officer performed these missions reflects great credit upon the military services of the United Nations."

Another veteran of the North African campaign, S/L G. U. Hill, has been granted the immediate award of a Bar to his D.F.C. Beside leading his squadron with great success, he has destroyed five enemy aircraft since early April.

Engaged Enemy

"Early in May," concludes the citation, "he led his formation in an operation off the Tunisian coast. During the fight a superior force of enemy fighters was engaged. In the ensuing combat seven enemy aircraft were destroyed without loss, two of them by S/L Hill."

Three immediate D.F.C.s wind up this week's awards list. They go to F/L F. "Pete" Marsh, F/O Donald Simpson, and P/O Gordon Young.

Marsh and Simpson were wireless op. and navigator respectively of a bomber that was to attack Duisburg. Before they reached the target area they were attacked by an enemy fighter. The bomber sustained heavy damage. On the return flight, the citation explains, "F/O Simpson displayed exceptional navigational ability in most difficult circumstances and F/L Marsh, who skillfully obtained bearings, rendered him valuable assistance."

P/O Young was skipping another bomber on its way to the Ruhr when it too was attacked by a fighter. The RAF rear-gunner was painfully wounded and his target put out of action, but his commentary on the Hun's movements enabled Young to evade it. Despite severe damage to the bomber, he managed to fly it to base and make a safe landing. The RAF rear-gunner was awarded the D.F.M.

CANADIANS IN CREW WHO FLEW PREMIER

Three Canadians are in the crew of the Liberator "Commando" which has flown Mr. Churchill over 14,000 miles on his trips to Moscow, Casablanca and Turkey.

It is announced just as the Premier has returned from another trip that the captain and other members of the crew of the "Commando" have been honoured by the King.

Radio Officer Russell Nelson Holmes, a Canadian, received the M.B.E. The other Canucks, Flight Engineers John William Atteck and Ronald Robert Williams, received commendations.

HALIFAX VENTURE WAS CRAMMED WITH EVENTS

F/O Woody Smith and Crew Were Very Occupied On Bochum Raid

Hurling down to 200 feet, striking a balloon barrage cable, having their Halifax riddled with flak, and their mid-upper gunner bale out were just some of the things that happened to the crew of F/O Woody Smith, of Windsor, Ont., in a raid on the Ruhr industrial centre of Bochum.

The crew had an ordinary trip until they got within a few miles of the target, where they were coned by more than 20 searchlights and held for five minutes.

They managed to get clear without losing much height and did their bomb run right over the centre of the target.

Heading back they were coned again, and the flight engineer, Sgt. Al Dutton, of Brantford, Ont., counted at least 30 searchlights and gave up counting. The lights and heavy flak forced the Halifax down. As they took evasive action, flak caught them on the side and threw the heavy kite on its back. All four engines cut out. They lost 10,000 feet before F/O Smith managed to right it again, and they were travelling at 400 miles an hour.

"Down to 500 feet and it looked as though we had had it," Smith said. "A searchlight was playing right on my face. It was blinding me, and made me so mad I thought if we had to go we'd take Jerry and his light with us. So I gunned into the beam and Jerry soon doused the light."

Somewhere in their mad dash downwards they smashed into a balloon barrage cable, but cut it OK, and at 200 feet Smith was informed that their mid-upper gunner had baled out. Even at that height the Germans were still trying to play their lights on them, but the Halifax was too low, and finally they gained enough height to fly home.

The bomber was holed in the starboard engine, the starboard propellers, the roof of the cabin, the port wing gas tank, and the hinges were knocked off one of the bomb doors.

Smith's rear-gunner, Sgt. Jimmy Bennett, of Carleton Place, Ont., did a good job of directing the skipper's evasive action away from the flak that poured up from behind them. When they were down real low Jimmy shot out four Jerry searchlights.

Other Canadians in the aircraft were P/O John Teskey, of Kingston, Ont., the bomb-aimer, and P/O Dennis "Porky" Sim, of Toronto, the navigator.



1 Plus one fastening. Purchase tax.

NEW LION DEN

By LAO F. C. JAMES

A MONTH has passed since the Lions moved to their new den in the northern jungles.

The distinction of being the first member of the squadron to be awarded the D.F.M. has gone to F/S "Higgie" Higgins.

Among new arrivals are F/L J. E. Hockey, Kentville, N.S., who saw service as an instructor in Canada before coming overseas.

SETTING IS ALL SET FOR OLD BOYS' "DO"

The originals who came over with No. 1 Fighter Squadron and the old 112 City of Winnipeg Squadron plan themselves a "do" on Saturday night, June 19th.

The old boys that came over on the 20th of June, 1940, are requested to bring their girlfriends, as there will be a dance, along with a refreshment bar with all the trimmings.

PARLIAMENT MEMBERS VISIT FIGHTER WING

Squadrons of the Canadian fighter wing in the south of England were visited recently by a party of members of the British Parliament.

The visitors were taken to the station by Air Commodore Viscount Stansgate. The party included Air Commodore Sir William Brass, Mrs. Tate, Sir Wardlaw Milne, Sir Percy Harris, Mr. Neil Maclean and Mrs. R. C. Morrison.

W/C J. E. Johnson, D.S.O., D.F.C. and Bar, leader of the Canadian wing, showed the visitors round the station, introducing them to S/L C. M. Magwood, D.F.C., of Toronto, C.O. of the Wolf Squadron, and S/L J. D. Hall, also of Toronto, leader of the Red Indians, who in turn introduced them to the pilots.

Ottawa, who will be remembered as the owner of "Zar," a black Alsatian dog, has departed for parts unknown to begin aircrew training. "Zar" was given to Mac by a friend in the Commandos, who took him from the custody of a German soldier he happened to meet during a raid on the Continent.

While on the squadron Mac did duty first as postmaster and later, after the Christmas mail had been sorted, as overseer at the bomb dump.

HEADQUARTERS

THE Entertainment Committee has finally managed to pin the RCAF Dance Band down with the result that Headquarters personnel will be dancing on Friday night, July 2nd, at the Connaught Rooms.

Like a moose calling its mate a beller went out in a well-known and very crowded dance hall last Friday night. Somewhere in the crowd was Cpl. Douglas. Somewhere at the end of the hall's public address system was Cpl. Evans, and Evans wanted Douglas. He expressed his want by the simple expedient of hollering—into a very live microphone.

LAC Bourgeois, of Records, was late one morning last week. He was given permission by F/O Roy to launch into his explanation in French. It seems he had been up at 6 o'clock, but he had taken too much time making himself presentable for inspection.

"I had to run for parade. Did he mean three days C.B. for me, too?"

Sgt. "No Nose For News" Al. Cotton reluctantly discussing the gash on his forehead the other day explained, "It's really nothing at all. It was just something that happened in a quiet week-end in the country. I happened to fall flat on my face."

"What time was this?" asked the reporter nastily. "About closing time," the Sergeant sighed.

LEAGUE STANDING

Table with columns: Personnel, R & S, Camps, Accounts, Knights, P & Csa, M.T., Brides, Officers, Commandants. Values range from 1 to 257.



F/L C. E. "Chuck" Darby, of O'Hara, Ont., won his D.F.M. when a flight sergeant last year for his part in a successful low level attack on the German naval base at Trondheim.

FOUR MORE

another Messerschmitt was seen to plunge into the "deck," but until Intelligence reports have been sifted it is impossible to say how it was destroyed.

Other pilots of the two squadrons sighted formations of enemy fighters during the sweep, but were unable to engage them.

Evidence of the increasing intensity of air fighting over Northern France is the record of F/L H. Deane MacDonald, Toronto, who has just won the D.F.C. He is a flight commander of the Wolf Squadron.

Ground crews are becoming increasingly Canadianised, and Canadians in all branches of the Service agree that RAF personnel worked hard to show them the ropes.

WOMEN'S DIVISION

BEFORE we get ourselves lost in the news of the week, if there is any, how about a little more enthusiasm in the baseball which is played in Regent's Park Monday and Thursday nights.

LAW Dorothy Hanley, who hails from Moncton, N.B., for the past few days has been engaged in typing literally thousands of form letters.

Back from Scotland came LAW Johnson, looking the part of a very happy bride, which was gathered in the case. And LAW C. L. Newton, of Severn Bridge, Ont., was also on leave last week.

Sorry to report that LAW Jean Inglis, of Strathmore, Ont., is in hospital. Hope to see your smiling face and red hair about soon, Jeannie—just to add a bit of fire to the ground floor!

Social life at Bomber Group received a decided boost last Wednesday when the RCAF band arrived and entertained with an open-air concert during the afternoon.

Softball is in the news. The M.T. team, suffering from a temporary (we hope) shortage of manpower, took on strength "Hank" Henry and Nora Plaxton, Victoria, B.C., and there are definite prospects that they will give the security guard an awful licking one day.

Cpls. Vera Lane, Welland, Ont., and Daphne Smithson, Vancouver, are attached to a station for the time being—we'll lay odds that not a few homesick Canadian boys will be hanging around to listen to their accents.

The M.T. gang are looking forward to another chicken dinner if only a certain corporal will co-operate. Then there is the W.D. who had developed a fondness for evening strolls.

That third hook looks all right.



"WHEN WE ARE MARRIED"

This story is based around the twenty-fifth anniversary of a joint wedding of three couples. But before the anniversary is over the three husbands, Lloyd Pearson as Alderman Joe Heilwell, Raymond Huntley as Albert Parker, and Ernest Butcher as the meek Herbert Soppitt, learn from the newly-appointed organist at Lane End Chapel that as the clergyman who married them twenty-five years ago was, at that time, unqualified to perform the wedding ceremony, therefore the marriages were null and void.

"HANGMEN ALSO DIE"

Producer, director, and part-author Fritz Lang here presents a sizzling spotlight on Gestapo brutality. It is a vivid story of Gestapo's unavailing quest for killer of Heydrich in Prague of 1941.

The principal players include Brian Donlevy, Walter Brennan and Anna Lee, but for once the honours go to a lesser-known artist—Alexander Granach, who presents a memorable portrait of strutting Nazi villainy.

"THE DARK TOWER"

You can almost smell the sawdust, the animals, the paint the clowns use on their faces in this Warner Bros. presentation of "The Dark Tower." Though its name might not suggest anything about a circus to you, the opening scenes take place under the "big tent" and end the same way.

Advertisement for the play 'WE DIVE AT DAWN' featuring Eric Portman and John Mills at the Leicester Sq. Theatre.

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

Table listing theatres and cinema listings including Hippodrome, Palace, Palladium, Princes, Saville, Savoy, Strand, Victoria Palace, Windmill, Dominion, Empire, Franchot Tane, Gaumont, Leicester Sq. Theatre, London Pavilion, Marble Arch Pavilion, New Gallery, Odeon, Regal, Flanagan and Allen, Theatre Royal, Tatler, and Tivoli.

Large advertisement for the movie 'PILOT No. 5' featuring Franchot Tone, Marsha Hunt, and Gene Kelly, showing a pilot in flight.

Large advertisement for the movie 'BLIMP' at the Odeon Leicester Square, featuring Anton Walbrook, Deborah Kerr, and Roger Livesey.