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[1/343]

HISTORY OF No. 463 SQUADRON R.A.A.F.

25th Nov. 1943 to 30th April 1945

AWM 64

[1/343]

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.361

SECRET.

# OPERATIONS NO. 463 SQUADRON. R.A.A.F.

## 26th November, 1943.

B.C.I.N. 26/27.11.43. "Night Operations" BERLIN: 450 aircraft took off, comprising 153 Lancasters of 1 group, 20 of 3 group, 161 of 5 group, 39 of 6 group and 70 of 8 (PF) group with 7 Mosquitoes.

There was very little cloud over the target and visibility was good, marred by ground haze and later by much smoke.

The first aircraft to arrive reported that fires from previous attacks were visible.

Pathfinder marking started on time and became well concentrated. The bombing was good and fires soon sprang up, large conflagration developing in the middle of the target area. Many other fires were seen including a large one to the S.W. Later in the attack indendiaries are reported to have been spread over a wide area.

A total of 373 aircraft attacked the primary target between 2110 hrs. and 2138 hrs.

Defences were particularly busy with searchlights and light flak. Heavy flak was moderate to intense. No fighter flares were seen over Berlin until towards the end of the attack, but fighters were very active in the Frankfurt area.

27 aircraft are missing.

See Air Ministry Bulletin No.12193 and No.12194.

A copy may be found with No.460 Squadron Daily Operational Survey for this date.

O.R.B. 26.11.43. CREWS - BERLIN.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lancaster III ED.593. | - Aus. 8687 | F/Sgt. Saunders, A.J. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Redding, M.J. | |
| | | Sgt. Falconer, J.F. | |
| | | Sgt. Sheen, T.A. | |
| | Aus. 418100. | Sgt. Govett D.D. | |
| | Aus. 426768. | Sgt. Tennett, K. | |
| | Aus. 422707. | Sgt. Robinson, D. | |
| Lancaster I DV.337. | - Aus. 416646. | F/Sgt. Fowler, J.W. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Williams, J.L. | |
| | | Sgt. Barker, J.W. | |
| | | Sgt. Thomas, J.E. | |
| | | Sgt. Ferrier, J.P. | |
| | Aus. 425766. | Sgt. Sherwin, W.T. | |
| | | Sgt. Thomas, A.E.G. | |
| Lancaster I | - Aus. 412356. | P/O. Baker, G.F. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Rosen, A. | |
| | | P/O. Munton, C.R. | |
| | | Sgt. Hawtin, C.H. | |
| | | P/O. Scarles, B. | |
| | | Sgt. Bushell, P.D. | |
| | | F/Sgt. Child, J. | |

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# HISTORY OF NO. 463 SQUADRON, R.A.A.F.

## NOVEMBER, 1943.

NOVEMBER 25th, 1943. FORMATION. 463 Squadron started forming on this day at Waddington under the Command of Wing Commander R. Kingsford-Smith.

'C' Flight of 467 R.A.A.F. Squadron commanded by Flight Lieutenant H.B. Locke, D.F.C. was transferred in its entirety to 463.

NOVEMBER 26th, 1943. FIRST OPERATION - BERLIN. Six aircraft took part in the Squadron's first operation and the target was Berlin. Lancaster captained by Aus. 8687 F/Sgt. Saunders, A.J. was attacked by a Ju.88, but after many hits registered by the Lancasters gunners, the enemy aircraft was seen to explode and dive away out of control. Unfortunately the Squadron lost one aircraft. The crew were: - Aus. 416646 F/Sgt. Fowler, J.W. Sgt. Williams, J.L., Sgt. Barker, J.W., Sgt. Thomas, J.E., Sgt. Ferrier, J.P., Aus. 425766 Sgt. Sherwin, W.T. Sgt. Thomas, A.E.G.

NOVEMBER 30th, 1943. Representatives of the press have visited the Squadron.

Up to date the Squadron has 26 crews, and the captains are: -

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Aus. | 411652 | P/O. G.L. Messenger |
| Aus. | 413798 | P/O. C.C. Schomberg |
| Aus. | 414027 | P/O. W.W. Heap |
| Aus. | 414175 | P/O. V.H. Trimble |
| Aus. | 409721 | F/O. A.J.D. Leslie |
| Aus. | 405782 | F/Lt. A.E. Vowels |
| Aus. | 5684 | F/Lt. R.J. Mortimer |
| Aus. | 404368 | F/O. F.B.M. Wilson |
| Aus. | 416775 | P/O. F.L. Merrill |
| | | P/O. Foster |
| Aus. | 29881 | P/O. N.P. Cooper |
| Aus. | 412434 | P/O. A.R. Hart |
| Aus. | 417003 | F/O. K. Schultz |
| Aus. | 420127 | Sgt. A.R.S. Bowman |
| Aus. | 412356 | P/O. G.F. Baker |
| | | F/Sgt. Fowler |
| Aus. | 412969 | P/O. A.E. Kell |
| | | Sgt. Wynde |
| Aus. | 401980 | S/Ldr. H.B. Locke |
| Aus. | 381 | W/Cdr. R. Kingsford Smith |
| Aus. | 415280 | P/O. E.A.L. Smith |
| Aus. | 408867 | P/O. J.W. Nancarrow |
| Aus. | 412936 | F/O. E.A. Fayle |
| Aus. | 8687 | F/Sgt. Saunders, A.J. |
| Aus. | 416418 | P/O. D.C. Dunn |
| Aus. | 416893 | P/O. J. Roberts |

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## DECEMBER, 1943.

DECEMBER 2nd, 1943. RAID ON BERLIN. Five crews took off to take part in the raid on Berlin. Four were successful and returned safely. The fifth returned early with engine failure.

DECEMBER 3rd, 1943. RAID ON LEIPZIG. Only one aircraft from the Squadron took part in this raid. The target was successfully attacked and the aircraft returned safely to base.

DECEMBER 16th, 1943. RAID ON BERLIN. Another raid on Berlin and this time thirteen aircraft took off. Lancaster captained by Aus. 416418 P/O. D.C. Dunn was shot up by flak and his bombadier wounded in the leg, but all aircraft returned safely.

DECEMBER 20th, 1943. RAID ON FRANKFURT. Nine aircraft took off to attack Frankfurt but one returned early owing to the port inner engine catching fire. All aircraft returned safely.

DECEMBER 23rd, 1943. RAID ON BERLIN. Berlin again and 12 aircraft took part. Aus. 420127 P/O. A.R.S. Bowman had his port engine hit by flak over the target, and one aircraft failed to return. The crew were: - P/O. A.W. Heap, Sgt. Carter, W. F/O. R.S. Gall, Sgt. McCreadie, D. Sgt. Ryan, L.M. Sgt. Tunnicliffe, F.J. and F/Sgt. Glover, K.R.R.

DECEMBER 25th, 1943. Stand down, and a very good Christmas day was enjoyed by all.

DECEMBER 29th, 1943. RAID ON BERLIN. Nine aircraft took part in another successful attack on Berlin and all returned safely.

STATISTICS. Squadron statistics up to 31.12.43

Sorties 55
Hours 360 - 30 mins.
Miles 116,021

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Operations 26.11.43. contd.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lancaster III ED.606. | Aus. 412969. | P/O. Kell, A.E. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Slark, E. | |
| | Aus. 401842. | W/O. Watts, S.R.C. | |
| | Aus. 13751. | P/O. Morieson, K.C. | |
| | Aus. 414544. | F/Sgt. Evans, A.L. | |
| | | Sgt. Brooks, J. | |
| | Aus. 416000. | F/O. Chapman, J.F. | |
| Lancaster I DV.374. | Aus. 416893. | P/O. Roberts, J. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Wilby, J. | |
| | Aus. 416448. | F/Sgt. Muller, J.W. | |
| | Aus. 413526. | Sgt. Benzie, J.M. | |
| | Aus. 415677. | F/Sgt. Palmer, S.J. | |
| | W | W/O. McCabe, H. | |
| | | Sgt. Pead, R. | |
| Lancaster III JA.902. | Aus. 5684. | F/L. Mortimer, R.J. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Everard, H. | |
| | Aus. 420848. | P/O. Baggie, W.J. | |
| | Aus. 409963. | F/Sgt. Young, I.C. | |
| | Aus. 403028. | P/O. Jackson, L.E. | |
| | | Sgt. Lloyd, G. | |
| | Aus. - - | F/Sgt. Dease, M. | |

S.O.P.R. SUMMARY.

Five of the above mentioned aircraft attacked Berlin. The raid appears to have been successful and large concentrations of fires were left burning in built-up areas.

Lancaster captained by Aus. 8687 was attacked by a Ju.88 which it out-manoeuvred and the Ju.88 exploded after many hits by the Lancaster gunners, and dived away out of control.

One aircraft failed to return and the remaining five were directed to Downham Market.

CASUALTIES.

Aus. 416646 F/Sgt. Fowler and crew failed to return and are reported "missing".

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From: HQ. No. 5 Group.
To: Coningsby - Waddington - Scampton - E.Kirkby - Dunholme - Fiskerton - Bardney - Skellingthorpe - Woodhall - Spilsby - Metheringham - INFO HQBC - Swinderby - Syerston.

A. Form 'B'No. 123.
B. Date 26 November, 1943.
C. 162 aircraft of 5 group and 259 aircraft of other groups assisted by 38 aircraft of P.F. group will attack the target. Zero is 2115 hrs.
1st wave - 40 Lancs. 1 group. 7 Lancs 3 group.
54 Lancs. 5 group. 14 Lancs 6 group. Z to Z plus 4.
2nd wave - 40 Lancs 1 group. 8 Lancs 3 group.
54 Lancs 5 group. 14 Lancs 6 group. Z plus 4 to Z plus 8.
3rd wave - 39 Lancs 1 group. 7 Lancs 3 group.
53 Lancs 5 group. 13 Lancs 6 group. Z plus 8 to Z plus 12.
D. To cause destruction to an enemy industrial centre.
E. Night 26/27 November 1943.
F. Coningsby 34
Scampton 28
Waddington 60
E.Kirkby 40
G. As passed by teleprinter NR OPS 1.
H. Usual.
J. Normal.
K. and L. as passed by teleprinter NR OPS 4.
M. Zero Hour is 2115 hrs.

| | Coningsby. | Scampton. | Waddington. | W.Kirkby. | T.O.T. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1st wave | 11 | 9 | 20 | 14 | 2115 to 2119 |
| 2nd wave | as for wave 1. | | | | 2119 to 2123. |
| 3rd wave | remaining 5 group aircraft | | | | 2123 to 2127 |

Aircraft in the first wave to be manned by specially selected experienced crews.
N. Bomb Loads and Fusings.
A load 1 X 4000 lb H.C. Petrol 1950 Galls.
7 SBC 150 X 4 lb Inc.
4 SBC 12 X 30 lb Inc.
1 SBC 8 X 30 lb Inc.
100 X 4 lb Inc. to be X.I.B.
B Load 1 X 4000 lb H.C.
5 SBC 150 X 4 lb Inc. Petrol 1850 Galls.
1 SBC 90 X 4 lb. Inc.
3 SBC 12 X 30 lb Inc.
1 SBC 8 X 30 lb Inc. 100 X 4 lb Inc. to be X.I.B.
1. All aircraft fitted for plus 14 lbs boost to carry 'A' load remainder to c carry 'B' load.
2. Window is to be used in accordance with 5 group Op. Instruction No.33. Rates of discharge en route to target rate 'A' within 20 miles of target. Rate 'D' Remainder of homeward route rate 'C'.
3. Method for tonight will be mixed Wanganui and Paramatta.
4. Route markers T.I. red will be dropped at position X 5020 N 0735E outward bound.
5. Route markers red multi-flash will be dropped at position Y 5202N 1148E this will consist of a large number of red flashes, which go off every few seconds for several minutes. They will burst initially in the air but the majority of the flashes will go off on the ground.
6. Bundles of flares red with green stars will mark the release point throughout the attack. In addition the aiming point will be marked with T.I. green.
7. Some red and yellow T.I. will be dropped in the target area at the opening of the attack, but these are for the use of P.F. only.
8. If conditions are quite clear, main force aircraft should aim their bombs at the centre of all T.I. green visible. Otherwise they should aim their bombs at the centre of all the flares red with green stars while holding a heading of 068 magnetic. Bomb sights should in this case, be set for the true height and true airspeed but zero wind.
9. Route markers T.I. red will be dropped at position Z 5238 N 1005 E homeward bound.
10. Crews should be warned that spoof fighter flares will be dropped on the S.E. of the target early in the attack.
11. Non visual Monica range 800 yards.

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Extract from No.5. Group O.R.B.

BERLIN: 167 Lancasters were detailed to attack Berlin. 6 were cancelled, 161 took off, 8 returned early, 142 were successful, 2 failed and 9 aircraft are missing. 2 aircraft bombed last resort targets. 'N' of 50 Squadron - Message received by W/T that bombs were dropped on target - aircraft subsequently missing.

CASUALTIES: 57 Sqdn - Sgt. Boane. 61 Sqdn - P/O. Strange, P/O. Eaves, P/O McAlpine. 106 Sqdn - P/O. Hoboken. 50 Sqdn - P/O. Adams, 49 Sqdn - W/O. Brunt. 463 Sqdn - F/Sgt. Fowler. 619 Sqdn - F/Lt. Rayment.

RESULTS: The attack was carried out in conditions of no cloud and good visibility, but with a low ground haze. Defences were moderate and fighters were reported active in the target area. Crews were able to bomb Target Indicators which were reported to be of a good concentration.

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VERY SECRET

## OPERATIONS NO. 463 SQUADRON R.A.A.F.

29th December, 1943.

B.C.IIN. 29/30.12.43. "Night Operations" BERLIN: 712 aircraft were despatched. The force comprised:- 136 Lancasters of 1 group, 36 Lancasters of 3 group, 141 Halifaxes of 4 group, 163 Lancasters of 5 group, 39 Lancasters and 90 Halifaxes of 6 group, 83 Lancasters, 21 Halifaxes and 3 Mosquitos of 8 (P.F) group, and in addition, 2 Beaufighters of 100 group.

631 aircraft claim to have attacked the target.

10/10ths cloud persisted along most of the route, but was not thick enough to hide observation of most of the route markers which were reported as being very helpful. There was also 10/10ths cloud over the target area with tops at 8/10.000 ft.

Both ground and sky markers were employed, but the thickness of the cloud prevented bombing on the former. Aircraft bombed on a good concentration of sky markers, and the reflection of numerous fires seen through the clouds appeared concentrated and was visible up to 200 miles away on the return journey. Smoke was seen to be rising to about 16,000 ft. and several large explosions were reported.

Fighter activity was less than usual and very few fighter flares were observed. Flak was more intense than in recent attacks on Berlin.

19 aircraft are missing.

See Air Ministry Bulletin No.12489 and No.12487.

Copies may be found with No. 460 Squadron Daily Operational Survey for this date.

R.B. 29.12.43. CREWS - BERLIN.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lancaster I - W.4897. | Aus. 4684. | F/L. Mortimer, R.J. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Everard, H. | |
| | | P/O. Baggie, W.J. | |
| | Aus. 409963. | F/Sgt. Young, I.C. | |
| | Aus. 403028. | P/O. Jackson, L.E. | |
| | | Sgt. Lloyd, G. | |
| | | P/O. Dease, M. | |
| | Aus. 415347. | P/O. McKnight, K.H.(2nd pilot) | |
| Lancaster III - ED.606. | Aus. 412969. | P/O. Kell, A.E. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Clark, J. | |
| | Aus. 413582. | F/Sgt. Hager, J. | |
| | Aus. 31751. | P/O. Morieson, K.C. | |
| | Aus. 414544. | F/Sgt. Evans, A.L. | |
| | Aus.425234. | F/Sgt. Snell, F.W. | |
| | Aus. 416000. | F/O. Chapman, J.F. | |
| | Aus. 15763. | F/Sgt. Freeman, J. (2nd pilot). | |
| Lancaster III - ED.772. | Aus. 411652. | P/O. Messenger, G.L. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Fairburn, R. | |
| | | Sgt. Holmes, M.F. | |
| | | Sgt. Brown, E. | |
| | | Sgt. Wooldridge, F. | |
| | | Sgt. Young, R.W. | |
| | | Sgt. Borradale, G. | |
| | Aus. 410021. | F/Sgt. Wetherill, J. (2nd pilot) | |

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Operations 29.12.43. contd.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lancaster I - HK.535. | Aus. 404368. | F/O. Wilson, F.D.M. | Captain |
| | | F/Sgt. Felton, H.W. | |
| | | F/O. Billam, J.B.H. | |
| | | F/O. Newman, J.W. | |
| | | Sgt. Gunn, E.J. | |
| | Aus. 423724. | F/Sgt. Harrington, P.F. | |
| | Aus. 409488. | F.Sgt. Anderson, I.W. | |
| Lancaster I - DC.338. | Aus. 412936. | P/O. Fayle, E.A. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Baker, C.T. | |
| | | F/O. Chappell, G. | |
| | | Sgt. Topham, L.E. | |
| | | Sgt. Farrell, R. | |
| | | Sgt. Vickery, A.L. | |
| Lancaster III - JA.902. | Aus. 413798. | P/O. Schomberg, C.G. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Steel, H. | |
| | Aus. 412712. | F/Sgt. Seton, L.R. | |
| | | Sgt. Watson, E.J. | |
| | Aus. 420463. | F/Sgt. Fitzgerald, B.W. | |
| | Aus. 426531. | F/O. Calderwood, L.J. | |
| | | Sgt. Forth, K. | |
| Lancaster III - JA.973. | Aus. 416775. | P/O. Merrill, F.L. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Rawsthorne, F.L. | |
| | | Sgt. Knight, J.H. | |
| | Aus. 421300. | F/O. Hall, J.B. | |
| | Aus. 409935. | F/Sgt. O'Toole, M.K. | |
| | | Sgt. Turner, B.F. | |
| | | Sgt. Danckwardt, F.P. | |
| Lancaster III - DV.229. | Aus. 415528. | F/Sgt. Hanson, P.F. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Molyneux, H.L. | |
| | | Sgt. Stevens, M.A. | |
| | | F/Sgt. Edgecumbe, G.E. | |
| | | Sgt. Bowes, L. | |
| | | Sgt. Bligh, N.N. | |
| | | Sgt. Wilson, A.C. | |
| Lancaster III - EE.191. | Aus. 413977. | P/O. Gardner, J.W. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Brotherton, D.J. | |
| | | Sgt. Perkins, H. | |
| | | F/O. Grevstad, M.C. | |
| | | Sgt. Cuthbertson, J.G. | |
| | | Sgt. Mottram, R.J. | |
| | Aus. 418704. | Sgt. McGrath, J.R. | |
| Lancaster III - DV.274. | Aus. 409271. | F/O. Leslie, A.J.D. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Jones, R.R. | |
| | | W/O. Finn, T.V. | |
| | | Sgt. Fraser, B. | |
| | Aus. 417275. | F/Sgt. Barrett, D.G. | |
| | | Sgt. Wiggins, A. | |
| | | F/O. Williams, H.E. | |
| Lancaster I - II.740. | Aus 417003. | F/O. Schultz, K. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Bishop, P.R. | |
| | Aus. 410172. | F/O. Pickerd, E.T. | |
| | Aus. 423061. | F/O. Chidgey, S.G. | |
| | Aus. 420738. | F/Sgt. Fletcher, K.G. | |
| | Aus. 424290. | P/O. Dawes, G.W. | |
| | | Sgt. Falconer, J. | |

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S.O.P.R. Summary.

Eleven Lancasters attackes Berlin and all returned safely to base.

Cloud prevented an assessment of the attack but a glow could be seen on the clouds as the crews left the target area. "Spoof" attacks could be seen at Magdeburg and Leipzig.

From: No. 5 Group
To: East Kirkby - Woodhall - Scampton - Dunholme - Skellingthorpe - Coningsby - Fiskerton - Bardney - Waddington - Metheringham - Spilsby - INFO HQBC - Swinderby.

A. Form 'B' No. 140.
B. Date 29th December, 1943.
C. 158 aircraft of 5 group and 487 aircraft of other groups assisted by 67 aircraft of P.F. group will attack the target.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| wave 1 - | 41 Lancs of 1 Gp. | 13 Lancs of 3 Gp. | Z to Z plus 4. |
| | 53 Lancs of 5 Gp. | 12 Lancs of 6 Gp. | |
| wave 2 - | 71 Hals of 4 Gp. | 45 Hals of 6 Gp. | Z plus 4 to Z plus 8. |
| wave 3 - | 70 Hals of 4 Gp. | 46 Hals of 6 Gp. | Z plus 7 to Z plus 11. |
| wave 4 - | 41 Lancs of 1 Gp. | 13 Lancs of 3 Gp. | Z plus 11 to Z plus 15. |
| | 52 Lancs of 5 Gp. | 13 Lancs of 6 Gp. | |
| wave 5 - | 41 Lancs of 1 Gp. | 13 Lancs of 3 Gp. | Z plus 14 to Z plus 18. |
| | 53 Lancs of 5 Gp. | 12 Lancs of 6 Gp. | |

D. To cause destruction to an enemy industrial target.
E. Night.
F. Waddington 68
Coningsby 28
East Kirkby 41
Scampton 22
G. As passed by teleprinter NR OPS 1.
H. Usual.
J. Normal.
K. and L. as passed by teleprinter. NR OPS NO.4.
M. Zero hour is 2000 hours.

| | Waddington. | Coningsby. | E.Kirkby. | Scampton. | T.O.T. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wave 1 | 24 | 8 | 14 | 7 | 2000-2004 |
| Wave 4 | 24 | 8 | 13 | 7 | 2011-2015 |
| Wave 5 | Remaining 5 group aircraft. | | | | 2014-2018 |

N.1. Bomb Loads and Fusings.

| A Load. | B.Load. |
|---|---|
| Petrol 1900 Galls. | Petrol 1900 Galls. |
| 1 X 4000 LB HC. | 2 X 1000 LB GP. |
| 7 SBC 150 X 4 LB Inc. | 1 X 500 LB GP. |
| 4 SBC 12 X 30 IB Inc. | 4 SBC 150 X 4 IB Inc. |
| 1 SBC 8 X 30 IB Inc. | 1 SBC 90 X 4 LB Inc. |
| 1 SBC 150 X 4 IB Inc to be I.B.X. | 2 SBC 16 X 30 IB Inc. |
| | 1 SBC 8 X 30 IB Inc. |
| | 1 SBC 150 X 4 IB Inc to be I.B.X. |

Aircraft cleared for 65,000 lb take off to carry Load A. Remainder carry B Load.

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2. Non visual Monica Range 800 yards.
3. Ref NR OPS 9 23 Dec. 1943. Appendix A Para 1.
Datum Height 46,000 feet.
4. Window is to be used in accordance with 5 Group OPR Instruction No.33. Rates of discharge on route to target rate C within 40 miles of target rate D. Remainder of homeward route rate C.
5. Aiming point for information 1400 yards 015 degrees from Whitebait 'B'.
6. 1st wave to be manned by specially selected crews.
7. Method for tonight 29/30 December, 1943, on Whitebait will be mixed Wanganui and Paramatta.
(2) Route markers T.I. yellow will be dropped at each of the following positions outward bound.
Position P - 5230N 0820E.
Position Q - 5209N 0957E.
Position R - 5137N 1220E.
(3) The release point will be marked throughout the attack with bundles of flares red with green stars in addition the aiming point will be marked with T.I. red at the opening of the attack and with T.I. green throughout.
(4) Main force aircraft should aim their bombs at the estimated centre of all flares red with green stars. While holding an exact heading of 035M. In this case bomb sights should be set for true height and airspeed but zero wind. If however, conditions are sufficiently clear to enable T.I's to be seen main force aircraft should aim their bombs at the centre of the area marked with green T.I.
(5) Routemarkers T.I. yellow will be dropped at positions 5300N 1145E.
(6) Crews should be warned that spoof attacks will be carried out by Mosquitos with red T.I. and green, on Grilse and on Haddock.

Extract from No. 5 Group O.R.B.

BERLIN: 168 Lancasters were detailed to attack Berlin. 5 were cancelled, 163 took off, 3 returned early, 157 were successful and 3 aircraft are missing.

CASUALTIES: 467 Squadron - P/O. Tait. 50 Squadron - F/Lt. McAlpine. 61 Squadron - F/Lt. Harvey. 'Y' of 106 Squadron Flight Engineer killed, 2 injured.

RESULTS: Crews bombed on sky markers as 10/10ths cloud persisted over the target and on the route. This attack was notable because of its absence of fighter opposition which was curtailed owing to weather prevailing over the Continent. Flak, however, both light and heavy was moderate. Wanganui flares were reported to be fairly concentrated and the glow of fires underneath the clouds could be seen when 120 miles from the target.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.361

VERY SECRET

OPERATIONS NO. 463 SQUADRON R.A.A.F.

2nd December, 1943.

B.C.I.N. 2/3.12.43. "Night Operations" BERLIN: Force of 458 aircraft took off consisting of:- 144 Lancasters of 1 group, 21 Lancasters of 3 group, 145 Lancasters of 5 group, 35 of 6 group, and 80 Lancasters, 15 Halifaxes and 18 Mosquitos of 8 (PFF) group. Of these 357 aircraft claim to have attacked the primary.

8-10/10ths cloud was encountered over the sea, decreasing to 5/10ths on the Hanover area, and to thin low stratus over Berlin. During the attack the cloud cleared, but ground haze and smoke prevented observation of ground detail.

The PFF opened the attack within a minute of the scheduled time and a plentiful supply of markers was maintained. Reports indicate that the attack was at first somewhat scattered towards the N. of the town, but soon settled down to a good concentration to the S. and S.E. Fires sprang up and took hold over a considerable area and a number of large explosions were seen.

By the end of the attack smoke was rising to 12,000 ft. and returning bombers saw the glow of the fires for nearly 200 miles. Moderate to intense heavy flak, and intense light flak mostly hose-piped, are reported. Several sky markers were seen shot down by light flak. Searchlights were numerous but hampered by cloud.

Weather conditions favoured the enemy fighters which were extremely active over the Berlin area. Unexpected changes in the direction and strength of the winds dissipated much of the fog which would have grounded them, and made it more difficult for our crews to maintain their concentration on the homeward route.

40 aircraft are missing.

See Air Ministry Bulletin No.12249 and No.12252.

A copy of these may be found with No.460 Squadron Daily Operational Survey for this date.

O.R.B. 2.12.43. CREWS - BERLIN.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lancaster III - | Aus. 413219. | F/L. Martin, C.J. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Wynde. | |
| | | F/Sgt. Williams, | |
| | Aus. 413388. | F/O. Jacombe, R.N. | |
| | | Sgt. Pearson, F.J. | |
| | | Sgt. Hollow, J. | |
| | Aus. 417392. | F/Sgt. Martin, C.H. | |

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Operations 2.12.43. contd.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lancaster III - ED.949. | Aus. 409721. | P/O. Leslie, A.J. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Jones, R.R. | |
| | | W/O. Finn, T. | |
| | | Sgt. Fraser, B. | |
| | | F/Sgt. Barrett, D.G. | |
| | | Sgt. Wiggins, A. | |
| | Aus. 421386. | F/O. Williams, H.E. | |
| Lancaster III - ED.606. | | P/O. Heap, A.W. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Carter, W. | |
| | | F/O. Gall, R.S. | |
| | | Sgt. McCreadie, D. | |
| | | F/Sgt. Ryan, L.M. | |
| | | Sgt. Tunnicliffe, F.J. | |
| | | F/Sgt. Glover, K.R.R. | |
| Lancaster I - DV.338. | Aus. 404368. | F/O. Wilson, F.B. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Felton, H.W. | |
| | | P/O. Billam, J.B. | |
| | | F/O. Newman, J.W. | |
| | | Sgt. Gunn, E.J. | |
| | Aus. 423724. | F/Sgt. Harrington, P. | |
| | | F/Sgt. Child, J. | |
| Lancaster I - DV.374. | | P/O. Roberts, J. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Wilby, J. | |
| | | F/Sgt. Mullar, J.W. | |
| | Aus. 413526. | F/Sgt. Benzie, J.M. | |
| | Aus. 415677. | F/Sgt. Palmer, S.J. | |
| | | W/O. McCabe, H. | |
| | | Sgt. Pead, R. | |

S.O.P.R. SUMMARY.

Five aircraft took off to attack Berlin; four completed the mission. Aus. 409721 P/O. A.J. Leslie had a failure in the port inner engine and jettisoned his bombs about an hour after take off. On landing he overshot and hit a tree causing slight damage to the starboard inner engine.

Aus. 413219 F/Lt. C.J. Martin landed at Manston as the W/OP had been sick, possibly due to lack of oxygen, and may have missed a diversion given by base.

Fires covered a large area of Berlin which was well illuminated by flares and searchlights.

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From: H.Q. No. 5 Group.
To: Coningsby - Waddington - Scampton - E.Kirkby - Dunholme - Fiskerton - Bardney - Woodhall - Skellingthorpe - Spilsby - Metheringham - INFO HQBC - Syerston - Swinderby.

A. Form 'B' No. 127.
B. 2nd December, 1943.
C. 145 aircraft of 5 group and 434 aircraft of other groups assisted by 82 aircraft of P.F. group will attack the target.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1st wave - | 62 Hals 4 Gp. | 38 Hals 6 Gp. | Z to Z plus 3. |
| 2nd wave - | 61 Hals 4 Gp. | 38 Hals 6 Gp. | Z plus 3 to Z plus 6. |
| 3rd wave - | 41 Lancs 1 Gp. | 7 Lancs 3 Gp. | Z plus 6 to Z plus 10. |
| | 49 Lancs 5 Gp. | 13 Lancs 6 Gp. | |
| 4th wave - | 40 Lancs 1 Gp. | 8 Lancs 3 Gp. | Z plus 10 to Z plus 14. |
| | 48 Lancs 5 Gp. | 13 Lancs 6 Gp. | |
| 5th wave - | 40 Lancs 1 Gp. | 8 Lancs 3 Gp. | Z plus 14 to Z plus 18. |
| | 48 Lancs 5 Gp. | 13 Lancs 6 Gp. | |

D. To cause destruction to an enemy industrial centre.
E. Night 2/3rd December, 1943.
F. Coningsby 27
Scampton 26
Waddington 50
E.Kirkby 42
G. As passed by teleprinter NR OPS 1.
H. Usual.
J. Normal.
K. and L. as passed by teleprinter.NR OPS 4.
M. Zero hour is 2000

| | E.Kirkby. | Waddington. | Scampton. | Coningsby. | T.O.T. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3rd wave | 14 | 17 | 9 | 9 | 2006-2010 |
| 4th wave | 14 | 16 | 9 | 9 | 2010-2014 |
| 5th wave | remaining 5 group aircraft | | | | 2014-2018 |

N. Bomb Loads and fusings.
A Load - 1 X 4000 lb HC
8 SBC 150 X 4 lb Inc. 1800 Galls Fuel.
2 SBC 16 X 30 lb Inc.
3 SBC 12 X 30 lb Inc.
B Load - 1 X 4000 lb HC
4 SBC 150X4 lb Inc.
1 SBC 90 X 4 IB Inc. 1800 Galls Fuel.
1 SBC 16 X 30 LB Inc.
1 SBC 12 X 30 LB Inc.

1. Window to be used in accordance with 5 Group O.I. No.33. Rates of discharge on route to target rate A. within 30 miles of target rate D. Remainder of homeward route rate C.
2. Waves 1 and 3 to be manned by specially selected experienced crews.
3. Crews are to be specially warned not repeat not to bomb before zero.
4. Non visual Monica range 800 yards.
5. Method for tonight 2nd/3rd December, 1943 on Whitebait will be mixed Paramatta and Wanganui.
6. Routemarkers T.I. red will be dropped at position 'X' 5238N 0945E outward bound.
7. Wanganui flares consisting of bundles of flares red with green stars will be dropped to mark the release point throughout the attack T.I. green will also be dropped to mark the aiming point.
8. In addition the attack will open with T.I. red dropped in the target area. These are for the use of pathfinders only and should be ignored by the main force.
9. Main force aircraft should aim their bombs at the centre of all T.I. green visible. Otherwise they should aim their bombs at the centre of all flares red with green stars while holding an exact heading of 105M. In this case bomb sights should be set for true height and airspeed but zero wind.
10. Routemarkers T.I. red will be dropped at position 'Y' 5238N 0945E homeward bound.
11. Crews should be warned that Mosquitos will drop spoof fighter flares to the south of the target.

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Extract from No. 5 Group O.R.B.

BERLIN: 147 Lancasters were detailed to attack Berlin. 2 were cancelled, 145 took off, 9 returned early, 123 were successful, 1 failed and 12 aircraft are missing.

CASUALTIES: 57 Squadron - P/O. Tansley, P/O. Williams, 630 Squadron F/O. Clarke. 207 Squadron - P/O. Mann. 44 Squadron - F/O. West, F/O. Newell, 49 Squadron - W/O. Petty. 619 Squadron - F/O. Bower, P/O. Ward, 106 Squadron - P/O. Neale. 9 Squadron - F/Lt. Wells, 50 Squadron - F/Lt. Bolton. 9 Squadron - P/O. Warwick - crashed near Gamston on return, 2 were seriously injured, 6 killed.

RESULTS: A cold front lay across the route to the target giving bad weather, but at the target the weather brokeand cloud varied from jil to 7/10ths. Both Wanganui and Paramatta marking were employed and the bombing and marking were very concentrated. Defences over the target were reported to be moderate and fighters were operating in their usual strength. The use of a common wind reduced scatter on the homeward journey.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.361

VERY SECRET

## OPERATIONS NO. 463 SQUADRON R.A.A.F.

### 3rd December, 1943.

B.C.I.N. 3/4.12.43. "Night Operations" LEIPZIG: Was the target for 537 heavy bombers, comprising:- 96 Lancasters of 1 group, 11 Lancasters of 3 group, 123 Halifaxes of 4 group, 103 Lancasters of 5 group, 78 Halifaxes and 19 Lancasters of 6 group, 78 Lancasters and 19 Halifaxes of 8 group.

The route was generally cloudy, closing as expected to 10/10ths medium cloud over the target. Tops averaged about 9.000 ft. with no high cloud.

The Pathfinders who had marked the route well, opened the attack a few minutes before 0400 hrs. with sky and ground markers, and when bombing was due to start, crews found an excellent concentration of flares. This concentration, reported as one of the best ever seen, was maintained throughout the attack, and the glow of ground-markers in the same area could also be seen through the thin cloud.

Judging by the reflection on the cloud, fires appeared to be well concentrated, and thick smoke rose to a height of 12,000 ft.

422 aircraft, apart from some outstanding reports, claim to have bombed successfully. Three vivid explosions were seen, and the reflection of the fires was visible for over 100 miles on the return journey. A few crews report having seen a built-up area blazing furiously, and one aircraft which bombed at 0425 hrs. owing to engine trouble, reported many large fires in an area approximately 2 miles square.

There was considerable fighter activity: Fighter flares were seen on the route, towards the end of the attack, in large numbers over Leipzig; also over Berlin and near Brandenburg. Searchlights were ineffective; heavy flak was slight to moderate, and light flak tracer was seen up to 16,000 ft. There appeared to be considerable flak over Dessau, to the west of the target.

A pilot on photographic reconnaissance today, saw the centre of Leipzig burning well at 1400 hrs., with great quantities of smoke billowing up to 20,000 ft.

See Air Ministry Bulletin No.12268 and No.12265.

A copy of these may be found with No.460 Squadron Daily Operational Survey for this date.

O.R.B. 3.12.43. CREWS - LEIPZIG

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lancaster III - | Aus. 409721. | P/O. Leslie, A.J. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Jones, R.R. | |
| | | W/O. Finn, T. | |
| | | Sgt. Fraser, | |
| | | F/Sgt. Barrett, D.G. | |
| | | Sgt. Wiggins, A. | |
| | Aus. 421386. | F/O. Williams, H.E. | |

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From: H.Q. No. 5 Group.
To: Coningsby - Waddington - Scampton - E.Kirkby - Skellingthorpe - Metheringham, Woodhall - Spilsby - Fiskerton - Dunholme - Bardney - INFC HQBC - Swinderby - Syerston.

A. Form 'B' No. 129.
B. Date 3rd December, 1943.
C. Areas 1 and 2. 109 aircraft of 5 group and 369 aircraft of other groups assisted by 82 aircraft of P.F. group will attack the target.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1st wave - | 65 Hals 4 Gp. | 37 Hals 6 Gp. | Z to Z plus 3. |
| 2nd wave - | 66 Hals 4 Gp. | 38 Hals 6 Gp. | Z plus 3 to Z plus 6. |
| 3rd wave - | 40 Lancs 1 Gp. | 8 Lancs 3 Gp. | |
| | 55 Lancs 5 Gp. | 10 Lancs 6 Gp. | Z plus 6 to Z plus 10. |
| 4th wave - | 40 Lancs 1 Gp. | 7 Lancs 3 Gp. | |
| | 54 Lancs 5 Gp. | 10 Lancs 6 Gp. | Z plus 10 to Z plus 14. |

D. To cause destruction to an enemy industrial centre.
E. Night 3/4th December, 1943.
F. Comingsby 24
Scampton 19
Waddington 36
E.Kirkby 30
G. As passed by teleprinter NR OPS 1.
H. Usual.
J. Normal.
K. and L. as passed by teleprinter NR OPS 7.
M. Zero Hour is 0400.
3rd wave - 50% of aircraft of each base 0406 to 0410
4th wave - remaining 5 group aircraft 0410 to 0414.
Aircraft in the 3rd wave to be manned by specially selected ecperienced crews, with the object of getting a good concentration early in the attack.
N. Bomb Loads and Fusings.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| A Load. | 1 X 4000 LB H C | 100 X 4 LB Inc to be X 1 B |
| | 6 SBC 150 X 4 IB Inc | Fuel 1900 Galls. |
| | 2 SBC 90 X 4 IB Inc | |
| | 4 SBC 12 X 30 IB Inc | |
| | 1 SBC 8 X 30 IB Inc | |
| B Load. | 1 X 4000 IB HC | 50 X 4 IB Inc to be X 1 B |
| | 2 SBC 150 X 4 LB Inc | Fuel 1900 Galls. |
| | 2 SBC 90 X 4 IB Inc | |
| | 2 SBC 12 X 30 IB Inc | |
| | 1 SBC 8 X 30 IB Inc | |

1. Non visual Monica range 800 yards.
2. Window is to be used in accordance with 5 Group O.I. No. 33 Rates of discharge - on route to target rate A. Within 30 miles of target rate D. Remainder of homeward route rate C.
3. Aircraft fitted with H2S are to reduce the bomb load detailed by 600 lbs. The method of this reduction is left to station commanders, but every effort should be made to preserve the ratio of 75% 4 LB Inc. and 25% 30 LB Inc.
4. Method for tonight 3/4th December, 1943 on Haddock will be mixed Paramatta and Eanganui.
5. Routemarkers T.I. yellow will be dropped at position 5234N 0946E outward bound.
6. Routemarkers T.I. red will be dropped at position 5225N 1222E outward bound.
7. The release point will be marked with bundles of flares red with green stars and the aiming point with T.I. green throughout the attack.
8. Inaddition red T.I. will be dropped in the target area at the opening of the attack. These are for the use of pathfinders only.
9. Main force aircraft should aim their bombs at the centre of the T.I. green if these are visible. Otherwise they should aim their bombs at the centre of all flares red with green stars while holding an exact heading of 182M. In this case bombsights should be set for true height and airspeed but zero wind.
10. Routemarkers T.I. green will be dropped at position 5054N 1105E homeward bound.
11. Routemarkers T.I. green will also be dropped at position 5015N 0740E homeward bound.
12. Crews should be warned that Mosquitos will attack Whitebait with bombs, and T.I. greens and yelloes at approximately Z-20.
13. Method for tonight 3/4th December 1943. On area 11 Whitebait will be mixed Parramatta and Wanganui.
14. Routemarkers T.I. yellow will be dropped at position 5238N 0946E outward bound.
15. Routemarkers T.I. red will be dropped at position 5237N 1220E outward bound.

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16. The release point will be marked with bundles of flares red with green stars and the aiming point with T.I. green throughout the attack.
17. In addition red T.I. will be dropped in the target area at the opening of the attack. These are for the use of pathfinders only.
18. Main force aircraft should aim their bombs at the centre of the T.I. green if visible otherwise they should aim their bombs at the centre of all flares red with green stars while holding an exact heading of 095 M. In this case bomb sights should be for true height and air speed but zero wind.
19. Routemarkers T.I. green will be dropped at position 5256N 1146E homeward bound.
20. Crews should be warned that spoof fighter flares will be dropped by Mosquitos to the south of the target.

Extract from No. 5 Group O.R.B.

LEIPZIG: 115 Lancasters were detailed to attack Leipzig. 10 were cancelled, 103 took off, 7 returned early, 93 were successful, 2 failed and one is missing.

CASUALTIES: 630 Squadron - P/O. Syme 'G' of467 Squadron crashed on take off. Crew O.K. 1 Ground crew killed.

RESULTS: The attack was carried out in 10/10ths cloud with tops about 12,000 feet. Wanganui technique was employed and crews reported that the sky markers were very scattered. Fighters were very active and the barrage put up at the target decreased as the attack progressed. This was a highly successful Wanganui attack and the crews reports were confirmed the following day when P.R.U. cover was obtained.

S.O.P.R. SUMMARY.

Three aircraft were detailed to attack Leipzig but Aus. 409721 P/O. A.J. Leslie was the only one to take off. He reported that the concentration was quite good but that some of the markers were scattered.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.361

VERY SECRET

## OPERATIONS NO. 463 SQUADRON R.A.A.F.

16th December, 1943.

B.C.I.N. 16/17.12.43. "Night Operations" BERLIN: 497 aircraft were despatched. The force comprised:- 161 Lancasters of 1 group, 26 Lancasters of 3 group, 165 Lancasters of 5 group, 40 Lancasters of 6 group, 90 Lancasters and 15 Mosquitos of 8 (PF) group, and in addition 2 Beaufighters and 2 Mosquitos of 100 group.

10/10ths cloud persisted throughout most of the route and over the target with tops approximately 7,000 ft.

Many aircraft landed away from base and their reports are outstanding, but reports so far received indicate that 390 aircraft claim to have attacked.

Route marking was of great assistance to crews, and both ground and sky markers were employed. Many crews were able to see the glow of the former beneath the clouds, whilst others relied for their attack on the sky markers. It is difficult to assess the degree of concentration. The glow of fires however, could be seen, and some reports mention smoke rising above the cloud level.

Flak and fighter defences appeared moderate for Berlin.

2 Mosquitos and 2 Beaufighters of 100 group acting as intruders, co-operated with the main force.

26 aircraft are missing.

See Air Ministry Bulletin No.12361.

A copy may be found with No. 460 Squadron Daily Operational Survey for this date.

O.R.B. 16.12.43. CREWS - BERLIN.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lancaster III - DV.229. | Aus. 401510. | P/O. Foster, T.J. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Houghton, R. | |
| | | F/O. Burton, A.C. | |
| | | F/O. Falgate, D. | |
| | | Sgt. Jones, P.H. | |
| | | Sgt. Wing, A.V. | |
| | | P/O. Kirkpatrick, W. | |
| Lancaster I - DV.374. | Aus. 420127. | P/O. Bowman, A.R. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Clark, R.E. | |
| | | Sgt. Ball, D. | |
| | | Sgt. Barber, M.E. | |
| | | Sgt. Eastgate, L.F. | |
| | | Sgt. Wilson, A.C. | |
| | | Sgt. Dobson, P.F. | |

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Operations 16.12.43. contd.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lancaster III - JA.902. | | S/L. Locke, H.B. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Holt, | |
| | | F/Sgt. Hassell, H. | |
| | | F/Sgt. Townsend, E. | |
| | | F/Sgt. Butler, | |
| | | Sgt. Brooks, J. | |
| | | Sgt. Munro, T. | |
| | Aus. 410244. | F/Sgt. Lawson, S. | |
| Lancaster III - ED.949. | Aus. 416418. | P/O. Dunn, D.C. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Adams, H.F. | |
| | | P/O. Fidler, F.G. | |
| | | P/O. Coals, | |
| | | Sgt. McConnell, K.L. | |
| | | Sgt. Deakin, H. | |
| | | F/Sgt. Gloster, B.F. | |
| Lancaster I - LL.749. | | F/L. Cooper, R.J. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Bull, F.C. | |
| | Aus. 409553. | F/Sgt. Kerr, G.J. | |
| | Aus. 406292. | F/Sgt. Christmass, L.H. | |
| | | Sgt. Robson, F. | |
| | | Sgt. Suthers, H. | |
| | | Sgt. Grist, R.J. | |
| Lancaster I - DV.338. | | P/O. Baker, C.E. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Rosen, A. | |
| | | P/O. Munton, C.R. | |
| | | Sgt. Hawtin, C.H. | |
| | | P/O. Scarles, B. | |
| | | Sgt. Bushell, P.D. | |
| | | F/Sgt. Childs, J. | |
| | Aus. 413977. | F/Sgt. Gardner, J.W. | |
| Lancaster III - EE.191. | Aus. 414175. | P/O. Trimble, V.H. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Marles, A.J. | |
| | | P/O. Herriott, A.W. | |
| | | Sgt. Aldworth, B.T. | |
| | | Sgt. Nixon, R. | |
| | | Sgt. McNaughton, R. | |
| | Aus. 425678. | Sgt. Lawrence, J.P. | |
| | | P/O. Brown, P.C. | |
| Lancaster I - ED.420. | | P/O. Smith, E.A. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Sykes, D.C. | |
| | | Sgt. Forth, K. | |
| | | F/O. Raynham, H.F. | |
| | | Sgt. Tench, J.E. | |
| | | Sgt. Hollis, J. | |
| | | Sgt. Pike, G.H. | |
| Lancaster III - ED.772. | Aus. 411652. | P/O. Messenger, G.L. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Baker, | |
| | | Sgt. Holmes, M.F. | |
| | | Sgt. Brown, E. | |
| | | Sgt. Wooldridge, F. | |
| | | Sgt. Young, R.W. | |
| | | Sgt. Borradale, G. | |
| | | F/Sgt. Robertson, K.(2nd pilot) | |
| Lancaster III - ED.606. | Aus. 412969. | P/O. Kell, A.E. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Clarke, | |
| | Aus. 413582. | F/Sgt. Hager, J.L. | |
| | Aus. 13751. | P/O. Morieson, K.C. | |
| | Aus. 414544. | F/Sgt. Evans, A.L. | |
| | Aus. 425234. | F/Sgt. Snell, F.W. | |
| | Aus 416000. | F/O. Chapman, J.F. | |
| | Aus. 415528. | F/Sgt. Hansen, P (2nd pilot) | |

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Operations 16.12.43. contd.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lancaster III - JA.973. | Aus. 412434. | P/O. Hart, A.R. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Clifton, L. | |
| | Aus. 409497. | F/Sgt. Boal, H.J. | |
| | | F/Sgt. Williams, C.I. | |
| | | Sgt. Jones, W.J. | |
| | | Sgt. Price, C.M. | |
| | | Sgt. Hicks, D.F. | |
| Lancaster III - DV.274. | Aus. 409721. | F/O. Leslie, A.J. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Jones, R.R. | |
| | | W/O. Finn, T. | |
| | | Sgt. Fraser, B. | |
| | Aus. 417275. | F/Sgt. Barrett, D.G. | |
| | | Sgt. Wiggins, A. | |
| | Aus. 421386. | F/O. Williams, H.E. | |

S.O.P.R. SUMMARY.

Twelve aircraft took off to attack Berlin and eleven reached the target. Aus. 409721 P/O. A.J. Leslie was forced to jettison his bombs and landed again two hours after taking off.

Over the target there was 10/10ths cloud with the result that the searchlights were ineffective and results of the bombing could not be seen. Red glows could be seen on the clouds and later black smoke.

A few fighters were seen but the squadron had no combats.

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From: H.Q. No. 5 Group.
To: Coningsby - Waddington - Scampton - Syerston - E.Kirkby - INFO HQ BMB CMD - Metheringham - Swinderby - Spilsby - Fiskerton - Woodhall - Dunholme - Bardney - Skellingthorpe.

A. Form 'B' No. 132.
B. Date 16th December, 1943.
C. 162 aircraft of 5 group and 253 aircraft of other groups assisted by 91 aircraft of P.F. group will attack the target.
1st wave - 48 Lancs 1 Gp. 9 Lancs 3 Gp.
54 Lancs 5 Gp. 15 Lancs 6 Gp. Z to Z plus 4.
2nd wave - 47 Lancs 1 Gp. 10 Lancs 3 Gp.
54 Lancs 5 Gp. 15 Lancs 6 Gp. X plus 4 to Z plus 8.
3rd wave - 47 Lancs 1 Gp. 10 Lancs 3 Gp.
54 Lancs 5 Gp. 15 Lancs 6 Gp. Z plus 8 to Z plus 12.
Zero 2000 Hrs. Flight Planning 1230 Hrs for information.
D. To cause destruction to an enemy industrial centre.
E. Night 16/17th December, 1943.
F. Coningsby 30
Scampton 29
Waddington 60
E. Kirkby 43
G. As passed by teleprinter NR OPS 1.
H. Usual.
J. Normal.
K. and L. as passed by teleprinter NR OPS.
M. Zero hour is 2000.
1st wave Waddington 20 Scampton 10 E.Kirkby 14 Coningsby 10 2000-2004
2nd wave Waddington 20 Scampton 10 E.Kirkby 14 Coningsby 10 2004-2008
3rd wave remaining 5 group aircraft.
1st wave to be manned by specially experienced crews.
N. Bombs Loads and Fusings.
A Load. 1 X 4000 LB HC
7 SBC 150 X 4 LB Inc.
4 SBC 12 X 30 LB Inc.
100 X 4 LB Inc. to be X.I.B.
B. Load 2 X 1000 LB G.P.
1 X 500 LB G.P.
4 SBC 150 X 4 LB Inc.
50 X 4 LB Inc to be X.I.B.

1. Window is to be used in accordance with 5 Gp. Operation Instruction No.33. Rates of discharge on route to target rate A. Within 30 miles of target rate D. Remainder of homeward route rate C.
2. Fuel 1950 Galls for both Load.
3. Non visual Monica range 800 yards.
4. Aiming point is Whitebait B-Beer for information.
5. Method for tonight 16/17th December, 1943 on Whitebait will be mixed Wanganui and Parramatta.
6. Routemarkers T.I. yellow will be dropped at position 5238N 0945E outward bound.
7. Route markers T.I. yellow will be dropped at posn.5238N 1220 E outward bound.
8. Wanganui flares consisting of flares red with green stars will be dropped to mark the release point throughout the attack.
9. In addition the attack will open with T.I. red dropped in the target area and the aiming point will then be marked with T.I. green.
10. Main force aircraft should aim their bombs at the centre of all green T.I. if these are visible. Otherwise they should aim their bombs at the centre of all flares red with green stars. While holding a heading of 100M in this case bomb sights should be set for true height and air speed and zero wind.
11. Route markers T.I. yellow will be dropped at position 5419N 1222E homeward bound.
12. Crews should be warned that Mosquitoes will be dropping spoof fighter flares 25 miles south of the target.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.361

Extract from No. 5 Group O.R.B.

BERLIN: 173 Lancasters were detailed to attack Berlin. 3 were cancelled, 165 took off, 6 returned early, 151 were successful and 8 aircraft are missing.

CASUALTIES: 9 Squadron - F/O. Black, P/O. Bayldon. 57 Squadron - Sgt. Hindo. 207 Squadron - F/Lt. Allen. 44 Squadron - P/O. Rollin. 49 Squadron - P/O. Ratcliffe. 619 Squadron - P/O. Loney. 106 Squadron F/O. Storer.

RESULTS: Winds were again broadcast for this attack and concentration both on the way out and back was greatly improved. The target was covered by 10/10ths low cloud but Wanganui marking was maintained accurately. Crews were optimistic about the success of the attack. Fighter activity over the target was intense although searchlights were ineffective owing to the cloud.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.361

VERY SECRET.

## OPERATIONS NO. 463 SQUADRON R.A.A.F.

### 20th December, 1943.

B.C.I.N.20/21.12.43. "Night Operations" FRANKFURT: 650 aircraft took off, comprising 103 Lancasters of 1 group, 21 Lancasters of 3 group, 153 Halifaxes of 4 group, 168 Lancasters of 5 group, 83 Halifaxes and 33 Lancasters of 6 group, 65 Lancasters, 21 Halifaxes and 3 Mosquitos of 8 (P.F) with 2 Beaufighters of 100 (SD) group.

Visibility was good, but the target was partially covered by 5/10ths to 8/10ths thin cloud with tops at about 8,000 ft.

Pathfinder aircraft dropped flares and markers from 1926 to 1956 hrs. but the main force found that markers were scarce, and bombing consequently did not appear to be concentrated. Some improvement, however, was reported in the later stages and large fires were observed. Many decoy markers were reported over a wide area. Though some fires were seen to merge, and a large conflagration was reported as being in the centre of the town, the majority of fires are reported as being scattered. Nevertheless heavy smoke was seen to rise and the glow of fires could be seen 100 miles from the target. A terrific explosion which lit up the sky for several seconds was seen by nearly all crews at 1947 hrs.

A total of 532 aircraft bombed between 1928 and 2005 hrs. 1 Beaufighter completed an intruder patrol.

Heavy flak was only moderate, but night fighter opposition was on a large scale. Many fighter flares were seen particularly on the route out to the target.

40 aircraft are missing.

See Air Ministry Bulletin No.12414.

A copy may be found with No.460 Squadron Daily Operational Survey for this date.

O.R.B. 20.12.43. CREWS - FRANKFURT.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lancaster III - DV.274. | Aus. 409721. | F/O. Leslie, A.J. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Jones, R.R. | |
| | | W/O. Finn, T. | |
| | | Sgt. Fraser, B. | |
| | Aus. 417275. | F/Sgt. Barrett, D.G. | |
| | | Sgt. Wiggins, A. | |
| | Aus. 421386. | F/O. Williams, H.E. | |

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Operations 20.12.43. contd.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lancaster I - DV.374. | Aus. 420127. | P/O. Bowman, A.R. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Clark, R.E. | |
| | | Sgt. Ball, D. | |
| | | Sgt. Barber, M.E. | |
| | | Sgt. Westgate, L.F. | |
| | | Sgt. Wilson, A.C. | |
| | | Sgt. Dobson, P.F. | |
| Lancaster III - ED.772. | Aus. 411652. | P/O. Messenger, G.L. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Rosen, A. | |
| | | Sgt. Holmes, M.F. | |
| | | Sgt. Brown, E. | |
| | | Sgt. Wooldridge, F. | |
| | | Sgt. Young, R.W. | |
| | | Sgt. Borradale, G. | |
| Lancaster DII - JA.902. | Aus. 413219. | F/L. Martin, C.J. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Wynde, | |
| | Aus. 400246. | F/O. White, D.B. | |
| | | Sgt. Hawtin, C.H. | |
| | | Sgt. Pearson, F.J. | |
| | | Sgt. Hollow, J. | |
| | Aus. 417392. | F/Sgt. Martin, C.H. | |
| | Aus. 410244. | F/Sgt. Lawson, S. (2nd pilot.) | |
| Lancaster III - ED.606. | Aus. 412969. | F/O. Kell, A.E. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Clarke, | |
| | Aus. 413582. | F/Sgt. Hager, J.L. | |
| | Aus. 13751. | P/O. Morrieson, K.C. | |
| | Aus. 414544. | F/Sgt. Evans, A.L. | |
| | Aus. 425234. | F/Sgt. Snell, F.W. | |
| | Aus. 416000. | F/O. Chapman, J.F. | |
| | Aus. 413977. | F/Sgt. Gardner, J.W. (2nd pilot) | |
| Lancaster III - EE.191. | Aus. 405782. | F/L. Vowells, K.E. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Martin, E. | |
| | Aus. 413875. | P/O. Mahon, H. | |
| | | F/O. Bourke, D.J. | |
| | | Sgt. Broom, D. | |
| | | Sgt. Campbell, J. | |
| | | Sgt. Chalk, D.B. | |
| | | F/Sgt. Robertson, K. (2bd pilot) | |
| Lancaster I - HK.535. | Aus. 414175. | P/O. Trimble, V.H. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Marles, A.J. | |
| | | F/O. Herriott, A.W. | |
| | | Sgt. Aldworth, B.T. | |
| | | Sgt. Nixon, R. | |
| | | Sgt. McNaughton, R. | |
| | Aus. 425678. | Sgt. Lawrence, J.P. | |
| | Aus. 415528. | F/Sgt. Hansen, P. (2nd pilot) | |
| Lancaster I - W.4897. | Aus. 417003. | F/O. Schultz, K. | Captain. |
| | | Sgt. Bishop, P.R. | |
| | Aus. 410172. | F/O. Pickerd, E.T. | |
| | | F/O. Chidgey, F.S. | |
| | Aus. 420738. | F/Sgt. Fletcher, K.C. | |
| | | Sgt. Parker, C.G. | |
| | | Sgt. Falconer, J. | |
| Lancaster I - | Aus. 8687. | P/O. Saunders, A.J. | Captain. |
| | | Sgt. Redding, M.J. | |
| | | Sgt. Falconer, J.F. | |
| | Aus. 418100. | Sgt. Govett, D.D. | |
| | | Sgt. Sheen, T.A. | |
| | Aus. 426768. | Sgt. Tennent, K. | |
| | Aus. 422708. | Sgt. Robinson, D. | |

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S.O.P.R. SUMMARY.

Nine aircraft left to attack Frankfurt. Aus. 417003 F/O. K. Schultz returned to base as he was unable to gain height even after jettisoning incendiaries and a 4000 lb. bomb. Aus. 8687 P/O. A.J. Saunders' port inner engine caught on fire and after jettisoning he landed back at base.

The remaining seven all returned safely.

The Pathfinders were not up to their usual standard and at first the attack appeared to be scattered. However, when the aircraft left the target area, the concentration was better. There was a fair amount of cloud.

From: No. 5 Group, H.Q.
To: Waddington - Coningsby - East Kirkby - Scampton - Skellingthorpe - Metheringham - Spilsby - Fiskerton - Bardney - Woodhall - Strubby - Dunholme INFO - Swinderby - HQBC - Syerston.

A. Form 'B' No.135.
B. Date 20th December, 1943.
C. 166 aircraft of 5 group and 410 aircraft of other groups assisted by 56 aircraft of P.F. group will attack the target.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1st wave - | 70 Hals 4 Gp. | 30 Hals 6 Gp. | Z - Z plus 3. |
| 2nd wave - | 84 Hals 4 Gp. | 54 Hals 6 Gp. | Z plus 3 to Z plus 7. |
| 3rd wave - | 29 Lancs 1 Gp. | 55 Lancs 5 Gp. | |
| | | 12 Lancs 6 Gp. | Z plus 7 to Z plus 10. |
| 4th wave - | 35 Lancs 1 Gp. | 13 Lancs 3 Gp. | |
| | 70 Lancs 5 Gp. | 10 Lancs 6 Gp. | Z plus 10 to Z plus 14. |
| 5th wave - | 30 Lancs 1 Gp. | 14 Lancs 3 Gp. | |
| | 40 Lancs 5 Gp. | 12 Lancs 6 Gp. | Z plus 14 to Z plus 17. |

D. To cause destruction to an enemy industrial centre.
E. Night 20/21 December, 1943.
F. Waddington 67
E.Kirkby 45
Scampton 27
Coningsby 27
G. As passed by teleprinter NR OPS 1.
H. Usual.
J. Normal.
K. and L. as passed by teleprinter. NR OPS.
M. Zero is 1935.

| | E.Kirkby. | Scampton. | Coningsby. | Waddington. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3rd wave | 15 | 9 | 9 | 22 | 1942-1945 |
| 4th wave | 20 | 10 | 10 | 30 | 1945-1949 |
| 5th wave | Remaining 5 group aircraft | | | | 1949-1952 |

N. Bomb Loads
A Load. 1 X 4000 LB HC 150 X 4 LB Inc to be X.I.B.
10 SBC X 150 X 4 LB Inc.
6 SBC 12 X 30 LB Inc.
1 SBC 8 X 30 LB Inc.
B Load. 1 X 4000 LB HC 100 X 4 LB Inc. to be X.I.B.
7 SBC 150 X 4 LB Inc.
3 SBC 12 Z 30 LB Inc.
1 SBC 8 X 30 LB Inc.
1. Fuel for both loads 1540 Galls.
2. Window is to be sued in accordance with 5 Group Operation Instruction No.33.
Rates of discharge - on route to target as far as position C rate A. from

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position C until within 30 miles of target rate C. Within 30 miles of target rate D. Remainder of homeward route rate C.

3. First and third waves to be manned by specially selected experienced crews.
4. Non visual Monica range 800 yards.
5. Special Nickels are to be carried and dropped. This HQ Letter 5G/100/12/1/Air dated 16.12.43 refers. All but 52 base hold stocks,
6. Method for tonight will be Newhaven ground marking.
7. Route markers red spot fire will be dropped at positions 5015N 0730E outward bound.
8. The attack will open with sticks of flares and yellow T.I. dropped in the target area. These are for the use of pathfinders only.
9. The aiming point will then be marked with T.I. red and backed up with T.I. green.
10. Main force aircraft attacking up to Z plus 5 should aim at the T.I. red if visible, otherwise at the centre of the T.I. green main force aircraft arriving later should aim their bombs at the centre of all T.I. green visible.
11. Routemarkers red spot fire will be dropped at positions 5030N 0735E homeward bound.
12. Crews should be warned that a spoof attack with flare bombs and red and green T.I. will be carried out on Chub at 1922 Hours and not 1925 hours as previously broadcast.

Extract from No. 5 Group O.R.B.

FRANKFURT: 171 Lancasters were detailed to attack Frankfurt. 3were cancelled, 168 took off, 11 returned early, 153 were successful and 4 aircraft are missing.

CASUALTIES: 44 Squadron - P/O. Evans. 49 Squadron - P/O. Blackmore. 50 Squadron - P/O. Keckendorf. W/Cdr. Pullen.

RESULTS: Cloud conditions over the target varied from 5 - 10/10ths. Fires increased towards the end of the attack and were visible for a great distance, though, on the whole, crews reported that the attack was very scattered. 'o' 9 Squadron Ditched 6 picked up Sgt. Knox R/G killed.

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VERY SECRET.

## OPERATIONS NO. 463 SQUADRON R.A.A.F.

23rd December, 1943.

B.C.I.N. 23/24.12.43. "Night Operations" BERLIN: 383 aircraft took off comprising 128 Lancasters of 1 group, 28 Lancasters of 3 group, 130 Lancasters of 5 group, 77 Lancasters 7 Halifaxes, 5 Mosquitos of 8 (P.F) group, with 1 Mosquito and 3 Beaufighters of 100 (S.D) group, on Intruder patrol.

There was approximately 5 - 10/10ths cloud over the target with tops up to about 12,000 ft. This, however, did not prevent the main force from bombing on the ground and sky markers dropped by Pathfinder aircraft from 0357 to 0416 hrs. These markers were rather scattered at first, marking two areas, but later in the attack, they became more concentrated, and the fires in the two areas merged into one big red fire, the glow of which was visible 100 miles away. One very large explosion was reported by a number of crews at 0424 hrs. the glow of which lasted for several seconds.

Defences were moderate and fighter activity in the target area was much less than that usually encountered.

317 aircraft attacked between 0357 and 0442 hrs. 3 aircraft of 100 group carried out intruder patrols.

16 of these aircraft are missing.

See Air Ministry Bulletin No.12450 and No.12454.

Copies may be found with No.460 Squadron Daily Operational Survey for this date.

O.R.B. 24.12.43. CREWS * BERLIN.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lancaster III DV.274. | Aus. 409721. | F/O. Leslie, A.J. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Jones, R.R. | |
| | | W/O. Finn, T. | |
| | | Sgt. Fraser, B. | |
| | Aus. 417275. | F/Sgt. Barrett, D.G. | |
| | | Sgt. Wiggins, A. | |
| | Aus. 421386. | F/O. Williams, H.E. | |
| Lancaster III ED.606. | Aus. 416418. | P/O. Dunn, D.C. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Adams, H.F. | |
| | | P/O. Fidler, F.G. | |
| | Aus. 403095. | F/L. Murtough, G.A | |
| | | Sgt. McConnell, K.L. | |
| | | Sgt. Deakin, H. | |
| | | F/Sgt. Gloster, B.F. | |
| | Aus. 420654. | F/Sgt. Fryer, G. | (2nd pilot) |

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Operations 24.12.43. contd.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lancaster III - DV.229. | | F/Sgt. Hansen, P. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Molyneux, H. | |
| | | Sgt, Stevens, M. | |
| | | F/Sgt. Edgecombe, G. | |
| | | Sgt. Bowes, | |
| | | Sgt. Bligh, N. | |
| | Aus. 425315. | Sgt. Wilson, J. | |
| Lancaster I - HK.535. | Aus. 414175. | P/O. Trimble, V.H. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Marles, A.J. | |
| | | F/O. Herriott, A.W. | |
| | | Sgt. Aldworth, B.T. | |
| | | Sgt. Nixon, R. | |
| | | Sgt. McNaughton, R. | |
| | Aus. 425678. | Sgt. Lawrence, J.P. | |
| Lancaster I - DV.338. | | W/C.Kingsford-Smith,R. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Fairburn, R. | |
| | | F/O. Kobelke, N.H. | |
| | | Sgt. Webb, B. | |
| | | F/O. McLeod, M.J. | |
| | | F/L. Moorhead, B. | |
| | | F/O. Proctor, D. | |
| Lancaster I - ED.420. | | P/O. Heap, A.W. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Carter, W. | |
| | | F/O. Gall, R.S. | |
| | | Sgt. McCreadie, D. | |
| | | Sgt. Ryan, L.M. | |
| | | Sgt. Tunnicliffe, F.J. | |
| | | F/Sgt. Glover, K.R.R. | |
| Lancaster III - ED.772. | | F/Sgt. Lawson, S. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Chittenden, P. | |
| | | Sgt. Smith, A. | |
| | | Sgt. Redgrave, C. | |
| | | Sgt. Sattler, A. | |
| | | Sgt. Harding, G. | |
| | | Sgt. Eggleson, F.G. | |
| Lancaster III - JA.973. | | F/Sgt. Robertson, K. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Patrick, R.J. | |
| | | P/O. Brown, P.C. | |
| | | F/O. Chandler, F. | |
| | | Sgt. Stone, R.H. | |
| | | Sgt. Parker, C.G. | |
| | | F/Sgt. Bowman, N. | |
| Lancaster III - EE.191. | | P/O. Schomberg, C.C. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Steel, H. | |
| | | F/Sgt. Seton, L.R. | |
| | | Sgt. Watson, E.J. | |
| | | F/Sgt. Fitzgerald, B. | |
| | | P/O. Calderwood, L.J. | |
| | | Sgt. Flute. | |
| Lancaster I - W.4897. | Aus. 404368. | F/O. Wilson, F.B. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Felton, H.W. | |
| | | P/O. Billam, J.B. | |
| | | F/O. Newman, J.W. | |
| | | Sgt. Gunn, E.J. | |
| | | P/O. Reed, E. | |
| | Aus. 409488. | F/Sgt. Anderson, I.W. | |

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Operations 24.12.43. contd.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lancaster III - JA. 902. | Aus. 8687 | P/O. Saunders, A.J. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Redding, M.J. | |
| | | Sgt. Falconer, J.F. | |
| | Aus. 418100. | Sgt. Govett, D.D. | |
| | | Sgt. Sheen, T.A. | |
| | Aus. 426768. | Sgt. Tennent, K. | |
| | Aus. 422707. | Sgt. Robinson, D. | |
| Lancaster I - DV. 374. | | P/O. Bowman, A.R. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Clark, R.E. | |
| | | Sgt. Ball, D. | |
| | | Sgt. Barber, M.E. | |
| | | Sgt. Westgate, L.F. | |
| | | Sgt. Wilson, A.C. | |
| | | Sgt. Dobson, P.F. | |

S.O.P.R. Summary.

Twelve aircraft took off for Berlin. Because of technical failures three aircraft were forced to return to base; also one is missing.

Because of clouds, the results were not easily observed but pilots who were over the target in the later part of the attack report a good concentration of fires. The "spoof" attack on Leipzig seemed a great success and appeared to spoil the efforts of the fighter.

After leaving the target the port generators of Aus. 420127 P/O. A.R. Bowman's Lancaster were not charging, thus after about another hour the electrical accumulator was very low, making it necessary for the rear gunner to leave the turret to avoid frost bite. After being hit at Hanover and losing starboard outer the mid upper gunner had eventually to manipulate his turret under great difficulty. Also his microphone and oxygen supply were partly u/s.

Aus. 414027 P/O. A.W. Heap and crew failed to return from this attack.

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From: H.Q. No. 5 Group.
To: E.Kirkby - Woodhall - Scampton - Dunholme - Skellingthorpe - Coningsby - Fiskerton - Bardney - Waddington - Metheringham,- Spilsby.- INFO HQBC - Swinderby.

A. Form 'B' No. 138.
B. 23/12.43.
C. 154 aircraft of 5 group and 328 aircraft of other groups assisted by 74 aircraft of P.F. group will attack the target.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1st wave - | 37 Lancs 1 Gp. | 12 Lancs 3 Gp. | |
| | 52 Lancs 5 Gp. | 11 Lancs 6 Gp. | Z to Z plus 4. |
| 2nd wave - | 37 Lancs 1 Gp. | 12 Lancs 3 Gp. | |
| | 52 Lancs 5 Gp. | 11 Lancs 6 Gp. | Z plus 4 to Z plus 8. |
| 3rd wave - | 37 Lancs 1 Gp. | 12 Lancs 3 Gp. | |
| | 51 Lancs 5 Gp. | 11 Lancs 6 Gp. | Z plus 8 to Z plus 12. |

D. To cause destruction to an enemy industrial centre.
E. Night 23/24 December, 1943.
F. Waddington 64
Scampton 23
Coningsby 26
E.Kirkby 41
G. As passed by teleprinter NR OPS 1.
H. Usual.
J. Normal.
K. and L. as passed by teleprinter.
M. Zero Hour is 2045.

| | E. Kirkby. | Coningsby. | Waddington. | Scampton. | T.O.T. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1st wave | 14 | 9 | 21 | 8 | 2045-2049 |
| 2nd wave | 14 | 9 | 21 | 8 | 2049-2053 |

3rd wave Remaining 5 group aircraft.
1st wave to be manned by specially selected crews.
N. Bomb Loads.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| A Load:- | 1 X 4000 LB HC | |
| | 6 SBC 150 X 4 LB Inc | 100 X 4 LB to be X.I.B. |
| | 1 SBC 90 X 4 LB Inc | |
| | 4 SBC 12 X 30 LB Inc | |
| B Load:- | 2 X 1000 LB GP. | |
| | 1 X 500 LB GP. | |
| | 4 SBC 150 X 4 LB Inc. | 50 X 4 LB Inc. to be X.I.B. |
| | 2 SBC 16 X 30 LB Inc. | |
| | 1 SBC 8 X 30 LB Inc. | |

Aircraft cleared for 65,000 lbs to carry 'A' Load. Remainder to carry 'B' Load.
Fuel for both loads 2,000 Galls.

1. Non visual Monica range 800 yards.
2. Window is to be used in accordance with 5 Gp. O.I. No.33. Rates of discharge on route to target rate 'C'. Within 30 miles of Target rate 'D'. Remainder of homeward route rate 'C'.
3. Method for tonight 23/24th December, 1943 on Whitebait will be mixed Paramatta and Wanganui.
4. Routemarkers red T.I. will be dropped by Mosquitoes at position 5040N 0552E outward bound.
5. Route markers yellow T.I. will be dropped at positions 5033N 0940E and 5116N 1240E outward bound.
6. The attack will open with T.I. red dropped in the target area. The aiming point will then be marked with T.I. green and kept marked throughout the attack.
7. In addition the release point will be marked with bundles of flares red with green stars.
8. Main force aircraft should aim their bombs at the centre of all T.I. green visible. Otherwise they should aim at the centre of all flares red with green stars while holding an exact heading of 015M. In this case bomb sights should be set for true height and air speed but zero wind.
9. Route markers yellow T.I. will be dropped at position 5235N 0943E homeward bound.
10. Crews should be warned that a spoof attack on Haddock will be carried out by Mosquitos who will drop red and green T.I's from Z-23 to Z-18.

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Extract from No. 5 Group O.R.B.

BERLIN: 156 Lancasters were detailed to attack Berlin. 26 were cancelled, 130 took off, 13 returned early, 111 were successful, 6 aircraft were missing.

CASUALTIES: 44 Squadron - P/O. Knight, Sgt. Hands. 57 Squadron - Sgt Knight. 207 Squadron - P/O. Moulton-Barrett. 463 Squadron - P/O. Heap. 50 Squadron - F/O. Herbert.

RESULTS: The weather was 8 - 10/10ths over the target with tops about 8,000 feet and good visibility. Both T.I's and sky markers were dropped by P.F.F. but crews differed widely in their estimates of concentration. Broadcast winds again assisted in maintaining good concentration to and from the target. Fighter opposition on the whole, at the target and on the route was not serious.

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## JANUARY, 1944.

January 1st, 1944. RAID ON BERLIN. Twelve aircraft took off to attack Berlin and ten were successful. Cloud conditions made observation of results difficult but the glow of fires could be seen. One aircraft returned early, being unable to gain height. One aircraft failed to return. The crew were: - Aus. 410244 F/Sgt. S. W. Lawson, Sgt. P. Chittenden, Sgt. A.G. Smith, F/Sgt. C.D. Redgrave, Aus. 422008 F/Sgt. M.E. Sadler, Aus. 427153 F/Sgt. W.A. Sampey, and Sgt. F.C. Eggleson. Lancaster captained by Aus. 403905 P/O. Merrill, F.L. was attacked by two enemy fighters. Hits were seen on both and one is claimed as probably destroyed and the other as damaged. Lancaster captained by Aus. 417003 F/O. Schultz was attacked by a Ju.88 which is claimed as damaged.

January 2nd, 1944. RAID ON BERLIN. Eight aircraft took off to attack Berlin, five were successful, two returned early, with engine and icing trouble and one failed to return. Lancaster captained by Aus. 5684 F/Lt. Mortimer, R.J. was attacked by an enemy fighter, and damage was sustained, but no casualties. The enemy fighter is claimed as damaged. Aus. 415280 P/O. Smith and crew also claim a Ju.88 damaged. The missing crew were: - Aus. 410021 F/Sgt. Weatherill, J., Sgt. Cowell, A.E., P/O. Gage, J.W., Aus. 423290 Sgt. Looney, F.N., Aus. 426401 Sgt. Toohey, W.D., Aus. 408054 P/O. Symonds, P.L., Aus. 417839 Sgt. Hemingway, C.

January 5th, 1944. RAID ON STETTIN. Eight aircraft took off and seven attacked Stettin. Appeared to be a successful attack and fires were concentrated. One aircraft returned early - unable to climb. Lancaster captained by Aus. 415347 F/O. McKnight claims a Ju.88 damaged. All aircraft returned safely.

January 13th, 1944. VISIT. The Australian Chief of Air Staff, Air Vice Marshal Jones, accompanied by Air Vice Marshal Wrigley, Air Officer Commanding R.A.A.F. Overseas Headquarters visited the Squadron.

January 14th, 1944. RAID ON BRUNSWICK. Thirteen aircraft took off to attack Brunswick, twelve were successful and the glow of fires could be seen through the clouds. Fighters were active and three aircraft were attacked. Lancaster captained by Aus. 412356 F/O. G.F. Baker escaped damage but enemy aircraft is claimed as damaged. Lancaster captained by Aus. 414175 P/O. Trimble, V.H. was badly shot up. The A/B was hit by splinters and the rear gunner became unconscious due to damaged oxygen. The enemy aircraft was destroyed. Lancaster captained by Aus. 401980 S/Ldr. Locke also claims a damaged.

January 20th, 1944. RAID ON BERLIN. Eleven aircraft took off to attack Berlin and all report a successful raid. Bomb bursts and the glow of fires were seen through the clouds. Sgt. Turner, the mid-upper gunner of Lancaster captained by Aus. 416775 P/O. F.L. Merrill, was dead on reaching base, through lack of oxygen.

January 21st, 1944. RAIDS ON MAGDEBURG & BERLIN. Thirteen aircraft took off, eleven to attack Magdeburg, and two to attack Berlin. All returned safely to base. As the Squadron was over Magdeburg early it was not possible to assess results but fires seemed to be taking a good hold. Lancaster captained by Aus. 408867 P/O. J. Nancarrow returned early with engine trouble.

January 27th, 1944. RAID ON BERLIN. Eleven aircraft took off to attack Berlin and one failed to return. Appeared to be a good raid. Little fighter apposition and flak was negligible. The missing crew were: - Aus. 409721 F/O. Leslie, A.J.D., Sgt. Jones, R.R., W/O. Finn, T.V., Sgt. Wiggins, A., Aus. 423061 F/O. Chidgey, F.S. Aus. 417275 F/Sgt. Barrett, D.G. and Sgt. Falconer, J.

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January 28th, 1944. RAID ON BERLIN. Berlin again and this time fourseen aircraft took off. Eleven attacked the target, one failed to return and two returned early owing to icing and technical trouble. Large explosions and concentrated fires were seen in the target area, which could be seen 150 miles away. Lancaster captained by Aus. 15763 P/O. J.P. Freeman, destroyed a FW.190. The gunner was Aus. 428684 Sgt. Frith, J.H.

January 30th, 1944. RAID ON BERLIN. Fourteen aircraft took part in another raid on Berlin which appeared to be somewhat scattered although the glow of fires could be seen through the clouds. One aircraft returned early and four are missing. Aus. 413219 F/Lt. Martin, C.J. and crew claim one Ju.88 damaged. The missing crews were: - Aus. 415412 F/Sgt. Fairclough, L.S. Sgt. Verner, N.A., Aus. 414622 F/Sgt. Carius, L.R., Aus. 416174 F/Sgt. Giles, P.K., Aus. 410581 F/Sgt. White, A.J., Aus. 414959 F/Sgt. McLean, J.G. and Sgt.Robinson, D. - Aus. 415528 P/O. Hanson, P., Sgt. Hughes, E.A., Sgt. Stevens, M.A., F/Sgt. Edgecombe, G.E.J Sgt. Bowes, L., Sgt. Bligh, N., Aus. 424315 Sgt. Wilson, J.M. - Aus. 411652 P/O. Messenger, G.L., Sgt. Marshall, H.W., Sgt. Holmes, M.F., Sgt. Brown, E., Sgt. Wooldridge, F., Sgt. Young, R.W., Sgt. Borrodaile, G.C - Aus. 416418 P/O. Dunn, D., Sgt. Adams, F., F/O. Fidler, [illegible], F/Sgt. Smith, M.Y., Sgt. McConnell, A., Sgt. Deakin, H., and Aus. 425641 F/Sgt. Gloster, E.

STATISTICS. Statistics from formationup to 31.1.44.

Operational Hours 998
Operational Miles 199,612
Operational Sorties 163
Bombs dropped - 730 tons

Enemy aircraft destroyed 2, probably destroyed 1, damaged 9.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.361

VERY SECRET

# OPERATIONS NO. 463 SQUADRON R.A.A.F.

## 1st January, 1944.

B.C.I.N. 1/2.1.44. "Night Operations" BERLIN: 421 Lancasters were despatched on the 9th attack of the present series, during which over 15,000 tons have now been dropped. The force comprised 117 aircraft of 1 group, 31 of 3 group, 161 of 5 group, 31 of 6 group, and 81 of 8 group. 5 Wellingtons and 1 Mosquito of 100 S.D. group co-operated.

The attack was made through 10/10ths layer of cloud with tops at 10,000 ft., and 20,000 ft.

Sky and groundmarkers were dropped between 0257 and 0317 hrs. but most crews found the former sparse and also somewhat widespread, while the latter were not visible under the cloud.

347 aircraft attacked between 0300 and 0330 hrs. and 5 aircraft of 100 group completed their missions.

Reflection of scattered fires and several explosions were seen, and a glow on the cloud was visible from 30 miles away. For the most part however, the weather conditions made observations impossible.

Heavy flak was moderate to intense, but searchlights were ineffective. Very few fighter flares were seen, but a number of encounters have been reported.

28 aircraft are missing.

See Air Ministry Bulletin No. 12518.

A copy may be found with No. 469 Squadron Daily Operational Survey for this date.

O.R.B. 1/2.1.44. CREWS - BERLIN.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lancaster III - EE? 191. | Aus. 413977. | P/O. Gardner, J.W. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Brotherton, D. | |
| | | F/Sgt. Perkins, H. | |
| | | F/O. Grevstad, M.C. | |
| | | Sgt. Cuthbertson, J. | |
| | | Sgt. Mottram, R.J. | |
| | Aus. 418704. | F/Sgt. McGrath, J.R. | |
| Lancaster III - JA. 973. | Aus. 403905. | P/O. Merrill, F.L. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Rawsthorne, F. | |
| | | Sgt. Knight, J.H. | |
| | Aus/ 421300. | F/O. Hall, J.B. | |
| | Aus. 409935. | F/Sgt. O'Toole, M.K. | |
| | | Sgt. Turner, D.F. | |
| | | Sgt. Danckwardt, F. | |

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Operations 1/2.1.44. contd.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lancaster III DV. 229. | Aus. 415528. | P/O. Hansen, P. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Molyneux, H. | |
| | | Sgt. Stevens, M. | |
| | | F/Sgt. Edgecombe, G. | |
| | | Sgt. Bowes, L. | |
| | | Sgt. Bligh, N. | |
| | Aus. 425315. | Sgt. Wilson, J. | |
| Lancaster III HK. 535. | Aus. 414175. | P/O. Trimble, V.H. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Marles, A.J. | |
| | | F/O. Herriott, A.W. | |
| | | Sgt. Aldworth, B.T. | |
| | | Sgt. Nixon, R. | |
| | | Sgt. McNaughton, R. | |
| | Aus. 425678. | F/Sgt. Lawrence, J.P. | |
| | Aus. 415347. | P/O. McKnight, K.H. | |
| Lancaster. | Aus. 410244. | F/Sgt. S.W. Lawson, | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Chittenden, P.B. | |
| | | Sgt. Smith, A.G. | |
| | | F/Sgt. Redgrave, C.D. | |
| | Aus. 422008. | F/Sgt. Sadler, M.E. | |
| | Aus. 427153. | F/Sgt. Sampey, W.A. | |
| | | Sgt. Eggleson, F.C. | |
| Lancaster III- JA. 902. | Aus. 416418. | P/O. Dunn, D.C. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Adams, H.F. | |
| | | F/O. Fidler, F.G. | |
| | Aus. 403095. | F/L. Murtough, G. | |
| | | Sgt. McConnell, K.L. | |
| | | Sgt. Deakin, H. | |
| | | F/Sgt. Gloster, B.F. | |
| | Aus. 410021. | F/Sgt. Weatherall, J. | |
| Lancaster III ED. 545. | Aus. 405782. | F/L. Vowells, K.E. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Martin, E. | |
| | Aus. 413875. | P/O. Mahon, H. | |
| | | F/O. Bourke, D.J. | |
| | | Sgt. Broom, D. | |
| | | Sgt. Campbell, J. | |
| | | Sgt. Chalk, D.B. | |
| Lancaster III ME. 563. | Aus. 417003. | F/O. Schultz, K. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Bishop, P.R. | |
| | Aus. 410172. | F/O. Pickerd, E.T. | |
| | Aus. 423061. | P/O. Chidgey, F.S. | |
| | Aus. 420738. | F/Sgt. Fletcher, K.C. | |
| | Aus. 424290. | P/O. Dawes, G.W. | |
| | | Sgt. Falconer, J. | |
| Lancaster III - LL. 740. | | F/L. Cooper, R.J. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Bull, F.C. | |
| | Aus. 409553. | F/Sgt. Kerr, G.J. | |
| | Aus. 406292. | F/Sgt. Christmass, L.H. | |
| | | Sgt. Robson, F. | |
| | | Sgt. Suthers, H. | |
| | | P/O. Rees, J.E.R. | |
| | Aus. 15763. | F/Sgt. Freeman, J.P. | |
| Lancaster III ED. 606. | Aus. 412969. | P/O. Kell, A.E. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Clark, J. | |
| | Aus. 413582. | F/Sgt. Hagar, J.L. | |
| | Aus. 13751. | P/O. Morieson, K.C. | |
| | Aus. 414544. | F/Sgt. Evans, A.L. | |
| | Aus. 425234. | F/Sgt. Snell, F.W. | |
| | Aus. 416000. | F/O. Chapman, J.F. | |

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Operations 1/2.1.44. contd.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lancaster III - DV. 338. | Aus. 412936. | P/O. Fayle, E.A. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Baker, C.T. | |
| | | F/O. Chappell, C. | |
| | | Sgt. Topham, L.E. | |
| | | Sgt. Farrell, R. | |
| | | Sgt. Vickery, A.L. | |
| | Aus. 425264. | F/Sgt. Bennett, B.P. | |

COMBAT REPORT.

Aircraft No. and Letter ME. 563. "L". Lancaster Type I.
Target BERLIN. Night of 1/2.1.44.
Captain: F/O. Schultz 417003 Evandale S.A.
Mid-upper gunner P/O. Dawes G.W. 424290. Pt. Piper. Sydney.
Rear Gunner. Sgt. Falconer.

NARRATIVE:

Time 02.15 hours. Course. 076°M. Height 20,000 feet.
Speed 155 I.A.S. Position 52.49°N. 08.40°E.
Mid Upper Gunner sighted Ju.88 on port beam up. Range 600 yards. Mid Upper Gunner gave five port enemy aircraft opened fire, not scoring any hits, and broke away to starboard quarter, and was not seen again. Rear and Mid Upper Gunners did not open fire owing to violence of action taken. At 0220 hours. Course 076°M. Height: 20,000 feet. Speed 155 I.A.S. Position 52.50°N. 09.20°E. Rear Gunner sighted Ju.88 on port quarter level range 400 yards. Rear Gunner gave corkscrewport and opened fire, continuing fire as enemy aircraft closed. Enemy aircraft broke away starboard down and was not seen again, and did not open fire. Hits observed on starboard wing and engine. Aerial Monica U/S throughout trip. 600 rounds expended 10/10ths cloud. No fighter flares. No searchlights. Claimed damaged.

Rear Gunner trained at 2 A.G.S. 1660 C.U.
Mid Upper Gunner trained at 2 B.A.G.S. 1660 C.U.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.361

## COMBAT REPORT.

Aircraft No. and Letter: JA.973 "O" Lancaster Type III.
Target: BERLIN. Night of 1/2.1.44.
Captain: P/O. F.L. Merrill. Pt. Augusta, S.A.
Mid-upper gunner. Sgt. Turner. 416775.
Rear Gunner. Sgt. Danckwardt.

NARRATIVE:

Time 02.05 hours. Course 084°M. Height 20,000 feet.
Speed 216 T.A.S. Position 52.45°N. 06.50°E.
The wireless Operator reported contact with unidentified aircraft to port at 1,000 yards. A few seconds later the Mid-Upper Gunner sighted a Ju.88 on port beam down at 800 yards commencing attack. He ordered dive port and fired a five second burst at enemy aircraft which broke away below to starboard without returning fire. He was not seen again and normal course was resumed. Strikes were observed in region of starboard engine. The rear gunner could not bring guns to bear. Conditions were dark with 10/10ths cloud below, but a few minutes prior to attack the aircraft had been illuminated in the light of a burning Lancaster. Rounds expended 150.
Visual Monica efficient in attack. Claimed damaged.

Rear Gunner trained at 7 A.G.S.
Mid-Upper Gunner trained at 90 A.F.U. 16 O.T.U.

## COMBAT REPORT.

Aircraft No. and Letter. JA.973 "O". Lancaster Type III.
Target BERLIN. Night of 1/2 January 1944.
Captain P/O. Merrill.
Mid-Upper gunner: Sgt. Turner.
Rear Gunner: Sgt. Danckwardt.

NARRATIVE:

Time 02.25 hours. Course 084°M. Height 20,000 feet.
Speed T.A.S. 216. Position 52'45°N. 06'45°E.
The Wireless Operator reported contact with fighter to starboard 1,200 yrds., and later the mid-upper sighted a Ju.88 on starboard beam down at 800 yrds., commencing attack and opened fire with 8 to 10 seconds burst, and gave combat manoeuvre dive starboard.
Strikes were observed and the enemy aircraft rolled over and went into a steep dive with black smoke from port engine and disappeared into cloud layer. No return fire. No fighter flares in vicinity. CLAIMED PROBABLE.
Rounds expended 300. In both attacks Visual Monica was efficient.

Rear Gunner trained at 7 A.G.S. and 16 O.T.U.
Mid-upper Gunner trained at 90 A.F.U. and 16 O.T.U.

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From: H.Q. No. 5 Group.
To: Waddington - Coningsby - East Kirkby - Scampton - Skellingthorpe - Metherignham - Fiskerton - Bardney - Spilsby - Woodhall - Struby - Dunholme - INFO HQBC - Swinderby.

A. Form 'B' 143.
B. 1st January 1944.
C. 156 aircraft of 5 Group and 256 aircraft of other groups assisted by 54 aircraft of P.F. group will attack the target.
Wave 1 - 40 Lancasters of 1 Group. 13 Lancasters of 3 Group ) Z to Z plus 4
52 Lancasters of 5 Group. 12 Lancasters of 6 Group )
Wave 2 - 40 Lancasters of 1 Group. 13 Lancasters of 3 Group ) Z plus 4 to Z plus 8.
52 Lancasters of 5 Group. 11 Lancasters of 6 Group )
Wave 3 - 39 Lancasters of 1 Group. 13 Lancasters of 3 Group ) Z plus 8 to Z plus 12
52 Lancasters of 5 Group. 11 Lancasters of 6 Group )
D. To destroy an enemy industrial centre.
E. Night of 1/2 January 1944.
F. Waddington 61
Coningsby 27
E.Kirkby 41
Scampton 27
G. As passed by teleprinter NR OPS 1.
H. Usual.
J.- Normal.
K. and L. Route 1 or route 2 to be confirmed later. Refer NR OPS 4.
M. Zero Hour is 0300 Hours.

| | Waddington | Coningsby | E.Kirkby | Scampton | T.O.T. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wave 1 | 20 | 9 | 14 | 9 | 0300 - 0304 |
| Wave 2 | 20 | 9 | 14 | 9 | 0304 - 0308 |
| Wave 3 | Remaining 5 Group aircraft | | | | 0308 - 0312 |

N1. Method for tonight 1st/2nd January 1944 on Whitebait will be mixed Wanganui and Paramatta.
2. Routemarkers T.I. yellow will be dropped outward bound at the following positions:-
Position 'P' - 5438N 0930E
Position 'Q' - 5325N 1242E
3. Release point will be marked throughout the attack with bundles of flares red with green. In addition red T.I. will be dropped in the target area at the opening of the attack and green T.I. will be used to mark the aiming point.
4. Main force aircraft should aim at the estimated centre of all green T.I. visible. If conditions prevent T.I. being seen then all main force aircraft should aim their bombs at the centre of all flares red with green stars visible. While holding a heading of 171 M in this case bombsights should be set for true height and air speed but zero wind.
5. Routemarkers flares green will be dropped homeward bound at the following positions:-
Position 'R' - 5115N 1237E
Position 'S' - 5030N 0720E
6. Crews should be warned that Mosquitos will be carrying out a spoof attack on Carp with red and green T.I. timing of this spoof attack will be passed verbally later.
7. Bomb Loads.

| 'A' Load | 'B' Load. |
|---|---|
| 1 X 4,000 lb M.C. | 2 X 1000 lb. GP. 4 SBC. 150 X 4 lb Inc. |
| 6 SBC 150 X 4 LB Inc. | 1 X 500 GP. 2 SBC. 16 X 30 lb Inc. |
| 4 SBC 12 X 30 lb Inc. | 1 SBC 8 X 30 lb Inc. |
| 100 X 4 lb Inc. to be X.I.B. | |

M.C. bombs to be used if G.P. not available. 5 X 4 lb Inc. to be X.I.B.
Aircraft cleared for 65,000 lb take off to carry load 'A'. Remainder to Carry Load 'B'.
8. Petrol Load for both bomb Loads 2050 Galls.
9. Aural Monica range 800 yards.
10. The first wave is to be manned by specially selected crews.
11. Window is to be used in accordance with 5 Group operational instruction No. 33 rates of discharge on route to target rate 'C'. Within 40 miles of the target rate 'D'. Remainder of homeward route rate 'C'.
12. For information the aiming point is 1000 yards 335 degrees from Whitebait 'B'
13. Datum height 75,000 feet.

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Extract from No. 5 Group O.R.B.

BERLIN: 167 Lancasters were detailed to attack Berlin. 6 were cancelled 161 took off, 12 returned early and 136 were successful, 1 failed and 12 are missing.

CASUALTIES: 57 Sqdn - P/O. Grimbley, 630 Sqdn - F/Lt. McDonald, 207 Sqdn - Lt. Solomon, P/O. Bottrell, 44 Squadron - P/O. Holmes-a-Court. 106 Sqdn - P/O Garnett, 463 Sqdn - F/Sgt Lawson, 467 Sqdn - F/Lt. Patkin. 9 Sqdn - PO. Ward. 61 Sqdn - P/O. Sharpe, F/O. Cunningham.

RESULTS: The attack was carried out over 10/10ths cloud. with tops about 18,000 feet, but with good visibility above cloud. There were not many fighters in the target area on account of the weather, and the flak encountered was not of any consequence. Crews bombed on Wanganui sky markers and although no concrete results were observed, explosions were reported by some crews.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.361

VERY SECRET

# OPERATIONS NO. 463 SQUADRON R.A.A.F.

## 2nd January, 1944.

B.C.I.N. 2/3.1.44.

"Night Operations" BERLIN: A force of 383 aircraft, chiefly Lancasters, was despatched. The Lancasters comprised 116 of 1 group, 25 of 3 group, 119 of 5 group, 28 of 6 group and 74 of 8 (P.F) Group. In addition, 9 Halifaxes and 12 Mosquitoes of 8 (P.F) group were despatched and 2 Beaufighters of 100 (S.D) group co-operated.

Marking was by mixed ground and sky marker methods. Cloud on route and over the target was 10/10 strato-cu with tops up to about 16,000 feet. The skymarkers were reported to be punctual and fairly well concentrated during the greater part of the attack. The ground markers were unobserved owing to cloud conditions.

The later aircraft report red glow of fires seen on cloud and there appeared to be two main areas of fire east and west. Heavy flak was reported moderate and in barrage form, and light flak directed at the skymarkers. Fighter flares were numerous, particularly on the route out from the target, and a number of encounters have been reported. Many reports are still outstanding.

27 aircraft are missing.

See Air Ministry Bulletin No. 12527 and No. 12529.

Copies may be found with No. 460 Squadron Daily Operational Survey for this date.

O.R.B. 2/3.1.44.

CREWS - BERLIN.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lancaster III - EE. 191. | Aus. 413977. | P/O. Gardner, J.W. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Brotherton, D. | |
| | | F/Sgt. Perkins, H. | |
| | | F/O. Grevstad, M.C. | |
| | | Sgt. Cuthbertson, J. | |
| | | Sgt. Mottram, R.J. | |
| | Aus. 418704. | F/Sgt. McGrath, J.R. | |
| Lancaster III - DV. 274. | Aus. 415280. | P/O. Smith, E.A. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Sykes, D.C. | |
| | | F/O. Raynham, H.F. | |
| | | Sgt. Trench, J.E. | |
| | | Sgt. Hollis, J.H. | |
| | | Sgt. Pike, G.R. | |

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Operations 2/3.1.44. contd.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lancaster I - LL. 740. | Aus. 5684. | F/L. Mortimer, R.J. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Everard, H. | |
| | Aus. 420848. | P/O. Baggie, W.J. | |
| | Aus. 409963. | F/Sgt. Young, I.C. | |
| | Aus. 403028. | P/O. Jackson, L.E. | |
| | | Sgt. Lloyd, G. | |
| | Aus. 415073. | P/O. Dease, M. | |
| | Aus. 415662. | F/Sgt. James, G. | |
| Lancaster III - ME. 563. | Aus. 404368. | F/O. Wilson, F.B. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Felton, H.W. | |
| | | F/O. Billam, J.B. | |
| | | F/O. Newman, J.W. | |
| | | Sgt. Gunn, E.J. | |
| | Aus. 423724. | F/Sgt. Harrington, P. | |
| | | F/Sgt. Child, J. | |
| Lancaster III - ED. 606. | Aus. 412969. | P/O. Kell, A.E. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Clark, J. | |
| | Aus. 413582. | F/Sgt. Hagar, J. | |
| | Aus. 13751. | P/O. Morieson, K.C. | |
| | Aus. 414544. | F/Sgt. Evans, A.L. | |
| | Aus. 425234. | F/Sgt. Snell, F.W. | |
| | Aus. 416000. | F/O. Chapman, J.F. | |
| Lancaster III - JA. 902. | Aus. 410021. | F/Sgt. Weatherill, J. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Cowell, A.E. | |
| | | P/O. Gage, J.W. | |
| | Aus. 423290. | Sgt. Looney, F.N. | |
| | Aus. 426401. | Sgt. Toohey, W.D. | |
| | Aus. 408054. | P/O. Symonds, P.L. | |
| | Aus. 417839. | Sgt. Hemingway, C. | |
| Lancaster I - ED. 545. | Aus. 15763. | F/Sgt. Freeman, J.P. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Cullum, G.D. | |
| | Aus 410766. | F/Sgt. Wilson, L.L. | |
| | Aus. 418374. | Sgt. Flanagan, G.H. | |
| | Aus. 419290. | Sgt. Bulmer, J. | |
| | Aus. 407982. | P/O. Brooker, W.H. | |
| | Aus. 428684. | Sgt. Frith, J.H. | |
| Lancaster III - JA. 973. | Aus. 412434. | P/O. Hart, A.R. | Captain |
| | | P/O. Dean, J.H. | |
| | Aus. 409497. | F/Sgt. Boal, H.J. | |
| | | F/Sgt. Williams, G.L. | |
| | | Sgt. Jones, W.J. | |
| | | Sgt. Price, C.M. | |
| | | Sgt. Hicks, D.F. | |

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## COMBAT REPORT.

Aircraft No. and Letter: LL. 740 "M" Lancaster Type I.
Target: BERLIN. Night of 2nd/3rd January, 1944.
Captain: 5684 F/Lt. R.J. Mortimar, Fulham, Victoria.
Mid-upper gunner: Sergeant Lloyd.
Rear Gunner: P/O. M. Dease, Maylands, W.A. (Aus.415073)

NARRATIVE:

Time 02.49 Course. 168 M. Height. 21,000 feet.
Speed 170. Position 52.30N. 12.40 E.

Ju.88 reported approaching S/Beam on reciprocal course, range 150 yards. Enemy aircraft crossed over dead astern. Rear Gunner fired 5 second burst, range 100 yards. Hits definitely scored. Enemy aircraft seen to dive away to its port. Enemy aircraft did not open fire. CLAIMED DAMAGED.
Monica not operating. 200 rounds fired.

Rear Gunner trained at 3 B.A.G.S. Sale, Victoria, Australia.
Mid-upper gunner trained at 2 A.G.S. Dalcross.

## COMBAT REPORT.

Aircraft No. and Letter: DV. 274 "R". Lancaster Type III.
Target: BERLIN. Night of 2/3.1.44.
Captain: P/O. E.A.L. Smith 415280. Mt. Lawley, W.A.
Mid-upper gunner. Sgt. Hollis.
Rear Gunner. Sgt. Pike.

NARRATIVE:A

Time 02.50 Hours. Course. 168 M. Height. 20,000 feet.
Speed: 180 I.A.S. Position Target Area.

W/Op. reported contact on Visual Monica 1000 yards astern. Rear Gunner sighted Ju.88 600 yards dead astern. Rear Gunner gave cork screw port as enemy aircraft opened fire. Rear Gunner opened fire at 500 yards with 3 seconds burst. Enemy aircraft broke away starboard and came in again on starboard quarter, firing at 400 yards. Rear Gunner opened fire and enemy aircraft broke away starboard again, returning to attack from astern, and Rear Gunner fired 8-seconds burst, hits being observed on wings and fuselage.
Enemy aircraft broke away and was not sighted again. Claimed damaged.
A Merio attacked from port directly Ju.88 broke away. Rear Gunner fired 8-seconds burst and mid-upper 3-seconds burst, both scoring hits. Enemy aircraft broke away starboard down without opening fire, and was not seen again. Claimed damaged. 3000 rounds expended. Continuous corkscrew throughout attacks.

Rear Gunner trained at 7 A.G.S. and 29 O.T.U. and 1661 C.U.
Mid-upper Gunner trained at 2 A.G.S. 29 O.T.U. and 1661 C.U.

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From: H.Q. No 5 Group.
To: Waddington - Bardney - Coningsby - Skellingthorpe - E.Kirkby - Woodhall - Metheringham - Dunholme - Scampton - Spilsby - Fiskerton - Syerston - INFO HQBC - Swinderby.

A. Form 'B' No. 144

B. 2nd January 1944.

C. 120 aircraft of 5 Group and 216 aircraft of other groups assisted by 62 aircraft of P.F. group will attack the target.

1st wave - 35 Lancs 1 Group 11 Lancs 3 Group ) Z to Z plus 3
40 Lancs 5 Group 10 Lancs 6 Group )

2nd wave - 40 Lancs 1 Group 11 Lancs 3 Group ) Z plus 3 to Z plus 7
40 Lancs 5 Group 9 Lancs 6 Group )

3rd wave - 35 Lancs 1 Group 10 Lancs 3 Group ) Z plus 7 to Z plus 11
40 Lancs 5 Group 9 Lancs 6 Group )

All extra aircraft are to attack in the 2nd wave.

D. To cause destruction to an enemy industrial centre.

E. Night 2nd/3rd January 1944.

F. Coningsby 22
E.Kirkby 30
Scampton 21
Waddington 47

G. As passed by teleprinter NR OPS 1.

H. Usual

J. Normal

K. and L. as passed by teleprinter NR OPS 4.

M. Zero is:

| | E.Kirkby | Scampton | Waddington | Coningsby | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1st wave | 10 | 7 | 16 | 7 | 0315 - 0318 |
| 2nd wave | Remaining 5 Group aircraft | | | | 0318 - 0322 |
| 3rd wave | 10 | 7 | 16 | 7 | 0322 - 0326 |

1st wave to be manned by specially selected crews.

N. Bomb Loads

A Load: 1 X 4000 lb H.C. 100 X 4 lb Inc to be XIB.
6 SBC 150 X 4 lb Inc.
4 SBC 12 X 30 lb Inc.

B Load: 2 X 1000 lb G.P. 50 X 4 lb Inc to be XIB
1 X 500 lb G.P.
4 SBC 150 X 4 lb Inc.
3 SBC 12 X 30 lb Inc.

If G.P. bombs are not available M.C. bombs are to be carried.
All aircraft cleared for 65,000 lbs. take off are to carry A Load.
Remainder are to carry B Load.

1. Petrol Loads for both bomb loads 2050 Galls.
2. Window is to be used in accordance with 5 GP O.I. No.33.
Rates of discharge on route to target C. Witin 50 miles of target rate D. Remainder of homeward route rate C.
3. Non visual Monica range 800 yards.
4. Datum height for tonight 81,000 ft.
5. Aiming point is Whitebait 'B' for information.
6. Method for tonight 2/3 January 1944 on Whitebait will be mixed Wanganui and Paramatta.
7. Route markers flares green with yellow stars will be dropped at the following positions outward bound.

Position P - 5516N 0833E
Position Q - 5322N 1243E

8. The attack will open with T.I. red dropped in the target area. The aiming point will then be marked with T.I. green in addition the release point will be marked with bundles of flares red with green stars throughout the attack.
9. Main force aircraft should aim their bombs at the centre of all T.I. green if these are visible. Otherwise they should aim at the centre of all flares red with green stars while holding a heading of 168M. In this case bombsights should be set for true height and air speed but zero wind.
10. Routemarkers flares green with yellow stars will be dropped at the following position homeward bound: Position R - 5428N 1230E.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.361

Extract from No. 5 Group O.R.B.

BERLIN. 144 Lancasters were detailed to attack Berlin. 25 were cancelled. 119 took off, 17 returned early, 94 were successful and 8 are missing.

CASUALTIES: 57 Squadron - F/Sgt. Ely, F/O. Shewan. 619 Squadron - F/O Hefferman, F/Lt. Cox. 463 Squadron - F/Sgt. Weatherill, 61 Squadron F/O. Tull. 49 Squadron - F/O. Young, F/Lt. Palmer.

RESULTS: Pathfinders dropped sky markers flares over the target, which was covered in 10/10ths cloud, with tops about 16,000 ft. Concentration of fires was reported to be good and the glow of fires below the clouds was observed. Defences, both flak and fighter were moderate and little opposition was encountered on the route.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.361

VERY SECRET.

## OPERATIONS NO. 463 SQUADRON R.A.A.F.

### 5th January, 1944.

B.C.I.N. 5/6.1.44. "Night Operations" STETTIN: 359 aircraft comprising 113 Lancasters of 1 group, 120 of 5 group, 35 of 6 group and 81 Lancasters and 10 Halifaxes of 8 (P.F) group were detailed. A Beaufighter of 100 (.S.D) group co-operated.

332 aircraft attacked the primary. Cloud over the target was well broken and most crews were able to confirm visually the accuracy of the Pathfinder marking. Visibility was excellent and the bright moon and the Pathfinder flares combined with the snow on the ground to outline the town. Punctually at the opening of the attack the aiming point was well marked by plentiful and concentrated markers and kept similarly marked throughout, resulting in well-concentrated bombing. As the attack developed, large fires and explosions were seen in the town centre with smoke up to 15,000 ft. The glow was seen up to 150 miles away.

Flak defences were moderate and searchlights few and ineffective. Very few fighters or fighter flares were seen at the target until the end of the attack, but the route towards Berlin was observed to be well illuminated. A few combats took place and an aircraft of 5 group claims a Ju.88 destroyed by collision. The Lancaster returned safely.

15 aircraft are missing.

See Air Ministry Bulletin No. 12559.

A copy of this may be found with No. 460 Squadron Daily Operational Survey for this date.

O.R.B. 5/6.1.44. CREWS - STETTIN.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lancaster III - LL. 750. | Aus. 417003. | F/O. Schultz, K. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Bishop, P.R. | |
| | | F/O. Pickerd, B.T. | |
| | Aus. 423061. | P/O. Chidgey, F.S. | |
| | Aus. 420738. | F/Sgt. Fletcher, K.C. | |
| | Aus. 424290. | P/O. Dawes, G.W. | |
| | | Sgt. Falconer, J. | |
| Lancaster III - DV. 274. | Aus. 415347. | F/O. McKnight, K.H. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Roberts, L.W. | |
| | | P/O. Isham, S.A. | |
| | Aus. 418425. | P/O. Johnson, C.J. | |
| | Aus 410710. | F/Sgt. Nelson, S.J. | |
| | | Sgt. Winn, T. | |
| | | Sgt. Linford, K. | |
| | | Sgt. Owen, K.W. | |

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Operations 5/6.1.44. contd.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lancaster I - DV. 274. | Aus. 404368. | F/O. Wilson, F.B. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Felton, H.W. | |
| | | F/O. Billam, J.B. | |
| | | F/O. Newman, J.W. | |
| | | Sgt. Gunn, E.J. | |
| | Aus. 423724. | F/Sgt. Harrington, P. | |
| | Aus. 409488. | F/Sgt. Anderson, I.W. | |
| Lancaster III - ED. 545. | Aus. 412356. | P/O. Baker, G.F. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Rosen, A. | |
| | | P/O. Munton, C.R. | |
| | | F/Sgt. Hawtin, C.H. | |
| | | P/O. Scarles, B.L. | |
| | | Sgt. Bushell, P.D. | |
| | | F/Sgt. Child, J. | |
| Lancaster III - ED. 772. | Aus. 381. | W/C. Kingsford-Smith R. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Fairburn, R. | |
| | | F/L. Williams, A. | |
| | Aus. 418216. | F/Sgt. Webb, B. | |
| | Aus. 403255. | F/O. Curtis, R.A. | |
| | | F/L. Moorhead, B. | |
| | | P/O. Rees, J.E.R. | |
| | | Major Greenhowe. | |
| Lancaster I - DV. 338. | Aus. 413798. | F/O. Schomberg, C.C. | Captain |
| | | F/Sgt. Steeles, H. | |
| | Aus. 412712. | F/Sgt. Seton, L.R. | |
| | | Sgt. Watson, E.J. | |
| | Aus. 420463. | F/Sgt. Fitzgerald, B. | |
| | Aus. 426531. | P/O. Calderwood, L. | |
| | Aus. 418704. | Sgt. Bowman, N.J. | |
| Lancaster III - DV. 229. | Aus. 401510. | P/O. Foster, T.J. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Houghton, R. | |
| | | F/O. Burton, A.C. | |
| | | F/O. Falgate, D. | |
| | | Sgt. Jones, P.H.M. | |
| | | Sgt. Wing, A.V. | |
| | | P/O. Kirkpatrick, W.L. | |
| Lancaster III - ED. 606. | Aus. 405782. | F/L. Vowells, K.E. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Martin, E. | |
| | Aus. 413875. | P/O. Mahon, H. | |
| | | F/O. Bourke, D.J. | |
| | | Sgt. Broom, D. | |
| | | Sgt. Campbell, J. | |
| | | Sgt. Chalk, D.B. | |

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.361

## COMBAT REPORT.

Aircraft No. and Letter: DV. 274. "R". Lancaster Type III.
Target: STETTIN. Night of 5/6.1.44.
Captain: P/O. K.H. McKnight, 415347. Fremantle, W.A.
Mid-upper Gunner: Sgt. Winn.
Rear Gunner: Sgt. Linford.

NARRATIVE:

Time 03.53 Hours. Course. 135°M. Height 23,000 feet.
Speed 165 T.A.S. Position Target Area.

Rear Gunner sighted a Ju.88. flying parallel course starboard quarter up at 900 yds. The enemy aircraft turned to the attack and at 600 yds. the Rear Gunner gave combat manoeuvre dive starboard and opened fire. Two inner guns jammed almost immediately, but a long burst was continued with the remaining guns. The mid-upper also fired, a 5-second burst and hits were observed by both gunners. There was no return fire, and the enemy aircraft broke off attack at 250 yards, unable to get guns bearing. The enemy aircraft half rolled and disappeared to starboard down and was not seen again. Normal course was resumed. Visual Monica was inorder, but the WOP was taking down wind at the time. No clouds - no flares in vicinity. Illumination from target, no searchligth co-operation. Claimed damaged. 700 rounds expended.

Rear Gunner trained at 7 A.G.S. 16 O.T.U.
Mid-upper Gunner trained at 9 OAFCU, 16 O.T.U.

From: No. 5 Group H.Q.
To: Waddington - Coningsby - Scampton - E.Kirkby - Woodhall - Metheringham - Bardney - Skellingthorpe - Fiskerton - Dunholme - Spilsby - Syerston - INFO HQBC - Swinderby.

A. Form 'B' 146.
B. 5th January 1944.
C. 111 aircraft of 5 Group and 229 aircraft of other froups assisted by 72 aircraft of P.F. group will attack the target.
1st wave - 39 Lancs 1 Group 16 Lancs 3 Group ) Z to Z plus 4
37 Lancs 5 Group 12 Lancs 6 Group )
2nd wave - 38 Lancs 1 Group 16 Lancs 3 Group ) Z plus 4 to Z plus 8
37 Lancs 5 Group 11 Lancs 6 Group )
3rd wave - 37 Lancs 1 Group 17 Lancs 3 Group ) Z plus 8 to Z plus 12
37 Lancs 5 Group 11 Lancs 6 Group )
Any extra aircraft are to be evenly spread over the attack.
D. To cause destruction to an enemy port.
E. Night 5/6th January.
F. Waddington 48
Coningsby 20
Scampton 12
E.Kirkby 31
G. As passed by teleprinter NR OPS 1.
H. Usual.
J. Normal.
K. and L. as passed by teleprinter NR OPS 4.
M. Zero hour is 0345 hours.

| | Waddington | Scampton | E.Kirkby | Coningsby | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1st wave | 16 | 4 | 10 | 7 | 0345 to 0349 |
| 2nd wave | 16 | 4 | 10 | 7 | 0349 to 0353 |
| 3rd wave | 16 | 4 | 11 | 6 | 0353 to 0357 |

1st wave to be manned by specially selected experienced crews.

continued/

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.361

N. Bomb Loads.

'A' Load - 3 X 1000 lb G.P.
1 X 500 lb G.P.
5 SBC 150 X 4 lb Inc.
2 SBC 90 X 4 lb Inc.
3 SBC 12 X 30 lb Inc.
1 SBC 8 X 30 lb Inc.
100 X 4 lb Inc. to be X.I.B.

'B' Load.- 2 X 1000 lb G.P.
4 SBC 150 X 4 lb Inc.
1 SBC 90 X 4 lb Inc.
2 SBC 12 X 30 lb Inc.
50 X 4 lb Inc. to be X.I.B.

Petrol 2154 gallons.

1. Window is to be used in accordance with 5 GP O.I. No. 33 Rates of discharge on route to target rate C. Within 40 miles of target rate D. Remainder of homeward route rate C.
2. Non visual range 800 yards.
3. Datum height is 78,000 ft.
4. Method for tonight will be Newhaven ground marking with Wanganui as an emergency.
5. Route markers will be dropped at the following positions outward bound:- Posn. P. Flares green with yellow stars 5600N 1118E. Posn. 1 T.I. yellow 5405N 1323E.
6. The attack will open with sticks of flares and with T.I. green dropped in the target area. The aiming point will then be marked with T.I. red, and kept marked with T.I. green.
7. In addition, if cloud obscures the target, Wanganui flares red with green stars will be dropped throughout the attack to mark the release point.
8. Main force aircraft should aim their bombs at the centre of all green T.I. visible if cloud conditions prevent T.I.'s being seen, main force aircraft should aim their bombs at the centre of all flares red with green stars, while holding a heading of 143 degrees M. In this case bombsights should be set for true height and airspeed but zero wind.
9. Route markers flares green with yellow stars will be dropped at position R.5500N 1505E.
10. A spoof attack will be carried out on Whitebait using red and green T.I. at Z - 20
11. Aiming point is 300 yards. 43 degs from Sewin A.
12. Special Nickels H628A are to be carried where available.

Extract from No. 5 Group O.R.B.

STETTIN: 121 Lancasters were detailed to attack Stettin. 1 was cancelled, 120 took off, 1 returned early, 114 were successful and 5 aircraft are missing.

CASUALTIES: 57 Squadron - P/O. Douglas. 207 Squadron - F/Lt. Ebert. 619 Squadron - F/O. Day. 467 Squadron - F/O. Reynolds, P/O. Connelly.

RESULTS: Cloud cleared short of the target and the majority of crews bombed T.I's which were observed in great concentration. Many crews were able to identify the Docks and built up areas by the light of the target indicators and the defences were said to be half hearted. There were few fighters over the target and preliminary reports indicate this attack was highly concentrated and well placed.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.361

VERY SECRET.

## OPERATIONS NO. 463 SQUADRON R.A.A.F.

### 14th January, 1944.

B.C.I.N. 14/15.1.44. "Night Operations" BRUNSWICK: A strong force of Lancasters was detailed to attack. The force totalled 498 aircraft and comprised: - 151 Lancasters of 1 group, 57 Lancasters of 3 group, 153 Lancasters of 5 Group, 46 Lancasters of 6 Group, 89 Lancasters and 2 Halifaxes of 8 (PF) Group. 2 Mosquitoes of 100 Group co-operated.

The route was cloud free until the enemy coast and gradually thickened to 9/10ths to 10/10ths approaching the target.

The attack opened a few minutes early. It is difficult to assess the degree of concentration owing to the presence of markers which are believed to have been dummies. Most crews however, bombed on the sky markers and fires were seen through occasional gaps in the cloud and also reflected on the cloud. Defences over the target area are reported as moderate, but searchlights appeared to have been strengthened in the Hanover area where fighter activity was also strongest. Several combats took place and at least 4 enemy aircraft are claimed as destroyed.

38 aircraft are missing.

See Air Ministry Bulletin No. 12640.

A copy of this may be found with No. 460 Squadron Daily Operational Survey for this date.

O.R.B. 14/15.1.44. CREWS - BRUNSWICK.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lancaster III - ED. 949. | Aus. 416418. | P/O. Dunn, D.C. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Adams, H.F. | |
| | | F/O. Fidler, F.G. | |
| | | F/Sgt. Smith, E.Y. | |
| | | Sgt. McConnell, K.L. | |
| | | Sgt. Deakin, H. | |
| | Aus. 425641. | F/Sgt. Gloster, B.F. | |
| Lancaster I - ME. 580. | Aus. 15763. | F/Sgt. Freeman, J.P. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Callum, G.D. | |
| | Aus. 410768. | F/Sgt. Wilson, L.L. | |
| | Aus. 418374. | Sgt. Flanagan, G.H. | |
| | Aus. 419290. | Sgt. Bulmer, J. | |
| | Aus. 407982. | P/O. Brooker, W.R. | |
| | Aus. 428684. | Sgt. Frith, J.H. | |

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Operations 14/15.1.44.- contd.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lancaster III - ED. 606. | Aus. 420127. | P/O. Bowman, A.R.S. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Clarke, R. | |
| | | Sgt. Ball, D. | |
| | | Sgt. Barber, M.C. | |
| | | Sgt. Westgate, L.F. | |
| | | Sgt. Wilson, A.C. | |
| | | Sgt. Dobson, F. | |
| Lancaster III - JA. 973. | Aus. 415347. | P/O. McKnight, K.H. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Roberts, L.W. | |
| | | F/O. Isham, S.A. | |
| | Aus. 418425. | F/O. Johnson, C.J. | |
| | Aus. 410710. | F/Sgt. Nelson, S.J. | |
| | | Sgt. Winn, T. | |
| | | Sgt. Linford, K. | |
| Lancaster I - IL. 740. | Aus. 5684. | F/L. Mortimer, E.J. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Everard, H. | |
| | Aus. 420848. | P/O. Baggie, W.J. | |
| | Aus. 409963. | F/Sgt. Young, I.C. | |
| | Aus. 403028. | F/O. Jackson, L.E. | |
| | | Sgt. Lloud, G. | |
| | Aus. 415073. | P/O. Dease, M. | |
| Lancaster I - ME. 563. | Aus. 404368. | F/O. Wilson, F.E. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Felton, H.W. | |
| | | F/O. Billam, J.B. | |
| | | F/O. Newman, J.W. | |
| | | Sgt. Gunn, E.J. | |
| | Aus. 423724. | F/Sgt. Harrington, P. | |
| | Aus. 409488. | F/Sgt. Anderson, I.W. | |
| Lancaster III - ED. 545. | Aus. 412356. | F/O. Baker, G.F. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Rosen, A. | |
| | | P/O. Munton, C.R. | |
| | | F/Sgt. Hawtin, C.H. | |
| | | P/O. Scarles, B.L. | |
| | | Sgt. Bushell, P.D. | |
| | | F/Sgt. Child, L. | |
| Lancaster III - ED. 772. | Aus. 8687. | P/O. Saunders, A.J. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Redding, M.J. | |
| | | F/Sgt. Falconer, J.F. | |
| | Aus. 418100. | Sgt. Govett, D.D. | |
| | | Sgt. Sheen, T.A. | |
| | Aus. 426768. | Sgt. Tennent, K.C. | |
| | Aus. 422707. | F/Sgt. Robinson, D.M. | |
| Lancaster III - DV. 229. | Aus. 401510. | P/O. Foster, T.J. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Houghton, R. | |
| | | F/O. Burton, A.C. | |
| | | F/O. Falgate, D. | |
| | | Sgt. Jones, P.H.M. | |
| | | Sgt. King, A.V. | |
| | | P/O. Kirkpatrick, W.L. | |
| Lancaster III - EE. 191. | Aus. 401980. | S/L. Locke, H.B. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Holt, W.G. | |
| | | F/Sgt. Hassell, H. | |
| | | F/Sgt. Townsend, R. | |
| | | F/Sgt. Butler, L. | |
| | | Sgt. Brooks, J.L. | |
| | | F/Sgt. Munro, T. | |
| | Aus. 415412. | F/Sgt. Fairclough, L.S. | |

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Operations 14/15.1.44. contd.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lancaster I - DV. 338. | Aus. 412936. | P/O. Fayle, E.A. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Baker, C.T. | |
| | | F/O. Chappell, C. | |
| | | Sgt. Topham, L.E. | |
| | | Sgt. Farrell, R. | |
| | | Sgt. Vickery, A.L. | |
| | Aus. 425264. | F/Sgt. Bennett, B.P. | |
| Lancaster I - DV. 374. | Aus. 416893. | P/O. Roberts, J. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Wilby, J. | |
| | Aus. 416448. | F/Sgt. Muller, J.W. | |
| | Aus. 413526. | F/Sgt. Benzie, J.M. | |
| | | F/Sgt. Palmer, S.J.E. | |
| | | W/O. McCabe, H. | |
| | | Sgt. Pead, R. | |
| Lancaster I - HK. 535. | Aus. 414175. | P/O. Trimble, V.M. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Marles, A.J. | |
| | | F/O. Herriott, A.W. | |
| | | Sgt. Aldworth, B.T. | |
| | | Sgt. Nixon, R. | |
| | | Sgt. McNaughton, R. | |
| | Aus. 425678. | F/Sgt. Lawrence, J.P. | |

COMBAT REPORT.

Aircraft No. and Letter: "N" HK.535. Lancaster Type I.
Target: Brunswick. Night 14.1.44.
Captain: 414175 P/O. V.M. Trimble, Mareeba, N.Q.
Mid Upper Gunner: Sgt. McNaughton.
Rear Gunner: 425678. F/Sgt. J.Q. Lawrence, Brisbane.

NARRATIVE:

Time 19.22. Course. 299 M. Height 25,000 ft.
Speed 160 I.A.S. Position 52.05 N. 10.08 E.
First indication of fighter, crew saw tracer from port quarter down, which smashed elevators and port rudder. Rear Gunner then sighted F.W.190 break away to starboard up. Enemy aircraft then positioned itself on port quarter level and turned to attack at 400 yards. Rear Gunner gave Dive Port but was unable to fire due to lack of oxygen - pipe had been severed in first attack. Mid-Upper Gunner gave six-second burst at 300 yards and fighter was lost to sight starboard down for five seconds, and was then seen to dive to starboard in flames. Enemy aircraft was seen by Mid-Upper Gunner to dive through thin layer of cloud and blow up on the ground.
400 rounds of Ammo. expended. Visual Monica u/s/ throughout trip.
CLAIMED DESTROYED - not verified by other members of crew. Rear Gunner unconscious through lack of oxygen throughout seadond attack. No fighter flares and no searchlights co-operation.
Rear Gunner trained at 1 BAGS, 14 OTU, 1654 Con Unit. 1485
Mid Upper Gunner trained at 2 AGS, 14 OTU, 1654 Con.Unit. 1485.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.361

## COMBAT REPORT

Aircraft No. and Letter: EE. 191 "F" Lancaster Type III.
Target: BRUNSWICK. Night of 14.1.44.
Captain 401980 S/Ldr. H.B. Locke, D.F.C. Geelong, Vic.
Mid Upper Gunner. Sgt. Brooks. Rear Gunner F/Sgt. Munro.

NARRATIVE:

Time 19.15. hrs. Course. 145°M. Height 21,000 ft.
Speed 155 I.A.S. Position Target Area.

Wireless Operator reported contact Visual Monica 700 yards to port. Rear Gunner then sighted ME.210 at 400 yards diving down past port quarter of aircraft as though attacking another aircraft below not visible. The enemy aircraft opened fire at unseen target and rear gunner fired a short burst on which enemy aircraft ceased fire and was lost to view below. The flight engineer now sighted the enemy aircraft and reported strikes and saw fire break out on the enemy aircraft. The enemy aircraft was then lost to view and was not seen again. Claimed damaged.
9/10ths cloud over target area. No searchlight co-operation except that Hanover searchlights formed background along with a few fighters flares.
200 rounds expended.

Rear Gunner trained at 4 B&G, Fingal, Ontario, 19 O.T.U.
Mid Upper Gunner trained at 2 AGS, 19 O T.U.

## COMBAT REPORT

Aircraft No. and Letter: ED. 545 "J". Lancaster Type III.
Target: BRUNSWICK. Night of 14.1.44.
Captain: 412356 P/O. G.F. Baker, Sydney.
Mid Upper Gunner. Sgt. Bushell. Rear Gunner. F/Sgt. Childs.

NARRATIVE:

Time. 19.17 hrs. Course. 195 M. Height. 21,500 ft.
Speed. 170 I.A.S. Position Target Area.
Mid Upper gunner sighted ME. 110 at 1500 feet port beam down commencing attack on a second Lancaster on starboard beam down 1200 yards. The ememy aircraft opened fire on the other Lancaster from his quarter at which the mid-upper opened fire with a long burst, continuing to fire until the enemy aircraft broke away underneath. The engineer and Wireless Operator observed hits on the enemy aircraft which disappeared without attack on "J".
The Lancaster attacked went down inflames without returning fire. Visual Monica was working efficiently. 200 rounds expended. 10/10ths cloud - no searchlight co-operation - a very few flares. Claimed damaged.

Rear Gunner trained at 2 B.A.G.S. and 27 O.T.U.
Mid Upper Gunner trained at 4 A.G.S. and 1660 C.U.

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From: H.Q. No. 5 Group
To: Coningsby - Bardney - Dunholme - Woodhall - E.Kirkby - Swinderby - Metheringham - Spilsby - Waddington - Scampton - Syerston - Skellingthorpe - Fiskerton - INFO HQBC.

A. Form 'B' No. 148.
B. Date 14th January, 1944.
C. 147 aircraft of 5 Group and 293 aircraft of other groups assisted by 61 aircraft of P.F. group will attack the target.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1st wave - | 43 Lancs 1 Group | 21 Lancs 3 Group | Z to Z plus 4. |
| | 49 Lancs 5 Group | 16 Lancs 6 Group | |
| 2nd wave - | 42 Lancs 1 Group | 21 Lancs 3 Group | Z plus 4 to Z plus 8. |
| | 49 Lancs 5 Group | 17 Lancs 6 Group | |
| 3rd wave - | 42 Lancs 1 Group | 22 Lancs 3 Group | Z plus 8 to Z plus 12. |
| | 49 Lancs 5 Group | 17 Lancs 6 Group | |

D. To cause destruction to an enemy industrial centre.
E. Night 14/15 January 1944.
F.

| | |
|---|---|
| Coningsby | 34 |
| Scampton | 20 |
| E.Kirkby | 34 |
| Waddington | 59 |

G. As passed by teleprinter NR OPS 1.
H. Usual.
J. Normal.
K. and L. passed by teleprinter NR OPS 2.
M. Zero is 1915 hours.

| | Waddington | Scampton | E.Kirkby | Coningsby | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1st wave | 20 | 7 | 11 | 11 | 1915. - 1919. |
| 2nd wave | 19 | 6 | 12 | 12 | 1919. - 1923. |
| 3rd wave | 20 | 7 | 11 | 11 | 1923. - 1927. |

The first wave to be manned by specially selected experienced crews.
Any extra aircraft to be spread evenly throughout the attack.

N1. Datum height for tonight 90,000 feet.
2. Non visual Monica range 800 yards.
3. Window is to be used in accordance with 5 Group O.I. No.33 rates of discharge on route to target rate 'C' within 30 miles of target rate 'D'. Remainder of homeward route rate 'C'.
4. A route marker will be placed by P.F.F. at a point south of Salmon all crews are to be warned to keep south of this marker to avoid passing within range of the defences of Salmon.
5. Method for tonight 14/15th Jan. 1944 on Skate will be Newhaven ground marking with Wanganui as an emergency.
6. Route markers T.I. yellow will be dropped at position P 5252N 0840E outward bound.
7. The attack will open with sticks of flares and with green T.I. dropped in the target area.
8. The aiming point will be marked with T.I. red and kept marked with T.I. green.
9. In addition if the target is obscured by cloud the release point will be marked with bundles of flares red with green stars.
10. Main force aircraft should aim their bombs at the red T.I. is visible or at the centre of all green T.I. It should be noted that the red T.I. will be dropped in large salvoes at the beginning of the attack only.
11. If cloud obscures the T.I.'s main force aircraft should aim their bombs at the centre of all the flares red with green stars while holding an exact heading of 145M. In this case bombsights should be set for true height and air speed but zero wind.
12. Route markers T.I. yellow will be dropped at position " 5222N 0859E homeward bound.
13. Mosquitos will carry out spoof attacks on Grilse and Whitebait with T.I's and bombs.
14. Bomb abd Fuel Load.
All aircraft cleared for 65,000 lbs take off to carry a load remainder to carry B. Load.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 'A' Load. | 1 X 4000 lb HC. | SCAMPTON BASE IS TO CARRY 4 X |
| | 10 SBC 150 X 4 lb Inc. | 4000 LB G.P. AND CONINGSBY BASE |
| | 5 SBC 12 X 30 lb Inc. | 1 X 4000 lb G.P. INSTEAD OF THE |
| | 1 SBC 8 X 30 lb Inc. | 4000 lb HC. |
| | 150 X 4 lb Inc. to be XIB. | Fuel 1550 Galls. |
| 'B' Load. | 1 X 4000 lb HC. | |
| | 7 SBC 150 X 4 lb Inc. | 100 X 4 lb Inc to be XIB |
| | 3 SBC 12 X 30 IB Inc. | Fuel 1550 Galls. |

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.361

Extract from No. 5 Group O.R.B.

BRUNSWICK: 154 Lancasters were detailed to attack Brunswick, 1 was cancelled, 153 took off, 6 returned early, 149 were successful, 1 failed and 6 are missing. 1 aircraft of 57 Squadron (included in early returns) attacked Texel as a last resort.

CASUALTIES: 207 Squadron - P/O. Balfour, P/O. James, F/O. Kingston. 44 Squadron - F/Sgt. Curatolo, 49 Squadron - F/Lt. Tancred, 9 Squadron P/O. Argent.

RESULTS: The target was attacked in conditions of 10/10ths cloud with tops about 10,000 feet. Crews bombed release point flares which were scattered in the early stages, but concentration seemed to improve as the attack progressed. Opposition from flak was weak over the target, although several crews reported sightings of fighters in the target area. Several 'Rocket' defences fired from the ground were reported.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.361

VERY SECRET

## OPERATIONS NO. 463 SQUADRON R.A.A.F.

### 20th January, 1944.

B.C.I.N. 20/21.1.44. "Night Operations" BERLIN: The Capital of the Reich was the target for 769 aircraft. The force comprised: - 144 Lancasters of 1 Group, 62 Lancasters of 3 Group, 155 Halifaxes of 4 Group, 155 Lancasters of 5 Group, 97 Halifaxes and 47 Lancasters of 6 Group, 88 Lancasters, 11 Halifaxes and 10 Mosquitoes of 8 (P.F) Group. 5 Mosquitoes of 100 Group co-operated.

Weather gradually thickened en route to the target where clouds of 10/10ths., density prevailed with tops at 10,000 ft. to 15,000 ft. Practically all crews relied on sky markers as the ground markers quickly disappeared into cloud. The attack opened on time. Slightly scattered at the start on a line running from west to east across the City, the marker flares settled to a good concentration with the main concentrations at each end of the line. Reports indicate that the main weight of the attack fell between the two ends of the line drawn by the flares with the larger portion in the centre and at the east end of the line. Reflected in the cloud in a steady glow was visible long after leaving the target area and one particularly heavy explosion was noted at 19.37 hrs. and another at 19.47 hrs. Several fighters were seen, but few combats have been reported. Although Berlin this morning claims that the weather conditions indicated an attack and that they were ready for it, defences appeared somewhat meagre under the circumstances, and fighter flares less numerous than on previous occasions. In spite of Berlin's boast of readiness, there was distinctly more reaction on the homeward journey after the mission had been concluded. Flares were noted as far back as the Dutch coast.

35 aircraft are missing.

See Air Ministry Bulletin No. 12687.

A copy of this may be found with No. 460 Squadron Daily Operational Survey for this date.

O.R.B. 20/21.1.44. CREWS - BERLIN.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lancaster III - EE. 191. | Aus. 381. | W/C. Kingsford Smith R. | Captain |
| | | W/C. Day | |
| | Aus. 404343. | F/O. Kobelke, N.H. | |
| | Aus. 418216. | F/Sgt. Webb, B. | |
| | Aus. 404152. | F/L. Lyons, K.M.D. | |
| | | F/L. Moorhead, B. | |
| | | P/O. Rees, J.E.R. | |

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Operations 20/21.1.44. contd.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lancaster I - ME. 580.. | Aus. 402933. | S/L. Brill, W.L. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Smith, L. | |
| | Aus. 408678. | F/O. Freeman, E.R. | |
| | Aus. 412818. | F/Sgt. McMahon, W.D. | |
| | Aus. 403255. | F/O. Curtis, R.A. | |
| | Aus. 407149. | F/O. Fuller, R.O. | |
| | Aus. 426372. | F/Sgt. McDonald, D.J. | |
| Lancaster III - ED. 545. | Aus. 420654. | P/O. Fryery G. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Gracey, R.J. | |
| | | F/Sgt. Ward, J.B. | |
| | | Sgt. Healy, J. | |
| | Aus. 415500. | Sgt. Boultbee, A. | |
| | Aus. 422707. | Sgt. Robinson, D. | |
| | | Sgt. Owen, K.W. | |
| Lancaster III - DV. 374. | Aus. 416775. | P/O. Merrill, F.L. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Rawsthorne, F.D. | |
| | | Sgt. Knight, J.H. | |
| | Aus. 421300. | F/O. Hall, J.B. | |
| | Aus. 409935. | F/Sgt. O'Toole, M.K. | |
| | | Sgt. Turner, B.F. | |
| | | Sgt. Danckwardt, F. | |
| Lancaster III - ED, 949. | Aus. 420127. | P/O. Bowman, A.R.S. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Clarke, R. | |
| | Aus. 412712. | F/Sgt. Seton, L.R. | |
| | | Sgt. Barber, M.C. | |
| | | Sgt. Westgate, L.F. | |
| | | Sgt. Wilson, A.C. | |
| | | Sgt. Dobson, F. | |
| Lancaster I - LL. 740. | Aus. 415662. | P/O. James, C. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Morrison, G.A. | |
| | Aus. 422691. | P/O. Pettit, P.R. | |
| | Aus. 423600. | Sgt. Bewes, J.J. | |
| | Aus. 420463. | F/Sgt. Fitzgerald, B. | |
| | | Sgt. Harding, G. | |
| | Aus. 427354. | Sgt. Rosewarne, L.C. | |
| Lancaster III - HK. 536. | Aus. 405782. | F/L. Vowells, K.E. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Martin, E. | |
| | Aus. 413875. | P/O. Mahon, H. | |
| | | F/O. Bourke, D.H. | |
| | | Sgt. Broom, D. | |
| | | Sgt. Campbell, J. | |
| | | Sgt. Chalk, D.B. | |
| Lancaster I - DV. 338. | Aus. 412936. | P/O. Fayle, E.A. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Barber, C.T. | |
| | | F/O. Chappell, C. | |
| | | Sgt. Topham, L.E. | |
| | | Sgt. Farrell, R. | |
| | | Sgt. Vickery, A.L. | |
| | Aus. 425264. | F/Sgt. Bennett, B.P. | |
| Lancaster III - ED. 772. | Aus. 413219. | F/L. Martin, C.J. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Wynde, P.R. | |
| | Aus. 400246. | F/O. White, D.B. | |
| | Aus. 417174. | F/Sgt. Giles, B.K. | |
| | | Sgt. Pearson, F.J. | |
| | | Sgt. Wiggins, A. | |
| | Aus. 417392. | F/Sgt. Martin, C.H. | |

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Operations 20/21.1.44. contd.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lancaster III - ED. 606. | Aus.412969. | P/O. Kell, A.E. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Clark, J. | |
| | Aus. 413582. | F/Sgt. Hagar, J.L. | |
| | Aus. 13751. | P/O. Morieson, K.G. | |
| | Aus. 414544. | P/O. Evans, A.L. | |
| | Aus. 425234. | F/Sgt. Snell, F.W. | |
| | | F/Sgt. Child, J. | |
| | Aus. 415412. | F/Sgt. Fairclough, L.S. | |
| Lancaster I - DV. 374. | Aus. 416893. | P/O. Roberts, J. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Wilby, J. | |
| | Aus. 416448. | F/Sgt. Muller, J.W. | |
| | Aus. 413526. | F/Sgt. Benzie, J.M. | |
| | Aus. 415677. | F/Sgt. Palmer, S.J.E. | |
| | | W/O. McCabe, H. | |
| | | Sgt. Pead, R. | |

From: H.Q. No. 5 Group.
To: Coningsby - Waddington - Woodhall - Metheringham - Scampton - Fiskerton - Dunholme - Bardney - East Kirkby - Syerston - Skellingthorpe - Spilsby - INFO HQBC - Swinderby.

A. Form 'B' No. 150.
B. Date 20th January, 1944.
C. 150 aircraft of 5 Group and 506 aorcraft of other groups assisted by 72 aircraft of P.F. group will attack the target.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1st wave - | 41 Lancs 1 Group | 20 Lancs 3 Group ) | Z to Z plus 4. |
| | 50 Lancs 5 Group | 15 Lancs 6 Group ) | |
| 2nd wave - | 82 Hals 4 Group | 50 Hals 6 Group ) | Z plus 4 to Z plus 8 |
| 3rd wave - | 82 Hals 4 Group | 49 Hals 6 group ) | Z plus 7 to Z plus 11 |
| 4th wave - | 41 Lancs 1 Group | 20 Lancs 3 Group ) | Z plus 11 to Z plus 15 |
| | 50 Lancs 5 Group | 14 Lancs 6 Group ) | |
| 5th wave - | 40 Lancs 1 Group | 21 Lancs 3 Group ) | Z plus 14 to Z plus 18 |
| | 50 Lancs 5 Group | 15 Lancs 6 Group ) | |

D. To cause destruction to an enemy industrial centre.
E. Night 20/21 January 1944.
F. Coningsby 41
Scampton 22
Waddington 57
E. Kirkby 30
G. As passed by teleprinter NR OPS 1.
H. Usual.
J. Normal.
K. As passed by teleprinter NR OPS 2.
L.
M. Zero hour is

Waddi

ontinued/

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| | Waddington | Coningsby | Scampton | E.Kirkby | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1st wave | 19 | 14 | 7 | 10 | 1935 - 1939 |
| 4th wave | 19 | 14 | 7 | 10 | 1946 - 1950 |
| 5th wave | 19 | 13 | 8 | 10 | 1949 - 1953 |

All extra aircraft to be spread evenly throughout the attack.

N. Bomb Loads and Fusings.

'A' Load - 1 X 4000 lb HC.
7 SBC 150 X 4 lb Inc.
5 SBC 12 X 30 lb Inc.
100 X 4 lb Inc to be X.I.B.
Scampton base to carry 5 X 4000 lb GP. fused long delay up to 144 hours.

'B' Load - 2 X 1000 lb G.P.
1 X 5000 lb G.P.
5 SBC 150 X 4 lb Inc.
4 SBC 12 X 30 lb. Inc.
100 X 4 lb Inc. to be X.I.B. if G.P. bombs are not available. M.C. bombs to be carried.

1. Datum height tonight 62,000 feet.
2. Window is to be dropped in accordance with 5 Group O.I. No.33 rate of discharge on route to target rate 'C'. Within 40 miles of target rate 'D' Remainder of homeward route rate 'C'.
3. Non visual Monica range 800 yards.
4. Method for tonight 20/21st Jan 1944 on Whitebait will be mixed Wanganui and Paramatta.
5. Routemarkers flares green with yellow stars will be dropped at the following positions outward bound.
   Position P - 5425N 0800E.
   Position Q - 5322N 1243E
6. The attack will open with T.I. red dropped in the target area. The aiming point will then be marked with T.I. green and kept marked throughout the attack.
7. In addition the release point will be marked with bundles of flares red with green stars throughout the attack.
8. Main force aircraft should aim their bombs at the centre of all T.I. green visible. If cloud conditions prevent T.I's beinf seen, main force aircraft should aim their bombs at the centre of all bundlesof flares red with green stars while holding a heading of M. In this case bombsights should be set for true height and air speed but zero wind.
9. Routemarkers flares green with yellow stars will be dropped at position R 5138N 1220E homeward bound.
10. Mosquitos will carry out a spoof attack on Minnow with bombs and FL And TI red. Other Mosquitos will drop spoof fighter flares to the east of the target and will also drop a spoof routemarker TI red and flare red at position 5233N 1000E homeward bound.

Extract from No. 5 Group O R B.

BERLIN: 159 Lancasters were detailed to attack Berlin. 4 were cancelled 155 took off, 7 returned early (1 aircraft from 207 Squadron attacked Heligoland and one aircraft from 50 Squadron also attacked the same target) 146 were successful, 1 aircraft was missing.

CASUALTIES: 57 Squadron - P/O. McGillivray. Sgt. Turner M/U/G. aircraft 'R' of 463 Squadron dead in turret - believed due to lack of oxygen.

RESULTS: 10/10ths cloud again prevailed over the German capital. Pathfinders marked the release point with Wanganui flares and a fair concentration was reported by crews. Fighter activity was reported to be slight and no doubt the weather made it difficult for the enemy aircraft to operate successfully. There was 10/10ths cloud over the whole of the route, and although this passed close to several defended areas, crews did not report very much opposition. The outstanding part of this attack was the hight concentration achieved along the route due to the successful operation of the wind finding system now in use by the Group. Over 73 winds were passed back by crews.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.361

VERY SECRET.

## OPERATIONS NO. 463 SQUADRON R.A.A.F.

### 21st January, 1944.

B.C.I.N. 21/22.1.44. "Night Operations" MAGDEBURG: A strong force of 648 aircraft was detailed to attack. The force comprised:- 132 Lancasters of 1 Group, 43 Lancasters of 3 Group, 134 Halifaxes of 4 Group, 122 Lancasters of 5 Group, 69 Halifaxes and 45 Lancasters of 6 Group, 79 Lancasters, 21 Halifaxes and 3 Mosquitoes of 8 (PF) Group. 5 Mosquitoes of 100 Group co-operated.

Weather en route was mostly 10/10ths cloud which broke upon the approach to the target where conditions were 2/10 - 8/10ths. with tops between 3,000 - 10,000 ft. Markers and bombs were scattered to the south of the target area during the early stages, but a much better concentration was achieved as the attack progressed, when the P.F. markers became more accurate. Substantial fires were observed, the glow from which was visible up to 150 miles on the return journey, with smoke reported up to 15,000 ft. Several big explosions were seen in the target area. Flak defences were slight to moderate with a few ineffective searchlights. There was considerable fighter activity in the target area and fighter flares were reported on the route from the enemy coast to the target and on the homeward journey. Fighters were specially active between Hamburg and Bremen.

51 aircraft are missing.

See Air Ministry Bulletin No. 12705.

A copy may be found with No. 460 Squadron Daily Operational Survey for this date.

O.R.B. 21/22.1.44. CREWS * MAGDEBURG.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lancaster III - LL. 740. | Aus. 415662. | P/O. James, C. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Morrison, G.A. | |
| | Aus. 422691. | P/O. Pettit, G.A. | |
| | Aus. 423600. | Sgt. Bewes, J.J. | |
| | Aus. 420463. | F/Sgt. Fitzgerald, B. | |
| | | Sgt. Harding, G. | |
| | Aus. 427354. | Sgt. Rosenwarne, L.G. | |
| Lancaster III - JA. 973. | Aus. 408867. | P/O. Nancarrow, J. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Hughes, E.A. | |
| | | F/O. Jacques, R. | |
| | | Sgt. Stone, E.A. | |
| | | Sgt. Woolston, R. | |
| | | P/O. Reed, E.J. | |
| | Aus. 414925. | F/Sgt. Flute, K.R. | |

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Operations 21/22.1.44. contd.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lancaster III - EE. 191. | Aus. 420654. | P/O. Fryer, G. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Gracey, R.J. | |
| | | F/Sgt. Ward, J.B. | |
| | | Sgt. Healy, J. | |
| | Aus. 415500. | Sgt. Boultbee, A. | |
| | | Sgt. Hollis, J.H. | |
| | | Sgt. Owen, K.W. | |
| Lancaster I - ME. 580. | Aus. 15763. | F/Sgt. Freeman, J.P. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Callum, G.D. | |
| | Aus. 410766. | F/Sgt. Wilson, L.L. | |
| | Aus. 418374. | Sgt. Flanagan, G.H. | |
| | Aus. 419290. | Sgt. Bulmer, J. | |
| | Aus. 407982. | P/O. Brooker, W.H. | |
| | Aus. 428684. | Sgt. Frith, J.H. | |
| Lancaster III - ED. 5451 | Aus. 412356. | P/O. Baker, G.F. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Rosen, A. | |
| | | P/O. Munton, C.R. | |
| | | F/Sgt. Hawtin, G.H. | |
| | | P/O. Scarles, B.L. | |
| | | Sgt. Bushell, P.D. | |
| | | F/Sgt. Child, J. | |
| Lancaster III - KH. 536712. | Aus. 420127. | P/O. Bowman, A.R.S. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Clarke, R. | |
| | Aus. 412712. | F/Sgt. Seton, L.R. | |
| | | Sgt. Barber, M.C. | |
| | | Sgt. Westgate, L.F. | |
| | | Sgt. Wilson, A.C. | |
| | | Sgt. Dobson, F. | |
| Lancaster III - ED. 772. | Aus. 8687. | P/O. Saunders, A.J. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Redding, M.J. | |
| | | F/Sgt. Falconer, J.F. | |
| | | Sgt. Govett, D.D. | |
| | | Sgt. Sheen, T.A. | |
| | Aus. 426768. | Sgt. Tennett, K.C. | |
| | Aus. 422707. | F/Sgt. Robinson, D.M. | |
| Lancaster III - ED. 949. | Aus. 415412. | F/Sgt. Fairclough, L.S. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Verner, N.A. | |
| | Aus. 414622. | F/Sgt. Carius, L.R. | |
| | Aus. 417174. | Sgt. Giles, P.K. | |
| | Aus. 410581. | Sgt. White, A.J. | |
| | | Sgt. Robinson, D. | |
| | | F/Sgt. McLean, J.G. | |
| Lancaster I - DV. 338. | Aus. 412936. | P/O. Fayle, E.A. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Baker, C.T. | |
| | | F/O. Chappell, C. | |
| | | Sgt. Topham, L.E. | |
| | | Sgt. Farrell, R. | |
| | | Sgt. Vickery, A.L. | |
| | Aus. 425264. | F/Sgt. Bennet, B.P. | |
| Lancaster II - HK. 537. | Aus. 5684. | F/L. Mortimer, E.J. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Everard, H. | |
| | Aus. 420848. | P/O. Baggie, W.J. | |
| | Aus. 409963. | F/Sgt. Young, I.G. | |
| | Aus. 403028. | P/O. Jackson, L.E.A | |
| | | Sgt. Lloyd, G. | |
| | Aus. 415073. | P/O. Dease, M. | |

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Operations 21/22.1.44. contd.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lancaster I - DV. 374. | Aus. 416893. | P/O. Roberts, J. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Wilby, J. | |
| | Aus. 416448. | F/Sgt. Muller, J.W. | |
| | Aus. 413526. | F/Sgt. Benzie, J.W. | |
| | Aus. 415677. | F/Sgt. Palmer, S.J.E. | |
| | | W/O. McCabe, H. | |
| | | Sgt. Pead, R. | |
| Lancaster I - EE. 563. | Aus. 404368. | F/O. Wilson, F.B. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Felton, H.W. | |
| | | F/O. Billam, J.B. | |
| | | F/O. Newman, J.W. | |
| | | Sgt. Gunn, E.J. | |
| | Aus. 423724. | F/Sgt. Harrington, L. | |
| | Aus. 409488. | F/Sgt. Anderson, L.W. | |
| Lancaster III - DV. 229. | Aus. 401510. | P/O. Foster, T.J. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Houghton, R. | |
| | | F/O. Burton, A.C. | |
| | | F/O. Falgate, D. | |
| | | Sgt. Jones, P.H.M. | |
| | | Sgt. Wing, A.V. | |
| | | P/O. Kirkpatrick, W.L. | |

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From: H.Q. No. 5 Group.
To: Coningsby - East Kirkby - Scampton - Syerston - Waddington - Spilsby - Fiskerton - Woodhall - Bardney - Skellingthorpe - Dunholme - Metheringham - INFO HQBC - Swinderby.

A. Form 'B' No. 152.

B. 21st January, 1944.

C. 124 aircraft of 5 Group and 460 aircraft of other groups assisted by 73 aircraft of P.F. group will attack the target.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1st wave - | 38 Lancs of 1 Group | 16 Lancs 3 Group ) | Z to Z plus 4. |
| | 42 Lancs of 5 Group | 15 Lancs 6 Group ) | |
| 2nd wave - | 57 Hals of 4 Group | 40 Hals 6 Group ) | Z plus 4 to Z plus 8. |
| 3rd wave - | 58 Hals of 4 Group | 40 Hals 6 Group ) | Z plus 7 to Z plus 11. |
| 4th wave - | 39 Lancs of 1 Group | 16 Lancs 3 Group ) | Z plus 11 to Z plus 15. |
| | 41 Lancs of 5 Group | 15 Lancs 6 Group ) | |
| 5th wave - | 39 Lancs of 1 Group | 16 Lancs 3 Group ) | Z plus 14 to Z plus 18. |
| | 41 Lancs of 5 Group | 15 Lancs 6 Group ) | |

D. To cause destruction to an enemy inland port.

E. Night 21/22 January 1944.

F.
| | |
|---|---|
| Coningsby | 33 |
| E. Kirkby | 26 |
| Scampton | 16 |
| Waddington | 49 |

G. Ass passed by teleprinter NR OPS 1.

H. Usual.

J. Normal.

K. and L. as passed by teleprinter NR OPS 2.

M. Zero hour is

| | East Kirkby | Coningsby | Waddington | Scampton | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1st wave | 9 | 11 | 17 | 5 | 2300 - 2304 |
| 4th wave | 8 | 11 | 16 | 6 | 2311 - 2315 |
| 5th wave | 9 | 11 | 16 | 5 | 2314 - 2318 |

Any extra aircraft to be spread evenly throughout the attack.
1st wave to be manned by specially experienced crews.

N. Bomb Loads and Fusings.

'A' Load. 1 X 4 000 lb H.C.
9 SBC 150 X 4 lb Inc.
2 SBC 16 X 30 lb Inc. Coningsby base to carry 5 X 4000 lb G.P.
2 SBC 12 X 30 lb Inc.
150 X 4 lb Inc to be X.I.B.

'B' Load 3 X 1000 lb M.C.
1 X 500 lb M.C.
5 SBC 150 X 4 lb Inc. 100 X 4 lb to be X.I B.
4 SBC 12 X 30 lb Inc.

1. Datum height is 68,000 feet.
2. Window is to be used in accordance with 5 Group O.I. No. 33 rate of discharge on route to target rate 'C'. Within 40 miles of target rate 'D' remainder of homeward journey rate 'C'.
3. Petrol 1750 Galls.
4. Non visual Monica range 800 yards.
5. Method on Gilse will be Newhaven ground marking together with Wanganui skymarking in case cloud obscures the target.
6. Routemarkers will be dropped at the following positions outward bound:
Position P - Flares green with yellow stars 5405N 0740E
Position Q - Red spot fires 5316N 0951E.
7. The attack will open with sticks of flares and with green TI dropped in the target area.
8. The aiming point will then be marked with large salvoes of red TI it should be noted that these will only be dropped early in the attack and if conditions are suitable for visual marking.
9. The aiming point will then be kept marked with TI green throughout the attack.
10. If cloud conditions prevent TI's being seen the release point will be marked with bundles of flares red with green stars throughout the attack.
11. Main force aircraft early in the attack should aim their bombs at the red TI if these are visible. Otherwise at the centre of all green TI. Later main force aircraft should aim at the centre of all T.I. green.
12. If cloud conditions prevent TI's being seen main force aircraft should aim their bombs at the centre of all bundles of flares red with green stars while holding an exact heading of 214M. In this case bombsights should be set for true height and air speed but zero wind.

continued/

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13. Routemarkers red spot fires will be dropped at position R 5221N 1041E homeward bound.
14. It should be noted that a small force of Mosquitos and Lancasters will attack Whitebait at Z - 6. The Mosquitos will be dropping red and green TI.

From: H.Q. No. 5 Group.
To: Waddington - Coningsby - E.Kirkby - Scampton - Skellingthorpe - Metheringham - Spilsby - Fiskerton - Bardney - Woodhall - Dunholme - INFO HQBC - 8 Group Swinderby.

A. Form 'B' No. 154.
B. Date 21 January.
C. Two aircraft from each 5 Group Squadron will carry out a spoof attack on Whitebait with HE only.
D. To protect main force aircraft by forcing the enemy to send fighters to defend another target.
E. Night 21/22 January 1944.
F. Scampton 4
Waddington 8
Coningsby 6
East Kirkby 6
G. As passed by A.O.C.
H. Nil.
J. Usual.
K. and L. As passed by teleprinter NR OPS 4.
M. Zero Hour is 2253 hours.
N. Bomb Load.

| 1. | 'A' Load | 'B' Load. |
|---|---|---|
| | 1 X 4000 lb HC. | 1 X 4000 lb HC. |
| | 5 X 1000 lb MC. | 2 X 1000 lb MC. |
| | 1 X 500 lb MC. | 1 X 500 lb MC. |

Aircraft of 57 and 106 Squadron to reduce the above Loads by 1 X 500 lb MC. Aircraft cleared for 65,000 lb take off weight to carry Load A - Remainder to carry Load B.

2. Petrol Load 2050 Galls.
3. Window is to be used in accordance with 5 Group Operational Instruction No. 33 Rate of discharge on route to target to position C. Rate C. Between position C and position N rate D.
4. Mosquitos will drop T.I's red and green on D.R. positions, they will not therefore be accurately placed but will provide a general indication of target area.
5. Aircraft are to approach the target along direct route but are to diviate to North if necessary to avoid any concentrations of fighter flares or exceptionally heavy flak.
6. H2S aircraft are to endeavour to release their bombs on a built up area. Other aircraft are to bomb on D/R.
7. To achieve concentration for withdrawal no aircraft is to pass point K 5427 N 1250 E before a time to be notified later. Aircraft arriving early to orbit or fly a dog leg.
8. Route markers T.I. red along burning are to be dropped by 2 aircraft of 57 Squadron at position K. 5427 N 1250 E.
9. Route markers T.I. green long burning are to be dropped by 2 aircraft of 106 Squadron at position L 5535N 1118E.
10. Route markers will cascade from 3000' at each position.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.361

Extract from No. 5 Group O.R.B.

MAGDEBURG: 138 Lancasters were detailed to attack Magdeburg. 16 were cancelled, 122 took off, 5 returned early, 112 were successful, 1 aircraft attacked Erfurt, and four aircraft are missing.

CASUALTIES: 207 Squadron - P/O. Head. 44 Squadron - F/Lt. Buddick, 61 Squadron - Sgt. Martin. 467 Squadron - P/O. Mitchell.

RESULTS: A large force of Lancasters and Halifaxes attacked Magdeburg and the weather reports over the target varied from nil to 8/10ths cloud. The marking was not as concentrated as one would have liked it but there are reports of good concentration of fires, and some crews were able to identify built up areas. There were, however, many reports of bombing being scattered over a large area.

BERLIN: 24 Lancasters from 5 Group were detailed to carry out a 'Spoof' attack on Berlin, 2 were cancelled, 22 took off, 1 returned early, 19 were successful, 1 failed and one aircraft is missing. The aircraft that failed bombed Magdeburg was late at Position 'C'.

CASUALTY: 630 Squadron - F/Sgt. Homeward. It is thought that this 'Spoof' attack was responsible for the drawing off of the fighter force from the main target, at least in the early stages of the attack.

B.C.I.N. 21/22. 1. 44. "Night Operations" BERLIN. 19/22 Lancasters of 5 Group and 10/12 Mosquitos of 8 P.F. Group carried out a diversionary attack on the Capital under conditions of 7/10 - 10/10ths cloud. The glow of a few isolated fires was seen reflected on the cloud. No encounters with enemy aircraft have been reported.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.361

VERY SCERET.

## OPERATIONS NO. 463 SQUADRON R.A.A.F.

27th January, 1944.

B.C.I.N. 27/28.1.44. "Night Operations" BERLIN: The twelfth attack of the present series was carried out by a force of 536 aircraft, namely: 149 Lancasters of 1 group, 62 Lancasters of 3 Group 172 Lancasters of 5 Group, 48 Lancasters of 6 Group, 84 Lancasters and 21 Mosquitoes of 8 )PF) Group, 14 Mosquitoes, 6 Wellingtons and 1 Halifax of 100 Group co-operated.

Broken cloud gradually increased towards the target which was completely covered by 10/10ths strato-cu with tops at 12/15,000 ft.

The attack opened on time and using blind bombing technique the Pathfinders achieved a good concentration of sky markers. The cloud was too thick for accurate assessment, but crews report a good glow of fires and could see several explosions. The glow was visible for 150 miles on the way home. Mosquitoes bombing an hour later confirm that a considerable area of conflagration was outlined on the cloud. The only German Broadcast so far received refers to "another terror raid on the residential districts of Berlin."

Flak was moderate, the light flak appearing to be directed against the markers, but searchlights could not penetrate the cloud.

Considerable fighter activity was reported in the target area and on the route home, although the latter was entirely free from flak. A 6 Group aircraft claims to have destroyed an Me. 110.

445 aircraft attacked their primaries between 20.26 and 20.46 hrs. and 6 Mosquitoes between 21.30 and 21.40 hrs. 5 and 7 aircraft of 100 Group respectively completed intruder and S.D. patrols.

33 aircraft are missing.

See Air Ministry Bulletin No. 12769 and No. 12771.

Copies of these may be found with No. 460 Squadron Daily Operational Survey for this date.

O.R.B. 27/28.1.44. CREWS - BERLIN.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lancaster I - ME. 615. | Aus. 381 | W/C. Kingsford Smith,R. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Fairburn, R. | |
| | Aus. 404343. | F/O. Kobelke, N.H. | |
| | Aus. 418216. | F/Sgt. Webb, B. | |
| | Aus. 404152. | F/L. Lyons, K.M.D. | |
| | | P/O. Rees, J.E.R. | |
| | Aus. 416000. | F/O. Chapman, J.F. | |

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Operations 27/28.1.44. contd.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lancaster III - DV. 274. | Aus. 402933. | S/L. Brill, W.L. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Smith, L. | |
| | Aus. 408678. | F/O. Freeman, E.R. | |
| | Aus. 412818. | F/Sgt. McMahon, W.D. | |
| | Aus. 403255. | F/O. Curtis, R.A. | |
| | Aus. 407149. | F/O. Fuller, R.O. | |
| | Aus. 426372. | F/Sgt. McDonald, D.J. | |
| Lancaster III - HK. 537. | Aus. 15763. | P/O. Freeman, J.P. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Callum, G.D. | |
| | Aus. 410766. | F/Sgt. Wilson, L.L. | |
| | Aus. 418374. | Sgt. Flanagan, G.H. | |
| | Aus. 419290. | Sgt. Bulmer, J. | |
| | Aus. 407982. | P/O. Brooker, W.H. | |
| | Aus. 428684. | Sgt. Frith, J.H. | |
| Lancaster III - EE. 191. | Aus. 413977. | P/O. Gardner, J.W. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Brotherton, D. | |
| | | F/Sgt. Perkins, H. | |
| | | F/O. Grevstad, M.C. | |
| | | Sgt. Cuthbertson, J. | |
| | | Sgt. Mottram, R.J. | |
| | Aus. 418704. | F/Sgt. McGrath, J.R. | |
| Lancaster I - ME. 580. | Aus. 401510. | P/O. Foster, T.J. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Sykes, D.C. | |
| | | F/O. Burton, A.G. | |
| | | F/O. Falgate, D. | |
| | | Sgt. Jones, P.H.M. | |
| | | Sgt. Wing, A.V. | |
| | | P/O. Kirkpatrick, W.L. | |
| Lancaster III - LM.444. | Aus. 8687. | P/O. Saunders, A.J. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Redding, M.J. | |
| | | F/Sgt. Falconer, J.F. | |
| | Aus. 418100. | Sgt. Govett, D.D. | |
| | | Sgt. Sheen, T.A. | |
| | Aus. 424290. | P/O. Dawes, G.W. | |
| | Aus. 422707. | F/Sgt. Robinson, D.M. | |
| Lancaster I - ME. 563. | Aus. 409721. | F/O. Leslie, A.J.D. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Jones, R.R. | |
| | | W/O. Finn, T.V. | |
| | | Sgt. Wiggins, A. | |
| | | F/O. Chidgey, F.S. | |
| | Aus. 417275. | F/Sgt. Barrett, D.G. | |
| | | Sgt. Falconer, J. | |
| Lancaster I - ME. 614. | Aus. 401980. | S/L. Locke, H.B. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Holt, W.G. | |
| | | F/Sgt. Hassell, H. | |
| | | F/Sgt. Townsend, E. | |
| | | F/Sgt. Butler, L. | |
| | | Sgt. Brooks, J.L. | |
| | | F/Sgt. Munro, T. | |
| Lancaster III - IK. 338. | Aus. 415412. | F/Sgt. Fairclough, L.S. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Verner, N.A. | |
| | Aus. 414622. | F/Sgt. Carius, L.R. | |
| | Aus. 417174. | F/Sgt. Giles, P.K. | |
| | Aus. 410581. | F/Sgt. White, A.J. | |
| | | Sgt. Robinson, D. | |
| | | F/Sgt. McLean, J.G. | |

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Operations 27/28.1.44. contd.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lancaster III - HK. 536. | Aus. 420127. | P/O. Bowman, A.R.S. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Clarke, R. | |
| | Aus. 412712. | F/Sgt. Seton, L.R. | |
| | | Sgt. Barber, M.O. | |
| | | Sgt. Westgate, L.F. | |
| | | Sgt. Wilson, A.C. | |
| | | Sgt. Dobson, F. | |
| Lancaster I - IL. 740. | Aus. 29881. | F/L. Cooper, R.J. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Bull, F.C. | |
| | Aus. 409553. | F/Sgt. Kerr, G.J. | |
| | Aus. 406292. | F/Sgt. Christmass, L.H. | |
| | | Sgt. Robson, F. | |
| | | Sgt. Suthers, H. | |
| | | Sgt. Grist, R.J. | |
| Lancaster I - DV. 374. | Aus 416893. | P/O. Roberts, J. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Wilby, J. | |
| | Aus. 416448. | F/Sgt. Miller, J.W. | |
| | Aus. 413526. | F/Sgt. Benzie, J.M. | |
| | Aus. 415677. | F/Sgt. Palmer, S.J.E. | |
| | | W/O. McCabe, H. | |
| | | Sgt. Pead, R. | |
| Lancaster III - ED. 545. | Aus. 412356. | F/L. Baker, G.F. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Rosen, A. | |
| | | P/O. Munton, C.R. | |
| | | F/Sgt. Hawtin, C.H. | |
| | | P/O. Scarles, B.L. | |
| | | Sgt. Bushell, P.D. | |
| | | F/Sgt. Child, J. | |
| Lancaster I - DV. 338. | Aus. 412936. | P/O. Fayle, E.A. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Baker, C.T. | |
| | | F/O. Chappell, C. | |
| | | Sgt. Topham, L.E. | |
| | | Sgt. Farrell, R. | |
| | | Sgt. Vickery, A.L. | |
| | Aus. 425264. | F/Sgt. Bennett, B.P. | |
| Lancaster III - ED. 772. | Aus. 416418. | P/O. Dunn, D.C. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Adams, H.F. | |
| | | F/O. Fidler, F.G. | |
| | | F/Sgt. Smith, M.Y. | |
| | | Sgt. McConnell, K.L. | |
| | | Sgt. Deakin, H. | |
| | | F/Sgt. Gloster, B.F. | |
| Lancaster III - ED. 772. | Aus. 411652. | P/O. Messenger, G.L. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Clarke, R. | |
| | | Sgt. Holmes, M.F. | |
| | | Sgt. Brown, E. | |
| | | Sgt. Wooldridge, F. | |
| | | Sgt. Young, R.W. | |
| | | Sgt. Borrodaile, G.C. | |

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.361

From: H.Q. No. 5 Group.
To: Coningsby - Dunholme - Woodhall - Fiskerton - Metheringham - Waddington - E.Kirkby - Scampton - Bardney - Skellingthorpe - Spilsby - Syerston - INFO HQBC - Swinderby.

A. Form 'B' No. 157.
B. Date 27 January 1944.
C. 168 aircraft of 5 Group and 286 aircraft of other groups assisted by 74 aircraft of P.F. group willattack the target.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1st wave - | 34 Lancs 1 Group | 21 Lancs 3 Group ) | Z to Z plus 4. |
| | 56 Lancs 5 Group | 15 Lancs 6 Group ) | |
| 2nd wave - | 33 Lancs 1 Group | 21 Lancs 3 Group ) | Z plus 4 to Z plus 8. |
| | 56 Lancs 5 Group | 15 Lancs 6 Group ) | |
| 3rd wave - | 33 Lancs 1 Group | 21 Lancs 3 Group ) | Z plus 8 to Z plus 12. |
| | 56 Lancs 5 Group | 15 Lancs 6 Group ) | |

D.- To cause destruction to an enemy industrial centre.
E. Night 27/28th January 1944.
F.

| | |
|---|---|
| Coningsby | 44 |
| E.Kirkby | 40 |
| Waddington | 61 |
| Scampton | 23 |

G. As passed by teleprinter NR OPS 2.
H. Usual.
J. Normal
K. and L. as passed by teleprinter NR OPS 6.
M. Zero Hour is 2030 hours.

| | Waddington | Scampton | E.Kirkby | Coningsby | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1st wave | 20 | 8 | 13 | 15 | 2030 - 2034 |
| 2nd wave | 21 | 7 | 13 | 15 | 2034 - 2038 |
| 3rd wave | 20 | 8 | 14 | 14 | 2038 - 2042 |

Any extra aircraft to be spread evenly over the attack.
N. Bomb Loads.

| 'A' Load. | 'B' Load. |
|---|---|
| 1 X 4000 lb Inc. | 2 X 1000 lb MC. |
| 6 SBC 150 X 4 lb Inc. | 1 X 500 lb MC. |
| 4 SBC 12 X 30 lb Inc. | 4 SBC 150 X 4 lb Inc. |
| 100 X 4 lb Inc to be XIB. | 3 SBC 12 X 30 lb Inc. |
| | 50 X 4 lb Inc to be XIB. |

Petrol Load 2050 Galls.
1. Datum height 87,000 ft.
2. Window is to be used in accordance with 5 Group O.I. No. 33 Rates of discharge on route to the target rate 'C'. Within 40 miles of target rate 'D'. Remainder of homeward route rate 'C'/
3. At 2325 hours all aircraft are to alter course 30 deg. to port and fly on this course for exactly 10 minutes. They are then to set course for posn.G. All navigators are to ensure that their watches are correctly synchronised before take off.
4. Method for tonight 27/28th Jan. 1944 on Whitebait will be mixed Parramatta and Wanganui.
5. Routemarkers flares red steady will be dropped at the following positions outward bound.
Position P - 5200N 0950E
Position Q - 5235N 1150E
6. The attack will open with red T.I. dropped in the target area. The aiming point will then be marked with T.I. green throughout the attack. In addition the release point will be marked with bundles of flares green with red stars repeat green with red stars. It should be noted that these flares are the reverse to normal colours.
7. Main force aircraft should aim their bombs at the centre of all TI green visible. If cloud obscures TI's main force aircraft should aim their bombs at thebcentre of allflares green with red stars holding an exact heading of 100M. In this case bomb sights should be set for true height and air speed by zero wind.
8. Routemarkers red steady will be dropped at position R 5031N 0735E homeward bound.
9. Crews should be warned that Mosquitos will drop spoof routemarkers yellow T.I. and spoof fighter flares between Salmon and Eel. In addition spoof fighter flares will be dropped to the N.E. of the main target and a spoof routemarker T.I. green at position 5050N 0610E.

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Extract from No. 5 Group O.R.B.

BERLIN: 176 Lancasters were detailed to attack Berlin. 4 were cancelled, 172 took off, 13 returned early, 152 were successful and 7 aircraft are missing.

CASUALTIES: 463 Squadron - P/O. Leslie. 467 Squadron - P/O. Grugeon P/O. O'Brien. 9 Squadron - F/Lt. James, 57 Squadron - P/O. Wright. 61 Squadron - P/O. West. 49 Squadron - P/O. Barnes, Aircraft 'Q' of 61 Squadron ditched at position 4928N 0307W. and four of the crews were picked up.

RESULTS: Weather conditions over the target were 10/10ths Sc. with tops at about 10 - 15,000 feet and good visibility above cloud. Wanganui flares were dropped by Pathfinders in good concentration and crews had no difficulty in bombing these. The glow of fires was visible up to approximately 150 miles away with large explosions. On account of weather conditions observation of results was difficult but the special equipment carried by some aircraft indicated that the attack fell on the eastern end of the target. Defences were moderate and fighter flares were numerous though intense fighter activity was not reported until the raid was well in progress.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.361

VERY SECRET.

OPERATIONS NO. 463SQUADRON R.A.A.F.

28th January, 1944.

B.C.I.N. 28/29.1.44. "Night Operations" BERLIN: The 13th major attack of the present series was delivered by a force of 673 heavies and was preceded by a light attack by Mosquitoes made about 6 hours before the main attack, and was accompanied by diversionary bombing and minelaying and by intruder attacks and patrols. The early attack was made by 3 out of 5 Mosquitoes of 8 (P.F) Group which attacked from 27/28,000 ft. through 7/10ths to 10/10ths cloud, using navigational aids. The aircraft met no opposition but searchlights and fighter flares were seen.

For the main attack the following took off: 125 Lancasters of 1 Group, 39 Lancasters of 3 Group, 134 Halifaxes of 4 Group, 155 Lancasters of 5 Group, 90 Halifaxes and 34 Lancasters of 6 Group, 79 Lancasters, 17 Halifaxes and 5 Mosquitoes of 8 (P.F) Group.

There was broken cloud over the North Sea and a front with icing up to 20,000 ft. in the Denmark area, but weather improved later. Over the target there was 8/10ths to 10/10ths thin layer cloud through which groundmarkers and effects of bombing could be distinguished. Route marking was well executed and drew favourable comment, and at the target the marking technique which consisted of groundmarkers and release point flares, was punctual and concentrated and well maintained in spite of attempts bythe ground defences to shoot down the latter. At least 545 aircraft claim to have attacked and big fires were soon started and an exceptionally large and prolonged explosion was reported at the start of the attack, with two others later. The fires and explosions could be seen from beyond the Baltic coast on the return, and many experienced crews considered this to be the most effective attack they had seen. Flak opposition was rather greater than the previous night, being described as moderate to intense H/F, accurate predicted at first, giving way later to H/F and L/F in barrage. Searchlights were numerous but mostly ineffective owing to cloud. In the target area and between the target and the Danish coast, fighter flares and combats were fairly plentiful. Last resort targets included Sylt, where fires were started.

43 aircraft are missing.

See Air Ministry Bulletins No. 12784 and No.12782.

Copies may be found with No 460 Squadron Daily Operational Survey for this date.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.361

O.R.B. 28/29.1.44. CREWS - BERLIN.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lancaster III - ED. 949. | Aus. 416418. | P/O. Dunn, D.C. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Adams, H.F. | |
| | | F/O. Fidler, F.G. | |
| | | F/Sgt. Smith, M.Y. | |
| | | Sgt. McConnell, K.L. | |
| | | Sgt. Deakin, H. | |
| | Aus. 425641. | F/Sgt. Gloster, B.F. | |
| Lancaster I - ME. 580. | Aus. 5684. | F/L. Mortimer, R.J. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Everard, H. | |
| | Aus. 420848. | P/O. Baggie, W.J. | |
| | Aus. 409963. | F/Sgt. Young, I.C. | |
| | Aus. 403028. | P/O. Jackson, L.E. | |
| | | Sgt. Lloyd, G. | |
| | Aus. 415073. | P/O. Dease, M. | |
| Lancaster III - LM. 444. | Aus. 8687. | P/O. Saunders, A.J. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Redding, M.J. | |
| | | F/Sgt. Falconer, J.F. | |
| | Aus. 418100. | Sgt. Govett, D.D. | |
| | | Sgt. Sheen, T.A. | |
| | | Sgt. Harding, G. | |
| | Aus. 422707. | F/Sgt. Robinson, D.M. | |
| Lancaster I - ME. 614. | Aus. 412969. | P/O. Kell, A.E. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Clark, J. | |
| | Aus. 413582. | P/O. Hagar, J.L. | |
| | Aus. 13751. | P/O. Morrieson, K.C. | |
| | Aus. 414544. | P/O. Evans, A.L. | |
| | Aus. 425234. | F/Sgt. Snell, F.W. | |
| | Aus. 416000. | F/O. Chapman, J.F. | |
| Lancaster I - LL. 740. | Aus. 412356. | F/L. Baker, G.F. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Hughes, E.A. | |
| | | F/O. Jacques, R. | |
| | | Sgt. Woolston, R. | |
| | | Sgt. Stone, E.A. | |
| | | P/O. Reed, E.J. | |
| | Aus. 414925. | F/Sgt. Flute, J.F. | |
| Lancaster III - ED. 545. | Aus. 415412. | F/Sgt. Fairclough, L.S. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Verner, N.A. | |
| | Aus. 414622. | F/Sgt. Carius, L.R. | |
| | Aus. 417174. | F/Sgt. Giles, P.K. | |
| | Aus. 410581. | F/Sgt. White, A.J. | |
| | | Sgt. Robinson, D. | |
| | Aus. 414959. | F/Sgt. McLean, J.G. | |
| Lancaster I - ME. 615. | Aus. 15763. | P/O. Freeman, J.P. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Callum, G.D. | |
| | Aus. 410766. | F/Sgt. Wilson, L.I. | |
| | Aus. 418374. | Sgt. Flanagan, G.H. | |
| | Aus. 419290. | Sgt. Bulmer, J. | |
| | Aus. 407982. | F/O. Brooker, W.H. | |
| | Aus. 428684. | Sgt. Frith, J.H. | |
| Lancaster I - DV. 338. | Aus. 412936. | P/O. Fayle, E.A. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Baker, C.T. | |
| | | F/O. Chappell, C. | |
| | | Sgt. Topham, L.E. | |
| | | Sgt. Farrell, R. | |
| | | Sgt. Vickery, A.L. | |
| | Aus. 425264. | F/Sgt. Bennett, B.P. | |

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Operations 28/29.1.44. contd.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lancaster III - EE. 191. | Aus. 413977. | P/O. Gardner, J.W. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Brotherton, D. | |
| | | F/Sgt. Perkins, H. | |
| | | F/O. Grevstad, M.C. | |
| | | Sgt. Cuthbertson, J. | |
| | | Sgt. Mottram, R.J. | |
| | Aus. 418704. | F/Sgt. McGrath, J.R. | |
| Lancaster III - JA. 973. | Aus. 415528. | P.O, Hansen, P. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Molyneux, H. | |
| | | Sgt. Stevens, M.A. | |
| | | F/Sgt. Edgecombe, G.E. | |
| | | Sgt. Bowes, L. | |
| | | Sgt. Bligh, N. | |
| | Aus. 425315. | Sgt. Wilson, J.M. | |
| Lancaster III - HK. 536. | Aus. 420127. | P/O. Bowman, A.R.S. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Clarke, R. | |
| | Aus. 412712. | F/Sgt. Seton, L.R. | |
| | | Sgt. Barber, M.C. | |
| | | Sgt. Westgate, L.F. | |
| | | Sgt. Wilson, A.C. | |
| | | Sgt. Dobson, F. | |
| Lancaster III - DV. 229. | Aus. 401510. | P/O. Foster, T.J. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Houghton, R. | |
| | | F/O. Burton, A.C. | |
| | | F/O. Falgate, D. | |
| | | Sgt. Jones, P.H.M. | |
| | | Sgt. Wing, A.V. | |
| | | P/O. Kirkpatrick, W.L. | |
| Lancaster III - HK. 537. | Aus. 29881. | F/L. Cooper, N.P. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Bull, F.C.W. | |
| | Aus. 406292. | F/Sgt. Christmass, L.H. | |
| | Aus. 409553. | W/O. Kerr, G.J. | |
| | | Sgt. Robson, F.E. | |
| | | F/Sgt. Suthers, H. | |
| | | Sgt. Grist, R.J. | |
| Lancaster III - ED. 772. | Aus. 411652. | P/O. Messenger, G.L. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Steel, | |
| | | Sgt. Holmes, M.F. | |
| | | Sgt. Brown, E. | |
| | | Sgt. Wooldridge, F. | |
| | | Sgt. Young, R.W. | |
| | | Sgt. Borrodaile, G.C. | |

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.361

## COMBAT REPORT.

Aircraft No. and Letter: T - ME. 615. Lancaster Type I.
Target: BERLIN. Night of 28/29.1.44.
Captain: P/O. J.P. Freeman, 15763. Orange, N.S.W.
Mid Upper Gunner 407982 F/O. W.H. Brooker, Murray Bridge S.A.
Rear Gunner: 428684 Sgt. J.H. Frith, Lismore, N.S.W.

NARRATIVE:

Time 03.20 hours. Course. 150°M. Height 21,000 ft.
Speed 155 I.A.S. Position 52°55' N. 12°57' E.

Pilot sighted Enemy Aircraft on Starboard Bow crossing to Port Bow. He warned the gunners. The enemy aircraft appeared to make a wide turn to Port. The Rear Gunner then sighted the Enemy Aircraft, a F.W. 190 on a curve of pursuit attack from Port Quarter level at 350 yards, and opened fire with a long burst of fire, observing hits. The enemy aircraft seemed to explode and as it fell burst into flames. Still burning, it disappeared into the cloud layer below. Prior to the attack, a fighter flare was dropped close ot the Lancaster and the cloud layer was illuminated by searchlights. Aural Monica was fitted, but gave no indication of attack.

Enemy aircraft claimed Destroyed. 1,000 Rounds Expended.

Rear Gunner trained at No. 1 B.A.G.S. Evanshead. Australia. 27 O.T.U.
Mid Upper Gunner trained at No.2 B.A.G.S. South Australia. 27 O.T.U.

From: H.Q. No. 5 Group.
To: Scampton - Metheringham - Dunholme - Waddington - Bardney - Coningsby - Skellingthorpe - Woodhall - E.Kirkby - Spilsby - Syerston - Swinderby - INFO HQBC.

A. Form 'B' No. 158.
B. Date 28.1.44.
C. 144 aircraft of 5 Group and 448 aircraft of other groups assisted by 71 aircraft of P/F group.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1st wave - | 24 Lancs 1 Group | 19 Lancs 3 Group ) | Z to Z plus 3. |
| | 48 Lancs 5 Group | 13 Lancs 6 Group ) | |
| 2nd wave - | 58 Hals 4 Group | 41 Hals 6 Group ) | Z plus 3 to Z plus 6 |
| 3rd wave - | 57 Hals 4 Group | 42 Hals 6 Group ) | Z plus 6 to Z plus 9 |
| 4th wave - | 24 Lancs 1 Group | 19 Lancs 3 Group ) | Z plus 9 to Z plus 12 |
| | 48 Lancs 5 Group | 12 Lancs 6 Group ) | |
| 5th wave - | 23 Lancs 1 Group | 19 Lancs 3 Group ) | Z plus 12 to Z plus 15 |
| | 48 Lancs 5 Group | 13 Lancs 6 Group ) | |

D. To cause destruction to an enemy industrial centre.
E. Night 28/29th January, 1944.
F. Waddington 52
Coningsby 37
Scampton 23
E.Kirkby 32
G. As passed by teleprinter NR OPS 2.
H. Usual.
J. Normal
K. and L. as passed by teleprinter NR OPS.
M. Zero is 0315.

| | E.Kirkby | Coningsby | Scampton | Waddington | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1st wave | 10 | 12 | 8 | 18 | 0315 - 0318 |
| 4th wave | 11 | 13 | 7 | 17 | 0324 - 0327 |
| 5th wave - | 11 | 12 | 8 | 17 | 0327 - 0330 |

Any extra aircraft to be spread evenly over the attack.

continued/

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N. Bomb Loads:

'A' Load - 1 X 4000 lb HC.
6 SBC 150 X 4 lb Inc.
4 SBC 12 X 30 lb Inc.
100 X 4 lb Inc. to be X.I.B.

'B' Load - 2 X 1000 lb MC.
1 X 500 lb MC
4 SBC 150 X 4 lb Inc.
3 SBC 12 X 30 lb Inc.
50 X 4 lb Inc to be X.I.B.

Coningsby base to carry 1 X 4000 lb GP.
Fuel Load 2050 Galls.
Window is to be used in accordance with 5 Group O.I. No.33. Rates of discharge on route to target rate C. Within 50 miles of target rate D. Remainder of homeward route rate 'C'.
Datum height 78,000 ft.
Non visual Monica range 800 yards.
Aiming point is Whitebait C for information.
70 Stirs of 3 Group Gardening in Forget-me-nots with P.F.F. marking. Zero hour 2215 hours. They will go out and return via Positions A and B of the Whitebait route. This is tactically part of the main attack.
Method for tonight 28/29th January 1944 on Whitebait will be mixed Parramatta and Wanganui. Routemarkers flares red steady at 'P' 5510N 0832E 'Q' 5318N 1237E outward bound.
The attack will open with red T.I. dropped in the target area. The aiming point will then be marked and kept marked throughout the attack with T.I. green. In addition the release point will be marked throughout the attack with flares red with green stars. Main force aircraft should aim their bombs at the centre of all T.I. green visible. If cloud conditions prevent T.I's being seen main force aircraft should aim their bo,bs the centre of all flares red with green stars while holding a heading of 160M. In this case bombsights should be set for true height and airspeed but zero wind.
Routemarkers flare red dteady at 'R' 5400N 1200E homeward bound.
There will also be a spoof routemarker T.I. yellow 'W' at position 5206N 1245E and some fighter flares 25 mls. S.W. of the target.

Extract from No. 5 Group O.R.B.

BERLIN: 164 Lancasters were detailed to attack Berlin. 9 were cancelled 155 took off, 8 returned early, 140 were successful and 7 were missing.

CASUALTIES: 57 Squadron - P/O. McPhie. 630 Squadron - P/O. Storey, W/Cdr. Rollinson. 207 Squadron - F/Lt. Taylor. 463 Squadron - F/Lt. Cooper. 467 Squadron - F/Lt. Durston. 50 Squadron - F/Lt. Burtt.

RESULTS: Weather conditions at the target were 10/10ths thin Sc. with tops at about 10,000 feet. Crews bombed on Wanganui flares which were reported dropped by Pathfinders in good concentration. The glow of fires thus caused could be seen from the Baltic coast on the return journey and three major explosions were reported and confirmed by many crews. Flak over the target was moderate and fighter activity was also experienced by many crews.

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VERY SECRET.

OPERATIONS NO. 463 SQUADRON R.A.A.F.

30th January, 1944.

B.C.I.N. 30/31.1.44. "Night Operations" BERLIN: Berlin was again the target, the 14th attack being carried out by 540 aircraft, and bringing the bomb load of this series to a total of 23,588 tons.

The fofce comprised: 129 Lancasters of 1 Group, 44 Lancasters of 3 Group, 59 Halifaxes of 4 Group, 156 Lancasters of 5 Group, 37 Lancasters and 10 Halifaxes of 6 Group, 80 Lancasters, 13 Halifaxes and 12 Mosquitoes of 8 Group. In addition, 10 Mosquitoes and 5 Wellingtons of 100 Group co-operated.

The cloud over the target was 10/10ths., tops up to 12,000 ft., with good visibility above. 10/10ths., cloud was experienced from the North Sea until leaving the enemy coast on the return journey. The route was well marked by the Pathfinders.

The attack opened on 2012 hrs., and from then until 2030 hrs. an excellent concentration of markers was maintained. Over 450 abrcraft bombed on these skymarkers, but results were more difficult than usual to judge because of the density of the cloud, the bright moonlight and illumination of innumerable flares. Later aircraft, however, report a good show on the cloud, and a large explosion was seen at 2034 hrs. The whole target area was ringed with flares and there was considerable fighter activity both here and on the early part of the route home.

Two 5 Group aircraft each claim an Me.110, one of the aircraft having attacked the enemy fighter while it was in combat with another Lancaster.

12 of the 100 Group aircraft completed their missions, and the intruder aircraft claim 2 Me. 110 destroyed.

3 of the 5 Mosquitoes detailed to attack later bombed between 2100 and 2140 hrs.

Heavy flak at Berlin is reported as slightm the light flak again being directed at the markers. Searchlights were operating but ineffective.

33 aircraft are missing.

See Air Ministry Bulletin No. 12800 and No.12801.

Copies may be found with No. 460 Squadron Daily Operational Survey for this date.

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O.R.B. 30/31.1.44. CREWS - BERLIN.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lancaster III - ED. 545. | Aus. 415412. | F/Sgt. Faircloughm L.S. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Verner, N.A. | |
| | Aus. 414622. | F/Sgt. Carius, L.R. | |
| | Aus. 417174. | F/Sgt. Giles, P.K. | |
| | Aus. 410581. | F/Sgt. White, A.J. | |
| | Aus. 414959. | F/Sgt. McLean, J.G. | |
| | | Sgt. Robinson, D. | |
| Lancaster III - JA. 973. | Aus. 415528. | P/O. Hansen, P. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Hughes, E.A. | |
| | | Sgt. Stevens, M.A. | |
| | | F/Sgt. Edgecombe, G.E. | |
| | | Sgt. Bowes, L. | |
| | | Sgt. Bligh, N. | |
| | Aus. 424315. | Sgt. Wilson, J.M. | |
| Lancaster III - ED. 772. | Aus. 411652. | P/O. Messenger, G.L. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Marshall, H.W. | |
| | | Sgt. Holmes, M.F. | |
| | | Sgt. Brown, E. | |
| | | Sgt. Wooldridge, F. | |
| | | Sgt. Young, R.W. | |
| | | Sgt. Borrodaile, G.C. | |
| Lancaster III - ED. 949. | Aus. 416418. | P/O. Dunn, D. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Adams, F. | |
| | | F/O. Fidler, G. | |
| | | F/Sgt. Smith, M.Y. | |
| | | Sgt. McConnell, A. | |
| | | Sgt. Deakin, H. | |
| | Aus. 425641. | F/Sgt. Gloster, E. | |
| Lancaster III - DV. 229. | Aus. 401510. | P/O. Foster, T.J. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Houghton, R. | |
| | | F/O. Burton, A.C. | |
| | | F/O. Fabgate, D. | |
| | | Sgt. Jones, P.H.M. | |
| | | Sgt. Wing, A.V. | |
| | | P/O. Kirkpatrick, W.L. | |
| Lancaster III - HK. 536. | Aus. 413977. | P/O. Gardner, J.W. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Brotherton, D. | |
| | | F/Sgt. Perkins, H. | |
| | | F/O. Grevstad, M.C. | |
| | | Sgt. Cuthbertson, J. | |
| | | Sgt. Mottram, R.J. | |
| | Aus. 418704. | F/Sgt. McGrath, J.R. | |
| Lancaster III - LM. 444. | Aus. 413219. | F/L. Martin, C.J. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Wynde, P.R. | |
| | Aus. 400246. | F/O. White, D.B. | |
| | Aus. 413388. | F/O. Jacombs, R.N. | |
| | | Sgt. Pearson, F.J. | |
| | | Sgt. Hollow, J.T. | |
| | Aus. 417392. | F/Sgt. Martin, C.H. | |
| Lancaster I - DV. 374. | Aus. 416893. | P/O. Roberts, J. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Wilby, J. | |
| | Aus. 416448. | F/Sgt. Muller, J.W. | |
| | Aus 413526. | F/Sgt. Benzie, J.M. | |
| | Aus. 415677. | F/Sgt. Palmer, S.J.E. | |
| | | W/O. McCabe, H. | |
| | | Sgt. Peade, R. | |

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Operations 30/31.1.44. contd.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lancaster I - ME. 580. | Aus. 415280. | P/O. Smith, E.A. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Sykes, D.C. | |
| | | Sgt. Foath, K. | |
| | | Sgt. Woolston, R. | |
| | | Sgt. Stone, E.A. | |
| | | Sgt. Hollis, J.H. | |
| | | Sgt. Pike, G.R. | |
| Lancaster I - ME. 615. | Aus. 15763. | F/Sgt. Freeman, J.P. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Callum, G.D. | |
| | Aus. 410766. | F/Sgt. Wilson, L.L. | |
| | Aus. 418374. | Sgt. Flanagan, G.H. | |
| | Aus. 419290. | Sgt. Bulmer, J. | |
| | Aus. 407982. | P/O. Brooker, W.H. | |
| | | Sgt. Smith, J.H. | |
| Lancaster III - EE.191. | Aus. 412969. | P/O. Kell, A.E. | Captain |
| | | F/Sgt. Clark, J. | |
| | Aus. 413582. | P/O. Hagar, J.L. | |
| | Aus. 414544. | P/O. Evans, A.L. | |
| | Aus. 425234. | F/Sgt. Snell, F.W. | |
| | Aus. 416000. | F/O. Chapman, J.E. | |
| | Aus. 13751. | P/O. Morieson, K.E. | |
| Lancaster I - DV. 338. | Aus. 412936. | P/O. Fayle, E.A. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Baker, C.T. | |
| | | F/O. Chappell, C. | |
| | | Sgt. Topham, L.E. | |
| | | Sgt. Farrell, R. | |
| | | Sgt. Vickery, A.L. | |
| | Aus. 425264. | F/Sgt. Bennett, B.P. | |
| Lancaster I - ME. 614. | Aus. 413798. | P/O. Schomberg, C.C. | Captain |
| | | F/Sgt. Steels, H. | |
| | | Sgt. Ball, D. | |
| | Aus. 418704. | Sgt. Bowman, H.J. | |
| | | F/Sgt. Miller, W.S. | |
| | | F/Sgt. Child, J. | |
| | Aus. 414925. | F/Sgt. Flute, K.F. | |
| Lancaster I - LL. 740. | Aus. 402933. | S/L. Brill, W.L. | Captain |
| | | Sgt. Bishop, P.R. | |
| | Aus. 408678. | F/O. Freeman, E.R. | |
| | Aus. 412818. | F/Sgt. McMahon, W.D. | |
| | Aus. 403255. | F/O. Curtis, R.A. | |
| | Aus. 407149. | F/O. Fuller, R.O. | |
| | Aus. 426372. | F/Sgt. McDonald, D.J. | |

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## COMBAT REPORT.

Aircraft No. and Letter: L. M.444 Lancaster Type III.
Target: BERLIN. Night of 30.1.44.
Captain: F/Lt. C.G. Martin, 413219. Wagga N.S.W.
Mid Upper Gunner: Sgt. Hollow.
Rear Gunner: 417392. F/Sgt. C.H. Martin, Yorke Peninsular, S.A.

NARRATIVE:

Time 2025. Course. 150 Height. 20,500.
Speed. 165 Position Two minutes before target.

Bomb Aimer sighted JU.88. on starboard bow at 2025, E/A crossed to port in front of aircraft and circled round, on to starboard beam. Second JU.88 sighted astern at same time by R/G. who ordered corkscrew starboard. R/G. opened up on E/A with 4 second burst. E/A fired, trace passing underneath A/C (Camera in nose). Mid upper gunner unable tonget guns bearing. JU.88 on starboard beam was lost in corkscrew, and E/A behind broke away port quarter down and was not seen again.

10/10 cloud below, but sky lighted from target area.
R/G claimed E/A damaged.
No indication on Monica, as W/Ag was listening to Group broadcast.
150 rounds expended.

Rear Gunner trained at 3 B.A.G.S. Vic. Australia - 14. O.T.U. 1660 C.U. & 1485
Mid Upper aGunner trained at No.2 Dalcross Ebgland - 14 O.T.U. 1660 C.U. & 1485

From: H.Q. No. 5 Group.
To: Coningsby - Waddington - E.Kirkby - Spilsby - Scampton - Fiskerton - Metheringham - Syerston - Dunholme - Bardney - Skellingthorpe - Woodhall - INFO HQBC - Swinderby.

A. Form 'B' No. 159.
B. Date 30 January 1944.
C. 147 aircraft of 5 Group and 282 aircraft of other groups assisted by 64 aircraft of P.F. group will attack the target.

1st wave:
27 Lancasters 1 Group. 14 Lancasters 3 Group
13 Halifaxes 4 Group. 49 Lancasters 5 Group Z to Z plus 4.
11 Lancasters 6 Group. 4 Halifaxes 6 Group

2nd wave:
27 Lancasters 1 Group. 15 Lancasters 3 Group
14 Halifaxes 4 Group. 49 Lancasters 5 Group Z plus 4 to Z plus 8.
11 Lancasters 6 Group. 3 Halifaxes 6 Group

3rd wave:
26 Lancasters 1 Group. 15 Lancasters 3 Group
13 Halifaxes 4 Group. 49 Lancasters 5 Gfoup Z plus 8 to Z plus 12.
11 Lancasters 6 Group. 3 Halifaxes 6 Group.

D. To cause destruction to an enemy industrial centre.
E. Night 30/31 January 1944.
F. Coningsby 41
E.Kirkby 33
Scampton 23
Waddington 50
G. As passed by teleprinter NR OPS 2.
H. Usual.
J. Normal.
K. and L. As passed by teleprinter NR OPS 5.
M. Zero hour is 2015.

| | E.Kirkby | Waddington | Coningsby | Scampton | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1st wave | 11 | 17 | 13 | 8 | 2015 - 2019 |
| 2nd wave | 11 | 17 | 14 | 7 | 2019 - 2023 |
| 3rd wave | 11 | 16 | 14 | 8 | 2023 - 2027 |

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Any extra aircraft to be spread evenly over the attack.

N. Bomb Loads and Fusings.

A Load.
1 X 4000 lb HC.
8 SBC 150 X 4 lb Inc.
2 SBC 16 X 30 LB Inc. 100 X 4 lb Inc to be X.I.B.
2 SBC 12 X 30 LB Inc.
1 SBC 8 X 30 LB Inc.

B Load.
3 X 1000 lb M.C.
5 SBC 150 X 4 lb Inc. 100 X 4 lb Inc to be X.I.B.
3 SBC 12 X 30 lb Inc.
1 SBC 8 X 30 LB Inc.

1. Non visual Monica range 800 yards.
2. Window is to be used in accordance with 5 Group O.I. No.33 Rates of discharge on route to target rate 'C' within 50 miles of target rate 'D' Remainder of homeward route rate 'C'.
3. Petrol Load 1850 Galls.
4. Datum height 72,000 ft.
5. Method for tonight 30/31st Jan. 1944 on Whitebait will be mixed Wanganui and Paramatta.
6. Routemarkers flares red steady at Positions P - 5436N 0850E and Position 'Q' 5318N 1231E outward bound.
7. The attack will open with T.I. red dropped in the target area. The aiming point will then be marked with T.I. green and kept marked throughout the attack. In addition bundles of flares red with green stars will be dropped throughout the attack to mark the release point.
8. The Main force aircraft should aim their bombs at the centre of all green T.I. visible. If cloud conditions prevent T.I's being seen main force aircraft should aim their bombs at the centre of all flares red with green stars while holding an exact heading of 155 M. In this case bomb sights should be set for true height and air speed but zero wind.
9. Routemarkers flares red steady at Positions 'R' 5200N 1212E homeward bound.
10. Crews should be warned that spoof fighter flares and spoof routemarkers flares red steady will be dropped by Mosquitos 30 miles to the south east of the target.

Extract from No. 5 Group O.R.B.

BERLIN: 158 Lancasters were detailed to attack Berlin. 2 were cancelled, 156 took off, 7 returned early, 138 were successful and 11 are missing.

CASUALTIES: 106 Squadron - P/O. Kirkland. 207 Squadron - P/O. Burnett, P/O Broad, P/O. Moore, 44 Squadron - P/O. Lyford, P/O. Johnson, 463 Squadron - P/O. Dunn, P/O. Messenger, P/O. Hanson, F/Sgt. Fairclough. 467 Squadron - P/O Riley.

RESULTS: Berlin was again attacked. Conditions of 10/10ths cloud with good visibility above prevailed over the target and crews had no difficulty in bombing the Wanganui flares which were dropped by Pathfinders in good concentration. Opposition from fighters was encountered both on the routes into and out of the target, although fighters were not exceptionally evident in the target area. Weather conditions made observation difficult, although a faint flow of fires was visible up to 50 miles on the return journey.

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## FEBRUARY, 1944.

February 6th, 1944. VISIT. S/Ldr. Vincent, R.A.A.F. Liaison officer at Bomber Command, and F/Lt. Cartwright from 5 Group Headquarters, visited the Squadron.

February 13th, 1944. SPORT. An Australian Rules football match was played on the Station between R.A.A.F. Overseas Headquarters team and a team picked from 463 and 467 Squadrons.

February 15th, 1944. RAID ON BERLIN. Seventeen aircraft took off and sixteen attacked Berlin. Cloud over the target made observation of results difficult but the glow of fires could be seen. Flak was heavy. One aircraft abandoned mission owing to engine trouble. All returned safely.

February 19th, 1944. RAID ON LEIPZIG. Eighteen aircraft took off to attack Leipzig. Sixteen were successful, one abandoned mission due to engine trouble, and one failed to return. Seems to have been a very successful and concentrated attack and the glow of fires could be seen 100 miles away. The missing crew was: - Aus. 412936 P/O. Fayle, E.A., Sgt. Baker, C.T., F/O. Chappell, L., Sgt. Topham, L.K., Sgt. Farrell, R.J., Sgt. Vickery, A.L.N., and Aus. 425264 F/Sgt. Bennett, B.P.

February 20th, 1944. RAID ON STUTTGART. Fourteen aircraft took off and successfully attacked Stuttgart. Fires were very concentrated, the glow being seen 200 miles away. All aircraft returned safely.

February 23rd, 1944. VISIT. S/Ldr. W.B. Tart and his successor S/Ldr. D.N. Gillison from R.A.A.F. Overseas Headquarters, London visited the Squadron.

February 24th, 1944. RAID ON SCHWEINFURT. Seventeen aircraft set off to bomb Schweinfurt. Fourteen attacked, one abandoned mission owing to engine trouble, and two failed to return. A very successful raid, the whole target area was covered with fire. The missing crews were: - Aus. 255684 F/Lt. Mortimer, R.J., Sgt. Everard, H., Aus. 420848 P/O. Baggie, W.J., Aus. 403028 P/O. Jackson, L.E., Aus. 415073 P/O. Dease, M., Sgt. Lloyd, G. - Aus. 413219 F/Lt. Martin, C.J., Sgt. Wynde, P., Aus. 400246 F/O. White, D.B., Aus. 413388 F/O. Jacombs, R.N., Sgt. Pearson, F.J., Sgt. Hollow, J.T. Aus. 417392 F/Sgt. Martin, C.H.

February 25th, 1944. RAID ON AUGSBURG. Out of thirteen starters, twelve attacked Augsburg. One failed to return. Generally considered a very successful raid, a very large explosion was seen in the target area and aircraft in the second wave report that fires had taken a good hold and could be seen 150 miles away. Lancaster captained by Aus. 415280 P/O. E.A.L. Smith was engaged by a FW.190. The Lancaster was damaged and the FW destroyed. The missing crew was: - Aus. 415345 P/O. McKnight, K.H., Sgt. Roberts, L.W., F/O. Isham, S.A., Aus. 410710 F/O. Nelson, S.J., Aus. 418425 F/O. Johnson, C.J., Sgt. Winn, T., Sgt. Linford, K.

February 27th, 1944. AWARD. The award of the Distinguished Flying Medal to Sgt. W.G. Holt was gazetted today.

STATISTICS. Statistics from formation up to 29.2.44

Hours 1565
Sorties 242
Miles 313,012
Tons 1072

Enemy aircraft destroyed - 1.

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VERY SECRET

# OPERATIONS No. 463 SQUADRON, R.A.A.F.

## 15th February, 1944

B.C.I.N. 15/16.2.44 "Night Operations." BERLIN. A total of 891 a/c were despatched to renew the attack on the German capital; this is the largest force employed on this target up to the present time. It consisted of: -

161 Lancasters of 1 Group.
66 Lancasters of 3 Group
177 Halifaxes of 4 Group
226 Lancasters of 5 Group
32 Lancasters and 118 Halifaxes of 6 Group
16 Mosquitoes, 19 Halifaxes and 76 Lancasters of 8 (P.F.) Group.

There was broken cloud over the North Sea which gradually thickened until it was 10/10ths thick cloud over the target with tops reported from 6,000 to 12,000 feet. At least 754 a/c attacked, bombing the P.F. markers, the majority of crews bombing on the R.P. flares which were reasonably well concentrated. Results were unobserved in the early stages of the attack owing to the density of the cloud, later reports, however, indicate that a good concentration was achieved and several large explosions were seen. Aircraft on the target after the main force had left, report a huge pall of black smoke over the city rising to a height of approximately 20,000 ft, also a large pear-shaped area of fire tapering to the south and centre in the north and north-east of the target area.

Flak defences were more intense than usual in the early stages, but died down as the attack progressed. The usual fighter flares were seen over the target, but there were fewer sightings of enemy fighters than usual.

Some reports are still outstanding. 42 a/c are missing.

See Air Ministry Bulletin No. 12960

A copy may be found with No. 460 Squadron Daily Operational Survey for this date.

Extract from No. 5 Group O.R.B.

BERLIN. 226 Lancasters were detailed to attack Berlin. 226 took off, 12 returned early, 207 were successful, 5 were missing, 1 aircraft from 630 Squadron crashed at East Kirkby and aircraft 'K' of 106 Squadron crashed at Timberland.

Casualties: - Five aircraft failed to return.

Results: - 226 Lancasters were detailed and took off, this being a record for the Group. The German capital was covered in 10/10ths cloud and although some T.I's were seen in the early stages of the attack, the majority of crews bombed on Wanganui flares. Crews in later waves reported glows from fires below the cloud and a large explosion at 2100 hours was reported. Defences over the target were heavier than usual, this possibly being due to fighter opposition being less intense than usual.

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VERY SECRET

OPERATIONS No. 463 SQUADRON, R.A.A.F.

19th February, 1944

B.C.I.N. 19/20.2.44 "Night Operations." LEIPZIG. The largest force yet despatched to attack this target comprised 823 aircraft, namely: -

170 Lancasters of 1 Group
62 Lancasters of 3 Group
140 Halifaxes of 4 Group
209 Lancasters of 5 Group
98 Halifaxes & 31 Lancasters of 6 Group
89 Lancasters, 17 Halifaxes and 7 Mosquitoes of 8 (P.R.) Group.

Broken cloud was encountered over the North Sea and as far as Hanover from which point cloud was 10/10ths. with tops up to about 10,000 ft. Visibility above cloud was good. Winds lighter than forecast, resulted in most aircraft being ahead of time and they either zigzagged on the last leg or circled the target area until the P.F. markers appeared. The markers were slightly early and owing to the large number of aircraft in the target area at the start, the attack developed very quickly. An excellent concentration of skymarkers was achieved and maintained, and in general the skymarkers were bombed rather than the ground markers which disappeared into cloud, though enemy efforts to shoot down the skymarkers with L/F were reported more successful than usual. The glow of many fires was seen through cloud, and smoke rose to a great height. H/F at target was slight to moderate, and S/L's were not numerous. On the way to the target, fighters were very active, chiefly between the Dutch coast and Hanover and in the area between Stendal and Juterbog. Fighters were also over the target, but not until about halfway through the attack. The route home was reported practically free from fighters. 78 aircraft are missing.

See Air Ministry Bulletins Nos. 12999 & 13017.

Copies may be found with No. 460 Squadron Daily Operational Survey of this date.

Extract from No. 5 Group O.R.B.

LEIPZIG. 214 Lancasters were detailed to attack Leipzig. 6 were cancelled, 209 took off, 16 returned early, 181 were successful and 12 aircraft were missing.

Casualties. 12 aircraft.

Results: - The T.O.T. was from 0400 - 0419. Weather over the target was 10/10ths with the result that crews bombed on release point flares which were dropped by Pathfinders in very fair concentration. Weather conditions prevented actual observation of results beyond reflected glows of fires which were reported up to 80 miles away. Fighter activity in the target was normal but flak and searchlights were reported to be ineffective.

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VERY SECRET

OPERATIONS No. 460 SQUADRON, R.A.A.F.

20th February, 1944.

B.C.I.N. 20/21.2.44 Night Operations." STUTTGART. 598 aircraft were despatched. The force comprised: -

130 Lancasters of 1 Group
49 Lancasters of 3 Group
69 Halifaxes of 4 Group
176 Lancasters of 5 Group
25 Lancasters & 41 Halifaxes of 6 Group
12 Mosquitoes, 80 Lancasters & 16 Halifaxes of 8 (P.F.) Group.

At least 530 aircraft of the 598 despatched, attacked in early conditions of 8/10ths cloud. As the attacke developed cloud decreased to as little as 3/10ths and visibility was good. Early arrivals found it necessary to orbit for some minutes before the markers went down dead on time. As the clouds cleared it was possible to pick out the characteristic bend of the Neckar to the North of the town, and thus verify the accuracy of the marker placing. The attack is thought to have been well concentrated with a tendency to spread to the north. Intense fires took a firm hold and the glow could be seen for 100 miles on the return journey. Several large explosions were noted. A particularly large one at 0404 is reported by several crews.

A Mosquito over the target at 0520 reports a big area of fire in the Southern area of the Town and an exceptionally large fire to the north and others to the N.W.

Only moderate ground opposition was experienced from the target area, and fighters were unusually quiet, due no doubt, in big part to the diversionary activity of the O.T.U. and other groups.

9 aircraft are missing.

Extracts from the German High Command Communique strive to hide the failure of their defences by including their claims against the U.S.A. day operations in the total.

See Air Ministry Bulletins Nos. 13011, 13034 & 13373.

Copies may be found with No. 460 Squadron Daily Operational Survey of this date.

Extract from No. 5 Group O.R.B.

STUTTGART. 192 Lancasters were detailed to attack Stuttgart. 16 were cancelled, 176 took off, 9 returned early, 162 were successful, 3 were missing and two aircraft crashed on the runway on take off.

Casualties: - 3 aircraft.

Results: - The 176 Lancasters which took off were carrying the usual bomb load of H.E. and incendiaries. The target was obscured by 7/10ths thin cloud with tops at 6-8,000 ft, but in spite of this the majority of crews in the early stages of the attack were able to see built up areas through

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gaps in the cloud. Both Wanganui flares and T.I's were bombed and fires were reported, the glow from which could be seen at a considerable distance on the homeward journey. Opposition from Both flak and fighters was reported to be less than usual.

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VERY SECRET

OPERATIONS No. 460 SQUADRON, R.A.A.F.

24th February, 1944

B.C.I.N. 24/25.2.44 "Night Operations." SCHWEINFURT was the main target, 734 aircraft being despatched to make two separate but co-ordinated attacks, following a daylight attack by the Eighth Air Force.

The first force, due to arrive at the target at 2305 hours, comprised 392 aircraft, namely 70 Lancasters of 1 Group, 22 of 3 Group, 66 of 5 Group, 13 of 6 Group, 87 and 64 Halifaxes respectively of 4 and 6 Groups, with 6 Mosquitoes, 44 Lancasters and 20 Halifaxes of 8 (P.F.) Group.

The second force, due two hours later, comprised 342 aircraft, being 86 Lancasters of 1 Group, 45 of 3 Group, 138 of 5 Group and 22 of 6 Group with 5 Mosquitoes and 46 Lancasters of 8 (P.F.) Group.

The first aircraft found cloudless skies and good visibility, and the target, which could be visually identified, was accurately and plentifully marked by the Pathfinders. Some accurate bombing followed, and a good concentration of fires was established. Some bombs are reported as falling short, and large areas of fire were seen in all quarters of the comparatively small town.

The second force, who could see fires while still 70 miles from the target, were, like the first, met by a moderate to intense flak barrage, which in both cases diminished towards the later stages of the attack, possibly due to the arrival of fighters.

By 0100 hours the target was partially obscured by thick palls of smoke, but fierce fires could be seen and markers fell accurately over built-up areas. Bombing was again accurate, and the target was left with extending fires which could be seen for over 100 miles on the way home. 627 had attacked.

Both forces went in from the south, but on the way home the first took a northerly route and second a southerly. Fighters were active over the target and on the way in, particularly from Stuttgart to the target, but few fighters on the homeward routes have been reported. Several aircraft met very little opposition, one reporting that activity was lacking to the point of boredom.

12 Mosquitoes of 100 Group gave fighter support to the bomber force.

33 aircraft are missing.

See Air Ministry Bulletins Nos. 13076 & 13303.

Copies may be found with No. 460 Squadron Daily Operational Survey of this date.

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Extract from No. 5 Group O.R.B.

SCHWEINFURT. 205 aircraft from this Group were detailed to attack Schweinfurt. 1 was cancelled, 204 took off, 18 returned early, 179 were successful and 7 are missing.

Casualties: - 7 aircraft.

Results: - The attack was planned in two states, the first zero hour being 2305 and the second at 0105 hours. For the first attack the target was attacked in clear weather and the majority of the force successfully bombed red T.I's dropped by the Pathfinders. Fighter activity was reported on the outward journey, but few fighters were actually seen over the target area. The second attack, which followed some two hours later, was again concentrated and many crews reported fires, possibly from the first attack, on their approach to the target. Fighter activity was reported to be slight in the second phase and both searchlights and flak inaccurate.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.361

VERY SECRET

# OPERATIONS No. 463 SQUADRON, R.A.A.F.

## 25th February, 1944

B.C.I.N. 25/26.2.44 "Night Operations". AUGSBURG. 595 aircraft were despatched in two phases of approximately equal numbers, due at the target at 2245 hours and 0115 hours respectively. The Messerschmitt plant at Augsburg had been attacked at about 1400 hours by 194 Fortresses of the U.S.8th Air Force. The force was made up as follows: -

141 Lancasters of 1 Group
49 Lancasters of 3 Group
62 Halifaxes of 4 Group
165 Lancasters of 5 Group
21 Lancasters and 44 Halifaxes of 6 Group
88 Lancasters 17 Halifaxes and 10 Mosquitoes of 8 (P.F.) Group.

Broken cloud was encountered at first on the route but on approaching the target the sky cleared and there was little or no cloud and good visibility at the target. The snow-covered town and the railway and river junction could be clearly identified by early arrivals in the light of flares and the P.F. markers were reported accurately placed. Although the markers were punctual some bombing was observed before-hand. Large and well-concentrated fires developed quickly, with ground markers dropping into them, and towards the end of the first phase there was a thick pall of smoke considerably hampering observation. A particularly large explosion was seen at 2318 hours.

Weather was similar for the second phase and fires seen on approach from 100 miles away were found on arrival to be well-established and smoke rose to about 15,000 ft. In spite of the smoke the outline of the town was clearly defined in the light of the fires, and again some bombing took place before the P.F.F. were due but as the attack developed a further concentration built up towards the E. and N.E. edge of the fires already burning, and the fires merged into an apparently solid mass which lit up a wide area. A large oil fire and 2 explosions attracted particular attention during this phase. Mosquitoes attacking an hour later reported concentration of fires of fires in a semi-circle in the town. Photographs taken with bombing show a very large concentration of plottings on and around the A/P.

There was considerable S/L activity around the target throughout but in general they were ineffectively operated. Flak at first was considerable but soon became only moderate and remained so during the second phase. Fighter opposition was not great, although a few combats are reported chiefly East of the Rhine and in the vicinity of the target.

12 aircraft are missing out of the first phase and 9 out of the second.

Extract from Bomber Command Monthly Supplementary Narrative of Operations.

25/26.2.44. 5 Group a/c Lancaster "S" of 463 Squadron over Augsburg at 2244 hours, height 20,000 ft, was fired upon by a FW.190. The R/G fired and observed striked on the e/a's wings and fuselage. The e/a broke away, rolled over on its back and dived vertically, and was seen to hit the ground and explode. The FW.190 is claimed as destroyed.

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See Air Ministry Bulletins Nos. 13089, 13090 & 13233.

Copies may be found with No. 460 Squadron Daily Operational Survey of this date.

Extract from No. 5 Group O.R.B.

AUGSBERG. 174 aircraft from this Group were detailed to attack Augsberg. 10 were cancelled, 164 took off, 11 returned early, 147 were successful and 6 are missing. 1 aircraft of 630 Squadron 'S' bombed last resort target. - Dieppe Docks, and aircraft 'T' of 61 Squadron bombed searchlights in France as last resort target. These two aircraft are included in the 11 which returned early.

Casualties: - 6 aircraft. One crashed at Spilsby on return and all the crew were killed.

Results: - The attack on Augsberg was again split into two phases, the first zero hour being 2245 and the second 0115. Weather over the target was clear and Pathfinder marking was accurate and concentrated. Good fires were started and a number of aiming point photographs confirm the accuracy of the attack. The second phase appears to have been equally successful and fires were observed from a great distance on the homeward journey.

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## MARCH, 1944

March 1st, 1944. RAID ON STUTTGART. Thirteen aircraft took off and all successfully attacked Stuttgart. All returned safely.

March 7th, 1944. AWARD. Notification of the award of the Distinguished Flying Cross to Aus. 414175 F/O. V.H. Trimble was gazetted today.

March 9th, 1944. RAID ON MARIGNANE. Eleven aircraft took part in a very successful attack on Marignane. Smoke over the target was seen rising to 3,000 feet. All aircraft returned safely.

March 15th, 1944. RAID ON STUTTGART. Another successful attack on Stuttgart, this time seventeen aircraft taking part. F/Sgt. Graham, W.A., on first solo operation, collided with an aircraft from 1 Group and crashed near Branston, all the crew being killed. They were: - Aus. 413988 F/Sgt. Graham, W.A., Sgt. Munro, D. Mc. A., Sgt. Coates, J.A., Sgt. Jameson, J.G.B. Sgt. Baxter, H.A., Sgt. Jones, T.H. and Aus. 428712 Sgt. Humphreys, A.S. One aircraft failed to return. The crew were: - Aus. 416893 P/O. Roberts, J. Sgt. Wilby, J., P/O. Brown, P.C.R. Aus. 413526 F/Sgt. Benzie, J.M. Aus. 415677 F/Sgt. Palmer, S.J.F., F/Sgt. Child, J.L. and Sgt. Pead, R.

March 17th, 1944. SPORT. An Australian Rules football match took place between the ground staff and air crew.

March 18th, 1944. RAID ON FRANKFURT. Eighteen aircraft took off for a raid on Frankfurt and sixteen attacked. Good fires were left burning. One aircraft failed to return. The crew were: - Aus. 413977 P/O. Gardner, J.W., Sgt. Brotherton, D., F/Sgt. Perkins, H., F/O. Grevstad, M.C., Sgt. Cuthbertson, J., Sgt. Mottram, R.J., and Aus. 418704 F/Sgt. McGrath, J.R.

March 22nd, 1944. RAID ON FRANKFURT. Another raid on Frankfurt, this time fifteen aircraft taking part. All returned safely, reporting a very successful attack. Smoke over the target area rose to 8/9,000 feet and the glow of fires could be seen 120 miles away.

March 25th, 1944. RAID ON AULNOYE. Five aircraft took off, successfully attacked Aulnoye and returned safely to base. Large explosions were seen after leaving the target area.

March 26th, 1944. RAID ON ESSEN. Fifteen aircraft took off and fourteen attacked Essen. Difficult to assess results owing to cloud over the target, but the glow of fires was seen. Lancaster captained by Aus. 15763 P/O. J.F.W. Freeman had an engagement with a Ju.88 which is claimed as damaged. All aircraft returned safely.

March 24th, 1944. RAID ON BERLIN. Fourteen aircraft took off but only 12 attacked Berlin. Two returned early. The general impression was that the raid was rather scattered. All aircraft returned safely.

March 29th, 1944. The Squadron said goodbye to Group Captain S.C. Elsworthy D.S.O., D.F.C., A.F.C., who is leaving the Station.

March 30th, 1944. RAID ON NUREMBERG. Eighteen aircraft took off and seventeen attacked Nuremberg. All the Squadrons aircraft returned safely, but 95 were lost on the raid. Aus. 417003 F/O. K. Schultz claims one Ju.88 damaged, probably destroyed, and Aus. 420413 F/O. D.F. Ward one F.W.190 damaged.

STATISTICS. Statistics from formation up to 31.3.44

Hours 2397.16
Sorties 350
Miles 479,440
Tons 1,566

Enemy aircraft destroyed 4, probably destroyed 2, damaged 11.

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## APRIL, 1944.

April 5th, 1944. RAID ON TOULOUSE. Ten aircraft successfully attacked aircraft factories at Toulouse, and all returned safely, one aircraft proceeding to and from the target on three engines.

April 6th, 1944. AWARD. Notification of the award of the Distinguished Flying Medal to Sgt. G.R. Pike was gazetted today.

April 7th, 1944. AWARD. Notification of the award of the Distinguished Flying Cross to Aus. 414175 F/O. V.M. Trimble was gazetted today.

April 10th, 1944. RAID ON TOURS. Seventeen aircraft took off and all returned safely from a very successful attack on Tours. 6 A/P photographs were obtained.

April 11th, 1944. RAID ON AACHEN. The marshallingyards and town at Aachen were attacked by 15 aircraft and a concentrated raid is reported. All aircraft returned safely.

April 16th, 1944. VISIT. Air Vice Marshal H.N. Wrigley and Group Captain Edgar from R.A.A.F. Overseas Headquarters visited the Squadron.

April 18th, 1944. RAID ON JUVISY. Seventeen aircraft attacked the marshalling yards at Juvisy, near Paris and the target was left completely devastated. The Squadron got sixteen aiming points out of aposaible 17, and all aircraft returned safely to base.

April 20th, 1944. RAID ON LA CHAPELLE. La Chapelle railway junction was the target and 19 aircraft from the Squadron attacked. Photographs show that the majority of bombs found their mark. No casualties.

April 21st, 1944. AWARDS. Notification of the award of the Distinguished Flying Cross to Aus. 404343 F/O. N.H. Kobelke and W/O. H. McCabe was gazetted today.

April 22nd, 1944. RAID ON BRUNSWICK. 20 aircraft took part in a very successful attack on Brunswick, photographs taken an hour later confirming a huge conflagration of fires. One aircraft failed to return. The crew were: - Aus. 413798 P/O. Schomberg, C.C., Sgt. Steels, H., F/Lt. Potts, H.T., F/Sgt. Harden, J., F/Sgt. Millar, W.S., Aus. 426531 F/O. L. Calderwood and Aus. 426572 F/Sgt. McDonald, D.J.

April 24th, 1944. RAID ON MUNICH. Seventeen aircraft took off to attack Munich and excellent results were achieved - large explosions rocked the planes. One aircraft failed to return. The crew were: - Aus. 410171 P/O. E.W. Page, Sgt. Crate, S.R., W/O. T.W. Fair, Aus. 411749 F/O. J. Braithwaite, Aus. 426302 F/Sgt. Brown, E.R., Sgt. Guile, R. and Aus. 425570 F/Sgt. Noakes, G.H.

April 25th, 1944. ANZAC DAY. was celebrated in true Australian style.

April 26th, 1944. RAID ON SCHWEINFURT. Schweinfurt, the chief ball bearing production centre in Germany was attacked by 14 aircraft from the Squadron, all returning safely - Aus. 420413 F/O. D.F. Ward landing at Tangmere on two engines.

April 29th, 1944. RAID ON ST. MEDARD-EN-JALLES. Twelve aircraft attacked an explosive plant at St. Medard-en-Jalles, near Bordeaux, and returned safely to base. Over the target area, one explosion followed another in rapid succession.

STATISTICS. Statistics from formation up to 30.4.44.

Hours 3,387.16 Sorties 494
Miles 667,500 Tons 2,245
Enemy aircraft destroyed 4, probably destroyed 2, damaged 11.

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1st April, 1944.

## NOMINAL ROLL 463 SQUADRON

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Aus. 424519. | F/Sgt. | Ash, R.W. of Northwood, Sydney. |
| Aus. 409488. | F/Sgt. | Anderson, I.W. of Malvern, Victoria. |
| Aus. 402933. | A/S/L. | Brill, W. of Grong Grong, N.S.W. |
| Aus. 420127. | P/O. | Bowman, A.R.S. of Singleton, N.S.W. |
| Aus. 407982. | F/O. | Brooker, W.N. of Murray Bridge, S.A. |
| Aus. 423600. | Sgt. | Bewes, J.J. of Rockdale, Sydney. |
| Aus. 418913. | F/Sgt. | Bowman, N.J. of Moonee Ponds, Victoria. |
| Aus. 419290. | F/Sgt. | Bulmer, J. of Maribyrnong, Victoria. |
| Aus. 426302. | F/Sgt. | Brown, E.R. of Brisbane, Queensland. |
| Aus. 412476. | F/Sgt. | Bethel, R. of Sydney, N.S.W. |
| Aus. 418915. | F/Sgt. | Brown, J.H. of Tasmania. |
| Aus. 424143. | F/Sgt. | Brill, V. of Katong, N.S.W. |
| Aus. 426296. | F/Sgt. | Booth, C. of Queensland. |
| Aus. 20610. | F/O. | Board, R.W. of Rose Bay, N.S.W. |
| Aus. 411479. | F/O. | Braithwaite, J.S. of N.S.W. |
| Aus. 420437. | F/O. | Buckman, B.A. of Penshurst, N.S.W. |
| Aus. 410214. | F/O. | Chandler, F.N. of Armadale, Victoria. |
| Aus. 426531. | F/O. | Calderwood, L.J. of Queensland. |
| Aus. 403255. | F/O. | Curtis, R.A. of North Ridge, N.S.W. |
| Aus. 410833. | P/O. | Cassell, J.J. of Victoria. |
| Aus. 410193. | F/Sgt. | Clement, C. of Victoria. |
| Aus. 422414. | F/Sgt. | Chapple, I. N.S.W. |
| Aus. 424290. | P/O. | Dawes, G.W. of Point Piper, Sydney. |
| Aus. 414660. | P/O. | Dechastel, J.H. of Rockhampton, Queensland. |
| Aus. 419579. | F/Sgt. | Dobson, K. of Brighton, Victoria. |
| Aus. 427445. | F/Sgt. | Dann, G.M. of Perth, W.A. |
| Aus. 430019. | F/Sgt. | Eastgate, C.H. of Victoria. |
| Aus. 408678. | F/O. | Freeman, E.R. of Melbourne. |
| Aus. 15763. | P/O. | Freeman, J.F. of Orange, N.S.W. |
| Aus. 420654. | P/O. | Fryer, G. of Hurlstone, Park, N.S.W. |
| Aus. 418374. | F/Sgt. | Flanagan, C.N. of St. Arnand, Victoria. |
| Aus. 414925. | F/Sgt. | Flute, K.F. of St. Lawrence, Queensland. |
| Aus. 428684. | F/Sgt. | Frith, J.H. of Lismore, Victoria. |
| Aus. 420738. | F/Sgt. | Fletcher, K.C. of Miranda, Sydney. |
| Aus. 420463. | F/Sgt. | Fitzgerald, B.W. of Strathfield, N.S.W. |
| Aus. 407149. | F/O. | Fuller, F.O. of Boolaroo Centre, S.A. |
| Aus. 428681. | F/Sgt. | Foss, M. of Sydney, N.S.W. |
| Aus. 401510. | P/O. | Foster, T.J. of Melbourne, Victoria. |
| Aus. 416949. | P/O. | Giddings, B.W. of Millicent, S.A. |
| Aus. 410061. | F/Sgt. | Holder, E.J. of Caulfield, Victoria. |
| Aus. 422204. | F/O. | Hughes, M.R. of Sydney, N.S.W. |
| Aus. 421300. | F/O. | Hall, J.B. of Belmore, Sydney. |
| Aus. 423724. | F/Sgt. | Harrington, P.F. of Campbelltown. |
| Aus. 415662. | P/O. | James, C. of Perth, W.A. |
| Aus. 410493. | F/O. | Jones, G.O. of Armadale, Victoria. |
| Aus. 381. | A/W/C. | Kingsford-Smith, R. of Mosman, N.S.W. |
| Aus. 404343. | F/O. | Kobelke, N.K. |
| Aus. 404152. | A/F/L. | Lyons, K.M. of Warwick, Queensland. |
| Aus. 425678. | F/Sgt. | Lawrence, J.P. of Brisbane, Queensland. |
| Aus. 10025. | F/Sgt. | Larkin, R. of Mildura, Victoria. |
| Aus. 10119. | F/Sgt. | Lewis, W.J. Geelong, Victoria. |
| Aus. 426372. | F/Sgt. | McDonald, D.J. of Brisbane, Queensland. |
| Aus. 416775. | P/O. | Merrill, F.L. of Port Augusta, S.A. |
| Aus. 403095. | A/F/L. | Murtough, G.B. of Mosman, Sydney. |
| Aus. 12189. | F/O. | McLeod, M.J. of Ardlethan, N.S.W. |
| Aus. 412818. | F/Sgt. | McMahon, W.D. of Taree, N.S.W. |

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Aus. 420973. F/Sgt. Manning, L.J. of Nelsons Bay, N.S.W.
Aus. 409799. P/O. Mustard, E. of Melbourne, Victoria.
Aus. 422220. F/O. Marsh, W.E. of Wagga, N.S.W.
Aus. 429340. F/O. McGill, J.A.D. of Brisbane, Queensland.
Aus. 403418. F/O. Muddle, J.W. of Gloucester, N.S.W.
Aus. 424272. F/Sgt. Morris, T. of Sydney, N.S.W.
Aus. 416443. F/Sgt. McKenzie, L.G. of Owen, S.A.
Aus. 419784. F/Sgt. Milner, M. of Ballarat, Victoria.
Aus. 428012. F/Sgt. Merry, M. of Launceston, Tasmania.
Aus. 409729. F/Sgt. McDonald, N.N. of Melbourne, Victoria.
Aus. 424570. F/Sgt. Noakes, G.H. of Forbes, N.S.W.
Aus. 409935. P/O. O'Toole, M.F. of Melbourne, Victoria.
Aus. 410172. F/O. Pickerd, E.T. of Melbourne, Victoria.
Aus. 422691. F/O. Pettit, R.R. of Mosman, Sydney.
Aus. 410171. F/Sgt. Page, E.W. of Melbourne, Victoria.
Aus. 416994. P/O. Pratten, M.E. of Adelaide, S.A.
Aus. 421853. F/O. Proctor, D.W. of Sydney, N.S.W.
Aus. 423878. F/Sgt. Peters, W.T. of Wallsend, N.S.W.
Aus. 434007. P/O. Paul, I.N. of Sydney, N.S.W.
Aus. 409746. P/O. Robertson, K.H. of Melbourne, Victoria.
Aus. 427354. F/Sgt. Rosewarne, L.C. of Kilmscott, W.A.
Aus. 417003. F/O. Schultz, K. of Evandale, S.A.
Aus. 413798. P/O. Schomberg, C.C. of Marrickvilles, N.S.W.
Aus. 415280 A/F/Lt. Smith, E.A.L. of Mt. Lawley, W.A.
Aus. 412712. W/O. Seton, L.R. of Canberra, N.S.W.
Aus. 410819. F/Sgt. Smith, S.E.W. of Malvern, Victoria.
Aus. 422725. F/Sgt. Seale, W. of Ardletham, N.S.W.
Aus. 425226. F/O. Scott, E.M. of Ipswich, Queensland.
Aus. 424888. F/Sgt. Slade, W.A. of Maroubra, N.S.W.
Aus. 427954. Sgt. Simpson, C.B. of East Pingelly, W.A.
Aus. 415832. F/Sgt. Sattler, A. of Williams, W.A.
Aus. 427041. F/Sgt. Towler, L.C. of Pinjarra, W.A.
Aus. 405782. A/F/Lt. Vowells, K.E. of Brisbane, Queensland.
Aus. 421386. F/O. Williams, H.E. of Little Hartley, Victoria.
Aus. 418216. W/O. Webb, B.W. of Melbourne, Victoria.
Aus. 410766. F/Sgt. Wilson, L.L. of Geelong, Vic.
Aus. 420413. F/O. Ward, D.F. of Roseville, N.S.W.
Aus. 413052. F/Sgt. Webb, W. of Auburn, N.S.W.
Aus. 419429. F/Sgt. Wills, T.K. of Bendigo, Victoria.

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## MAY, 1944.

May 1st, 1944. RAID ON TOULOUSE Eleven aircraft attacked the Aircraft Assembly plant at Toulouse, and returned safely to base.

May 3rd, 1944. RAID ON MAILLY-EN-CAMP. Twelve aircraft took off to attack the military camp at Mailly. Photographs revealed great devastation. One aircraft failed to return: The crew were: - Aus. 420654 P/O. G. Fryer, Sgt. Gracey, R.J. F/Sgt. Ward, J.B. F/Sgt. Healy, J., F/Sgt. Stone, E.A. Sgt. Humphreys, E.A., and Aus. 421386 F/O. H.E. Williams.

May 6th, 1944. RAID ON SABLE-SUR-SARTHE. Eleven aircraft took part in a very successful attack on the ammunition dump at Sable-Sur-Sarth, all returning safely to base.

May 8th, 1944. RAID ON BREST/LANVEOC POULMIC. Eleven aircraft attacked the airfield and seaplane station at Brest/Lanveoc Poulmic. S/Ldr. W.L. Brill had a piece of his tail unit sjot away by flak, but all aircraft returned safely.

May 10th, 1944. RAID ON LILLE. The marshalling yards at Lille was the target tonight. Fourteen aircraft took off but three failed to return. The missing crews were: - Aus. 425226 F/Lt. E.M. Scott, Sgt. Boulton, R.H., Aus. 422414 F/Sgt. Chapple, I., Aus. 423878 F/Sgt. Peters, W.T., Sgt. Pringle, L., Aus. 424519 F/Sgt. Ash, R.W., Aus. 424888 F/Sgt. Slade, W.A. - Aus. 402817 S/Ldr. M. Powell, Sgt. Molyneux, H.L., F/O. R. Jacques, F/Sgt. Fraser, D., Aus. 406700 F/Lt. W.N. Read, Aus. 407199 F/O. R.M. Croft, Aus. 407821 F/O. D.P. Croston - Aus. 420413 F/O. D.F. Ward, Aus. 10119 P/O. Lewis, Aus. 410493 F/O. G.O. Jones, Aus. 416443 F/Sgt. McKenzie, L.G., Aus. 418915 F/Sgt. Brown, J.H., Aus. 430019 F/Sgt. Eastgate, C.H., and Aus. 427445 F/Sgt. Dann, G.M.

May 11th, 1944. RAID ON BOURG LEOPOLD. Eleven aircraft took off to attack the military camp at Bourg Leopold but returned to base without bombing owing to a serious error in forcast winds, making the aircraft late.

May 19th, 1944. AWARD. Notification ofthe award of the Distinguished Service Order to Aus. 402993 S/Ldr. W.L. Brill was gazetted today.

RAID ON TOURS. Fourteen aircraft attacked the St. Pierre de Corps rail centre at Tours. All returned safely.

VISIT. Mr. John Curtin, Prime Minister of Australia visited the Squadron.

May 21st, 1944. RAID ON DUISBERG. Fifteen aircraft took part in a raid on Duisberg - two failed to return. The missing crews were: - Aus. 416994 P/O. M.F. Pratten, Sgt. Smart, O.E.G., Aus. 422204 F/O. M.R. Hughes, Aus. 422220 F/O. M.E. Marsh, Aus. 409729 F.Sgt. McDonald, N.N., Aus. 407954 F/Sgt. Simpson, C.B., Aus. 427041 F/Sgt. Towler, L.C., - Aus. 426941 F/O. K.E. Archay, Sgt. Rice, F.N., Aus. 408913 W/O. A.F. Mayne. Aus. 426604 F/Sgt. Nasper, L.E., Aus. 417916 F/Sgt. Weeden, L.W. Aus. 419806 F/O. A.F. Mattingley, A.F., and Aus. 429351 F/O. E.H. Ross.

Award. Notification of the award of the Distinguished Flying Cross to Aus. 420413 F/O. D.F. Ward was gazetted today.

May 22nd, 1944. RAID ON BRUNSWICK. Fourteen aircraft took part in a very successful raid on Brunswick, causing considerable damage. All aircraft returned safely.

May 23rd, 1944. AWARD. Notification of the award of the Distinguished flying Cross to Aus. 412969 F/O. A.E. Kell was gazetted today.

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May 27th, 1944. RAID ON NANTES. Fourteen aircraft attacked the railway junction and wagon repair shops at Nantes, all returning safely to base.

May 28th, 1944. RAID ON ST. MARTIN DE VARREVILLE. Ten aircraft took part in the attack on a coastal battery at St. Martin de Varreville. The accurate concentration and excellent precision bombing by the Command on this raid has never been surpassed in night bombing. All aircraft returned.

May 31st, 1944. RAID ON SAUMUR. After fighting their way through a terrific magnetic storm ten aircraft pressed home their attack on the Marshalling Yards at Saumur and all returned safely to base.

STATISTICS. Statistics from formation up to 31.5.44.

Hours 4,036
Sorties 647
Miles 807,200
Tons 3017

Enemy aircraft destroyed 4, probably destroyed 2, damaged 11.

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## JUNE, 1944

3/4th June, 1944 RAID ON FERME D'URVILLE Thirteen aircraft took part in a very successful and concentrated attack on the W/T Station at Ferme D'Urville.

5/6th June, 1944 D-DAY - RAID ON ST. PIERRE-DU-MONT. Fourteen aircraft from the Squadron took part in a very successful attack on the Coastal Defence batteries at St. Pierre-Du-Mont prior to the landing of the Invasion forces in Normandy. Their bombing has never been excelled.

6th June, 1944. AWARDS. The following awards were gazetted today.

Distinguished Flying Cross. Aus. 403255 F/O. R.A. Curtis.
Aus. 408678 F/O. H.R. Freeman.

6/7th June, 1944. RAID ON ARGENTAN Nineteen aircraft successfully attacked road and rail junctions at Argentan. P.R.U. confirm great devastation to the targets.

8/9th June, 1944 RAID ON RENNES, Sixteen aircraft took off and fifteen aircraft attacked the railway junction and marshalling yards at Rennes. Two aircraft were shot up by flak but returned safely.

9th June, 1944. AWARD Notification of the award of the Distinguished Flying Cross to Aus. 381 W/Cdr. R. Kingsford-Smith was gazetted today.

10/11th June, 1944. RAID ON ORLEANS. Sixteen aircraft took off and the railway centre at Orleans was successfully attacked. Spectacular explosions were reported. One aircraft failed to return. Members of the crew were: - Aus. 414668 P/O. J.J. Fletcher, Sgt. Smith, K.K., Aus. 426352 F/Sgt. King G.W., Aus. 418756 F/Sgt. Matthews, A.W., Aus. 404682 W/O. N.W. Robinson, Aus. 427743 F/Sgt. Redford, F.H., and Aus. 419764 F/Sgt. Barry, M.R.

12/13th June, 1944 RAID ON POITIERS. Sixteen aircraft attacked the railway centre at Poitiers. Large explosions and considerable fires were seen.

14/15th June, 1944 RAID ON AUNAY 93 tons of bombs were dropped by seventeen aircraft on M.T. and troop concentrations at Aunay-sur-Odon. P,R.U. Photographs revealed extensive damage.

15/16th June, 1944 RAID ON CHATELLERAULT. Sixteen aircraft dropped 64½ tons of bombs on a fuel dump at Chatellerault. Explosions and large fires were seen.

18th June, 1944. NEW COMMANDING OFFICER. W/Cdr. Donaldson took over command of the Squadron from W/Cdr. Kingsford-Smith.

21/22nd June, 1944. RAID ON GELSENKIRCHEN. Seventeen aircraft took off and 82½ tons of bombs were dropped on the synthetic oil plant at Scholven-Buer, Gelsenkirchen. One aircraft returned early with engine u/s and one aircraft failed to return. The missing crew were: - Aus. 415280 F/Lt. E.A.L. Smith, Sgt. Sykes, D.C., P/O. K. Forth. F/O. H.F. Raynham, F/Sgt Tench, J.E., Sgt. Hollis, J.H., Sgt. Fittall, R.E., and Aus. 411262 F/O. A.B. Gossip.

23/24th June, 1944. RAID ON LIMGOES. Seventeen aircraft dropped 63 tons of bombs on Limgoes railway centre. Bombs were seen to straddle the yards.

24/25th June, 1944. RAID ON PROUVILLE. Eighteen aircraft took off abd 72½ tons of bombs were dropped on flying bomb sites at Prouville. Owing

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to the smallness of the targets, the attack was not a success. Three aircraft, including that captained by the new C.O. failed to return. The missing crews were; ✈ Aus. 16203 P/O J.F. Martin, Aus. 415430 W/O. B.E. Kelly Sgt. Taylor, P.D., Aus. 418755 F/Sgt. Malcolm, T.A., Aus. 417327 F/Sgt. Bateman, G.W., Aus. 424761 F/Sgt. Hunter, L.G., Aus. 408433 F/Sgt. Barber B.R., - Aus. 417428 P/O. J.M. Tilbrook, Sgt. Dowe, D., Aus. 416651 W/O. H.G. Carlyle, F/O. A. Sydall, Aus. 412469 W/O. A.C. Mineeff, Sgt. Penn, C.F., Aus. 419216 F/Sgt. M.M. Lack - Aus. 400631 W/Cdr. D.R. Donaldson, Sgt. Bones, L.F., Aus. 425851 F/O. R.N. Hooper, Aus. 423559 F/O. C.D.G. Small, Aus. 428801 F/Sgt. K.C. Sheel, Aus. 32691 F/Sgt. J.E. Morrisonm and Aus. 427302 F/O. J.A. Cullity.

26th June, 1944. AWARD. Notification of the award of the Distinguished Flying Cross to F/O. J.E.R. Rees was gazetted today.

27th June, 1944. AWARDS. Notification of the following awards was gazetted today.

Distinguished Flying Cross: - Aus. 405782 F/Lt. A.E. Vowels
Aus. 404368 F/Lt. F.B.M. Wilson
Aus. 407982 F/O. W.H. Brocker
Aus. 413875 P/O. H.R. Mahon

27/28th June, 1944. RAID ON VITRY LE FRANCOIS. Fifteen aircraft took off to attack the rail centre at Vitry Le Francois. Several aircraft were recalled but eight aircraft bombed the target.

29th June, 1944. RAID ON BEAUVOIR - FIRST DAYLIGHT RAID. Fourteen aircraft attacked a supply site at Beau - dropping 68 tons of bombs.

STATISTICS. Statistics from formation up to 30. 6. 44.

Sorties 853
Hours 5,090
Miles 1,018,000
Tons 3,930

Enemy aircraft destroyed 4, probably destroyed 2, damaged 11.

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## JULY, 1944.

4/5th July, 1944. RAID ON ST. LEU DESSERENT. Fifteen aircraft took off and 83 tons of bombs were dropped by the Squadron on the flying bomb installations at St. Leu Desserent. Two aircraft failed to return. The missing crews were: - Aus. 420726 P/O. N.E. Webb, Sgt. Hendry, T., Aus. 10981 F/O. A.A. Connor, Aus. 414792 F/O. E.G. Fletcher, Aus. 420009 W/O. L. Harrison, Aus. 418256 F/Sgt. Dunfort, P.J., Aus. 12189 F/O. M.J. McLeod, Aus. 417831 F/Sgt. Gillett, A.O., - Aus. 421887 P/O. A.K. Carter, Sgt. Watts, B.F., F/Sgt. Normand R.H., Sgt. Brown, A.C., Aus. 421812 F/Sgt. T.F. Maher, Aus. 434299 F/Sgt. Whimpey, C.R., and Aus. 429881 F/Sgt. Dowling, G.E.

7/8th July, 1944. RAID ON ST. LEU DESSERENT. Another attack was carried out on the flying bomb installations at St. Leu Desserent. Fifteen aircraft operated and excellent results were achieved.

12/13th July, 1944. RAID ON CULMONT CHALINDREY. Twelve aircraft attacked the important railway junction at Culmont Chalindrey. The target was well and truly hit.

14/15th July, 1944. RAID ON VILLENEUVE ST GEORGE. Eight aircraft attacked the marshalling yards at Villeneuve St. George, near Paris, with great success.

15/16th July, 1944. RAID ON NEVERS. Eight aircraft attacked the marshalling yards at Nevers.

18th July, 1944. RAID ON CAEN AREA. In support of the Army eighteen aircraft attacked targets S.E. of Caen and all returned safely.

18/19th July, 1944. RAID ON REVIGNY. At night eight aircraft took part in an attack on the railway junction at Revigny. 2 aircraft failed to return. The missing crews were: - Aus. 415520 F/O. B.H. Gifford, Sgt. Newell, H., Aus. 413036 W/O. R.G. Shipway, Aus. 427360 F/Sgt. Spenwer, F.G., Aus. 427314 F/Sgt. Fripp, A.W.G., Aus. 430247 F/Sgt. Boydell, J.C.B., Aus. 427934 F/Sgt. Pearce, P.J., - Aus. 406417 F/O. J.R. Worthington, Sgt. Hamoniaux, G.E., Sgt. Hymas, C., F/Sgt. Simonds, M.J., P/O. H.G. Chapman, Sgt. Ind, R.V., and Sgt. Younger, R.D.B.

19th July, 1944. RAID ON THIVERNY. Eight aircraft attacked the flying bomb depot at Thiverny - all returning safely.

20/21st July, 1944. RAID ON COURTRAI. Eighteen aircraft took part in an attack on the marshalling yards at Courtrai.

23/24th July, 1944. RAID ON KIEL. Nine aircraft took part in an attack on the Naval Base at Kiel.

24/25th July, 1944. RAIDS ON DONGES & STUTTGART. Eight aircraft attacked the Oil Depot at Donges while nine aircraft attacked Stuttgart. All crews returned safely from both targets.

25th July, 1944. RAID ON ST CYR. Fifteen aircraft took off to attack the signals manufacturing depot at St. Cyr. One aircraft failed to return. The missing crew were: - Aus. 417833 F/O. D.C. Gundry, Sgt. Wadsworth, P.O.F., Aus. 417899 F/Sgt. Sincock, J.D., Aus. 426565 F/Sgt. Fallon, E.J., Aus. 426691 F/Sgt. Scheldt, V.J., Aus. 426794 Sgt. Davidson, N.M. and Aus. 426527 F/Sgt. Burke, E.

26/27th July, 1944. RAID ON GIVORS. An attack was carried out on the railway junction at Givors in Southern France. Eighteen aircraft from the Squadron operated.

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28/29th July, 1944. RAID ON STUTTGART Nineteen aircraft took part in an attack on Stuttgart. An Me.109 was shot down over the target by Ays. 423226 F/O. K.P. Brady and crew and an Me. 210 is claimed as probably ~~damaged~~ destroyed by Aus. 423259 F/O. F.E. Rush and crew. It was seen to roll on to its back and disappear through the clouds. One aircraft failed to return. The missing crew were :- Aus. 417547 F/O. J.A.H. Wilkinson, Sgt. Starling, E.W., Aus. 409401 W/O. N.F. Gelder, Aus. 417826 F/Sgt. Fischer, F.E., Aus. 427106 F/Sgt. Reece, B., Aus. 432668 F/Sgt. Harrison, M.W., and F/Lt. Moorhead, B.C.

30th July, 1944. RAID ON CAHAGNES. Sixteen aircraft took off to attack the flying bomb site at Cahagnes, but were recalled owing to bad weather conditions Two aircraft bombed.

31st July, 1944. RAIDS ON JOIGNY LA ROCHE & RILLE MONTAGNES. Nine aircraft attacked the marshalling yards at Joigny La Roche and eight attacked the flying bomb depot at Rilly Montagnes. Fighter escort was provided.

STATISTICS. Statistics from formation up to 31.7.44.

Sorties 1,075
Hours 6,233
Miles 1,246,600
Tons 4,860

Enemy aircraft destroyed 5, probably destroyed 3, damaged 11.

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Brief History

## AUGUST, 1944.

1st August, 1944. Thirteen aircraft took off, six to attack the flying bomb depot at Siracourt and seven to attack the flying bomb depot at Mont Candon, but were recalled owing to weather conditions.

2nd August, 1944. RAID ON BOIS DE CASSON. Seventeen aircraft took off and fifteen carried out a very scattered attack on the flying bomb site at Bois De Casson. Two returned early with engine trouble.

3rd August, 1944. RAID ON ST. MAXIMUM. Fifteen out of sixteen starters attacked the flying bomb depot at St. Maximum.

5th August, 1944. RAID ON ST. LEU D'ESSERENT. Sixteen aircraft took part in an attack on the flying bomb storage depot at St. Leu D'esserent.

6th August, 1944. Six aircraft were airborne but were recalled from thetarget - flying bomb site at Bois De Casson - owing to cloud conditions.

7/8th August, 1944. RAID ON SECQUEVILLE. Fifteen out of sixteen starters attacked enemy troop concentrations at Secqueville in the S. Caen area.

9/10th August, 1944. RAID ON CHATELLERAULT. Sixteen aircraft took part in a very successful attack on the fuel dump at Chatellerault.

11/12th August, 1944. RAID ON GIVORS. Sixteen aircraft took part in a very concentrated attack on enemy transport and equipment in the marshalling yards at Givors.

12/13th August, 1944. RAID ON RUSSELSHEIM. Fourteen out of seventeen starters attacked the Open Works at Russelsheim. Three aircraft returned early with technical trouble.

13th August, 1944. RAID ON BORDEAUX. Three aircraft from the Squadron took part in an excellent attack on submarines in the U-boat pens at Bordeaux.

14th August, 1944. RAID ON QUESNAY. In support of the land forces eleven aircraft attacked Quesney, just North of Falaise in the Battle Area.

RAID ON BREST. Later in the day six aircraft attacked the ships in Brest Harbour, leaving a tanker burning and down at the stern.

15th August, 1944. AWARDS. Notification of the following awards was gazetted today.

| | |
|---|---|
| Distinguished Flying Cross. | Aus. 420127 F/O. A.R.S. Bowman |
| Distinguished Flying Medal. | F/Sgt. D.A. Broom |
| | F/Sgt. C.J. Barber |

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15th August, 1944. RAID ON GILZE RIJEN. During the day 3,000 aircraft attacked airfields in Belgium, Holland and Germany. Seventeen aircraft from 463 attacked Gilze Rijen airfield. Aus. 416685 F/Lt. E.R. Langlois had the rear turret of his Lancaster - and the gunner, F/O. J. Hamilton - carried away by bombs from an aircraft above.

16/17th August, 1944. RAID ON STETTIN. Sixteen out of eighteen starters attacked Stettin, the German naval base on the Baltic Coast. Two aircraft returned early.

18th August, 1944. AWARDS. Notification of the following awards was gazetted today.

Distinguished Flying Cross: - Aus. 414925 W/O. K.F. Flute
Aus. 416775 F/Lt. F.L. Merrill
Aus. 15763 P/O. J.F. Freeman

RAID ON L'ISLE ADAM. Eighteen aircraft attacked the flying bomb site at L'isle Adam.

19th August, 1944. RAID ON LA PALLICE. Led by the Commanding Officer, W/Cdr. Forbes, thirteen aircraft attacked the submarine pens at La Pallice.

20th August, 1944. AWARD. Notification of the award of the Distinguished Flying Medal to F/Sgt. K. de H. Hamblin was gazetted today.

25/26th August, 1944. RAID ON DARMSTADT. Fifteen aircraft took off and fourteen attacked the Garman railway centre at Darmstadt.

26/27th August, 1944. RAID ON KONIGSBERG. Thirteen aircraft took off and ten attacked the E. Prussian port of Konigsberg. First Bomber Command attack on this target. Three aircraft returned early.

29/30th August, 1944. RAID ON KONIGSBERG. Konigsberg again and this time 20 aircraft operated. Two failed to return. The missing crews were: - Aus. 425809 F/O. M.J. Roe, Sgt. W.M. Hill, F/Sgt. A.E. Fox, Sgt. T.P. Byrne, Aud. 404752 F/Lt. K.M.D. Lyons, Aus. 424923 F/Sgt. T.R. Ryan, Sgt. K.C. Butcher - F/Lt. T.G.J. Parker, Sgt. R.E.S. Packham, Aus. 409364 W/O. N.C. Barrett, Aus. 424861 F/Sgt. T.H.F. Dodd, Aus. 424451 F/Sgt. R. Parker, Aus. 429575 F/Sgt. T.G. Jamieson and F/Sgt. N.A. Taylor

31st August, 1944. RAID ON ROLLENCOURT. Sixteen aircraft took off to attack the flying bomb site at Rollencourt. One aircraft did not attack as bombs hung up.

Statistics. Statistics from formation up to 31.8.44.

Hours 7,942
Miles 1,588,400
Sorties 1,348
Tons 6,122

Enemy aircraft destroyed 4, probably destroyed 4, damaged 11.

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29/30th August, 1944. One Ju.88 is claimed as probably destroyed by Aus. 426668 F/O. T.W. Noon and crew and a Do.217 was damaged by Aus. 423226 F/O. K.P. Brady and crew.

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## SEPTEMBER, 1944.

5th September, 1944. RAID ON BREST. Fifteen aircraft attacked gun positions at Brest.

10th September, 1944. RAID ON LE HAVRE. Twenty aircraft attacked enemy strongpoints and coastal batteries at Le Havre.

11th September, 1944. RAID ON LE HAVRE. Ten aircraft again attacked the Channel port of Le Havre, which surrendered ten hours after the attack.

ATTACK ON KAMEN OIL REFINERIES. Operating with 3 Group, one aircraft captained by Aus. 410321 F/Lt. G. Garden, bombed and photographed the Kamen Oil refineries.

11/12th September, 1944. RAID ON DARMSTADT. Seventeen aircraft took off to attack Darmstadt. One aircraft returned early and one failed to return. The missing crew were: - Aus 412585 F/O. J.W. Taylor, Sgt. W.H. Meager, Aus. 432160 F/O. W.H. Hagan, Aus. 423353 F/O. B.O. Thwaite, Aus. 423291 F/Sgt. V.G. Montgomery, Aus. 427917 F/Sgt. C.H. Giles and Aus. 436701 F/Sgt. C.R. Richardson.

12/13th September, 1944. RAID ON STUTTGART. Fourteen aircraft took part in a very siccessful attack on Stuttgart, P.R.U. confirming complete devastation.

14th September, 1944. AWARDS: Notifiaction of the following awards was gazetted today.

Distinguished Flying Cross: - F/O. J.B.H. Billam
Distinguished Flying Medal: - F/Sgt. A.V. Wing.

15th September, 1944. TIRPITZ PHOTOGRAPHED: One aircraft from the Squadron - pilot Aus. 420437 F/Lt. B.A. Buckman - in connection with Film Production Unit, detailed to photograph the Tirpitz, attacked by Bomber Command in the Norwegian fiord of Kaa. Photographs were unsuccessful.

15th September, 1944. AWARD. Notification of the award of the Distinguished Flying Cross to Aus. 417003 F/Lt. K. Schultz was gazetted today.

17th September, 1944. RAID ON BOULOGNE. Eighteen aircraft took off to attack the channel port of Boulogne. One Lancaster was badly damaged by flak and the pilot - F/O. K.E. Tanner - made a miraculous crash landing in Normandy after the rest of the crew had baled out.

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ALLIED AIRBORNE LANDINGS PHOTOGRAPHED.

Operating with T.A.F. Aus. 410321 F/Lt. G. Gardner photographed the Allied Airborne landings in Holland.

18/19th September, 1944. RAID ON BREMERHAVEN. Seventeen aircraft took off to attack the German Port of Bremerhaven. One aircraft returned early with engine trouble.

19th September, 1944. AWARDS: Notification of the following awards was gazetted today.

Distinguished Flying Cross: - Aus. 403418 F/O. J.W. Muddle
Aus. 410172 F/O. E.T. Pickerd
Aus. 418374 P/O. G.F. Flanagan

19/20th September, 1944. RAID ON RHEYDT. Sixteen aircraft attacked Rheydt, near Munchen-Gladbach.

20th September, 1944. ATTACK ON CALAIS. One aircraft captained by Aus. 420437 F/Lt. B.A. Buckham, bombed and photographed the gun positions at Calais.

23/24th September, 1944. RAID ON DORTMUND-EMS CANAL. Seventeen aircraft took off and a very successful attack was carried out on the acqueduct over the Dortmund-Ems Canal. One aircraft returned early with engine trouble and two failed to return. The missing crews were: - Aus. 422310 F/O. S.J. Staples, Sgt. A. Ledger, Aus. 434227 F/O. C. McCall, Aus. 420783 W/O. J.B. Stintson, Aus. 432190 F/Sgt. N.G. Hurst, Aus. 8905 F/Sgt. H.L. Davis, Aus. 404416 Sgt. W.G.M. Geikie, - Aus. 419895 F/O. F.J. Lindquist, Sgt. A. Perring, Aus. 432343 F/Sgt. W.A. Schultz, Aus. 430260 F/Sgt. H. Howard, Aus. 418273 F/Sgt. A.W. Haselhurst, Aus. 432076 F/Sgt. F.J.C. Hurstwaite, and Aus. 434538 F/Sgt. A.R. Sloane.

24th September, 1944. RAID ON CALAIS. Seven aircraft attacked Calais, the third Channel port to be attacked this month.

26/27th September, 1944. RAID ON KARLSRUHE. Fourteen aircraft took part in a very successful attack on Karlsruhe.

27/28th September, 1944. RAID ON KAISERSLAUTERN: Fifteen aircraft took off and the town and railway yards at Kaiserslautern were successfully attacked. One aircraft failed to return. The missing were: - Aus. 13742 F/O. R.J. Miller, Sgt. B. Parker, Aus. 427438 F/Sgt. G. Caveridge, Aus. 427830 F/Sgt. R.D. Healy, Aus. 28072 F/Sgt. T.A.P. Taylor, Aus. 431157 F/Sgt. L.A.I. Coxhill and Aus. 431166 F/Sgt. R.C. Coventry.

STATISTICS: Statistics from formation up to 30.9.44.

Sorties 1,524
Hours 8,847
Miles 1,769,400
Tons 7,032

Enemy aircraft destroyed 4, probably destroyed 4, damaged 11.

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## OCTOBER, 1944.

3rd October, 1944. AWARD. Notification of the award of the Distinguished Flying Cross to Aus. 410214 F/O. F.N. Chandler was gazetted today.

5th October, 1944. RAID ON WILHELMSHAVEN. Sixteen aircraft took part in an attack on the Headquarters of the German Naval Staff, at Wilhelmshaven.

6/7th October, 1944. RAID ON BREMEN. Eighteen aircraft took part in a very successful attack on Bremen. Photographs reveal huge conflagration of fire over a wide area. One aircraft failed to return. The missing crew were: - 418890 F/O. D.G. Tointon, XXXX. 1457829 Sgt. J.P. McLellan. Aus. 437332 F/Sgt. D.E. Brown. Aus. 26853 F/Sgt. A. Giloran. Aus. 427795 F/Sgt. R. Broad, Aus. 439480 F/Sgt. J. Macpherson, Aus.437918 F/Sgt. T.P. Whitley.

7th October, 1944. RAID ON FLUSHING. Eleven aircraft attacked the sea walls at Flushing on the Dutch island of Walcheren. The dam was successfully breached.

11th October, 1944. RAID ON FLUSHING. Another attack on Flushing and this time twenty aircraft attacked.

13th October, 1944. AWARDS. Notification of the following awards was gazetted today.

Distinguished Flying Cross: - Aus. 415662 F/O. C. James
Aus. 409799 F/O. E.A. Mustard
Aus. 422691 F/O. P.R. Pettit.
F/Lt. A.Williams, D.F.M.

14th October, 1944. ATTACK ON DUISBERG. Aus. 420437 F/Lt. B.A. Buckham took members of the Film Unit on the raid on Duisberg - XXX the largest attack yet undertaken by Bomber Command in daylight on Germany.

14/15th October, 1944. RAID ON BRUNSWICK Twenty aircraft attacked Brunswick, and photographs confirmed a very successful attack - fires raging all over the city.

17th October, 1944. AWARDS. Notification of the following awards was gazetted today.

Distinguished Flying Cross: - Aus. 410833 F/O. A.J.C. Cassell
Aus. 414660 F/O. J.H. De Chastel
Aus. 418216 P/O. B.W. Webb

17th October, 1944. RAID ON WESTKAPELLE. Nine aircraft attacked the sea wall at Westkapelle on the Dutch island of Walcheren.

19/20th October, 1944. RAID ON NURNBERG. Twenty aircraft took part in an attacki on Nurnberg.

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23rd October, 1944. RAID ON FLUSHING. Twenty aircraft set off and fifteen attacked the gun positions at Flushing in bad weather. Two aircraft were unable to identify the target so did not attack and Lancaster captained by Aus. 424799 F/O. K.W. Reilly was damaged by flak over the target and bombs were brought back. Two aircraft failed to return. The missing crews were: - Aus. 418093 F/O. I.J. Dack, Sgt. H.E. Lee, Aus. 423025 F/Sgt. J.F. Maple, Aus. 418907 F/Sgt. J. McWilliam, F/Sgt. A. Easton, Aus. 432371 F/Sgt. R. Coward, Sgt. C.F. Kirby - Aus. 426416 F/O. C. Borsht, Sgt. E. Leigh, Aus. 428820 F/Sgt. B. O'Connell, F/Sgt. T.D. Laing, Aus. 428029 F/Sgt. M.R. Staunton-Smith, Aus. 432828 F/Sgt. T.P. Lonergan, and Aus. 434622 F/Sgt. R.G. Cooper.

28/29th October, 1944. RAID ON BERGEN. Fifteen aircraft took off to attack the U-boat base at Bergen in Norway, but only three attacked as cloud obscured the target. One aircraft failed to return. The missing crew were: - Aus. 425475 F/O. A.T. Ley, Sgt. E. Booth, Aus. 423622 F/Sgt. J.J. Boyle, Aus. 428720 F/Sgt. F.C. Langdon, Aus. 422198 F/Sgt. C.J. Kenny, Sgt. J. McAinsh and Sgt. J. McIntyre.

29th October, 1944. TIRPITZ ATTACKED. Aus. 420437 F/Sgt. B.A. Buckham took the Film Unit to photograph an attack on the Tirpitz at Tromso.

30th October, 1944. RAID ON FLUSHING. Thirteen aircraft carried out another attack on the gun positions at Flushing.

STATISTICS. Statistics from formation uo tp 31.10.44.

Hours 9,644
Miles 1,928, 800
Sorties 1,688
Tons 7,830

Enemy aircraft destroyed 4, probably destroyed 4, damaged 11.

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## DECEMBER, 1944

4/5th December, 1944. RAID ON HEILBRONN. Twenty-one aircraft took part in a No. 5 Group attack on the railway and Engineering centre of Heilbronn. A Ju.88 was damaged by Aus. 421733 F/O. D.C. Huxtable and crew. One aircraft failed to return. Members of the missing crew were: - Aus. 434058 F/O. J.K. Waring, Sgt. J. Smith, Aus. 428396 F/Sgt. J. Brosnan, Aus. 428642 F/Sgt. G. Groves, Aus. 430207 F/Sgt. R.M. Howell, Aus. 431610 F/Sgt. L. Cheesman, and Aus. 431591 F/Sgt. R. Templeton.

6/7th December, 1944. RAID ON GIESSEN. Nineteen aircraft took part in another 5 Group attack - this time on the marshalling yards at Giessen. An Me.110 is claimed probably destroyed by Aus. 424117 F/O. K.E.H. Bennett and a Ju.88 claimed probably destroyed by Aus. 414219 W/Cdr. W.A. Forbes. One aircraft failed to return. The missing crew were: - Aus. 429369 F/O. R.R. Young, Sgt. P.J.B. Gwynne, Aus. 433194 F/O. A.C. Bond, Aus. 419821 F/O. H.S. MacMeikan, Aus. 434484 F/O. G. Thomas, Aus. 431448 F/Sgt. R.T. Hawthorn and Aus. 433549 F/Sgt. J.L. Henderson.

8th December, 1944. Fifteen aircraft took off to attack the Urft Dam but the mission was abandoned owing to cloud conditions. One aircraft - the F.P.U. aircraft - arrived later over the target and was able to bomb and photograph.

10th December, 1944. Fifteen aircraft took off again to attack the Urft Dam but were recalled before reaching the target.

11th December, 1944. RAID ON URFT DAM. The Urft Dam was once more the target and this time four out of fifteen starters bombed, the remainder bringing their bombs back as cloud prevented visual identification.

17/18th December, 1944. RAID ON MUNICH. Nineteen aircraft operated and seventeen successfully bombed Munich. One aircraft did not attack and one failed to return. Members of the missing crew were: - Aus. 424117 F/O. K.E.H. Bennett, Aus. 418559 F/O. J.H. Ogilvie, Sgt. R.G. Nuttall, F/Sgt. S. Easton, P/O. T.N. Watson, Aus. 28766 F/Sgt. R.W. Byrnes, Sgt. G.A.C. Frizzell and Sgt. H. Fowler.

18/19th December, 1944. RAID ON GDYNIA. Fifteen aircraft took part in a very successful attack on enemy shipping concentrations in the Baltic port of Gdynia.

21/22nd December, 1944. RAID ON POLITZ. Sixteen out of seventeen ~~xxxtixx~~ starters attacked the synthetic oil plant at Politz. One aircraft returned early with intercomm unserviceable. Visibility on return was very bad and Lancaster captained by Aus. 428694 F/O. Halstead crashed near the aerodrome and all the crew were killed with the exception of the M/U gunner, Aus. 430859 F/Sgt. T.A. Nation. Other members of the crew were: - Sgt. B.E. Pettigrew, Aus. 430375 F/O. C.J. Greenwood, Auus.432435 F/Sgt. J.R. Power, Aus. 429846 F/Sgt. G.J.. Cheyne and Aus. 435780 F/Sgt. L. Miller.

27th December, 1944. RAID ON RHEYDT. Twelve aircraft attacked the marshalling yards at Rheydt.

28/29th December, 1944. RAID ON SHIPPING IN OSLO FJORD. Five out of six starters attacked enemy shipping in Oslo Fjord - one aircraft returned early with engine trouble.

30th December, 1944. VISIT. Mr. Drakeford, Australian Minister for Air, visited the Squadron accompanied by Air Marshal Williams and Air Vice Marshal Wrigley.

30/31st December, 1944. RAID ON HOUFFALIZE. Twelve aircraft took off and six attacked enemy concentrations at Houffalize. Cloud prevented the remaining six from bombing.

STATISTICS. Statistics from formation up to 31.12.44.

Sorties 1,985 - Hours 11,442 - Miles 2,288,400 - Tons 9,004
Enemy aircraft destroyed 4, probably destroyed 6, damaged 12.

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NOVEMBER, 1944.

1st November, 1944. Seventeen aircraft took off to attack the synthetic oil plant at Homberg but ~~xxxx~~ only one bombed.

2/3rd November, 1944. RAID ON DUSSELDORF. Fifteen aircraft took part in a very heavy attack by Bomber Command on Dusseldorf. One aircraft failed to return. The missing crew were: - Aus. 428370 F/O. D.G. Smith, Sgt. A.F. Hale, Aus. 432379 F/O. J.R. Sweeney, Aus. 424825 F/Sgt. W.D. Scott, Aus. 418355 F/Sgt. D.W. Davidson, Aus. 437544 F/Sgt. K.A. Reed, and Aus. 430853 F/Sgt. B.L. Collings.

4/5th November, 1944. RAID ON DORTMUND-EMS CANAL. Twelve aircraft took part in a 5 Group attack on the Dortmund-Ems Canal at Ladbergen. One aircraft failed to return. The missing crew were: - Aus. 424799 F/O. K.W. Reilly, Sgt. R.W. Jones, Aus. 423797 W/O. A.R. Mackenzie, Aus. 423536 F/O. B.C. Howard, Aus. 432181 F/Sgt. R.N. Hall, Aus. 430750 Sgt. A.D. Fryer and Aus. 442415 F/Sgt. R.H. Battye.

6/7th November, 1944. Sixteen aircraft took off to attack the Weser-Ems canal but the mission was abandoned. Three aircraft failed to return. The missing crews were: - Aus. 422394 F/O. P.J. Bowell, Sgt. W. Forster, Aus. 418873 W/O. E.A. Petersen, Aus. 427348 W/O. W. Plumb, Aus. 421398 W/O. J.R. Williams, Aus. 432749 F/Sgt. W.H.J. Butcher, Aus. 433096 F/Sgt. I.D. Dutfield - Aus. 424270 F/O. C.J. Lynch, Sgt. J.A. Haywood, Sgt. C. Sunderland, F/Sgt. R.C. Rogers, Aus. 432327 F/Sgt. E.A. Woolmer, Sgt. S. Harding and Sgt. L. Evans - Aus. 419452 F/O. J. Austin, F/Sgt. K. Tonks, F/O. S. Rodgers, F/Sgt. E.R.L.A. Ameye, Aus. 424397 F/O. H.V. Ellens, Sgt. D.A. Holmes and Sgt. J. Baggaley.

11/12th November, 1944. RAID ON HARBURG. Fourteen aircraft took off to attack Harburg. Thirteen attacked and one returned early.

12th November, 1944. SINKING OF TIRPITZ PHOTOGRAPHED. One Lancaster captained by Aus. 420437 F/Lt. B.A. Buckham took two P.R.U. photographers to photograph the attack by Bomber Command on the "Tirpitz" in Tromso fjord. After the attack the "Tirpitz" heeled over and became half submerged.

14th November, 1944. AWARDS. Notification of the following awards was gazetted today: -

Distinguished Flying Cross: - Aus. 432154 F/O. F.T. Griffen
Aus. 420437 F/Lt. B.A. Buckham
Aus. 421691 F/O. N.W. Sanders
Aus. 418209 F/O. A.B.L. Tottenham

16th November, 1944. RAID ON DUREN. Fifteen aircraft took part in a concentrated attack on the German town of Duren, only a few miles ahead of the Allied Armies. One aircraft did not attack.

21/22nd November, 1944. RAID ON DORTMUND-EMS CANAL. Fifteen aircraft took off to attack the Dortmund-Ems canal at Ladbergen. One aircraft did not bomb owing to engine trouble.

22/23rd November, 1944. Eight aircraft took off to attack the submarine pens at Trondheim, Norway, but no attack was carried out owing to a smoke screen over the target.

25th November, 1944. BIRTHDAY. The Squadron celebrated its first birthday with a party and dance.

STATISTICS for twelve months ending 24.11.44.

Sorties 1801
Miles 2,037,480
Hours 10,187
Tons 8268

Enemy aircraft destroyed 4, probably destroyed 4, damaged 11.

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26/27th November, 1944. RAID ON MUNICH. Eighteen aircraft took off to bomb Munich, but only fourteen attacked - four returned early with engine trouble. Bombing was very concentrated and fires were visible for a considerable distance.

STATISTICS. Statistics from formation up to 30.11.44.

Hours 10,399
Sorties 1,819
Miles 2,067,800
Tons 8,334

Enemy aircraft destroyed 4, probably destroyed 4, damaged 11.

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1st November, 1944.

# NOMINAL ROLL 463 SQUADRON.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Aus. 413506 | F/Lt. | Anderson, P.J. of Concord, N.S.W. |
| Aus. 419452 | F/O. | Austin, J. of Lara, Victoria. |
| Aus. 429301 | F/O. | Anderson, P.R. of Wanda, Queensland. |
| Aus. 422918 | P/O. | Adams, W.R. of Croydon, N.S.W. |
| Aus. 419376 | F/Sgt. | Armstrong, H. of Flemington, Victoria |
| Aus. 426988 | F/Sgt. | Aitken, G.D. of Townsville, Queensland. |
| Aus. 419290 | P/O. | Bulmer, J. of Maribyrnong, Victoria. |
| Aus. 424143 | P/O. | Brill, V. of Matong, N.S.W. |
| Aus. 20610 | F/O. | Board, R.W. of Rose Bay, N.S.W. |
| Aus. 420437 | F/Lt. | Buckman, B.A. of Penshurst, N.S.W. |
| Aus. 426416 | F/O. | Borsht, C. of Brisbane, Queensland. |
| Aus. 423226 | F/O. | Brady, K.P. of Baulkham, Hills, N.S.W. |
| Aus. 422394 | F/O. | Bowell, P.J. of Sydney, N.S.W. |
| Aus. 422096 | F/O. | Bach, J.P. of Sydney, N.S.W. |
| Aus. 425825 | F/Sgt. | Brady, T.J. of Bundaberg, Queensland. |
| Aus. 432301 | F/Sgt. | Berglund, G.C. of Cowra, N.S.W. |
| Aus. 413732 | F/Sgt. | Burns, A. of Newcastle, N.S.W. |
| Aus. 424285 | F/Sgt. | Browning, D.J. of Strathfield, N.S.W. |
| Aus. 424578 | F/Sgt. | Bailey, R.O. of Forbes, N.S.W. |
| Aus. 442415 | F/Sgt. | Battye, R.H. of Hindmarsh, S.A. |
| Aus. 437672 | F/Sgt. | Bowler, G.C. of East Brighton, Victoria. |
| Aus. 432749 | F/Sgt. | Butcher, W.H.J. of Quirindi, Queensland. |
| Aus. 417452 | F/Sgt. | Brandwood, K.N. of Hyde Park, S.A. |
| Aus. 410946 | F/O. | Campbell, G.R. of Hawthorn, Victoria. |
| Aus. 405534 | F/Lt. | Cambridge, F.O. of Canterbury, Victoria. |
| Aus. 418227 | F/O. | Cook, K.A. of Ballarat, Victoria. |
| Aus. 423447 | F/Sgt. | Clayton, W.T. of Murwillumbah, N.S.W. |
| Aus. 419158 | F/Sgt. | Carlton, G.S. of Ascot Vale, Victoria. |
| Aus. 432371 | F/Sgt. | Coward, R. of Bexley, N.S.W. |
| Aus. 432496 | F/Sgt. | Cox, J.E. of Dungog, N.S.W. |
| Aus. 434622 | F/Sgt. | Cooper, R.G. of Brisbane, Queensland. |
| Aus. 434868 | F/O. | Cameron, C.J. of Blacktown, N.S.W. |
| Aus. 423652 | F/Sgt. | Corkery, L. of Manly, N.S.W. |
| Aus. 431024 | F/Sgt. | Cameron, E.R. of Mildura, Victoria. |
| Aus. 440122 | F/Sgt. | Chomley, G.F. of Narrandera, N.S.W. |
| Aus. 424290 | F/O. | Dawes, G.W. of Point Piper, Sydney. |
| Aus. 427305 | P/O. | Davis, C.O. of North Maylands, W.A. |
| Aus. 427590 | F/Sgt. | Dingey, V.G. of Aspendale, Victoria |
| Aus. 421794 | F/Sgt. | Deans, N.E. of Ashfield, N.S.W. |
| Aus. 423567 | F/Sgt. | Donaghue, B.A. of Campsie, N.S.W. |
| Aus. 418093 | F/O. | Dack, I.J. East Malvern, Victoria. |
| Aus. 410835 | F/O. | Denholm, G.M. of Middle Brighton, Victoria. |
| Aus. 418815 | P/O. | Dalziel, J. of Kew, Victoria. |
| Aus. 418357 | W/O. | Dean, W.G. of Pt. Fairy, Victoria. |
| Aus. 418037 | F/Sgt. | Dent, R.W. of Warragol, Victoria. |
| Aus. 433096 | F/Sgt. | Dutfield, I.D. of Coogee, N.S.W. |

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Aus. 410963 F/Sgt. Earl, E.J. of Fairfield, Victoria.
Aus. 424397 F/O. Ellens, H.V. of Taree, N.S.W.
Aus. 418931 F/O. Ellis, E.C. of West Coburg, Victoria.
Aus. 427875 F/Sgt. Evans, E.E. of Perth, W.A.
Aus. 422149 F/O. Earl, J.G. of Eastwood, N.S.W.
Aus. 420738 F/Sgt. Fletcher, E.G. of Miranda, Sydney.
Aus. 400131 F/Lt. Fraser, A.A. of Melbourne,
Aus. 414219 W/Cdr. Forbes, W.A. of Brisbane, Queensland.
Aus. 414923 P/O. Flute, K.F. of St. Lawrence, Queensland.
Aus. 429545 F/Sgt. Fitzgerald, D. of Innisfail, Queensland.
Aus. 436242 F/Sgt. Forrester, C.T. of Sydney, N.S.W.
Aus. 430750 F/Sgt. Fryer, A.D. of Dubbo, N.S.W.
Aus. 432944 F/Sgt. Fallon, B.M. of Northlevidge, N.S.W.
Aud. 432782 F/Sgt. Fallon, W.H. of Vaucluse, N.S.W.
Aus. 423716 F/Sgt. Greacen, M.B. of Tamworth, N.S.W.
Aus. 402594 F/Lt. Giersch, E.H. of Henty, N.S.W.
Aus. 426435 F/Sgt. Glew, K.D. of Townsville, Queensland
Aus. 418385 W/O. Gifford, C.J. of East Malvern, Victoria.
Aus. 410321 F/Lt. Garden, G. of Kew, Victoria.
Aus. 426088 F/O. Gordon, E.H.J. of Calen, Queensland
Aus. 426084 F/O. Gill, G.T. of Brisbane, Queensland.
Aus. 26527 W/O. Green, J.J. of Goolwa, S.A.
Aus. 437917 F/Sgt. Giles, C.H. of Meadows, S.A.
Aus. 423529 F/Sgt. Goldring, R.G. of Tamworth, N.S.W.
Aus. 410331 F/O. Hattam, R.F. of Elwood, Victoria.
Aus. 414793 F/Sgt. Henderson, D.A. of ~~Woondiwindi~~ GOONDIWINDI, Queensland.
Aus. 410061 W/O. Holden, E.J. of Glen Iris, Victoria.
Aus. 428713 F/Sgt. Hundy, W.A. of Peak Hill, N.S.W.
Aus. 418417 F/Sgt. Hudson, N.R. of Hampton, Victoria.
Aus. 421733 F/O. Huxtable, D.C. of Double Bay, N.S.W.
Aus. 423536 F/O. Howard, B.C. of Sydney, N.S.W.
Aus. 413309 P/O. Howard, H.I. of Bega, N.S.W.
Aus. 414236 F/O. Heath, V.G. of Brisbane, Queensland
Aus. 432513 F/Sgt. Hopkinson, T.F. of Canberra, A.C.T.
Aus. 423736 F/Sgt. Holmes, H.R. of Dover Heights, N.S.W.
Aus. 432181 F/Sgt. Hall, R.N. of Lismore, N.S.W.
Aus. 430659 F/Sgt. Ingram, D.C. of Richmond, Victoria.
Aus. 436590 F/Sgt. Ivory, T.R. of East Kew, Victoria.
Aus. 426116 F/Sgt. Jackson, W. of Min Bun, Queensland.
Aus. 409001 F/Lt. Kennedy, J.A. of Victoria.
Aus. 416685 F/Lt. Langlois, E.P. of Clarence Pk, S.A.
Aus. 424270 F/O. Lynch, C.J. of Ashfield, N.S.W.
Aus. 408485 F/O. Leonard, R.A. of Whitemore, Tasmania.
Aus. 423470 F/Sgt. Lawson, F.M. of Campsie, N.S.W.
Aus. 433118 F/Sgt. Lynch, F.E. of Hurstville, N.S.W.
Aus. 418669 F/Sgt. Luscombe, B.G. of Parkdale, Victoria.
Aus. 416775 F/Lt. Merrill, F.L. of Port Augusta, S.A.
Aus. 420973 F/Sgt. Manning, L.G. of Nelsons Bay, N.S.W.
Aus. 419784 P/O. Milner, M. of Ballarat, Victoria.
Aus. 423013 F/Sgt. Middleton, J.J.B. Neutral Bay, N.S.W.
Aus. 422232 F/Sgt. Mottershead, F. of Mosman, N.S.W.
Aus. 411038 F/Lt. Morris, A.R. of Manly, N.S.W.

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Aus. 413232 F/O. McKern, J.H.M. of Griffith, N.S.W.
Aus. 411074 F/O. McRae, K.D. of Uralla, N.S.W.
Aus. 410363 P/O. Murrell, V.H. of Blackburn, Victoria.
Aus. 419874 F/O. Markham, R.W. of Donnybrook, Victoria.
Aus. 404469 F/O. McDonald, J.K.
Aus. 425330 P/O. Mason, S.W. of Pittsworth, Queensland.
Aus. 426645 F/Sgt. Mulcahy, J.W. of Rockhampton, Queensland.
Aus. 418907 W/O. McWilliam, J.R.M. West Geelong, Victoria.
Aus. 423205 F/Sgt. Maple, J.S. of Epping, N.S.W.
Aus. 418546 W/O. Murphy, P. of Toorak, Victoria.
Aus. 429473 F/Sgt. Murtha, H.H. of Wallanbarra.
Aus. 429609 F/Sgt. McGill, B.D. of Charters Towers, Queensland.
Aud. 428255 F/Sgt. Maynard, H.W. of Sale, Victoria.
Aus. 420240 F/Sgt. McDonnell, R.L. of Enmore, N.S.W.
Aus. 418445 W/O. Martin, J.A.W. of Yackandandah, Victoria.
Aus. 439480 F/Sgt. McPherson, J.S.
Aus. 415805 F/Sgt. McCormack, F.G. of Brunswick, W.A.
Aus. 423797 F/Sgt. MacKenzie, A.R. of Chatswood, N.S.W.
Aus. 428820 F/Sgt. O'Connell, B.G. of Maroubra, Bay, N.S.W.
Aus. 409583 F/O. Osmotherly, W.G. of Beechworth, Victoria.
Aus. 423479 F/Sgt. O'Loughlin, P. of Sydney, N.S.W.
Aus. 410172 F/O. Pickard, E.T. of Melbourne, Victoria.
Aus. 421853 F/O. Proctor, D.W. of Sydney, N.S.W.
Aus. 424392 F/Sgt. Palmer, N.S. of Crows Nest, Sydney.
Aus. 418873 F/Sgt. Petterson, E.A.
Aus. 424512 F/Sgt. Palmer, J. of Drummoyne, N.S.W.
Aus. 427348 F/Sgt. Plumb, W. of Narrogin, W.A.
Aus. 419214 F/Sgt. Pringle, L.M. Alphington, Victoria.
Aus. 427779 F/Sgt. Palmer, R.W. of Kalgoorlie, W.A.
Aus. 33643 F/Sgt. Parrington, R.H. of Nth. Narrabeen, N.S.W.
Aus. 409437 F/O. Patten, E.C. of Hawthorn, Victoria.
Aus. 418583 F/O. Peart, L.C. of Shepparton, Victoria.
Aus. 418872 F/O. Perry, T.A. of Elwood, Victoria.
Aus. 419480 F/Sgt. Plympton, J.E. of Brighton Beach, Victoria.
Aus. 418168 F/Sgt. Parkes, E.E. of Hawthorn, Victoria.
Aus. 421629 F/O. Rosenfeld, E. of Woollahra, Sydney.
Aus. 406731 S/Ldr. Radford, H.W. of Mt. Lawley, W.A.
Aud. 424799 F/O. Reilly, K.W. of Camden, N.S.W.
Aus. 421050 F/O. Reid, A.F. of Canterbury, N.S.W.
Aus. 428806 F/Sgt. Robinson, W.N. of Parkes, N.S.W.
Aus. 429352 F/Sgt. Russ, S.A. of Mackay, Queensland.
Aus. 434015 F/Sgt. Robinson, H. of Brisbane, Queensland.
Aus. 429130 F/Sgt. Rogers, P.J. of Cremorne, N.S.W.
Aus. 417003 F/Lt. Schultz, K. of Evandale, S.A.
Aus. 429080 F/O. Swindells, G.H. of Coogee, Sydney.
Aus. 422695 F/Sgt. Smith, G.D. of Vaucluse, N.S.W.
Aus. 421634 F/Sgt. Smith, O. of Quirindi, N.S.W.
Aus. 415192 S/Ldr. Sullivan, D.J. of Geraldton, W.A.
Aus. 417673 F/O. Sweeney, M.F. of Prospect, W.A.
Aus. 421765 F/O. Stutter, A.J. of Earlwood, N.S.W.

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| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Aus. 418201 | F/O. | Smith, F.H. of Brighton, Victoria. |
| Aus. 424227 | F/O. | Sweeting, J.W. of Mosman, N.S.W. |
| Aus. 421095 | F/O. | Stewart, J.M. of Swansea, N.S.W. |
| Aus. 412845 | P/O. | Samuels, J. of Cowra, N.S.W. |
| Aus. 426173 | W/O. | Slader, A.H. of Jericho, Queensland. |
| Aus. 436046 | F/Sgt. | Smith, A.J. of Bellevue, W.A. |
| Aus. 424877 | F/Sgt. | Stevens, J.D. of Manly, N.S.W. |
| Aus. 428463 | F/Sgt. | Simonson, R.T. of Malvern, Victoria. |
| Aus. 436677 | F/Sgt. | Tyson, A.J. of North Beach, W.A. |
| Aus. 408341 | W/O. | Turner, A.H. of Richmond, Victoria. |
| Aus. 437029 | F/Sgt. | Vaughan, K.M. of Pinaroo, S.A. |
| Aus. 419429 | F/Sgt. | Wills, T.K. of Bendigo, Victoria. |
| Aus. 418321 | F/Sgt. | Wright, C.I. of Watchupgo, Victoria. |
| Aus. 425240 | W/O. | Welldon, L.E. of Brisbane, Queensland. |
| Aus. 419890 | F/Sgt. | Wood, M.A. of Kyabram, Victoria. |
| Aus. 434351 | F/Sgt. | Woodgate, M.F. of Brisbane, Queensland. |
| Aus. 423950 | F/Sgt. | Wilkinson, F.L. |
| Aus. 413465 | F/O. | Wheeler, J.C. of Five Dock, N.S.W. |
| Aus. 402605 | F/Lt. | Winston, A.C. |
| Aus. 410187 | F/O. | White, G.T. of Brighton, Victoria. |
| Aus. 421113 | F/O. | Ward-Smith, B.E. of Ashfield, N.S.W. |
| Aus. 424657 | F/Sgt. | Williams, K.J.N. of Summer Hill, N.S.W. |
| Aus. 418714 | F/Sgt. | Williams, H.E. of Glen Iris, Victoria. |
| Aus. 432327 | F/Sgt. | Woolmer, E.A. of Croydon Park, N.S.W. |
| Aus. 421398 | W/O. | Williams, J.R. of Sydney, N.S.W. |

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## JUNE, 1944

3/4th June, 1944. RAID ON FERME D'URVILLE. Thirteen aircraft took part in a very successful and concentrated attack on the W/T Station at Ferme D'Urville.

5/6th June, 1944. D-DAY - RAID ON ST. PIERRE-DU-MONT. Fourteen aircraft from the Squadron took part in a very successful attack on the Coastal Defence batteries at St. Pierre-Du-Mont prior to the landing of the Invasion forces in Normandy. Their bombing has never been excelled.

6th June, 1944. AWARDS. The following awards were gazetted today.

Distinguished Flying Cross. Aus. 403255 F/O. R.A. Curtis
Aus. 408678 F/O. H.R. Freeman

6/7th June, 1944. RAID ON ARGENTAN. Nineteen aircraft successfully attacked road and rail junctions at Argentan. P.R.U. confirm great devastation to the targets.

8/9th June, 1944. RAID ON RENNES. Sixteen aircraft took off and fifteen attacked the railway junction and marshalling yards at Rennes. Two aircraft were shot up by flak but returned safely.

9th June, 1944. AWARD. Notification of the award of the Distinguished Flying Cross to Aus. 381 W/Cdr. R. Kingsford-Smith was gazetted today.

10/11th June, 1944. RAID ON ORLEANS. Sixteen aircraft took off and the railway centre at Orleans was successfully attacked. Spectacular explosions were reported. One aircraft failed to return. Members of the crew were: - Aus. 414668 P/O. J.J. Fletcher, Sgt. Smith, K.K., Aus. 426352 F/Sgt. King, G.W., Aus. 418756 F/Sgt. Matthews, A.W., Aus. 404682 W/O. N.W. Robinson, Aus. 427743 F/Sgt. Redford, F.H. and Aus. 419764 F/Sgt. Barry, M.R.

12/13th June, 1944. RAID ON POITIERS. Sixteen aircraft attacked the railway centre at Poitiers. Large explosions and considerable fires were seen.

14/15th June, 1944. RAID ON AUNAY. 93 tons of bombs were dropped by seventeen aircraft on M.T. and troop concentrations at Aunay-sur-Odon. P.R.U. Photographs revealed extensive damage.

15/16th June, 1944. RAID ON CHATELLERAULT. Sixteen aircraft dropped 64½ tons of bombs on a fuel dump at Chatellerault. Explosions and large fires were seen.

18th June, 1944. NEW COMMANDING OFFICER. W/Cdr. Donaldson took over command of the Squadron from W/Cdr. Kingsford-Smith.

21/22nd June, 1944. RAID ON GELSENKIRCHEN. Seventeen aircraft took off and 82½ tons of bombs were dropped on the synthetic oil plant at Scholven-Buer, Gelsenkirchen. One aircraft returned early with engine u/s and one aircraft failed to return. The missing crew were: - Aus. 415280 F/Lt. E.A.L. Smith, Sgt. Sykes, D.C., P/O. K. Forth, F/O. H.F. Raynham, F/Sgt. Tench, J.E., Sgt. Hollis, J.H., Sgt. Fittall, R.E., and Aus. 411262 F/O. A.B. Gossip.

23/24th June, 1944. RAID ON LIMOGES. Seventeen aircraft dropped 63 tons of bombs on Limoges railway centre. Bombs were seen to straddle the yards.

24/25th June, 1944. RAID ON PROUVILLE. Eighteen aircraft took off and 72½ tons of bombs were dropped on flying bomb sites at Prouville. Owing

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to the smallness of the targets, the attack was not a success. Three aircraft, including that captained by the new C.O. failed to return. The missing crews were: - Aus. 16203 P/O. J.F. Martin, Aus. 415430 W/O. B.E. Kelly, Sgt. Taylor, P.D., Aus. 418755 F/Sgt. Malcolm, T.A., Aus. 417327 F/Sgt. Bateman, G.W., Aus. 424761 F/Sgt. Hunter, L.G., Aus. 408433 F/Sgt. Barber, B.R. - Aus. 417428 P/O. J.M. Tilbrook, Sgt. Dowe, D., Aus. 416651 W/O. H.G. Carlyle, F/O. A. Syddall, Aus. 412469 W/O. A.C. Mineeff, Sgt. Penn, C.F., Aus. 419216 F/Sgt. M.M. Lack - Aus. 400631 W/Cdr. D.R. Donaldson, Sgt. Bones, L.F., Aus. 425851 F/O. R.N. Hooper, Aus. 423559 F/O. C.D.G. Small, Aus. 428801 F/Sgt. K.C. Sheel, Aus. 32691 F/Sgt. J.E. Morrison and Aus. 427302 F/O. J.A. Cullity.

26th June, 1944. AWARD. Notification of the award of the Distinguished Flying Cross to F/O. J.E.R. Rees was gazetted today.

27th June, 1944. AWARDS. Notification of the following awards was gazetted today.

Distinguished Flying Cross: - Aus. 405782 F/Lt. A.E. Vowels
Aus. 404368 F/Lt. F.B.M. Wilson
Aus. 407982 F/O. W.H. Brocker
Aus. 413875 P/O. H.R. Mahon

27/28th June, 1944. RAID ON VITRY LE FRANCOIS. Fifteen aircraft took off to attack the rail centre at Vitry Le Francois. Several aircraft were recalled but eight aircraft bombed the target.

29th June, 1944. RAID ON BEAUVOIR - FIRST DAYLIGHT RAID. Fourteen aircraft attacked a supply site at Beau - dropping 68½ tons of bombs.

STATISTICS. Statistics from formation up to 30.6.44.

Sorties 853
Hours 5,090
Miles 1,018,000
Tons 3,930

Enemy aircraft destroyed 4, probably destroyed 2, damaged 11.

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## JANUARY, 1945

1st January, 1945. RAID ON DORTMUND-EMS CANAL. Ten aircraft took part in an attack on the Dortmund-Ems Canal at Ladbergen.

1/2nd January, 1945. RAID ON MITTELLAND CANAL. Six aircraft took off and five attacked the Mittelland Canal at Gravenhorst. One aircraft returned early with engine trouble.

4/5th January, 1945. RAID ON ROYAN. Sixteen aircraft took part in an attack on Royan in France, with the object of destroying the enemy garrison. One aircraft failed to return. Members of the missing crew were: - Aus. 418292 F/O. J. Milne, Sgt. E.A. Freeman, Aus. 437400 F/Sgt. S.A. Brown, Aus. 425630 F/Sgt. C.L. Fincham, Aus. 428367 W/O. W.A. Simpson, Aus. 424635 F/Sgt. J.F. Prince and Aus. 435468 F/Sgt. C.F. Walters.

5/6th January, 1945 RAID ON HOUFFALIZE. Eight aircraft took off to attack enemy troops and armour gathered near the important road junction of Houffalize. Three aircraft did not bomb as they were unable to see the target and did not want to risk bombing their own troops, only four miles away.

7/8th January, 1945. RAID ON MUNICH. During the night two attacks were carried out on enemy war industries at Munich. Sixteen aircraft from the Squadron went on the first attack. One aircraft returned early.

13/14th January, 1945. RAID ON POLITZ. Fourteen aircraft attacked the synthetic oil plant at Politz.

14/15th January, 1945. RAID ON MERSEBURG. Two attacks were made on the Leuna synthetic oil plant at Merseburg - 463 sending fourteen aircraft on the first attack. Lancaster captained by Aus. 419044 F/O. F.J. Howells was damaged three times by flak and was also attacked by a FW.190. Bombs had to be jettisoned and owing to petrol shortage theLancaster had to land at Juvincourt. One aircraft failed to return. Members of the missing crew were: - Aus. 408485 F/O. R.A. Leonard, Sgt. P.C. Kimber, Aus. 437029 F/Sgt. K.M. Vaughan, Aus. 419008 F/O. D.L. Dickson, Aus. 427590 F/Sgt. V.G. Dingey, Aus. 427875 F/Sgt. E.E. Evans and Aus. 440122 F/Sgt. G.F. Chomley.

16th January, 1945. AWARDS. Notification of the following awards was gazetted today: -

Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross: - Aus. 417003 F/O. K. Schultz DFC

Distinguished Flying Cross: - Aus. 410321 F/Lt. G. Garden
Aus. 20610 F/O. R.W. Board
Aus. 411038 F/Lt. A.R.H. Morris
Aus. 410331 F/O. R.F. Hattam
F/Lt. D.J. Johnstone

16/17th January, 1945. RAID ON BRUX. Twelve aircraft attacked the synthetic oil plant at Brux in Czechoslovakia.

19th January, 1945. AWARDS. Notification of the award of the Distinguished Flying Cross to Aus. 422697 F/O. B.K. Purdy and Aus. 410835 F/O. G.M. Denholm was gazetted today.

22/23rd January, 1945. RAID ON GELSENKIRCHEN. One Film Unit aircraft from the Squadron bombed and photographed the attack on Gelsenkirchen.

STATISTICS. Statistics from formation up to 31.1.45.

Hours 12,209, Sorties 2,082, Miles 2,441,800 Tons 9,454
Enemy aircraft destroyed 4, probably destroyed 6, damaged 12.

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FEBRUARY, 1945.

1/2nd February, 1945 RAID ON SIEGEN. Nineteen aircraft took part in an attack on the town and marshalling yards at Siegen. One aircraft failed to return. Members of the missing crew were: - Aus. 418201 F/O. F.H. Smith, Sgt. F. Moss, Aus. 424578 P/O. R.O. Bailey, Aus. 423567 P/O. B.A. Donaghue, Aus. 428363 F/Sgt. R.T. Simonson, Aus. 410963 P/O. E.J. Earl, and Aus. 431024 F/Sgt. E.R. Cameron.

2/3rd February, 1945. RAID ON KARLSRUHE. Seventeen aircraft took part in an attack on the communications and industrial centre of Karlsruhe. One aircraft failed to return. Members of the missing crew were: -

7/8th February, 1945. RAID ON LADBERGEN. Eleven aircraft attacked the Dortmund-Ems Canal at Ladbergen. A Ju.88 was shot down in flames by Aus. 419583 F/O. L.C. Peart and crew.

8/9th February, 1945. RAID ON POLITZ. Sixteen aircraft operated and fourteen attacked the synthetic oil plant at Politz. One aircraft returned without bombing owing to late departure. Lancaster captained by Aus. 417733 F/O. M.S. Wickes was attacked by three enemy fighters and his aircraft badly damaged but he managed to get safely home after one Ju.88 had been destroyed and another damaged. Another aircraft returned with bombs as master bombing switch was incorrect.

13/14th February, 1945. RAID ON DRESDEN. In support of the Russian Army fifteen aircraft took part in the first of two attacks made during the night on the German town of Dresden. One aircraft failed to return: -

14/15th February, 1945. RAID ON ROSITZ. Sixteen aircraft attacked the synthetic oil plant at Rositz. One aircraft failed to return: -

16th February, 1945. AWARDS. Notification of the following awards was gazetted today: -

Distinguished Flying Cross: - Aus. 405534 F/Lt. F.O. Cambridge
Aus. 423226 F/O. K.P. Brady

19/20th February, 1945. RAID ON BOHLEN. Sixteen aircraft took off and fifteen attacked the synthetic oil plant at Bohlen. One aircraft did not bomb as marking was not clear.

20th February, 1945. AWARDS. Notification of the following awards was gazetted today: -

Distinguished Flying Cross: - Aus. 417673 F/O. M.F. Sweeny
Aus. 432496 P/O. J.E. Cox.

Distinguished Flying Medal: - Aus. 436046 F/Sgt. A.J. Smith

20/21st February, 1945. Ten aircraft took off to attack the Mittelland Canal at Gravenhorst but all brought their bombs back as target was obscured by cloud.

21/22nd February, 1945. RAID ON MITTELLAND CANAL. Ten aircraft took part in an attack on the Mittelland Canal at Gravenhorst. Aircraft captained by Aud. 424100 F/O. G.H. Farrow was damaged by an enemy fighter and the crew forced to bale out. All landed safely, in Holland. Two aircraft failed to return. Members of the missing crews were: - Aus. 414219 W/Cdr. W.A. Forbes, F/Lt. J.H. Dean, F/O. J.A. Costello, F/Lt. W.J. Grime, F/O. W. McLeod, W/O. A.J. Norman, P/O. K.L. Worden - Aus. 426237 F/O. L.R. Pederson, Sgt. T.P. Freeman, Aus. 433522 F/Sgt. F.E. Gould, Aus. 421256 W/O. R.K. Dixon, Aus. 433169 F/Sgt. E.T. Sumner, F/Sgt. R. Heel, and Sgt. L. Harkness.

22nd February, 1945. NEW COMMANDING OFFICER. Aus. 250728 W/Cdr. K.M. Kemp took over Command of the Squadron.

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22nd February, 1945. GELSENKIRCHEN BOMBED & PHOTOGRAPHED. One aircraft from this Squadron bombed and photographed the raid on Gelsenkirchen.

23/24th February, 1945. PFORZHEIM BOMBED & PHOTOGRAPHED. One aircraft from this Squadron bombed and photographed the raid on Pforzheim.

24th February, 1945. Eleven aircraft took off to attack Gravenhorst but all returned without bombing owing to cloud over the target.

STATISTICS. Statistics from formation up to 28.2.45.

Sorties 2,229
Hours 13,298
Miles 2,659,750
Tons 10,057

Enemy aircraft destroyed 6, probably destroyed 6, damaged 13.

2/3rd February, 1945. Members of the missing crew: - Aus. 429224 F/O. R.K. Oliver, Sgt. C.W. Gordon, Aus. 433756 F/Sgt. J. Willcocks, Aus. 425806 W/O. J. Johnson, Aus. 434523 F/Sgt. W.A. Taylor, Aus. 437622 F/Sgt. R.J. Lyond, and Aus. 435012 F/Sgt. A.B. Barrett.

13/14th February, 1945. Members of the missing crew: - Aus. 429281 F/O. C. Fernley-Stotton, Sgt. R. Marriott, Aus. 424791 F/Sgt. T. McManus, Aus. 432348 F/Sgt. B. Wilson, Aus. 429178 F/Sgt. M.J. Coleman, F/Sgt. J. Johnson, and Aus. 437705 F/Sgt. A.M. White.

14/15th February, 1945. Members of the missing crew: - F/Lt. J.G. Padgham, Sgt. R. Lister, Aus. 424527 F/Sgt. D.J. Lewis, Aus. 416863 W/O. A.E. Knight, Aus. 432652 F/Sgt. D.C. Hannaford, F/Sgt. W.J. Malcolm and F/Sgt. R.L. Gard.

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## MARCH, 1945

2nd March, 1945. COLOGNE BOMBED & PHOTOGRAPHED. One aircraft from this Squadron bombed and photographed the raid on Cologne.

3/4th March, 1945. RAID ON DORTMUND-EMS CANAL. Fifteen aircraft operated and thirteen attacked the Dortmund-Ems Canal. One aircraft returned early owing to engine trouble and one failed to return. Members of the missing crew were: - Aus. 419044 F/O. F.J. Howells, Sgt. D. Bates, F/Sgt. P.T. Barlow, Aus. 436456 F/Sgt. E.K. Foreman, Aus. 432217 F/Sgt. O.B. Elliott, Sgt. C.R. Billard and Sgt. J.M.H. Millar. Enemy fighters attacked the 'drome just as the bombers were returning and the bomb dump was set on fire.

5/6th March, 1945. RAID ON BOHLEN. Fifteen aircraft took off but only ten attacked the synthetic oil plant at Bohlen. Four aircraft did not bomb for technical reasons ans Aus. 427891 F/O. A.C. Belford jettisoned his bombs when his aircraft and mid-upper and rear gunners were hit by heavy flak just before reaching the target. F/O. Belford landed his damaged aircraft at Juvincourt.

6/7th March, 1945; RAID ON SASSNITZ. Ten aircraft operated and nine attacked the harbour and port installations at Sassnitz, a German town on the Baltic. One aircraft did not attack owing to engine trouble.

7/8th March, 1945. RAID ON HARBURG. Twelve out of thirteen starters attacked the oil refining plant at Harburg. One aircraft did not bomb - too late over the target.

11th March, 1945. RAID ON ESSEN. Fourteen aircraft from the Squadron took part in an attack of over 1,000 aircraft on Essen.

12th March, 1945. RAID ON DORTMUND. Another 1,000 bomber attack and this time the target was Dortmund. Sixteen Squadron aircraft attacked.

14/15th March, 1945. RAID ON LUTZKENDORF. Seventeen aircraft attacked the synthetic oil plant at Lutzkendorf.

15th March, 1945. One aircraft took off to photograph an attack on Bottrop but returned early owing to engine trouble.

16/17th March, 1945. RAID ON WURZBURG. Seventeen aircraft took part in an attack on the communications and industrial centre of Wurzburg. Fires developed quickly.

19th March, 1945. ARNSBERG RAILWAY VIADUCT PHOTOGRAPHED. One aircraft photographed the attack made with 22,000 lb. bombs on the Railway Viaduct at Arnsberg.

20/21st March, 1945. RAID ON BOHLEN. For the second time this month the Squadron took part in an attack on the synthetic oil plant at Bohlen. Sixteen aircraft took off and fourteen bombed. One aircraft returned early with engine trouble and one failed to return. Members of the missing crew were: - Aus. 436527 F/O. R.S. Bennett, F/Sgt. R. Gordon, F/Sgt. G.L. Green, Sgt. L. Neaves, Sgt. S.H. Walker, Sgt. G.O. Little, and Sgt. A.H. Dunn.

22nd March, 1945. RAID ON BREMEN. Eighteen aircraft took part in an attack on a railway bridge at Bremen over the Weser river.

23rd March, 1945. BREMEN PHOTOGRAPHED. One aircraft from this Squadron photographed an attack on a bridge at Bremen.

AWARDS. Notification of the following awards was gazetted today: -

Distinguished Service Order: - Aus. 420437 F/Lt. B.A. Buckham, D.F.C.

Distinguished Flying Cross: - Aus. 413506 F/Lt. P.J. Anderson
F/Lt. J.H. Dean

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23/24th March, 1945. RAID ON WESEL. Sixteen aircraft took off and fifteen attacked German concentrations, strong points, armour and machine gun nests at Wesel. Later a message was received by the A.O.C. in C. Bomber Command from Field Marshal Montgomery, congratulating aircrews who took part and saying that the bombing was a decisive factor in the capture of the town.

24th March, 1945. STERKRADE PHOTOGRAPHED. One aircraft photographed an attack on the marshalling yards at Sterkrade.

27th March, 1945. AWARDS. Notification of the following awards was gazetted today.

Distinguished Flying Cross.: - Aus. 426088 F/O. E.H.J. Gordon
F/O. J.H. Knight

27th March, 1945. RAID ON FARGE. Fifteen out of sixteen aircraft attacked the underground oil storage depot at Farge. One aircraft returned early owing to engine trouble.

STATISTICS. Statistics from formation up to 31.4.45.

Sorties 2,414
Hours 14,544
Miles 2,914,150
Tons 11,015

Enemy aircraft destroyed 6, probably destroyed 6, damaged 13

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## APRIL, 1945

4th April, 1945. RAID ON NORDHAUSEN. Twenty aircraft operated and nineteen attacked the road and rail communications at Nordhausen. One aircraft brought bombs back as bomb doors failed to open.

6th April, 1945. Ten aircraft took off to attack shipping in Ijmuiden Harbour but abandoned mission owing to cloud conditions over the target.

AWARD. Notification of the award of the Distinguished Flying Cross to Aus. 417733 F/O. M.S. Wickes was gazetted today.

7th April, 1945. RAID ON MOLBIS. Eight aircraft took part in an attack on the oil refinery at Molbis.

8/9th April, 1945. RAID ON LUTZKENDORF. Eleven aircraft took off but only nine attacked the synthetic oil plant at Lutzkendorf. One aircraft returned early - unable to catch up with Main Force. Lancaster captained by F/O. T.H. Baulderstone was hit by heavy flak over the target and the emergency jump order was given 30 miles from the Allied lines. Sgt. D. Broadhead landed safely in a tree and is the only member of the crew to return so far. Other members of the crew were: - Aus. 429910 F/O. T.H. Baulderstone, Sgt. W.S. Philip, Aus. 434527 F/Sgt. J.W. Hill, F/O. R.A. Adrian, W/O. J. Bomby and Sgt. B. Blyche. Lancaster captained by Aus. 430584 F/O. N.S. Ferris was also hit by flak, which stopped the port and starboard inner engines. The order was given to bale out and all landed safely with the exception of the navigator who was seen to bale out but has not been heard of so far.

9th April, 1945. RAID ON HAMBURG. Nine aircraft from the Squadron took part in an attack on the oil storage depot at Hamburg. Lancaster captained by F/Lt. G.O. McGregor was attacked and damaged by a Me.262 and the navigator was wounded. Hits were observed on the enemy fighter.

13th April, 1945. AWARD. Notification of the award of the Distinguished Flying Cross to Aus. 418872 F/Lt. T.A. Perry was gazetted today.

16/17th April, 1945. RAID ON PILSEN. Fourteen aircraft operated and twelve attacked the marshalling yard at Pilsen. One aircraft brought bombs back after receiving the "cease bombing order". Lancaster captained by Aus. 401947 F/O. J.A. Hagley was attacked and damaged by an enemy fighter and had to be abandoned north of Juvincourt.

18/19th April, 1945. RAID ON KOMOTAU. Fifteen aircraft took off and fourteen attacked the marshalling yard at Komotau. One aircraft returned without bombing as bomb sight was unserviceable.

23rd April, 1945. Ten aircraft took off to attack U-boats and depot ships at Flensburg but owing to cloud over the target the mission was abandoned.

24th April, 1945. AWARD. Notification of the award of the Distinguished Flying Cross to Aus. 419044 F/O. F.J. Howells was gazetted today.

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25/26th April, 1945. RAID ON TONSBERG VALLO. Fourteen aircraft took part in an attack on a small oil storage depot at Tonsberg Vallo in Southern Norway. One aircraft did not return from this operation but is known to have made a forced landing in Sweden where the crew were interned. Members of the crew were: - F/O. A Cox, Sgt. G.W. Simpson, F/O. J.A. Wainwright, F/Sgt. R. Smurthwaite, F/Sgt. F.E. Parent, F/Sgt. F.W.J.H. Logan and F/Sgt. W.D. Hogg.

STATISTICS. Statistics from formation up to 30.4.45.

Sorties 2,525
Hours 15,280
Miles 3,061,243
Tons 11,430

Enemy aircraft destroyed 6, probably destroyed 6, damaged 14.

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1st June, 1944.

## NOMINAL ROLL 463 SQUADRON

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Aus. 420127. | P/O. | Bowman, A.R.S. of Singleton, N.S.W. |
| Aus. 407982. | F/O. | Brooker, W.H. of Murray Bridge, S.A. |
| Aus. 423600. | F/Sgt. | Bewes, J.J. of Rockdale, Sydney. |
| Aus. 418913. | F/Sgt. | Bowman, N.J. of Moonee Ponds, Victoria. |
| Aus. 419290. | P/O. | Bulmer, J. of Maribyrnong, Victoria. |
| Aus. 424143. | F/Sgt. | Brill, V. of Katong, N.S.W. |
| Aus. 426296. | F/Sgt. | Booth, C. of Queensland. |
| Aus. 20610. | F/O. | Board, R.W. of Rose Bay, N.S.W. |
| Aus. 420437. | F/Lt. | Buckman, B.A. of Penshurst, N.S.W. |
| Aus. 417327. | F/Sgt. | Bateman, G.W. of Magill, S.A. |
| Aus. 417332. | P/O. | Bower, J.V. of Seaton Park, S.A. |
| Aus. 409501. | W/O. | Bradbury, H.I. of Box Hill, Victoria. |
| Aus. 408433. | F/Sgt. | Barber, B.R. of Launceston, Tasmania. |
| Aus. 419764. | F/Sgt. | Barry, M.R. of Colac, Victoria. |
| Aus. 410214. | F/O. | Chandler, F.N. of Armadale, Victoria. |
| Aus. 410833. | P/O. | Cassell, J.J. of Victoria. |
| Aus. 10981. | F/O. | Connon, A.A. of Mid Brighton, Victoria. |
| Aus. 426544. | F/Sgt. | Cossart, K.B. of Queensland. |
| Aus. 416651. | W/O. | Carlyle, H.G. of Prospect, S.A. |
| Aus. 424290. | F/O. | Dawes, G.W. of Point Piper, Sydney. |
| Aus. 414660. | P/O. | Dechastel, J.H. of Rockhampton, Queensland. |
| Aus. 419579. | F/Sgt. | Dobson, K. of Brighton, Victoria. |
| Aus. 418258. | F/Sgt. | Durford, P.J. of Oakleigh, Victoria. |
| Aus. 427305. | F/Sgt. | Davis, C.O. of North Maylands, W.A. |
| Aus. 427304. | F/Sgt. | Davies, W.H. of Subiaco, W.A. |
| Aus. 426832. | F/O. | Evans, J.S. of Kingaroy, Queensland. |
| Aus. 15763. | P/O. | Freeman, J.P. of Orange, N.S.W. |
| Aus. 418374. | P/O. | Flanagan, G.H. of St. Arnaud, Victoria. |
| Aus. 414925. | W/O. | Flute, K.F. of St. Lawrence, Queensland. |
| Aus. 428684. | P/O. | Frith, J.H. of Lismore, Victoria. |
| Aus. 420738. | F/Sgt. | Fletcher, K.C. of Miranda, Sydney. |
| Aus. 420463. | W/O. | Fitzgerald, B.W. of Strathfield, N.S.W. |
| Aus. 428681. | F/Sgt. | Foss, M. of Sydney, N.S.W. |
| Aus. 400131. | F/Lt. | Fraser, A.A. of Melbourne. |
| Aus. 423784. | F/O. | Frost, K. of Newcastle, N.S.W. |
| Aus. 414792. | F/O. | Fletcher, E.G. of Toowoomba, Queensland. |
| Aus. 414669. | P/O. | Fletcher, J.J. of Newmarket, Brisbane. |
| Aus. 414219. | S/Ldr. | Forbes, W.A. of Brisbane, Queensland. |
| Aus. 419466. | F/Sgt. | Girling, C.J. of Thornbury, Melbourne. |
| Aus. 417831. | F/Sgt. | Gillett, A.O. of Kensington, Sydney. |
| Aus. 423716. | F/Sgt. | Greacen, M.B. of Tamworth, N.S.W. |
| Aus. 402594. | F/O. | Giersch, E.H. of Henty, N.S.W. |
| Aus. 410331. | P/O. | Hattam, R.F. of Elwood, Victoria. |
| Aus. 424295. | F/Sgt. | Hind, M.C. of Penhurst, N.S.W. |
| Aus. 405040. | F/Sgt. | Hodgson, R. of Brisbane, Queensland. |
| Aus. 424761. | F/Sgt. | Hunter, L.G. of N.S.W. |
| Aus. 410061. | W/O. | Holder, E.J. of Glen Iris, Victoria. |
| Aus. 420009. | W/O. | Harrison, L. of Bogan Gate, N.S.W. |
| Aus. 421300. | F/O. | Hall, J.B. of Belmore, Sydney. |
| Aus. 415662. | P/O. | James, C. of Perth, W.A. |
| Aus. 417289. | F/O. | Jenkins, G. of Myponga, S.A. |

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|---|---|---|
| Aus. 381. | A/W/C. | Kingsford-Smith, R. of Mosman, N.S.W. |
| Aus. 404343. | F/O. | Kobelke, N.K. of Lismore, N.S.W. |
| Aus. 426749. | F/Sgt. | Keim, J. of Via Warwick, Queensland. |
| Aus. 426352. | F/Sgt. | King, G.W. of Brisbane, Queensland. |
| Aus. 415430. | W/O. | Kelly, B.E. of Perth, W.A. |
| Aus. 409001. | F/O. | Kennedy, J.A. of Victoria. |
| Aus. 404152. | A/F/L. | Lyons, K.M. of Warwick, Queensland. |
| Aus. 10025. | W/O. | Larkin, R. of Mildura, Victoria. |
| Aus. 421603. | P/O. | Lopez, R.H. of Coogee, Sydney. |
| Aus. 419126. | F/Sgt. | Lack, M.M. of Victoria, Aus. |
| Aus. 416775. | F/Lt. | Merrill, F.L. of Port Augusta, S.A. |
| Aus. 403095. | A/F/L. | Murtough, G.B. of Mosman, Sydney. |
| Aus. 12189. | F/O. | McLeod, M.J. of Ardlethan, N.S.W. |
| Aus. 16203. | P/O. | Martin, J.F. of Subicao, W.A. |
| Aus. 418755. | F/Sgt. | Malcolm, T.A. of Victoria. |
| Aus. 418756. | F/Sgt. | Mathews, A.W. of Melbourne. |
| Aus. 428258. | F/Sgt. | McConnell, R. of Sandringham, Melbourne. |
| Aus. 412469. | W/O. | Mineeff, A.C. of N.S.W. Aus. |
| Aus. 420973. | F/Sgt. | Manning, L.G. of Nelsons Bay, N.S.W. |
| Aus. 409799. | P/O. | Mustard, E. of Melbourne, Victoria. |
| Aus. 403418. | F/O. | Muddle, J.W. of Gloucester, N.S.W. |
| Aus. 424272. | F/Sgt. | Morris, T. of Sydney, N.S.W. |
| Aus. 419784. | F/Sgt. | Milner, M. of Ballarat, Victoria. |
| Aus. 428012. | F/Sgt. | Merry, M. of Launceston, Tasmania. |
| Aus. 424206. | F/O. | Needham, B. of Gosford, N.S.W. |
| Aus. 409935. | P/O. | O'Toole, M.J. of Melbourne, Victoria. |
| Aus. 410172. | F/O. | Pickerd, E.T. of Melbourne, Victoria. |
| Aus. 422691. | F/O. | Pettit, R.R. of Mosman, Sydney. |
| Aus. 421853. | F/O. | Proctor, D.W. of Sydney, N.S.W. |
| Aus. 434007. | P/O. | Paul, I.H. of Sydney, N.S.W. |
| Aus. 424392. | F/O. | Palmer, N.S. of Crows Nest, Sydney. |
| Aus. 423864. | F/O. | Papworth, C.G., of Harris Park, N.S.W. |
| Aus. 422697. | F/O. | Purdy, B.K. of Sydney, N.S.W. |
| Aus. 427354. | F/Sgt. | Rosewarne, L.C. of Kilmscott, W.A. |
| Aus. 425809. | F/O. | Roe, M.J. of Brisbane, Queensland. |
| Aus. 421629. | F/O. | Rosenfeld, E. of Woollahra, Sydney. |
| Aus. 427743. | F/Sgt. | Redford, F.H. of Maylands, W.A. |
| Aus. 424923. | F/Sgt. | Ryan, J.R. of Manly, N.S.W. |
| Aus. 404682. | W/O. | Robinson, N.W. of Brisbane, Queensland. |
| Aus. 417003. | F/Lt. | Schultz, K. of Evandale, S.A. |
| Aus. 415280. | A/F/Lt. | Smith, E.A.L. of Mt. Lawley, W.A. |
| Aus. 412712. | W/O. | Seton, L.R. of Canberra, N.S.W. |
| Aus. 410819. | F/Sgt. | Smith, S.E.W. of Malvern, Victoria. |
| Aus. 415832. | F/Sgt. | Sattler, A. of Williams, W.A. |
| Aus. 421691. | P/O. | Sanders, N.W. of N.S.W. Aus. |
| Aus. 423925. | F/Sgt. | Stuart, I.D. of Sydney, N.S.W. |
| Aus. 437230. | F/Sgt. | Schmerl, K.S. of Murray Bridge, S.A. |
| Aus. 419485. | F/Sgt. | Spencer, C.C. of Leongathe, Victoria. |
| Aus. 429080. | P/O. | Swindells, G.H. of Coogee, Sydney. |
| Aus. 418209. | P/O. | Tottenham, A.B. of Vasey, Victoria. |
| Aus. 417248. | P/O. | Tilbrook, J.M. of Brinkworth, S.A. |
| Aus. 405782. | A/S/Ldr. | Vowells, K.E. of Brisbane, Queensland. |
| Aus. 418216. | P/O. | Webb, B.W. of Melbourne, Victoria. |
| Aus. 410766. | P/O. | Wilson, L.L. of Geelong, Vic. |
| Aus. 419429. | F/Sgt. | Wills, T.K. of Bendigo, Victoria. |
| Aus. 420726. | P/O. | Webb, N.E. of Berowra. |

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Misc.

No 463 Squadron

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FOR AUSTRALIAN PAPERS 17.8.44

AIR MINISTRY NEWS SERVICE AIR MINSITRY BULLETIN NO.15192

R.A.A.F. MEN FILM BIG BOMBING RAIDS

Flying with an Australian Lancaster squadron, two Royal Australian Air Force cameramen have been filming recent Bomber Command raids for newsreels and official purposes.

They are Flight -Sergeant P.M.Steel, 11 PDRC 463 of Northbridge, New South Wales, a pilot, and Flight-Sergeant R.A.Buckland, 11 PDRC 463 of Bellevue Hill, New South Wales, wireless-air-gunner, and they completed their preliminary training in Australia before coming to England. They were waiting at a reception camp for Australian aircrew to go to an operational training unit, when they were selected for leading roles in a film produced by the R.A.F. Film Production Unit, depicting the work of the Royal Australian Air Force.

Neither had 'acted', even in an amateur way. F/Sgt.Steel had worked as an adding-machine mechanic, and F/Sgt.Buckland was a medical student at Sydney University.

In the film, F/Sgt.Steel played his own role as a pilot, while Buckland changed his air-gunner's brevet for navigator's, for the sake of the script. When they finished the film, they expected to go to the O.T.U.

There was a chance that by the time they had finished their full training and were posted to squadrons, there would not be much of the war left, over here at least.

"We wanted to get some ops in", was how they put it. So they asked whether they could join the R.A.F. Film Producation Unit as cameramen, and were accepted. After training it was not long before they were on operations.

F/Sgt.Buckland already has 13 operations to his credit, all with Lancasters. F/Sgt.Steel has nine, four with Coastal Command Liberators, and five with Lancasters.

Films they have taken, like the big Caen daylight raid. And attacks on flying bomb sites, are being shown on newsreels all over the world.

The aircraft in which they fly carries its normal crew and full load of bombs, with the addition of two cameramen and three cameras. One man works a camera in the nose, and the other handles two cameras, one operating through the bomb bay and the other from a side door.

One of their regular pilots is Flight-Lieutenant K. Schultz, 463 of Evandal, South Australia, veteran of 43 operational trips.

"We are fully

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