



RCAF BOMBERS BLAST WAY FOR NEW ALLIED ADVANCE

LARGE FORCE STRIKES WEHRMACHT AT CAEN

Record Number of Canadian Heavies Attack French Flying Bomb Installations In Daylight Last Week

MASSED FLIGHT MADE WITHOUT LOSS

Forces of RCAF Halifaxes and Lancasters launched attacks against troop and supply concentrations on the road between Caen and Falaise Monday night. More than 200 aircraft took part in the work, designed to open the way for British and Canadian troops in the eastern sector of the Normandy front. Canadian-built Lancasters formed one force which attacked a portion of the target while Halifaxes comprised the major assault force against the Nazi troops.

Another highlight in the week's bombing effort was the flying of a record number of Lancasters and Halifaxes, the largest ever put into the air by RCAF Bomber Group against flying bomb dumps in France last Thursday. In the ensuing 48 hours, two gigantic daylight smashes were directed against other Nazi dumps.

Led by Cos

At Caen, four Canadian squadrons were led by commanding officers, the Alouettes by W/C LeCompte; the Moose by W/C Ploasance; the Goose by W/C McLernon; the Porcupine by W/C Jim Lewington, Oshawa. One of the group station commanders, G/C Clare Annis, Toronto, flew with W/C McLernon.

W/C F. A. Harrison, Cranbrook, BC, Ghost squadron gunner, destroyed a FW190 on the trip back. "I gave him a short burst and he caught fire," he said. "As he was coming down, I gave him another and he hit the English Channel and spread all over the place."

An indication of the close cooperation with the ground forces was given by F/S Ted Relf, Tiger squadron gunner from Toronto, who said "I believe we were bombing only 2,500 yards in advance of our own troops."

None Missing

From the record flight against the flying bomb sites, no Canadian aircraft were missing. Air Vice-Marshal C. M. McEwen, O.C. of the Group, revealed the operation was the group's greatest achievement.

On Friday afternoon, more than 200 heavies went after flying bomb supply dumps, this time in the Paris area. They met a curtain of flak. Every group squadron participated.

Again on Saturday afternoon the Group attacked sites at St. Lau d'Esserent, north-east of Paris. On this attack the target area was heavily defended and several aircraft were damaged by flak.

RCAF Fighter-Bombers Plaster German Tanks

Nomad Squadron Destroys 20 Nazi Tanks in Wooded Area

Normandy—Bombing by the Nomad squadron, RCAF Typhoon fighter-bomber unit, resulted in the destruction of one company of German infantry and 20 tanks in a wooded area south east of Villers Bocage recently.

The attack was led by F/L Ken Fiset, Outremont, Que., who reported "We think we clobbered it alright, but it was too dark to see results."

Thirty tanks were destroyed in the wood and the wrecks were found by the army. The RCAF squadron claims two-thirds of them must have been destroyed in the concentrated bombing, possibly more.

TRINOR UNIT GETS 5 MORE

Squadron High-Scorers Continue Spurge in France

Veterans of S/L Charlie Trainor's Spitfire squadron in Normandy, helped their CO add another five aircraft to their kill total last week with victories in the Domfront area.

Trainor and F/L Bill Klersy, Toronto, counted a FW190 each in the first encounter. Both scored their victories in deck-level duels. Trainor's kill raised his total to 9½ and Klersy's victim was his seventh.

Two days later, F/L G. W. Johnson, Hamilton, Ont., F/L R. H. Bouskill, Toronto, and F/L R. H. Cull, Seba Beach, Alta., added three more in the same district.

Bouskill was just getting into position to score on his opponent when the Nazi bailed out before the Toronto pilot could fire a shot.

Cull was third man in the section of four led by Johnson when they sighted a dozen Messerschmitts.

"About eight of them dived for the deck," Cull related. "We followed them down. I picked one out and opened fire. The pilot bailed out and the aircraft went straight in and exploded."

Johnson's victim bailed out too.

RCAF Fighter-Bombers Plaster German Tanks

Typhoon Wing Helps Army With Low-Level Attacks

Normandy—In close army support, RCAF Typhoon fighter-bomber wing blasted enemy troop concentrations in woods in the Bourguebus area and Tilly La Campagne last week.

F/L Jack Bairnes, Tofield, Alta., led the Wildcat squadron in the attack on Tilly La Campagne and described the results, "A big V-shaped plume of smoke rose in the sky for about 1,000 feet. Forests extending around the town were flattened."

At Bourguebus, the wing orbited and strafed the area with cannon fire. The attack was delivered from less than 50 feet. There was no flak.

DECORATED GUNNER



Astride the mid-upper turret of his Tiger squadron Halifax, Sgt. Peter Engbrecht, Whitewater, Man., is seen in a photograph with swastikas representing the first of his two double killings of Nazi nightfighters. The four destroyed won for him the CGM.

Tiger Gunner Wins CGM for Four Kills

Seventh Award of Gallantry Gong Goes to Fast-Shooting Whitewater Flier

Award of the Conspicuous Gallantry Medal, the seventh such decoration for a member of the RCAF, to Sgt. Peter Engbrecht, Whitewater, Man., was announced recently in the London Gazette. A Tiger squadron mid-upper gunner, Engbrecht earned the honor for four kills of Nazi nightfighters in two separate trips over enemy territory.

Tank Explodes

Early in June, Engbrecht's Halifax was detailed to attack targets in Belgium. Shortly after leaving the target area the aircraft was attacked by a Me110. Engbrecht opened fire from his turret, and the German fighter went down, its petrol tank exploding on the way.

Minutes later, the Tiger gunner added his second kill as a Focke-Wulf fighter exploded in his sights. Only one of the gunner's four guns was serviceable during the second attack.

Less than two weeks later, Engbrecht added his third and fourth victims in the same night, as RCAF Bomber Group attacked railway yards at Veranilles-Matelot, near Paris.

Second Double

The first Nazi, a Me109, was seen to hit the deck after engaging the Halifax. The second, a Me110, was believed to have blown up in the air after Engbrecht's tracers ripped into it, and it trailed off into a cloud from which a brilliant flash was seen seconds later.

The CGM was instituted early in 1943 to fill in the gap between the DFM and the VC, a gap in which no award was available to flying personnel below the rank of warrant officer. Six other Canadian NCOs have received the high decoration since it was made available to members of air crews.

CRASH LANDING

F/O Bill Warfield, New York, who flies with the Red Indian squadron, made a beautiful job of crash-landing his Spit recently after being hit by a big piece of flak from the Caen barrage.

AIR MARSHAL BREADNER VISITS MEN IN FRANCE

Overseas Boss on Informal Inspection of Famous Canadian Unit Based on Airfields in Normandy

Air Marshal Lloyd S. Breadner, CB, DSC, AOC-in-C the RCAF Overseas, paid a flying visit to RCAF squadrons in France last week and talked with many of the pilots who played an important part in the Normandy campaign. He saw them in decidedly operational style. There was no dress parade routine during the visit.

FIGHTER MEN EARN AWARDS

McElroy Gets Second DFC For Part in Big Air Battle

Victories against enemy aircraft in air battles have earned awards for Canadians, including an immediate Bar to the DFC and four of nine immediate DFCs announced in the London Gazette.

F/L John Frederick McElroy, DFC, received a Bar to his decoration. In June he flew the leading aircraft of a formation attacking 30 enemy planes, nine of which were shot down. Although his machine was damaged badly in the fight, he made a safe landing.

The DFCs go to F/L James Douglas Lindsay; F/L Hugh Charles Trainor, F/L Paul Gilbert Johnson, F/L Leslie Albert Moore, S/L Hubert George Keilor, F/O Charles Alphonse Wondolowsky, F/O Jack Bamford, F/O Lloyd Arthur Mann and W/O Abraham Isaac Kornan.

Lindsay destroyed three Nazis in July when he took part in an engagement with a large force of enemy fighters. He has destroyed a total of seven. Trainor destroyed five enemy planes over a short period.

Many Kills

Johnson destroyed five, three of them in one day, and has participated in attacks on airfields and communications. In July, Moore took part in an engagement against eight Hun planes, five of which were destroyed, two of them by himself. The citation states that he led his small formation with great skill. He has six destroyed to his credit.

Keilor and Wondolowsky as pilot and navigator respectively have taken part in many shipping attacks, and hit a merchantman off the Dutch coast.

Canuck Shoots Down Freak German Plane

First pilot to shoot down a German "pick-a-back" bomb, incorporating a Me109 fighter mounted on top of an explosive-laden Ju88, was F/L Walter Dinsdale, pilot of a RCAF Cougar squadron nightfighter.

The Brandon, Man., pilot attacked the weird contraption, details of which were released in London recently, while on a routine night patrol over the Normandy beach-head.

Dinsdale described the kill as "retribution for Jerry thinking up such things," since it landed with a terrific explosion behind German lines after he shot it down.

"It was a very awkward thing and lumbered along like an old hippo at about 150 miles an

Bombing First

At G/C Paul Davoud's Typhoon airfield he had to delay his landing while squadrons of Typhoons took off on a dive-bombing mission in support of the 2nd British Army advances. Many of the pilots he met around dispersal had barely returned from a successful dive-bombing attack at Chichebeville.

"I'm very proud of the job you are doing and the job you have done," he told Spitfire pilots at G/C W. R. MacBrien's airfield.

He had reason to enthuse over their performance in the air for they have compiled the tallest total of any fighter station in the Normandy campaign.

"If you have anything you want to talk over, I'm open for it," he grinned after he had met every pilot in the wing.

By Plane

The air marshal moved from landing strip to landing strip by aircraft. He was first met by Air Vice-Marshal Harry Broadhurst, AOC the RAF group in which Canadians figure so prominently. The latter personally piloted the Canadian chief from his point of landing to a Canadian fighter base which in his own two-seater which has carried such dignitaries as Winston Churchill, General Montgomery, General Eisenhower, Air Chief Marshals Tedder and Leigh-Mallory during visits to France.

G/C E. A. Moncrieff, AFC, Winnipeg, conducted him around his base wing before the air marshal moved on to G/C R. H. McGregor's fighter wing, with F/L Jim Prendergast as his pilot.

The C-in-C was accompanied by G/C G. G. Truscott, Moosemin, Sask., G/C Graham Morrow and G/C C. C. P. Graham, Ottawa. W/C A. Dean Nesbitt, DFC, Montreal, conducted the party to the various airfields.

Recently one of a number of E-boats they engaged capsized as a result of their accurate bombing. Bamford destroyed three Jerries in an engagement with a large force of enemy fighters in June.

TIFFIES TEAR TANKS APART

Packing eight rockets and four cannon, the Typhoon rocket-firing, single-seat fighter, has in the past week-end proven itself the most effective tank-busting weapon yet devised.

In a recent Press conference G/C Paul Y. Davoud, DSO, DFC, Kingston, Ont., commander of a Rockphoon wing, stated: "Their accuracy is so great that German prisoners have admitted that they have been given orders, when sighting Typhoon rocket aircraft, to get off the road, get under cover and stay there all day if necessary."

The Typhoon can fire its rockets in twos, fours, sixes or eights at the discretion of the pilot. Says Davoud: "Our men dive on them at all angles, and from 100 to 2,000 feet or more. The effect is staggering. The tanks just break up or become infernos."

"The rockets make a terrifying noise, which our own troops, usually looking on from a few hundred yards away, enjoy immensely."

WILDCAT LEADER

F/L Jack Bairnes, Tofield, Alta., has been promoted to squadron leader and given command of the Wildcat squadron in Normandy. He replaces S/L Frank Grant, Montreal, who is recovering from an appendectomy at a field hospital.

KIRKWOOD TOP NIGHTFIGHTER

Four Kills Since D-Day Boost Nighthawk Scoreboard

W/O Walter Kirkwood, Edmonton, Alta., RCAF Nighthawk pilot, became Canada's leading invasion nightfighter when he shot down his fourth victim over St. Lo in Normandy. The 21-year-old Mosquito pilot was flying with F/O Bill Ward, Toronto, as his observer for the first time.

They came upon the Ju.88 as it was dropping parachute flares, the glow illuminating him in the sky. Kirkwood overshot him on the first run and had to come at him a second time.

"He must have seen us," he said, "because he started weaving as he tried to pull away. On my first burst I gave him too much deflection and missed, but the second set his starboard motor on fire and he dived off to port and into a cloud. A minute later, through an opening in the cloud, I saw him hit the ground and explode."

"After he had exploded, his flares started going off and the air was full of them as they shot into the sky," Ward said. Kirkwood's kill places him in the top bracket in current night-fighting, where confirmed kills are notoriously difficult to get with the Luftwaffe playing safe and attempting no night attacks in large strength. He now has two Ju.88s and two Ju.88s to his credit.

This victory was the 20th German plane destroyed by the Nighthawks since D-day.



The large chunk of machinery used to be a fully operative Tiger tank, pride of the German Panzers. Now it's a resting place for four airmen: Don Irvine, Nelson, BO; Sgt. William Parker, RAF; LAC Larry McAndrew, Stratford, Ont.; AC1 William Barker, Fredericton, NB.

(Official RCAF Photograph.)



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BEAVER BASE

Former Boss Drops In

Honored guest for a couple of days this week was Air Commodore A. D. Ross, OBE, who dropped in to say adieu to his friends and former associates before departing for a well-earned spot of leave in Winnipeg, and other pleasant places in the civilized area between there and Montreal. While here he was the guest of the base commander, Air Commodore J. E. Fauquier, DSO, DFC.

Roy Perry, the lucky armament walloah from Toronto, is now "Mr." Perry, if you please. The galloping horses had their thirsts duly quenched in honor of the event. Two other people getting up in the world are those Wid lovelies Marnie Birch, the Winnipeg Whiz, and Mary Campbell, luscious Londoner. The Cpls. hooks become you, girls.

Re-union

The Orpens are here in full force these days. F/L R. L. Orpen, the Base Adj. has his pilot son visiting him for a few days. F/L Orpen, Jr., flies with a Mitchell squadron with TAF. Dae Goodeve, London, Ont., is now back in our midst. A visitor this week, prior to proceeding to Gandhi's domain, was LAC Bill Sears.

New threat for top spot in the local social scene is LAW "Bea" Archer, a good Regina type. She is considering setting up a roster so she will always know where she's going with whom.

A new arrival here who is making quite a name around here as an athlete is LAW Elina Jensen, Grand Falls, N.B. Jennie won a packet of face powder donated by Air Vice-Marshal C. M. McEwen, MC, DFC, at a sports meet recently by coming in first in a foot race.

Departing for overseas HQ is SWO Walt Morgan. His departure leaves WO Bob Seeley securely established as the Base Wolf Mark I. Also departing for greener fields is F/S Jock Stephen, former well-known Montreal athletic star who headed the health-through-aches-and-pains department here. His impending departure was made the occasion for quite a party in the mess, and now he

WINDSOR SPITS PLASTER BRIDGE

Led by F/L T. P. "Chic" McElhanney, Ottawa, a formation of RCAF Spitfires from the City of Windsor squadron recently bombed and destroyed a railway bridge, about 38 miles behind the enemy lines.

A direct hit from one 500-pounder demolished the centre of the bridge, and another cut the rails about 30 yards from the western end. Although moderate neck-neck fire was encountered, there was no opposition from enemy aircraft.

It marked the first operational flight for F/S J. T. McLeod, Westville, NS. Others who took part in the operation were W/O George Hicks, Fredericton, NB; F/O R. E. Kent, Vancouver; W/O H. Murray, Brooklyn, NY and F/S R. A. Shannon, Hamilton, Ont.

knows what a hangover feels like.

Exit Roses

The absent-minded accolade this week goes to Sgt. Patti Secombe, who keeps busy at the watch office. Patti had a sick friend in hospital, so she wangled permission from G/C Annis to cut some roses from the garden in front of SHQ. When she arrived at the hospital, all she had to show as proof of her good intentions were numerous scratches and abrasions on her hands, the roses themselves being left in the train.

Weddings

MARTIN-PRYOR

S/L. Walter M. Martin, Toronto and Regina, was recently married in London to Helen Louise Pryor, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Harris, London, S.W.1. S/L Martin, son of the Hon. Chief Justice and Mrs. W. Melville Martin, Regina, was attended by his uncle, Col. Beatty Martin. The bride was given away by Mr. Rodney Malingot, FRCS.

INJURED FLIER GOES BACK TO FLYING JOB

After nearly five months in a hospital and a convalescent home, it feels pretty good to get back in the air again, even in a training plane, according to F/O George West, Edmonton.

Since West baled out of his Beaufighter and injured his leg last January, his nightfighter squadron, the Nighthawks, have converted to Mosquitoes. This means special conversion training for the Edmonton pilot, but in the meantime he's getting the feel of flying again in a twin-engined Oxford training ship.



RADIO ROUND UP

Of the few radio maniacs scouring the boom town in search of diversion in recent days LAC Johnny Borgford was one. The Selkirk, Man., Joe stopped only long enough in the capital to increase his financial position at RCAF HQ before heading for parts undisclosed. Johnny is one of four radio men keeping them busy at a satellite Wimpy OTU. The Canucks in question are LAC Freddy Turner, Hamilton; Cpl. Tommy Trive, Regina; and LAC Keith Johnston, Lucknow, Ont.

On Leave

Cpl. Archie Ranney, Milverton, Man.; LAC Jim McKenzie, Napan Centre, NS; LAC Ross "Seke" Zealan, Coburg, Ont.; and LAC Don Fry, Bracebridge, Ont., were in London last week, enjoying holidays from the AEA. Three of the four, McKenzie, Zealand and Fry, saw service with the Canadian Wimpy wing in Africa and came away within 12 days of winning the African Star. Some of the other Canadians in their unit include AC1 Bob Rutherford, Toronto; Sgt. Pat Farnham, Montreal; and Sgt. Hughie Walker, Vancouver.

Ottawa, brings tidings of doings in the radio section of a TAF squadron. Krantz has been overseas about two years and will not be going back to radio after the war.

The guys, as far as Krantz can remember, go like this at the station. There's Cpl. Len Irbine, Ottawa; Cpl. Bill Hillis, Toronto; LAC Red Beardsley, Maratimer; LAC Ivan Bradley, St. Catharines, Ont.; LAC Jack Bailey, Woodstock, Ont.; LAC

Gordie, Elliott, Toronto; LAC Vic Dick, Toronto; LAC Junior McNaughton, Toronto; and Cpl. "Scotty" Scott, an Ontario boy. The only stubble-jumper in the whole outfit is the officer F/O Robbins, from Alberta.

NORTH ENGLAND

By LAC George Maybee

Orchids to Geoff McDowell. He recently graduated from the Joe class and is now proudly sporting two brand-new stripes.

Paul Quinn is back from the gen school filled with info and with that happy expression on his face which one gets after being away for a while.

Congratulations to Cpl. and Mrs. Norman Farmer on the arrival of an infant son. Norm maintains that of all things he will not make a radio man out of him.

Mack McKinnon, Dave Holloway and Hank Tuero have been getting in a lot of cycling hours these evenings. What's all the attraction out beyond the confines of camp, lads?

INTRUDER ANTICS

Travelling Light

What with toothbrush and kit bags the fellows are learning the rigors of war and seeing the country. And since the squadron lives under these conditions, they're learning all about doing their own laundry and how to make friends!

Due to transport problems, Cpls. Moore and Plastow, the Slamese twins, have been forced to part. "Pop" Wood, Lloydminster, Sask., has been seen drinking two pots of tea!

Sgt. Tommy Yates goes about sad and weary, because his diary isn't around. On the other hand, F/S "Pappy" Hoar beams from ear to ear; he's got a partner for the party. What are you doing, Gwen? Another Sgt. doing well for himself is our own Willie Wye. Rumor has it that he more than holds his own with the WAAF telyops and RTOs.

Thoughts of home loomed up at the flight dispersal last week. How domestic the scene to watch Madeleine, our MT driver, washing an airman's tunic. Squadron men recently married were F/Ls Ford and Evans, LAC Johnny Lansdel and Cpl. Sned. F/L Evans is moonstruck these days; marriage must agree with him.

Additional squadron mess responsibility: feeding Butch's four young ones. "Pop" McKenna must have been very

happy, handing out all those kisses at the mess party. McKenna now totes a crown on his sleeve.

LAC Penny, Montreal, and Ricky, Windsor, are debating the adage "Two can live as cheaply as one." Gentleman Jim Braby grows lonely in his squire's room. LAC Fitzsimons, Port Portage, Sask., discovered he could really play the sweet potato better than he thought.

Queries

The boys wonder if Goose Goslin is in France or the Glass House; why haven't you written, Goose? Why does LAC Sklar call Normie Whitter, Toronto, "grandpa"? Why is "Lucky" Mineault Winnipeg, so lucky these days? When is Bud Palmer, Regina, going to retire? Why does Cpl. Jim Alexander, Toronto, chomp onions when he comes back from a night of ops? Who has been giving Cpl. Knack jitter-bug lessons, at the Palais de Danse? When is pay day?

A mention for F/L Stan Cotterill, F/O "Pinky" Wright, P/Os Merv Sims and "Junior" Sharples, on their recent DFCs. Cotterill and Sharples hail from Toronto. Sims calls Vancouver "home" and Wright signs the hotel register, Rosthern, Sask.

—LAC Goldberg.

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