

# **CANADA'S AIR WAR 1941**

updated 24/05/17

## **January 1941**

***Ongoing, in early January Thailand launched a major offensive on the border with French Indo-China and drove back defending colonial forces (wikipedia Franco-Thai War).***

***The first Canadian Red Cross parcels for prisoners in Germany and Italy leave New York, at a rate of 5,000 per week. These would be delivered to the International Red Cross Committee in Switzerland through neutral countries, and the IRCC undertook to deliver them to PoWs, a task that continued throughout the war with the help of the German authorities (O. Clutton-Brock). See October, 1941.***

***During the year the Ontario Farm Service Force with help from other Government departments and the YWCA established the Farmerette program, based on a program from the First World War, that paid women 16 and older to work on farms from planting to harvest, to help replace the manpower that had joined the military and ensure that food production would be at a high level during the war. This program would continue until 1953, and rationing of food in England did not end until July, 1954 (B. Sitter; goodineverygrain.ca; wikipedia)***

Wednesday

***1 RCAF orders 12 more Stranraer flying boats from Canadian Vickers (H. Tate). A total of 40 were built for the RCAF.***

***1 #9 EFTS, St. Catharines, Ontario, Finch II #4563 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).***

***1-2 The fortified port of Bardia in Libya is attacked by RN Swordfish and RAF Bombays, plus Wellington bombers making 'dive bombing' attacks to low level to ensure accurately hitting Italian positions (M. Bechthold).***

***Bomber Command attack inflicts heavy damage to the Focke-Wulf factory in Bremen with 141 bombers, no losses, but 4 crashed on return to England (BC War Diaries).***

Thursday

**2 Air attacks on Italian positions in Bardia continue by Blenheims (M. Bechthold).**

**2-3 Wellingtons and Bombays return to bomb positions around Bardia (M. Bechthold).**

**Second attack on Bremen (47 aircraft) and other targets, 1 lost (BC War Diaries).**

**The Blitz, Cardiff in Wales was attacked by 100 Luftwaffe bombers (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).**

**Italian bombers make their last night attack on Britain in support of the Luftwaffe, 4 BR.20M bombers sent to attack Ipswich, 2 of which were unable to bomb. The Italian aircraft were withdrawn as they were needed in the fighting in Greece and Libya (H.W. Neulen).**

Friday

**3 Italian counter offensive against Greek Army in Albania begins, but achieves nothing (ww2total.com Chronology/1940).**

**With reinforcement by Australian forces the Commonwealth army in North Africa resumes it's advance into Libya (D. Sommerville). Supported by gunfire from battleships Australian forces break into the fortified port of Bardia. Co-ordinated bombing and patrols of Italian airfields west of Bardia kept the larger Italian air force from supporting their defending troops (M. Bechthold).**

**3-4 Third attack on Bremen (71 aircraft). Some bombs fall in Hamburg, 1 loss (BC War Diaries).**

**The Blitz, Bristol attacked by 170 Luftwaffe bombers over 12 hours (ww2total.com Chronology/1941, wikipedia).**

Saturday

**4 Australian troops capture Bardia, Libya (Oxford). 45,000 Italians taken PoW, plus 130 Italian tanks captured (M. Bechthold).**

**The Greek army goes on the offensive in Albania, but makes slow progress against Italian forces who outnumber them (D. Sommerville).**

**A Free French force from Chad composed mostly of local Tuareg and Tibesti tribesman cross the desert from Chad to southern Libya to destroy the Italian**

***air base at the Murzuk Oasis, the first offensive action by Free French forces (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).***

- 4 #6 EFTS, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4139 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

***4-5 German warships in Brest were the target of 53 RAF bombers, no losses (BC War Diaries).***

Sunday

***5 Australian forces begin advance from Bardia towards Tobruk (M. Bechthold).***

***Pre-war aviator Amy Johnson missing on an ATA ferry flight over England in an Oxford aircraft, believed to have parachuted over the sea and drowned.***

***Animator Miyazaki Hayao born in Tokyo, Japan.***

Monday

***6 President Roosevelt makes his State of the Union address, also known as his Four Freedoms Speech, identifies 4 fundamental freedoms of man, ie, freedom of speech and expression, freedom of worship, freedom from want, and freedom from fear, which are later incorporated into the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights (wikipedia).***

***First Cessna Crane trainer arrives in Canada for the RCAF (J.A. Griffin).***

***#5 AOS, Winnipeg, Manitoba and #9 SFTS, Summerside, PEI begin operations on this day (<http://www.bombercrew.com/BCATP.htm>).***

- 6 211 Sqn. Blenheim I L1542 was damaged over Greece on a bombing sortie while fighting Italian fighters, **Sgt J.R. Marshall RAF (Can.)**, Sgt W. Ward or Baird RAF and one other safe. Sgt Marshall was involved in the fighting for Greece and Crete and was later awarded a DFM and commissioned (Allison & Hayward).
- 6 #1 Air Navigation School, Rivers, Manitoba, Anson I #6016 crashed near the airfield on a navigation exercise, **LAC(OB) L.J. Gray, Sgt G.J. Lewis, F/O M.D. MacBrien, Sgt E.J. Pink, Sgt J.D. Ross** killed. Possibly the first loss of an Anson aircraft in Canada.

Tuesday

***7 After negotiation with the RAF a supplementary agreement to the BCATP Agreement (known as the Sinclair-Ralston Agreement) is signed, agreeing that the dominions will establish their own Squadrons for service overseas under***

***Article 15 of the BCATP. Canada plans 25 such Squadrons in the next 18 months, above the three already overseas. Canada would provide the air and ground crews for these units but the RAF would bear the cost of equipment and pay, to offset the cost of the BCATP covered by Canada. As Canadian airmen are paid at a higher rate than the RAF the excess will be paid by Canada to RCAF members and banked for their return to Canada. This was done to avoid inflationary effects on the British economy as well.***

***To avoid confusion with established RAF units these Article 15 Squadrons were to be numbered in the RAF 400 range, RCAF being allocated numbers 400-449, RAAF 450-479 and RNZAF 485 to 499 (CCMA, RCAF Sqns., wikipedia). One unresolved problem of the scheme was the lack of incentive for the RAF, who handled supplementary training and manning depots in England, to provide complete aircrews of Canadians (and other nationalities) for multi-engined squadrons. Thus most multi-engine Article 15 squadrons would initially have a majority of RAF aircrew (RCAF Sqns.). On the plus side experienced RAF NCOs and officers in specialty trades such as Airframe, Engine, Wireless, Instruments, Armament, Administration, Stores, Intelligence, Police, Catering etc., were initially posted to the new squadrons to provide training and needed knowledge to their Canadian counterparts (A.D. Squires, pers. comm.). See April 1943.***

***Despite the Sinclair-Ralston Agreement, most RCAF aircrew overseas would continue to serve in RAF units.***

***In Japan Admiral Yamamoto presented his plans for a war with the Western Powers in the Pacific, including the USA. It would open with an attack on the newly established US Navy base at Pearl Harbour in the Hawaiian Territory in an attempt to cripple the US Pacific Fleet (wikipedia).***

***Government committee in Ottawa recommends not allowing Japanese Canadians to enlist in the military due to the strong feelings against Japan's actions in China (wikipedia).***

- 7     #2 SFTS, Uplands, Ontario, Harvard II #2598 crashed near New Orleans, Ontario on an instrument practice flight, LAC(P) H.N. Dawson and LAC(P) J.R. Dority killed. (Griffin).
- 7     #11 EFTS, Cap de Madeleine, Finch II #4657 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

Wednesday

**8 In Japan Army Minister General Tojo issues 'Instructions for the Battlefield', a pamphlet sent to all members of Japan's military, which orders absolute obedience by Japanese soldiers and sailors, and forbids them to retreat or surrender in combat. These orders are meant, and are taken, literally by Japanese military and naval personnel (Oxford).**

**Italian garrison in Tobruk cut off by advancing British and Australian forces (CJCA headline). Further RAF units were ordered transferred to Greece, including 2 from A/C Collishaw's #202 Group engaged in the advance from Bardia. Tobruk was surrounded but the Commonwealth forces needed time to re-supply, and the RAF squadrons, not at this time fully mobile or self-sustaining, needed time to move forward and service aircraft. Captured supplies of Italian food and fuel helped the logistics, and the RAF adapted its aircraft to use captured Italian bombs in their attacks. Nightly bombing attacks by Wellingtons on Italian ports continued (M. Bechthold).**

**Soviet general staff wargames the possibility of a German attack and a Russian counter attack, which indicate a successful defence in depth possible, but the initial attack/defensive stage was not part of the simulation. They assumed (despite the previous actions of the German military under Hitler) that there would be a period of several weeks between Germany declaring a war and their beginning to attack. They also assumed any attack would be on a limited front. It should also be noted that such wargames would also follow the then current Soviet doctrine of defence by offensive operations, ie, meeting an attack with an overwhelming counter attack (Oxford).**

**Lord Robert Baden-Powell, founder of the Boy Scouts, dies in Kenya (wikipedia).**

**8-9 RAF Wellingtons damage Italian battleship Giulio Cesare in an attack on Naples (D. Sommerville).**

**German battleship Tirpitz at Wilhelmshaven attacked by 32 bombers, 48 more attack Emden, 9 aircraft GARDENING in the River Elbe, no losses (BC War Diaries).**

Thursday

**9 First flight of the 4 engined Manchester III bomber, later called the Lancaster (M.J.H. Taylor).**

9 #1 Manning Depot, Toronto, Ontario, LAC D.L. Poegal died in hospital of natural causes.



**9-10 Bomber Command sends 135 aircraft to attack synthetic oil plants at Gelsenkirchen, but only 56 report bombing the target. This was the largest number of RAF bombers attacking a single target of the war so far. Bombing was scattered, including bombs in surrounding towns. Nineteen other sorties, 1 loss (BC War Diaries).**

Friday

**10 Royal Thai Air Force bombers and fighters make a large scale attack on the French Indo-China base at Angkor-Vat (Shores, Cull & Izawa).**

**Aircraft carrier HMS Illustrious damaged near Sicily by dive bombers (CJCA headline). The carrier and its escorts were under continuous observation by Ju 88 aircraft which were able to fly faster and higher than the carriers Fulmar fighters (C. Horrocks). The armoured deck carrier suffers 6 bomb hits by German Ju 87s based in Italy, making their first operations in the Mediterranean (D. Sommerville), suffering heavy damage and loss of life, and is forced to dock in Malta for repairs, where it soon becomes a major target for Italian and German bombers (C. Horrock). See January 16, below.**

**The first CIRCUS operation, 6 Blenheims escorted by 72 fighters, attack an ammunition dump near Calais, France, without loss (BC War Diaries). The intent of a CIRCUS was to draw up enemy fighters so they could be attacked in the air. This was in line with the RAFs position of taking the fight to the enemy, and this attack was also an indication of the growing strength of Fighter Command built up since the Battle of Britain. **S/L R.A. Barton DFC RAF (Can.)** is noted as leading one of the fighter Squadrons on this operation (FF Years).**

**In Berlin and Moscow pacts defining their mutual frontiers and covering trade in food and raw materials are signed (D. Sommerville).**

**The Lend-Lease bill is introduced to the US Congress, named 'An Act to Promote the Defense of the United States'. Among those publicly opposing it are former Ambassador to England Joseph Kennedy and Charles Lindbergh, supported by the America First party (D. Sommerville).**

**10-11 The Blitz, Portsmouth attacked by 150 Luftwaffe bombers dropping incendiaries, losing 6 to strengthening defences (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).**

Saturday

**11 Hitler issues directive for German support of Italian forces in Albania and Libya.**

**German dive bombers severely damage the cruiser HMS Gloucester and sink the cruiser HMS Southampton near Malta (D. Sommerville).**

- 11 224 Sqn. Hudson I N7298 QX-O flew into high ground in England in bad visibility on a night flight, **Sgt W.R. Martin RAF (Can.)**, P/O B.L.P. Fox RAF (Aus.), Sgt K.B. Files RAF and P/O J.M.S. Wylie RAF were injured and managed get clear of the wreckage, but all had died of their injuries and/or exposure before they were found the next day. A stone with a memorial plaque was placed at the crash site in 2012 (R. Allenby).
- 11 #8 Repair Depot, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Crane I #7662 crashed near Grosse Island, (Rainy River) Ontario, on a test or delivery flight, pilot **F/O R.S. Dixon** killed. This was the first Crane lost in the RCAF. See #12 SFTS loss July 25, 1942.

Sunday

- 12 242 (Canadian) Sqn. lost 2 Hurricane I aircraft shot down over France on a RHUBARB. **P/O J.B. Latta RAF (Can.)** missing in V7203 and **F/O W.L. 'Willy' McKnight DFC & Bar RAF (Can.)** missing in P2961 LE-A. Both were exceptional pilots, P/O Latta was a Biggs' Boy (K. Stofer) and had 8½ victories when he went missing, and F/O McKnight was one of the highest scoring Allied fighter pilots at this time with 16½ victories. McKnight Boulevard in Calgary is named for this pilot.

**12-13 RAF Wellington force in Mediterranean bomb oil facilities at Regensburg in Germany, and Venice, Italy (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).**

Monday

**13 Author James Joyce dies in Zurich, Switzerland (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).**

- 13 #1 Technical Training School, St. Thomas, Ontario, aero engine mechanic **AC2 S.F. Walters** was killed when he was hit by a bus while off duty.

**13-14 Bomber Command sends 24 bombers to Germany and the French ports as well as 12 GARDENING sorties off France without loss (BC War Diaries).**

**The Blitz, Luftwaffe bombers drop incendiaries on Portsmouth (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).**

Tuesday

**14 In the far South Atlantic near Bouvet Island the entire Norwegian whaling fleet is captured by the German raider Pinguin, ending whaling in the Antarctic for**

***the war's duration (wikipedia). Many of the captured ships are sent to France. See May 8, below.***

- 14 824 Sqn., *HMS Eagle*, Swordfish P2470 forced to ditch in the Mediterranean while searching for an Italian convoy, **Lt(A) D.R. Hoar RN (Can.)**, Naval Airman H.J.S. Frank RN and Sub Lt(A) G.J. Woodley RNVR missing (FAA Museum NAP Data, [www.naval-history.net](http://www.naval-history.net)).

Wednesday

***15 British Air Ministry directs an increase of attacks on German synthetic oil targets. It was hoped to concentrate on this in February, but accurate bombing of small refineries at this point in time required clear nights, attacks on industrial cities would be substituted on nights of lesser visibility. At this time Bomber Command was getting stronger, improved aircraft types were coming into service, and German opposition by night was small. With a clear objective it was hoped heavy damage to oil production could be done (BC War Diaries).***

- 15 22 Sqn. Beaufort I W6489 OA-W lost over the North Sea on a GARDENING sortie off Germany, **Sgt D.S. Craik, F/L J.R. Fishwick RAF (Can.)**, Sgt T. Wareing RAF and Sgt A.T. Smith RAF missing.
- 15 #7 EFTS, Windsor, Ontario, Finch II #4514 failed to recover from an inverted spin and crashed near the airfield, **F/L A.H. Fairweather** and **LAC(P) D.R. Axler** killed. (TSGNO states 1942 for Fairweather, CWGC confirms 1941).
- 15 #31 B&G School, Picton, Ontario, Battle I #1734 collided with Yale #3359 on approach to land and both aircraft crash landed, P/O C.W. Hickerson (RAF?) injured in the Battle, the pilot of the Yale also survived (S. Shail). Note #31 B&G School was not opened until April, so this information may be an error. Possibly #31 SFTS?

***15-16 Wilhelmshaven docks attacked by 96 RAF bombers with 1 loss (BC War Diaries).***

- 15-16 58 Sqn. Whitley V N1521 GE-J shot down over Holland by a night fighter, **Sgt R.F.J. Duncan RAF (Can.)**, P/O W.E. Peers RAF, Sgt H.P. Shipley RAF, P/O M.P. Griffiths RAF and Sgt R.J. Couser DFM RAF killed. Sgt Duncan was a Biggs' Boy (K. Stofer)

Thursday

***16 French colonial forces in Indo-China counter attack invading Thai forces. The French drive was stopped by Thai armour, and they retreated, but the Thai Army was unable to follow up due to the able use of French artillery (wikipedia).***

***Over 80 Ju 87 dive bombers attack Grand Harbour, Malta, inflicting further serious damage to the carrier HMS *Illustrious*, damaging the cruiser HMAS *Perth* and***



**harbour facilities (M.J.H. Taylor, D. Sommerville). This is the first Luftwaffe attack on Malta (wikipedia).**

- 16 8 Sqn. Blenheim I L8456 was attacking targets in Eritrea from Aden and force landed in French Somaliland where the crew **F/O K.A.H. Lawrence MiD RAF (Can.)**, Sgt W.H. Tamlin DFM RAF and Sgt A.B. Houston RAF were interned for three months. Following his release and further service with 8 Squadron F/O Lawrence was sent to Canada as an instructor and in 1943 returned to operations on Stirlings with Bomber Command (Allison & Hayward).
- 16 234 Sqn. Spitfire Ia N3191 crashed returning from a convoy patrol over the English Channel, after losing it's wings in a dive, **P/O W.L. Beech RAF (Can.)** killed (www.spitfires.ukf.net). P/O Beech was a Biggs' Boy (K. Stofer).
- 16 #8 EFTS, Vancouver, BC, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4291 crashed near the Sea Island Airport, **Sgt R.M. Setters RCAF (USA)** killed.

**16-17 Wilhelmshaven attacked again by a force of 81 bombers with poor results, 5 aircraft lost (BC War Diaries).**

- 16-17 32 Sqn. Hurricane I P2984, F/O J.P. Falkowski PAF on a night patrol shot down a He 111, but was damaged by return fire. F/O Falkowski became trapped when his parachute pack caught on the Hurricane's canopy, so he deployed the parachute to pull himself out of the aircraft at low level, and broke his leg when he landed almost immediately (J.P. Falkowski). See December 7, 1944.

Friday

**17 In the Far East French naval units attacked Thai vessels at Koh Chang, sinking two gunboats and leaving a large coastal defence ship (in reality a small battleship) damaged and aground, essentially neutralizing the Thai naval threat (wikipedia).**

**In India radical leader Subhas Chandra Bose escapes house arrest and flees to Afghanistan (S. Raghavan).**

**Italian forces in Sudan begin to withdraw into Eritrea (Shores).**

**First US troops arrive in Newfoundland.**

**Liner SS Leopoldville arrives in England carrying a party of 161 RCAF airmen with knowledge in advanced electronics for training on RDF, or radar. These were the first of over 5,000 such RCAF radar technicians, and this group had been selected from all the applicants as they had advanced knowledge or backgrounds and could begin training without delay. They were sent to many**

***theatres in the war and were collectively known as "The Leopoldville Group" among their trade (M. Cumming).***

- 17 Central Flying School Master I N7430 flew into ground, possibly in a snowstorm, P/O J.A. Deschamps RAF (Can.) and P/O R.W. Sloan RAF killed. P/O Deschamps had flown as a bush pilot from Yellowknife, NWT, for four years before the war, and had volunteered to serve in Finland before joining the RAF, and flew in the Battle of Britain in 242 (Canadian) Squadron (B. Barry et al; Allison & Hayward; H. Welting and Alex Smart at [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 17 Cargo liner SS *Alameda Star* torpedoed and shelled by U-96 in the Atlantic, sinks with the loss of all 194 passengers and 165 crew onboard, including pilot Lt(A) L.F. Findlay RNVR (Can.), missing, who was one of a draft of 21 officers and 121 men from 749, 750 and 752 Squadrons, FAA, enroute to RNAS Trinidad (Allison & Hayward, [www.maritimequest.com](http://www.maritimequest.com), FAA Museum NAP Data, wikipedia).

***17-18 Eight Luftwaffe He-111 bombers from Benghazi fly to search the Suez Canal, where they bombed ships they saw, three lost after force landing in the desert due to unforecast headwinds (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1). This was the first German bomber attack on populated Egypt.***

Saturday

***18 Further Luftwaffe attacks on airfields in Malta (D. Sommerville).***

Sunday

***19 Faced with a planned British and Indian attack Italian forces execute a withdrawal from Sudan to Eritrea. The Commonwealth troops attempt to disrupt this but fail. Their advance, however, turns into a pursuit (Oxford, S. Raghavan).***

***Damaged carrier HMS *Illustrious* hit and damaged again by German dive bombers while under repair at Malta ([ww2total.com](http://ww2total.com) Chronology/1941).***

***19-20 Wellington bombers attack Tobruk and Italian airfields around Benghazi, while Naval ships bombarded the port (M. Bechthold).***

Monday

***20 Daylight bombing of Tobruk defences takes place (M. Bechthold).***

***In return for German help in Africa and Greece, Mussolini agrees to German troops being based in Italy (wikipedia). This was the beginning of a build-up of German forces that allowed Germany to take over Italy in 1944.***

**20-21 Tobruk defences again attacked by Wellingtons, timed to cover the noise of armoured tanks as they moved forward to attack its defensive line, while RN ships attacked the port area (M. Bechthold).**

Tuesday

**21 Australian soldiers with tank support attacked Tobruk at dawn. Heavy support by Blenheims was used during the day while Gladiator and Hurricane fighters flew patrols to defend against Italian fighter attacks (M. Bechthold).**

**Near Smith's Falls, Ontario, 8 German PoWs escape from a train taking them to a PoW camp from Montreal. Seven are re-captured but one, Luftwaffe fighter pilot Lt Franz von Werra (captured September 5, 1940, who had made two escape attempts in England already, ref. S. Adams), crosses the border into the neutral USA. From there he became a media star before being smuggled to Mexico, and returned to Germany via Brazil, Spain and Italy (wikipedia). He was the only German PoW to escape from Canada and return to Germany during the war. See Oct. 24, below.**

**In Romania the pro-fascist Iron Guard attempt to overthrow the military dictatorship of General Antonescu. They also start killing Jews in the capitol of Bucharest (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).**

21 #20 EFTS, Oshawa, Ontario, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4401 crashed near Whitby, Ontario (R.W.R. Walker).

Wednesday

**22 Australians capture Tobruk (CJCA headline, which reports 28,000 prisoners taken).**

**Scharnhorst and Gneisenau leave on a second commerce raid into the Atlantic (Oxford).**

22 #110 (AC) Sqn. Lysander III R9004 crashed in England, F/L A.H.F. Alloway and aero engine mechanic Sgt G. Wright killed (W.F. McCague; www.rafcommands.com). F/L Alloway's mother was a reporter for the *Winnipeg Tribune* and the paper's owner J.W. McConnell later paid for a Presentation aircraft, Spitfire Vb W3441 "Alloway" in his honour, one of several aircraft he sponsored (R.W.R. Walker at www.rafcommands.com).

Thursday

**23 Romanian rebellion [Legionnaires' Rebellion] quelled (CJCA headline). The pro-fascist Iron Guard is defeated in it's attempt to overthrow the government under dictator Gen. Antonescu (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).**

***Disabled carrier HMS Illustrious leaves Malta after emergency repairs, for Alexandria, for further repairs (ww2total.com Chronology/1941). See April 4, below.***

***Charles Lindbergh, testifying before the US Congress, notes the technological advances of the German Luftwaffe and states even with the USA becoming an ally of Britain he doubts they could defeat Germany. He opposes the Lend-Lease bill and recommends that the US negotiate a neutrality pact with Germany (wikipedia).***

- 23 #6 SFTS, Dunnville, Ontario, Yale #3352 crashed near the airfield during a training flight, LAC(P) J.S. McMartin and Sgt G.D. Pomeroy killed.
- 23 #32 SFTS, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Harvard II #2715 crashed, LAC J.H. Morgan RAF and F/L C.R.S. Rich RAF died (B. Barry et al; www.rafcommands.com).

Friday

***24 Thai Air Force Martin 139W (B-10) bombers and Curtiss Hawk III biplane fighters attack French airfield at Angkor. Following this Japan stepped in to mediate a resolution, forcing an armistice the next day (wikipedia).***

- 24 274 Sqn. Hurricane I, F/O T.L. Patterson RAF (Can.), force landed near Tobruk, returned safe next day (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1). See January 26, below.
- 24 502 Sqn. Whitley V T4168 YG-E became lost returning from a patrol and was abandoned over Eire. Three crew fell into the mouth of the Foyle River, P/O E.I. Johnson RAF drowned, Sgt J.E. Hogg RAF and Sgt L. Greenwood RAF missing, F/O L.J. Ward RAF (Can.) and Sgt G.V. Jefferson survived and were interned (D. Burke www.ww2irishaviation.com).
- 24 #9 EFTS, St. Catharines, Ontario, Finch II #4565 damaged beyond repair and became Instructional Airframe #A 127 (R.W.R. Walker).

Saturday

- 25 #1 Equipment Depot equipment officer F/O I.R. Glassco died in a shooting accident at the depot.
- 25 #2 B&G School, Mossbank, Saskatchewan, Battle I #1753 made a wheels up forced landing near Hanley, Saskatchewan, after getting lost in a snowstorm on a ferry flight from Edmonton, pilot safe (S. Shail).
- 25 #3 SFTS Calgary, Alberta, Anson I #6108 crashed, Sgt J.P. Brunelle killed.
- 25 unknown unit, AC2 C. Baay RCAF (Netherlands) died of natural causes in Canada.

Sunday

- 26 274 Sqn. Hurricane I P3823, F/O T.L. Patterson RAF (Can.) claimed 2 Italian G.50

fighters shot down near Derna in Libya, 1 confirmed (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1). See January 30, below.

Monday

**27 Canadian Pacific liner RMS Empress of Australia torpedoed (CJCA headline). [This report turned out to be erroneous (wikipedia)].**

27 #2 EFTS, Fort William, Ontario, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4214 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

27 #6 EFTS, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4036 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

Tuesday

**28 Free French forces invade southern Libya (CJCA headline). Reference to the attack on the Murzak Oasis airfield.**

Wednesday

**29 Greece, Greek Prime Minister General Metaxas dies unexpectedly.**

***In Washington a series of secret meetings begin of British, Canadian and US military leaders on co-ordination of effort if the US became involved in the war, referred to as ABC-1, for America, Britain, Canada (wikipedia).***

Thursday

**30 Allied forces capture Derna, Libya (CJCA headline).**

***Bomber Command sends 34 bombers to Wilhelmshaven in cloudy weather to attack the Tirpitz, but they fail to find it and bomb docks instead (BC War Diaries).***

***The Blitz, German fighter bombers also take advantage of cloud to attack London (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).***

***In response to the Lend-Lease bill Hitler announces Germany will attack US registered ships carrying aid to England (C.E. Hipperson).***

30 274 Sqn. Hurricane I, F/O T.L. Patterson RAF (Can.), was one of two attacking an Italian CR.42 fighter near Benghazi, which succeeded in damaging both Hurricanes before being forced down. F/O Patterson was badly wounded and F/O E.M. 'Imshi' Mason RAF slightly wounded, but both returned safe (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1). See April 25, below.

30 #4 SFTS, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, LAC(P) J.A.A. Quinlan was killed when he



walked into a taxiing aircraft.

**30-31 German He 111 bombers plant magnetic mines in the Suez Canal. The RAF had sent Wellingtons equipped with magnetic rings to Egypt the previous May in case this was attempted, and on February 1 these exploded mines and prevented the Canal from being blocked by a large troopship (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).**

Friday

- 31 RCAF Station Rockcliffe, Ontario, Harvard IIb #3034, the first Canadian built Harvard, passes its acceptance trials, flown by **S/L F.E.R. Briggs**. It was then tested (inevitably) on skis before being issued to #2 SFTS at Uplands, Ontario (R.W.R. Walker). Including postwar production, the Harvard would become the most produced aircraft in Canada.
- 31 #2 SFTS, Uplands, Ontario air frame mechanic **AC1 N. Styne** died in hospital of natural causes.
- 31 #18 EFTS, Boundary Bay, BC, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4286 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

## **February 1941**

Saturday

- 1 #111 (F) Sqn. Patricia Bay, BC disbanded, becomes nucleus for #3 Coastal Artillery Co-operation (CAC) Squadron detachment at Patricia Bay (RCAF Sqns.).**

**Riots break out in South Africa between soldiers and a pro-Nazi group (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).**

Sunday

- 2 Royal Navy Swordfish aircraft from HMS Ark Royal attempt to destroy a dam in Sardinia with torpedoes, not successful (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).**
- 2 #4 B&G School, Fingal, Ontario, Battle I #1746 belly landed after the engine lost power (S. Shail). See April 14, 1942.

Monday

- 3 British advance into Eritrea held at Keren where Italian forces hold a strong position blocking British and Indian troops (ww2total.com Chronology/1941). See March 27, below.**

**3-4 Wellingtons attack railyards at Barce in Libya, used to tranship Italian tanks (M. Bechthold).**

Tuesday

**4 One of a group of freighters transiting the Suez Canal sunk by a magnetic mine equipped with a device to go off after a set number of ships had passed it (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).**

**Allied forces occupy Cirene [Libya] (CJCA headline). Italian forces were retreating from Cyrenaica along the coast. To cut them off in a risky manoeuvre armoured units were ordered to advance on a shorter route directly across the desert. Aerial reconnaissance and assessment of the planned route was made in the days before to avoid warning the Italians with scouting patrols, and attacks on airfields had given the RAF air superiority in the region, so the advance remained undiscovered (M. Bechthold).**

**Alaska Defence Command formed at Anchorage, Alaska, to organize a military defence of the Alaskan Territory. Prior to this the entire Territory had only a few hundred soldiers stationed there. By December 1941 over 24,000 members of the US Army and Navy were based in Alaska (B. Coyle). Planning included a base to be built at Dutch Harbour in the Aleutian Islands. Fortifying the Aleutians had been banned under the 1922 Washington Naval Treaty to ensure the security of Japan, but this treaty had been renounced by Japan in 1934 (B. Coyle).**

**Undersea cables for secure communications did not exist in Alaska so cable ships were chartered from BC which remained in Alaska waters doing this important work until the war ended, including the cable ship BRICO, now for many decades a seaside seafood restaurant beside the highway at Fanny Bay, BC (B. Coyle).**

- 4 53 Sqn. Blenheim IV T1992 PZ-X was damaged by a fighter attack near France and ditched off the English coast, **Sgt R.H. Trafford RAF (Can.)**, F/L B.B.St.G. Daly RAF and Sgt J.L. Jones RAF missing. Sgt Trafford had been slightly injured Sept. 27, 1940 in the loss of a 53 Sqn. Blenheim.
- 4 502 Sqn., Coastal Command, Whitley VII P5050 YG-M shot down in the morning by German fighters on a patrol off Brest, France, **Sgt M.F. Sikal**, Sgt B.C. Gillespie RAAF, S/L N.S.F. Davie RAF, Sgt T.R. Calder RAF, Sgt G.S. Harris RAF and Sgt J.F. Barnes RAF taken PoW (R. McNeill [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)). The crew had shot down one of the attacking Bf 109s before crash landing (Gildas [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).

- 4 #20 OTU Wellington Ic R1367 crashed out of control near it's base in Scotland on a training exercise, Sgt E.G. Morris RAF, Sgt S. Summersgill RAF and Sgt J.K. Blencoe RAF killed, Sgt D.M. Walker RNZAF died of injuries, P/O J.G. Pidduck and Sgt P.G. Carvenec RAF injured.
- 4 #1 SFTS, Camp Borden, Ontario, Harvard II #2704 crashed in bad weather on a detached ice floe in Nottawasaga Bay, Lake Huron, practicing instrument flight. The wreckage was spotted by search aircraft but the ice broke up in a gale Feb. 8 before it could be reached. A search for the wreckage in May found the fuselage, but not the remains of LAC(P) C.T. Arthur RAAF and LAC(P) C.M. Ross RAAF, who are listed as missing (A. Storr).

#### ***4-5 Wellingtons attack Italian airfields near Benghazi (M. Bechthold).***

***Bomber Command plans a major effort for the next moon period and on operations this night for the first time allocates targets to Groups rather than smaller Squadrons; Düsseldorf (30 bombers), German warships in French ports (38), airfields in France (31) and French Channel ports (37) plus 6 bombers GARDENING, 142 sorties total, 2 aircraft lost (BC War Diaries).***

Wednesday

- 5 ***Second freighter sunk by a magnetic mine in the Suez Canal, again with a preset counting fuse (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1). These fuses made it harder to sweep for magnetic mines as an area could be swept several times and have other ships pass by safely before the mine activated.***

***In the afternoon British armoured units cutting across the desert reach Beda Fomm on the coast of Libya, just before retreating Italian units, beginning a 2 day pitched battle as the Italians attempted to break through the blocking British units. Attacks by RAF Blenheims and Hurricanes on airfields and rail points around Benghazi were made to hamper the Italian retreat (M. Bechthold). This operation was the background of C.S. Forester's short story "An Egg for the Major".***

#### ***CIRCUS to St. Omer airfield by 12 Blenheims (BC War Diaries).***

- 5 84 Sqn. Blenheim I L4833 VA-U crashed on landing in Greece when an engine failed, F/L R.A. Towgood RAF (Can.) killed, Sgt R.F. Somerville RAF injured (www.rafcommands.com).
- 5 #1 Sqn. Hurricane I P3920 shot down over the Channel, F/O R.G. Lewis MiD RAF (Can.) bailed out but missing. F/O Lewis had fought in France and in the Battle of Britain and was credited with 4 enemy aircraft shot down. He had survived bailing

out May 12, 1940 over Belgium. Note some sources state this aircraft was lost from #1 (F) Sqn. RCAF, but this incorrect.

Thursday

**6 Australian forces enter Benghazi, captured the next day. The loss of the Italian airfields in the area also cuts direct reinforcement flights of new bombers and fighters to Italian forces fighting in Ethiopia (H.W. Neulen).**

**Fighting continued at Beda Fomm, and road convoys of retreating Italian soldiers, blocked by the fighting, were attacked by Hurricane and Blenheim aircraft (M. Bechthold).**

**Hitler appoints General Erwin Rommel to lead German Forces in Africa. Bulgaria signs agreement with Germany for military co-operation (Polsson).**

**Roosevelt appoints J.G. Winant as US Ambassador to England to replace pro-German Joseph Kennedy (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).**

**Charles Lindberg again addresses Senate committee, opposing Lend-Lease, saying it would weaken US defences and prolong the war (wikipedia).**

**TCA Lockheed 14 CF-TCP crashed while landing at Armstrong, Ontario, enroute to Winnipeg, killing crew **Captain W.E. Twiss**, **First Officer C.E. Lloyd**, **Stewardess M.G. Mayne** and 9 passengers, the first crash of a TCA aircraft with passenger fatalities (wikipedia, P. Pigott).**

**6-7 Forty nine RAF bombers attack French channel ports, 1 lost (BC War Diaries).**

Friday

**7 Italian forces in Libya encircled and defeated at Beda Fomm, 20,000 soldiers equipped with 216 guns, 112 tanks and 1,500 vehicles forced to surrender. In the last 2 months 2 Commonwealth divisions have defeated 10 Italian divisions, taking 130,000 prisoners, captured 500 tanks and 800 artillery guns, as well as thousands of vehicles, for less than 2,000 casualties. In the ports captured 32 ships were found sunk or disabled, and the Italian air force in the region nearly wiped out. Much of the credit was due to #202 Group under **A/C Collishaw**, which despite being outnumbered employed tactics that prevented the Italian air force from using that advantage as it was forced to use it's aircraft to defend its own airfields from attacks as well as support the Italian army. But accomplishing this advance has worn out both men,**

**vehicles and aircraft. A decision was made to focus on operations in Greece, and Army forces were withdrawn to Egypt to rest and recover. A smaller air unit was formed to protect Cyrenaica, and #202 Group also returned to Egypt (D. Sommerville, M. Bechthold). The tactics used by A/C Collishaw in this battle, close co-operation with the Army command, gaining air superiority over the region by attacks on enemy airfields and forcing them to disperse their strength with standing patrols, and in attack targeting their supply and reinforcements to limit their actions and options in combat, generally follow those of the Luftwaffe worked out in Spain. The difference is that Collishaw and #202 Group achieved these results despite having fewer aircraft available. See July 10, below.**

**7-8 Same targets attacked again with 64 bombers with good results, no losses (BC War Diaries).**

Saturday

- 8 12 Sqn. Wellington II W5365 crashed on landing from a training flight, **Sgt E.F. Carter RAF (Can.)**, Sgt N.C. Boyle RAF, S/L P.C. Lawrence RAF, P/O R. Atkinson RAF, Sgt J.J.C. Batty RAF, Sgt R.T. Tomlinson DFM RAF and Sgt A. Crooks RAF killed, Sgt Watkins RAF and F/S H.W. Gill RAF injured. Sgt Carter was a Biggs' Boy (K. Stofer). The former F/S Gill collapsed and died at a commemorative service at the crash site February 8, 1994, 53 years after the crash (W.R. Chorley Amendments and Additions website).
- 8 242 (Canadian) Sqn. Hurricane I V6823 ditched after a fight with a Do 17, **F/O L.E. Cryderman RAF (Can.)** missing. F/O Cryderman had fought in the Battle of Britain.

Sunday

**9 Churchill makes his "Give us the tools" speech intended to support the Lend-Lease bill in the USA.**

**Royal Navy battleship flotilla shells Genoa, Italy (CJCA headlines).**

**Commonwealth forces in North Africa halt at El Agheila to allow units to be detached to Greece and Ethiopia (D. Sommerville).**

**A Fw 200 Condor attacks a convoy near the Azores, sinking 5 ships (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).**

Monday

**10 Britain breaks relations with Romania (CJCA headline).**



**General Wavell in North Africa instructed by Churchill to give Greece priority in troops over the offensive in Libya (D. Sommerville).**

**10-11 First major attack of the moon period, 222 bombers sent to Hannover, and 43 to an oil storage site in Rotterdam where the Short Stirling makes its first operational sorties. The introduction of this, the first RAF heavy bomber, proved to be frustratingly slow, only 51 being in service by the years end (M.J.F. Bowyer). This was the first time that over 100 aircraft were dispatched by a single Group (#3 Group, 119 Wellington aircraft). Four aircraft were lost over Hannover and 3 more shot down over England by Intruders (BC War Diaries).**

**Ten Italian and German merchant ships holed up in Kismayu, Italian Somaliland, break out and attempt to sail to refuge in Madagascar, but only 2 make it (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).**

**First attack by British Airborne forces, Commando raid dropped by Whitley aircraft from Malta destroy the Tragino Aqueduct in Italy. All were captured and the direct effect on Italy's war capacity was small as the damage was quickly repaired, but indirectly it forced a large reassignment of Italian soldiers to guard other sites from similar attacks (Horm). Two of the 38 member team were Canadian (R. MacLaren).**

10-11 49 Sqn. Hampden I X3001 EA-H shot down over Holland by a night fighter, Sgt A.L. Cruickshank RAF killed, P/O J.H. Green RAF (Can.), Sgt A.L. Bryceson RAF and Sgt H.E. Fisher RAF PoW. P/O Green was a Biggs' Boy (K. Stofer) and had force landed a Hampden Oct. 20-21, 1940. See September 17, 1947.

Tuesday

**11 German cruiser Admiral Hipper attacks unescorted convoy SLS-64 in the Atlantic and sinks 7 of 19 ships (wikipedia).**

11 22 Sqn. Beaufort I N1109 OA-I shot down on a GARDENING sortie off Germany, Sgt J.A. Jepson, F/O R.C. Greenless RAF, Sgt W. Haywood RAF and Sgt F.W. Smith RAF missing (R. Hayward).

11 #1 SFTS Camp Borden Ont, Yale #3357 crashed near Essa, Ontario, killing LAC(P) A.H. Nesbitt.

**11-12 Bomber Command sends 118 bombers to Bremen and Hannover but weather deteriorates over target. Fog descends in England and 22 aircraft are lost trying to land, most abandoned by parachute (BC War Diaries).**

Wednesday

**12 German troops arrive in Libya to support Italians.**

**General Franco and Mussolini meet at Bordighera in Italian Riviera (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).**

**An English policeman, Constable Albert Alexander, dying from septicaemia from a slight wound received during a bombing at Southampton, is the first patient to be treated with penicillin (K. Farrington). Although he showed signs of recovery the rate at which the drug was expelled from the patient overwhelmed the supply available, and Constable Alexander died from his infection. However, his recovery during treatment was so successful that large scale production of the drug, the first anti-biotic, was put into place (mosaicscience.com)**

Thursday

**13 General Franco meets Vichy leader Marshall Pétain at Montpellier in France (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).**

**Albacore aircraft from HMS Formidable attack the Italian naval base of Massawa in Eritrea (D. Sommerville).**

Friday

**14 Hitler issues demands to Yugoslavia (CJCA headline). First German troops land in Tripoli (Polsson).**

**First Luftwaffe aircraft encountered in Libya (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).**

- 14 #3 PRU Spitfire PR.IIIc P9315 lost on a photo reconnaissance over Germany, **F/O E.T. Wilkinson RAF (Can.)** missing (www.rafcommands.com). F/O Wilkinson had flown Battle aircraft in 98 Sqn. during the Battle of France.
- 14 #119 (BR) Sqn. Bolingbroke I #716 DM-N, Yarmouth, NS, ran off the runway and collapsed an undercarriage leg, crew safe (424 SH).
- 14 #2 EFTS, Fort William, Ontario DH.82C Tiger Moth aircraft #4003 and #4209 collided in mid-air, **LAC(P) L.J. Griffin** and **Sgt F.M. Harris** were killed in #4003, there were no casualties from #4209.

**14-15 Oil targets at Gelsenkirchen (44 bombers), and Homberg (44) attacked, but only 25 crews managed to bomb in poor visibility. Nine more GARDENING in the Gironde River (BC War Diaries). Four more were bombing the airfield at**

***Brindisi, Italy, from Greece, and two more were sent to targets in Rhodes (Shores, Cull and Malizia).***

14-15 37 Sqn. Wellington Ic T2821 'T' was on an operation to the Island of Rhodes when it crashed into mountains in Turkey descending through cloud, **F/O A.G. Wright RAF (Can.)**, P/O G.S. Smith RAF, Sgt F.J.E Hartman RAF, Sgt S.J. Gardner RAF, P/O L.C. Wellman RAF and P/O P.W. Lambert RAF killed.

Saturday

***15 Single Bristol 142M K7072 enters service with the RCAF (Griffin CMA). This aircraft was originally an early production Blenheim I that was used to develop the nose profile for the coastal patrol Bolingbroke (Bristol Type 149). To provide space for a 4th crew man navigator/bomb aimer the nose was extended, in several developments, finally resulting in a nose with a distinctive scallop on the left side for the pilots visibility in landing. The Bolingbroke was adopted by the RCAF for production in Canada, but was declared redundant by the RAF. However the modifications of increased fuel tanks and the longer nose were adopted for the Blenheim IV bomber. Thus K7072 has been recorded as the first Blenheim IV although it carried no military equipment at all. It was transferred to Canada when the RAE investigations into de-icing were moved to Canada, but saw almost no service in the RCAF before being reassigned as Instructional Airframe A-297 (C. Vincent unpublished manuscript; R.W.R. Walker). See July 19, 1945.***

***A fire broke out and went out of control in Santander, Spain. Over 3 days it left 35,000 homeless (wikipedia).***

15 615 Sqn. Hurricane I P3231 lost over Belgium on a cross channel sweep, **F/O D.G. Stewart RAF (Can.)**, a veteran of the Battle of Britain, killed.

15 #1 Central Flying School, Trenton, Ontario, Harvard I #1344 crashed into the Bay of Quinte SE of the airfield, **P/O G.F. Mackie** killed.

***15-16 Oil plants at Sterkrade (73 bombers) and Homberg (70) attacked plus 43 bombers to Boulogne, 2 aircraft lost (BC War Diaries).***

***First SOE operatives landed in Poland by air to contact the Polish Home Army (R. Moorhouse).***

Sunday

***16 Greece, 33 Sqn. RAF equipped with Hurricane fighters arrives in Greece via Crete (Shores, Cull and Malizia).***

16 #24 EFTS Master I R1813 crashed in England February 10, instructor P/O H.A. Nevett

RAF (Aus.) died of injuries on this date, student L/A B.G.A. Batten RN injured (www.rafcommands.com). P/O Nevett is included in TSGNO as RAF (Can.), but this seems to have been an error (see discussion page at www.rafcommands.com).

- 16 #6 EFTS, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4033 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

Monday

- 17 ***Japan offers to mediate to end all current wars, but also blame England and the USA for prolonging the war in Europe (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).***

***Life Magazine printed an editorial by it's publisher, Henry Luce, entitled "The American Century", in which he encouraged the USA "to accept wholeheartedly our duty and our opportunity as the most powerful and vital nation in the world and in consequence to exert upon the world the full impact of our influence, for such purposes as we see fit and by such measures as we see fit." This was a direct attack on the America First party and Isolationism (J. Dower, The Violent American Century: War and Terror Since World War II, 2017).***

***#3 Wireless School, Winnipeg, Manitoba, opens (http://www.bombercrew.com/BCATP.htm).***

- 17 #1 Manning Depot, Toronto, Ontario, LAC E.B. Cremer RCAF (UK) died of natural causes while on embarkation leave.
- 17 #3 SFTS Calgary, Alberta, Anson I #6200 crashed near Cochrane, Alberta, LAC(P) Q.B. Chace RCAF (USA) and Sgt A.E. Regimbal killed. (TSGNO states that this was a Crane, W1610, but this is the RAF serial number for this Anson).

***17-18 Wellington aircraft from Egypt, and Swordfish from Crete, attack targets in the Dodecanese prior to an invasion by British forces (Shores, Cull and Malizia).***

Tuesday

- 18 ***Australian troops arrive in Singapore (CJCA headline).***

***First ships arrive in Benghazi to supply Commonwealth forces in Cyrenaica, but stevedores refuse to unload them due to the threat of air attacks. These were small attacks by German bombers that had begun in the last few days. A radar site to detect these was being built, but would not be in operation for several days. After two days the ships left for Tobruk, which by default became the main supply port for the region (M. Bechthold).***

- 18 #1 (F) Sqn. RCAF Hurricane I V7026 crashed in England on an operational sortie, F/L

**J.B. Reynolds** killed ([www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).

- 18 #15 EFTS, Regina, Saskatchewan, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4109 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

**18-19 Suez Canal again mined by German bombers ([ww2total.com](http://ww2total.com) Chronology/1941).**

Wednesday

**19 Emperor Haile Selassie returns to Ethiopia, fighting alongside Col. Orde Wingate's Gideon Force (D. Sommerville).**

- 19 ATFERO Hudson III T9450 crashed at St. Hubert, Quebec, Ferry Captain L.A. Jackson (US) and **Radio Officer S.H. McCaughan (Can.)** killed. This was the first fatal crash of an Atlantic Ferry Organization (later Ferry Command) aircraft (C.A. Christie).
- 19 #1 Manning Depot, Toronto, Ontario, **AC2 J.K. Owen** died in hospital in Toronto of natural causes.

**19-22 The Blitz, Three nights of bomber attacks on Swansea in Wales leave 230 dead and the centre of the town destroyed ([wikipedia](http://wikipedia)).**

Thursday

- 20 112 Sqn. Gladiators claimed several Italian fighters shot down in Greece, including a Fiat G.50 by **F/L L.G. Schwab RAF (Can.)** (Shores, Cull and Malizia). See March 26, below.
- 20-21 ATFERO Hudson III T9449 goes down shortly after taking off from Gander, Newfoundland, near Musgrave Harbour, Newfoundland, F/O W. Bird RAF and **Radio Operator W. Snailham (Can.)** killed in the crash, Ferry Captain J.C. Mackey (US) and passenger **Major Dr. Sir Frederick G. Banting MD MC KBE RRCS**, Canadian Army (the co-discoverer of insulin and co-winner of the Nobel prize) injured. Maj Banting was carrying an early version of the Franks "Anti-G" suit to England (T. Dub [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).

Friday

**21 British advance in Italian Somaliland (CJCA headline).**

**Unable to use the Suez Canal due to aerial mining HMS Formidable returns to attack the naval base at Massawa again (D. Sommerville).**

**German pocket battleship Admiral Scheer sinks Canadian merchant ship Canadian Cruiser in the Indian Ocean, crew taken prisoner (Polsson). This was one of 4 merchant ships sunk by the Admiral Scheer from Feb. 20-22 before she**



*returned to the Atlantic (Oxford).*

***Soviet General Staff issues orders for transfer of the bulk of the Russian Army to its western borders with Germany (Oxford).***

- 21 37 Sqn. Wellington Ic T2575 exploded over the Mediterranean enroute from Egypt to Malta, **F/O A.G.W. Hough RAF (Can.)**, F/O R.C.W. Broad RAF, P/O G.C. Muir RAF, Sgt J.L. Baxter RAF, Sgt J.E. Valler RAF and F/O A.A. Scott RAF missing (COL BRUGGY at [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 21 805 Sqn., *HMS Eagle*, Fulmar fighters flown by **Lt (A) P.S. Touchbourne RN (Can.)** and Lt (A) R. MacDonald-Hall RN shoot down a He 111 attacking a convoy they were escorting in the Mediterranean (Shores, Cull and Malizia). See May 10, below.
- 21 242 (Canadian) Sqn. Hurricane I N2476 crashed on a local flight in England, **F/O M.K. Brown RAF (Can.)** killed. F/O Brown had been wounded over France in 1940.
- 21 #2 SFTS, Uplands, Ontario, Harvard II #2590 crashed near Metcalfe, Ontario, killing **LAC(P) L.G. Lee**.
- 21 RNor.N [possibly 330 (Norwegian) Sqn. RAF], Jericho Beach, BC, Northrup N3PB floatplane lost off Point Atkinson, BC, flight student Erling Jorgenson and instructor Harald Kruse missing (*BC Times Colonist*, *Other BC Crashes and Losses*, wikipedia).
- 21 ATFERO crashed Hudson III T9449, **Major Banting** dies of the injuries suffered the night before. See September 12, below.

***21-22 Wilhelmshaven attacked by 34 bombers with unknown results, 1 lost, 43 Hampdens GARDENING off Brest plus 17 bombers on other operations (BC War Diaries).***

- 21-22 75 (New Zealand) Sqn. Wellington Ic T2503 lost, S/L E.U.G. Solbe RAF and Sgt A.M. Brodie RNZAF killed, **Sgt H.T. Hellier RAF (Can.)**, P/O A.J. Falconer RNZAF, P/O A.V. Muir RNZAF and Sgt W.D. Morrison RAF missing.

Saturday

***22 Greece, British and Greek governments sign agreement for British troops to defend Greece.***

***German bombers arrive in North Africa. On this date the RN Monitor HMS Terror is damaged in Benghazi harbour by Ju 87 dive bombers. Later while under tow to Alexandria the ship is damaged again under further air attack and scuttled (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1). The Royal Navy blames the loss on the RAF, whose fighters, now diminished to two squadrons of Hurricanes, had been unable to cover the port or the later convoy (M. Bechthold).***

**German battle cruisers Scharnhorst and Gneisenau sink Canadian merchant ship A.D. Huff and 4 other ships 600 miles off Cape Race, Newfoundland, from disbursed west bound Convoys OB-285 and OB-286 (Polsson, D.A. Bertke, G. Smith & D. Kindell, World War II Sea War, Volume 3, 2012).**

- 22 30 Sqn. in Greece, Blenheim IF aircraft flown by F/O R.T.P. Davidson RAF (Can.) and S/L R.A. Milward shot down a Z.506B floatplane. The crew waved a white flag after they had been forced down on the water, so F/O Davidson dropped a life raft to them while S/L Milward contacted Greek authorities with their location with a dropped message. The Italian crew apparently repaired the airplane overnight, and it was destroyed by another 30 Squadron Blenheim IF the next day (Shores, Cull and Malizia). See August 7-8, below.
- 22 30 Sqn. in Greece, Blenheim IF aircraft flown by F/O C.W. Richardson RAF (Can.) and F/L D.R. Walker RAF attack a formation of Italian Z.1007bis aircraft, shooting down one (Shores, Cull and Malizia). See March 24, below.
- 22 #1 Manning Depot, Toronto, Ontario, AC2 P.J. Fergusson died in hospital of natural causes.
- 22 #1 Manning Depot, Toronto, Ontario, AC2 J.O.P.E. Roy died of injuries from a car accident.
- 22 #1 Manning Depot, Toronto, Ontario, AC2 W.S. Whitefield died in hospital of natural causes.

**22-23 Third mining operation by German bombers on Suez Canal (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).**

**Naval targets in Brest attacked by 29 Wellingtons but only 11 manage to bomb, 4 crash on return to England (BC War Diaries).**

- 22-23 115 Sqn. Wellington Ic R1221 KO-F flew into a tree and crashed in England returning from a sortie over Brest, Sgt K. Kennard RAF (Can.), Sgt E.J. Milton RAF, Sgt D.W.M. Thomas RAF, Sgt J.H. Eades RAF, Sgt T.H.M. Simmonds RAF and Sgt R.H. Gray RAF killed.

Sunday

- 23 #1 SFTS, Camp Borden, Ontario, Yale #3382 crashed near Alliston, Ontario, LAC(P) H.W. Shortt killed and Sgt B.J. Smith RCAF (USA) injured. See Feb. 25, below.

**23-24 Boulogne attacked by 52 bombers but only 26 bomb the target, 16 aircraft on minor operations, 1 aircraft lost (BC War Diaries).**

- 23-24 115 Sqn. Wellington Ic L7810 KO-R lost over France, P/O K.N. Arthurs RAF (Can.), Sgt C.E. Donehue RNZAF, Sgt M.F. Lloyd RAF, Sgt A.E. Law RAF, Sgt S. Charlton RAF and Sgt J.H.S. Jacobs RAF killed.

Monday

- 24 62 Sqn. Blenheim I L1104 had an engine fail and flew into trees attempting a forced landing in Malaysia, Sgt G. Couzens RAF and Sgt P.Y. Walker RAF killed, **F/L R.F. Halliwell RAF (Can.)** was pulled from the wreck by injured LAC J. Haynes RAF, but died of his injuries (www.rafcommands.com).
- 24 257 Sqn. Canadian built Hurricane I P5186 lost over the English Channel after intercepting a Ju 88, **P/O E.H. Atkins RAF (Can.)** missing.
- 24 ATFERO Hudson III T9449 wreck is located and the sole survivor, Ferry Captain J.C. MacKey (US) is rescued (C.F. Warren et al).

**24-25 Tripoli attacked by 9 Wellingtons from Malta, 1 loss (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).**

**Brest attacked by 57 bombers including first operational use of Avro Manchester aircraft, 1 Manchester lost (BC War Diaries).**

- 24-25 70 Sqn. Wellington Ic T2816 'O' abandoned over Italy after getting lost and running out of fuel returning to Malta from a sortie to Tripoli, **P/O G.H. Green RAF (Can.)** and **F/L A.F. Pain RAF** killed, Sgt A.E. Limbrick RNZAF, Sgt R. Mead RAF, Sgt E. Green RAF and LAC G. Norker RAF PoW (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).

Tuesday

**25 Mogadishu, Italian Somaliland, occupied by British led soldiers from Nigeria, after an advance of over 200 miles in 3 days (D. Sommerville).**

**British Commandos land on Castelorizzo in the Dodecanese Islands. Before they could be reinforced the naval force withdrew due to the threat of Italian warships. Overnight the Commando force was overwhelmed by Italian Marines arriving from other islands (Shores, Cull and Malizia).**

**The Wellington bomber force on Malta is attacked by German bombers, destroying 7 and damaging 7 more, ending bomber operations from Malta on Sicily, Italy and Tripoli (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).**

- 25 261 Sqn. Hurricane shot down over Malta, **F/O J.J. Walsh RAF (Can.)** injured. F/O Walsh was a veteran of the Battle of Britain. See March 2, below.
- 25 #1 Air Navigation School, Rivers, Manitoba, Anson I #6250 crashed at Oak Lake, Manitoba, **Sgt J.G. Butcher**, **Sgt H.A. Howarth**, ground wireless operator **LAC L.R. Lancaster** and **Sgt W.H. Prest** killed (Griffin).
- 25 #1 SFTS, Camp Borden, Ontario, **Sgt B.J. Smith RCAF (USA)** died of injuries sustained Feb. 23, above.

**25-26 Düsseldorf attacked by 80 bombers but covered by cloud. Only 64 bombers bombed, and the defences report only 7 bombers hit the city at all, starting 4 small fires that were soon put out, 17 aircraft on minor operations, no losses (BC War Diaries).**

Wednesday

**26 German bombers and dive bombers make a concentrated attack on the bomber force based at Malta, destroying 6 Wellingtons and many Marylands. Five Hurricanes are shot down defending the airfields (Canwell & Sutherland).**

**North and west of Ireland convoy OB-290 (Liverpool to mid-ocean dispersal) lost 4 ships to a U-boat and seven to an attack by Fw 200 patrol bombers before reaching it's dispersal point (wikipedia).**

- 26 256 Sqn. Defiant I N3520 night fighter crashed after running out of fuel, F/L S.F. Johnson RAF (Can.) killed, air gunner Sgt C.S. Lewis RAF bailed out safely.
- 26 #1 SFTS, Camp Borden, Ontario, Yales #3386 and #3414 collided in mid-air near Cookstown, Ontario, and both crashed (R.W.R. Walker).
- 26 #4 SFTS, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Harvard II #2573 crashed taking off for a night flight (J. Reed, *Personal Album, Aeroplane Monthly* February 1986).

**26-27 Cologne attacked by 126 bombers, 106 bombed the target which report a good attack, but city defences report only 10 bombs and 90 incendiaries from a total of 353 bombs and 15,060 incendiaries dropped (BC War Diaries).**

- 26-27 78 Sqn. Whitley V P4996 flew into a mountain in Scotland returning from an operation over Germany, W/C G.T. Toland RAF (Can.), Sgt G.A. Forsyth RAF, P/O D.H. Gates RAF, Sgt G.R. Armstrong RAF and Sgt N.L. Lane RAF killed.

Thursday

**27 Off the Maldives the RNZN cruiser HMNZS Leander sinks the Italian commerce raider Ramb I (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).**

**Italy sends a bill for 7,500,000,000 lire to Spain for it's assistance in the Spanish Civil War (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).**

**27-28 The British ships carrying reinforcements to Castelorizzo return to the Island, but find only isolated groups of Commandos still there, which they evacuated (Shores, Cull and Malizia).**

Friday

**28 German Army units cross the Danube from Romania into Bulgaria to position for an invasion of Greece (Shores, Cull and Malizia).**

**28-1 Tirpitz attacked at Wilhelmshaven by 116 bombers, 75 report bombing but no damage recorded, 1 aircraft lost (BC War Diaries).**

**Greece, the town and airfield of Larissa, in use by the RAF, are devastated by an earthquake, which kills 40 and leaves almost 20,000 homeless (wikipedia). After emergency work at the airfield air force personnel began rescue operations in the town. In the morning Blenheims carrying medical supplies and doctors began arriving (Shores, Cull and Malizia).**

## **March 1941**

**#120 (BR) Sqn., Sea Island, BC, begins to re-equip with Hudson I aircraft (RCAF Sqns.).**

**Registration of women over 18 for war work begins in England (Oxford).**

**In the USSR a new program is introduced as part of the military buildup of the Soviet Army which further reduces the training given to military pilots. Whereas before Soviet pilots had been volunteers that received good training the decision to greatly increase the size of the Soviet air forces was met by conscripting aircrew (including many with no interest in becoming pilots) and drastically reducing training. Many reach their units with only basic flying skills, with virtually no training in aerobatics, gunnery, night or bad weather flying (Bergström & Mikhailov V.1; C. Bergström).**

Saturday

**1 Bulgaria joins Axis (CJCA headline). German soldiers occupy Sofia (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).**

**Final carrier attack on Massawa by HMS Formidable (D. Sommerville).**

**German occupying authorities in Holland fine the City of Amsterdam 15 million Guilders for anti-German demonstrations there (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).**



***After a journey across the Sahara desert from Fort Lamy in Chad and a short siege, Free French forces under General LeClerc seize the isolated Libyan oasis of Kufra south of the Quattrra Depression (Oxford), which then becomes a base for Allied aircraft and clandestine penetrations into Libya.***

***St. Lawrence Seaway Pact signed between Canada and US [but not ratified by US congress] (CJCA headline).***

***To avoid confusion with RAF units with the same number the three overseas RCAF squadrons are re-numbered, #110 (AC) Sqn. becoming 400 Sqn., #1 (F) Sqn. becoming 401 Sqn. and #2 (F) Sqn., (formerly #112 (AC) Sqn.,) becoming 402 Sqn. On this date as well the first of the new Article 15 squadrons, 403 Squadron, is formed in England as a fighter unit initially equipped with Tomahawk aircraft. (CCMA)***

- 1 At #31 SFTS, Kingston, Ontario, G/C A. Shekleton CBE DSO RAF died of sudden heart failure, part of the RAF Mission to establish RAF training schools in Canada (RecklessRat at [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).

***1-2 Two targets in Cologne attacked by 131 bombers with good results, 6 bombers lost and 14 more crashed or abandoned over England due to fog (BC War Diaries).***

- 1-2 10 Sqn. Whitley V T4265 ZA-J lost over the sea returning from operations over Germany, **Sgt A. Coates RAF (Can.)**, Sgt A.C. Hoare RAF, Sgt P.H. Woodbridge RAF, P/O A.A. Florigny RAF and Sgt C.J. Woods RAF missing.

- 1-2 61 Sqn. Hampden I X3147 crashed in England returning from an operation over Germany, **Sgt H.G. Loates RAF (Can.)**, Sgt R.W.T. Clarke RAF, Sgt A.D. Cox RAF and Sgt P. Thomas RAF killed.

Sunday

***2 Germans sweep to Greek border (CJCA headline) [in reference to their positioning along the Bulgarian border]; Turkey closes the Dardanelles (CJCA headline).***

***BOAC begin nightly freight and passenger flights between Scotland and Stockholm, Sweden, carrying diplomats, agents, refugees, escaped PoWs and freight, in particular Swedish ball bearings, which give the flights their name, the "Ball-Bearing Run" ([ww2total.com](http://ww2total.com) Chronology/1941). The purchase of high quality ball bearings would divert production from Germany, and meant all return flights brought back valuable freight. The flights began using Lockheed Lodestars and converted Whitley bombers, and later as German night fighters became more dangerous, civil registered Mosquitos.***

**Hitler insists that operations in the Balkans must be finished by May 15, to be completed prior to the invasion of the USSR (Shores, Cull and Malizia). This includes the attack on Greece, Crete and possibly Malta, and coming to a political agreement with Yugoslavia.**

- 2 261 Sqn. pilot **F/O J.J. Walsh RAF (Can.)** died in hospital in Malta of pneumonia while being treated for injuries sustained when shot down Feb. 25, above. F/O Walsh was a veteran of the Battle of Britain (<http://battleofbritain1940.net>).
- 2 #1 SFTS, Camp Borden, Ontario, Harvard II #2622 crashed near Barrie, Ontario, killing **LAC(P) C.A. Kelloway RAF (Nfld.)**.
- 2 #6 EFTS, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4043 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

**2-3 Brest attacked by 54 bombers, 1 lost, 15 more on minor operations with 1 further loss (BC War Diaries).**

**3-4 Cologne attacked again by 71 bombers with poor results due to cloud, 1 lost. Poor weather grounds Bomber Command night operations for the next week (BC War Diaries).**

Tuesday

**4 US Congress approves Lend-Lease.**

**British forces raid Lofoten Islands off Norway (CJCA headline). Fish plants able to support explosives production are destroyed and a number of Norwegians who wish to fight for Norway taken back to England (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).**

Wednesday

**5 First LB-30 Liberator bomber arrives at Gander for ferrying to England (C.F. Warren et al).**

**Panama agrees to allow the US to expand air defences of the Panama Canal outside of the Canal Zone, leading to establishing US military stations and then secret airfields in Panamanian territory (LoN, Hagedorn & Hagedorn).**

**#10 SFTS, Dauphin, Manitoba, opened (<http://www.bombercrew.com/BCATP.htm>).**

- 5 unknown unit, P/O A.R. Smith RAF (Can. or USA) reported killed, no details, not found in CWGC.

Thursday

**6 Given the international situation surrounding them Yugoslavia mobilizes its armed forces (Shores, Cull and Malizia).**

**British PM Churchill makes a speech about the struggle in the Atlantic, referring to increasing attacks on U-boats and their Fw 200 search aircraft, including a reference to deploying catapult launched fighters from ships for defence (D. Newton). See March 9 and May 9, below.**

Friday

**7 British, Australian and New Zealand troops begin arriving in Greece (Polsson).**

7 37 Sqn. Wellington Ic R3239 'T' was on a positioning flight from Egypt to Greece with passengers, one of 7 squadron aircraft arriving in Greece that day (Shores, Cull and Malizia). On approach to land it was cut off by two Greek Air Force aircraft, and then crashed when a propeller failed attempting an overshoot. P/O A. de L. Thomas RAF, Sgt H.H. Cox RAF, Sgt J.W. Bolton RNZAF and Cpl J.F.W. Dunn RAF killed, **Sgt L.G. Mitchell RAF (Can.)**, LAC J.A. Casey RAF and Sgt R.H. Jacobs RAF were injured, Sgt Allmark RAF, Sgt Calwell RAF and LAC Newham RAF safe. Sgt Mitchell died the same day of his injuries, and LAC Casey died on March 18.

Saturday

**8 Germans offer Greeks settlement (CJCA headlines).**

**USSR calls up reserves to serve between May and October (Polsson).**

8 No. 5 General Hospital, England, **Nursing Sister Frances Winnifred Spafford** died of injuries from an air raid on London. Nurse Winnifred had done post-graduate work in Montreal and was supervisor of a casualty ward in a hospital in New York City, but returned to Canada to enlist when the war broke out (www.wwiicdnwomensproject.org). Her brother, **F/S A.L. Spafford**, was killed July 2-3, 1942.

8 #2 EFTS, Fort William, Ontario, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4017 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

**8-9 The Blitz, A restaurant in London is hit with 34 killed and 60 injured during the nightly Luftwaffe attack (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).**

Sunday

**9 US Senate passes Lend-Lease act (CJCA headline). The act was widely supported, including Republican Presidential candidate Wendell Wilkie (R. Prior). Head**

*of the British Purchasing Commission **A.B. Purvis** had been heavily involved with Henry Morgenthau Jr. in developing the Act. See August 14, below.*

**Portsmouth and London hit hard by bombing (CJCA headline).**

**Greece, Heavily reinforced, the Italian army in Albania begins a new offensive against Greece, but make no headway against stubborn Greek resistance (Oxford). All RAF aircraft in Greece are switched to direct support of the Greek Army (Shores, Cull and Malizia).**

***Continuing heavy losses of shipping in the Atlantic force RAF to re-direct priorities to U-boat docks and yards, and the Focke-Wulf factory (where the long range Fw 200 patrol plane is built). This was seen as a diversion just as Bomber Command was hoping to achieve serious strategic results on oil targets while German night defences were still ineffective. Attacking small targets in congested areas was approved with the side note it would also have effect on moral of civilians. As it was believed only experienced crews could hit smaller targets until the development of better aiming methods, so the pattern of attacking defined targets with proven crews and using others for area bombing of city industrial centres to create wider destruction began to develop, with the inevitable result of higher civilian deaths. New squadrons were being created but others were being sent to the Middle East and Coastal Command, so the growth of Bomber Command remained nearly static in this period (BC War Diaries).***

- 9 RCAF Station Trenton, air gunner **LAC J.H. Martin** and aero engine mechanic **AC1 A.R. Stevens** were killed on leave when their car was hit by a train near Belleville, Ontario
- 9 #1 B&G School, Jarvis, Ontario, Battle I #1667 crash landed at Resort Bay, Ontario, after the engine cut on take-off (S. Shail).

**9-10 The Blitz, Heavy Luftwaffe attack on Portsmouth (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).**

Monday

**10 Vichy France leader Marshall Pétain appeals to USA for food aid (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).**

**#3 Bombing & Gunnery School opens at MacDonald, Manitoba (S. Shail).**

- 10 272 Sqn. Blenheim IV Z5733 lost from Northern Ireland on a convoy patrol, **Sgt P.G.V. Chanler RAF (Can.)**, Sgt H.K. Pass RAF and Sgt W.A. Watson RAF missing

(<http://www.bbm.org.uk/airmen/VanWaeyenberghe.htm>).

**10-11 German He 111 bombers were operating over the Suez Canal seeking shipping, but with limited success (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).**

**Bomber Command sent 19 Hampdens to Cologne, 14 Whitleys to St. Nazaire and 8 Blenheims with 6 Halifax bombers to Le Havre. This was the operational debut of the Halifax. Two bombers were lost, including 1 Halifax shot down by mistake over England (see below) (BC War Diaries).**

**The Blitz, Portsmouth again attacked by bombers (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).**  
10-11 35 Sqn. Halifax I L9489 TL-F damaged by flak over Le Havre. Intercepted by an RAF night fighter over England on return and shot down in error, Sgt R. Lucas RAF, P/O E.R. Arnold RAF, Sgt S. Broadhurst RAF and Sgt A.E. Cooper RAF killed, Sgt R.G. Aedy RAF injured and the pilot **S/L P.A. Gilchrist DFC RAF (Can.)** survived. This was the first operational loss of a Bomber Command Halifax. See July 24, below.

Tuesday

**11 Lend-Lease Act signed, after 3 months of debate, pledging aid in the form of supplies to all nations under attack by Axis forces. This material was provided at no cost until the war was over, then that not lost in fighting would have to be either returned, destroyed or purchased by the receiving nation. It was not expected that it would all be repaid, but it was also accepted that countries receiving Lend-Lease would accept post-war reductions in trade barriers with the USA (Oxford).**

**The range of products provided under Lend-Lease besides weapons included food, as well as agricultural and industrial equipment, for example farm tractors supplied to New Zealand to provide greater agricultural production with less manpower, and industrial equipment was sent to the USSR to improve their production capabilities (Oxford).**

**On the other hand, Lend-Lease did not cover material provided prior to this date, which had been paid for by a loan from the US Treasury to keep production going. This was politically necessary for passing the Act, but was unexpected. To cover this loan England's last major gold reserves were paid to the USA, and British companies and other assets in the USA have to be sold, often at below par value, a process that continued until the loan was repaid in 1951 (R. Prior). As well, products made in England cannot now be exported to the USA if a similar Lend-Lease product is available. This has**



***the effect of excluding England's manufactured goods, destroying much of its post-war export trade with the USA and making its economic recovery difficult, while many British firms that had invested in the USA lose their subsidiaries (D. Sommerville).***

***Due to the requirement to sell off assets in the USA Canada chose not to receive Lend-Lease equipment, paying for what it needed, although its military received equipment such as aircraft, armoured vehicles and jeeps issued to Britain (Douglas & Greenhous), and by later agreement equipment built in Canada for Allied use could incorporate Lend-Lease supplied components or be paid for by US Lend-Lease funds for use by other countries (see April 20 and December 1941, below). In January 1943 Canada became a provider of lend-lease under the Canadian Mutual Aid program.***

***Thus the long term effect of Lend-Lease is to remove foreign owned investment from the US economy and limit imports in the future.***

***Plans for Soviet attack on Germany refined, date June 12 is now chosen (Polsson).***

- 11 RAF Servicing Ferry Pool, Hurricane I #311 (ex-RCAF) was attacked in error by another Hurricane and force landed in England (R.W.R. Walker).
- 11 #31 SFTS, Kingston, Ontario, Battle I R4014 force landed near Peterborough, Ontario, due to bad weather on a navigation exercise (S. Shail).

***11-12 The Blitz, Manchester bombed by Luftwaffe, destroying Manchester United's stadium, while over 130 bombers attacked Birmingham (wikipedia).***

Wednesday

***12 The Yugoslavian Air Force begins dispersing to auxiliary airfields around the country (Shores, Cull and Malizia).***

- 12 #4 SFTS Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Anson I #6242 crashed after a mid-air collision with Anson I #6103 while practicing formation flying near Saskatoon, LAC(P) G.De.L. Barrett and LAC(P) W.L.N. Starkey RCAF (British Honduras) killed.
- 12 #8 SFTS, Moncton, NB, Anson I aircraft #6357 and #6273 collided in mid-air near Painsec, NB (now part of Moncton), and crashed, P/O C. Gillard was killed and LAC(P) D.C. Code injured in #6357 and LAC(P) E.H. Williams killed and LAC(P) J.D. Patton safe in #6273 (R.W.R. Walker; C. Charland at [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).

***12-13 Bomber Command sends 257 bombers to U-boat yards in Hamburg and Bremen, plus Berlin and minor operations, 7 aircraft lost (BC War Diaries).***

- 12-13 40 Sqn. Wellington Ic T2515 BL-U shot down by flak over France, Sgt T.H. Rose, Sgt

D.W. Gough RNZAF, Sgt T.G. Webb RNZAF, Sgt H. Jones RAF and Sgt W.J. Morgan RAF killed. It is possible that Sgt Rose was the first RCAF member to be killed in action in Bomber Command.

12-13 218 Sqn. Wellington Ic R1326 HA-G shot down by a night fighter over Holland, F/O W.P. Crosse RAF, Sgt J.H. Collopy RAF, Sgt W.J. Chamberlain RAF and Sgt E.J. Coult RAF killed, **Sgt A.E. Binnie RAF (Can.)** and Sgt A. Parfitt RAF PoW.

12-13 #31 ANS, Port Albert, Ontario, Anson I N9652 crashed, F/S H. Dodsworth RAF, LAC M.G. Folkard RAF, LAC I.W. Jackson RAF, LAC E.A. Rundell RAF, Sgt J.C. Bell RAF and LAC S. Porter RAF killed, AC1 C.T. Douglas RAF missing.

Thursday

**13 Liverpool heavily raided (CJCA headline).**

**13-14 Hamburg attacked by 139 aircraft, 6 lost and 1 bomber shot down in England by an Intruder (BC War Diaries).**

**The Blitz, German bombers attack Glasgow and shipyards on the Clyde (ww2total.com Chronology/1941). Nine bombers were lost, 1 to anti-aircraft fire and 8 to night fighters (quoted by J. Larder from The Blitz Then and Now Vol. 2, After the Battle, 1988, on www.rafcommands.com).**

Friday

**14 Glasgow heavily raided (CJCA headline).**

**14-15 The Blitz, Second night of heavy Luftwaffe attacks on Glasgow. These two attacks leave 460 killed and 750 injured, with 35,000 homeless. Sheffield also bombed on this night (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).**

**Oil plant at Gelsenkirchen hit hard by 101 bombers, plus 24 to Düsseldorf and 12 to Rotterdam, 1 aircraft lost (BC War Diaries).**

Saturday

**15 Greece, Italian ground offensive held, air activity continued (Shores, Cull and Malizia).**

**Scharnhorst and Gneisenau sink 6 ships 500 miles off Cape Race, Newfoundland (Oxford).**

15 Eastern Air Command Headquarters, Halifax, NS, wireless operator **AC1 D. Smith** died in hospital of a knife wound.

**15-16 Düsseldorf and Lorient attacked by 58 bombers plus INTRUDER support, no losses (BC War Diaries).**

Sunday

**16 Indian and British forces from Aden land at Berbera, British Somaliland.**

**Ten more merchant ships sunk by Scharnhorst and Gneisenau off Newfoundland (Oxford).**

**First Lend-Lease supplies of food sent to England, where food had become in short supply. By the end of the year one million tons of Lend-Lease food supplies had been sent to England (LoN).**

**16-17 Among other targets Leeds in England was bombed, which damaged the City Museum. A medieval carved wooden boat, circa 1335, and discovered in 1863, was blown into 40 pieces. In 2022 the boat, now pieced together again, was put back on public display (BBC "Leeds: 'Blown-Up' medieval fishing boat on show", August 31, 2022).**

Monday

**17 Germany invites Yugoslavia to become an ally with them by signing the Tripartite Pact (Shores, Cull and Malizia).**

**#6 AOS, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan and #17 EFTS, Stanley, NS, open on this day (<http://www.bombercrew.com/BCATP.htm>).**

17 ATA, England, Canadian built Hurricane I Z7010 crashed in bad weather in England on a delivery flight, Captain P. Randall killed. In 1972 a local aviation history group recovered the engine, propellor and other pieces from the crash site ([www.aircrewremembrancesociety.co.uk](http://www.aircrewremembrancesociety.co.uk)).

**17-18 Bremen and Wilhelmshaven attacked by 68 bombers without loss but 1 bomber was shot down over England by a German Intruder (BC War Diaries).**

17-18 149 Sqn. Wellington Ic R1378 KX-K shot down over England by an Intruder, **Sgt D.J. Capel RAF (Can.)**, Sgt R. Warren RAF, Sgt E.R. Cooke RAF, Sgt E.A. Iown RAF, Sgt H. Chapman RAF and Sgt W.J. Greaves RAF killed.

Tuesday

18 #2 School of Army Co-operation, RAF, Blenheim IV T2443 crashed **P/O I.H. Acland**, P/O J.L. Baines RAF and Sgt V. Moore RAF killed ([www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).

18 RNor.N [possibly 330 (Norwegian) Sqn. RAF], Patricia Bay, BC, Northrup N3PB

floatplane stalled and crashed at Patricia Bay, pilot J.E. Riiser and gunner K.B. Kjos killed, Lt. E. Bjerneby rescued by RCAF Marine Section airmen (*BC Times Colonist, Patricia Bay Aircrash List 2009, wikipedia*).

**18-19 Kiel, Wilhelmshaven and Rotterdam attacked by 162 bombers with 1 loss and damage to the U-boat yard at Kiel (BC War Diaries).**

**19-20 Plymouth heavily raided (CJCA headline).**

**Cologne attacked by 36 Wellingtons (BC War Diaries).**

**The Blitz, London receives it's heaviest bomber attack in 3 months (ww2total.com Chronology/1941). Swansea in Wales was bombed by a heavy Luftwaffe attack (Rhys Williams). Swansea was a major port for unloading for ships arriving in the United Kingdom.**

Thursday

**20 US passes information to the Soviet Union of plans by Germany to attack Russia, ignored by Stalin (Polsson). On this same date a Soviet intelligence report states that Germany would attack the USSR between mid-May and mid-June, but this was dismissed as misinformation, possibly because of the fear by military leaders of angering Stalin (Bergström & Mikhailov V.1).**

**In British Somaliland Indian and British forces re-capture the capitol of Hargesia, ending formal Italian resistance, although some guerilla activity continued (wikipedia).**

20 #9 SFTS Summerside, PEI, Harvard II #2907 flew into a hill during a snowstorm killing LAC(P) W.S. Murray.

20 unknown unit, Finch II #4733 damaged at Kingston, Ontario and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

**20-21 U-boat base at Lorient attacked by 24 bombers, plus 42 Hampdens GARDENING off Brest, 1 aircraft lost (BC War Diaries).**

**The Blitz, Heavy Luftwaffe attack on Plymouth (D. Newton). Second night of heavy bombing of Swansea in Wales (Rhys Williams).**

Friday

**21 An unexploded 1,000 kg bomb in Swansea, Wales, exploded when being worked on by a bomb disposal team, killing 7 Royal Engineers Sappers, the worst loss**

***of life in a single incident of bomb disposal (of which there were many) in England during the war. About 10% of German bombs failed to explode. As late as 2022 up to 20 unexploded German bombs a year were being found in Wales alone, often in rural areas where they were jettisoned by bombers under attack (N. Prior).***

- 21 240 Sqn. Catalina II AM265 BN-A aircraft flew into a mountain in Eire returning from a patrol, **P/O C.P. Davidson**, Sgt F.R.A. Chalk RAF, Sgt H. Dunbar RAF, Sgt R.H. Oldfield RAF, Sgt G.H. Slack RAF, P/O H.L. Seward RAF, Sgt H.H. Newbury RAF and F/O A.E. Whitworth RAF killed. Dennis Burke has details of this loss on his [www.ww2irishaviation.com](http://www.ww2irishaviation.com) website.
- 21 #6 SFTS, Dunnville, Ontario, Harvard II #2768 crashed, **LAC(P) D.E. Benniman** killed.
- 21 RCAF Station, Vancouver, BC, service policeman **Cpl F.M. Gainor** was killed when a tractor fell over the sea wall onto the float where he was on night duty.

***21-22 U-boat base at Lorient attacked by 66 bombers with poor results due to bad visibility, 2 lost (BC War Diaries).***

***The Blitz, Third night of heavy bombing of the port of Swansea in Wales. The three nights of bombing destroyed the centre of the city and killed 230, with 400 injured and 7,000 homeless (Rhys Williams).***

- 21-22 105 Sqn. Blenheim IV T1892 GB-Q was on an operational flight to Lorient when it collided with a barrage balloon cable over England and crashed killing **F/O J.O. Mair RAF (Can.)**, P/O I.M. Shirlaw RAF and P/O C.P. Dugdale RAF. Strong winds may have blown the aircraft off course (*Flypast*, February 1984).

Saturday

***22 Scharnhorst and Gneisenau arrive at Brest, France, having sunk 22 merchant ships in the last 2 months and completely disrupted the convoy system to England (Oxford).***

***In Yugoslavia Serbian cabinet ministers resign, thwarting the plans to sign the Tripartite Pact (Shores, Cull and Malizia).***

***Supplies of emergency flour from the USA are shipped to Vichy France with approval of England (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).***

***Grand Coulee Dam on the Columbia River in Washington State goes into operation generating hydro-electric power 2 years ahead of schedule, the largest hydro power source in the world at the time (ww2total.com Chronology/1941). During the war it supplied power for aluminium smelters, aircraft production***



**and the nuclear reactors at Hanford, Washington [producing plutonium for the MANHATTAN Project]. See August 19, below and March 10, 1945.**

**Due to the International situation both US Navy bases in Antarctica are abandoned and the crews returned to the USA. The bases and their supplies are left in the hopes they could be re-occupied at a later date (wikipedia). See Feb. 1947.**

- 22 #32 SFTS, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, LAC F.L. Callaghan RAF was killed in a car accident (B. Barry et al).

Sunday

**23 Germany issues an ultimatum to Yugoslavia to sign the Tripartite Act by midnight. Negotiations ensue (Shores, Cull and Malizia).**

**German dive bombers attack Malta and suffer heavy losses, but this forces the temporary move of all bombers and flying boats from the Island (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).**

- 23 33 Sqn. Hurricanes escorting a bombing attack on an Italian base in Albania, F/O V.C. Woodward RAF (Can.) claimed 1 fighter damaged before strafing the airfield (Shores, Cull and Malizia).
- 23 #5 SFTS Anson I #6261 crashed near the landing ground at Burtch, Ontario killing F/O M.J. Andrews (R.W.R. Walker).
- 23 #17 EFTS, Stanley, NS, Finch II #4660 and #4678 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

**23-24 Bomber Command attacks Berlin (63 bombers), Kiel (31), Hannover (26) and other targets (12) with 1 loss (BC War Diaries).**

Monday

**24 German reconnaissance forces meet British forces in Libya for the first time at El Agheila, British forced to withdraw after a brief fight (Polsson).**

- 24 30 Sqn. Blenheim I K7177, F/O C.W. Richardson RAF (Can.) and crew, is one of three aircraft attacking Scarpanto in the Dodecanese Islands from Crete (Shores, Cull and Malizia). See April 23, below.
- 24 #5 EFTS, Lethbridge, Alberta, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4104 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

Tuesday

**25 Bowing to German pressure Yugoslavia signs the Tripartite Pact with Germany and Italy. Plans for the invasion of Greece ready to be implemented April 1**

**(Shores, Cull and Malizia). See March 27, below.**

**German raider Kormoran captures Canadian Merchant Ship Canadolite, a tanker, south of Freeport, West Africa, crew made prisoner (Polsson). This was the only Canadian merchant ship captured and used by the German merchant service in the war, it was renamed Sudetenland and was sunk at Brest, France, by RAF bombers August 14, 1944. The Canadian crew arrived in Germany and were held as PoWs (McKee). See December 12, below.**

**In the South Atlantic the British liner SS Britannia was sunk by the German merchant raider Thor with the loss of 249 of the 287 crew and passengers on board (wikipedia).**

- 25 SS *Britannia* sunk in the Atlantic off Africa by the German Commerce Raider *Thor* with the loss of 249 crew and passengers heading for Egypt and India, including Lt(A) S. Bailey RCNVR, one of 69 missing and killed naval personnel (wikipedia, www.naval-history.net). A single lifeboat with 38 survivors sailed to Brazil, taking 26 days.
- 25 401 Sqn. Hurricane I P3767 crashed in England on an air test, F/O C.P. Henderson killed (H. Welting at www.rafcommands.com; D. McIntosh).

**25-26 Italian frogmen from Rhodes are transported by destroyer to Crete where they attack shipping and naval ships in Suda Bay, disabling a cruiser and damaging an oil tanker (Shores, Cull and Malizia).**

- 25-26 22 Sqn. Beaufort I W6486 OA-A shot down off the Dutch coast on a ROVER patrol, Sgt L.A. Arrighi RAF killed, P/O I. MacLean RCAF (UK), S/L F.J. Kelly RAF and Sgt E.G. Abraham RAF missing (R. Hayward).

Wednesday

**26 Patrol vessel Otter burns (CJCA headline). RCN Armed Yacht Otter destroyed in Halifax harbour by explosion, 19 killed (Polsson).**

- 26 112 Sqn. Gladiator, over Paramythia in Greece F/L L.G. Schwab RAF (Can.) was one of 4 that tried to defend the base from an Italian attack, claiming 1 fighter possibly shot down (Shores, Cull and Malizia).
- 26 RNor.AF, Little Norway, Toronto Island Airport, Ontario, Cornell Nr. 139 crashed, Korp. O.P. Rasmussen RNor.AF (Denmark) killed (wikipedia; H. Welting at www.rafcommands.com).

Thursday

**27 Yugoslav government overthrown by pro-allied coup [led by Air Force officers]. King Peter assumes regency in Yugoslavia [at 17 years old] (CJCA**

*headlines).*

*Hitler takes the coup as a personal insult (A. Beevor), and orders planning for immediate invasion of Yugoslavia, postponing invasion of Russia by at least a month.*

*After holding for 8 weeks Italian positions at Keren fall to Indian and British forces, opening the road to Eritrea.*

*ABC-1 talks end in Washington. In event of US involvement in the war it is agreed that a sustained air offensive will be carried out against Axis powers, with invasion of Europe and the defeat of Germany as the primary objective. As well, recognition that sea communications to Britain are essential, as a result the US Navy was to take over some responsibilities for escort of convoys of Lend-Lease material as soon as possible. In return a British naval force will be stationed at Singapore to provide support to US forces in the Philippines (Oxford). US military missions to visit England to plan sites for air and naval bases if needed (D. Sommerville). See Dec. 2, below.*

*In the Mediterranean Italian Navy ships sail to attack convoys of Commonwealth reinforcements for Greece. The Royal Navy, alerted by code breakers, assembles a force to intercept (Oxford). Airfields at Rhodes and in Italy heavily attacked by RAF Blenheims from Greece in support of the naval activity (Shores, Cull and Malizia).*

- 27 #1 Manning Depot, Toronto, Ontario, aero engine mechanic AC2 D.W. Tourillotte died in hospital of natural causes.
- 27 #6 SFTS Dunnville, Ontario Yale #3368 spun in near Port Hope, Ontario, killing P/O A.D. Angus, and possibly LAC(P) C.J. Gough. (LAC Gough also referenced as killed the same day in Yale #3360, but this aircraft survived the war. Typo?)

*27-28 Bomber Command attacks Cologne (39 bombers), Düsseldorf (39) and other targets (13), 3 losses (BC War Diaries).*

Friday

*28 New Yugoslav government rejects Tripartite pact (CJCA headline). Auto production curtailed (CJCA headline) [in Canada, see G. Broad].*

*Italian naval ships are engaged off Cape Matapan by RN and RAN ships. Carrier borne Fulmar fighters engaged German Ju 88 bombers attempting to interfere with Albacore and Swordfish torpedo bombers during the fighting,*

***while Italian SM.79 torpedo bombers attempted to hit the British carrier. RAF Blenheims from Athens, having waited for the scheduled Lufthansa Ju 52/3m airliner to take off (Greece and Germany were not at war), also attacked the Italian fleet. One Italian battleship was damaged by bombs and torpedoes, and forced to retreat. Using radar the British and Australian ships pursued the retreating Italian fleet through the night (Shores, Cull and Malizia).***

***Writer Virginia Woolf commits suicide in England.***

- 28 242 (Canadian) Sqn. Hurricane II Z2588 crashed in England on a patrol after the supercharger failed, possibly due to icing, **F/O A.W. Smith RAF (Can.)** killed. F/O Smith had been born in the USA, but his family moved to Summerland, BC, where he was brought up ([www.bbm.org.uk](http://www.bbm.org.uk)). F/O Smith had also survived the heavy loss of 141 Sqn. Defiant aircraft July 19, 1940 (Allison & Hayward).
- 28 #57 OTU Spitfire I L1030 crash landed, **Sgt B. Smith RCAF (USA)** injured. Sgt Smith recovered and later flew Spitfires in 121 (USA) Sqn. before transferring to the USAAF in 1943 ([thorne83](http://thorne83) [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).

Saturday

***29 British forces occupy Dire Dawa [Ethiopia] (CJCA headline).***

***Battle of Cape Matapan ends, Royal Navy and RAN ships sink 3 Italian cruisers and win naval dominance in the Mediterranean (Oxford) at the cost of two aircraft lost (D. Sommerville). Midshipman Philip Mountbatten, later Duke of Edinburgh and husband of Queen Elizabeth, was a gunnery officer in this battle.***

***Scharnhorst and Gneisenau confirmed in Brest, 6 Blenheims sent to bomb them in daylight but turn back due to lack of cloud cover. This was the first of a series of attacks extending into 1942 to attempt to destroy or neutralize these ships and prevent their use against convoys. It was another diversion from the oil target plan.***

***29-30 To bottle up German warships in Brest 25 Hampdens sent on GARDENING sorties off the port, 14 lay mines, 1 lost (BC War Diaries).***

Sunday

***30 German forces open offensive in Cyrenaica, Libya. Driving British forces out of north eastern Libya would limit the ability of the RAF to attack Italian shipping in the Mediterranean from the airfields there. These airfields were within range of Malta, and allowed support for the island while giving air***

**cover for Allied convoys the whole way from Egypt. Losing the airfields to the Germans and Italians meant that they could in turn support their convoys from Italy to reinforce their armies invading Egypt while forcing Malta convoys to run a gauntlet of bombers and warships. Malta was the key. As long as it could be reinforced with fuel, food and armaments it could be used to attack and disrupt the German-Italian supply lines, but resupplying the island without the Cyrenaican airfields would be costly (M. Carver).**

**US seizes Axis ships (CJCA headline). German, Italian and Danish ships in US ports taken into "protective custody" (D. Sommerville). Sailors on board charged with espionage, a ploy to board the ships but carrying a grain of truth based on experiences in other neutral countries. Later Vichy French ships, including the trans-Atlantic liner Normandie, were boarded and their crews closely questioned (ww2total.com Chronology/1941), see May 15, below.**

**First powered jet flight of the He 280, the world's first jet fighter. In tests it proved to be considerably faster than the Fw 190, and had a lighter airframe than the Me 262. It could have been in initial production by the end of the year, but no interest was shown in the aircraft and the project was eventually ended in favour of the more complex, faster Me 262. One of the criticisms of the design was its use of a nose-wheeled tricycle undercarriage, seen as too fragile for operations from fields. Ironically the Me 262 was originally built with a tailwheel, but this hampered its take off ability and it had to be re-designed with a nose wheel, and was limited to operations from paved runways. Politics also played a part in this decision, as it had for the earlier He 112/He 100 fighter cancellation (wikipedia). This also applied to its engines, which are starved for funding and further development while other designs are pursued. See July 13, 1942 and July 30, 1943.**

**Bomber Command sends 12 Hampdens to attack German warships in Brest in daylight, but they have to turn back due to lack of cloud cover (BC War Diaries).**

**30-31 German warships at Brest attacked by 109 bombers plus 10 GARDENING aircraft and 13 on other operations, no losses (BC War Diaries).**

**Monday**

**31 German forces break out of El Agheila, forcing British back (ww2total.com Chronology/1941). In doing this Rommel was disobeying his orders, which**



*directed he remain in position until his supply base had been built up, but he sensed an opportunity to drive the Commonwealth forces back to Egypt while they were occupied in Greece and other fronts (M. Bechthold).*

*German Merchant Ships Muenchen and Hermouthis scuttled by their crews off Peru to prevent capture by HMCS Prince Henry.*

*In the evening a force of three Italian destroyers leave Massawa, Eritrea, in an attempt to make a surprise attack on shipping at the Red Sea end of the Suez Canal, which has built up due to mining and blocking of the Canal. After the attack the crews were then to beach their ships on the Saudi Arabian coast to prevent their capture by the British (D.C. Stapleton).*

- 31 601 Sqn. Hurricane I V7539 crashed in England in a snowstorm, F/O J.W. Seddon RAF (Can.) killed (www.rafcommands.com). F/O Seddon had flown with 601 Sqn. during the Battle of Britain.
- 31 #2 SFTS RAF, Oxford I N6288 crashed, LAC(P) L.R. Horie RAF (Can.) killed (www.rafcommands.com).

*31-1 Bremen attacked by 28 Wellingtons, 6 Wellingtons attack Emden and 5 Wellingtons attack Rotterdam. Notably 2 Wellingtons drop the first 4,000 lb. HC (High Capacity) bombs on Emden, the first use of these devices later called "Blockbusters" in the press and "Cookies" by the crews (BC War Diaries). These were originally sea mines as dropped by the Luftwaffe, but were later developed into their own design.*

*Police in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, use tear gas to break up a demonstration of 3,000 union pickets at a factory, part of a nation wide coal miners strike of 400,000 miners (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).*

*Date unknown, Conservative Party in Canada begins calling for overseas conscription, as do several Liberal Cabinet Ministers. Aware of what this issue meant to voters in Quebec PM MacKenzie King avoids the issue (Oxford).*

## **April 1941**

Tuesday

- 1 *Just after midnight the lead destroyer of the Italian sortie against the Suez Canal hits an uncharted coral reef in the Red Sea and is damaged. The damage leads to a fire and after the crew is taken off it is scuttled, and the other two*

**destroyers return to Massawa. The sinking and burning ship is noted by RAF aircraft, leading to positioning of RN ships in the Red Sea to intercept further forays (D.C. Stapleton).**

**400 Sqn. begins to re-equip with Tomahawk aircraft (RCAF Sqns.).**

**Operational control of the airfield at Gander, Newfoundland, is turned over from the British Air Ministry and the Newfoundland Commission of Government to the RCAF for the duration of the war (C.F. Warren et al). See April 5, below.**

**Battleship Admiral Scheer returns to Germany though central Atlantic and the Denmark Strait (Oxford).**

**Two tankers are sunk in the Bristol Channel by Luftwaffe bombers (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).**

**Appropriate for this date was the first named appearance of the cartoon character "P/O Percy Prune" in the first issue of the RAF safety magazine 'Tee Emm' (for Technical Memorandum). This magazine for aircrew addressed safety and operational information in a light and humorous manner with cartoons so that pilots would enjoy reading it, and gain some useful knowledge of techniques and procedures which might save their lives, without it becoming a chore (F.H. Winstanley). P/O Prune, an inept pilot always cheerfully blasé about the crashes and accidents he caused, was used to teach air safety by being a bad example. He was the sponsor of the MHDOIF (The Most Highly Derogatory Order of the Irremovable Finger), a monthly award given anonymously for doing silly things (see Aug. 24, 1944 for an example). His name became an air force word, as in "pull a prune", meaning to do something blindingly stupid. When flying in bombers his equally inept Commonwealth crew would include a navigator, the happy go lucky but usually lost "F/O Freddy Fixe RCAF", as well as WAG Sgt Backtune RAF, AG Sgt Shorte-Burste RAF, Bomb Aimer Sgt Straddle RNZAF and Sgt Willy Winde RAAF (B. Hooper). After the war it was found that a tongue in cheek recommendation had been prepared in Germany to award P/O Prune the Iron Cross (2nd class) in recognition of the numbers of "enemy" aircraft he had destroyed, and Luftwaffe chief Göring approved and signed it, but this turned out to be joke perpetrated by the 'Tee Emm' staff (T. Hamilton). See also July 21, 1942. The US Navy copied the concept, it's bad example was named "Dilbert".**

***Construction of RCAF base at Torbay, Newfoundland begins, now St. John's International Airport.***

- 1 263 Sqn. Whirlwind I P6989 HE-J shot down attacking a Do 215 off southern England, **F/L D.A.C. Crooks DFC RAF (Can.)** killed ([www.rafdavidstowmoor.org](http://www.rafdavidstowmoor.org)). F/L Crooks had previously flown Battles with 226 Sqn. in France (mjlw at [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).

Wednesday

- 2 ***Coup in Iraq drives pro-British Regent from Bagdad and brings to power pro-Axis former PM Rashid Ali el Ghaylani, who with like minded generals begins to plan an attack on British bases and assets in Iraq, and seeks German assistance. The King of Iraq, then 6 years old, is taken to safety in northern Iraq by his English nanny, while English and Commonwealth citizens with their families seek refuge at RAF Habbaniya (T. Nicol).***

***In Massawa, after landing the crew from the sunken destroyer, the remaining Italian warships join with 3 smaller destroyers on a planned attack on Port Sudan, leaving the port at mid-day. They are spotted by aircraft in less than an hour. One develops an uncontrolled leak and is beached and scuttled on the Saudi coast (D.C. Stapleton).***

***German advance in North Africa continues towards Benghazi ([ww2total.com](http://ww2total.com) Chronology/1941). Advancing in small columns by various routes, commanding General Rommel (a pilot) maintains momentum by using a light aircraft to visit the columns, getting reports in person and giving direct orders, a tactic he had used to great effect in France in 1940 (D. Sommerville).***

***Orders issued to German forces to invade Yugoslavia from Austria, Romania and Bulgaria (Shores, Cull and Malizia).***

***Subhas Chandra Bose arrives in Berlin, smuggled out of Afghanistan by the Italian embassy staff (S. Raghavan). There he appeals to Hitler for help in freeing India (Oxford; S. Raghavan).***

***Hungarian Prime Minister Count Teleki commits suicide rather than agree to German demands to allow troops to cross Hungary to attack Yugoslavia, Hungarian Chief of Staff agrees to German demands.***

***Four killed in Kentucky in fighting between union and non-union coal miners***

**(ww2total.com Chronology/1941).**

- 2     33 Sqn. Hurricane, **F/O V.C. Woodward RAF (Can.)** claims 3 Italian bombers shot down and another damaged over Greece. One bomber was confirmed destroyed (Shores, Cull and Malizia).
- 2     #7 SFTS, Fort Macleod, Alberta, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4313 crashed after suffering what appeared to be a structural failure, killing **P/O R. Condie** and **Sgt J.W. McIntosh**.

Thursday

**3 London attacked by bombers after long lull (CJCA headlines).**

*In the early morning reconnaissance aircraft spread over the Red Sea looking for the Italian destroyer flotilla. At daybreak it is spotted making a fast approach on Port Sudan, by a Swordfish aircraft which makes a bombing attack and alerts a strike force of aircraft standing by in Port Sudan, which is then scrambled. The Italian commander then sights the RN surface force and abandons the attack, turning towards the Saudi coast. They are soon under attack by Blenheim, Wellesley and Swordfish aircraft, which fly shuttles back to Port Sudan to rearm and refuel. Two destroyers were sunk at sea, and the other two were crippled and abandoned off the Saudi coast. Two Wellesleys were lost, but all airmen were safe. This was the first time that a naval force was defeated by solely aircraft attack, but the significance of this was not realized at the time (D.C. Stapleton). See May 31 – June 1 summary on Crete.*

*Three SM.73 airliners leave Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, with 42 Italian Air Force members in an attempt to reach Libya (H.W. Neulen). See May 13, below.*

*HMS Ark Royal flies 12 Hurricanes into Malta, to join those already flown in by carrier and via Egypt (Canwell & Sutherland).*

*A Yugoslavian officer defects by airplane to Austria with information on the location of all the Yugoslavian dispersal airfields and air force codes (Shores, Cull and Malizia).*

*President Roosevelt releases 10 USCG cutters to the Royal Navy for convoy escort work (D. Sommerville). See November 8, 1942.*

*#31 Bombing & Gunnery School begins operations at Picton, Ontario, after arriving from England (S. Shail).*

- 3     242 (Canadian) Sqn. Hurricane II Z2692 attacked a Do 17 while on a convoy patrol but

was shot down into the sea, **F/L H.N.D. Tamblyn DFC RAF (Can.)** bailed out but died of exposure before he was found. F/L Tamblyn was an ace with 6 aircraft destroyed in the Battle of Britain, and had survived the heavy loss of Defiants of 264 Sqn. July 12, 1940.

- 3 (#1 TTS?), St. Thomas, Ontario, aero engine mechanic **AC2 D.C. Cameron** died of natural causes.
- 3 #31 SFTS, Kingston, Ontario, Battle Trainer I R7422 overshoot it's landing and bogged in soft ground, where it was struck by Battle I R7417 (S. Shail). See Oct. 16, below.

**3-4 Brest attacked by 90 bombers plus 13 GARDENING sorties and 7 other operations, 4 aircraft lost including one shot down over England by an Intruder (BC War Diaries).**

- 3-4 51 Sqn. Whitley V Z6556 MH-Q crashed in France, **F/S D.G. Farmer RAF (Can.)**, F/L J Harrington RAF, Sgt J.K. Purdon RAF, Sgt T.H. Knighton and Sgt C. Calvert RAF killed.
- 3-4 101 Sqn. Blenheim IV N3552 lost attacking Brest, **F/O W.J. Fenton RAF (Can.)**, W/C D. Addenbrooke RAF and Sgt E.E. Blomsley RAF missing.

Friday

**4 Rommel captures Benghazi in Libya (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).**

***President Roosevelt agrees to allow damaged British warships to be repaired in US yards (D. Sommerville). Damaged carrier HMS Illustrious is one of the first RN ships to take advantage of this.***

***German commerce raider Thor sinks British Armed Merchant Cruiser Voltaire (13,000 tons) (ww2total.com Chronology/1941) off the Cape Verde Islands. This is the third Armed Merchant Cruiser Thor has crippled or sunk on it's cruises.***

- 4 #3 SFTS, Calgary, Alberta, aero engine mechanic **F/S C.H. Green** died in hospital of natural causes.
- 4 #14 EFTS, Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4161 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).
- 4 #33 SFTS, Carberry, Manitoba, Harvard II #2926 crashed, LAC D.M. Wesley RAF killed. (TSGNO also lists a LAC D.M. Livingstone RAF died this date at #33 SFTS, not found in CWGC).

**4-5 Brest attacked by 54 bombers, plus 6 GARDENING sorties off the port, 18 other operations, 1 lost. One bomb lands in dry dock beside Gneisenau but does not explode (BC War Diaries). See April 6, below.**



Saturday

**5 German advance continues across North Africa, Barce captured (ww2total.com Chronology/1941). A truck convoy sent to deliver needed fuel to tanks and infantry at Mechili in Libya was destroyed by a sustained German air attack, leaving the Commonwealth force unable to retreat (M. Bechthold).**

**Allied soldiers capture Addis Ababa in Ethiopia (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).**

**Due to the deteriorating situation in Iraq plans are made to protect British commercial and military assets in the country, forcing the further withdrawal of troops from Libya just as the German offensive is beginning there. As part of the preparations for the defence of Habbaniya #4 SFTS armourers began to equip the training aircraft with locally made bomb racks (I. Martin), while a retired artillery piece in front of the officers mess is stripped of multiple coats of paint and re-conditioned; although obsolete, some rounds of ammunition for it were found in India and flown in.**

**An Italian torpedo boat that left Massawa with the destroyer flotilla torpedoes and damages a merchant ship in the Red Sea, the last Italian naval action in the area (D.C. Stapleton).**

**RCAF Station Gander, Newfoundland, formed (C.F. Warren et al).**

**5 School of Army Co-operation RCAF, Lysander II #432 crashed 2 miles east of Cardinal, Ontario, while on an exercise, P/O R.B. Aitken and Sgt H.W. Chase killed.**

Sunday

**6 Germany invades Yugoslavia and Greece. The Yugoslav capitol of Belgrade, declared an open city (A. Beevor), was bombed without any warning or declaration of war, on the orders of Hitler, who demanded the destruction of the city. Luftwaffe planners at least modified this to targeting military and communications targets in Belgrade. Bombing continued for the next 4 days against the undefended city, killing from 5,000 to 10,000 people on the ground (Oxford, wikipedia).**

**German ground forces invade Yugoslavia and Greece from Bulgaria. The Yugoslav army has no anti-aircraft or anti-tank artillery, and is thus unable to protect itself from a Blitzkrieg type of attack (A. Beevor). In the air the Luftwaffe has an overwhelming numerical and tactical superiority. Yugoslavian airforce Hurricane and Bf 109E fighters fight German Bf 109E fighters. The**

***Yugoslavians are hampered by a shortage of cannon ammunition for their Bf 109Es which Germany had "delayed" delivering before the invasion. They are soon sending teams to Yugoslav and German crash sites to retrieve ammunition for re-use.***

***British forces enter Addis Ababa, ending effective resistance in Ethiopia and Italian East Africa.***

***Armed Merchant Cruiser HMS Comorin (15,000 tons) destroyed by an accidental fire in the Atlantic (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).***

- 6      22 Sqn. Beaufort I N1016 OA-X was part of a dawn torpedo attack on German warships in Brest, France. This attack was made possible when the battle cruiser *Gneisenau* had to be pulled out of it's dry dock so an unexploded bomb from a previous RAF operation could be dealt with. When expected support bombers did not appear (intended to distract the defences and bomb any protective anti-torpedo nets) this crew made a solo attack over the heavily defended port and managed to launch a torpedo into the ship before being shot down into the harbour (Barker). F/O K. Campbell RAF was awarded a posthumous Victoria Cross for this attack, **Sgt J.P. Scott**, Sgt W.C. Mulliss RAF and F/S R.W. Hillman RAF were also killed. The battle cruiser was badly damaged and out of action for the rest of the year. Sgt Scott was one of the first class of Observers to graduate from the BCATP.

***6-7 Bomber Command attacks Brest (71 bombers), other targets (19) and GARDENING (24) with 1 loss (BC War Diaries).***

***A German night attack on Piraeus (the port of Athens) hits the British ship Clan Fraser, loaded with ammunition. The explosion wrecks the harbour and sinks 13 more ships there (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).***

- 6-7    #3 Group Training Flight Wellington Ic N2818 lost in bad weather and crashed in Algeria on a ferry flight from England to Malta, **Sgt R.C. McCracken RAF (Can.)**, P/O G.T. Kimberley RNZAF, Sgt K.R. Allen RAF, Sgt H.L. Williams RAF, Sgt R.W. Fairlamb RAF and Sgt W.A. Watts RNZAF killed.

Monday

***7 Derna in Libya captured by Afrika Korps (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).***

***US naval and air bases open in Bermuda (D. Sommerville).***

- 7      #1 Central Flying School, Trenton, Ontario, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4345 crashed into woods near the airfield killing **P/O L.A. Broad** and **Sgt V.J. Parker**.
- 7      #1 Wireless School, Montreal, Quebec, DH.82C4 Menasco Moth II #4824 crashed

near Chateauguay, Quebec, killing **Sgt J.M. Harris**.

**7-8 Kiel attacked by 229 bombers over 5 hours causing damage to industry, naval targets and civilian housing. Bremerhaven also bombed (24) and other operations (9), 4 aircraft lost (BC War Diaries).**

**The Blitz, Small attack by Luftwaffe on Belfast, Northern Ireland (wikipedia).**

7-8 102 Sqn. Whitley V Z6468 BU-K lost at sea, **Sgt H.R. Martin RAF (Can.)**, W/C F.C. Cole RAF, F/S W.E. Craven RAF, F/S J. Derbyshire RAF and Sgt R.C. Smith RAF missing (ianh www.rafcommands.com).

7-8 214 Sqn. Wellington Ic R1380 lost without trace, **Sgt H.R. Easton**, Sgt R.A. Williams RAF, Sgt K. Manson RNZAF, Sgt R.A. Chatfield RAF, Sgt R.C. Plummer RAF and Sgt C.H.R. Mercer RAF missing.

Tuesday

**8 Italian naval Port of Massawa, Eritrea, captured (CJCA headline), by Indian forces advancing from Keren (S. Raghavan). These later met with British and French forces. The latter were from French Somaliland, which had renounced Vichy as British forces advanced from Kenya and recaptured British Somaliland (Oxford). They found this modern port, built by the Italian Navy to control the Red Sea and blockade the Suez Canal, wrecked with block ships and sabotage of it's workshops and facilities. For a detailed story of it's reconstruction see Under the Red Sea Sun, by D. Ellsberg.**

**After holding up the German forces at Fort Mechili in Libya despite being outgunned and inexperienced, the 3rd Indian Brigade attempted an orderly withdrawal but was overwhelmed and the bulk of the unit killed or captured. They did buy time for the Australian and other units to consolidate in Tobruk (S. Raghavan).**

**A/C Collishaw was recalled from Egypt to form and command a new force, #204 Group RAF, to defend Egypt from advancing German forces, using the existing RAF and RAAF units retreating from Cyrenaica plus more units to be attached. While still defending retreating Commonwealth units Collishaw began expanding attacks on the German supply line, ordering attacks on convoys and especially fuel trucks, moving along roads where they could be attacked with less danger from anti-aircraft fire and threat to his aircraft which were again outnumbered. Night attacks on ports and supply depots by Wellingtons backed these up (M. Bechthold).**

8 Communications and Transport Squadron, Picton, Ontario, Harvard II #2712 crashed

at Athol Bay, Ontario, near Picton, **P/O K.M. Armstrong RCAF (USA)** and **AC2(P) J.E. Battaglia RCAF (France)** killed (Griffin; [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).

- 8 #4 SFTS, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Anson I #6235 crashed near South Cudworth, Saskatchewan, LAC(P) A.M. Randell RAAF and LAC(P) D. Tweedie RAAF killed (A. Storr, B. Barry et al).

**8-9 Bomber Command returns to carry out another successful attack on Kiel (160 bombers) and Bremerhaven (22) plus 17 other operations, 5 aircraft lost over the targets and 9 more crashed in England. These two attacks were probably the most successful carried out by the RAF in the war so far (BC War Diaries).**

**The Blitz, The Luftwaffe sends 230 bombers to Coventry, dropping 325 tons of bombs on the City ([ww2total.com](http://ww2total.com) Chronology/1941).**

Wednesday

- 9 German forces take Salonika (CJCA headline). USA given military defence rights in Greenland (wikipedia).**

***Air Minister Powers* announced a recruiting scheme to enlist further RCAF radar mechanics for the RAF. Candidates would receive special courses in electronics and radar at 13 universities across Canada. RAF was requesting 2,500 radar technicians at this time (R.F. Linden).**

***Air Cadet League of Canada* receives it's Dominion Charter, and begins accrediting Squadrons. Informal squadrons already formed (over 20) become part of the new organization. Squadron numbers 1-5 are issued to units in Quebec, the Christ Church Squadron in Winnipeg becomes #6, Markerville, Alberta became #7 (later used by Penhold), and the Vancouver #1601 Cadet unit became #111 Air Cadet Squadron, in recognition of their patrons.**

- 9 #57 OTU RAF, Spitfire Ia N3250 had an engine failure and crashed, **Sgt R. Burton** killed ([www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).

**9-10 Berlin attacked by 80 bombers, plus 19 on other operations, 8 lost (BC War Diaries). The State Opera House is set on fire and burnt out ([ww2total.com](http://ww2total.com) Chronology/1941), infuriating Hitler, a great fan of opera, especially Wagner. See April 16-17 and 19-20, below.**

**The Blitz, Birmingham attacked by 235 Luftwaffe bombers (wikipedia).**

- 9-10 99 Sqn. Wellington Ic R1440 was intercepted and shot down by a night fighter into the

IJsselmeer, Sgt G.W. Brown RAF killed, **Sgt W.L. Waldron**, P/O T. Fairhurst RAF, Sgt H.V. Wansbrough RAF, Sgt W.R. Moore RAF and Sgt C.W. Hall RAF missing. See <http://www.teunispats.net/fr-wwii.htm> for details. Possibly coded LN-J (CZ\_RAF [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).

Thursday

**10 British, New Zealand and Australian forces in Greece engage German troops.**

**German advance captures Belgrade, Yugoslavia, ending the bombing of the city.**

**In North Africa the first German assault on Tobruk is stopped (D. Sommerville).**

**Croats declare separation from Yugoslavia ([ww2total.com](http://ww2total.com) Chronology/1941).**

**#10 (BR) Sqn. moved from Dartmouth, NS to Gander, Newfoundland, reinforcing it's detachment there (RCAF Sqns.).**

**While picking up survivors from a lifeboat off Iceland the destroyer USS Niblack drops depth charges on an approaching U-boat, the first military action by US forces in the war ([wikipedia](http://wikipedia)).**

**First Fortress aircraft lands at Gander enroute to England (C.F. Warren et al).**

**#11 SFTS, Yorkton, Saskatchewan and #18 EFTS, Boundary Bay, BC, open on this date (<http://www.bombercrew.com/BCATP.htm>).**

10 #55 OTU Canadian built Hurricane I P5199, P/O G.C.S. MacNamara RAF had his radio fail and become lost in hazy conditions, making a belly landing. The aircraft may have been rebuilt as a Mark II (DG632, disputed, may be ex-P5190) (R. Allenby).

**10-11 Bomber Command sends 53 bombers to Brest, 53 to Düsseldorf and 14 other operations, losing 7 bombers but hitting the Gneisenau with 4 bombs (BC War Diaries). With the Gneisenau damaged and the Scharnhorst undergoing engine repairs neither is available to support the Bismarck in May (D. Sommerville).**

**The Blitz, Luftwaffe again attacks Birmingham, with 245 bombers. Over 1,200 residents are killed or injured in these two attacks ([wikipedia](http://wikipedia)).**

10-11 106 Sqn. Hampden I X3148 ZN-E shot down over Holland by a night fighter, **Sgt J.T. Wright RAF (Can.)**, Sgt J. Spencer RAF and Sgt E.J. Butler RAF killed, Sgt R.J.



West RAF PoW.

10-11 218 Sqn. Wellington Ic R1442 NA-D lost over the sea, **F/S R.E.V. Anderson** killed, Sgt T.W. Dabinnette RNZAF, Sgt A.G. Plumb RAF, Sgt J.D. Brown RAF, Sgt D.F. Henderson RAF and Sgt G.S. Snoddon RAF missing.

Friday

**11 President Roosevelt extends US Security Zone in Atlantic from 60°W to 26°W**  
(<http://www.worldwar-2.net/timelines>).

***With the surrender of Massawa and the elimination of the Italian air forces in East Africa Roosevelt also declares the Red Sea is no longer a combat zone, allowing neutral US ships to carry cargos directly to Egypt (Oxford).***

***Italian and Hungarian forces join invasion of Yugoslavia (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).***

**11-12 Wellingtons in Greece are ordered to return to Egypt, making an attack on the airfield on Rhodes on the way (Shores, Cull and Malizia).**

Saturday

**12 Greece, Delay in withdrawing Greek army on the Albanian front leads to their being cut off, forcing withdrawal of Commonwealth forces (Oxford).**

***US Military lands in Greenland (<http://www.worldwar-2.net/timelines>).***

***Flight worthy version of Whittle W.1 engine runs for first time (wikipedia).***

12 #33 SFTS, Carberry, Manitoba, Harvard II #2717 crashed, LAC L.W.H. Lloyd RAF killed.

**12-13 Bomber Command sends 66 bombers to Brest, but most bomb the alternate of Lorient due to poor visibility. Thirty bombers on other operations, 1 loss (BC War Diaries).**

Sunday

**13 In Greece 211 Squadron lost 6 of 7 Blenheim I bombers attacking advancing German units without fighter cover, 16 RAF airmen killed including the Squadron commanding officer (discussion page, [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).**

***Malta has it's 500th air raid alert (Canwell & Sutherland).***

**Germans and Italians re-take Bardia and surround Tobruk. (This is the day the novel Easter Day, 1941, by G.F. Borden, is set).**

**Armed Merchant Cruiser HMS Rajputana (16,000 tons) (Sister ship to the Rawalpindi) sunk in the Denmark Strait off Iceland by U-108 ([ww2total.com](http://ww2total.com) [Chronology/1941](http://Chronology/1941), [uboat.net](http://uboat.net)). One of the survivors was **Midshipman D.L. Hanington RCN**, later Admiral D.L. Hanington DSC CD RCN when he retired.**

**Japan and Soviet Union sign 5-year neutrality pact (Oxford). This important treaty allows Japan to concentrate on expansion to the south, and Stalin to address the situation in Europe (D. Sommerville). It also ends supply of Soviet material to the Nationalist Chinese forces, although Soviet officers are still sent to China for experience (A. Beevor). Stalin begins to move units from Eastern Soviet Union to the border with Europe (Polsson, D. Sommerville). See November 6, 1944.**

- 13 112 Sqn. Gladiator, Greece, **S/L L.G. Schwab RAF (Can.)** led a patrol that intercepted Italian bombers with a fighter escort and claimed 1 G.50 (MC.200?) shot down (Shores, Cull & Malitzia).
- 13 #31 SFTS, Kingston, Ontario, Battle I R7461 hit a tree and crashed short of the runway, LAC J.M. Reardon RAF killed.
- 13-14 From Gander, Newfoundland, Fortress I aircraft AN534 (F/L T.M. Bulloch RAF) and AN521 (F/L D.G. Ross RAF) make the first Trans-Atlantic crossing of the type to Scotland, two of 20 purchased for use by the RAF. AN521 landed in England 8 hours and 26 minutes after leaving Gander, setting a record for crossing the Atlantic Ocean (robstitt and C. Charland at [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).

Monday

**14 Australian soldiers surrounded in Tobruk stop German tank attack ([ww2total.com](http://ww2total.com) [Chronology/1941](http://Chronology/1941)). Daily bombing and shelling of the port begin.**

**Egypt's King Farouk sends a secret message to Hitler hoping Germany will soon liberate Egypt from England ([ww2total.com](http://ww2total.com) [Chronology/1941](http://Chronology/1941)).**

**RAF Station Digby, England, transferred to Canadian command, becoming RCAF Station Digby for the formation of Canadian fighter wings (RCAF Sqns.).**

- 14 73 Sqn. Hurricane I P2652 **P/O J.D. "Smudger" Smith MiD RAF (Can)** killed in Libya. P/O Smith was credited with 7½ victories, and had flown with 73 Sqn. in the Battles of France and Britain. In his last flight he had shot down 2 Italian G.50 fighters, one flown by Ten (Lt) C. Cugnasca, a veteran of the Spanish Civil War and operations

over England (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1). According to **Ted Ancell RAF (Can.)**, an armourer with 73 Sqn. and a Biggs' Boy who witnessed this loss, P/O Smith bailed out of his Hurricane over the airfield of El Adem near Tobruk and was killed in his parachute by an enemy fighter. Ancell was wounded in a strafing attack later that day while re-arming one of the Squadron's Hurricanes (K. Stofer).

- 14 402 Sqn. **LAC J.E. Owen** killed and another airmen injured during a hit and run attack on RAF Driffild in England (D. McIntosh).
- 14 #6 EFTS, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4168 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

***14-15 Brest attacked by 94 bombers with no loss (BC War Diaries).***

Tuesday

***15 Africa Korps captures Sollum and enters the Halfaya Pass, crossing the border into Egypt (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).***

***In Iraq, RAF reinforces #4 SFTS at Habbaniya with more Fairey Gordon aircraft.***

***RAF base at Larissa in Greece heavily bombed with the loss of 30 aircraft (D. Newton).***

***In the Ukraine a Luftwaffe Ju 86P high altitude photo reconnaissance aircraft crashes, one of two lost from over 500 overflights noted by the Russian air forces. Cameras and analysis of the exposed film shows the intentions of the flight was intelligence gathering on Soviet defences, but no protests are made (Bergström & Mikhailov V.1).***

***Operational control of Coastal Command given to the Admiralty, to assist in co-ordinating defence of convoys and anti-submarine patrols (D. Sommerville).***

***402 Sqn. begins offensive operations as part of a sweep over France near Boulogne with 12 Hurricane aircraft, the first offensive RCAF operation of the war (RCAF Sqns.).***

***404 Sqn. RCAF formed as a Coastal Fighter unit in England on Blenheim IV aircraft (RCAF Sqns.).***

***Four men killed and 20 wounded in Kentucky in a gun battle between striking coal miners and mine officials (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).***

***Sikorsky VS-300 helicopter completes first flight of over an hour (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).***

- 15 33 Sqn. Hurricane scrambled to defend an airfield in Greece, pilot **F/L J.F. Mackie RAF (Can.)** in Hurricane I P3732 shot down a Bf 109 just after taking off before being shot down and killed by a second Messerschmidt (www.rafcommands.com; CWGC). F/L Mackie had destroyed a total of 7 enemy aircraft before his death.
- 15 610 Sqn. Spitfire IIa P7684 DW-S shot down over the Isle of Wight in combat with a Ju 88, **P/O A.R. Ross** killed (www.spitfires.ukf.net).

***15-16 Bomber Command returns to Kiel with 96 bombers but do only light damage, 28 bombers on other operations, 2 lost (BC War Diaries).***

***The Blitz, Luftwaffe sends 180 bombers to attack Belfast in Northern Ireland, killing nearly 750 people on the ground (Oxford).***

Wednesday

***16 Sarajevo in Yugoslavia captured by German forces (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).***

***After inspecting the situation in Greece and discussions with their leaders, General Wavell takes the decision to stop further Commonwealth troops being sent there. In effect this recognizes that Greece has been lost (D. Sommerville).***

***16-17 The Blitz, In a reprisal for the RAF attack on Berlin that destroyed the Opera House Luftwaffe bombers attack London with over 400 sorties in the night, many bombers flying shuttles from their bases in France, dropping over 1,000 tons of bombs and incendiaries and causing widespread damage (ww2total.com Chronology/1941). See April 19-20, below.***

***Bremen attacked by 107 bombers, but due to poor visibility only 74 drop their bombs, 13 other sorties, 2 lost and 1 bomber shot down by an Intruder (BC War Diaries).***

Thursday

***17 Yugoslav army surrenders.***

***Second armoured assault on Tobruk stopped by Australian defenders (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).***

***Under the terms of treaty agreements Britain sends troops to Iraq to guard oil fields. A force of Indian troops is landed at Basra (S. Raghavan). RAF transport aircraft land troops at #4 SFTS Habbaniya, including a detachment of Gurkhas.***

***German commerce raider Atlantis captures the Egyptian liner Zamzam with over 300 passengers including 138 American citizens (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).***

- 17 400 Sqn. aero engine mechanic **Sgt M.E. McMurdo** killed in London by a bomb during a raid on the city.
- 17 RCAF Overseas Headquarters, clerk **Cpl J.K. Trudeau** died in London of injuries sustained during an air raid (www.rafcommands.com).
- 17 #1 Manning Depot, Toronto, Ontario, **Chaplain F/L A.G. Rintoul** died of natural causes.

***17-18 Bomber Command sends 118 bombers to Berlin but poor visibility scatters bombing, 30 to other targets. Eleven bombers lost over Europe and one crashed in England (BC War Diaries).***

***The Blitz, German bombers attack Portsmouth (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).***

- 17-18 9 Sqn. Wellington Ic N2745 WS-O lost over Germany, **Sgt G.J. Mavor** and Sgt G.E. Heaysman RAF killed, Sgt S.F. Whitlock RAF, Sgt T. Lancaster RAF, Sgt B. Hanlon RAF and Sgt G.C. Balch RAF PoW.
- 17-18 40 Sqn. Wellington Ic R1331 BL-R crashed on a hill on the coast of England, Sgt J. Griffin RAF was killed when he bailed out too low before the crash, but **Sgt C.D. Noble**, Sgt H.T. Bagnall RNZAF, Sgt K. Jenner RNZAF, Sgt Jordan RAF and Sgt A. MacAskill RAF safe. Sgt Noble as **F/O C.D. Noble** was taken PoW in a 214 Sqn. Stirling June 19-20, 1942 (aircrewremembered.com).

Friday

***18 Twenty-eight German PoWs escape in Ontario (CJCA headline). Angler POW Camp escape, German PoWs use a tunnel 150 feet long at this camp on the north shore of Lake Superior near Marathon, Ontario. It was intended that 100 prisoners would escape. Of the 28 that did so 3 were wounded and 2 killed in a questionable shooting incident, the rest were re-captured, near the US border, in Ottawa, Montreal and 2 as far away as Medicine Hat, Alberta (S. Adams). Those recaptured received 28 days confinement. This was the largest escape of PoWs in Canada (wikipedia). (Compare to similar Great Escape of March, 1944.)***

***In the Philippines the first long range photo reconnaissance missions were made by***



***specially modified Japanese Navy G3M aircraft from Formosa (Taiwan). These operations would photograph US bases as far east as Guam over the next 2 months (Shores, Cull & Izawa) and locations in the Australian Mandate such as Rabaul as well (D. Vincent).***

***In Bombay rioting breaks out between Sikhs and Moslems, resulting in 400 dead and injured in two days (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).***

***Me 262 prototype flies with a piston engine (M.J.H. Taylor).***

***#34 SFTS, Medicine Hat, Alberta, opened on this date (<http://www.bombercrew.com/BCATP.htm>).***

- 18 61 Sqn. Hampden I AD732 lost over France on a daylight operation attacking a convoy, **P/O F.W. Holden RAF (Can.)**, F/L R.S.E. Aldridge DFC RAF and Sgt A. Drury RAF killed, Sgt K. Downing RAF PoW.
- 18 114 Sqn. Blenheim IV V5494 RT-F shot down off Norway attacking a convoy of ships, one of 3 aircraft lost by this squadron on this strike, Sgt R.R. Mann RAF killed, **F/L T.H. Myers RAF (Can.)** and Sgt R.E. Williams RAF missing.
- 18 500 Sqn. Blenheim IV Z6050 crashed in England on take-off after an engine cut, **P/O J.D. Ready RAF (Can.)**, P/O J.A.H. Johnston RAF, F/O H. Jones RAF and Sgt A. Shepherdson RAF killed.
- 18 #12 OTU Wellington Ic P9300 crashed when power failed climbing out while practising night circuits, **P/O T.M. Couper** and **Sgt D. McLean** killed, **Sgt R. Wanek** badly injured ([www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 18 #6 SFTS, Dunnville, Ontario, accounting officer **F/O J.A. Baldwin** died of burns suffered during a fire that gutted the Officer's Mess. He had just applied for rank revision to seek pilot training (K. MacLean at [www.rafcommand.com](http://www.rafcommand.com)).
- 18 RCAF Recruiting Centre, Hamilton, Ontario, **AC2 C.U. Richard** died in hospital of natural causes while on leave without pay.
- 18 RNor.AF, Little Norway, Toronto Island Airport, Ontario, Curtiss H75A-8 (Mohawk) Nr. 455 missing over Lake Ontario, 2Lt K. Christensen missing (wikipedia; D. Hagedorn & A. Tincopa).

Saturday

***19 Third German tank attack on Tobruk stopped (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).***

***A convoy lands Indian Army troops in Basra, Iraq (D. Sommerville).***

***German Bf 109E fighters begin operations in Libya, over Tobruk (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).***

***London attacked again (CJCA headline), see below.***

***Churchill informs Stalin personally of planned German attack on Russia (Polsson). Stalin, remembering events like the embargo of arms to Spain and the secret French/British plan to bomb Soviet oil fields, considers these warnings as attempts to create a rift between Germany and the USSR. See May 15, below.***

***Iraq, RAF in Middle East dispatch a flight of 6 Gladiator fighters to Habbaniya (A. Dudgeon). At about this time RAF personnel attached to the Iraqi Air Force are withdrawn to the RAF base.***

19 #33 SFTS, Carberry, Manitoba, Harvard II #2924 crashed, LAC J.A. Camp RAF and LAC J.H. Giles RAF killed.

***19-20 The Blitz, The Luftwaffe makes a second ordered "revenge attack" on London, flying 712 sorties (with shuttle missions) and dropping 1,160 tons of bombs. A total of 2,300 were killed on the ground, 3,000 seriously injured and 150,000 homes destroyed or damaged in these two large attacks (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).***

Sunday

***20 Hyde Park Declaration, an agreement between Canada and the USA, signed by President Roosevelt and **PM Mackenzie King**. Designed to relieve financial deficit of purchases of US material for Canadian production of goods for England, it made such components part of Lend-Lease to Britain, as well as allowing orders to be placed in Canadian factories and shipyards on Britain's behalf and paid for by US Lend-Lease funds (ie, many Fort ships). This agreement is now recognized as the first step in the modern integration of the US and Canadian economies (Oxford).***

***Athens attacked in daylight by German bombers which take heavy losses from RAF fighters (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).***

***Last Italian forces in Ethiopia surrounded at Amba Alagi (Oxford).***

20 242 (Canadian) Sqn. three Hurricane II aircraft collided over the Channel in a combat with enemy fighters and crashed. The pilots, **F/O N.D. Edmond RAF (Can.)** in Z2632, S/L W.P.F. Treacy RAF in Z2887 and F/O H.I. Lang RAF in Z2634 bailed out but air-sea rescue was unable to pick them up and all three died. F/O Edmond was a veteran of the Battle of Britain as was S/L Treacy, who had evaded in 1940 after being shot down in France.

**20-21 Cologne attacked by 61 bombers, 24 attack oil storage at Rotterdam and 9 other operations, 2 lost (BC War Diaries).**

**Royal Navy battleship flotilla protected by aircraft carriers bombards Tripoli (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).**

20-21 99 Sqn. Wellington Ic T2997 hit a balloon cable and crashed into Harwich Harbour, England, returning from an operation over Germany, **P/O W.E. Bowden RAF (Can.)**, P/O R.M. Morrow RNZAF, Sgt F.G. Hindrup RNZAF, P/O F.H. Cook RAF, Sgt B.M. Evans RAF and Sgt M.A.J. Savage RAF missing.

20-21 106 Sqn. Hampden I X2986 ZN-F lost over Germany, **P/O J. Cutmore RAF (Can.)**, P/O R.M.A. Lakin RAF, Sgt W.E. Burrell RAF and Sgt H.E. Preston DFM RAF killed.

Monday

**21 Greece, Greek army on the Albanian front surrenders to advancing Germans (Oxford). Decision made to evacuate Commonwealth troops from Greece (Oxford). Hitler decides to take Crete to prevent use by British to threaten Ploesti or support Russia, using airborne troops (Polsson). The alternative urged by Mussolini was to use these airborne forces to attack Malta.**

**Heavy Luftwaffe bomber and dive bomber attacks over the next 4 days will sink 43 merchant ships and 11 warships in Greek waters (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).**

**21-22 Royal Navy ships bombard the port of Tripoli, aircraft from Malta and HMS Formidable drop illumination flares (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).**

**The Blitz, First of 5 heavy Luftwaffe attacks on Plymouth (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).**

Tuesday

22 #9 SFTS RAF, England, Master I T8468 crashed, **LAC(P) J.A.B. Day RAF (Can.)** and F/L E.E. Noddings killed (www.rafcommands.com).

**22-23 Bomber Command returns to attack warships in Brest with 26 bombers and 6 GARDENING sorties, 1 aircraft lost (BC War Diaries).**

Wednesday

**23 405 Squadron RCAF formed in England as a bomber squadron in #4 Group, Bomber Command, on Merlin engined Wellington II aircraft (RCAF Sqns.).**

***In an America First party rally in support of Isolationism in New York that attracted 30,000, Charles Lindbergh blames England for having encouraged smaller European countries (like Greece) to resist Germany, and warns that England is attempting to drag the USA into the war (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).***

- 23 30 Sqn., Greece, **F/O C.W. Richardson RAF (Can.)** managed to save a damaged Blenheim (missing it's tail wheel) from being captured on an airfield being evacuated by taking off with the tail supported by a trolley, making a careful landing in Crete where the aircraft was repaired (Shores, Cull and Malizia).
- 23 261 Sqn. Hurricane IIa Z3032 failed to return from a sortie over Malta, **F/O H.F. Auger RAF (Can.)** missing (www.rafcommands.com). F/O Auger was a veteran of the Battle of Britain.
- 23 242 (Canadian) Sqn. Hurricane II Z2513 did not return from a convoy patrol, Sgt A.J.M. David RAF missing.
- 23 #31 SFTS (?), Picton, Ontario, Battle I #1735 written off after a crash (R.W.R. Walker).

***23-24 Brest attacked by 67 bombers, 14 on GARDENING sorties elsewhere, no losses (BC War Diaries).***

Thursday

***24 Greece surrenders, King George of Greece leaves the country, British forces withdrawing to coast (RD Chronology). RAF aircraft evacuate to Crete. RAF Sunderland flying boats are used to pick up small parties of soldiers and airmen cut off in isolated locations on the Greek coast.***

***Australian soldiers in Tobruk stop a fourth German armoured assault on the port (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).***

***#2 Group Bomber Command begins Operation CHANNEL STOP, to close the Straits of Dover to enemy shipping (R. McNeill). Aircraft will attack by day and MTBs will patrol the area at night (BC War Diaries). See May 9, below.***

- 24 22 Sqn. Beaufort I L9950 OA-L lost on a GARDENING sortie off France, **Sgt J.H. Smith**, F/S S.I. Sanders RAF, Sgt C.L. Ginnetta RAF and Sgt H. Burton RAF killed.
- 24 #1 Central Flying School, RCAF Station Trenton, Ontario, Harvard II #2514 crashed near Corbyville, Ontario, for unknown reasons, killing **F/O R.G. McDougall** (R.W.R. Walker).
- 24 #31 ANS, Port Albert, Ontario, Anson I N9542 was descending through clouds on approach to land from a night training flight when it flew into a ridge of ground near the airport, LAC I.L. Hughes RAF and F/O R.E. Ransome RAF killed (R.W.R. Walker).

**24-25 Evacuation of Commonwealth forces from Greece begins, most offloaded at Crete to allow the ships to return for more (Oxford).**

**RAF attacks Kiel (69 bombers) with poor results, 43 on other sorties, 1 lost (BC War Diaries).**

Friday

**25 German forces complete capture of Halfaya Pass (ww2total.com Chronology/1941). However Rommel's supply situation is bad, all supplies having to be sent forward from Benghazi which is under regular bombing attack by Wellingtons, along roads patrolled by aircraft from #204 Group where they are also under attack (M. Bechthold).**

**Due to high losses from Bf 109 fighters 73 Squadron, providing fighter cover against German and Italian bombers over Tobruk, was withdrawn back to re-equip, and are only available for ground attack in emergencies (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1). This decision had been delayed for many days but at this point the wastage of Hurricane fighters based at Tobruk was too high, and only 5 of 32 deployed remained operational, with only 11 Hurricanes available on the entire combat area (M. Bechthold).**

25 274 Sqn. Hurricane I V7763 had intercepted 3 Bf 110 aircraft over Libya and shot down one before colliding with a second, **F/O T.L. Patterson RAF (Can.)** killed (CWGC & Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1 [who date this on the 26th]). F/O Patterson had been very successful, shooting down several Italian aircraft since December before being wounded in late January.

25 612 Sqn. Whitley V T4296 WL-L was approaching to land at Wick in Scotland when it hit a hospital and crashed, killing **Sgt F.J. Milne RAF (Can.)**, F/O C.C. Watt RAF, Sgt H.E. Smith RAF, Sgt L.J.G. Lockwood RAF, Sgt W. MacPherson RAF and Sgt A. Maitland RAF, plus Miss J.S. Bain and Miss M.J. Waters, staff in the hospital (chippenham1939-1945.weebly.com).

25 #2 SFTS, Uplands, Ontario, Harvard II #2502 dived into Westmeath Lake, Ontario, killing **Sgt H.G. Hydes** and **LAC(P) R. Paterson**.

25 #7 EFTS, London, Ontario, Finch II #4719 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

**25-26 Bomber Command attacks Kiel with 62 bombers and 23 other sorties with 1 loss, but scattered results (BC War Diaries).**

Saturday

**26 German paratroops take the bridge over the Corinth Canal in Greece, cutting off**



***New Zealand troops withdrawing south (Oxford). An RAF air raid on the captured bridge sets off emplaced demolition charges, destroying the structure (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).***

***South African and Ethiopian troops capture Dessie, Ethiopia, and capture 8,000 Italian soldiers (wikipedia).***

***German units begin to arrive in Finland (CJCA headline).***

***#5 Bombing & Gunnery School opened at Dafoe, Saskatchewan (http://www.bombercrew.com/BCATP.htm).***

- 26     242 (Canadian) Sqn. Hurricane IIa Z2666 crashed in England, Sgt A.J. Vaughan RAF died of his injuries (discussion page [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 26     #3 Group Training Flight Wellington Ic W5652 came down in Spanish Balearic Islands on a ferry flight from England to Malta, **Sgt C.S. Hunt RAF (Can.)**, Sgt C.H. Burge RAF, F/L E.M. Child-Villers RAF, Sgt H.E. Herritey RAF, Sgt N.O. Horrocks RAF and S/L C.F. Rodney AFC RAF interned. See April 30, below.
- 26     #9 SFTS, Summerside, PEI, Harvard II #2976 was in a mid-air collision with Harvard II #2857 practicing formation and crashed north of Richmond, PEI, killing **LAC(P) K.L. Anson** and **P/O P. Kennedy-Allen**. There were no casualties in #2857 which also crashed.
- 26     #32 SFTS, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Harvard II #2577 crashed, LAC W.H. Crampton RAF killed.
- 26     RNor.AF, Little Norway, Toronto Island Airport, Ontario, Cornell crashed while on search for missing Curtiss 75-A8 (Mohawk), H.P. Schwencke and B. Nilsen killed (wikipedia).

***26-27 Bomber Command sends 50 bombers to attack Hamburg of which 44 claim to have bombed the city, but Hamburg defences record only 16 bomb loads and no fires (BC War Diaries).***

Sunday

***27 German forces occupy Athens (CJCA headline).***

***On the demands of Churchill RAF in Middle East dispatch aircraft to re-enforce #4 SFTS at Habbaniya. There daily reconnaissance flights are made observing the build up of Iraqi Army forces at nearby Ramadi and Fallujah (A. Dudgeon).***

***Malta receives a small supply convoy and 23 Hurricanes (of 24 launched) flown off***

**HMS Ark Royal (D. Sommerville).**

- 27 39 Sqn. Maryland, F/L W.M. Lewis RAF (Can.) and crew, on a reconnaissance sortie, spotted a large group of Ju 52/3m transports that had just landed in Libya and strafed them, causing at least one to catch fire (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).
- 27 #53 OTU Spitfire Ia X4546 and X4618 collided in mid-air and crashed in England, Sgt A.R. Rennie killed in X4546 and Sgt F.J. Younger RAF killed X4618 (www.rafcommands.com).
- 27 #33 SFTS, Carberry, Manitoba, Harvard II #2790 crashed practicing night circuits, LAC J.G. Permuth RAF killed (R.W.R. Walker, Chris "Dakota" at www.rafcommands.com supplied the details).

Monday

**28 British evacuation of Greece complete (CJCA headline). (see April 30-May 1 below).**

***Following criticism of his New York speech by President Roosevelt, Charles Lindbergh resigns his commission in the USAAC Reserve (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).***

***Coal miners strike in USA ends after a month with workers winning a raise of \$1 a day (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).***

***#7 AOS, Portage la Prairie, Manitoba and #31 Bombing & Gunnery School, Picton, Ontario opened on this day [official opening?] (http://www.bombercrew.com/BCATP.htm).***

- 28 403 Sqn. Tomahawk I AH814 was making an overshoot and collided with a gun post, Sgt Morrison injured (www.aviationarchaeology.org.uk). Another Tomahawk landed on top of a third, damaged, P/O Anthony safe (www.aviationarchaeology.org.uk).
- 28 #34 SFTS, Medicine Hat, Alberta, Harvard II #2719 crashed near Holsom, Alberta, F/O A.F.M. MacLean RAF and LAC E. Walton RAF killed (R.W.R. Walker via Paul McMillan and Chris "Dakota").

***28-29 Brest attacked by 25 bombers but only 9 bombed due to poor visibility, 5 GARDENING sorties, 2 aircraft lost (BC War Diaries).***

- 28-29 50 Sqn. Hampden I AD834 lost on a GARDENING operation off France. It signalled that it had dropped its mine but had an engine failing, it then crashed in France where Sgt J.F. O'Hare RAF and F/S D.F. Ross RAF were killed, Sgt J.E. Martin RAF taken PoW and F/O J.A. Whitecross RAF (Can.) evaded. See August 15, below.

Tuesday

**29 A force of 7,000 Commonwealth soldiers stranded on the Peloponnese Peninsula by the seizure of the Corinth Bridges forced to surrender to Germans (Oxford).**

**Iraq, sabotage of British owned oil pipelines reported (ww2total.com Chronology/1941). Further Indian troops are landed at Basra (S. Raghavan).**

**250 Sqn. in Middle East begin to re-form with American Tomahawk (P-40) fighters. The delivery of these aircraft may have been due to the capture of Massawa and the opening of the Red Sea to Neutral US shipping.**

**Operation FULLER, planned combined operation by RAF and Naval forces to attack German capital ships if they attempt to return to German waters from French Biscay ports by running the English Channel, begins planning (Barker). This anticipated German plans by more than 6 months. See Feb. 11 & 12, 1942.**

**As part of the US Neutrality Patrol a flight of USAAC B-18A bombers is transferred from Miami, Florida to St. John's, Newfoundland [Gander?] (Hagedorn & Hagedorn).**

- 29 #2 SFTS, Uplands, Ontario, Harvard II #2510 crashed, pilot under training LAC(P) V.A. Blake killed.
- 29 #6 Repair Depot, Trenton, Ontario, clerk F/S E.G. Stoddard died of natural causes.
- 29 #10 SFTS, Dauphin, Manitoba, Harvard II #3023 suffered heavy damage in a crash and was rebuilt as an Instructional Airframe #A 575 (R.W.R. Walker).
- 29 RCAF Station Hospital, Dartmouth, NS, Nursing Sister Jessie Margaret MacLeod died in hospital of natural causes (www.wwicdnwomensproject.org).

**29-30 Bombers sent to Mannheim (71) and Rotterdam (31). Mannheim records only 15 aircraft bombed the city (BC War Diaries).**

**The Blitz, Last night of the Plymouth Blitz, most public and private buildings in the city have been destroyed or damaged, 750 killed and 30,000 rendered homeless in this series of attacks (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).**

Wednesday

**30 Iraq, Iraqi forces from Ramadi and Fallujah move during the night to capture the BOAC flying boat station at Habbaniya and occupy heights above the airfield. RAF aircraft, including Wellingtons from Egypt and Blenheims just evacuated from Crete, are concentrated in Palestine and Shaibah, but the RAF is outnumbered by the Iraqi Air Force on paper.**

**RAF Station Habbaniya is surrounded by Iraqi army on high ground with light tanks, armoured cars and artillery. Approximately 60 Fairey Gordon bombers, Audax and Oxford trainers of #4 SFTS have been armed with guns and bomb racks, and instructors and senior students detailed to fly them, with other students and ground crew acting as bomb aimers and gunners. There were only 35 pilots available. They were to support the ground defences prepared in the past month, but only if the Iraqi forces opened fire on the station (I. Martin). In describing the events that follow it should be noted that RAF Habbaniya was a very large base, established as the BOAC base on the air route to India and the RAF command centre in the 1930s when the RAF had ended it's mandate to control the country. As well as flying facilities and machine shops it also had barracks and facilities for ground troops, had served as the base for the RAF Armoured Car unit, and contained the store of bombs, guns and ammunition left over from the mandate period. However, at this time it was rich in facilities but undermanned for it's size. Trenches and defensive positions were dug on this day but fully manning them meant there were not any groundcrew to service and re-arm the aircraft, and flying the aircraft meant the ground defences would be mostly unmanned (A. Dudgeon).**

**At the same time the oil field at Mosul was seized, and the oil pipeline to Haifa was shut down, and the oil diverted to the pipeline to Vichy French controlled Syria, where it could be shipped to Germany via Greece (S. Raghavan).**

**Heavy German attack on Tobruk begins this night, making gains into the position in 4 days of fighting ([ww2total.com](http://ww2total.com) Chronology/1941).**

- 30 403 Sqn. Tomahawk I AH888 became uncontrollable and went into a spin after a camera door opened in flight, **Sgt E.K. Tomlinson** bailed out. See Oct. 23, 1942.
- 30 #3 Group Training Flight, Wellington Ic W5652, air gunner **Sgt C.S. Hunt RAF (Can.)** interned in the Spanish Balearic Islands, committed suicide on this date for reasons unknown. The rest of crew were held in Spain for a year before being returned to England ([www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 30 SS **Nerissa**, only Canadian troop transport lost in the war, torpedoed by U-552 and sank in 4 minutes, north of Ireland eastbound for Liverpool, 207 out of 289 on board lost, including, F/L J.V. Tree RAF, W/C A.G. Weir RAF and Sgt S. Kristofferson RNor.AF killed, S/L A.S. Lee RAF, WO A. Bruines RAF, AC2 C.E. Butler RAF, F/S G.E. Morrison RAF, F/S G. Poock RAF, F/S E.C. Reed RAF, Air Pilot R.G. Smith Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA) (USA), Air Pilot J.C. Torpey ATA (USA), Air Pilot A.J. Woodall ATA (USA), Air Pilot J.S. Wright ATA (USA), Air Pilot R.J. Burden ATA

(USA), Air Pilot K.B. Collings ATA (USA), Air Pilot R.D. Fordyce ATA (USA), Air Pilot E.G. Friedrich ATA (USA), Air Pilot I.T. Landis ATA (USA), Air Pilot R.A. Lowell ATA (USA), Air Pilot W.H. Nance ATA (USA) and Sgt O. Stenli RNor.AF missing. The ATA pilots were volunteers recruited in the USA going to England to ferry aircraft from factories and maintenance units to squadrons, and the RAF and RNor.AF members had been trained or been instructors in the BCATP and Little Norway.

- 30 At sea, Canadian built Hurricanes AE971, AE972, AE973 and AE974 lost at sea while being shipped to England (Geoffery Sinclair, *Canadian Hurricane Production 2*, at groups.google.com). (Possibly cargo on the *Nerissa*?).
- 30 #1 SFTS, Camp Borden, Ontario, Yale #3412 crashed near Cookstown, Ontario, LAC(P) H.B. Douglas RAAF killed. He is buried in Australia. This is the sister ship to Yale #3411, the aircraft that is now displayed at the National Air Force Museum in Trenton (NAFMoC *Logbook* November 2014).

**30-1 Final night of evacuation of Allied units from Greece, although small groups would continue to reach safety by many routes for months (Oxford).**

**Kiel attacked by 81 bombers but covered by cloud, only 49 bomb on the estimated position, but no bombs recorded in the city at all. Alternate target attacked by 28 of this force, 12 aircraft to Berlin and Rotterdam, no losses (BC War Diaries).**

## **May 1941**

**Working independently the UK MAUD scientists determine that an atomic bomb is feasible, while the US Uranium Committee scientists remain unconvinced (believing it would weigh hundreds of tons). The MAUD report is sent to the US, leading to the Committee changing it's conclusions. Leading physicists made the point that the atomic bomb was not just another weapon, the country that first developed it would win the war (Oxford). At the same time Eldorado Mining sells several tons of uranium oxide ore to the US Uranium Committee, and work done in the US finds a way to obtain very pure uranium from the Eldorado ore.**

**401 and 402 Sqns. begin to re-equip with Hurricane II aircraft, 403 Sqn. with Spitfire I aircraft (RCAF Sqns.). The 401 Sqn. diary notes the poor condition of the first Hurricane II aircraft received, with repaired battle damage that required repairing again on arrival (D. McIntosh).**



***During the month the Communist Viet Minh organization would be formed by Ho Chi-Minh to seek independence for Indo-China (Oxford). Although there were several other organizations with similar aims or political backgrounds this was the only one that survived, the others being suppressed by the French Administration with the assistance of the Japanese. See January 22-23, 1945.***

Thursday

***1 British forces in Iraq bolstered (CJCA headline). Possible reference to troops landed in Basra.***

***At Habbaniya in Iraq the surrounding Iraqi forces and artillery increased. Faced with only 12 days of rations for the airmen, soldiers and civilians under his protection, and the possibility that his water supply could be eliminated by artillery fire, the base commander decided he had to take action. This decision was confirmed personally by Churchill by radio from London (I. Martin). It was believed that the Iraqi forces would retreat within hours once attacked (A. Dudgeon).***

***At first light Hurricane fighters arrived over Tobruk, and in a series of patrols seriously disrupted German dive bomber attacks which Rommel had counted on to break through the Australian defensive lines (M. Bechthold).***

***First marketing of Cheerios cereal (wikipedia). Film Citizen Kane premieres in New York (wikipedia).***

***1 #17 EFTS, Stanley, NS, Finch II #4664 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).***

***1-2 The Blitz, Luftwaffe begins eight nights of attacks on Liverpool (Polsson).***

Friday

***2 Iraq, before dawn at RAF Habbaniya training aircraft supported by Gladiator fighters and Wellingtons from Shaibah took off and when daylight came opened an attack on dug-in Iraqi forces (A. Dudgeon). By distracting the Iraqi forces with the bombing, transport aircraft were able to take off carrying civilians out of the besieged base (I. Martin). By 1000 local time the airfield was under attack by Iraqi Air Force aircraft and Iraqi artillery, but trainer/bombers continued to take-off and bomb the Iraqi guns, using the polo grounds as the runways were being shelled. Gladiator fighters defending the airfield were unable to stop the Iraqi bombers which were either faster or operating at higher altitudes, but the attacks were not effective in preventing RAF operations. By the days end the 64 available aircraft of #4 SFTS had made***

**193 sorties losing 5 aircraft destroyed and 17 damaged and unflyable plus one Wellington shelled out after an emergency landing on the airfield. Of the 35 pilots available 10 had been killed or wounded too seriously to fly. Work continued through the night to repair aircraft hit by ground fire for the next day (A. Dudgeon). British Army forces in Basra were also attacking Iraqi forces surrounding them which then began to withdraw. Iraqi leaders appeal to Axis for assistance, Vichy controlled Syria promises landing fields for Axis aircraft, and to provide Iraq with military equipment and intelligence.**

**If this operation to oust the British from Iraq had succeeded Germany would have been able to create a second front through Greece, Crete and Syria for attacking Egypt and the Suez Canal, as well as securing a major source of oil and a route to India.**

**In Germany planned economic exploitation of conquered Soviet territory, the "Oldenburg Plan", explicitly notes that millions of Russians will be eliminated by starvation due to Germany's planned food exports from conquered areas (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).**

- 2 #4 SFTS RAF, Habbaniya, Iraq, instructor F/L J.M. Bodman RAF (Can.) was slightly wounded making bombing attacks on Iraqi positions surrounding the airfield. He remained operational despite his wound (Allison & Hayward). See June 10, below.
- 2 #4 SFTS RAF, Habbaniya, Iraq, engine fitter/air gunner Sgt G.N. Hacking RAF (Can.) was wounded by artillery fire (Allison & Hayward).
- 2 #11 SFTS, Yorkton, Saskatchewan, Harvard II #2994 crashed on an air test near Ebenezer, Saskatchewan, Sgt M.E. Davidson and aero engine mechanic AC2 T.R. Hiebert killed.
- 2 #13 EFTS St. Eugene, Ontario, Finch II #4664 crashed, Sgt R.R. Blythe RCAF (USA) killed, LAC A. Thomson seriously injured. Prior to the war Sgt Blythe had been a public relations specialist, Charles Lindbergh was one of his clients.

**2-3 Bomber Command sends 95 bombers to Hamburg, 23 to Emden and 22 other sorties, 4 lost with small results (BC War Diaries).**

**The Blitz, In Liverpool, 300 Luftwaffe bombers make their second attack, hitting the munition ship Malakand that explodes, causing heavy damage to the docks (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).**

Saturday

**3 Iraq, Wellington aircraft from Palestine are sent to attack Iraqi Air Force and Army bases while also keeping up pressure on Iraqi forces at Habbaniya, which**

**also sent Audax and Oxford aircraft to meet the Wellingtons and bomb the Iraqi airfield at nearby Baghdad (A. Dudgeon). Attacks by training aircraft on the Iraqi positions around Habbaniya continue (the Iraqi artillery ceasing fire when the aircraft were above them so as not to make their positions known). That night Gurkha soldiers make night infiltration attacks on the Iraqi positions (I. Martin).**

- 3 #13 OTU RAF Blenheim IV N6228 crashed in England while practicing circuits, Sgt D.A.B. Statton RAF (Can.) killed.

**3-4 Cologne attacked by 101 bombers but cloud scatters bombing. Brest attacked by 33 bombers and 10 other sorties made, no losses (BC War Diaries).**

**The Blitz, Third night of attacks on Liverpool (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).**

Sunday

**4 ATFERO begins flying a Return Ferry Service across the Atlantic to bring back ferry pilots who have delivered aircraft to England, using an LB-30 Liberator flown by Ferry Captain D.C.T. Bennett (Aus.), direct from Montreal to England (M.J.H. Taylor), returning later by way of Gander. Prior to this ferry pilots had to return to Canada by ship, which took weeks. Beginning of regular passenger service across the Atlantic by landplanes.**

**At RAF Habbaniya in Iraq shelling began with the dawn, but stopped whenever aircraft took off from the base. In order to suppress night shelling aircraft began operating at night, despite the pilot's having only limited night flying experience and with no lighted runway (I. Martin). During the day 4 fighter Blenheims arrived without warning and landed safely despite minor damage from ground fire (A. Dudgeon).**

**German attempts to take Tobruk end, and a siege of the port begins (D. Sommerville).**

**In a speech in Germany Hitler declares that the British decision to reinforce Greece at the expense of North Africa has won the war for Germany, declares Nazi Germany will survive for 1,000 years (ww2total.com Chronology/1941). See May 4, 1945.**

- 4 #1 (Coastal) OTU Hudson I N7304 crashed on a training flight, Sgt W.G. Elliott RAF, Sgt E. Salmons RAF and P/O M.S. Smith RAF killed, Sgt H.W. Lee RAF (Can.), Sgt R.J. Strickland RAF and Sgt R.B. Taylor RNZAF missing (www.rafcommands.com).
- 4 #11 SFTS, Yorkton, Saskatchewan, Harvard II #3809 was on a ferry flight from

Winnipeg to Yorkton when it crashed near Clear Lake, Manitoba after a mid-air collision (possibly with another Harvard), **F/O D. Smith** killed. The trainer had been taken on RCAF strength just the day before (<http://chaa-recovery.ca>).

**4-5 Naval ships at Brest attacked by 97 bombers as well as 19 other operations, no losses (BC War Diaries).**

**The Blitz, Liverpool attacked for fourth night (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).**

Monday

**5 Haile Selassie returns to Addis Ababa to reclaim his throne (Polsson).**

**Soviet Military Intelligence reports buildup of German troops on border (Polsson).**

**In the morning at Habbaniya in Iraq fighter Blenheims broke up an attack by two Iraqi Audax bombers, shooting one down (A. Dudgeon). Suppression of shelling by the SFTS trainers allowed transport aircraft to land, airlifting more troops into the airfield and taking out more wounded and non-combatants. Night air patrols were extended towards Baghdad, interfering with Iraqi supply columns (I. Martin). These were Iraqi troops and artillery moving up from Baghdad to reinforce the units surrounding Habbaniya (A. Dudgeon).**

**RAF forms the Merchant Ship Fighter Unit (MSFU) to man Hurricane fighters to be launched from catapults on modified merchant vessels (CAM Ships) to counter the threat from Fw 200 and other maritime patrol aircraft. After launch and attacking the Hurricane would try to reach an Allied airfield and land if in range, or the pilot could abandon the aircraft by parachute and be picked up from the sea (wikipedia). MSFU units usually included 2 pilots as well as 2 ground crew, a wireless operator, a Fighter Direction Officer to guide the fighter, and an RN rating to operate the catapult. A contract for 50 catapult capable Sea Hurricanes (BW835 to BW884) was placed with Canadian Car and Foundry in Fort William, Ontario, which were initially sent to the RCAF at Dartmouth, NS, to be available in Canada to be issued to the MSFU ships in Halifax as needed. See August 3, below.**

- 5 112 Sqn. Gladiator, **P/O L.L. Bartley RAF (Can.)** claimed a Ju 88 damaged over Crete (Shores, Cull, & Malizia).
- 5 #58 OTU, Master I T8780 crashed in England, **P/O V.C. Arnold** killed, F/S J.T. Dunnmore RAF died of his injuries May 17 (#58 OTU Roll of Honour; [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 5 #2 SFTS, Uplands, Ontario, Harvard II #2600 crashed near the airfield killing **LAC(P)**



**J.W. Munro and F/O D.F. Phelan.**

- 5    **#32 SFTS, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Harvard II #2561 crashed, LAC J.R.T. Cox RAF and P/O R. Scott RAF killed.**

**5-6 Mannheim attacked by 141 bombers but thick cloud hampers navigation, 121 claim to have bombed the target but City records only 25 of these; 13 other operations, no losses (BC War Diaries).**

**The Blitz, Fifth night of Luftwaffe attacks on Liverpool (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).**

**RN and RAN destroyers begin high speed supply runs to Tobruk (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).**

**During the night the Iraqi soldiers besieging RAF Habbaniya, short of supplies and harassed by bombing aircraft and Gurkha attacks, abandon their positions (I. Martin). They had held their positions for 5 days despite the opinion that they would retreat in the first day.**

Tuesday

**6 Stalin replaces Molotov as Russian Prime Minister (Polsson).**

**Iraq, Morning reconnaissance revealed the positions surrounding RAF Habbaniya were deserted by Iraqi forces. They were found retreating down the highway to Baghdad, where they met advancing reinforcements just as aircraft from Habbaniya arrived overhead and began a day long series of shuttle attacks on the combined column, despite the largest attack made so far by the Iraqi Air Force on their base at Habbaniya in mid-morning (A. Dudgeon). Infantry with armoured cars leave the airfield to engage the Iraqis in their new positions (I. Martin). In the afternoon a second heavy attack by the Iraqi Air Force destroys several aircraft at Habbaniya (A. Dudgeon). In the actions around it's base #4 SFTS RAF aircraft flew 1,605 sorties, dropped over 44 tons of small bombs and used about 100,000 rounds of ammunition (Chris Charland www.rafcommands.com).**

**In order to reinforce Egypt quickly a convoy of 5 fast transports carrying tanks and fighter aircraft, codenamed TIGER, departs Gibraltar for Egypt. For the next 6 days almost the entire RN force in the Mediterranean will be used to provide protection for these transports (D. Sommerville).**



***First flight of the Republic Aircraft P-47 (Thunderbolt) fighter in the USA, developed from the P-35 and P-43 (M.J.H. Taylor).***

- 6 RAF Station Bawdsey, radar technician LAC (WEM-R) D.E. Paul and 2 others were killed by an enemy bombing raid while under training on RDF at this Experimental Station, where modern Radar was developed. One of 5,000 Canadians recruited by the RCAF at the request of the RAF for their electrical knowledge, LAC Paul was one of the *Leopoldville Group* (M. Cumming).
- 6 #2 SFTS, Uplands, Ontario, Harvard II #2884 crashed near the airfield during night flying training, killing F/O B.L. Duffey and LAC(P) D.M. Lord RAAF.

***6-7 Bomber Command sends 115 bombers to Hamburg but only 81 claim to have bombed due to poor visibility, 22 attack alternate targets, City records only 12 bomb loads. Thirty eight other sorties, 1 bomber lost (BC War Diaries).***

***The Blitz, Liverpool attacked for sixth consecutive night (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).***

Wednesday

***7 Iraq, Germany demands right of passage through Vichy held Syria to aid Iraq (CJCA headline). The Iraqi Air Force is all but destroyed by continued attacks on it's bases. First British relief force reaches RAF Station Habbaniya.***

***German weather ship Munchen captured off Iceland. This was a targeted assault, not only to remove a weather reporting station, but to capture German naval codes, which succeeded. To hide this fact the ship was publicly reported as sunk (D. Syrett). See May 9 and June 28, below.***

***In a vote of confidence in the English Parliament caused by the losses in Greece and North Africa, Churchill's Coalition government wins 447 votes in support, 3 against (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).***

- 7 #1 Coastal Artillery Co-Operation Flight Blenheim IV Z5758 shot down off Cap Gris Nez by enemy fighters while spotting for coastal guns, Sgt C.V.R. Scott RAF and Sgt R.C. Livings RAF killed, F/O A.D.S. Hicks RAF (Can.) and F/S J.M.M. MacDonald RAF missing (R. McNeill & D. Burke, www.rafcommands.com).

***7-8 The Suez Canal was mined by a heavy force of German He 111 bombers on this night (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).***

***Bomber Command sends 89 bombers to Brest, 15 to St. Nazaire and 15 other operations with 2 losses (BC War Diaries).***

***The Blitz, Seventh bombing attack on Liverpool. A Luftwaffe force also attacks Hull on this night (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).***

7-8 150 Sqn. Wellington Ic R1374 JN-G lost over France attacking St. Nazaire, Sgt W.W. Heywood, Sgt J.M. Fulford RAF, Sgt L.F. Harris RAF, Sgt J.L. Hart RAF, Sgt P.V. Read RAF and F/L F.H. Savage RAF killed.

Thursday

***8 Iraq, Iraqi forces that had surrounded RAF Habbaniya begin to retreat to the bridge crossing the Euphrates River at Fallujah, being followed up by attacking training aircraft and ground forces. About 12 aircraft had been shot down in the defence of the airfield, and more destroyed on the ground.***

***TIGER convoy of fast merchantmen comes under attack by Italian SM.79 torpedo bombers and later German Ju 87 dive bombers from Sardinia, and is defended by Fulmar fighters from HMS Ark Royal. Although unscathed by air attack one of the merchantmen is lost that night to mines (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).***

***In the eastern Mediterranean, as part of the TIGER operation, a convoy of supplies was being escorted to Malta, being protected by Fulmars of HMS Formidable (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).***

***German commerce raider Pinguin, the most successful of the raiders, made a surprise attack and damaged the cruiser HMS Cornwall that had intercepted it in the Indian Ocean near the Seychelles, before being hit and sunk with the loss of 341 crew and 214 Allied seamen (mostly Norwegian whalers) held prisoner on board, 61 crew and 18 prisoners rescued (wikipedia). This heavy loss of life was unfortunate, most of those killed died when the mines aboard the Pinguin exploded before it's Captain could surrender. See Nov. 19, below.***

***407 Sqn. RCAF formed as a Coastal Strike unit on Blenheim IV aircraft (RCAF Sqn.).***

8 806 Sqn. FAA, HMS Formidable, Fulmars flown by Lt(A) P.S. Touchbourne RN (Can.) and Lt(A) MacDonald-Hall shot down a He 111 bomber, one of 4 shot down by Formidable fighters on this day. On a later flight on this day they engaged and shot down a Ju 88 (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1). See May 10, below.

8 unknown unit, G/C C.C. Walker died in hospital in Canada of natural causes.

***8-9 Bomber Command makes an effective attack on Hamburg with 188 bombers split***

**119 to the docks and 69 to attack targets in the city centre. Bremen attacked by 133 bombers but they miss the U-boat yard that is their target. Other sorties total 43, making a total of 364 sorties with 10 losses for largest RAF night of operations of the war to date (BC War Diaries).**

**The Blitz, Final consecutive night of bombing of Liverpool (Polsson). These attacks left 1,450 killed, 1,100 seriously injured, and 76,000 homeless, as well as the sinking of 33 ships and damage to docks in England's main port of destination for convoys (ww2total.com Chronology/1941). These bombing attacks were referenced in Nicholas Monsarrat's novel 'The Cruel Sea'.**

**Hull attacked for the second night, 40,000 left homeless (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).**

**A German raid using radio beams to make a precision attack on the Rolls-Royce engine factory at Derby is led off target by RCM, dropping it's bombs in scattered locations (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).**

8-9 214 Sqn. Wellington Ic R3208 lost over the sea, F/S W.H. Browell RAF killed, **Sgt M.G. Robertson RAF (Nfld.)**, Sgt A.W. Dean RAF, Sgt J.L. Smith RAF, Sgt R.J. Bennett RAF and Sgt W.J.S. McGregor RAF missing.

Friday

**9 Vichy France and Thailand sign a peace treaty negotiated by Japan, ending hostilities there, French Indo-China is forced to concede the disputed border areas to Thailand by Japan. In return Japan gets an agreement for secret support by Thailand if Japan attacks British forces in Malaysia. About 30% of French aircraft in the region were rendered unserviceable or destroyed in this conflict, Thai losses were 13 aircraft, or about 10% of their combat strength (Polsson, wikipedia). For the defenders of Singapore the threat of Japan invading Malaysia from the north, once considered remote, is now possible.**

**In the Mediterranean the convoy to Malta arrived in the afternoon, and the eastern escort with HMS Formidable took over protecting the TIGER convoy while the Force H escort and HMS Ark Royal headed back to Gibraltar. In poor visibility German and Italian aircraft did not spot the ships until near evening (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).**

**In England Operation CHANNEL STOP halted temporarily due to heavy losses (R. McNeill). See June, below.**

***In the Atlantic U-110 is forced to the surface by depth charges, and abandoned by its crew. The submarine is then boarded and captured by Royal Navy ships, complete with its codes and Enigma coding machine intact. This was unplanned, but prior instructions laid down for such circumstances and their implementation by the boarding party got the codes and equipment off the submarine, which later sank under tow. The capture is kept secret so that the British can use this material to break further codes (wikipedia). To have access to operational German Navy codes just before the breakout of the battleship Bismarck was a stroke of luck (D. Sommerville).***

- 9 403 Sqn. Tomahawk I AH879 crashed on landing in England, **Sgt A.M. Morrison** injured (H.A. Halliday; [www.aviationarchaeology.org.uk](http://www.aviationarchaeology.org.uk); [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)). (Sgt Morrison may be the same as **F/O A.M. Morrison**, killed March 14, 1943 in Burma.)
- 9 #18 EFTS, Boundary Bay, BC, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4328 suffered wing failure pulling out from a dive, the student LAC (P) S.E. McMann bailed out but the instructor, **Sgt J. Dawson RCAF (USA)** was unable to leave the aircraft and was killed in the crash ([www.wrsimon.com](http://www.wrsimon.com) at [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).

***9-10 Effective attack made by 146 bombers on twin cities of Mannheim/Ludwigshafen, plus 16 other operations, 2 bombers lost (BC War Diaries).***

- 9-10 Coastal Command attacked the airfield at Kristiansund, Norway, 42 Sqn. Beaufort I N1017 flown by **P/O O.L.S. Philpot RAF (Can.)** is heavily damaged by a flak hit that killed his navigator Sgt D.R. Tillen RAF and wounded his wireless operator Sgt P.M. Grant RAF, Sgt J.G.S. West RAF uninjured ([www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)). P/O Philpot managed to return with the help of Sgt Grant, who had been rendered unconscious by his wounds, but revived and worked his radios for position until they failed, and they made a wheels up landing (R.J. Laplander; [www.wrsimon.com](http://www.wrsimon.com) at [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)). This was cited in the award of a DFC to P/O Philpot (Awards), Sgt Grant and Sgt West received the DFM. See Dec. 11, below.

Saturday

***10 Poor visibility assisted the TIGER convoy in avoiding attacks (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).***

***406 Sqn. RCAF formed as a Night Fighter unit in England on Blenheim I and IV aircraft (RCAF Sqns.).***

- 10 806 Sqn., HMS Formidable, Fulmar N1865 lost during launch when the catapult failed, **Lt(A) P.S. Touchbourne RN (Can.)** and his TAG (Telegraphist/Air Gunner), LA C.H. Thompson RN, missing ([www.naval-history.net](http://www.naval-history.net); Shores, Cull, & Malizia; Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).



**10-11 The Blitz, Luftwaffe makes last major attack of the Blitz against London, 571 bombers dropping 780 tons of bombs and incendiaries, starting over 2,000 fires (wikipedia, ww2total.com Chronology/1941). The chambers of the House of Commons in Parliament were burned out, the House of Commons relocated to the Lords chambers for sessions (Oxford). Also hit were Westminster Abbey, the British Museum, Waterloo Station and 14 hospitals (www.independent.co.uk the-timeline-the-blitz-2069075.html). These bombing attacks on London since the previous September had left 375,000 Londoners homeless (www.historyplace.com).**

**Bomber Command attacks Hamburg (119 bombers), Berlin (23 bombers) and makes 19 other sorties. Damage in Hamburg was heavy (BC War Diaries).**

**In this it is important to note that while the German Luftwaffe could mount multiple sorties per night with heavy bomb loads and light fuel loads from France, they had no bomber capable of reaching England with a useful bomb load from Berlin, whereas the Whitley, Wellington, Stirling, Halifax and Manchester (later to evolve into the Lancaster) could deliver heavy bomb loads over great distances from bases in England. This technical disparity would grow only larger as the German heavy bomber program floundered, and more, improved bombers came into service in England.**

**Rudolf Hess, Deputy Führer and No. 3 in the Nazi hierarchy, flies to Scotland in a Bf 110 then parachutes out when it runs out of fuel. He asked to meet with King George VI. He believed he could talk British leaders into making peace with Germany, possibly for an alliance against the USSR. This was his third attempt at a flight, which he made after trying to contact British officials in neutral countries. There is some evidence that Hitler knew of this plan beforehand, and it may have been a last attempt to negotiate peace with England before attacking the USSR. Hess's proposals of peace, however, were not viable, and information of his proposals was kept from the public due to fears it would undermine the war effort (and the suspicion it was meant to do just that). A good account of the event is given by D. McPhail in Airforce Magazine, March, 1983. A Defiant night fighter of 141 Sqn., T4040, **P/O W.A. Cuddie RAF (Can.)** and Sgt Hodge, was attempting to intercept the Bf 110 when it crashed (R.C. Nesbit, Hess's Last Flight, Aeroplane Monthly, August 1995). See Oct. 3, 1943.**

Sunday

**11 Iraq, German aircraft, repainted with Iraqi markings in Greece, begin flying to Syria**



*on the way to Iraq to support the fighting there.*

*Japan makes proposals to USA to normalize trade relations, but demand US stop supplying war material to China. This is rejected, but talks continue (<http://www.worldwar-2.net/timelines>).*

*11-12 Further mining of the Suez Canal by German bombers (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).*

*Bomber Command attacks Hamburg (92 bombers), Bremen (81) and other targets (7), 2 aircraft lost (BC War Diaries).*

11-12 144 Sqn. Hampden I AD900 shot down over Holland by a night fighter on a sortie to Bremen, P/O R.H. Vaughan RAF and Sgt S.A. Taylor RAF killed, **P/O R.F.J. Featherstone** and S/L C.G.C. Rawlins DFC RAF PoW. P/O Featherstone was the first RCAF airman taken PoW.

11-12 257 Sqn. Hurricane IIc **F/L H.P. Blatchford RAF (Can.)** intercepted and shot down a He 111 over England, a rare night victory by a day fighter (Brown & Lavigne). See Sept. 8, below.

Monday

*12 Informed of his actions by a letter from Rudolph Hess, Hitler is angry, afraid this might be part of a plot to remove him. He abolishes the position of Deputy Führer and orders Hess to be repudiated as a madman (wikipedia).*

*The TIGER convoy from Gibraltar to Egypt delivers 238 tanks and 43 Hurricane fighters to the British Army there, desperately needed to defend against the Afrika Korps (D. Sommerville). Protecting the convoy had cost many of the Fulmar fighters available to HMS Formidable, and until these could be replaced the carrier was not available to support RN operations around Crete. This was the last Allied convoy to cross the Mediterranean between the Suez and Gibraltar for two years (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).*

*12-13 Bomber Command sends 105 bombers to Mannheim/Ludwigshafen but poor visibility makes poor bombing. Twenty six of these aircraft bomb the alternate target, which receives heavier damage, 16 other sorties made, no losses (BC War Diaries).*

Tuesday

*13 Iraq, German Bf 110 aircraft marked in Iraqi markings encounter and attack RAF Blenheims in Iraq.*

***From Baghdad the exiled Mufti of Jerusalem makes a radio broadcast calling for all Muslims to fight against Britain (D. Sommerville).***

***Armed Merchant Cruiser HMS Salopian (10,500 tons), escorting convoy SC-30, sunk off Greenland by U-98 after a long fight (ww2total.com Chronology/1941, wikipedia).***

***After an epic month long journey across sub-Saharan Africa, the three SM.73 aircraft from Addis Ababa reach safety in Italian Libya without loss (H.W. Neulen).***

- 13 504 Sqn. Hurricane I V6730 lost on a cross channel sweep, P/O H.N. Hunt RAF (Can.) missing (from CWGC, TSGNO states lost May 31.)
- 13 #5 EFTS, Lethbridge, Alberta, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4063 crashed from a spin, killing LAC(P) W.G. Henry.
- 13 #7 SFTS, Fort MacLeod, Alberta, F/O W.J. Hawes was killed with Mr. L. Foggin, on leave while practicing advanced aerobatics in Fleet 2 (Fawn) CF-ANF off Beach Grove, B.C. (A.H. Wilson).

***13-14 Last Italian attack from Rhodes on the Naval base at Alexandria in Egypt (and the first since October 1940) by 4 SM.79 bombers (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).***

Wednesday

***14 German and Italian forces repulsed at Egyptian frontier (CJCA headline).***

***Iraq, in Syria RAF reconnaissance discovers German aircraft at French airfields staging to Iraq. In the afternoon newly operational Tomahawk (P-40) aircraft of 250 Sqn. attacked the German aircraft at the airfield at Palmyra in Syria. This was the first combat sortie of this US fighter. An American fighter in a British squadron based in Palestine, attacking German aircraft in Iraqi markings at a Vichy French airport in Syria, is a good indication of the international nature this war had taken on.***

***German bombers operating against shipping off Greece switch to attacking airfields on Crete (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).***

- 14 #7 EFTS, London, Ontario, Finch II #4702 ended up inverted in a tree where it stuck with minimal damage. No details on pilot, but the aircraft was recovered, repaired, and served until October 1944. A photograph of this incident by Bud Young appears in the CWHM *Flightlines* newsletter of May/June, 2018, as part of an article on the Finch trainer.

Thursday

**15 US seizes French ships (Polsson).**

***First flight of the Gloster E.28/39, the first British jet powered aircraft. Within days it is flying faster than current Spitfire fighters (wikipedia).***

***With the landing of tanks in Egypt from the TIGER convoy British and Allied forces go on the offensive, Operation BREVITY, intended to relieve Tobruk, using the tanks they had been keeping in reserve, recapturing Sollum and Halfaya Pass, but losing Sollum within a day to a counter attack by the Afrika Corps (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1). #204 Group was involved attacking German road supply convoys between Tobruk and Sollum, to deny fuel and ammunition to defending units, and managed to break up the only large attack attempted by Ju 87 dive bombers escorted by Bf 109s (M. Bechthold).***

***Discussions of a planned attack on German forces by Russia ended by Stalin, who refuses to sanction it as the Army was not fully prepared (Polsson). Russian General Zhukov, trusted by Stalin, urges a Soviet surprise attack on Germany using forces already in place, while German forces are involved in Yugoslavia, Greece and Crete, but Stalin turns the idea down (Oxford). Soviet units, however, continue to reposition to the border with Germany (Oxford).***

***Some believe that Stalin did plan to attack Germany in 1941, but it seems that although expecting and planning for a war in a few years, Stalin did not believe Hitler would risk a war on two fronts, and would hold back from action against the USSR until he had forced a peace with England. However, the speed of the German victories in Poland and especially in France, and with the German army now in operations in eastern Europe close to his borders, it would be prudent to deter any aggression by displaying a strong force along the border during the summer, while taking no action which might be taken as aggressive, at the same time appeasing Germany by supplying raw materials as agreed in the Non-Aggression Pact of 1939 and reaffirmed in January, above. As the Soviet Army tactics in this period were based on offensive action, rather than the defensive (termed as "defeatist" by recent Soviet doctrine), this involved massing his army at the border, which would then be crossed on a broad front to take the fight to the enemy in the event of a war. Unfortunately, the German army had planned the same offensive tactics, and on an even wider scale than the Soviet planners.***

15 #16 OTU Hampden I P1350 crashed in England after an engine failure, Sgt W.K.

**Clarke**, Sgt J.L. Newton RAF, Sgt M.J. Hopkins RAF, Sgt H. Crawford RAF and AC2 R. Robson RAF killed.

- 15 #20 OTU Anson I R3437 crashed in Scotland in a snowstorm while on a navigation exercise, **Sgt J. Brissenden**, F/O H.S. Thomas RAF, Sgt C.N. Weller RAF, Sgt B.A. Headland RAF, F/S E. Hughes RAF and Sgt H. King RAF killed.
- 15 #5 EFTS, Lethbridge, Alberta, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4063 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

**15-16 Heavy Wellington attacks were made on airfields in Libya as part of Operation BREVITY, to disrupt German and Italian support against the attack (M. Bechthold).**

**Bomber Command attacks Hannover (101 bombers), Berlin (14 heavy bombers), Dieppe (11) and Boulogne (9), 4 bombers lost (BC War Diaries).**

- 15-16 10 Sqn. Whitley V Z6586 ZA-F damaged by flak over Hannover but returned to England, **P/O M. Littlewood RAF (Can.)**, P/O Clapperton RAF, Sgt J.F. Bassett RAF, Sgt D.A.C. Wilkinson RAF and Sgt C.W. Charlton RAF safe (R. Allenby). See June 12-13 below.
- 15-16 97 Sqn. Manchester I L7324 lost over the sea attacking Berlin, probably near Denmark, where **F/S K.J. Hutt RAF (Can.)** and Sgt W.P. Hannigan RAF are buried, F/L G.O.I. Bird DFC RAF, Sgt P.N. Nutt RAF, P/O W.A. Brown RAF and Sgt R.G. Pyatt RAF missing.

**Mid-May, At around this time the Royal Navy announces construction of a base in St. John's, Newfoundland, for convoy escort groups, to be built and manned by the RCN.**

Friday

**16 German forces cross Syria into Iraq (CJCA headline) [reference to German air operations].**

**Iraq, RAF Habbaniya attacked by 3 Luftwaffe He 111 bombers in Iraqi markings, doing "more damage to the station than had been done by the whole of the Iraqi Air Force" (I. Martin). They were attacked by the patrolling Gladiator which they shot down, but the attack damaged one of the Heinkels which crash landed on the way back to its base in Mosul (A. Dudgeon). A Bf 110 was also found later force landed in the desert. Recovered to Habbaniya it was repaired and named the Belle of Berlin, before being flown to Cairo by **S/L A. Bocking RAF (Can.)** (J. Pelly-Fry, The Belle of Berlin, Aeroplane Monthly April 1982).**



***Italian army in Ethiopia surrenders at Amba Alagi (Oxford).***

***Rommel ordered to concentrate on defeating British forces in Egypt, leaving Italian units to contain Australians in Tobruk (ww2total.com Chronology/1941). Attacks on German supply columns continued, and German armoured units were unable to move due to fuel shortages for critical periods during the day. Italian and German air support, disrupted by the attacks on their airfields, only appeared in the afternoon (M. Bechthold).***

***#12 SFTS, Brandon, Manitoba opens on this date (<http://www.bombercrew.com/BCATP.htm>). As outlined in the Commonwealth Air Training Plan Museum's Contact newsletter, Spring 2016, this was one of many training airfields built from scratch. The land was obtained in 1940, and at the end of August of that year farmers were warned to remove as much of their crops as possible from the site. Construction began September 15, 1940, operations began in May on this date, and the official opening was July 19, 1941, with an open house and air demonstration for the ceremony, and a dance that evening. Besides laying out and paving the runways 38 buildings had been built over the winter including 5 double sized hangars, 10 living quarters, 5 mess halls, recreation hall, canteens and other buildings for vehicles and workshops. One of these hangars is now the home of the CATP Museum and a designated National Historic Site.***

***#19 EFTS, Virden, Manitoba opens (<http://www.bombercrew.com/BCATP.htm>).***

16 Overseas Aircraft Delivery Flight Wellington Ic T2572 left England for Gibraltar but crash landed on a beach in Portugal, P/O C.F. Hart, Sgt I.F. McManus RAAF, Sgt C.J. Marshall RAF, Sgt D.R. Mallett RAF, Sgt D.O.G. Goldfinch RAF and Sgt D.J. Nolan RAF were briefly interned. See Aug. 29, below.

16 #34 SFTS, Medicine Hat, Alberta, Harvard II #2795 crashed, LAC S.K. Yeomans RAF killed

***16-17 Cologne attacked by 93 bombers with limited results, 21 other sorties, 1 loss (BC War Diaries).***

***The Blitz, Birmingham and other targets in England attacked by 111 German bombers, the last bombing raid of the "Blitz" (ww2total.com Chronology/1941). Several Luftwaffe bombing units remained operational in France to make harassing raids on England, while the majority were withdrawn and re-fitted for the invasion of Russia. At around this time***



***German air forces attacking Malta would also be withdrawn and re-fitted, reducing the attacks on the Island.***

Saturday

***17 Iraq, Hurricanes recently arrived at Habbaniya with fighter Blenheims attacked the Luftwaffe aircraft based at Mosul where they claimed 2 aircraft destroyed and 4 damaged for the loss of 1 Hurricane (A. Dudgeon).***

***Operation BREVITY ended as British units, unable to break through the German defences, withdrew to new defensive positions, having regained the Halfaya Pass, while #204 Group continued its attacks on supply truck convoys supporting the German units in the field (M. Bechthold).***

- 17 402 Sqn. Hurricane IIb Z3232 was doing an aerobatic display for a war bond drive when it crashed, killing F/L G.G. Hyde (rafcommands.com). F/L Hyde had flown in the Battle of Britain in #1 (F) Sqn. RCAF.
- 17 #17 SFTS, England, Oxford II R6342 stalled on taking off when it tried to avoid another aircraft, LAC(P) R. Dawson RAF (Can.) killed (h. Welting at www.rafcommands.com).
- 17 #22 OTU Wellington Ic R3151 'J' lost off the coast of Scotland, Sgt M.J.C. Craig, Sgt E.R. Peacock RAF, Sgt W.C. Henning RAF, Sgt A.E. Sanne RAF, Sgt J.F. Smith RAF and Sgt J. Whitbread RAF missing. This accident occurred on what would have been this crews final exercise before going to an operational unit.

***17-18 Eleven He 111 bombers from Rhodes drop mines in the Suez Canal, one is intercepted and shot down, killing several Egyptian civilians on the ground (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).***

***Seventy bombers and 4 GARDENING aircraft attack Kiel, 3 bombers attack Emden, little damage done, no losses (BC War Diaries).***

Sunday

***18 Iraq, British ground forces from Palestine, with air support, travelling overland 500 miles down the Trans-Jordan oil pipeline, arrive at Habbaniya. Attacks by German Bf 110 and He 111 in Iraqi markings continue in Iraq, supported by supplies flown in by Ju 52/3m and Ju 90 transport aircraft from Syria and Greece.***

***A German attack to re-capture Halfaya Pass was discovered by air reconnaissance, and heavily engaged by Blenheim and Maryland bombers, which made repeated attacks and forced it to retreat (M. Bechthold).***

- 18 3 Sqn. Hurricane IIb Z3229 crashed in England, **Sgt R.A. Ferrier** killed (A. Smith at [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 18 139 (Jamaica) Sqn. Blenheim IV L9413 XD-D was on a low-level training flight in England when it clipped a tree and crashed into a building, **P/O A.M. Saunders**, Sgt R.L.R. Halbert RAF, Sgt P.R. Gordon RAF and Cpl G.A. Acton RAF were killed in the aircraft, Lt E.S. Packe RA was killed and another soldier was injured on the ground (<https://www.flickr.com/photos/43688219@N00/4047387950>).
- 18 218 Sqn. Wellington II W5448 HA-Z crashed in England after it's dinghy deployed in flight and fouled the elevator, **Sgt W.F. Webber**, P/O B.E. Lymberry RAF, Sgt K.W. Coates RAF, Sgt L. Crawshaw RAF and Sgt G.L. Bayly RAF killed, Sgt R.G. Mew RAF died of injuries May 20.

Monday

**19 German warships Bismarck and Prinz Eugen depart Gdynia, Poland for an anti-convoy cruise in the Atlantic (Polsson). The intention was to intercept and destroy an entire convoy of ships, an act which it was hoped would cripple the supply of Commonwealth and Lend-Lease goods from Canada and the USA, and force England to surrender (R.C. Nesbit).**

**Soviet spy Richard Sorge in Tokyo warns Soviet Union of planned German attack (Polsson).**

**Iraq, after an initial strong defence Iraqi forces quit Fallujah position when attacked by reinforced ground and air forces from Habbaniya. #4 SFTS flew over 100 bombing sorties at low level. Some of the Commonwealth soldiers were landed behind the Iraqi positions by Valentia transports landing in the open desert, while telephone lines to Baghdad were cut by aircraft, one flying along the line cutting it with it's propellor, a second by a crew that landed and used the top wing of their aircraft to reach and cut the wires before chopping down poles and taking off again (A. Dudgeon).**

**19-20 Luftwaffe attack on London lost 26 bombers, 2 to anti-aircraft guns and 24 to RAF night-fighters (B. Kite).**

Tuesday

**20 German parachute assault on Crete begins. Nearly 500 Ju 52/3m transports and 100 assault gliders drop the initial wave of paratroops onto the Island. German plans were to take Crete quickly, then leapfrog and take Cyprus, and leapfrog again to take the Suez Canal Zone, all by airborne invasion that would nullify the Commonwealth naval forces in the Mediterranean (LH).**

***German intelligence significantly underestimated the number of Allied soldiers on the island however, and even though these troops were not fully organized and only lightly armed their resistance disrupted planned attacks on Cyprus and Egypt. Initial German casualties were much higher than expected, and the battle is in the balance as native Cretans also attack the invaders. The Commonwealth commanders had been warned about the coming invasion for two weeks via ULTRA intercepts, but lack of resources to improve defensive positions combined with the exhausted condition of the troops evacuated from Greece, lack of appreciation of the effectiveness of a large airborne attack, and the loss of much heavy equipment like tanks and artillery balanced this advantage (Oxford). That night all four major airfields have been denied to the invaders, but a poor decision to withdraw from Máleme airfield gives an opportunity to the German forces (D. Sommerville).***

***Iraq, German aircraft in Iraq attempt to stop forces from Habbaniya, now reinforced with Hurricane fighters.***

***Swedish cruiser Gotland sights Bismarck and Prinz Eugen in the Skagerrak. Sweden informs British Admiralty informally through a contact that evening at an embassy reception. The information is sent directly to the Royal Navy's Intelligence Centre that night and special reconnaissance sorties are ordered to cover Norwegian ports and regions the next day (Polsson).***

***In China an A6M fighter is shot down by anti-aircraft fire and becomes available for inspection. Detailed and accurate reports on the aircraft and it's performance are sent to the USAAC and RAF, but they are either overlooked, lost or disbelieved (Shores, Cull & Izawa).***

- 20 805 Sqn. Maleme, Crete, Lt(A) K.L. Keith RN (Can.), in the station hospital suffering from dysentery, left his bed and began hunting German snipers on the airfield armed with a pistol, reportedly with some success (Shores, Cull & Malizia). See June 17, below.
- 20 #31 ANS, Port Albert, Ontario, Anson I N9893 aircraft caught fire in the air after a Very pistol discharged. F/O R.H. Wiens RAF (Can.) held the aircraft in flight until 4 RAAF students managed to safely bail out, but was killed when he attempted to force land near Listowel, Ontario. F/O Wiens had fought in the Battle of France, where he was wounded with 242 (Canadian) Squadron (H.A. Halliday).
- 20 #32 SFTS (?), Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Harvard crashed, A.C. Nygaard RNor.AF killed (wikipedia).

Wednesday

**21 Attempts by German forces to land artillery and mountain troops on Crete by ship thwarted by RN cruiser force that sinks 25 small transports. Máleme airfield falls to German forces after Ju 52/3m aircraft intentionally crash land on the landing area to bring in mountain troops to reinforce those already in partial occupation, fighting continues in the area (Oxford). This gives the German airborne units an airfield to land reinforcements (D. Sommerville).**

**Malta is reinforced by 48 Hurricanes flown off HMS Ark Royal and HMS Furious (D. Sommerville). Most of these would be flown on in small groups to Egypt (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).**

**Admiralty orders reconnaissance flights to seek the Bismarck. A PRU Spitfire locates and photographs Bismarck and Prinz Eugen refuelling in Norway.**

**In the Atlantic 750 miles west of Sierra Leone the U-69 stopped the US cargo ship SS Robin Moor, flying the US flag and marked as a neutral vessel, enroute from New York to Mozambique, and sinks her after allowing the crew and passengers to board their lifeboats. The U-boat Captain gives them some supplies and promises to radio their location to authorities, but no signal was received (wikipedia). This was the first US merchant vessel sunk by Germany in the war (C.E. Hipperson). See June 2, below.**

**In Moscow a meeting of military leaders with Stalin reviewed warnings of a German attack on the Soviet Union. Stalin dismissed these as attempts by England to sow distrust. The head of Soviet intelligence argued the threat was real. He was dismissed, arrested, and shot (wikipedia).**

- 21 145 Sqn. Spitfire IIa P7737 collided in flight with Spitfire IIa P7493 and crashed in England, F/O D.W. Owen killed in P7737 and F/L L.W. Stevens RAF killed in P7493 (www.rafcommands.com).
- 21 242 (Canadian) Sqn. Hurricane II Z2511 shot down off France on a sweep, P/O D.K. Oak-Rhind RAF missing.
- 21 400 Sqn. F/O P.W. Lochnan was on temporary duty with 225 ASR Sqn. in Wales when a Tiger Moth N6853 was reported down at sea on a local flight. Despite very bad weather F/O Lochnan attempted a flight to find the missing aircraft in Lysander V9361, but the wind sent the aircraft out of control into a tree just after taking off, F/O Lochnan died of his injuries, his RAF gunner was also injured (various, discussion page, www.rafcommands.com). F/O Lochnan was a veteran of the Battle of Britain with #1 (F) Sqn. RCAF (<http://battleofbritain1940.net>). The crew of the Tiger Moth, F/L M. Kramer RAF and S/L W.J. Methven RAF, of #39 Maintenance



Unit, remain missing.

- 21 404 Sqn. Blenheim IV L6595 wrecked when it undershot a landing in England, **Sgt A.G. McElman** and Cpl Walls injured, **Sgt L. MacLean** safe (404 SH).
- 21 #14 EFTS, Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4121 crashed through the roof of the #2 Hangar causing a fire which destroyed the newly built hangar, **LAC(P) A.G. Hanson** killed.

Thursday

**22 Two RN cruisers sunk off Crete (CJCA headline). Again the Royal Navy stops German ships bringing reinforcements and heavy weapons to support airborne forces on Crete, but loses two cruisers and a destroyer sunk and other ships damaged to air attack. Without carrier protection this ends daylight support by the Royal Navy in defence of the island. On Crete air re-supply continues. Success of the German airborne forces fighting on Crete was not assured (in some areas they are forced to surrender), but this loss of sea control tipped the balance in their favour.**

**Bismarck and Prinz Eugen depart Norway for the North Atlantic, RN Home Fleet sorties from Scapa Flow to intercept.**

**Iraq, buildup of bomber forces in Palestine are used to interdict German supply flights to Iraq via Syria, limiting usefulness of German aircraft attached to Iraq.**

- 22 400 Sqn. Tomahawk I AH810 crashed in England, **F/L W.A. Rider** killed (www.rafcommands.com). He was flying to Wales to attend the inquiry into the loss of the 225 Squadron Lysander the previous day (W.F. McCague).
- 22 #1 EFTS, Malton, Ontario, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4399 force landed without damage at Rochester, NY, USA (R.W.R. Walker).
- 22 #4 EFTS, Windsor Mills, Quebec, Finch II #4492 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

**22-23 RN destroyers close on Crete and shell German occupied Maleme airfield, while others evacuated the King of Greece and his party to Egypt (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).**

Friday

**23 Two RN destroyers sunk by Luftwaffe bombers off Crete (wikipedia). As well as the defending Egypt **AC R. Collishaw's** #204 Group was also tasked with providing fighter defence over Crete on this date (Shores, Cull, & Malizia).**



**Bismarck and Prinz Eugen enter the Denmark Strait between Greenland and Iceland, driving off cruisers HMS Norfolk and HMS Suffolk, which then follow using radar.**

**#31 (Coastal) OTU, relocated from England, reformed at Debert, NS, with Hudson and Bolingbroke aircraft (CCMA).**

- 23 210 Sqn. Catalina I AH560 lost in transit from Gibraltar to Mount Batten, England, aero engine mechanic **F/O R.S. Collis**, F/S J.R. Massey RAF, Sgt L. Littlefair RAF, AC1 H.S. McKeown RAF, F/L C.M. Scrutton RAF, F/L R.W. Gautrey RAF and passengers P/O K.G.A. Marsh RAF (82 Sqn), P/O K.G. Anderson RAF, F/L D.B. Brooks RAF and LAC R.E. Brodie RAF missing (D. Burke, R. McNeill and H. Welting, rafcommands.com).
- 23 #1 Technical Training School St. Thomas Ontario **AC2 E.A. Parker** died of natural causes in hospital.
- 23 #34 SFTS, Medicine Hat, Alberta, Harvard II #2643 crashed, P/O R.E. Sears RAF and LAC C.H. Wylde RAF killed.

**23-24 Cologne attacked by 51 bombers, 2 other sorties, no losses (BC War Diaries).**

Saturday

**24 Polish destroyer ORP Piorun, battlecruiser HMS Hood and newly completed battleship HMS Prince of Wales intercept Bismarck and Prinz Eugen off Iceland and open fire. Hood, the largest warship then in service in the world, hit twice very quickly, explodes and sinks, Prince of Wales damaged, it's just installed gun directors malfunctioning and one main gun jammed. Only 3 survivors from the Hood are rescued as the Allied ships are forced to withdraw under fire, 1,415 missing including **Midshipmen T.N.K. Beard RCN, F.L.L. Jones RCN and C.J.B. Norman RCN**. Bismarck also damaged and leaking oil, withdraws south with Prinz Eugen, both later attacked by Swordfish from HMS Victorious.**

**Iraq, 216 Sqn., F/L C.S. Bartlett RAF (Can.) and a crew of 3 landed a Valentia transport K2803 beside a railway bridge near Campaniya, Syria, with a group of 13 Royal Engineers, who were able to destroy the bridge, preventing further German arms supplies from reaching Iraq by rail. They were then able to take off under fire from an armoured car that had arrived at the scene (B. Barry et al, C. Shores). F/L Bartlett was awarded a DFC for this action. See June 13, 1944.**

- 24 602 Sqn. Spitfire Ia X4681 failed to return from a convoy patrol, **Sgt W.L. Brown RAF (Can.)** missing (www.rafcommands.com). Possibly crashed into the sea after a

mid-air collision with another Spitfire ([www.spitfires.ukf.net](http://www.spitfires.ukf.net)).

- 24 #56 OTU, Canadian built Hurricane I P5171 crash landed near Swaffham in Norfolk (H. Welting [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)), Sgt J.E.F. Dobbs RAF killed ([www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)). This was the second CCF Hurricane built.
- 24 #5 EFTS, Lethbridge, Alberta, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4104 crashed south of Lethbridge, **Sgt B.C. Smith** and **LAC(P) R.L. Williamson** killed.
- 24 #10 SFTS Dauphin, Manitoba pilot **LAC L.H. Bolton** died of injuries received when his Harvard II #2943 crashed on a night solo flight.

**24-25 German bombers from Rhodes operating over the Suez Canal, dropping mines and bombs (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).**

Sunday

**25 Swordfish aircraft from HMS Victorious attack the Bismarck with torpedoes, making 1 hit but causing only slight damage. Just after midnight Bismarck and Prince of Wales exchange shots, Prince of Wales withdraws and loses contact. RAF Catalinas from Ireland, RCAF Digby bombers from Gander, US Navy PBY aircraft from Argentia in Newfoundland and an ATFERO Liberator crossing the Atlantic begin searching for the warships (H.A. Halliday). Signals from the German battle group are plotted at the radio station at Gander (C.F. Warren et al) and bearings transmitted to the RN Intelligence Centre in London.**

**On Crete the Allied commander signals he can no longer hold the island.**

**Germany warns that US destroyers assisting British convoys would be considered an act of war (<http://www.worldwar-2.net/timelines>). Possibly intended as a political cover for the intention to destroy an entire escorted convoy which was the plan for the cruise of the Bismarck and Prinz Eugen, to forestall criticism if US escorts were destroyed.**

- 25 139 (Jamaica) Sqn. Blenheim IV R2791 XD-O shot down into the sea on an anti-shipping strike off Holland, **Sgt G.A. Bye**, Sgt W.G. Thorneycroft RAF and Sgt S.B. Bransby RAF missing. It crashed, on fire, into the ship that had shot it down, the flakship Sperrbrecher 33 *Silvia*, which was sunk by the damage and fire from the crash (Hans Nauta [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 25 #12 (Comm) Sqn. Yale #3464 had a minor accident on this date (L. Zipkin). See July 29, below.
- 25 #4 SFTS, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Crane I #7715 crashed when it flew into the ground on a night solo flight at the Vanscoy landing ground, LAC H.J. Rowe RAAF killed (R.W.R. Walker). See #12 SFTS loss July 25, 1942.

**25-26 German U-69 lays mines in the harbour at Lagos, Nigeria (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).**

Monday

**26 In response to the German proclamation to the USA, President Roosevelt proclaims an "unlimited national emergency" and mobilizes the National Guard.**

**After 30 hours out of contact a 209 Sqn. Coastal Command Catalina flying boat from Northern Ireland being flown with a USN instructor locates the Bismarck and Prinz Eugen at 1030 hours (R. McNeill). Just before sunset Swordfish aircraft from HMS Ark Royal attack the Bismarck and jam her rudder. Prinz Eugen then ordered to proceed to Brest independently.**

**Off Crete the carrier HMS Formidable engages in attacks on airfields under German control. A dive bomber attack on the flotilla badly damages the carrier (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).**

**Last Canadian Vickers Vedette retired from service with the RCAF (Griffin CMA). The first Vedette had been taken on strength in 1925.**

**#5 Bombing & Gunnery School began training at Dafoe, Saskatchewan (S. Shail).**

26 #11 (BR) Sqn., Hudson I #778 crashed and was written off at Dartmouth, NS (R.W.R. Walker).

26 #6 SFTS Dunnville, Ontario, Yale #3376 crashed near Kohler, Ontario, LAC(P) F. Schwartz killed.

26 #13 EFTS, St. Eugene, Ontario, Finch II #4410 crashed at St. Marthe, Quebec, LAC(P) A.A. Lewis injured (R.W.R. Walker). See May 30, below.

**26-27 U-69 mines the harbour at Takoradi (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).**

**Disabled Bismarck is harassed by gunfire from RN destroyers (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).**

Tuesday

**27 Bismarck is sunk in Atlantic by combined Home Fleet and H Force from Gibraltar, with the loss of 2,100 sailors (wikipedia). This action effectively ends the use of German surface warships against convoys in the Atlantic. It is interesting to speculate if the German ships had encountered and decimated a Convoy, and sunk US escorts, if this would have brought the USA into the war on the**

***Allied side at this time?***

***HX-129 leaves Halifax, the first trans-Atlantic convoy to be escorted the complete way across. RCN, US Navy and RN escorts based in Canada, Newfoundland, Iceland and Northern Ireland work in relays across the ocean. This will greatly affect successful attacks by U-boats, most of which have been against unescorted ships (D. Sommerville).***

***Halfaya Pass on the Egyptian border retaken by German units (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).***

27 14 Sqn. Blenheim IV V5593 was on an operation from Egypt to attack German forces invading Crete, but crashed, lost, in the desert on return, pilot **F/O J.B. Le Cavalier RAF (Can)** killed in the crash, his crew, Sgt C.P.A. Bury RAF and Sgt Page RAF, bailed out but only Sgt Page survived, walking back to safety. (TSGNO give the date as April 27, but other sources and the CWGC gives this date. There is a description of this operation in G. Bowman's book *Jump for It!*)

***27-28 Bomber Command sends bombers to Cologne (64), Boulogne (24) and GARDENING off Brest and St. Nazaire (36) with 1 aircraft lost (BC War Diaries).***

27-28 10 Sqn. Whitley V Z6564 ZA-Z was damaged by flak over Brussels returning from Cologne but recovered safely in England, **Sgt E.J. Conry**, Sgt N.T.H. Scott RAF, Sgt R.H.G. Harding RAF, Sgt D.W. Griffiths RAF and Sgt C.J. Lawson RAF safe (R. Allenby). See June 18-19 and August 18-19, below.

Wednesday

***28 Italian CR.42 fighters from Rhodes in Iraqi markings arrive in Iraq to fight against British there.***

***Paris Protocols signed, Vichy France grants Germany military bases in Syria, Tunisia and French West Africa (Oxford). See June 8 below and notes on Nordstern July 9-10, 1943.***

***To the west of Ireland German long range bombers attack two RN destroyers, sinking one and damaging the second (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).***

***28-29 A force of 14 bombers sent to Kiel to bomb the Tirpitz, but only 3 bomb due to bad weather and no hits are made, 1 bomber lost (BC War Diaries).***

28-29 78 Sqn. Whitley V Z6484 lost over Germany, **Sgt W.B. Smith**, Sgt A.T. Copley RAF, Sgt A. Cooke RAF, Sgt A. Gregory RAF and Sgt D.R. Strickland RAF killed.

Thursday

**29 Evacuation of Crete begins.**

- 29 #3 (Coastal) OTU Beaufort I X8916 lost on a navigation exercise Sgt C.R. Bateman RAF killed, **Sgt S.J. Tyson**, F/S E.D. Glyde RAF and Sgt J. Christie RAF missing (H. Welting and COL BRUGGY [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 29 #11 OTU Wellington Ic R1299 was landing on a training exercise when it crashed short of the runway, P/O D.M. Weston RAF killed, **Sgt W.C. Kasson**, P/O A.L. Walker RAAF, Sgt E.R. Simpson RAAF, Sgt W.J.P. Gibbons RAF and Sgt P.J.C. Watkins RAF injured.
- 29 #7 EFTS, Windsor, Ontario, Finch #4707 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

Friday

**30 Raid on Dublin (CJCA headline). German aircraft attacking Liverpool drop 4 bombs in Dublin in error that kill 28 people and injure 87 (wikipedia, [ww2total.com](http://ww2total.com) Chronology/1941).**

***In a summation of the loss of Crete Air Marshall A. Tedder RAF, who had just taken over command in the Middle East, again criticized **AC Collishaw** for losses in the defence of the Island (Shores, Cull & Malizia), despite resources in the region being stretched between Crete, the defence of Tobruk, Operation BREVITY, the defence of Egypt, anti mine-laying in the Suez Canal and the campaign in Syria and Iraq simultaneously.***

***Iraq, British forces reach Baghdad forcing Rashid Ali to flee, former regent is reinstated. Italian and German air force aircraft and personnel in Syria begin to evacuate to Rhodes and Greece.***

- 30 #1 SFTS, Camp Borden, Ontario, Harvard II #2836 climbed steeply on a formation take off, stalled and crashed, **Sgt C.E. Shannon RCAF (USA)** and LAC(P) D.A. Robinson RAAF killed.
- 30 #13 EFTS, St. Eugene, Ontario, **LAC(P) A.A. Lewis** died in hospital of injuries he received May 26 when he crashed Finch II #4410 near St. Marthe, Quebec practising forced landings.

**30-31 German bombers attack Alexandria, mining the harbour and bombing airfields (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).**

Saturday

- 31 80 Sqn. **WO A.H. Schofield RAF (Can.)** taken prisoner on Crete (Allison & Hayward).
- 31 #9 B&G School RAF, England, Battle I L5004 crashed in Wales, **Sgt J.F. Cranston**, LAC



O. Cumins RAF and LAC T. Froggatt RAF killed (www.rafcommands.com).  
31 unknown unit, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4278 damaged at Patricia Bay, BC, and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

**31-1 German bombers again active over Alexandria, dropping mines and bombs (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).**

**Evacuation of Crete suspended due to heavy losses of ships by air attack, having saved 17,000 Allied soldiers but leaving at least 5,000 soldiers behind (Oxford). Total losses were 1,700 killed, 2,200 wounded and over 11,000 taken PoW. One of those evacuated was 33 Squadron's **F/L V.C. Woodward DFC RAF (Can.)**, who walked across the island to be picked up.**

**For the first time an island defended by a strong naval force is successfully invaded using superior air power (Oxford). No major Italian or German naval units were used in the invasion at all, but the need to guard against the use of Italian based capital ships should be noted as it forced the Royal Navy to limit what ships it could use directly, an example of the power of a "fleet in being" concept. The use of aircraft carriers to counter the land-based air fleet was limited by prior losses, the poorer range and performance of the aircraft available, and the lack of professional experience in their use due to the policies of the period after the First World War.**

**Another aspect of the loss of Crete was the quick overwhelming of the airfield defences. Without these airfields the invading forces might have been held and defeated, unable to effectively re-supply their airborne troops (as would happen at Arnhem in September, 1944). An investigation into the loss of Crete makes recommendations that lead to the formation of the RAF Regiment in February, 1942, a force dedicated to airfield defence (Oxford).**

**German airborne forces, which had been involved in every German offensive since Norway, sustained such high casualties (estimated 7,000 killed, nearly half the force used) that their use in a large scale invasion is not possible until they are re-built, and this also gave Hitler an aversion to airborne operations possibly suffering such casualties again, as they were elite forces made up (in his mind) of racially superior soldiers and not to be expended on unworthy targets. Thus the planned airborne invasions of Cyprus and the Suez Canal are called off and this force is not available to invade Malta, a more important target, or for large operations in Russia. Instead Hitler sought an invasion of Malta by the Italian airborne forces (who were also elite**

*units) with German air support, which Mussolini avoided, also fearing the cost (politically). The German and Italian parachute regiments would be used in future only on small operations or as ground troops.*

*The effectiveness of the airborne attack was viewed differently by the Commonwealth leaders, however, and the development of a similar airborne army was given a priority in England and later the USA.*

*Although defeated in Greece and Crete England had gained in world opinion by not abandoning its commitments to the Greeks. Unknowingly, the campaign had also delayed Germany's attack on the USSR by a month, time which could not be regained (Oxford).*

*During the month improved RAF night fighters had shot down 38 bombers over England. The Blitz had ended, however, so that German bomber groups could re-equip for the planned invasion of the Soviet Union. Since September 1940 German bombing had killed 43,000 civilians and injured 139,000 more in England (Oxford). This was at the time the longest sustained bombing campaign ever carried out against a country (R. Prior).*

## **June 1941**

*Decision made to move the Cavendish Laboratory and all atomic energy research in England (codenamed TUBE ALLOYS) with the French supply of heavy water to the USA. See October 30, 1942.*

*Operation CHANNEL STOP re-started (R. McNeill). See October 10, below.*

*406 Sqn. begins to receive Merlin engined Beaufighter IIF and Hercules engined Beaufighter IVF aircraft (RCAF Sqns.). 407 Sqn. begins to receive Hudson III and V aircraft for operations (RCAF Sqns.). #5 (BR) Sqn. briefly equips with Catalina I aircraft (June & July) before passing them on to #116 (BR) Sqn. (RCAF Sqns.).*

*In Russia, Army reservists are being called up (Oxford).*

*During the month **LAC K.J. Stone RAF (Can.)** was taken PoW by the Germans, either in Greece, Crete, or Egypt ([www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).*

**Also during the month the patients and staff at the RAF burns treatment centre at East Grinstead created the Guinea Pig Club. Originally a drinking club, it soon became important in the support and recovery of the burned or injured airmen ("singed", "fried" or "mashed" in Guinea Pig terms). The club was named as most of the treatments in reconstructive surgery were being created as they were applied to the patients, making them the "guinea pigs", often assisting in the creation of their own treatments. It followed the beliefs of Chief Surgeon Dr. A. McIndoe that the injured airmen had to be treated as the intelligent young men they were, and not as burdens or mere patients. There was little room for sympathy in the Guinea Pig Club, members (with the help of staff and the people of East Grinstead) were encouraged to re-engage life on their own terms, while as recovery progressed the hospital found suitable placements for members between operations, either in the RAF or at factories in England. Initially Dr. McIndoe was elected as President, the Secretary was elected as his hand injuries prevented him from writing minutes, and the Treasurer was a patient who could not walk, to keep him running off with the money (R. Donovan). See December 11, 1943.**

**Sunday**

**1 Iraq, Armistice ends fighting in Iraq (CJCA headline). Commonwealth forces enter Baghdad (D. Sommerville).**

**Evacuation of Crete ends (CJCA headline). German bombers sink cruiser HMS Calcutta between Crete and Egypt, bringing total Allied naval losses in the campaign to 3 cruisers and 6 destroyers sunk, 3 battleships, 1 aircraft carrier, 6 cruisers and 7 destroyers damaged (ww2total.com Chronology/1941), all by air attack.**

**Clothes rationing begins in England (wikipedia).**

**Newfoundland Escort Force established by RCN in St. John's.**

**Prinz Eugen arrives at Brest, France, joining the Scharnhorst and damaged Gneisenau (R. McNeill).**

**US Army Air Corps becomes the US Army Air Force (USAAF), an independent arm within the US Army with it's own planning staff (Oxford).**

**#5 EFTS moves from Lethbridge to High River, Alberta  
(<http://www.bombercrew.com/BCATP.htm>).**

- 1 #119 (BR) Sqn. Bolingbroke IV #9062 'G' crashed landing from a patrol at Sydney, NS, after an engine cut, destroyed by fire, no casualties (424 SH, R.W.R. Walker).
- 1 #9 SFTS, Summerside, PEI, Harvard II AH196 crashed at Cavendish, PEI while practicing instrument flying, LAC(P) G.M.C. Fletcher and LAC(P) B.L. Robertson killed.
- 1 #14 EFTS, Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4111 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

**1-2 The Luftwaffe sent 110 bombers over England, most targeting Manchester (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).**

Monday

- 2 120 Sqn. RAF established, intended to use Liberator aircraft modified for long range to hunt U-boats in the mid-Atlantic gap (R. McNeill).

**Hitler and Mussolini again meet at the Brenner Pass (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).**

**On Crete the first of several executions of Cretan civilians occurs, ordered by German airborne forces commander Gen. Student as punishment for taking up arms against the invading Germans (wikipedia).**

**Vichy France grants Germany and Italy rights to unload cargos for the fighting in North Africa at the Tunisian port of Bizerta (D. Sommerville).**

**Three boats of survivors from the SS Robin Moor are found in the South Atlantic and taken to South Africa. See June 8, below.**

**Gander Lake, Newfoundland, is used by a Catalina aircraft being ferried to England, the first flying boat to use the water facility there (C.F. Warren et al).**

**Baseball player Lou Gehrig dies (wikipedia).**

- 2 22 Sqn. Beaufort I X8921 OA-X shot down by an enemy fighter after making a torpedo attack on a convoy off Holland, Sgt F.W. O'Brien RAF (Can.) and Sgt I.T.C. Edwards DFM RAF killed, F/L W.D.G. McCaw RAF (Can.) and Sgt P.R. Woodland RAF PoW.
- 2 139 (Jamaica) Sqn. Blenheim IV V6239 lost without trace on a daylight attack on the Kiel Canal in Germany, Sgt F. Boroski, Sgt L.A. Slade RAF and Sgt A. Ball RAF missing.
- 2 #53 OTU Spitfire Ia X4719 hit a barrage balloon cable and crashed, killing Sgt A.R.

Cameron ([www.spitfires.ukf.net](http://www.spitfires.ukf.net); [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).

**2-3 Bomber Command sends forces to Düsseldorf (150 bombers), Duisberg (25) and Berlin (11), but poor visibility hampers aiming (BC War Diaries).**

- 2-3 40 Sqn. Wellington Ic R1438 BL-U stalled and crashed in the circuit on return to base from operations, **Sgt L.D. Dougherty**, **Sgt A.F. Hicks**, Sgt P.D. Sargent RAF, Sgt E.A.B. Beadman RAF and Sgt E.W. Body RAF killed, Sgt Hillebrandt RAF injured.
- 2-3 61 Sqn. Hampden I X3120 lost on an operation to Germany, hit by flak and force landed, **Sgt G.W. Aston RAF (Can.)**, Sgt N.M. Campbell RAF (wounded), Sgt H.G. Johnson RAF and Sgt C.E. Hawkes RAF PoW. An account of this loss by Sgt Campbell was published in W.R. Chorley's *Bomber Command Losses Volume 9: Roll of Honour, 1939-1947*, Pg. 90.

Tuesday

**3 A DH.84 Dragon G-ACPY airliner flying from the Scilly Islands to Land's End in England was spotted by a He 111 aircraft and shot down, 6 killed. Air service to the Scilly Islands was cut off until July when RAF radar sites could provide information to the airline that the sky was clear of enemy aircraft before their flights took off ([www.rafdavidstowmoor.org](http://www.rafdavidstowmoor.org), [forum.12oclockhigh.net](http://forum.12oclockhigh.net)). See June 18, below.**

**Commonwealth forces in Iraq capture the main Luftwaffe base at Mosul (D. Sommerville).**

**On Crete the villages of Kandanos, Florio and Kakopetro, whose resistance to the German airborne invasion had held back their advance for 2 days, were razed to the ground and 180 of their residents executed (wikipedia). It should be noted that German airborne forces executed more Cretan civilians, men, women and children, after the invasion than the number of Allied soldiers that were killed in the fighting, and executions continued until 1944 under the German occupation (wikipedia; various).**

**Canadian designed Fleet Fort trainer enters service with the RCAF (Griffin CMA). See March 2, 1945.**

**#31 OTU, Debert, NS, opened (official opening?) (<http://www.bombercrew.com/BCATP.htm>).**

- 3 112 Sqn. **F/L L.L. Bartley RAF (Can.)** was part of a group of Allied soldiers and airmen attempting to escape Crete in a repaired German invasion barge when they were



hailed in English from a surfaced submarine, which turned out to be Italian and they were taken PoW. He later escaped when Italy surrendered and made his way to Allied lines ([surfcity.kund.dalnet.se/commonwealth\\_bartley.htm](http://surfcity.kund.dalnet.se/commonwealth_bartley.htm)). He had flown Blenheims for 55 Sqn., then Gladiators in Greece and Crete (Allison & Hayward) and was credited with 4½ victories.

- 3 #2 School of Army Co-operation Blenheim I L1495 crashed on a single engined approach, **P/O G.E. Douglas** killed (COL BRUGGY at [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 3 #11 OTU Wellington Ic R1405 crashed when landing from a night flying exercise, **Sgt J.H. Cooper**, Sgt D.G. Ambrose RAF, Sgt J.G. Turnbull RAF, Sgt H.I. Holroyd RAF and Sgt P.A.L. Lowe RAF killed, Sgt L.F. Stuart RAF seriously injured.
- 3 #8 (BR) Sqn. RCAF, Sydney, NS, Bolingbroke IV #9007 crashed into the sea on a convoy escort, **Sgt L.J.R. Chabot**, **P/O F.J. Parker**, **AC1(AG) F.J. Tibbett** and **S/L R.B. Wylie** missing.
- 3 #11 (BR) Sqn. RCAF Dartmouth, NS, Hudson I #782 was looking for the missing #8 BR Sqn. Bolingbroke IV #9007 (see, above) when it struck a radio mast on Sable Island, NS, and crashed, **F/L Dr. F.J. Bell**, **Cpl D.E. Craig**, **F/O I.L.G. Gillis**, wireless operator **AC1 G.A. Dilworth** and **F/L G.B. Snow** killed.
- 3 #1 Central Flying School, Trenton, Ontario, Harvard II #2838 crashed 5 miles east of Frankfort, Ontario, **Sgt J.F. Karlenzig** killed.
- 3 #14 EFTS, Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4123 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

**3-4 German bombers again attack Alexandria, dropping bombs and incendiaries in the Naval dockyard and residences, killing 37 Egyptian civilians (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).**

Wednesday

**4 Alexandria raided by aircraft; British occupy Mosul oilfields (CJCA headlines).**

**Wilhelm II, ex-Kaiser of Germany, dies in Holland at 82.**

- 4 405 Sqn. Wellington II W5487 was destroyed by fire and W5491 was damaged during an air raid at Driffild, Yorkshire (405 SH). These were the first RCAF bomber losses of the war. See August 16-17 below, and January 9, 1942.
- 4 #20 OTU Wellington Ia N2885 ditched in shallow water after an engine problem, **Sgt L.T. Lawson**, F/L A.G. Griffin RAF, P/O A.R. Fitch RAF, Sgt L.H. Ellis RAF, AC2 A. Learmouth RAF, AC2 V.L. Rose RAF and Gunner Aitchison (Royal Artillery?) injured. See Sept. 2-3, below.

Thursday

**5 Sino-Japanese War, In Chungking, China, then the Capitol of Nationalist China,**

***some 700 people taking refuge in a bomb shelter from the continuing Japanese bombing attacks on the city die of asphyxiation when the entrance is collapsed by the bombing (wikipedia, ww2total.com Chronology/1941).***

- 5 RAF Heraklion, Crete, Headquarters Staff captured, including F/L P.J. Valachos DFC MiD RAF (Can.), a 99 Squadron Wellington pilot who had been assigned to Heraklion as he was fluent in Greek (Allison & Hayward; Shores, Cull & Malizia).
- 5 #10 OTU Whitley V P4940 was practicing circuits when bad weather moved in and the crew became lost. Attempting to find their location the aircraft hit high tension cables and crashed killing Sgt A.W. Carty, Sgt G.E. Halstead and Sgt J.A. Taylor.

Friday

***6 A single Italian SM.82 makes a daylight attack on Gibraltar, a second returned to base unable to reach the target (H.W. Neulen).***

***Further Hurricane II fighters are flown into Malta from HMS Ark Royal and HMS Furious (D. Sommerville). Many of these replaced worn Hurricane Is that had been defending the island, and these were flown to Egypt to be rebuilt (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).***

- 6 #55 OTU Hurricane I V6962 flew into a hill in England, killing Sgt J.M. MacDonell (www.rafcommands.com). This was the aircraft that F/L H.P. Blachford RAF (Can.) rammed a CR.42 fighter over England on November 11, 1940 (Dakota at www.rafcommands.com).
- 6 #7 EFTS, Windsor, Ontario, Finch II #4504 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).
- 6 #10 SFTS, Dauphin, Manitoba, LAC(P) R.G. Alexander killed while practising night flying in Harvard II #3772.
- 6 #11 SFTS, Yorkton, Saskatchewan, Harvard II #3026 crashed near Yorkton, killing F/L J.E. MacDonald and Sgt T.S. Sharples.

Saturday

***7 409 Sqn. RCAF formed in England as a Night Fighter unit equipped with Defiant I aircraft (RCAF Sqns.).***

- 7 401 Sqn. LAC E.J. Lewis died in hospital in England due to injuries from a motorcycle accident.
- 7 #3 B&G School, MacDonald, Manitoba, AC1(AG) W.J. Chalcroft died of natural causes.

***7-8 Thirty one Ju 88 bombers from Greece make a heavy attack on the Naval base at Alexandria and the city of Suez in Egypt, recovering in Rhodes (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1). Some 200 Egyptians were reported killed (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).***

**Brest attacked by 33 bombers targeting the newly arrived cruiser Prinz Eugen (BC War Diaries).**

Sunday

**8 British and Free French forces invade Syria, Vichy French forces resist.**

**Alexandria evacuated, some 40,000 non-combatants leave the port (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).**

**An Italian Z.1007 bomber making a reconnaissance flight off Alexandria is intercepted and shot down by two 250 Squadron Tomahawk fighters, the first aerial victory of the Tomahawk/P-40 fighter (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).**

**The final lifeboat of survivors of the SS Robin Moor is found after 18 days at sea and the survivors taken to Brazil (wikipedia). See June 20, below.**

- 8 80 Sqn. Canadian built Hurricane I Z6991, **Sgt F.A.W.J. Wilson RAF (Can.)**, destroyed 2 Vichy French Potez 63 attack aircraft at an airfield in Syria. This was the first of 8 ½ aircraft destroyed in the air and 4 on the ground by this pilot who later served in 402, 441 and 443 Squadrons (Shores and Williams). See June 13, below.
- 8 #11 OTU Wellington Ic R1728 crashed into the North Sea, possibly shot down, **Sgt R.P. Burt RCAF (UK)** and Sgt W.G.N. Hare RAF found dead in a dinghy 2 weeks later, F/O W.A. Foster RAF, P/O C.W.S. Bristow RAF, Sgt L. Parry RAF and Sgt E.G. Buckingham RAF missing.

**8-9 Dortmund attacked by 37 bombers with poor results due to haze (BC War Diaries).**

- 8-9 78 Sqn. Whitley V Z6571 crashed in England returning from an operational sortie, flying into the ground descending through clouds in poor weather, **Sgt J.B. Stevens RAF (Can.)**, Sgt D.R. Simm RAF, Sgt J.S. Tomkinson RAF, P/O A.V. Snelling RAF and F/S G. Billing killed.

Monday

**9 #15 SFTS, Claresholm, Alberta and #33 ANS, Mount Hope, Ontario opened on this date (<http://www.bombercrew.com/BCATP.htm>).**

- 9 #31 SFTS, Kingston, Ontario, Battle I R3969 flew into a lake at Seeley's Bay, Ontario, A/LA W. McCulloch RN killed (S. Shail).

Tuesday

**10 127 Sqn. formed at Habbaniya, Iraq, using 6 Hurricane aircraft, with **F/L J.M. Bodman RAF (Can.)** as commander (Allison & Hayward).**

**250 Squadron Tomahawks score their second victory, a Ju 88 reconnaissance aircraft off Alexandria (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).**

**In Bolivia a Japanese bid to purchase all tungsten mined there (needed for hardened steel for tools and armour piercing shells) is turned down, and instead a three year exclusive contract is signed with US interests (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).**

- 10 #15 EFTS, Regina, Saskatchewan, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4219 spun into the ground at Moose Jaw, killing LAC(P) D.B. Leach.
- 10 #16 EFTS, Edmonton, Alberta, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4132 crashed, LAC(P) J.W. Dodds killed. LAC Dodds was from Edmonton.

**10-11 Brest attacked by 104 bombers targeting German naval ships, no hits (BC War Diaries).**

Wednesday

**11 Light bombers sent to attack Bremerhaven, but most of the 25 turn back (BC War Diaries).**

- 11 82 Sqn. Blenheim IV Z6426 took off from Malta to attack a convoy off North Africa. It was hit by flak and then hit a mast on one of the ships before crashing into the sea, P/O N.C. Alers-Hankey RAF (Can.), S/L M.L. Watson RAF and Sgt R.M. Poole missing.
- 11 53 Sqn. Blenheim IV V5933 PZ-U flew into high ground in England returning from an operation over France, P/O N.D. MacLennan, Sgt D.C. Taylor RAF and Sgt W.M. Roberts RAF killed.
- 11 609 Sqn. Spitfire IIa P8654 PR-L was damaged in a fight with Bf 109s and was returning to England when it flew into a cliff, Sgt G.A. Chestnut killed (www.spitfires.ukf.net).
- 11 #5 B&G School, Dafoe, Saskatchewan, Battle I #1848 written off in a crash (R.W.R. Walker).

**11-12 Bomber Command sends 92 bombers to Düsseldorf and 92 to Duisburg, but industrial haze covered the cities, and more bombs fell in Cologne than on the targets. Boulogne also attacked by 29 bombers. 20 GARDENING aircraft and 12 OTU aircraft make a total of 241 sorties for the night with the loss of 10 (BC War Diaries).**

**German bombers making attacks and dropping leaflets on numerous cities in England (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).**

- 11-12 40 Sqn. Wellington Ic R1323 BL-J shot down over Holland, **Sgt R. Alldrick**, Sgt A.F. Potter RNZAF, S/L M.E. Redgrave RAF, Sgt P. Rockingham RAF, Sgt J.A.S. Abernethy RAF and Sgt C. Rofe RAF PoW. Sgt Rofe later escaped.
- 11-12 51 Sqn. Whitley V Z6676 MH-A shot down over Holland by a night fighter, **P/O P.E. Snyder**, Sgt J. Bradshaw RAF, Sgt J.E. Gittins RAF, Sgt C.G. Humble MiD RAF and F/S H. Hannay MiD RAF killed.

Thursday

**12 Meeting of Allied countries and Governments in Exile in London pledge to work together until Germany is defeated (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).**

- 12 #31 B&G School, Picton, Ontario, service policeman **AC2 J.A. Kirkpatrick** died in hospital of natural causes.

**12-13 Bomber Command attacks Soest (91 bombers), Schwerte (80), Hamm (82), Osnabruk (61), Huls (18) and 3 other sorties for a total of 339 with 6 lost (BC War Diaries). Five Wellington aircraft of 405 Sqn. made the RCAF's first bombing sortie to Schwerte, 1 was grounded before take-off, one returned early with engine problems, and three completed the operation and returned safely (405 SH). All these bombers were manned by RAF aircrew (FF Years).**

**42 Sqn., Beaufort I L9939 AW-W, F/S R. Loveitt RAF, **F/S A.H.A. Morris**, F/S P. Wallace-Pannell RAF and F/S C.T. Downing RAF, torpedo the German cruiser Lützow (ex-Deutschland) at sea off Norway (R. Barker; M.E. Horan at forum.12oclockhigh.net). The ship was out of action for 6 months. See May 17, 1942.**

- 12-13 10 Sqn. Whitley V Z6721 was on a sortie to Schwerte but turned back with engine problems and ditched in the North Sea. The life raft was deployed but turned over. The crew managed to right the dinghy and in the morning the exhausted men were spotted by a German He 111, whose pilot located an RAF Air-Sea Rescue launch and indicated their position, **P/O M. Littlewood RAF (Can.)**, Sgt A. Poupard RAF, P/O Stevens-Fox RAF, Sgt D.A.C. Wilkinson RAF and Sgt Harrison RAF rescued. Wireless operator Sgt Wilkinson was instrumental in saving several members of the crew, getting the life raft out of the aircraft, righting it and getting the crew on board, for which he received a BEM. He was later commissioned but was lost October 3, 1943 as F/L D.A.C. Wilkinson BEM DFC RAF (R. Allenby). See August 8-9, below.
- 12-13 77 Sqn. Whitley V T4279 KN-F shot down by a night fighter over Holland, **Sgt K.R. Wainwright**, Sgt D.K. McFarland RAF, P/O G.V. Heslop RAF, Sgt L.S. Dyer RAF and Sgt D.H.J. Pingel RAF killed. A Memorial to the crew was unveiled September 14, 2019 (shhk.nl).



Friday

**13 In Moscow military leaders recommend putting Soviet troops in Poland on alert due to intelligence reports of a German build up, but Stalin dismisses the reports, and refuses the recommendation as it might lead to a war (Bergström & Mikhailov V.1). The official Soviet news agency Tass publishes a story denying any tension in relations between Germany and the USSR (D. Sommerville).**

**A single Italian SM.82 bomber attempts to attack Gibraltar, but bombs La Linea, Spain, in error, killing 4 civilians (H.W. Neulen). Three further attempts to bomb Gibraltar were made in July without result (H.W. Neulen).**

**A Luftwaffe attack on the RN base at Chatham goes awry, scattering bombs over southern England and losing 6 bombers (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).**

**RAF night fighters destroy 3 German Intruders attacking bomber airfields in England that night.**

**Defence of Northwest Atlantic declared a Canadian responsibility. See September 17, below.**

**Catalina flying boat enters service with the RCAF (Griffin CMA).**

- 13 80 Sqn. Hurricane I W9520, **Sgt F.A.W.J. Wilson RAF (Can.)** shot down a Potez 63 over Syria (Shores and Williams). See June 22, below.
- 13 22 Sqn. Beaufort I W6522 OA-K shot down by flak off Holland attacking an E-boat base at Rotterdam, **P/O R.L. Blackmore**, Sgt J. Parsons RAF, P/O J.O.H. Willing RAF and Sgt H.K. Orme RAF killed (R. Hayward).
- 13 #3 SFTS, Calgary, Alberta, Anson #6529 was part of a practice formation flight of 3 aircraft when it turned, struck Anson #6129 and crashed near the airfield, **LAC(P) J.R. Roblin** killed (C. Charland at [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 13 #11 SFTS, Yorkton, Saskatchewan, Harvard II #3798 crashed near the airfield on a solo training flight, **LAC(P) W.J.P. Tibbits RAAF** killed (A. Storr).

**13-14 Warships in Brest attacked by 110 bombers, 42 bombers return to Schwerte and 21 other sorties made (BC War Diaries).**

Saturday

**14 Soviets begin deportation of 65,000 people from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania to Siberia (wikipedia). This deportation would continue even after Germany attacked Russia.**

***In Germany Hitler states Russian PoWs are not to be treated according to the Geneva Conventions, and further that Soviet Communist Party commissars are not to be considered PoWs, and are to be executed when captured (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).***

***Malta reinforced by 43 Hurricane fighters from 47 flown off HMS Ark Royal and HMS Victorious (D. Sommerville). Again most of these would fly on to reinforce Egypt (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).***

***Operation BATTLEAXE begins as Commonwealth armour attack the German and Italian forces in an attempt to relieve Tobruk (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1). Expected to surprise Rommel, he was warned of the attack by his intelligence units, monitoring the number and sources of Commonwealth radio transmissions. #204 Group under A/C Collishaw was reinforced and for the first time in the desert had initial near equality with the German and Italian air forces it faced, but due to the recent losses of Greece and Crete the Army demanded that his aircraft be committed to standing patrols over advancing forces instead of being free to attack airfields and supply convoys, which the RAF was forced to accept (M. Bechthold).***

***German and Italian assets in the USA are frozen by Presidential order (wikipedia). See June 16, below.***

- 14 #55 OTU RAF, England, Hurricane I V7024 crashed on a ferry flight F/O D.F. Henderson killed (www.rafcommands.com).

***14-15 Bomber Command sends 29 bombers to Cologne which is cloud covered, 25 drop bombs with little effect (BC War Diaries).***

***Operation BATTLEAXE, British advance toward Tobruk. In the first day of fighting British forces take heavy losses of armoured vehicles to anti-tank guns (D. Sommerville).***

Sunday

***15 Soviet spy Richard Sorge in Tokyo sends to Moscow the date of planned German attack on Soviet Union, from Japanese sources (Oxford). Croatia signs Tripartite Pact.***

- 15 39 Sqn. Maryland II AH283 (aircraft possibly borrowed from 24 Sqn. SAAF) was shot down by German fighters in Libya on a photo reconnaissance sortie, F/S D.C. Gordon RAF (Can.) and P/O W.E. Brine RAAF missing, Sgt R.M. Hines RAAF and

- P/O Malloch RAAF bailed out and become PoWs (A. Storr, [www.saairforce.co.za](http://www.saairforce.co.za)).
- 15 OADU, Wellington Ic N2803 left Gibraltar for Malta but flew into a mountain in Algeria, P/O R.B. Campbell, Sgt G.L. Cowing, Sgt J.A. Proctor, Sgt G.H. Vickers RAF and Sgt D.S. Birtwhistle RAF killed, Sgt E.H. Parker RAF survived and interned.
- 15 unknown unit, clerk AC1 A.J. Green died in hospital in Sudbury, Ontario from injuries sustained when he was struck by a car when crossing a street.

**15-16 Bomber Command attacks Cologne (91 bombers), Düsseldorf (59), Hannover (16) and Dunkirk (12) plus 5 other sorties, 3 aircraft lost with poor results due to bad visibility (BC War Diaries).**

- 15-16 OADU Wellington Ic R3293 stalled and crashed into the sea on approach to land at Malta, F/O D. Cameron, Sgt E.B. Beattie RNZAF, Sgt J.R. Bolton RAF, Sgt L.B. Butler RAF and Sgt S.R. Sanders RAF killed, Sgt F.E. Drake RNZAF missing.

Monday

**16 German forces counter attack in Libya, forcing Commonwealth forces to retreat back into Egypt (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1). Poor training and German anti-tank guns and tanks took a heavy toll on British armour, losing 91 tanks while German forces lost only 12 (S. Raghavan), bearing in mind that the advancing Germans could salvage damaged units. #204 Group fighters were all committed to defensive patrols over the battle and thus no air attacks could be made by them and without escorting fighters no daylight bomber attacks were attempted (M. Bechthold).**

**German agents expelled from USA (CJCA headline). This refers to the closing of German and Italian consular offices and tourist agencies ordered by US State Department as a result of the sinking of the SS Robin Moor (<http://www.worldwar-2.net/timelines>). By this time the FBI had arrested 33 people in the USA for suspected espionage activities, eliminating all the German agents in place in the country (Oxford).**

**In an effort to stimulate recruitment of Newfoundlanders for the RAF the Commission of Government gave a \$500,000 war loan for the formation of a squadron to be manned by Newfoundlanders in the RAF ([www.heritage.nf.ca](http://www.heritage.nf.ca)). 125 (Newfoundland) Sqn. RAF formed as a night fighter unit with Defiant I aircraft on this date (wikipedia) but the number of Newfoundlanders enlisted in the Air Force in certain trades remained too small for the unit to be fully manned from the Dominion. One problem was the impact of the Depression on health, fully one half of aircrew volunteers in Newfoundland were rejected for medical reasons ([www.heritage.nf.ca](http://www.heritage.nf.ca)). The**

**same effect could be seen in western Canada, where workers employed on construction of the first BCATP airfields were initially given short hours until they had made enough money to afford a better diet and had the strength to work a full day (pers. comm., construction supervisor, RCAF Edmonton, Alberta Aviation Museum Oral History program).**

**411 Sqn. RCAF formed as a Fighter unit, initially on Spitfire Ia aircraft for training (RCAF Sqns.).**

- 16 139 (Jamaica) Sqn. Blenheim IV V6332 was hit and damaged by flak on an anti-  
shipping sortie. Attempting a force landing in England it struck a tree and crashed,  
F/O K.M. Laird RAF (Can.) and Sgt L.J.G. Wakefield RAF killed, Sgt Robinson RAF  
injured.
- 16 unknown unit, RCAF, in Newfoundland, clerk LAC W.M. McDonald died from a self  
inflicted gunshot wound (wwrsimon at www.rafcommands.com).
- 16 #11 SFTS Yorkton, Saskatchewan, Harvard II #3821 crashed during night training  
exercise, accountant LAC S.W.L. Blair killed.

**16-17 Bombers returning to Cologne (105) and Düsseldorf (72) again find hazy  
conditions, Duisberg (39) and Boulogne (7) also attacked, total 223 sorties  
with 4 aircraft lost (BC War Diaries).**

- 16-17 51 Sqn. Whitley V Z6479 MH-M shot down by a night fighter over Belgium, Sgt T.J.  
Baston RAF, Sgt J.L. Evans RAF and F/S D.J. Jefferis RAF killed, F/O C.E.  
Crichton RAF (Can.) missing and P/O K.N. Holland RAF PoW.
- 16-17 103 Sqn. Wellington Ic N2849 lost over Belgium, Sgt J.D. MacVicar, Sgt I. Beaumont  
RAF, Sgt W. Connell RAF, Sgt G. Houghton RAF, S/L D.D.A. Kelly three times MiD  
RAF and F/S S.F. Marais RAF (S. Africa) killed.
- 16-17 405 Sqn. Wellington II W5522 LQ-Q lost over the sea, Sgt W.F. Macgregor RAF, P/O  
G.H.S. Pullen RAF, Sgt R.T. Martin RAF, Sgt S.N. Harvey RAF, Sgt J.L. Angell RAF  
and F/S L.V. Goode RAF missing. First crew lost by 405 Squadron.

Tuesday

**17 After intervention from London, and as the Army commanders in the desert realized  
standing patrols of fighters was limiting the RAF, #204 Group were ordered to  
go on the offensive on this date and attack enemy targets. This led to  
slowing the attacking German forces and allowed retreating Commonwealth  
units to disengage (M. Bechthold).**

- 17 805 Sqn., HMS Grebe, RNAS Dekheila (Alexandria), Egypt, Buffalo AX813 shot down  
off Tobruk and crash landed in Libya, Lt(A) K.L. Keith DSC MiD RN (Can.) badly  
injured (FAA Museum NAP Data, Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1). See June 26,  
below.



- 17 242 (Canadian) Sqn. loses 3 Hurricane II aircraft to German fighters escorting CIRCUS 14, F/L B.A. Rogers RAF killed in Z2888, **S/L E.T. Smith** and P/O J. Bryks RAF (Czech.) were PoW in Z3246 and Z2508 respectively. Four other Hurricanes of 56 Sqn. and 2 Spitfires of 74 Sqn. were lost and a Spitfire of 303 Sqn. was damaged on this escort operation. P/O Bryks hid his nationality and escaped many times before his Czechoslovakian citizenship was revealed inadvertently by the RAF when he was promoted to F/L. He was interrogated by the Gestapo and was one of a group of RAF (Czech.) pilots who were to be executed as 'traitors' but protests by England through the Red Cross deterred this. F/L Bryks ended up in Colditz prison hospital. Post war he received an MBE, and returned to Czechoslovakia where he served in the Air Force, but when the democratic government there was overthrown he was imprisoned and forced to work in a Uranium mine where died. After the 'Velvet Revolution' in 1989 he was posthumously promoted to Colonel and awarded the Order of the White Lion, Czechoslovakia's highest award for bravery (wikipedia).
- 17 115 Sqn. Wellington Ic R1517 KO-Z crashed after take-off on an air test, **Sgt R.O. Docking**, P/O A.Y. Evans RAF, P/O A.B. Brown RAF, F/S J.R. Hurt RAF, Sgt H. Brown RAF and AC2 A. Smith RAF killed, Sgt D.O. Williams RAF survived, injured.
- 17 #3 (Coastal) OTU, RAF Chivenor, Beaufort I L9809 was on a training exercise and was misidentified and shot down by a Hurricane of 504 Sqn., observer **Sgt J.S. Warren** and Sgt R.E. Gale RAF were killed, Sgt B.R. Harrington RAF died of injuries, and Sgt T. Smith RAF survived, injured (RobPalmer598 and Ross\_McNeill at [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com))
- 17 #10 OTU Whitley V N1474 crashed into officers housing at it's base just after taking off in England, **Sgt W.E.S. Yerbury**, P/O Ali Raza Khan Pasha IAF, P/O K.P. Choudhury IAF and Sgt J.C. Kenyon RAF killed. P/O Pasha and P/O Choudhary were part of a group of 24 IAF pilots sent to England during the Battle of Britain (Jagan [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com); J.V Watts). See August 31-September 1 below.
- 17 #57 OTU Spitfire Ia L1088 took off in coarse pitch and crashed into a hangar, killing **P/O G.R. Cushon** ([www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 17 unknown unit, LAC B. Elwell RAF, accidentally drowned at Long Point, Amherst Island, Ontario (alieneyes at [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).

**17-18 Wellington bombers attacked airfields while 2 Wellingtons with Swordfish aircraft made attacks on German positions in the battle area on the Egyptian border, reporting causing large fires (M. Bechthold).**

**Cologne (76 bombers) and Düsseldorf (57) again attacked, but again thick haze prevents accurate bombing. Other sorties made to Hannover, Boulogne and Rotterdam as well as GARDENING and OTU sorties for a total of 198 sorties,**



**one loss (BC War Diaries).**

Wednesday

**18 In the morning Maryland and Blenheim bombers continue tactical attacks on German and Italian positions on the Egyptian border while fighter patrols attacked enemy transport in Libya. Post action analysis of the effects of the switch in RAF air support strategy in Operation BATTLEAXE would shape Allied tactical air operations in the future, effectively endorsing the tactics created by A/C Collishaw, but without giving him the credit (M. Bechthold).**

**Germany and Turkey sign treaty of friendship.**

**Public announcement in England of existence of RDF (radar) (ww2total.com Chronology/1941). This may have been done as a result of the airliner lost June 3, above, as part of the procedure to re-establish the air route.**

**#31 EFTS opened at De Winton, Alberta on Tiger Moth trainers (Chris www.rafcommands.com).**

- 18 22 Sqn. Beaufort I N1158 OA-P flew into a hill near St. Eval in England in bad weather on a transfer flight, **Sgt G.P. Whicher**, P/O D.A. Attewell RAF and Sgt P. McEwan RAF killed, Sgt Towend RAF injured (www.rafdavidstowmoor.org, R. Hayward).
- 18 #17 OTU Anson I R9643 force landed after an engine failure on a navigation exercise in England, **Sgt J.S.A. Calderwood**, Sgt G.D. Jessup RAF, Sgt W.S. Blackadder RAF, P/O F.C. Ashley RAF and Sgt A. Gordon RAF injured. See December 13, below.
- 18 Central Flying School, Trenton, Ontario, Harvard I #1350 suffered it's fourth accident when it swung when landing and collided with a Fawn (R.W.R. Walker). See July 12, below.

**18-19 Alexandria attacked by bombers (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).**

**Bremen attacked by 100 bombers, 65 sent to Brest, 6 aircraft lost (BC War Diaries).**

- 18-19 10 Sqn. Whitley V Z6671 lost over the sea on an operation to Germany, **Sgt E.J. Conry**, Sgt W.R. Bradford RAF, Sgt D.W. Griffiths RAF, F/S W. Kelly RAF and Sgt R.O. Rintoul RAF missing.

Thursday

**19 Germany and Italy close all US consulates in their territories in retaliation for US action June 16, above (D. Sommerville).**

- 19 #11 OTU Wellington Ic W5706 swung on take off in England and crashed, **Sgt K.**

McLeod and P/O Kennedy RAAF safe.

- 19 #16 OTU Hampden I P1210 crashed attempting an emergency landing after engine trouble, P/O A.E. Sinclair RAF and Sgt R.A.C. Connell RAF killed, P/O R.R. Michell RAF (Rhod.) seriously injured, and Sgt A.E.M. Grange injured. See August 15-16, 1943.
- 19 #16 OTU Hampden I AD831 crashed in England on a bombing exercise, Sgt C.W. Davis RCAF (Nfld.), Sgt J. Goldman RAF (Eire), Sgt P. Lally RAF (S. Africa), F/O W.H. Corbett RAF (Rhod.) killed (H. Moyle).

**19-20 Cologne attacked by 28 bombers which claim to have bombed accurately, but city defences report only light bombing; 20 bombers attack Düsseldorf with similar results, 2 bombers lost (BC War Diaries).**

- 19-20 99 Sqn. Wellington Ic R1537 lost over Germany, Sgt H.H. Bedard and S/L B.J. Rogers AFC RAF killed, Sgt R.I. Gemmill, P/O J.M. Kerr RNZAF, Sgt R.H. Davis RAF and Sgt H. Mahoney RAF PoW.

Friday

**20 US President denounces the sinking of the SS Robin Moor in a speech to the US Congress.**

**After two prior delays Hitler issues order for invasion of Soviet Union to proceed, German units begin to move into attack positions (Oxford). German forces are told that the USSR was planning to attack Germany, and their invasion was to preempt this (A. Price).**

- 20 603 Sqn. Spitfire Va R7272 shot down into the sea, P/O C.A. Newman RAF (Can.) killed. (TSGNO states killed June 28, CWGC confirms 20th.) (Alan www.rafcommands.com). P/O Newman was a Biggs' Boy (K. Stofer).
- 20 OADU Wellington Ic X3211 left England for Gibraltar but due to severe weather and technical problems ran short of fuel and force landed in Portugal where the crew, Sgt P.F. Bold, Sgt R.H. Toshack, F/O J.D. Hall RAF, Sgt J.C. Sheridan RAF, Sgt W.J. Poole RAF and Sgt C.G. Peak RAF were briefly interned. See Sept. 22-23, below.
- 20 OADU Wellington Ic Z8722 ditched off Aguilas, Spain out of fuel on a flight to Gibraltar after losing it's compass and radio, damaged in an electrical storm, Sgt J.A. Krause, Sgt J.D. Menard, F/O E.I.J. Bell RAF, Sgt F.M. Arnold RAF, Sgt R. Skelton RAF and Sgt A.E. Phillips were interned in Spain until March 1942 (Miguel Santiago www.rafcommands.com). See also Aug. 25, 1942 and Oct. 1, 1942.
- 20 #11 OTU Blenheim IV L9238 ditched in the Irish Sea after an engine failure, the crew, Sgt T.W. Caston, Sgt J.C. Fisher and Sgt A. Leigh RAF, were picked up, injured, by a trawler. See Feb. 28, 1942.

- 20 #1 EFTS, Malton, Ontario, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4386 crashed north of the airfield practicing steep turns and forced landings, killing LAC(P) R.H. Miller (J.A. Griffin).
- 20 #31 ANS, Port Albert, Ontario, Anson I N5353 disappeared over Lake Huron on a navigation exercise. Identified items from the aircraft were later found offshore of Goderich, Ontario, Cpl C.D. Bradbury RAF (Can.), LAC(N) J.W. Clarkson RAF, LAC(N) D.C.F. Evans RAF and P/O J.G. Jones RAF missing (R.W.R. Walker; [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 20 RNor.N, Little Norway, Toronto Island Airport, Ontario, Northrup N3PB floatplane was taking off in Toronto Harbour when the ferry boat Sam McBride crossed its path. The floatplane hit the upper deck, crashed and sank, killing Lt F.B. Kjos and T. Harsvik. This accident played a part in the establishment of a new base for Little Norway in Muskoka, Ontario (wikipedia). The ferry is still in service today.

**20-21 Bomber Command sends 115 bombers to attack the battleship Tirpitz at Kiel, but they are unable to find it and instead bomb the city with poor results, 11 other operations, 2 bombers lost (BC War Diaries).**

Saturday

**21 1st Victory Loan raises \$730,376,250 (CJCA headline). This was a campaign to raise money to fight the war by public subscription, selling War Bonds that paid the subscriber back with interest after the war. This would give Canadian workers, now earning good wages after the economic depression of the 1930s, a way to invest their earnings while helping re-invest their wages into the war effort. See also March 7 and November 7, 1942, May 15 and November 6, 1943, May 20 and November 12, 1944, May 12 and November 10, 1945.**

**British and Free French forces enter Damascus, Syria.**

**Hitler writes to Mussolini to tell him of his intention to attack the USSR, which the latter strongly supports (Oxford). In an effort not to involve the USA he also orders U-boats to avoid contact with USN warships (C.E. Hipperson).**

**A German deserter reveals that Germany will attack Russia within hours. This report is rushed to Moscow where military advisors finally convince Stalin to issue an alert, which goes out just two hours before the attack. Many Soviet units do not receive it (Bergström & Mikhailov V.1).**

**#20 EFTS, Oshawa, Ontario, opens on this date (<http://www.bombercrew.com/BCATP.htm>).**

- 21 #11 OTU Wellington Ic R1292 force landed after the engines failed in the landing circuit on a night flying exercise in England, P/O R.H. Orton RAF, Sgt E.H. Garrod RAF and Sgt S. Oldfield RAF all died of injuries over the next few days, **Sgt A.W.D. Rutledge**, **Sgt W.M. Fraser**, Sgt J.M. Thompson RAF and Sgt R.St.C Harrison RAF survived, injured. See April 1-2, 1942.
- 21 #6 SFTS, Dunnville, Ontario, Harvard II #2825 crashed near Kohler, Ontario while engaged in flying practice, **LAC(P) R.H. Stevens** killed.

**21-22 A force of 30 German bombers attacked Alexandria in Egypt over 2 hours on this night (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).**

**Cologne and Düsseldorf again attacked by Bomber Command (68 and 56 bombers respectively). Again the targets were obscured. The 68 Wellingtons attacking Cologne drop 500 high explosive bombs and almost 5,000 incendiaries yet the city recorded no bombs in it's districts, most fall outside the city limits. Thirty two other sorties made, 1 bomber was shot down over England in error by RAF night fighters (BC War Diaries).**

21-22 207 Sqn. Manchester I L7314 EM-Y shot down in error over England by a 25 Sqn. Beaufighter, **Sgt J.A. Maville**, F/O J.D.G. Withers DFC RAF, Sgt A.M. James RAF, F/S W. Brown DFM RAF, F/S M.V. Browne RAF, F/S A. Malone RAF and Sgt S. Veitch RAF killed.

21-22 #10 (BR) Digby #752 ditched off Cape Race, Newfoundland, the crew was rescued by a schooner. The aircraft was equipped with flotation cells in the wings (one of the unique features of the RCAF Digbys) and did not sink, and was later towed ashore but was written off (R.W.R. Walker, Hagedorn & Hagedorn, C. Vincent).

Sunday

**22 Between 0300 and 0330 German, Slovakian and Romanian units attack the Soviet Union on a massive front from the Baltic to the Black Sea. German planners expect to defeat Russia in 8 to 10 weeks (Oxford). Russian Air Force and Army units are concentrated at the border (actually the Brest-Litovsk line in Poland, and Bessarabia taken from Romania) as per the offensive doctrine of the Soviet military, and were not alerted to the possibility of attack until hours before it happened. Many do not receive any warning at all, and most airfields are destroyed or overwhelmed (Bergström & Mikhailov V.1). For political reasons, following the purge of professional officers in the Red Army, a new defensive line on the new border has yet to be built, while the Stalin Line on the old border has been dismantled (Oxford).**

**In the Baltic to cover Leningrad Luftwaffe units are based in southern Finland,**



*which had mobilized its forces in the week before but did not participate in the invasion at this time (D. Hagedorn & A. Tincopa). See July 25, below.*

*Initial attacks on airfields are made more devastating by the use of the first "fragmentation bombs" in action by the Luftwaffe, dispensers dropping small "bomblets" that scattered over a wide area, exploding on contact and wreaking havoc on aircraft parked in the open (these were later called "butterfly bombs" from their retarding winglets) (A. Price). However, this also had problems, as the untested weapons often opened too early, leaving bomblets jammed in the attacking bomber which became armed by the explosions of proceeding bomblets, which caused several German bombers to blow up on landing (Bergström & Mikhailov V.1).*

*Behind the fighting units are German "Einsatzgruppen" and their Romanian equivalents, political troops tasked with killing Communist Party officials and all Jews and other people deemed "undesirable" by Nazi racial theories, in cities and villages captured in the advance. Precise numbers killed are recorded and transmitted daily to Berlin. By the years end over 1,000,000 Jews would be murdered by these groups. They operated openly in front of witnesses, and many Germans (military and civil) actually wrote to Hitler in the belief he would stop what they imagined were out of control soldiers (Oxford).*

*Despite ample warnings by intelligence agencies, other countries and his own military, no prior defensive action by border units was allowed by Stalin as he believed assurances by Hitler of co-operation. The Soviet plan for such an attack envisioned thrusts by German columns, which they would counter with air attack, and then pinch out with larger enveloping attacks of their own. That Germany and its allies would choose to attack on a broad front without warning was not foreseen, nor did the Russian army have the training or ability to react quickly to the new tactic. In particular the lack of radios denied them the ability to react to German moves once the land line communication system had been disrupted (Oxford).*

*Stalin was shocked by the invasion, and retreated from public view. He did not make a public speech in support of the defence of Russia for 11 days, but in one of the wars mysteries the head of the Russian Orthodox Church, which had been subject to years of persecution and all but publicly eliminated from Soviet life, was allowed to broadcast an appeal on the day of the invasion on state radio exhorting the Russian people to defend the country (Oxford). In*



***the evening Churchill promises aid to Russia (Polsson). In an effort to prevent the Luftwaffe from moving aircraft from France offensive daylight CIRCUS operations by the RAF were increased (B. Kite).***

***An interesting aside to the invasion is that, although not involved in the planning or execution of the attack, Mussolini insists that the Italian military have a part in the fight. He declares war on the USSR and begins creating Italian units to send to fight in Russia. This takes from the Italian Army and Air Force many of it's mobile units and most new equipment, limiting their ability to take independent action in the Mediterranean theatre. By late 1942 more Italian soldiers would be fighting on the Russian Front than were in Italy's colony of Libya and fighting the British in Egypt (Oxford).***

***The invading German forces are greeted as liberators in those areas which have fallen under Stalin's control (Eastern Poland, Baltic states, Bessarabia, etc.), or suffered under forced Collectivism (Ukraine, Armenia, Georgia), and these people could easily have been formed into military forces under German control and equipped with captured arms, but the Nazi party considered the people of eastern Europe to be "untermenschen" (sub-human), and although the Nazis are anti-communist, they were even more incapable of overcoming their ideological racism (Oxford, P. Adair).***

***In the air the Soviet Air Force in the west is overwhelmed. It totalled 8,100 aircraft on this date (from an overall total of over 10,000 in the country) (Oxford). Most front line aircraft are obsolete or obsolescent. In part due to the orders from Stalin not to provoke Germany, aircraft on Soviet airfields were forbidden from being dispersed or camouflaged against ground attack (A. Price), and are easily destroyed in the initial attacks on airfields which were a part of the "Blitzkrieg" doctrine.***

***The Commanding General of the Air Force had been arrested just 2 months before (the third to be "purged" in the last 4 years), and the new commander was unwilling to contradict Stalin. This fear spread right down to the lowest levels, and even when their airfields were being shelled by artillery on this day some Soviet commanders would not authorize their aircraft to be dispersed, to leave or to be armed to attack, as they had not received any orders (A. Price). Bergström & Mikhailov V.1 note that one of the best Soviet air divisions, equipped with the latest MiG-3 and I-16 fighters, fought back with great determination, but with the loss of most of it's aircraft. Instead of being recognized for his achievements against a tough enemy the General***

**commanding it was executed for his losses. Actions like that made it hard to keep up morale, and were soon stopped.**

**Soviet fighter operations are still based on an element of three aircraft in a 'V' formation using rigid tactics, and only the leaders have full radio equipment (which also reduces their aircraft's performance vis-à-vis their wingman, making them vulnerable), other fighters having only radio receivers (Bergström & Mikhailov V.2). Even if they all had been equipped with radios they have no radar, no network of ground observers and limited ground communications to help interception. Bombers are even more vulnerable, being forced to fly poor defensive formations by the same need to follow the flight leader and communicate by visual signals.**

**Despite outnumbering the German and Romanian air forces attacking them the quality of training of Soviet airmen is uneven, and innovations in tactics were not encouraged (A. Price, Bergström & Mikhailov V.1). Many of those who did get airborne, however, fought stubbornly, and several fighter pilots, unable to match the skill of their opponents or out of ammunition, simply rammed German bombers or fighters, a tactic known later as a "taran" attack in the Soviet air forces. At least 14 Luftwaffe aircraft were destroyed in "tarans" by the more maneuverable Soviet fighters on this day (Bergström & Mikhailov V.1).**

**The Soviet Air Force planning depended (as did the Army) on its overwhelming numbers to take decisive actions, which turns out to have been a major error when faced with an aggressive and battle experienced enemy flying superior aircraft equipped with radio communications, combined with the collapse of the army and constant retreat. To be fair no one in the Soviet command imagined an invasion on such a broad front, which spread even the huge Soviet Air Forces thin, or anticipated the speed which armoured units with radio communications, aerial reconnaissance and ground attack support could move, despite what had been observed in Spain, Poland and France. In the first week of fighting Germany claimed the destruction of 4,000 Soviet aircraft for the loss of 150, which might be accurate including ground losses (Oxford).**

**The advantages Russia had in the air were new fighter designs just entering production that were nearly as good as German or Italian fighters and could be developed, experience in winter operations, a production capability geared to normal production at high volume and able to expand (and a**

*ruthless political system that could enforce expansion), centralized planning of industries, and very advanced ground attack tactics based on the Il-2 armoured ground attack and Pe-2 high speed dive bomber designs which were just entering service. That and the sheer size of the battle front which means it cannot be effectively covered at all points by the number of aircraft available to the Luftwaffe.*

*The Luftwaffe in turn had highly trained, experienced and skilled pilots and aircrew, but fewer aircraft although most were (at this period) much better than their opponents. They compensated for their fewer numbers with heavy use of ground controllers who were attached to attacking ground formations and were able to call for fighter, bomber or ground attack support when needed, and radio communication while airborne so they could change tactics or direction in response to the situation instead of following set plans made before taking off. But the size of the battle meant they did not have the resources to cover all fronts at all times. Their attempts to do so begin to wear down pilot's and machines, and while the RAF bombing campaign over Germany is a distraction at this time, it would grow and become disruptive of supply, development and training. Despite it's successes the losses sustained on this day by the Luftwaffe were higher than they had taken on the worst day of the Battle of Britain, and caused concern to many of it's leaders. In effect the German Luftwaffe has reached it's high point in terms of capability, and from this date it's pool of experienced airmen becomes smaller as it's combat duties increase (Bergström & Mikhailov V.1).*

*One other point about the Soviet Air Forces was it's later use of women in combat. Large numbers of women had earned pilots licenses in pre-war flying associations, and during the war they would serve in all the combat and support roles in small numbers, but thousands more served as groundcrew and maintenance in front-line units. Approximately 120,000 women served in combat roles in the Soviet forces during the war, most Soviet anti-aircraft guns were operated by women for example (Bergström, Dikov & Antipov V.3; Percy, S.). Romania also had woman military pilots who flew light transport and ambulance aircraft (J. Frazer). See May 9, 1945.*

*Germany demands that Sweden allow a German division to travel from Norway to Finland across Sweden (Oxford). See June 26, below.*

*As well on this day (June 23 local date) Japan declares Indo-China to be a joint protectorate of France and Japan (Shores, Cull & Izawa).*

- 22 80 Sqn. Hurricane I W6939, **Sgt F.A.W.J. Wilson RAF (Can.)** attacked and destroyed two more Potez 63 attack aircraft on an airfield in Syria (Shores and Williams). See July 10, below.
- 22 90 Sqn. Fortress I (B-17C) AN522 WP-J broke up at very high altitude over England after entering a cumulus cloud at over 30,000' while on an altitude performance test, **Sgt T.J. Wills**, Lt. F. Bradley Jr. USAAF, F/O J.C.M. Hawley RAF, F/L J.B.W. Humpherson DFC RAF, S/L Dr. D.A.H. Robson, Sgt H.P. Black RAF and F/S G.J. Garwood RAF killed, F/L Dr. W.K. Stewart AFC RAF survived. S/L Robson was a medical doctor who had re-mustered as a pilot, and may have been on the flight as an observer. Lt Bradley was the son of Maj. General Follett Bradley USAAF (R. Allenby). The survivor, F/L Dr. Stewart later became AVM Dr. Stewart and was Head of RAF Medicine before retirement (F. Williston at [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 22 #1 Wireless School, Montreal, **LAC(WAG) A.G. Dickinson RCAF (Eire)** died of natural causes in hospital.

**22-23 Bomber Command sends 70 bombers to Bremen, 27 to Wilhelmshaven, 3 to Emden and 1 to Düsseldorf, with 2 aircraft lost. Again poor visibility hampers the bombing (BC War Diaries).**

- 22-23 51 Sqn. Whitley V T4237 MH-A ditched off the coast of England, Sgt J.H. Grubb RAF drowned, **Sgt A.W. Reimer**, P/O G.L. Matthey RAF, Sgt Jakeman RAF and Sgt Troughton RAF were picked up in a raft June 24. See Jan. 12, 1942.

Monday

**23 German forces capture Brest-Litovsk (CJCA headline).**

***In the air battles over the German invasion the Soviet air forces were overwhelmed, but they were not beaten. Formations of SB and DB bombers from rear bases and airfields missed by German reconnaissance staged attacks on the invaders and their airfields. Most were shot down, but the German airmen were surprised by the continued attacks. They had expected the Russian military to collapse (Bergström & Mikhailov V.1).***

***First three RAF GEE Radio Navigation stations become operational (Polsson). GEE used radio pulses broadcast from ground stations at known points, three stations (one "Master" and two "Slave" transmitters) making one GEE unit. On an aircraft GEE receivers picked up the pulses and with a cathode ray tube the time lags from the broadcasts of the Master and one Slave station could be measured. This could be plotted on a chart printed with the time-lag as lines, giving a known distance along the time-lag lines. Plotting the***



*interval from the Master and second Slave transmitter gave a second line of distance from a second grid, the aircrafts position being where these lines crossed. An early form of GPS, but limited in range due to curvature of the earth, it was used post war for several decades as 'Loran C', and made post-war photo-mapping of Arctic Canada more precise. See August 11-12, below.*

*In the Atlantic, in response to the increase in escorted convoys, a wolfpack of 10 U-boats concentrates on eastbound convoy HX-133, with an escort of only 4 ships (D. Sommerville). See June 29, below.*

*#6 Bombing & Gunnery School opened at Mountain View, Ontario and #7 Bombing & Gunnery School opened at Paulson, Manitoba (S. Shail).*

- 23 36 Sqn. Vildebeest III K6394 crashed into high ground in Malaysia in poor visibility, **Sgt I.P. Einarson**, Sgt K.T.W. Mitchell RAF and WO R.L.W. Mitchell RAF killed (CWGC; [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 23 #3 B&G School, MacDonald, Manitoba, Battle I #1811 caught fire in the air and force landed near St. Laurent, Manitoba, where it burned out, **Sgt H.A. Switzer** and his crew safe (S. Shail).

*23-24 About 20 German bombers attacked Alexandria (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).*

*Cologne (62 bombers), Düsseldorf (41) and Kiel (26) attacked plus 13 other operations, with 1 loss (BC War Diaries).*

Tuesday

*24 Spanish Foreign Minister encourages Spaniards to volunteer to fight against the Soviet Union, within days over 18,000 volunteers (half are serving Spanish soldiers) come forward, later known as the Blue Division. Spanish Air Force pilot's were also seconded to serve in the Luftwaffe in Russia, manning 5 fighter squadrons which served sequentially in Central Russia (Oxford). Some 47,000 Spanish military served in the German forces during the war (Polsson, wikipedia). Spanish veterans of the Republican forces also served in the Soviet Red Army, as well as the Free French army and in the French Resistance forces (wikipedia).*

*President Roosevelt publicly states the US will send aid to the Soviet Union (D. Sommerville).*

*408 Sqn. RCAF formed as a Bomber unit in England on Hampden I aircraft (RCAF*



**Sqns.).**

- 24 unknown unit, Stinson 105 #3489 written off after an accident at Dartmouth, NS (R.W.R. Walker).

**24-25 Cologne, Kiel and Düsseldorf attacked (54, 48 and 31 bombers respectively) plus 6 minor operations, 2 lost to enemy action and one shot down in error by British anti-aircraft fire (BC War Diaries).**

- 24-25 57 Sqn. Wellington Ic R1608 lost over Germany, **Sgt W.R. Sutherland**, Sgt G.L. Bentley RAF, Sgt A.C. Frost RAF, Sgt T. Jones RAF and Sgt R. Straughan RAF killed, Sgt H. Ward RAF missing.

- 24-25 214 Sqn. Wellington Ic R1609 lost without trace, **Sgt K.J. Barton**, Sgt G.T. Jones RAF, P/O J. Dodds-Forrest RAF, Sgt G.T. Hunt RAF, Sgt J.C.E. Black RAF and Sgt G.A.D. Cotton RAF missing.

Wednesday

**25 Soviet aircraft make a large scale attack in southern Finland, in response to the use of Finnish bases by Luftwaffe units. This was expected, and the Soviet forces took heavy losses (D. Hagedorn & A. Tincopa).**

- 25 402 Sqn. Hurricane II, **F/L T.B. Little**, had his dinghy inflate in flight, but with quick thinking was able to puncture it with the safety pin of his parachute harness before he was immobilized (D. McIntosh). See August 27, below.
- 25 #59 OTU Hurricane I V7044 crashed in Scotland while engaged in unauthorized low flying, **Sgt J.B. Spangler RCAF (USA)** killed (Acia man, www.rafcommands.com).
- 25 #2 SFTS, Uplands, Ontario, Yale #3437 was written off after a mid-air collision with #6 SFTS, Dunnville, Ontario, Harvard II #2757, which was repaired (R.W.R. Walker).

**25-26 Bomber Command sends 64 bombers to Bremen and 47 to Kiel, the former force running into thunderstorms. 15 other sorties, 2 bombers lost (BC War Diaries).**

Thursday

**26 Finland declares war on the Soviet Union, the Continuation War in Finnish terms. Sweden allows German troops and supplies to cross their country to northern Finland (Polsson). In Sweden rearmament continues.**

**HMS Ark Royal launches Hurricane fighters to Malta, but technical problems halt the operation (D. Sommerville). These stayed in Malta as the island needed the fighters (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1). See June 30, below.**

**Three unidentified aircraft bomb Kassa in Hungary, killing 20 and injuring 41 people**

*(wikipedia).*

- 26 805 Sqn., Lt(A) K.L. Keith DSC MiD RN (Can.) died as a PoW of burns he received when he was shot down off Tobruk in a Buffalo June 17, above (FAA Museum NAP Data).
- 26 402 Sqn. 2 Hurricane II aircraft on convoy patrol intercept and damage a Ju 88, the squadron's first victory, credited to Sgt G.D. Robertson in Z2409
- 26 #19 OTU Whitley V N1379 crashed on take-off on a training flight killing Sgt D.I. McKiel, Sgt A.W. Morrow, Sgt H.A. Colburne RAF, P/O K.D. Brant DFC RAF, P/O R. Rimmer RAF and F/S L.S. Tunstall RAF.
- 26 #22 OTU Wellington Ic R1586 crashed practicing night circuits, Sgt T.L. Kirk, Sgt F. Venn, Sgt D.R. White, F/S A. Bush RAF and Sgt J.G. Smithson RAF killed.

**26-27 Cologne, Düsseldorf and Kiel attacked (51, 44 and 41 bombers each) through thunderstorms, clouds, snow and icing, 7 minor operations, 2 losses (BC War Diaries).**

- 26-27 150 Sqn. Wellington Ic R1644 JN-L shot down by flak over Holland, Sgt F.J. Hart, P/O J.W. Sievers DFC RAF, P/O C.R.C. Herbert RAF, P/O A.G. St J. Ross RAF, Sgt W.J. Grieve RAF and Sgt H.G. Burgess RAF killed.

Friday

**27 Japan publicly announces plans for creation of Greater Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere.**

**Hungary declares war on the USSR following the bombing of Kassa (Oxford).**

- 27 260 Sqn. aero engine mechanic LAC J.M. Hewitt RAF (Can.) died in hospital in Sierra Leone of dysentery (jonheyworth at www.rafcommands.com; CWGC).
- 27 OADU Wellington Ic P9277 ditched in the sea between Malta and Egypt on a delivery flight, P/O L.H. Campbell-Rogers and Sgt A.D. Cragg RAF attempted to swim to a ship seen nearby and are missing, Sgt F.R. Adams RAF, P/O C.F. Butler (RAF?), Sgt P.D. Webster RAF and Sgt J.T. Lindsay RAF rescued, safe (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1; Dick at www.rafcommands.com).
- 27 #23 OTU Wellington Ic R1662 crashed on a cross country flight following an engine failure, Sgt K.J. Kellough badly injured, P/O J.W. McCarthy injured, Sgt R.C. Baumber RAF, Sgt R.G. Hilb RAF, F/L B.R. Ker RAF, Sgt R.A. Minchin RAF, Sgt W.E. Staytz RAF and Sgt J.H.C. Wakefield RAF safe (R. Allenby; www.rafcommands.com). See June 28 and September 7-8, below.
- 27 #3 B&G School, MacDonald, Manitoba, Battle I #1806 flew into the ground on a training exercise after the engine failed, killing Sgt L. Fenner and Sgt W.G. Walker (S. Shail).

**27-28 U-boat yards at Bremen (108 bombers) and Vegesack (28) attacked, plus 16 other**

**operations. All the bombers were affected by storms and icing, and the force to Bremen reports heavy night fighter activity, for the first time in the war, and lost 14 bombers (the heaviest loss of the war so far) for unknown results. Hamburg, which was not a target, reported several attacks (BC War Diaries).**

27-28 57 Sqn. Wellington Ic R1794 lost without trace, **Sgt G.H. Tett**, **Sgt W.F. Towlson**, Sgt M.R. Ross RAAF, Sgt W.C. Shepherd RAF, Sgt J. O'Donnell RAF and Sgt C.D. Asher missing.

Saturday

**28 Soviet Army forced back to the old Russian-Polish Border, now stripped of Stalin Line defences.**

**In a second intelligence seeking operation to gain material on German Naval codes the German weather ship Lauenburg is seized and sunk off Jan Mayen Island (D. Syrett).**

**#116 (BR) Sqn. RCAF reformed in Dartmouth, NS, using Catalina I & Ib aircraft and crews from #5 (BR) Sqn. (RCAF Sqns.).**

**#5 EFTS re-opened at High River, Alberta, having moved from Lethbridge (Chris [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).**

28 27 Sqn. Blenheim I L6632 crashed in Burma, **LAC (WOP) H.W. Spratt RAF (Can.)**, F/L F.G.O. Box RAF, Cpl. R.A. Fish RAF and observer F/S T.H.W. Seaward RAF killed (CWGC; [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).

28 7 Sqn. Stirling I N6007 MG-Q was shot down over the North Sea by Bf 109 fighters on a daylight operation to Bremen, **Sgt G.T. Webb**, F/L J.K. Collins RAF, Sgt W. Hardie RAF, Sgt C. Kelly RAF, Sgt A.T. Cole RAF, F/S D.W.E. Chapple RAF and Sgt F.C. Williams RAF missing (BillG [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).

28 #23 OTU, wireless operator/air gunner **Sgt H.J. Kellough** died of injuries received in the crash of a Wellington the previous day.

28 #10 SFTS, Dauphin, Manitoba, Harvard II #3783 crashed at Meadow Portage, Manitoba, doing unauthorized aerobatics, **LAC(P) L. Roher** killed.

**28-29 German bombers active over Alexandria (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).**

**After a night off Bomber Command has 34 GARDENING operations (BC War Diaries).**

Sunday

**29 German and Finnish forces begin an advance on two fronts from northern Finland**

**into Arctic Russia to cut off the Kola Peninsula and take the northern ports, especially Murmansk, the only Soviet port open year round in the Arctic.**

**Lord Beaverbrook appointed UK Minister of Supply (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).**

**After 6 days of attacks U-boats withdraw from attacking convoy HX-133. The original escort of 4 ships had been strengthened as the convoy tracked east, including using ships detached from other convoys. Five merchant ships were lost from HX-133, and 2 more from convoys that had sent escorts, but 2 U-boats were also sunk in the attacks (D. Sommerville).**

- 29 82 Sqn. Blenheim IV Z9545 'B' from Malta shot down off the coast of Libya attacking shipping near Tripoli, **Sgt J.A. Cover**, Sgt A.T. Thomas RAF and Sgt R.G.G. Fairweather RAF killed (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).
- 29 unknown unit, **F/O K.B.T. Burns RAF (Can.)** left the RAF on this date due to wounds. He had flown Spitfires with 66 Squadron, no further details known (Allison & Hayward).
- 29 #33 SFTS, Carberry, Manitoba, Anson I #6391 crashed near Pleasant Point, Manitoba, killing **LAC(P) E.C. Helmer** and **LAC(P) D.H. Ross**. (R.W.R. Walker notes this aircraft lost Sept. 29, but LAC Helmer and LAC Ross were killed on this date).

**29-30 Second night of bombing of Alexandria (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).**

**Bomber Command sends 106 bombers to Bremen and 28 to Hamburg, which cause heavy damage. However increasing night fighters and flak shoot down 13 bombers (BC War Diaries).**

- 29-30 7 Sqn. Stirling I N3664 MG-Z shot down over Germany by a night fighter, **P/O H.D. Brander**, Sgt T.G. Young RAF, F/S C.W.D. Brown RAF, F/S J.R. Dale RAF, F/S A.G. Reading RAF, F/S D.H.G. Poole RAF and F/O V.R. Hartwright DFM RAF killed.
- 29-30 15 Sqn. Stirling I N6015 LS-A shot down by night fighters into the sea off Germany, **Sgt W.P. Grant**, Sgt A.M. Metaxa RAF and Sgt J.K. Woodhams RAF killed, P/O R.C.S. Renshaw RAF, Sgt C.R. Batchellor RAF, Sgt D.G. Brown RAF and Sgt S.T. O'Mara RAF missing.
- 29-30 115 Sqn. Wellington II W5459 KO-L shot down by a night fighter over Germany, **P/O J.H. Purser**, F/L J.A.J. Bailey DFC RAF, F/S R.M. Gray DFM RAF, Sgt F.R. Nichols RAF, Sgt E.T. Panes RAF and P/O G.W. Tetlow RAF killed.

Monday

**30 410 Sqn. RCAF formed as a Night Fighter unit on Defiant aircraft, the RCAF's third and last night fighter squadron, and 412 Sqn. RCAF is formed as a fighter**



***unit on Spitfire IIa aircraft (RCAF Sqns.).***

***In the Mediterranean HMS Ark Royal and HMS Victorious launch Hurricane fighters to Malta, making a total of 57 delivered in the last 4 days, all for the protection of the island (D. Sommerville, Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).***

- 30 401 Sqn. Hurricane II damaged when it landed wheels up in error, F/O Weston safe but embarrassed (D. McIntosh).
- 30 608 Sqn. Blenheim IV Z5982 UL-U ditched while on an ASR search, F/S A.P. Best RAF (Can.), P/O Sir Iain W. MacRobert RAF, Sgt H. Hillwood RAF and F/O R.K. Keating RAF (NZ) missing. P/O MacRobert was one of 2 brothers lost in service in the RAF (and a third in a pre-war flying accident). His mother, Lady MacRobert, later presented several aircraft to the RAF, including a Hurricane named *Sir Iain*. See May 17-18, 1942.
- 30 MSFU Canadian built Hurricane I P5188 landed with the flaps up in error following a radio test flight, P/O R.B. McIntyre safe (www.south-lancs-aviation.bravepages.com/P5188-2.htm). See August 9, 1942.
- 30 #1 TTU Beaufort I W6539 force landed in Scotland, observer P/O J.K.D. Williams, P/O R. Anne RAF and Sgt A.W. Stanley RAF killed, Sgt H. Murdoch RAF badly injured (Keith Bryers www.rafbcommands.com).
- 30 #3 ITS, Victoriaville, Quebec, AC2(N) J.O.A. Martin accidentally drowned.
- 30 #6 EFTS, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4208 crashed into some trees 16 miles north of Prince Albert, Sgt D.E. Hall killed.
- 30 #17 EFTS, Stanley, NS, Finch II #4636 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

***30-1 Bomber Command sends 64 bombers to attack targets in the Ruhr valley, 4 lost for light damage recorded (BC War Diaries).***

- 30-1 102 Sqn. Whitley V T4233 DY-K shot down by a night fighter over Holland, F/O L.A. Pullen RAF (Can.), Sgt J. Bruckshaw RAF, Sgt F.G. Coulby RAF, Sgt D. Sills DFM RAF and Sgt J.C. Newlands RAF killed. TSGNO notes F/O Pullen had completed a tour of operations on Hampdens with 61 Sqn.

***Around this time a report from the RAF on the use of the Visual Link Trainer (VLT) for initial aircrew selection determines it is not useful, but in Canada Dr. E.A. Bott, given a copy of the report, decides it's use requires further testing (English). For a description of VLT training see H.D. Bracken, which dates it's use at #2 ITS in Regina in early 1942.***



## July 1941

*The invasion of the Soviet Union had left northwestern France and Holland protected by only 2 Luftwaffe fighter groups. The Allies were limited in the direct support they could give Russia, but when they became aware of the lighter defences they began putting pressure on them with more and larger CIRCUS, RAMROD and ROADSTEAD/LAGOON operations, and more frequent RHUBARB sorties. In response the Luftwaffe units, which had often ignored pure fighter sweeps, were instructed to intercept and oppose all Allied incursions over the region, and this meant that the air war over northwestern Europe would become more intense (FCL V.1).*

*403 Sqn. and 411 Sqn. begin to receive Spitfire IIa aircraft (RCAF Sqns.).*

*De Havilland Aircraft proposes building Mosquito bombers at it's plant in Canada (T. Judge).*

*During the month General Arnold, new commander of the USAAF, is briefed and given details of jet engine development in England, leading to the establishment of a US jet fighter program (ww2total.com Chronology/1944).*

*During the month **WO K.A. Osborn RAF (Can.)** was wounded. He was later taken PoW with 59 Sqn., on some unknown date after 1941 (Allison & Hayward?).*

*Diplomatic pressure on Spain brings the use of German ships in the Canary Islands supplying fuel and food to U-boats to an end (D. Sommerville).*

Tuesday

*1 After further supporting operations in Iraq, and having ferried it's training aircraft out of the country in June, #4 SFTS RAF at Habbaniya was closed on this date (Chris Charland [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).*

*Alexandria attacked by 16 bombers on this night (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).*

*413 Sqn. RCAF formed in Scotland as a Coastal Command flying boat unit equipped with Catalina aircraft.*

*Germans occupy Riga in Latvia (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).*

*USN destroyers based in Newfoundland begin escorting convoys (D. Sommerville).*

**See July 15, below, and note, January 12, 1942.**

- 1 7 Sqn. Stirling I N6013 shot down over the sea by Bf 109 fighters on a daylight operation to Borkum, F/O J. Kinnane MiD RAAF, Sgt F.G. Taylor RAF and F/S B.K. Nicholls RAF killed, **P/O J.G. Elliott**, P/O T.E. Bolton RAF, Sgt K. Huntley RAF and Sgt W.G. Marsh RAF missing.
- 1 91 Sqn. Spitfire Vb R7340 crashed in England on a shipping reconnaissance, **Sgt F.A. Thornber RAF (Can.)** killed.
- 1 #6 (Coastal) OTU, Blenheim I L4851 crashed in England, **Sgt C.L. Vance**, Sgt S.J. Harris RAF and Sgt R.J. Selman RAF killed (G. Warner, quoted by Amrit and mcmillan\_p on www.rafcommands.com).
- 1 #52 OTU, Hurricane I V7596 crashed at Debden, Essex after suffering an engine failure on take off, **Sgt A.S. Hemphill** killed (paulmcmillan at www.rafcommands.com).
- 1 #55 OTU, Hurricane I V6868, crashed when it entered a spin at low altitude during authorized low-flying practice, killing **Sgt M. Fieldhouse** (J. Corbett www.rafcommands.com).
- 1 #57 OTU, Master I N7833 crashed at Mill Lane, Upton, England, killing **P/O J.M. Milmine** and **Sgt H.A. Womack RCAF (USA)** (www.historyofuptonbychester.org.uk).
- 1 #4 SFTS, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, **LAC(P) J. Kugelmass** and **Sgt F.B. Ray RCAF (USA)** killed when their Crane I #7664 crashed near Shellbrook, Saskatchewan. See #12 SFTS loss July 25, 1942.
- 1 #7 B&G School, Paulson, Manitoba, Battle I #1862 flew into the ground, **LAC(WAG) J.A. McWilliams** and **LAC(WAG) W.E. Pilborough** injured. See May 29-30, 1942.
- 1-2 OADU, Wellington Ic Z8730 lost on Ferry flight from Malta to Egypt, Sgt A. Newbould RAF killed, **Sgt J.E. Jamieson**, **Sgt A.J. Lassner**, Sgt S.T. Flowers RAAF, F/S R.R. Jowett RAF, F/S H.G. Simpson RAF and Sgt J.W. Hamborough RAF missing.
- 1-2 Brest attacked by 52 bombers which damage the cruiser Prinz Eugen (BC War Diaries).**
- 1-2 149 Sqn. Wellington Ic R1343 OJ-B lost over France, **Sgt R.H. Crafts**, P/O S.L. St. Vincent-Welch RAAF, Sgt W.M. Symmons RAAF, Sgt C.C. Reidmuller RAF, F/S A.R.J. Harrison RAF and Sgt W.I. Megrar RAF killed. This loss is profiled by G. Saouzanet.

Wednesday

**2 Canadian Women's Auxiliary Air Force authorized (CCMA).**

**Vichy French forces surrounded at Palmyra, Syria, surrender (H.W. Neulen).**

**Japanese leaders decide to abide by it's Neutrality Pact of April and will not attack**

***the Soviet Union despite Germany's attack unless Russia collapses, instead focusing their attention on an advance to the south (Polsson). Japan begins call up of 1 million men for military service (wikipedia). See July 18, below.***

- 2 74 Sqn. Spitfire Vb W3259 shot down over France, **Sgt G.T. Evans** PoW.
- 2 145 Sqn. Spitfire IIb P8536 shot down over France, **F/S J.G.L. Robillard** evaded capture and contacted French civilians. He returned via Gibraltar in October, becoming the RCAF's first evader (CCMA).
- 2 #8 SFTS RAF, Scotland, Master aircraft force landed after an engine failure on take off, **Sgt G. Beurling RAF (Can.)** and his RAF instructor F/O H.H.C. Holderness, safe (Nolan).
- 2 #32 SFTS, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Harvard II #2614 crashed near Buttress, Saskatchewan, **LAC(P) W. Darling** killed, **F/L J. Constarbaris** injured.

***2-3 Bremen was the major focus of Bomber Command with 67 bombers (Wellingtons, Stirlings and Halifaxes), as well as 42 to Cologne, 39 to Duisberg and 13 minor operations, 4 lost (BC War Diaries).***

- 2-3 106 Sqn. Hampden I AD862 shot down by a night fighter over Belgium, Sgt J. Diggory RAF killed, **P/O B.D. Campbell**, P/O R.A. Walker RAF and Sgt J. Henderson RAF PoW.
- 2-3 106 Sqn. Hampden I AD873 lost over Germany, **Sgt R.A. Reid**, F/L J.F. Sharp RAF, Sgt D.C.K. Dunne RAF and Sgt W.F. McKay RAF killed.

Thursday

***3 Stalin makes his first public broadcast since the German invasion, calling for a "scorched earth" policy, leaving nothing useful for Germany to capture, and for guerilla operations behind the front (ww2total.com Chronology/1941, D. Sommerville). He mentions Churchill's offer of assistance "with gratitude" (P. Adair).***

***#21 EFTS, Chatham, NB, opens on this date  
(<http://www.bombercrew.com/BCATP.htm>).***

- 3 401 Sqn. aero engine mechanic **AC1 W.F. Kidd** was killed flying as an unauthorized passenger in a #12 Group Anti-Aircraft Co-operation Flight Blenheim IV Z5870 when it flew into a hill in low mist. The pilot Sgt N. Plotek PAF, and fellow passengers AC2 W. Cottom RAF and AC2 (WOP) R.R. Place RAF were also killed. AC1 Kidd and AC2 Cottom were airmen on leave from RCAF Stn. Digby and had talked Sgt Plotek into giving them a quick lift to Manchester ([www.raf-lincolnshire.info](http://www.raf-lincolnshire.info), [www.peakdistrictaircrashes.co.uk](http://www.peakdistrictaircrashes.co.uk)).
- 3 #14 EFTS, Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4123 entered a spin and crashed on approach, killing **LAC(P) R.L. Miln**.

- 3 #34 SFTS, Medicine Hat, Alberta, Oxford I V3268 crashed near it's base making a forced landing after an engine caught fire in flight, LAC B.A. Belcher RAF and F/O B.C.H. Simms RAF killed (R.W.R. Walker).
- 3 73rd Bomb Sqn. (M), USAAF, Alaska, B-18A 37-466 ditched in shallow water off Prince Rupert, BC, 2Lt P. Clark USAAF and his crew safe (AAIR, Hagedorn & Hagedorn).

**3-4 Bomber Command attacked the Krupp works at Essen using 90 bombers with scattered results due to cloud, and sent 68 bombers to Bremen plus 5 other sorties, 7 bombers lost (BC War Diaries).**

- 3-4 99 Sqn. Wellington Ic T2984 LN-B lost, **Sgt F.J. Day**, P/O J.R.I. Dunn RAF and Sgt S.R. Mayor RAF killed, **Sgt H.M. Robertson**, Sgt G. Kilburn RAF and Sgt W. Stogdale RAF PoW. See also April 30, 1942.
- 3-4 102 Sqn. Whitley V Z6573 shot down over Germany by a night fighter, **Sgt H.W. Fish**, S/L O.R.C. Moseley RAF, P/O H.H. Wells RAF, Sgt P.J.W. Ennis RAF and Sgt R.M. Milligan RAF killed.

Friday

**4 Imprisoned Polish scientists and writers with their families, who had survived the Soviet purge, were captured by advancing German forces at Lwow and murdered (wikipedia).**

**Coal rations limited in England (K. Farrington).**

- 4 609 Sqn. Spitfire V X4664 shot down on a CIRCUS over France, **F/O A.K. Ogilvie DFC RAF (Can.)** bailed out, wounded, and taken PoW. On Sept. 15, 1940 F/O Ogilvie had shot down a Do 17 bomber over London which Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands witnessed, sending him a letter of congratulations. His capture on this day was announced by *Lord Haw Haw*, the German English propagandist, that night, which was unusual and might have been due to the publicity of that event (T. Barris). He later took part in the Great Escape (*Airforce Magazine*, Summer, 1990).
- 4 #19 EFTS, Virden, Manitoba, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4954 destroyed by fire (R.W.R. Walker).

**4-5 Naval ships at Brest (88 bombers), U-boat facilities at Lorient (47) and minor operations at Cherbourg (4), Cologne (2) and Dortmund (2), Düsseldorf (1), and Hamborn (1) plus 5 GARDENING and 2 OTU (NICKEL?) sorties made, 3 bombers lost (BC War Diaries).**

- 4-5 106 Sqn. Hampden I AD986 lost over Germany on a sortie to Dortmund, **P/O L.S. Christman**, Sgt A.E. Brownbill RAF, Sgt S. Linley RAF and Sgt S.C. Morse RAF killed.



Saturday

**5 Ecuador and Peru begin a 3 week war over their border (wikipedia).**

- 5 127 Sqn. Hurricane I V7370 shot down in Syria by Vichy French D.520 fighters, Squadron commanding officer **S/L J.M. Bodman RAF (Can.)** was wounded but walked back. He left the RAF in 1948 as a Wing Commander MiD.
- 5 94 Sqn. Hurricane I V7299 crashed in Egypt, **F/O C.S. Brocklebank RAF (Can.)** killed (www.rafcommands.com).
- 5 400 Sqn. **Sgt D. Hone** died in hospital of natural causes.
- 5 SS *Anselm* torpedoed by U-96 north of the Azores enroute to Freetown, Sierra Leone, 254 lost from 1,320 on board, **AC2 R. Butler RAF (Can. & Nfld.)**, **LAC E.B. Jordan RAF (Can.)**, **LAC A. Martin RAF (Can.)**, **F/L W.T.D. Windham RAF (Can.)** among the 175 RAF missing (www.wrecksite.eu). LAC Martin was a Biggs' Boy (K. Stofer).
- 5 #10 OTU Whitley V Z6667 broke up in the air over England on a night bombing practice, **Sgt F.C. Adams**, **Sgt W.A. Bartleman**, **Sgt R.G. Stratton**, **F/S A.E.W. Lynch** RAF, **Sgt P.H. Morris** RAF and **Sgt G.C.P. Sanderson** RAF killed.
- 5 RNor.AF, Port Credit, Ontario, Douglas A8-5 (Nomad) crashed, **H. Bjornstad** and **J.A. Andersson** killed (wikipedia).

**5-6 Seven He 111 bombers from Greece attacked Alexandria with 1 loss (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).**

**Bomber Command sends 208 aircraft, to Munster (94 bombers), Osnabruck (39), Bielefeld (33) and Magdeburg (16 heavy bombers), Rotterdam (14), GARDENING (7) and 5 OTU sorties, 3 bombers lost (BC War Diaries).**

Sunday

- 6 76 Sqn. **LAC J.E. Armishaw RAF (Can.)** died in hospital in England (www.rafcommands.com). LAC Armishaw was a Biggs' Boy (K. Stofer).
- 6 #1 B&G School, Jarvis, Ontario, Battle I #1803 suddenly burst into flames on a gun camera exercise. The pilot, **F/O H.A. Moore**, was seen by another aircraft trying to contact his two pupils before bailing out with burns, **LAC(AG) R. McNabb RAAF** and **LAC(AG) C. Taggart RAAF** were killed when the aircraft crashed. It is believed they were overcome by smoke from the fire (A. Storr).
- 6 RCAF Station Dartmouth, NS, **Cpl J.M. Riddell** drowned at Cow Bay, NS.

**6-7 The Naval base at Alexandria was attacked by 15 German bombers, some of which were intercepted by radar guided Hurricanes without success (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).**

**Naval ships at Brest were covered by smoke screens when attacked by 109**



**bombers. Munster was attacked by 47 bombers and Dortmund by 46, plus 13 other operations, 6 bombers lost (BC War Diaries).**

- 6-7 77 Sqn. Whitley V Z6642 lost over Holland, **Sgt W.J. Haslem**, Sgt N.C. Bizley RAF, Sgt G.C. Carter RAF, Sgt W. Petch RAF and Sgt W.H.E. Harwood RAF PoW.
- 6-7 115 Sqn. Wellington Ic R1063 KO-D shot down into the North Sea by a night fighter, **Sgt W.A. Strachan**, Sgt O.A. Matthews RNZAF and Sgt A. Webster RAF killed, **Sgt C.S.R. Edwards**, Sgt J.W. Bent RAF and Sgt K.G. MacLeay RAF missing.
- 6-7 405 Sqn. Wellington II W5490 LQ-D returned to base from Dortmund with one engine out but while circling to land the second engine burst into flames and the bomber flew into trees and crashed, F/S A. Luckhurst RAF killed, **Sgt M.G.A. McKernan**, **P/O W.L.S. O'Brien**, F/O R.J. Fraas RAF, Sgt T. Brown RAF and Sgt T.J. Doyle RAF seriously injured. F/O Fraas died of his injuries on July 9. This was one of the Wellingtons that made the RCAF's first bombing operation June 12-13, above (R. Allenby).

Monday

**7 US Forces land in Iceland, relieving British and Canadian forces in occupation at the request of the Icelandic government (Oxford). British, and later Canadian, anti-submarine units continue to be based there.**

**#4 Wireless School, Guelph, Ontario and #9 AOS, St. Jean, Quebec, opened on this day (<http://www.bombercrew.com/BCATP.htm>).**

- 7 918 Balloon Sqn., England, **Cpl L.D.W. Miller RAF (Can.)** drowned attempting to rescue another person (Allison & Hayward; [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 7 #10 OTU Whitley V Z6476 crashed after striking a balloon cable on a night navigation exercise, **Sgt G.E. Buckingham**, F/L D.U. Lowson DFC RAF, P/O N. McCarthy RAF, Sgt G. Farbrother RAF, Sgt S.F. Drummond RAF and P/O J. Graney RAF killed.
- 7 #19 OTU Whitley V P5076 crashed in Scotland after an engine failure, **P/O H.J. Cooper**, **Sgt G.A. Crompton RAF (Can.)**, **Sgt J.C. Steeves**, Sgt J.H. McInnes RAF killed, P/O W.E. Merrifield RAF injured.
- 7 #53 OTU, Spitfire Ia X4607 and Ia X4024 collided in mid-air over Wales, **Sgt L. Goldberg** and **Sgt G.F. Manuel** killed ([www.spitfires.ukf.net](http://www.spitfires.ukf.net)). One of the aircraft crashed into a house in the village of Mount Pleasant, killing Alice Cox (33) and her two daughters, Doreen (3) and Phyllis Evelyn (14). Today there is a mural in the village remembering this tragedy (Ken MacLean and footless at [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 7 #59 OTU Master I T8741 flew into the ground in poor visibility in England, **Sgt K.L. Shonk** and Sgt D.E.B. Augustus RAF killed ([dave.wwww.rafcommands.com](http://dave.wwww.rafcommands.com)).
- 7 Fleet Air Arm Canadian built Hurricane I Z7015 re-built as a Sea Hurricane Ib and accepted for naval service on this day. This aircraft survived the war and was used

as a ground aircraft in the movie *The Battle of Britain* before being restored to air worthy as G-BKTH. It was also modelled by Corgi as a large die-cast in the scheme used by other Canadian built Sea Hurricanes in the battles for Operation PEDESTAL ([www.flyingmule.com](http://www.flyingmule.com)). See August 12, 1942.

- 7 #3 Wireless School, Winnipeg, Manitoba, WAG under training Cpl J.A.D. Fortner died in a car accident at Lockport, Manitoba. According to A. Storr the vehicle was crossing a bridge when it jumped the rail and ended up upside down off the bridge. He notes LAC(AG) A.J. Roberts RAAF and a Mr. Kirkpatrick of Winnipeg were also killed in the crash, and LAC J.E. Sides RAAF and LAC M.L. Glenton-Wright RAAF were both injured.

**7-8 Cologne attacked by 114 bombers which make an accurate attack. Other targets were Osnabruck (72 bombers), Münster (49), Monchengladbach (40) and Frankfurt (17), plus 9 other operations with 12 lost (BC War Diaries).**

- 7-8 9 Sqn. Wellington Ic R1040 shot down over Holland by a night fighter, P/O G.K. Coates, P/O D.J. Jamieson RNZAF, Sgt W.G. Jesson RNZAF, Sgt N.W. Harding RAF, Sgt C.G. Blandon RAF and Sgt J.S. Burnside RAF killed.
- 7-8 10 Sqn. Whitley V Z6816 believed lost off the English coast, Sgt H. Black RAF (Can.), Sgt H.R. Heighton RAF, F/S O.R. Lucas RAF and F/S R.H. Thompson RAF missing.
- 7-8 75 (New Zealand) Sqn. Wellington Ic L7818 AA-V or -R was damaged by a night fighter attack setting the right engine on fire returning from Münster, wounding the rear gunner Sgt A.R.J. Box RNZAF, who damaged and drove off the night fighter. The second pilot, Sgt J.A. Ward RNZAF, climbed out along the fabric covered wing and put out the fire with an engine cover, allowing the aircraft and crew to return to England, for which he received the Victoria Cross. Sgt Box received a DFM (*Aeroplane Monthly*, September, 2001; BCL Vol. 9). His pilot, S/L R.P. Widdowson RAF (Can.), was awarded a DFC. S/L Widdowson finished the war as a Wing Commander (Allison & Hayward). See September 15-16, below.
- 7-8 99 Sqn. Wellington Ic T2880 lost on an operation to Germany, Sgt M.J. Platz, P/O D.A. Elliott, F/L E.A. Masters RAF, P/O J.D. Agrell RAF, Sgt W. Kershaw RAF and Sgt F.A. Hard RAF PoW (lancaster [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)). P/O Elliott was repatriated in 1945 (H. Welting, *ibid.*)

Tuesday

**8 Sino-Japanese War, British embassy in Chungking, already damaged, destroyed by Japanese bombing ([ww2total.com](http://ww2total.com) Chronology/1941).**

**German troops capture 300,000 Soviet soldiers in fighting around Minsk. These troops could have been saved but Stalin had ordered them to defend the**

***border and Red Army doctrine dismissed the German Blitzkrieg tactics as unsound, making no allowance for the speed mechanized units could make in a break through (Oxford). These orders may also have been part of Stalin's Scorched Earth policy (see below). Almost all of these PoWs would die in German camps of disease and starvation (Oxford).***

***Behind the fighting Soviet workers and railwaymen begin a mass dismantling of important industrial facilities, moving them east where they are re-built, sometimes on open land, beginning production while the buildings walls and roofs were erected later, to begin re-arming the Red Army and Air Forces (Oxford). Other cases were recorded in this period of tanks going directly from the factory into combat, to delay German advances while the production facilities were dismantled, manned by factory test crews and volunteer workers.***

***Land communications to Leningrad cut (Oxford).***

***Italy and Germany agree to divide up Yugoslavia between themselves, Hungary, Bulgaria, and an independent Croatia (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).***

***First RAF operation with new Fortress I aircraft at high altitude, attacking Wilhelmshaven (Polsson).***

***Meeting at British Air Ministry agrees in principle to formation of RCAF Bomber Group in England (RCAF Sqns.).***

- 8 7 Sqn. Stirling I N6034 lost over France on a daylight operation, P/O R.D. Morley RAF, Sgt W. Ross RAF, P/O J. Baillie RAF, Sgt R.H. Lomas-Smith RAF and F/S W.G. Williams RAF killed, **Sgt G.S. Edwards** and Sgt L.N. Chappell RAF PoW.
- 8 145 Sqn. Spitfire Va R7263 lost escorting CIRCUS 40, **P/O P.R.I. Pine RCAF (USA)** PoW.
- 8 258 Sqn. Hurricane II Z3346 ZT-E **P/O H.P. Duval RAF (Can.)** shot down over France but managed to evade and return to England, where he was awarded an MiD (JohnE at [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)). See April 27, 1942.
- 8 #11 OTU Wellington I L4355 stalled and crashed practicing night circuits, **Sgt N.H. Burnett**, **Sgt J. Gordon** and Sgt F. Gilliatt RAF killed. W.R. Chorley notes this aircraft was originally built as NZ304 for delivery to the RNZAF.
- 8 #2 SFTS, Uplands, Ontario, aero engine mechanic **AC1 R.N. Wilde** drowned accidentally in the Rideau River when the canoe he was paddling overturned, **LAC R.A. Buckham** and **LAC R.B. Groulx** swam to shore safely (Ottawa Evening Standard <http://www.teunispats.net/fr-wwii.htm>). (Note: a **S/L R.A. Buckham DFC**

- and Bar died in Canada January 15, 1947, possibly the same as LAC Buckham?)
- 8 #3 Wireless School, Winnipeg, Manitoba, DH.82C4 Menasco Moth II #4868 crashed near Lillyfield, Manitoba, killing F/O T.J. Cook.

**8-9 Bomber Command attack Hamm (73 bombers), Munster (51), Bielefeld (33) and the Merseburg oil plant (14), 9 lost (BC War Diaries).**

- 8-9 9 Sqn. Wellington I T2973 WS-G shot down over Germany, Sgt M.E. Burtis, Sgt J.A. Grady RNZAF, Sgt B.G. Pitt RAF, Sgt H.T. Barrett RAF, Sgt F. Gilby and Sgt D.R. Rawlings RAF killed.
- 8-9 44 Sqn. Hampden I AE153 lost without trace, Sgt F.W. Black RAF killed, Sgt M. Livis, F/S E.D. Tyler RAF and F/S K.G. Betts RAF missing.
- 8-9 78 Sqn. Whitley V T4209 EY-W damaged by flak and ditched off the English coast, Sgt D.J. Clow RAF (Can.), Sgt W.M. McQuitty RAAF, P/O E.A. Scott RAF and Sgt W. Forster RAF missing, Sgt J.F. Hafferden RAF survived after swimming 9 miles to shore.
- 8-9 78 Sqn. Whitley V Z6555 crashed in the North Sea, Sgt K. Noddle RAF killed, Sgt C.M. Martin RCAF (UK), Sgt O.W. McLean RAAF, P/O H.H. Mountain RAF and Sgt L. Byrne RAF missing.

Wednesday

**9 Vichy government asks for armistice in Syria (CJCA headline).**

*With the invasion of Russia and the U-boat threat in the Atlantic receding with increased escorts (including USN) a new directive was sent to Bomber Command. Accurate attacks on oil targets were considered too technically difficult, so specific plans were laid out to disrupt Germany's transportation systems (especially rail and canal systems around the Ruhr Valley) and to "destroying the morale of the civil population as a whole and the industrial workers in particular", that is, using area attacks on industrial areas of cities without considering civilian losses. To do this Bomber Command would initially have mainly the same number and types of aircraft as before, as squadrons were taken away for other fronts and commands, and the new heavy bombers were still experiencing technical difficulties. German night fighter and radar defences were getting stronger, and even while the numbers and size of operations increased, so did losses (BC War Diaries). See February 14, 1942 and August 24, 1943.*

- 9 23 Sqn. Havoc I BJ485 crashed just after taking off on a night flying practice England, F/S D.C.C. Graham RAF (Can.), Sgt R.G. Denyer RAF and Sgt A.P.T. Lewis RNZAF killed, P/O G.H. Robinson RAF and Sgt V. Willets (both RAF?) safe (Sgt H. Stone via sussexresearch at www.rafcommands.com). Sgt Stone believes from his



own experience that one of the engine throttles slipped causing the aircraft to stall at low altitude. He pointed out that these aircraft did not have a friction lock on the throttles, a device used to prevent throttle slippage. As well, all the aircraft instruments, systems and manuals were in French, and the crews were learning what did what by trial and error. (He does not mention the throttles working in reverse, the standard for French aircraft at the time, so these may have been modified for RAF use which might explain the lack of a friction lock, but this is just supposition).

- 9 92 Sqn. Spitfire IIa R7195 damaged on a fighter sweep, P/O P.L.I. Archer RCAF (Barbados) wounded. See August 21, 1941.
- 9 #5 EFTS, High River, Alberta, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4986 stalled practicing aerobatics and crashed near Okotoks, Alberta, LAC(P) J.W. Daly RCAF (USA) and Sgt J.A. Malin killed (D. Birrell).

**9-10 Twenty three Ju 88 bombers attacked Alexandria (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).**

**Aachen was attacked for the first time, 82 aircraft making an accurate attack.**

**Bombers also returned to Osnabruck with 57 bombers (BC War Diaries).**

- 9-10 144 Sqn. Hampden I AD924 lost over Belgium, Sgt E.R. Berkey, Sgt G.F. Bottomley RAF and Sgt T.H. Marquiss RAF killed, and P/O B.J.A. Rennie RAF (S. Africa) evaded.

Thursday

**10 Despite having pioneered what would become the strategy of the RAFs and later the USAAFs tactical air forces, A/C Collishaw is relieved of command of #204 Group and sent back to England, where he served in Fighter Command Headquarters, then commanded #14 Group in Scotland before being retired as AVM R. Collishaw CB DSO OBE DSC DFC RAF (Can.). But his tactics in the desert war showed that to win the Allied air forces needed to co-ordinate with the ground forces, and this resulted in the Desert Air Forces becoming the 1<sup>st</sup> Tactical Air Force, and the establishment in England of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tactical Air Force for the invasion of Europe (M. Bechthold).**

- 10 80 Sqn. Hurricane I Z4031, Sgt F.A.W.J. Wilson RAF (Can.) shot down a Vichy Dewoitine D.520 fighter over Syria (Shores and Williams). See November 10, below.
- 10 7 Sqn. Stirling I N6017 lost over the sea off France on a daylight operation, F/O C.V. Fraser DFC RAF (Can.), P/O L.B. O'Reilly RAF, Sgt R.J. Clifton RAF, Sgt E.H. Rogers RAF, Sgt S. Bridges RAF and Sgt W. Wilcox killed, Sgt K.R. Wood RAF missing. F/O Fraser was beginning his second tour of operations on bombers.



- 10 #53 OTU Spitfire Ia X4988 stalled in a practice dog fight and spun into the ground in Wales, **Sgt M.A. Plomteaux RCAF (USA)** killed ([www.spitfires.ukf.net](http://www.spitfires.ukf.net); [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 10 #57 OTU Spitfire Ia R6601 crashed in England, **Sgt R.E.D. Nickerson** killed ([www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).

**10-11 Bomber Command sends 130 bombers to Cologne, but only 62 bomb due to bad weather. Results scattered (BC War Diaries). Middlebrook and Everitt comment that at this time the German civil population believed that the numbers of RAF bombers reported by the BBC as attacking their cities were propaganda as so few bombs were actually being dropped in the reported target areas.**

- 10-11 9 Sqn. Wellington Ic W5739 WS-J lost over France, Sgt S.C. Retter RAF, Sgt H.T.M. Ainscough RAF and Sgt W.J. Tidey RAF killed, **Sgt J.E. Drew** is believed to have died of his injuries in hospital, Sgt J. Pryde RAF and Sgt D.R. Greig RAF PoW.

Friday

**11 In the USA the Office of the Co-ordinator of Intelligence is formed, later the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) (Polsson).**

**German army reaches Kiev, but declines direct assault, begins to outflank city (Oxford).**

**In Syria the commanding Vichy French general accepts terms from the Allied forces, and an armistice begins that evening (D. Newton).**

- 11 15 Sqn. Stirling I N3661 LS-Q had its undercarriage collapse landing from a daylight operation, **Sgt G.K. Henson**, **Sgt H.G. Dickson**, P/O D.F. Legatte RAF, Sgt J.D. Jeffery RAF, Sgt R.B. Strachan RAF, Sgt F. Smith and Sgt V.N. Taylor safe.
- 11 92 Sqn. Spitfire Vb W3183 shot down on an escort for Stirling bombers, **P/O D.C. Dougall** injured and PoW. He lost a leg due to his injuries and was repatriated to England Oct. 25, 1943, married his fiancée, was promoted and decorated with the DFC before returning to Canada ([flyingforyourlife.com](http://flyingforyourlife.com)).
- 11 615 Sqn. Hurricane I V6626 crashed in Wales when it struck a boulder attempting a forced landing on a beach after an engine failure, **P/O A.A. Stephen** killed (John E & CZ\_RAF at [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 11 #16 OTU Hampden AD849 crashed soon after take-off on a bombing exercise, **P/O P.L. Nash**, P/O D.G.L. Buckley RAF (South Africa or South Rhodesia), Sgt J.T. Traviss RAF and Sgt L.A. Webster RAF killed ([www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 11 #6 SFTS, Dunnville, Ontario, Yale #3380 crashed in spin near Byng, Ontario, **LAC(P) W.A. Tibbetts RCAF (USA)** killed.

**11-12 German bombers attack Port Said and Ismailia in Egypt (ww2total.com Chronology/1941). Port Said in Egypt attacked by 52 German bombers (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).**

**Wilhelmshaven attacked by 36 bombers, but most miss or the bombs fall into the harbour (BC War Diaries).**

Saturday

**12 Britain and Russia sign mutual assistance agreement (CJCA headline).**

**#32 EFTS (RAF) formed at #39 SFTS base Swift Current, Saskatchewan (C. Simonsen).**

- 12 33 Sqn. Hurricane Z4268, **F/L V.C. Woodward DFC RAF (Can.)** and 30 Sqn. Hurricane Z4196, F/L Crockett, intercepted and shared in shooting down a German reconnaissance Ju 88 near Alexandria (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1). This was F/L Woodward's last victory. Having been in combat since the beginning of the war in Africa and with a score of 18 confirmed destroyed, 2 unconfirmed, 4 shared victories, 3 probables and 11 damaged, he was the highest scoring Allied pilot in Africa at this time and tied for the second highest scoring Canadian fighter pilot. He was sent to Rhodesia as an instructor and later commanded 213 Squadron. Post war he remained in the RAF, commanding various units flying Hornet, Hunter and Canberra aircraft before retiring in 1963 as a W/C with the DFC and Bar (<http://www.acesofww2.com/Canada/aces/woodward.htm>).
- 12 82 Sqn. Blenheim IV V6524 crashed into the North Sea on a training flight, **Sgt J.N. Hallam** killed, Sgt H. Hastings RAF and Sgt W.L. Hiscock RAF missing.
- 12 #6 (Coastal) OTU Blenheim IV T2123 missing on a training flight in England, **Sgt G.A.J. Richard**, Sgt W.H. Dickens RAF and Sgt I. Price RAF missing ([www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 12 #17 AFU RAF, Blenheim IV Z6360 crashed in England, **Sgt R.J. Smith RAF (Can.)**, P/O R.O. Boon RAF and Sgt J. Tinker RAF killed ([www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 12 #1 CFS, Trenton, Ontario, Harvard I #1350 suffered another accident, it's fifth (R.W.R. Walker). See August 25, below.
- 12 #9 EFTS, St. Catharines, Ontario, Finch II #4710 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).
- 12 #32 SFTS, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, LAC R.F. Turner RAF accidentally drowned.

**12-13 Twenty German bombers attacked the Suez Canal (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).**

***Sixty one bombers attack Bremen (BC War Diaries).***

Sunday

***13 Armistice ends Syria campaign (CJCA headline).***

***First Spanish volunteers leave Spain to fight in Russia (Polsson).***

***First Photo Reconnaissance Mosquito enters service (R. McNeill).***

13 112 Sqn. Tomahawk? shot down over Egypt, **WO C.J. Wallace RAF (Can.)** was taken PoW and was sent to Germany (<http://aircrewremembered.com>).

13 #6 EFTS, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4108 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

13-14 OADU Wellington Ic Z8780 crashed off the coast of Portugal enroute to Gibraltar, **Sgt S.T. McNeill**, **Sgt H.G. Peel**, Sgt D.C. Haynes RAF, Sgt T.V. Davies RAF, Sgt C.J. Dixon RAF and Sgt W.B. Oakes RAF killed.

***13-14 Around 20 German bombers were attacking Suez in Egypt (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).***

***German ports of Bremen, Vegesack and Emden attacked by 69 bombers, but heavy clouds and icing conditions scatter the force, only 17 claim to have bombed the targets and 2 are lost (BC War Diaries).***

***Soviet bombers attack the oil facility at Ploesti in Romania (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).***

Monday

***14 Allies occupy Vichy French controlled Syria and Lebanon (RD Chronology).***

***Believing in a quick victory over Russia Hitler instructs that when it is completed the Luftwaffe will be substantially increased at the expense of the German Army (Polsson). He also plans to have Moscow and Leningrad destroyed to aid his plans to 'Germanify' western Russia, removing millions of people by forced evacuation, starvation or extermination to allow for resettlement by 'German and Germanic peoples' (Oxford). See November, 1942.***

14 #14 EFTS, Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4114 dove into the ground near Oakville, Manitoba, for unknown reasons, killing **Sgt M.M. Mills RCAF (USA)**.

14 #31 SFTS, Kingston, Ontario, Battle I R7474 crashed near Belleville, Ontario, recovering from a spin, LAC R.E. Fellows RAF killed (S. Shail).

**14-15 Bremen (107 bombers), Hannover (85) and Rotterdam (6) attacked plus 10 GARDENING sorties, a total of 208 sorties with 6 losses (BC War Diaries).**

- 14-15 7 Sqn. Stirling I N6022 returned to England with two engines out (due to flak?) and was abandoned over England, P/O D.K. Deyell DFM RAF (Can.) and Sgt J.T. Prentice RAF were injured, F/O D.T. Witt DFM RAF, Sgt L.D.A. Bolton RAF, Sgt A.E. Burrows RAF, Sgt L.E.J. Davenport RAF and F/O J.L.A. Mills RAF safe. Both P/O Deyell and Sgt Prentice recovered, and P/O Deyell served later as Navigation leader for 15 Sqn., then instructed at #31 ANS, Port Albert, Ontario and #2 ANS, Charlottetown, PEI, before returning to Europe as a navigation instructor. He transferred to the RCAF and retired as a Wing Commander (Allison & Hayward).
- 14-15 7 Sqn. Stirling I N6033 MG-W was damaged on an operation over Germany. Returning to base it ran out of fuel over England and was abandoned, Sgt B.K. Madgwick RAF died when he slipped out of his parachute harness, but the rest of the crew, Sgt M. Roach, Sgt C.H. Tourville RAF, Sgt W.H. Robinson RAF, Sgt A. Chambers RAF, Sgt J.M. Donlan RAF and Sgt H. Macrae RAF, were safe (Tom Docherty [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 14-15 214 Sqn. Wellington Ic R1613 BU-G was shot down over Germany by a night fighter, P/O J.C. Jenkins RAF killed, Sgt R. Kent RAF injured, Sgt M.A. Johnson, P/O J.G. Crampton RAF, F/S R. Instone RAF and F/S H.E. Jones RAF PoW. Sgt Kent died of his injuries Aug. 2, 1941.
- 14-15 214 Sqn. Wellington Ic R1614 BU-H lost over the North Sea, P/O V.K. Brown RAF is buried in Holland, Sgt R.D. Hull RAF and F/S W.G. Lewis RAF are buried in England, but Sgt M.R. Collins, Sgt J. Taylor RAF and Sgt J.S. Else RAF have no known grave.
- 14-15 405 Sqn. Wellington II W5534 LQ-N lost, Sgt J.N. Kirk, Sgt D.B. Thrower RAF, P/O R.G.M. Morgan RAF, Sgt V.R.J. Slaughter RAF, Sgt E. Jones RAF and Sgt W.C. Dossetter RAF PoW. Sgt Slaughter made several escape attempts, finally succeeding in 1945, and was later awarded an MBE (405 SH). This aircraft had been one of those that made the first RCAF bomber operation June 12-13, above. Sgt Thrower wrote a book about his experiences, *The Lonely Path to Freedom*. See <http://www.teunispat.net/fr-wwii.htm> for details.

Tuesday

**15 Battle of Smolensk begins ([ww2total.com](http://ww2total.com) Chronology/1941).**

***Answering a distress call from a torpedoed British freighter east of the Azores the former Canadian National liner HMS Lady Somers is torpedoed and sunk by the Italian submarine Morosini. Survivors of both ships were rescued by a Spanish tanker. After this the conversion of the RMS Lady Nelson was re-***



*considered and she was returned to service in the West Indies (J. Boileau; www.uboa.net). See March 10, 1942.*

**#118 (F) Sqn. RCAF on Goblin fighters is re-deployed from Rockcliffe, Ontario to Dartmouth, NS, becoming the only RCAF fighter defence in Eastern Air Command at this time (RCAF Sqns.).**

**#119 (BR) Sqn. Bolingbroke I #706 tested aerobatically by the Test and Development flight at Rockcliffe, Ontario, prior to conversion of these aircraft to fighters using gun packs similar to RAF's Blenheim IVF aircraft. This testing revealed several problems that required attention (424 SH). On this date in a test dive the aircraft reached nearly 400 mph, but damaged it's nose windows and lost it's cockpit overhead hatch on recovery (R.W.R. Walker). See March 1943.**

15 34 Sqn. Blenheim I L8365 crashed near Singapore, Malaysia, F/L B.G. Haylock RAF (Can.), F/S T. Ford RAF and LAC J.K.M. Windrum RAF killed (CWGC; www.rafcommands.com).

15 #13 OTU RAF Blenheim I L6768 crashed practicing night circuits in England, Sgt F.L. Trevillo badly injured.

**mid-July On his way back to England for a new assignment former Commanding Officer of Hong Kong Major Gen. A.E. Grasett DSO MC RE (Can.) meets in Ottawa with his former classmate at Royal Military College Major Gen. H.D.G. Crerar, now Chief of the Defence Staff. Gen. Grasett had opposed the view that Hong Kong was indefensible, and believed that it could be adequately defended if it could be reinforced. Unable to convince authorities in England it seems he laid the ground work for Canada to look favourably on a request for aid for the Colony (Polsson, B. Greenhous).**

**15-16 Duisberg attacked by 38 Wellingtons, 4 lost (BC War Diaries).**

15-16 57 Sqn. Wellington Ic R1624 lost over Belgium, Sgt H.E. Robinson, Sgt G.D. Osborne RNZAF, Sgt C.P. Blackburn RAF, Sgt G.C. Caesar RAF, Sgt A.W. Evans RAF and Sgt P. Wilson RAF killed.

15-16 75 (New Zealand) Sqn. Wellington Ic R3171 lost off the Dutch coast, Sgt J.H.C. Roberts and Sgt R.E.E. Fotheringham RNZAF killed, Sgt E.V.K. Higgins RAAF, Sgt S.A. Dyer RNZAF, Sgt P.E. Hare RNZAF and Sgt D.M. MacKinnon RNZAF missing.

15-16 75 (New Zealand) Sqn. Wellington Ic W5663 damaged by flak and a night-fighter over the Ruhr Valley but returned to England, Sgt D.C. Joyce RNZAF killed, Sgt D.H. Conibear RAF died of injuries, Sgt H. Gwyn-Williams injured, P/O R.C.A. Hunter RCAF (Jamaica) bailed out and taken PoW, P/O W.J. Rees RAF safe (www.rafcommands.com; CWGC). See October 15-16, below.



15-16 115 Sqn. Wellington Ic R1222 KO-H shot down by a night fighter over Holland, **Sgt W.J.H. Hartry**, F/S N.C. Cook RAF, Sgt R. Palmer RAF, Sgt K.P. Campbell RAF, Sgt W.T. McDonald RAF and Sgt F. Fullard RAF killed.

Wednesday

**16 Finnish forces reach Lake Ladoga east of Leningrad.**

**Stalin's son, an artillery officer, captured by Germans near Smolensk (wikipedia, <http://www.worldwar-2.net/timelines>). He later died in a concentration camp.**

**#116 (BR) Sqn. RCAF Catalina out of Dartmouth, NS, attacks a U-boat without result as the bombs did not explode (CCMA).**

16 #13 OTU RAF Blenheim I L6767 crashed in England practicing night circuits, **Sgt F.L. Turner** killed.

16 #4 SFTS, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Crane I #7709 crashed near the city, LAC G.E. Baker RAF killed. See #12 SFTS loss July 25, 1942.

16 #34 SFTS, Medicine Hat, Alberta, Oxford II AS494 crashed and burned near Vauxhall, Alberta on an instrument flight, **LAC(P) D.L. Kennedy**, F/L P.J. Lea RAF and F/O A.A. Purkiss-Ginn RAF killed.

**16-17 Suez and Port Tewfik were attacked by 24 Ju 88 bombers (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).**

**Bomber Command sends 107 bombers to Hamburg (of which only half report bombing the target and the rest alternates) plus 20 other operations. Four bombers were lost (BC War Diaries).**

16-17 40 Sqn. Wellington Ic X3220 BL-H crashed in England returning from a sortie, **Sgt W.E. Gibb**, S/L R.G. Weighill RAF, Sgt R.D. Hesketh RAF, Sgt D.A. Price RAF, Sgt V.H. Lang RAF and P/O A.W. Wilson RAF killed. The wreck site was excavated by a local museum group in 1984.

16-17 40 Sqn. Wellington Ic X9630 BL-J came down off the coast of Holland, Sgt A.W.P. Bird RNZAF, Sgt L.J. Harrison RAF and Sgt B. Hassall RAF killed, **Sgt O.I. Platt** and Sgt B.F.T. Johnson RAF missing, **P/O J.R. Jamieson** PoW.

16-17 50 Sqn. Hampden I AD844 failed to return after requesting homing bearings, **P/O R.G. Mitchell**, P/O H.M. Owens RAF, F/S D.E. Russell RAF and Sgt R.W. Owen RAF missing.

Thursday

**17 General Franco condemns the USA for refusing to sell further wheat to Spain, and [publicly?] supports the German attack on the Soviet Union**

(<http://www.worldwar-2.net/timelines>).

- 17 72 Sqn. Spitfire IIb P8544 hit by flak over Dunkirk and ditched in the Channel, **F/O L.B. Fordham RAF (Can.)** left the aircraft but died of exposure before air/sea rescue arrived. He had served for several years in the RCMP prior to joining the RAF (Allison & Hayward).
- 17 #13 OTU RAF Blenheim IV R3805 crashed when both engines failed in the landing circuit, **Sgt D.J. Calderone** and Sgt G.D. Davies RAF killed, Sgt A. Griffiths RAF injured ([www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 17 #14 OTU Hampden I P1278 crashed after taking off when an engine caught fire, **P/O J.N. Bowker RAF (Can.)** and Sgt J.W. Rowe RAF killed.
- 17 #1 Technical Training School, St. Thomas, Ontario, **AC2 V.L. Colling** died of natural causes.
- 17 #3 Bombing & Gunnery School, MacDonald, Manitoba, carpenter **Sgt T. Thordarson** died in a car accident.

**17-18 Cologne attacked by 75 bombers (BC War Diaries).**

- 17-18 149 Sqn. Wellington Ic N2853 OJ-R was hit by flak over Germany. Returning to England the pilot attempted a force landing but at the last minute was blinded by a search light and crashed through some trees, Sgt P. Gibbins RAF killed, **Sgt J.M. Dixon**, Sgt D.C. Stewart RNZAF, Sgt H.F. Jordan RAF, Sgt Brookes RAF and Sgt J.R. Main RAF injured ([www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).

Friday

**18 Stalin sends urgent appeal to Churchill suggesting an invasion in the West or in Arctic Norway to take pressure off the Soviet Army. Churchill replies such an invasion would be defeated at this time (Polsson, P. Adair).**

**Boeing Clipper flying boat arrives at Gander Lake, leaving the next day for England, making the first use of the seaplane facility there by passenger flying boats (C.F. Warren et al). See Feb. 22, 1943.**

**In Tokyo a new Cabinet is formed that eliminates those who support Japan joining Germany in attacking the USSR. It is hoped this will allow a peaceful settlement with the USA on Japan's position in Asia (D. Sommerville).**

- 18 217 Sqn. Beaufort I AW189 AW-X lost on a shipping strike off France, **F/L T.F. Kerr RAF (Can.)**, Sgt A.D. Scott RNZAF, Sgt A. Windle RAF and P/O E.C. Whitehead RAF killed.
- 18 #59 OTU Hurricane I V7534 flew into a hill in England in bad visibility, **P/O J.K. Roberts** killed.

- 18 #5 EFTS, High River, Alberta DH.82C Tiger Moth #4078 crashed on a solo practice flight, **LAC(P) F.F.S. Oldham** killed (D. Birrell).

Saturday

**19 "V for Victory" campaign begun in England. Broadcasts to occupied territories suggest the use of "V" graffiti and use of Beethoven's 5th Symphony (whose opening notes spells "V" in morse code). Germany responds by banning broadcast or performances of the 5th Symphony.**

**To reinforce it's military in Iceland P-40 fighters are flown off the aircraft carrier USS Wasp (D. Sommerville).**

**A state of emergency is declared in Bolivia following discovery of Axis agents (<http://www.worldwar-2.net/timelines>).**

- 19 15 Sqn. Stirling I N6018 LS-C hit by flak and shot down by fighters over France on a daylight operation, Sgt D.H. Jeeves RAF, Sgt L.O. Orchard RAF, P/O A. Hipps RAF, Sgt P.H. Eve RAF, Sgt S.N. Symondson RAF and P/O J.R. Bushell DFM killed, **Sgt G. Armstrong** and S/L T.W. Piper RAF PoW (Joss [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 19 92 Sqn. Spitfire Vb W3326 lost on a fighter sweep, **Sgt G.C. Waldern** missing.
- 19 #27 OTU Wellington Ic R1366 clipped a hangar practicing night landings and crash landed, **Sgt R.L. Cox**, Sgt Cameron and Sgt R. Donnoan (both RAF?) injured ([www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)). See June 1-2, 1942.

**19-20 German bombers attacked Alexandria (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).**

**Railway yards at Hannover attacked by 49 bombers while 35 GARDENING sorties of the Weser and Elbe rivers carried out with 2 bombers lost (BC War Diaries).**

Sunday

**20 RAF Ferry Command formed in Montreal from the Canadian Pacific operated ATFERO.**

- 20 217 Sqn. Beaufort I L9970 MW-B lost on a ROVER patrol over the Bay of Biscay, **Sgt M. Gillies**, Sgt S.W. Jarvis RAF, Sgt R.S.C.T. Griffin RAF and Sgt G. Godwin RAF all taken PoW.
- 20 #57 OTU two Spitfire Ia aircraft engaged in a formation exercise collided killing **F/S I.R.A. Beaton** in aircraft K9821 and **Sgt R.J. Kempling** in K9825(?) ([paulmcmillan.com](http://paulmcmillan.com)).
- 20 #9 SFTS, Summerside, PEI, Harvard II #2693 shed a wing and crashed, possibly after a mid-air collision with Harvard II #2852. **LAC(P) A.H. Keith** died in #2693 and

LAC(P) J.J. O'Donnell was injured in #2852 attempting a forced landing. See July 22, below.

20 unknown unit, LAC H.J. Killner RAF accidentally drowned at Bird's Hill, Manitoba

**20-21 Bomber Command sends 113 bombers to the rail yards in Cologne, but with poor results due to cloud cover (BC War Diaries).**

Monday

**21 Convoy of seven supply ships with heavy RN escort leaves Gibraltar for Malta (<http://www.worldwar-2.net/timelines>).**

**In the USA President Roosevelt asks Congress to extend peacetime conscription, due to expire, from 12 to 30 months, starting a heated debate in Washington (D. Sommerville). See August 18, below.**

**#2 Air Navigation School formed at Pennfield Ridge, NB, on this date (Chris [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)). #10 AOS opens at Chatham, NB (<http://www.bombercrew.com/BCATP.htm>).**

**Civilian use of nickel cut (CJCA headline). Among other measures the Nickel coin is replaced with a plated steel version.**

21 145 Sqn. Spitfire Va R7253 failed to recover from a spin and crashed in England during a search for a crashed aircraft, Sgt W.D. Gilbert killed ([www.spitfires.ukf.net](http://www.spitfires.ukf.net)).

21 #52 OTU Canadian made Hurricane I P5208, 2Lt M. Ree RNor.AF, collided with Hurricane I V7572, P/O T.C. Paterson RAF. Both airmen survived with slight injuries (discussion page <http://www.rafcommands.com/forum/showthread.php?3265-Unaccounted-airmen-21-7-1941>).

21 #59 OTU Hurricane I W9112 flew into a hill in Scotland in bad weather, Sgt G. Stevenson killed.

21 #6 EFTS?, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4208 damaged at Prince Albert, Saskatchewan and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

21 Little Norway, Toronto Island Airport, Cornell T40-211 crashed offshore of Centre Island after a collision, FLS Kåre Moe RNor.AF killed (K. Larsson).

**21-22 First large air raid on Moscow by German bombers. 127 Luftwaffe bombers with markers drop 110 tons of bombs in the face of heavy anti-aircraft artillery defences. Subway stations used for air raid shelters, which was part of their original design (<http://www.worldwar-2.net/timelines>).**

**First major attack on Frankfurt by 71 bombers, but very little damage done.**

***Mannheim city centre attacked by 44 bombers, plus 9 other sorties, 1 bomber lost over Europe (BC War Diaries).***

- 21-22 44 Sqn. Hampden I AD983 crashed into the residence of a girls school in England returning from a GARDENING sortie, **Sgt W.R.B. Relyea**, Sgt D.M. Bruce RAF, Sgt J.A. Connolly RAF and Sgt P.J. Lynch RAF were killed in the crash, a civilian, Miss E.C. Fowle, died of injuries on the ground.
- 21-22 115 Sqn. Wellington Ic Z8788 KO-H lost over Belgium, **Sgt N.L. Johnston**, Sgt F.S. Payne RAF, Sgt R.S. Saunders RAF, Sgt H. Tucker RAF, Sgt H. Vernon RAF and Sgt B.W. O'Hara RAF killed.

Tuesday

***22 German cruiser Scharnhorst moves from Brest to La Pallice (Polsson).***

- 22 603 Sqn. Spitfire V W3369 dove into the sea, possibly due to oxygen failure, **P/O P. Delorme RAF (Can.)** missing ([www.spitfires.ukf.net](http://www.spitfires.ukf.net)).
- 22 #11 OTU Wellington Ic R1334 crashed in England after a mid-air collision with a 3/NJG-2 Ju 88C-4 nightfighter R4+B1. **Sgt F.S. Houston**, **Sgt P.T. Manning**, F/S W.A. Hannah RAF, Sgt B.C. Thompson RAAF, Sgt C.M.S. Lewis RAF, F/S J. Stewart RAF, Sgt R.E. Hibbert RAF and Sgt R.A. McAllister killed on the Wellington. The crew of the Ju 88, Lt H. Völker, Fw A. Wurstl and Uffz H. Indenbirken, were also killed. A photo of Sgt Manning can be found in J.C. Lovelace, but the written details are not reliable.
- 22 #16 OTU Canadian built Hampden I P5305 undershot a landing and was written off when it hit a tree on a night flight, P/O M.W. Major RAF (S. Rhod.) killed, Sgt Butler injured, Sgt D.F. Stephen and Sgt A.C. Willis safe (H. Moyle).
- 22 #116 (BR) Sqn. Canso? (Catalina?), **F/L N.E. Small**, attacks a suspected U-boat near Halifax (I. Wikene).
- 22 #1 Central Flying School, Trenton, Ontario, Harvard II #2520 crashed just after taking off from Mountain View, Ontario, on a night training exercise, **Sgt D.J. Young** killed.
- 22 #9 SFTS, Summerside, PEI, **LAC(P) J.J. O'Donnell** succumbed to injuries received July 20.

***22-23 Suez in Egypt attacked by German bombers (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).***

***RAF Bombers return to Frankfurt (63) and Mannheim (29), plus 19 to Dunkirk, 5 GARDENING off Brest and 5 OTU sorties (BC War Diaries).***

***Outside of Moscow Soviet Pe-2 aircraft were used as fake "pathfinders" by bombing their own decoy target, which lured a German bomber force to the decoy (Passingham & Klepacki). This deception was used on other nights as well.***



Wednesday

**23 Photo Reconnaissance spots the Scharnhorst at La Pallice, and that evening the first of a series of attacks (6 Stirlings) were made to hit this so far undamaged ship before it could leave on an anti-shipping cruise in the Atlantic (BC War Diaries).**

**RN destroyer sunk, and a cruiser and a destroyer damaged by Italian air attacks escorting the Malta convoy (<http://www.worldwar-2.net/timelines>).**

- 23 144 Sqn. pilot **Sgt F.J. Smith RAF (Nfld.)** died in hospital in England ([www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 23 205 Sqn. Catalina I W4826 missing near the Seychelles on a flight from Singapore, **F/L E.W. Young RAF (Can.)**, F/S G.J. Bishop RAF, F/O A.T. Grieve RAF, Sgt F. Griffin RAF, LAC R.C. Hoddell RAF, F/S R.J.L. Larwood RAF, F/S B.D. Lyon RAF, F/S P.J. Magee RAF, AC2 J.A. Skinner RAF and F/S C.M. Williamson RAF missing (CWGC; [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 23 18 Sqn. Blenheim IV R3666 WV-K lost on an anti-shipping operation off Holland, **Sgt W.M.G. Dunham**, Sgt R.W. Adamson RAF and Sgt N.L. Harding RAF missing, although it is possible Sgt Adamson is buried in Holland.
- 23 21 Sqn. Blenheim IV V6321 YH-Z lost off Belgium, **Sgt H.P. Hartridge**, Sgt K.B. Minty RAF and Sgt C.D. Phillips RAF killed.
- 23 21 Sqn. Blenheim IV Z7438 YH-D shot down off Ostend, Sgt J.P. Sullivan RAF killed, **F/L F.L. Campbell-Rogers RAF (Can.)** and Sgt D.E. Bingham RAF PoW ([www.worldnavalships.com](http://www.worldnavalships.com)).
- 23 401 Sqn. Hurricane II was hit and damaged over France on a fighter sweep, and overturned in England making a forced landing, **Sgt Northcott** injured. See November 22, below.
- 23 603 Sqn. Spitfire Va R7341 ditched on an air sea rescue flight after his engine failed. **P/O H. Blackall RAF (Can.)** was picked up but died later.
- 23 #118 (F) Sqn. RCAF, Dartmouth, NS, Goblin #336 crashed **Sgt R.M. Bryant** killed.
- 23 #1 Manning Depot, Toronto, Ontario, **AC2 A.W. Deavy** died in hospital of natural causes.

**23-24 Frankfurt, Mannheim and La Pallice attacked (33, 51 and 30 bombers respectively), plus 12 other sorties (BC War Diaries).**

Thursday

**24 On urging by Army Minister General Tojo, Japan forces French administration in Indo-China to sign a Treaty for Defence, giving the Japanese Army permission to occupy more bases in Saigon and other locations in Indo-China (RD Chronology or Shores?).**

**Convoy arrives at Malta, losing 1 merchant ship to Italian torpedo boats  
(<http://www.worldwar-2.net/timelines>).**

**Long planned daylight attacks on German capital ships in Brest (100), Cherbourg (36) and La Pallice (15 unescorted Halifax) launched. At La Pallice 5 of the Halifax bombers are lost and the rest damaged, but in return they damage the Scharnhorst, putting it out of service for the remainder of the year (BC War Diaries, D. Sommerville). German Navy decides to remove Scharnhorst back to Brest for repairs. This brings a total of 4 German capital ships damaged by RAF attack in the last few months, plus the Bismarck sunk by the Navy.**

- 24 44 Sqn. Hampden I AD962 shot down into the sea by fighters on a daylight attack on Brest, **P/O J.M. Grant** missing, F/O J.F. Clayton DFM RAF, Sgt A.J. Clarke RAF and Sgt W.F. O'Brien RAF rescued and taken PoW.
- 24 75 (New Zealand) Sqn. Wellington Ic N2854 lost without trace on a daylight attack on Brest, France, **Sgt W. Owen**, Sgt D.F. Streeter RNZAF, Sgt G.S. Walker RNZAF, Sgt R.P. Carling RAF, Sgt R.J. Turner RAF and Sgt R.S.C. Craig RAF missing.
- 24 144 Sqn. Hampden I AE225 shot down on a daylight attack on Brest, P/O P.G. Anderson RAF, Sgt A.B. Cooper RAF and Sgt D. Parkin RAF killed, **F/L R.B. Barr RAF (Can.)** and Sgt J.E. Wiggall RAF taken PoW. In 1998 a memorial to the crew killed was unveiled in France (gildas [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com); <http://www.airfieldinformationexchange.org>).
- 24 218 Sqn. Wellington Ic R1726 HA-O shot down into the sea off Brest, P/O M. Jolly RNZAF, Sgt A.C. Moss RAF, Sgt H.R. Barton RAF and P/O L.P. Kolitz RAF missing, **Sgt W.L. Jacobsen** and Sgt J.D. Knott PoW (R. McNeill PoW List RAF Commands).
- 24 405 Sqn. Wellington II W5551 LQ-U shot down over France, F/O R.G.M. Whigham RAF killed, **P/O W.M. MacKay** and Sgt R.H. Westburg RAF PoW, **Sgt M.H.J. Dalphond** was an evader but was taken PoW, **W/C P.A. Gilchrist DFC RAF (Can.)** and **Sgt J.S. Paton** ([www.conscript-heroes.com](http://www.conscript-heroes.com) MI-9 files) evaded. W/C Gilchrist of Weyburn, Saskatchewan was 405's first commanding officer, and had survived the loss of a 35 Sqn. Halifax I L9489 on March 10-11, above, Bomber Commands first Halifax loss. He later commanded 59 Squadron on Coastal Command Liberators, then transferred to the RCAF and retired as an Air Commodore. As a PoW Sgt Dalphond made 2 escapes, the last successful with over 50 other escapers, for which he received an OBE. He later re-mustered as a pilot and retired as a Squadron Leader. A detailed account of the loss and the evasions can be found in *405 Squadron History*.
- 24 405 Sqn. Wellington II W5537 LQ-O lost attacking Brest on a daylight attack, **Sgt J.C. Crump**, **Sgt J.L.B. Martin**, Sgt J.A. Fawkes RAF, Sgt C. Tatton RAF, Sgt A.G.L. Mitchell RAF and P/O R.V. Trueman RAF missing (405 SH).

- 24 405 Sqn. Wellington II W5581 LQ-V "V-for-Victor" was badly damaged and set on fire by fighters over France but returned to England where it ditched just off shore, rear gunner Sgt G.K. Higgins RAF wounded, Sgt J.W. Craig RAF and Sgt H.S. McNeill RAF injured, Sgt R. Leonard RAF, Sgt Bain RAF and Sgt J.J. Hughes RAF safe. Sgt Higgins claimed to have shot down 2 of the fighters that attacked this bomber (www.rafdavidstowmoor.org, FF Years).
- 24 405 Sqn. Wellington II W5530 LQ-L attacked by fighters over France and made an emergency landing in southern England, rear gunner Sgt H. Dearnley RAF badly wounded, **Sgt P.S. McNutt**, P/O C.C. Lockyer RAF, Sgt R. Perkin RAF and Sgt J.S. Courtnall RAF safe (www.rafcommands.com). See July 25, below.
- 24 405 Sqn. Wellington II LQ-Q "Q-for-Queenie", Sgt Farmborough, Sgt Saunders, Sgt Beach, Sgt Angus, Sgt Thorogood and rear gunner F/S R. E. Parsons RAF was attacked by a Bf 109 which was shot down by F/S Parsons in a fight that earned him a DFM (FF Years). F/S Parsons DFM, promoted to F/O, was lost in a 462 Squadron RAAF Halifax II W7758 near Sicily July 14-15, 1943 (A. Storr). Aircraft possibly W5564 (Bill Walker at www.rafcommands.com).
- 24 #7 Aircraft Assembly Unit, England, Canadian built Hampden I P5316 collided in flight with a #19 EFTS RAF Tiger Moth II N5447 and both crashed, test pilot Captain Bailey was killed in the Hampden attempting a crash landing at RAF Station Thornaby, as well as #6 OTU AC2 M. Whitehead RAF killed, AC A. Dorset RAF, AC F.H. Matheson RAF and AC E. Greenwood RAF injured on the ground when they were hit by the bomber, and Sgt F.R. Westcott RAF and passenger 2Lt I.M. McColl Lancashire Fusiliers were killed in the Tiger Moth (H. Moyle; www.aviation-safety.net; www.rafcommands.com).
- 24 #21 OTU Wellington Ic T2458 crashed in England on a cross country and bombing exercise, **Sgt E.R. Kennedy**, **Sgt J.F. MacMillan**, **F/O C.F. Sutcliffe RAF (Can.)**, Sgt I.R. MacIntosh RAF, Sgt J.H. Snowden RAF, F/S A.H. Bell RAF and Sgt K.T. Robertson RAAF killed.
- 24 #59 OTU Canadian built Hurricane I P5190 ran out of fuel while lost and belly landed in Northern Ireland, **Sgt J.E. Griffin** safe. The aircraft was re-built as a Mark II, Serial DG623 (disputed) (Acia man and H. Welting www.rafcommands.com).
- 24 #1 CFS, Trenton, Ontario, Finch II crashed at South Lake Consecon south of the air base (R.W.R. Walker).

**24-25 Kiel attacked by 64 bombers, and Emden by 47 bombers, with 10 minor operations, 4 lost (BC War Diaries).**

- 24-25 57 Sqn. Wellington Ic R1369 lost off the Frisian Islands, **Sgt R.E. Drake**, Sgt C.D. Lynch RAF and Sgt F.L. Green RAF killed, Sgt H.P. Lynch RAF missing, Sgt M.D. Hennessy RAF and Sgt L.W. Collins RAF PoW.

Friday

**25 Canada freezes Japanese assets (CJCA headline). Due to events in French Indo-China? See July 26, below.**

**German battlecruiser Scharnhorst returns to Brest for repairs.**

25 RAF Ferry Command Hudson III AE640 crashed on the Mull of Kintyre, Scotland, **Radio Operator W. Bratherton (Can.)**, **F/L K.F. Arnold RAF (Can.)** and Sgt P. Keast RAF killed ([www.peakdistrictaircrashes.co.uk](http://www.peakdistrictaircrashes.co.uk)).

25 405 Sqn. Sgt H. Dearnley RAF died of his wounds (405 SH.)

**25-26 Bomber Command sends 55 bombers to Hannover, 43 to Hamburg, and 9 to Berlin, losing 10 (BC War Diaries).**

25-26 10 Sqn. Whitley V T4231 ZA-A crashed in Belgium, **Sgt C.W.F.D.E. Lawson RAF (Can.)**, F/O W. McN. Spiers MiD RAF, Sgt W. Puttick RAF, P/O H.J. Daniels RAF and Sgt D.B. Beverly RAF killed.

25-26 102 Sqn. Whitley V Z6576 shot down by a night fighter over the North Sea, **Sgt W.A. McGinley RAF (Can.)**, S/L E.A. Verdon-Roe RAF, P/O W.L. Rees RAF, Sgt A.R. Holmes RAF and Sgt L. Netherclift RAF missing.

25-26 #10 (BR) Sqn. RCAF, Gander, Newfoundland, Digby #742 crashed near Gander returning from a patrol over Convoy WH-140, struck the ground flying at very low altitude on it's fourth attempt to land in bad weather, **Cpl T.J.L. Crawford**, **Sgt M.S. Hunt**, **P/O W.H. Mather RCAF (UK)**, **Sgt R.L. McDavid**, **P/O A.G. Pratt** and **P/O M.E. Tomsett** killed (R.W.R. Walker). These were the first RCAF airmen killed at Gander, and as it was thought they would not be the last, a cemetery was laid out and these airmen were the first to be interred in it (Dr. L. Daly <http://www.planecrashgirl.ca/2016/02/>)

Saturday

**26 In response to Japanese expansion into French Indo-China the US President Roosevelt halts trade with Japan, all Japanese assets in USA are frozen, cutting off Japan from US oil shipments.**

**England ends all commercial agreements with Japan (C.E. Hipperson).**

**In a defensive measure President Roosevelt orders that the armed forces of the Philippines be incorporated into the US military. Philippine Army commander, retired US General Douglas MacArthur, is re-instated into the US Army and given overall command of the defence of the Islands (D. Sommerville).**



**26-27 German bombers attacked Alexandria with one loss (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).**

Sunday

- 27 242 (Canadian) Sqn. Hurricane II Z3563 shot down by Bf 109s while escorting a Motor Torpedo Boat off France, **Sgt G.A. Prosser RAF (Can.)** missing.
- 27 #10 OTU Anson I R3306 crashed after hitting wires over a road at low level supporting an Army exercise in England, **P/O W.H. Arnold**, **Sgt G.E. Fleming**, F/O A.D. Frampton DFC RAF and Sgt R.E. Woolston RAF killed (J.V. Watts).
- 27 #6 EFTS, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, **LAC(P) R.H. Hendrix RCAF (USA)** drowned accidentally at Lake Waskesiu, Saskatchewan.
- 27 #11 SFTS, Yorkton, Saskatchewan, Harvard "3147" crashed while practising night landings near Sturdee, Saskatchewan, killing **LAC(P) J.J. McCormick** (R.W.R. Walker notes that this aircraft survived the war, a/c possibly Harvard II #3146 destroyed in a crash on this date from this unit).
- 27 #18 EFTS, Boundary Bay, BC, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4270 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

**27-28 German bombers attack Suez (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).**

**Fifty Luftwaffe bombers attack London, 4 lost (<http://www.worldwar-2.net/timelines>).**

- 27-28 OADU Wellington Ic X9689 left Gibraltar for Malta but suffered an engine failure over Algeria. The pilot, Sgt R.V. Mount RAF, ordered the crew to bail out before he crash landed the aircraft. He later died in hospital from injuries. The rest of the crew, **Sgt J. Templeton**, P/O D.W. Garland RNZAF, Sgt C.W. Belcher RNZAF, Sgt H.C. Gibbins RAF and Sgt A. MacKie RAF, were safe but were interned until November 1942.

Monday

**28 Japanese troops land in Saigon, soon airbases are established there within range of Singapore (Shores, Cull & Izawa).**

**In retaliation for actions by England, Canada and the USA, their assets in Japan are frozen (D. Sommerville). These measures halt 75% of Japan's trade with other countries and reduces total oil imports by 90% (D. Sommerville), threatening to cripple the nations economy.**

**Oil exports from the Netherlands East Indies to Japan are stopped (C.E. Hipperson).**

**Finland and England break relations (CJCA headline).**



- 28 #10 OTU Whitley V T4323 crashed while landing after a night bombing practice, **Sgt P.P. Chapman, Sgt J.B. Kamedish, Sgt C. Pullan**, Sgt C. Cawthorne RAF and P/O P.C. Chappell RAF killed.
- 28 #21 OTU Wellington Ic X3198 flew into the ground in fog on a cross country exercise, **Sgt W.J. Chevers, Sgt W.H. Hindle, Sgt H.B. Webster**, Sgt C.C. Ostensfeld RAAF, Sgt G.M. Scott RAF (Rhodesia), Sgt C.G.A. Christy RAF and Sgt G.S. Parry RAF killed.
- 28 #16 EFTS, Edmonton, Alberta, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4184 crashed 2 miles east of Blatchford Field (in what is now a residential area) when a wing folded back during a practice dive, **LAC(P) J.W.H.L. Monfette** killed, his instructor survived.

**28-29 RAF bombers attack airfields in Sicily, destroying 36 aircraft**  
**(<http://www.worldwar-2.net/timelines>).**

Tuesday

**29 Proposal by Canadian Defence Minister to increase overseas Canadian Army from 4 to 6 divisions turned down at Cabinet (Polsson), possibly due to concerns about conscription.**

**Japan freezes all Dutch assets in Japan (C.E. Hipperson) in retaliation for the oil embargo.**

- 29 18 Sqn. Whitley V Z6838 crashed almost immediately after taking off, probably due to jammed ailerons, **Sgt Turnbull** and his crew safe.
- 29 411 Sqn. Spitfire IIa P7755 presumed to have come down in the sea on a training flight, **Sgt R.M. Murray RCAF (USA)** killed ([www.spitfires.ukf.net](http://www.spitfires.ukf.net)).
- 29 #12 (Comm) Sqn. Yale #3464 has it's second accident in 2 months. L. Zipkin has an image of one of these accidents in his article on this aircraft. #3464 was the first NA-64 Yale built under the contract for French aircraft and was taken over by North American Aviation as the development aircraft, registered NX13397. It was sold to the RCAF in August 1940, becoming #3464, the last Yale serial number in the RCAF, and after service with #12 (Comm) Sqn. was used as a wireless trainer before being sold surplus to Ernie Simmons, one of 39 he owned, the last of their kind. This machine has now been restored to flight in it's original NAA markings as NX133397.

Wednesday

**30 Polish-Russian Pact signed (CJCA headline) dissolving 1939 Soviet-German border treaties, recognizing Poland as a country and leading to formation of a Soviet equipped Polish army to fight invading Germans (Polsson). Recruits to come from Polish soldiers released from Soviet prison camps. Many of these**

***chose to go to England instead to join the Free Polish Army, where they gave to the West the first reliable and documented accounts of Stalin's political prison system, the Gulags, where the life span of most prisoners was said to be "one winter" (Oxford).***

***RN aircraft carrier HMS Furious attacks Petsamo in Finland while HMS Victorious attacks Kirkenes in Norway with heavy losses of 13 (of 29) aircraft over Kirkenes, and 3 (of 24) at Petsamo (<http://www.worldwar-2.net/timelines>).***

- 30 18 Sqn. Blenheim IV L9240 WV-G shot down in Germany on an attack on the Kiel Canal, **Sgt J.M. Jarrell**, Sgt H.D. Cue RAF and Sgt P.C. Brewer RAF PoW. W.R. Chorley notes that this aircraft had had a long career, having been involved in fighting in France in 1940. Sgt Jarrell was badly burned, but was treated by a German born doctor who had been raised and trained in the USA. When released from hospital he became involved in many escape attempts including the Great Escape (T. Barris).
- 30 139 (Jamaica) Sqn. Blenheim IV V6266 one of four shot down over the sea on an anti-shipping strike, **Sgt G.R. Menish RCAF (USA)**, P/O P. Brown RAF and Sgt R. Haley RAF missing.
- 30 403 Sqn. Spitfire IIa P7825 was seen to dive out of cloud and crash in England, **Sgt L. Girman** killed ([www.spitfires.ukf.net](http://www.spitfires.ukf.net); [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 30 407 Sqn. Hudson V AM719 crashed practicing take-off and landings, killing **Sgt G.C. Bingley**, **P/O R.E. Buckolz RCAF (USA)** and Cpl. C. Naylor RAF.
- 30 #19 OTU Whitely V N1426 flew into trees on a hill in Wales and crashed, **Sgt A.A. Rodgers**, **Sgt W.E. Snell**, P/O J.H. Eastwood RAF, Sgt L.W. Harris RAF killed, **Sgt N.D. Downie** injured.
- 30 #20 OTU Wellington Ic R1170 flew into the sea off Scotland in heavy rain while on a training exercise, **Sgt K.F. Druhan**, **Sgt M.G. Wilson**, Sgt W.J. Spicer RAF and Sgt C.E.W. Bonser RAF missing, Sgt W. Degg RAF and Sgt J. Chivers RAF injured.
- 30 #20 OTU Wellington Ic R1093 crashed descending through cloud on a night cross-country, **Sgt S.St.H.G. Dunn**, Sgt C.F. Richards RAF, P/O P. Alderson DFM RAF and Sgt K.J. Seaman RAF killed, **Sgt C.G. Crombie** and P/O P.B. De Normanville RAF injured. See Oct. 19, 1942.
- 30 #20 OTU Wellington Ic N2826 crashed making an emergency landing, **Sgt G.C. Leverrier** killed, P/O R.N. Rostance RAF, Sgt D.P. Langley RAF, Sgt J.A. Redgrave RAF and Sgt A.L. Smith RAF injured, Sgt Hood RAF safe.
- 30 #1 EFTS, Malton, Ontario, student pilot on first solo bounced and stalled on landing, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4383 destroyed in post-crash fire (R.W.R. Walker).
- 30 #4 EFTS, Windsor Mills, Quebec, Finch II #4477 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).
- 30 unknown unit **AC2 H.G. Beatty** died by drowning at Grand Bend, Ontario.

**30-31 After being grounded by bad weather Bomber Command sent 116 bombers to Cologne, but bombing poor due to thunderstorms (BC War Diaries).**

30-31 44 Sqn. Hampden I AD755 crash landed in England, **Sgt C.R. Morley**, Sgt J.G. Armstrong RAF, Sgt J. Flint RAF and Sgt S.C. Edwards RAF safe.

30-31 144 Sqn. Hampden I AD784 lost off the Dutch coast, P/O F.E. Pratt RAF killed, **P/O C.D. Hewson**, P/O D. Brook RNZAF and Sgt P.T. Giblett RAF missing.

30-31 144 Sqn. Hampden I AE252 lost over France, **Sgt J.G. Rogers**, Sgt G. Harvey RAF, Sgt R.B. Chrisp RAF and Sgt R.W. Smale RAF killed.

30-31 150 Sqn. Wellington Ic W5719 JN-S flew into high ground in England returning early from an operation due to bad weather, **Sgt J.D. Evelle**, Sgt P.H.C. "Tiny" Parrott RAF, Sgt J.A. Haswell RAF, Sgt D.A. Monk RAF and Sgt F.K. Webber RAF killed, **Sgt E. Tilley** injured.

Thursday

**31 Hitler instructs Göring to find a "final solution" to Jews in Europe. Göring passes the task to SS General Heydrich (<http://www.worldwar-2.net/timelines>). See January 20, 1942**

31 232 Sqn. Canadian built Hurricane I Z7053 became lost in poor visibility over England and was abandoned by its pilot, P/O P.F.G. Harbottle RAAF, who bailed out safely. Less than a year later P/O Harbottle was killed in the crash of a Kittyhawk in Australia (R. Allenby).

31 242 (Canadian) Sqn. Hurricane IIa Z2906 shot down by flak on a ROADSTEAD operation, S/L W. Whitney Straight DFC RAF evaded but was captured in Vichy France. He later escaped there and returned via Gibraltar. S/L Whitney Straight had been born in the USA, became a British citizen, and had fought in Norway and the Battle of Britain. He was later a managing director of BOAC ([www.worldnavalships.com](http://www.worldnavalships.com)).

31 Composite Training Squadron Oxford II #1521 was damaged when it was struck by Battle #1723 (R.W.R. Walker). See January 9, 1942.

## **August 1941**

**409 Sqn. begins to receive Beaufighter IIc aircraft (RCAF Sqns.). #5 (BR) Sqn. RCAF begins to receive Catalina aircraft (RCAF Sqns.).**

**In Germany, after killing more than 70,000 citizens, the T.4 Euthanasia Program becomes public knowledge. After a sermon against the practice by the Bishop of Münster Hitler agrees they should stop, but those deemed**

***"inferior" for any misdemeanour are still killed, and rations of food for mental patients are cut to starvation levels (Oxford). Staff from the program later use their knowledge to plan the German death camps (Oxford).***

***US Navy flying boats based in Iceland begin regular flying patrols over the Atlantic in this month, while USN destroyers based there begin escorting ships in the area. Escort is offered to ships of any country traveling to or from Iceland (which could technically include German and Italian ships) (D. Sommerville).***

***During the month the newly opened secret #5 RDF School at Clinton, Ontario began receiving its first students, mostly US Navy and USAAF personnel from the still Neutral USA to be trained in the latest techniques in radar (M. Hirschman).***

Friday

***1 Japanese issue demand to Thailand (CJCA headline).***

***Canadian 3rd Division lands in England (CJCA headline)***

***#115 (F) Sqn. reactivated at Rockcliffe, Ontario on Bolingbroke I fighter aircraft transferred from #119 (BR) Sqn. as they re-equip with Bolingbroke IV.W patrol aircraft (RCAF Sqns.). The Bolingbroke Is were converted to fighters with gun packs (424 SH).***

***#117 Sqn. reactivated at North Sydney, NS, as a Bomber Reconnaissance (BR) unit on Stranraer flying boats (RCAF Sqns.).***

***First production ¼ ton GP (General Purpose) vehicle or Jeep (named for a character in the "Popeye" comic strip that sounded like the GP designation) comes off the assembly line (wikipedia). First flight of the Grumman TBF Avenger torpedo bomber.***

***Export of US oil to "aggressors" (ie, Japan) is halted by Presidential Order. A total trade embargo is imposed (Shores, Cull & Izawa). This includes refined products such as aviation fuel (K. Farrington). Without oil Japan's economy would fall apart within a year as reserves ran out, so this presented Japan with two choices, back down (which while believed possible to Roosevelt was almost unthinkable to the Japanese), or fight a war to seize oil and other resources (Oxford). Given the situation in Europe, and with the USSR fighting Germany, the latter seemed possible.***



- 1 44 Sqn. Hampden I AD966 KM-R crashed on an air test, **Sgt G.D. Dodds**, Sgt G.M. Le Blanc Smith RAF, Sgt A. Forsythe RAF, AC1 T.B. Jeffcote RAF and AC1 A.D. Clark RAF killed.
- 1 242 (Canadian) Sqn. Hurricane II Z2986 was attacked in error by a Spitfire and shot-down off Dunkirk, **Sgt M.G.A. Chase-Casgrain RAF (Can.)** missing.
- 1 #58 OTU Spitfire Ia X4777 crashed in Scotland after a mid-air collision, killing **P/O R.F. Minnick RCAF (USA)**. The other aircraft, Spitfire R7026, flown by Sgt Walton, returned safely (#58 OTU Roll of Honour).
- 1 Test and Development Establishment, Rockcliffe, Ontario, Battle I #1315 suffered an engine failure on take-off and landed on the Quebec shore of the Ottawa River, crew safe but aircraft written off (R.W.R. Walker).
- 1 #31 EFTS, De Winton, Alberta, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4250 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

Saturday

**2 German forces enter Ukraine (CJCA headline).**

**US and USSR agree on methods of receiving US Aid (<http://www.worldwar-2.net/timelines>).**

- 2 412 Sqn. Spitfire Ia X4176 crashed after a mid air collision with another Spitfire in a practice dog fight, **Sgt R.G. Smith** killed ([www.spitfires.ukf.net](http://www.spitfires.ukf.net)).
- 2 ATA, Canadian built Hurricane X AE963 was on a delivery flight to 331 Sqn. when it crashed on landing, 2Lt A.C. Hagerup RNor.AF safe (R. Allenby; [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 2 #1 SS (Signal School?) RAF Cranwell Proctor I P6310 crashed, **Cpl J.H.W. Fogden RAF (Can.)** and P/O A. Banachowicz PAF killed (R. McNeill [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).

**2-3 Bomber Command sends 80 bombers to Hamburg, 53 to Berlin and 50 to Kiel, plus 25 other operations, 11 lost (BC War Diaries).**

- 2-3 104 Sqn. Wellington II W5580 EP-K lost off the Island of Sylt where some of the crew managed to get in their dinghy, but died of exposure, P/O R.H. McGlashan RAF, Sgt A.E. Simpkin RAF and F/O P.B. Verver RAF killed, **Sgt E.J. Stevenson**, Sgt D.G. Hodge RAF and Sgt H.P.S. White RAF missing (H. Welting at [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 2-3 405 Sqn. Wellington II W5483 LQ-J lost on an operation to Berlin, **F/L T.R. Kipp**, **F/S W. Menzies**, F/L R.F. Terry RAAF, Sgt R.S. Skan RAF, Sgt J.W. Murfin RAF and Sgt G.A. Pruette RAF PoW. See reference in K. Brown's *Bournemouth Billionaires*.
- 2-3 405 Sqn. Wellington II W5527 LQ-F lost in the North Sea, Sgt H.B. McKenzie RAF killed, **P/O A.O. Learmouth**, P/O J.R. Horn RAAF, P/O R. Cox RAF, Sgt J.M. Reed



RAF and F/S R.M. Thomas RAF missing.

Sunday

**3 German air force attacks Suez Canal (CJCA headline), see below.**

***First Fw 200 maritime patrol plane shot down over the Atlantic by a CAM Ship launched MSFU Hurricane (<http://www.worldwar-2.net/timelines>).***

- 3 21 Sqn. Blenheim IV V6384 crashed in England making an emergency landing, Sgt L. Cornish, Sgt G. Relph RAF and Sgt J. Robson RAF injured ([www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 3 #3 (Coastal) OTU Beaufort I L4478 crashed in England, P/O H.D. Abrams and P/O D.M. Batley killed, Sgt N.C.J. Coles RAF injured ([www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 3 RAF Ferry Command, Hudson V AE657, crashed near Moncton, NB, pilot A.J. Williams (UK) and Radio Operator F.G. Godfrey (Can.) killed (Christie). [TSGNO also notes a P/O G.A. Webby RNZAF lost in this incident, but he was not found in CWGC.]

***3-4 Port Said and Suez in Egypt attacked by German bombers with 1 loss (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).***

***Frankfurt (39 bombers), Hannover (34 bombers) and the Calais docks (7) attacked (BC War Diaries).***

- 3-4 218 Sqn. Wellington Ic X9747 HA-E ran into severe turbulence after take off and the crew was ordered to bail out. P/O J.A. Maxwell and P/O G.J.L. Crabb RAF killed, P/O T.G. Cottier, P/O G.F. Jacobsen, F/S G.P. Hoult RAF and Sgt G.M. Siddal RAF safe.

***4-5 Ismailia in Egypt attacked by 15 bombers, one is shot down by a Hurricane and two more by anti-aircraft artillery (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).***

Tuesday

***5 UK follows US lead and imposes oil trade sanctions against Japan. (England at this time controlled oil production in Iraq and Iran, which at this time produced 5% of the worlds oil production compared to the USA which produced over 80% (S. Raghavan). This may not include Soviet production).***

***German forces capture Smolensk, capturing 300,000 more Soviet troops. Siege of Odessa begins ([ww2total.com](http://ww2total.com) Chronology/1941).***

- 5 #20 OTU Wellington Ic N2828 hit trees and crashed attempting to land in high wind and rain, P/O H.W. Griffin RAF, Sgt N.D. Cryer RAF and P/O E.A. Dare RAF killed, P/O R.B. Ingalls, Sgt S.F. McDonnell RAF and Sgt K.R. Cox RAF injured.

**5-6 Mannheim (98 bombers), Karlsruhe (97) and Frankfurt (68), Aachen (13) and Boulogne (8) attacked plus GARDENING off Denmark, 11 lost (BC War Diaries).**

- 5-6 51 Sqn. Whitley V Z6803 MH-J crashed in Belgium, P/O M.W. Tilley RAF, Sgt O.L.M. Williams RAF, Sgt K.A. Dean RAF and Sgt D.W.E. Creedy RAF killed, **Sgt L.W.J. Hart** was the only survivor and was taken PoW.
- 5-6 77 Sqn. Whitley V Z6826 was damaged by flak over Germany after it had bombed the alternate target, and was abandoned over Belgium, **Sgt M.B.C. Delaney**, P/O D.G. Baber RAF, P/O I.A. Kayes RAF and Sgt W.F. Thuell RAF PoW, **Sgt A.D. Day** evaded with the assistance of the Belgian Comète organization.
- 5-6 103 Sqn. Wellington Ic W5656 lost over France, **Sgt J.P. Taylor**, Sgt D.M. Greey RAF, Sgt J. Moules RAF, Sgt F.W. Alleway RAF, Sgt R.M.G. Griffin RAF and Sgt C. Deges RAF killed.
- 5-6 104 Sqn. Wellington II W5517 was hit by flak over the target but managed to return to England and crash-landed, **Sgt W.T.R. Stephenson**, Sgt J.W. Nowlan RAF, Sgt Moore RAF, Sgt K. Hutchinson RAF, Sgt D. Storer RAF and Sgt M.G. Clynes RAF safe (COL BRUGGY at [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)). See Aug. 16-17 below and 431 entry November 25-26, 1943.
- 5-6 149 Sqn. Wellington Ic R1524 OJ-P lost over Belgium, **Sgt H. Hale**, Sgt F.D. Fowler RAF, Sgt S. Morris RAF, Sgt B.A.J. Richardson RAF, Sgt V. Scholey RAF and Sgt E.A.R. Thomson RAF killed.

Wednesday

**6 German High Command claims it's forces have taken 850,000 prisoners, and captured or destroyed 10,000 artillery guns, 13,000 tanks and 9,000 aircraft fighting the Soviet Union (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).**

- 6 77 Sqn. Whitley V Z6740 crashed in England on a training flight following a structural failure of the wing due to an inflight fire, **P/O J.A. Quick**, P/O A.W. Ogston RAF, P/O A.W. Tomlinson RAF, Sgt H.J. Gibbs RAF and Sgt H.J. MacLean RAF killed.
- 6 #9 SFTS Summerside, PEI, Harvard II #2863 failed to recover from a spin and crashed near Havelocke, NB, killing **LAC(P) K.P. Bissett** and his instructor **F/O E.E. Creed**.

**6-7 Suez attacked by 13 German bombers while 20 or so attacked Alexandria that killed 14 Egyptian civilians in the town, one bomber force landed in Turkey. This began two months of almost nightly bombing attacks on targets in Egypt, mostly bombing non-military targets (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).**

**Frankfurt, Mannheim and Karlsruhe again attacked (43, 38 and 38 bombers each), plus 38 bombers to the Calais docks and 2 OTU (NICKEL?) sorties, 7 lost (BC**

### ***War Diaries).***

- 6-7 44 Sqn. Hampden I X2917 KM-R took off on an operation and crashed in England after clipping some trees in bad weather, **Sgt W.J. McQuade**, Sgt C.S. Bradbury RAF, F/S S.D. Yeomans RAF and Sgt D.H. Howe RAF killed.
- 6-7 144 Sqn. Hampden I AE140 lost without trace, **Sgt H.E. Fear**, P/O S.W.S. Beedle RNZAF, Sgt J.R. Cook RAF and Sgt F.T. Prest RAF missing.
- 6-7 149 Sqn. Wellington Ic X9633 OJ-R lost over Belgium, **Sgt V.B. Quinlan**, Sgt D.E.G. Denier RAAF, Sgt F.S. Ellis RAF, Sgt J.T. Farmer RAF, Sgt G. Lickley RAF and Sgt A. Yoxall RAF killed.
- 6-7 214 Sqn. Wellington III X9750 lost without trace, **P/O G.D.E. Stack**, P/O C.McD. Didsbury RNZAF, Sgt R.G. Burnett RAF, Sgt W.J.V. Crowley RAF, Sgt N.E. Mills RAF and Sgt E.J. Page RAF missing.
- 6-7 #11 OTU Wellington Ic Z8807 lost over France on a NICKEL sortie, **Sgt J.A. Walker**, Sgt R.C. Mackenzie RAAF, Sgt R. Charlesworth RAF, Sgt T. Humphery RAF, Sgt L.E. Sparks RAF and Sgt S.J. Pryor RAF PoW. This is believed to be the first Bomber Command OTU aircraft lost over occupied Europe. The crew attempted to evade but were captured. For trying to assist their evasion three Dutch citizens were imprisoned and five, Bastiaan Arie Barendrecht, Joris de Heus, Pieter Kruijthoff, Arie van Steensel and Arie van der Stel, were executed by the Germans Sept. 19, 1941. The names of the Dutch civilians killed were listed in the opening credits of the wartime movie "One of our Aircraft is Missing", released in 1942.

Thursday

***7 Mussolini's son killed in an air accident in Italy, test flying a Piaggio P.108 4-engined bomber (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).***

***Bristol Beaufort torpedo bomber enters service with the RCAF (Griffin CMA). These aircraft were used to start torpedo training for RAF crews at #32 OTU in Patricia Bay, BC (R. Hayward). See December 8, below.***

- 7 220 Sqn. Hudson V AM616 was taking off when it collided with an Anson I N9896 of 48 Squadron and crashed in flames (highgroundsman www.rafcommands.com). **P/O A.J. Nicholson RAF (Can.)** was thrown clear, but returned to the wreck and pulled the wireless operator to the door before an explosion threw him out of the wreckage again. The wireless operator was pulled out by the other crewmen, but would not have been saved if not for P/O Nicholson's actions. P/O J.A. Rennie RAF died of injuries, P/O A.J. Nicholson, F/O W.S. Kendal RAF, F/S C.H. Smith RAF and F/S C.C. Walshe RAF survived, S/L E.S. Bussey RAF may have been injured in the Anson (www.rafcommands.com). P/O Nicholson was awarded the George Medal for his actions (Allison & Hayward). P/O Nicholson had been born in Scotland but his family had moved to Canada when he was a child. In 1936 he traveled to

England to join the RAF but was turned down. He then found a job as a reporter and was wounded at Madrid, Spain, in Feb. 1937. Recovering, he undertook news assignments that took him to Australia and South America before returning to England in early 1939 where he again tried to join the RAF, but was turned down as over age. When the war broke out he was finally accepted and trained as a pilot (<http://airforce.ca>).

- 7 401 Sqn. Hurricane IIb Z3344 was one of 4 Hurricanes lost from a wing flight of three squadrons which were in a dog-fight over France, **P/O T.K. Coupland** killed ([www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 7 #20 OTU Anson I R9584 ZT-J flew into a hill in Scotland, possibly after an engine failure, **Sgt T.C. Gallant RAF (Nfld.)**, F/O P.B. Doorley RAF, G/C J.E. Tennant DSO MC RAF, P/O A.G. Gill RAF, Sgt H.E. Waite RAF, F/S G.W. Hemsley RAF, Sgt W.H. Petratos RAF and AC2 J. Edgecombe RAF killed. There is a monument on the crash site (<http://forum.keypublishing.com>, [www.scottishhills.com](http://www.scottishhills.com)).
- 7 #8 SFTS, Moncton, NB, Anson I #6379 and #6375 aircraft collided in mid-air when landing and crashed. **LAC(P) F.D. Geldard** was killed in #6379 and **LAC(P) E.J. Stanley** in aircraft #6375. LAC Stanley was my father's best friend.

***7-8 Alexandria attacked by 30 Ju 88 bombers, one of which was brought down by combined fighter attack, anti-aircraft fire and searchlights. Thirteen Egyptian civilians were killed in the city (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).***

***First Soviet Air Force attacks on Berlin by 15 DB-3T bombers of the Baltic Fleet of the Soviet Naval air forces (Polsson, wikipedia). German radio at first blames RAF for this attack ([ww2total.com](http://ww2total.com) Chronology/1941).***

***Bomber Command sends 106 bombers to Essen, 46 to Hamm and 40 to Dortmund plus 16 other operations (BC War Diaries).***

- 7-8 30 Sqn. had 7 Hurricanes launched to attack German bombers attacking Alexandria and they claimed 4 Ju 88 shot down based on a radio intercept, including one by **F/L R.T.P. Davidson**, but only one was lost (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1). See December 17, below.
- 7-8 15 Sqn. Stirling I N3658 LS-E shot down over Holland by a night fighter, **Sgt G.W. Jeffery**, Sgt J.T. Corbett RAF, Sgt K.L. Rowley RAF, F/O F.J. Needham RAF, F/S R.A. Ross RAF, S/L J. Vivian RAF and Sgt S.H. Broyd RAF killed.

Friday

***8 Canadian 6th Division mobilized (CJCA headline).***

***Sino-Japanese War, Japanese begin a series of 40 air raids in the next week on the***



***Nationalist Chinese capitol of Chungking (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).***

***#16 SFTS, Hagersville, Ontario, opened (<http://www.bombercrew.com/BCATP.htm>).***

- 8 139 (Jamaica) Sqn. Blenheim IV N3627 ran into trouble on a training flight over England and the pilot, Sgt J.A. Gibbs RAF, ordered a bail out before the aircraft crashed. Sgt Gibbs was killed in the crash, **Sgt J.P. Shaw RAF (Can.)** was also killed when his parachute failed to deploy in time, Sgt D. Beale RAF survived.
- 8 401 Sqn. first victory since re-numbering, 2 Hurricane II aircraft intercept and damage a Ju 88, credited to **F/O E.L. Neal** in Hurricane IIb Z3577 YO-J, which was hit by return fire and crash landed in England, F/O Neal injured (RCAF Sqns.; [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)). See October 27, below.
- 8 #7 SFTS, Fort MacLeod, Alberta, **P/O H.B. Love** died of natural causes in the station hospital.

***8-9 Fifty four bombers are sent to Kiel and 44 to Hamburg, with poor results, 4 bombers lost (BC War Diaries).***

- 8-9 10 Sqn. Whitley V Z6815 lost over the target in Germany, **P/O M. Littlewood RAF (Can.)**, Sgt E. Bayley RAF, Sgt N. Moores RAF and Sgt R.T. Timms RAF killed, P/O J.E. Evans RAF missing.

Saturday

***9 Canada freezes silk supplies (CJCA headlines).***

***Churchill and Roosevelt meet secretly at Argentia, Newfoundland, in what became known as "The Atlantic Conference".***

***German destroyer force attacks Soviet naval base at Kola Inlet in the Russian Arctic, driven off by heavy artillery and air attack (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).***

***W/C Douglas Bader RAF, who had commanded 242 (Canadian) Sqn. during the Battle of Britain, was taken PoW this date escorting CIRCUS 68 when his Spitfire collided with another aircraft in a dogfight.***

***In a speech Charles Lindbergh, speaking for the America First group, accuses his opponents of using the defence of the United States to create incidents that would lead to entering the war (wikipedia).***

***#32 OTU, formed in England the previous month, began arriving at Patricia Bay, BC to train torpedo pilots using Beaufort aircraft ([http://www.rafweb.org/OTU\\_2.htm](http://www.rafweb.org/OTU_2.htm)).***



- 9 71 (USA) Sqn. Spitfire IIa P8572, flew into the ground recovering from a dive, **P/O K.S. Taylor RAF (Can.)** killed (www.rafcommands.com). P/O Taylor was a veteran of the Battle of Britain, and although listed as born in Winnipeg but living in the USA other sources claim he had been born in the USA and may have received pilot's training with the US Navy (discussion page, www.rafcommands.com). However, a lake in Manitoba is named in his memory (F. Williston www.rafcommands.com).
- 9 403 Sqn. Spitfire V R7266 KH-J shot down over France on a fighter sweep, **P/O D.M. Waldon** killed.
- 9 404 Sqn. Blenheim IV Z6178 was practicing single engine landings when it landed hard, and then swung, following an engine cutting out, and finally lost it's undercarriage in the skid. The aircraft was written off but the pilot, **Sgt R.K. McKay**, was safe.
- 9 #27 OTU Wellington Ic R1145 was on a night exercise when it landed in error on a decoy Q site (dummy airfield?), **P/O J.H. Wiley**, **P/O G.H. Temple** and Sgt J.L.L. Arthur RAF injured (www.rafcommands.com).
- 9 #5 (Coastal) OTU Beaufort I L9953 lost control in cloud and crashed in England in the River Taw, **P/O V.J. Hall**, Sgt W. Fell RAF and Sgt D.H. Wesley RAF killed, P/O S.H. Last RAF missing (R. Hayward; www.rafcommands.com).
- 9 USAAF ACFC A-28 (Hudson) V9188 damaged in a landing accident at St. Hubert Airfield, Montreal, pilot J.P. Gregg safe (AAIR). Possibly being delivered to the RAF as Lend-Lease.

Sunday

- 10 Soviet I-16 fighters carried under the wings of TB-3 bombers from bases in the Crimean Peninsula, are dropped to carry out a dive-bombing attack at long range on a bridge in Romania, returning on their own to Russian bases, the first of a series of attacks by these 'parasite fighters' (D. Newton, wikipedia).**
- 10 129 Sqn. Spitfire Ia R7133 crashed in England on a training flight, **Sgt W.T. Purdy** killed (R. Allenby).
- 10 226 Sqn. Blenheim IV Z7280 MQ-M shot down into the sea off the Frisian Islands, **Sgt J.M. Osborne** killed, **Sgt K.A. McManus** and Sgt W. Roberts RAF missing.
- 10 242 (Canadian) Sqn. Hurricane IIc Z3840 hit by flak, P/O F. De Pellepont RAF (France) killed (H. Halliday).
- 10 Ferry Command, Return Ferry Service LB-30 Liberator AM261 crashed in Scotland soon after takeoff, killing 22 crew and passengers, including pilots Capt. E.R.B. White (UK) BOAC and **Capt. F.D. Bradbrooke (Can.) ATA** (who was also civil aviation editor of *The Aeroplane* magazine) as well as D.J. Duggan (USA), W.M. King (USA), G.T. Harris (USA), H.R. Judy (USA), J.E. Price (Australia), J.J. Roulstone (USA), **Capt. J.J. Anderson (Can.)**, **Capt. H.C.W. Smith (Can.)**, J. Wixen (USA), **Radio Officer R.B. Brammer (Can.)**, **Radio Officer J.B. Drake (Can.)**, H.S.

Green (UK), **Radio Officer W.G. Kennedy (Can.)**, **Radio Officer G. Laing (Can.)**, **Radio Officer H.C. McIntosh (Can.)**, **Radio Officer W.K. Marks (Can.)**, A.A. Oliver (UK), G.H. Powell (UK), H.D. Rees (UK), and Flight Engineer E.G. Reeves (USA) (marks [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)). Captain Smith had previously flown with the OPAS (J.C. Dillon). It is reported that **Lord Beaverbrook** was originally scheduled to fly on this aircraft to meet with Roosevelt and Churchill at the Atlantic Conference at Argentia, Newfoundland, but was switched to the second Liberator leaving that evening which arrived safely in Gander (see I. Davies, *A Casualty of War & Fate, Aeroplane Monthly*, September, 2001 for details).

- 10 #32 EFTS, Swift Current, Saskatchewan, AC1 A.B. Thompson RAF was shot and killed, no details. (B. Barry et al state AC1 Thompson member of #39 SFTS, Swift Current, Saskatchewan).

**10-11 Soviet Naval Air Force attacks Berlin with 14 Pe-8 heavy bombers, 11 of which bomb the city (Bergström & Mikhailov V.1).**

Monday

**11 Italian hospital ship California sunk at Syracuse Harbour in Sicily by Swordfish torpedo bombers from Malta, no details.**

- 11 232 Sqn. Canadian built Hurricane I Z7054 crashed in England making a forced landing, Sgt M.M. Maxwell RAAF safe ([www.nelsam.org.uk](http://www.nelsam.org.uk); [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)). Sgt Maxwell was a member of the first course of RAAF pilots to graduate from the BCATP in Canada ([ww2talk.com](http://ww2talk.com)).
- 11 #23 OTU Hampden I X2916 crashed while on a night bombing exercise, **P/O T.G. Boucher**, P/O A.W. Genth RAF, Sgt T.V.G. Clarke RAF and Sgt R.J. Moss RAF killed.

**11-12 Rotterdam (34 bombers), Krefeld (29) and Monchengladbach (29) attacked. The latter included the first successful bombing using GEE radio navigation by a 115 Sqn. Wellington aircraft (BC War Diaries). These were tests, the system did not go into full use until March 8-9, 1942 (I. Brown [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).**

**408 Sqn. flies its first operations, dispatching 4 Hampden aircraft of which 2 bombed the target, no losses (RCAF Sqn.).**

Tuesday

**12 The Atlantic Charter is signed by Roosevelt and Churchill at Argentia, the first clear statement of aims against fascism by democratic countries. This document is considered the foundation stone for the establishment of the United**

## **Nations.**

***In the Soviet Union a demonstration of Air Force weapons is given to the British Military Mission in Moscow, including the anti-tank RS-82 rocket. This impresses the RAF member, who makes a report to London which begins British development of air-to-ground rockets (D.C. Webb).***

***RAF Operation 77 (CIRCUS 77) makes successful large daylight attack on power plants at Cologne, but lose 10 of 54 Blenheim aircraft and 2 more on diversionary attacks, plus 6 Spitfires in the escorting forces. Total force on this one operation, including escorts and diversions, was 78 bombers and 175 fighters (BC War Diaries). An account of this sortie by C. Berry, 107 Sqn. WAG, was published in Airforce Magazine, Vol. 11, #2, 1987, under the title "Daring Success".***

- 12 18 Sqn. Blenheim IV V6497 WV-U ditched in the North Sea after clearing the Dutch coast homeward bound, S/L A.F.H. Mills, F/O W.A. Staniland RAF and Sgt M.F. Williams RAF PoW.
- 12 139 (Jamaica) Sqn. Blenheim IV V5725 lost over Germany, Sgt H. Ingleby, Sgt D.F.J. Phillips RAF and F/S G.H. Appleyard RAF killed.
- 12 222 Sqn. Spitfire IIb P8541 shot down by Bf 109s escorting CIRCUS 77, Sgt J.C.G. Christie RAF (Can.) missing.
- 12 407 Sqn. Hudson V AM544 RR-W undershot a landing practicing night flying, Sgt R. Fraser and Sgt J.W. "Wally" Creeden safe. See Nov. 2-3, below.
- 12 #11 SFTS, Yorkton, Saskatchewan, Harvard II #3829 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

***12-13 Hannover (78 bombers), Berlin (70), Magdeburg (36) and Essen (35) attacked by Bomber Command, plus 15 other sorties, for a total of 234 sorties with 14 lost. One bomber lost was a GEE equipped Wellington, but the special equipment was not discovered (BC War Diaries).***

- 12-13 9 Sqn. Wellington Ic R1513 lost over Germany, crashing into the Weser River. Sgt T.E. McGeragle, F/L K.R. Ball MiD RAF, Sgt S. Wintergill RAF and Sgt C.H. Chandler RAF killed, Sgt A.T. Hatton and Sgt E. Cullen RAF missing.
- 12-13 9 Sqn. Wellington Ic R1341 WS-Z shot down over Germany, Sgt G.B. Smith, Sgt R.R. Passmore RNZAF, Sgt E. Lewin RAF, Sgt J.A. Lennard RAF, F/S C.W.A. Wells RAF and Sgt H.F. Barron RAF killed.
- 12-13 15 Sqn. Stirling I N3659 LS-N shot down by a night fighter over Germany, Sgt H.G. Dickson, Sgt G.K. Henson, F/S W.E. Barrett RAF, Sgt R.B. Strachan RAF, Sgt G.T. Taylor RAF killed, Sgt J.D. Jeffery RAF and Sgt V.N. Taylor RAF PoW.
- 12-13 35 Sqn. Halifax I L9497 TL-K hit by flak on an operation over Germany, and crashed

making a three engined landing in England, **Sgt Burns** was slightly injured when he was thrown from the aircraft with P/O J. McGregor-Cheers RAF. The rest of the crew, **Sgt J.B. Anderson**, Sgt W.N. Collins RAF, Sgt A.A.S. Heggie RAF, Sgt J. Fuller RAF and P/O V.M. Markham RAF safe. See August 24-25, below.

- 12-13 76 Sqn. Halifax I L9562 stalled and crashed on landing approach after an operational sortie, possibly due to damage from enemy action. **Sgt L.E. Brown**, **Sgt R.J. McInnes**, Sgt J. McHale RAF, Sgt C. Austin RAF, Sgt S.C. Mayes RAF, Sgt E.P. Hogan RAF and F/S J.G.S. West DFM RAF killed.
- 12-13 104 Sqn. Wellington II W5443 EP-T lost over Germany, **Sgt W. Maxwell**, Sgt R.C. Holyman RAF, Sgt R.E.C. Hudson RAF, Sgt G. Cox RAF, F/S T. Herrington RAF and Sgt T. Bell RAF killed.
- 12-13 104 Sqn. Wellington II W5461 EP-R lost on an operation over Germany, **F/S D.F. Sugden**, S/L H. Budden DFC RAF, Sgt J.D. Morgan RAF, Sgt C.K. Mousley RAF, Sgt L.G. Smalley RAF and Sgt D. Storer RAF PoW.
- 12-13 115 Sqn. Wellington Ic T2563 KO-D was returning from an operation over Germany when it was shot down over England by an Intruder, Sgt B.G. Evans RNZAF killed, **Sgt S.W. Morton**, P/O A.J.A. Day RAAF, Sgt R.A. Hodges RAF and Sgt C.D. Tavener RAF injured, P/O Wood RAF safe.
- 12-13 115 Sqn. Wellington Ic Z8835 KO-U lost over Germany, **Sgt R.G.F. Aldersley**, Sgt J.T. Wallace RNZAF, Sgt J. Porthouse RAF, Sgt A.W. Morgan RAF and Sgt D.J. Nolan RAF killed, Sgt R. Keighley RAF missing. (This is likely the GEE aircraft).
- 12-13 149 Sqn. Wellington Ic R1024 OJ-V crashed off the coast of Germany, **P/O F.H. Beemer** and **P/O F.W.J. Scott** killed, Sgt P.E.H. Dangerfield RAF, Sgt J.R. Littlefield RAF, Sgt C.F. Young RAF and Sgt E.W. Hall RAF missing.
- 12-13 149 Sqn. Wellington Ic T2716 OJ-W crashed in England attempting to land after being damaged by flak and then attacked by a night fighter over Germany, Sgt A.N. Hampton RAF was killed in the attacks, **Sgt G. Morris** died of injuries from the crash, but P/O Fox RAF, Sgt Woodhouse RAF, F/S Batten RAF and Sgt N. Jones RAF survived.

Wednesday

**13 Smolensk abandoned to German forces (CJCA headline).**

***Stiffening Soviet resistance leads Hitler to stop the main drive on Moscow in favour of his outflanking plan, sending forces to capture Leningrad and the Ukraine, against the advice of his generals (Oxford). This decision probably saved Moscow (and Stalin). As Moscow is the main nexus of the Soviet railway and road system its capture was more than symbolic; it would disrupt most communication and supply along the fighting fronts and force a retreat to the East.***



**414 Sqn. formed in England as an Army Co-operation Squadron on Lysander and Tomahawk aircraft (RCAF Sqns.).**

- 13 #17 OTU Anson I N4997 ran out of fuel searching for its base returning from a night navigation exercise and crash landed, **P/O S. Philips**, Sgt A.W. Dorney RAF, Sgt R.T. Bartlett RAF and Sgt P. Jacobs RAF injured, F/S L. Milletts RAF and Sgt W. Fletcher RAF safe.
- 13 #23 OTU Wellington Ic X9659 'L3' crashed practicing landings due to a failure of the flaps, **Sgt A.H. Harris**, P/O H.G. Pilling RAF, Sgt I. West RAF, Sgt S.W. Griffin RAF and Sgt L.C. Young RAF injured, **P/O E.D. Baker**, **Sgt G.J.P. Kearns** and **Sgt W.H. Bracken** safe. See April 1-2, May 19-20 and June 16-17, 1942.
- 13 #59 OTU Hurricane I V4112 crashed in England, **Sgt M.C. Tagseth** killed (H. Welting [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).

Thursday

**14 Atlantic Charter announced (CJCA headline). This document states that the Commonwealth and USA will work together, and they both pledge to gain no new territory, desire no territory changes outside of the choices of residents, that they respect the rights of people to choose their own governments, and plan to restore sovereign rights and self government to those who have been deprived of them (Polsson).**

**The third clause of the Atlantic Charter, to respect the rights of people to choose their own governments, excited great interest in European colonies. India and Burma soon asked for more information on how England would apply it to their countries (S. Raghavan). See September 9, below.**

**First combat of the Fw 190, which shot down a Spitfire over Dunkirk (J.R. Smith).**

**First flight of a Canadian built Avro Anson II, #7070 (second aircraft built), by the Canadian Car & Foundry plant at Amherst, Nova Scotia (Molson & Taylor). See September 16, 1942.**

- 14 RAF Ferry Command, Return Ferry Service LB-30 Liberator AM260 crashed after take-off in Scotland killing 22 crew and passengers, including civilian pilots E.B. Anding (USA), M.B. Dilley (USA), A.C. Earl (USA), E. Hamel (USA), G. Hull (USA), J.J. Kerwin (USA), P.F. Lee Jr. (USA), **J.J. Moffat (Can.)**, Capt. R.C. Stafford (UK) BOAC, W.L. Trimble (USA), E.W. Watson (USA) and M.J. Wetzel (USA), Radio Officers **R. Coates (Can.)**, J.P. Culbert (UK), **R.A. Duncan (Can.)**, **W.F.J. Goddard (Can.)**, **D.N. Hannant (Can.)**, **J.J. MacDonald (Can.)**, **G. McKay (Can.)** and **A. Tamblin (Can.)**, Flight Engineer R.F. Davis (USA) (who was also a USN Reserve



Pilot) and passenger **A.B. Purvis**, the Head of the British Purchasing Commission (resident of Montreal) (marks [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)). The loss of Scottish born Canadian industrialist A.B. Purvis was a great blow as he had been instrumental leader in accessing the US industry for England, negotiating England taking over France's commitments when they fell, and Lend-Lease. This was the second serious crash of a Return Ferry Service LB-30 Liberator in 4 days. See September 1, below. These crashes may have been the inspiration for the plot device that puts the actors into Ferry Command Hudsons in the Warner Bros. propaganda movie on the RCAF, *Captains of the Clouds*, then being filmed in Canada.

- 14 #1 Training Command (unknown unit) **Sgt J.F. Collaton** died of natural causes in hospital in Toronto.
- 14 #3 SFTS Calgary, Alberta, Anson I #6568 missing on an instrument practice flight. After an extensive search the aircraft was located, crashed on the east side of Mt. McDougall. A rescue party of Air Force and civilians found **F/O I.M.S. Brown** and **LAC(P) F.W. Greenfield** had been killed, but **LAC(P) McGruther** had survived the crash and was brought down safely. It was determined F/O Brown had hit a tree while engaged in unauthorized low flying (Halliday, H.A., *Unnecessary Accidents*). In June of 1990 a cairn and plaque was erected on a hiking trail seven miles from the crash site dedicated to all the lives of aircrew lost in training and this crew in particular.

**14-15 Bomber Command sends 314 aircraft sorties on this night including 152 to Hannover, 81 to Brunswick and 52 to Magdeburg, 13 to Boulogne, 9 to Dunkirk and 5 GARDENING sorties with 14 lost (BC War Diaries).**

- 14-15 7 Sqn. Stirling I N6041 overshot the runway and crashed returning from operations, **Sgt G.E. Mitchell DFM**, **Sgt R.W. Taylor RAAF**, **W/C H.R. Graham RAF**, **F/S J.R. Walker RAF**, **Sgt J.L. Martin RAF**, **F/S H. Watson RAF**, **Sgt M.T. Coon RAF** and **F/L S.G. Stock RAF** safe. See April 5-6, 1942.
- 14-15 15 Sqn. Stirling I W7435 LS-W swung on take-off and crashed, **Sgt W.C. MacKenzie**, **Sgt F.C. Snead**, **P/O E.J.D. Guild RAF**, **Sgt E.P. De Ville RAF**, **Sgt T.H.B. Jones RAF**, **Sgt A. Needham RAF** and **Sgt A.D. Wallace RAF** safe.
- 14-15 35 Sqn. Halifax I L9500 TL-H crashed in Germany, **Sgt W.L. Berry**, **P/O R. Lisle RAF**, **Sgt M.G. Garner RAF**, **Sgt H.T. McQuigg RAF**, **Sgt K.R. Sewell RAF**, **F/S J.J. Rogers RAF** and **F/S J.A.A. Cox RAF** killed.
- 14-15 102 Sqn. Whitley V Z6829 shot down off Germany by a night fighter, **Sgt G.K. Powell RAF (Can.)**, **P/O W.W. Bell-Towers RAAF**, **Sgt R.T. Philp RAF** and **F/S L.E.D. Lindsay RAF** killed, **Sgt F.W. Penn RAAF** (injured) and **Sgt T.A. Vermiglio RAF** PoW
- 14-15 102 Sqn. Whitley V Z6877 shot down by a night fighter over Germany, rear gunner **Sgt D.E.J. Hampson** killed, **Sgt A.W. Hawkes RAF**, **P/O G.W. Cole RAF**, **Sgt K.P. Marlow RAF** and **Sgt A. Nicholas RAF** PoW.

- 14-15 115 Sqn. Wellington Ic R1500 KO-K crashed into the North Sea, Sgt C.G. Alway RAF and Sgt R.W. Duke RAF killed, **Sgt J.G. Park**, Sgt D.A. Clabburn-Detrez RAF, Sgt D.H. Allan RAF and Sgt R.W.J. Smalldon RAF missing.
- 14-15 150 Sqn. Wellington Ic R1394 JN-V lost without trace, **Sgt A.R. McEldon RAF (Can.)**, Sgt A.P. Perry-Keene RAF, Sgt D.R. Sherwin RAF, Sgt E.P. Beckwith RAF, Sgt S.C. Tottle RAF and Sgt J.H. Keen RAF missing.
- 14-15 405 Sqn. Wellington II W5496 LQ-M lost without trace, **Sgt J.F.B. Dawson**, **P/O G.H. Fleming**, **Sgt A.B. Lesley**, **Sgt J. Molloy**, Sgt E. Stansfield RAF and Sgt J.E. Stott RAF missing.

Friday

- 15 As a result of it's offensive operations over Europe RAF Fighters were ordered to change their camouflage when re-painted from Green and Brown, suitable for combat over land, to a Grey and Green pattern better able to blend in over the land or the sea (Stein Meum [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).**
- 15 50 Sqn. Hampden P4408 was on an air sea rescue search over the North Sea when it signalled it's engines were failing. It is presumed to have gone down in the sea, F/S N. Gray DFM RAF and Sgt R. Taylor RAF killed, **F/O J.A. Whitecross DFC RAF (Can.)** and Sgt M.O. Fisher RAF missing. F/O Whitecross had only recently returned to the Squadron from France where he had evaded following the loss of 50 Sqn. Hampden AD834, April 28-29, above.
- 15 132 Sqn. Spitfire Ia N3286 broke up in flight over Scotland, **Sgt W.H. McAdam** killed ([www.spitfires.ukf.net](http://www.spitfires.ukf.net)).
- 15 #55 OTU Hurricane I V7608 crashed on a training exercise, **Sgt F.P. Stamp** killed.
- 15 #2 ITS Regina, Saskatchewan, **AC2 G.F.C. Brown** died of natural causes.
- 15 #2 SFTS, Uplands, Ontario, Harvard II #2689 crashed during night circuit practice, LAC(P) H.W. Long RAAF died of his injuries (A. Storr).

Saturday

- 16 Two RAF Fortress I aircraft attacked Brest in France, one was intercepted and severely damaged at over 32,000' altitude, the highest aircraft interception recorded to date. Three RAF were killed in the attack and one more was injured (3 safe) when the aircraft crash landed and burned in England. This is the second Fortress lost in the air by the RAF, the first one lost in combat. It had been hoped that these aircraft would be relatively safe from interception due to their very high altitude capabilities.**

**Stalin issues orders to punish Soviet soldiers, and their families, who surrender. Even soldiers who escape from captivity are deemed suspect and imprisoned (Oxford).**

- 16 125 (Newfoundland) Sqn. Defiant I N3499 crashed in England, **Sgt H.L. Learning RAF (Nfld.)** killed ([www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 16 615 Sqn. Hurricane IIa Z2578 crashed in Wales, **P/O J.F.Y.A. Boulanger** killed ([www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 16 #33 SFTS, Carberry, Manitoba, Anson I N9670 crashed, LAC L.R. Reader RAF killed.

**16-17 Cologne attacked by 72 bombers, Düsseldorf by 58 and Duisberg by 54, plus 17 other sorties, 14 bombers lost (BC War Diaries).**

- 16-17 10 Sqn. Whitley V Z6586 ZA-F lost over Belgium, **Sgt S.F.B. Bott**, Sgt S.A. Loveday RAF, Sgt J. Welsh RAF, P/O H.H. Pearson RAF and P/O D.W. Walker RAF killed.
- 16-17 10 Sqn. Whitley V Z6794 lost over Germany, pilot Sgt E.H. Lager RAF killed, **Sgt V.Y.H. Sewell** bailed out but his parachute failed, **Sgt S.S. Shapiro**, **Sgt J.W. Meyers** and **Sgt J.E. Fulkerson** bailed out and PoW.
- 16-17 10 Sqn. Whitley V Z6805 lost over Holland, **Sgt A.B.A. Robertson**, **Sgt H.P. Calvert RAF (Can.)**, Sgt B.S. Craske RAF and Sgt A.E. King RAF PoW ([www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)). W.R. Chorley notes Sgt Calvert was part of an escape May 11, 1942 and was shot and killed by police in Dresden. See May 20, 1942.
- 16-17 12 Sqn. Wellington II W5444 PH-T was attempting an emergency landing in England and struck a bridge after the engines failed, F/O B.M.J. Vincent RAF, F/S E.H. Nancarrow RAF and F/S C.G.C. Frost RAF were killed, **F/L C.N. McVeigh RAF (Can.)**, Sgt Purslow RAF and F/S D. Murray RAF survived with injuries. F/L McVeigh, who had served in France and later on the campaign attacking landing barges with 12 Squadron in Battles in 1939-40, spent a year in East Grinstead recovering from his extensive burns, and after a year as an instructor, flew Dakotas at D-Day in 48 Squadron, and again at Arnhem with 437 Squadron. When 437 Squadron was based in England after the war he became their commanding officer. He retired from the RCAF as a W/C in 1965 (Allison & Hayward, Lancaster, C. et al). See May 10, 1945.
- 16-17 44 Sqn. Hampden I AE239 lost over the North Sea, Sgt S.C. Edwards RAF killed, **Sgt C.R. Morley**, Sgt J.G. Armstrong RAF and Sgt J. Flint RAF missing.
- 16-17 58 Sqn. Whitley V Z6729 shot down over Holland by a night fighter, **Sgt J.B. Nickerson** (injured), Sgt S.F. Davidson RAF, Sgt B.A. Hammond RAF, Sgt T.A. Nichols RAF and Sgt R.D. Wagstaff RAF PoW. Sgt Nickerson was later repatriated (alieneyes at [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 16-17 78 Sqn. Whitley V Z6754 shot down over Holland by a night fighter, **Sgt G.H.P. Buchanan**, Sgt J.H. Malet-Warden RAF, Sgt J.C. Beardmore RAF, Sgt A.J.R. Millard-Tucker RAF and F/S A. Brown RAF killed.
- 16-17 78 Sqn. Whitley V Z6577 EY-E lost over Holland, **Sgt G.L. Olsen**, **Sgt T.A. Sherman**, F/S R. Jopling RAF, Sgt D.A. Wilson RAF and Sgt D.F. Hawkes RAF killed. Sgt Sherman is listed from Brantford, Ontario, but also as a US citizen.

- 16-17 99 Sqn. Wellington Ic X9700 LN-B shot down by a night fighter over Holland, **P/O W.A. Casey**, P/O G.L. Wells RAAF, P/O N. Dotchin RAF, Sgt F.W. York RAF and Sgt G. Crane RAF killed, Sgt R.M. Williams RAF PoW.
- 16-17 104 Sqn. Wellington II W5532 EP-M crashed in England half an hour after taking off on an operation to Germany, **Sgt W.T.R. Stephenson**, Sgt J.W. Nowlan RAF, F/S S.C. Steward RAF, Sgt K. Hutchinson RAF, Sgt I.H.A. Henderson RAF and P/O P.J. Murphy RAF killed. A policeman attempting to rescue the crew was nearly killed when the bomb load exploded. Sgt Stephenson, Sgt Nowlan and Sgt Henderson had come back from a sortie with a damaged Wellington II W5517 which was written off after crash landing at it's base August 5-6, above
- 16-17 405 Sqn. Wellington II W5491 LQ-N suffered an intercom failure outbound but continued to it's target, Cologne, where it was caught by searchlights and attacked by a night fighter, killing **Sgt R.P. Payton**. The crew extinguished a fire, and the aircraft was damaged again by flak before it returned to England, **Sgt R. Craig**, **Sgt G.M. Jackson**, **Sgt J.A. McEachern** and **Sgt A.E. Moyanyk** safe (www.rafcommands.com).

Sunday

**17 USA states it will declare war on Japan if they invade the Netherlands East Indies or Malaysia (C.E. Hipperson). See September 6, below.**

**Soviet forces ousted from Black Sea ports (CJCA headline).**

**Churchill visits Iceland on his return trip from Newfoundland to England (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).**

**Britain was concerned about the presence of German and Italian nationals ("tourists") in Iran, which had increased in numbers since the fighting in Iraq. Iran was providing oil to the Allies and was located in a strategic position that gave a supply route to the USSR. Because of this Britain and the Soviet Union delivered a demand to the Iranian government that they expel the Axis nationals, which Iran chose not to do. As a result a joint plan was made to occupy the oil producing areas and the border region with the USSR, with a communications corridor through the country to the sea for supply of goods to the Soviet Union. See August 25, below (C. Shores).**

**First proposal to begin production of heavy water in Canada.**

- 17 221 Sqn. Wellington VIII W5730 lost from a patrol west of Ireland, **Sgt A.E. Earle RAF (Nfld.)**, F/L C. Cakebread RAF, Sgt C.J. Fletcher RAF, Sgt J.E. Rees RAF, Sgt D.H. Fugill RAF and Sgt A.E. Cleary RAF missing.



- 17 #21 OTU Wellington Ic R1068 crashed descended from cloud and flew into high ground in Wales on a training flight, **Sgt J.F.P. Stuart**, Sgt J.F. Moore RAF (Eire), P/O G.W. Matthews RAF, Sgt H.G. Mole RAF, Sgt H.G. Hewison RAF and Sgt A. Jackets RAF killed. W.R. Chorley notes that there is a plaque to the memory of this loss in a local church.
- 17 #4 ITS Edmonton, Alberta, **AC2 C.W. Nairn** died of injuries from a dive into a swimming pool.
- 17-18 37 Sqn. Wellington Ic T2616 'T' lost attacking Benghazi harbour, ditching in Sollum Bay, **Sgt S. Marcus**, **Sgt J.R. Gordon**, **Sgt A.N. Blackmore**, Sgt L. Crump RAAF, Sgt B. Davis RAF and Sgt E. Tweed RAF PoW (COL BRUGGY at [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 17-18 Bomber Command attacked Bremen (59 bombers targeting the Focke-Wulf plant and railway station) and Duisberg (41 bombers) (BC War Diaries).**
- 17-18 50 Sqn. Hampden I AE185 shot down by a night fighter over Holland, **P/O H. Law RAF (Can.)**, Sgt P.F.B. Orwin RAF and Sgt G.A. Cowell RAF killed, P/O E.C. Maskell RAF PoW.

Monday

**18 Butt Report on accuracy of RAF bomber offensive released to War Cabinet. This analysis of bombing in the months of June and July proves that accurate bombing of assigned targets is low. Target photos taken for the study indicate that night bombing was very inaccurate, less than 1 in 3 of bombers reporting a successful attack coming within 5 miles of the actual target they reported attacking. This sparked a large debate about bombing in general and the role of the RAF, and would mark the beginning of research into methods that would greatly increase Bomber Commands accuracy and effectiveness in coming years.**

**Due to discussions between Churchill and Roosevelt in Newfoundland, the US President announced that US built aircraft would be flown across the Atlantic to Africa by Pan American Airways pilots. This led to the South Atlantic ferry route to Africa being established via the Caribbean, Brazil, and Ascension Island (D. Newton, wikipedia).**

**In Hamburg the police make mass arrests of "Swingkinder" or "Swing Kids", youth who enjoyed jazz music and did not identify with the Nazi party or Hitler Youth. Some are sent to concentration camps (wikipedia).**

**US Congress passes bill extending conscription service by a majority of 1 vote**

**(Oxford).**

**#32 ANS, Charlottetown, PEI, opened (<http://www.bombercrew.com/BCATP.htm>).**

- 18 #1 Air Navigation School, Rivers, Manitoba, air frame mechanic **LAC R.E. Geesdale** was struck and killed by the propellor of Anson I #6444 just after he had removed the chocks from the left wheel.
- 18 #2 EFTS, Fort William, Ontario, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4255 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).
- 18 unknown unit, **LAC S.W. Townsend RCAF (USA)** died in in the University of Alberta Hospital of natural causes ([www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).

**18-19 Cologne and Duisburg attacked by 62 and 41 bombers, 8 bombers lost (BC War Diaries).**

- 18-19 10 Sqn. Whitley V Z6672 lost over the border of Belgium and Holland, **Sgt H.L. Crich**, Sgt S. Norcross RAF and P/O E.E. Manison RAF killed, S/L M.M. Kane RAF and Sgt H. le Q. Mourant RAF PoW.
- 18-19 10 Sqn. Whitley V Z6564 ZA-Z lost over Belgium, **Sgt D.M. Duffy**, **Sgt T.H. Park RCAF (USA)**, Sgt C.P. O'Dell RAF, Sgt K.M. Tompkins RAF and P/O W.A.S. Evill RAF killed.
- 18-19 51 Sqn. Whitley V Z6811 MH-D lost over Holland, possibly after having collided with a German night fighter, **Sgt H.R.F. Johnston**, Sgt J.A.B. Jamieson RAF and Sgt A. Milne RAAF killed, **P/O F.W. Shorrock** and Sgt F.W. Coles RAF PoW (R. McNeill PoW List).
- 18-19 51 Sqn. Whitley V Z6731 MH-A crashed in England on return from a sortie due to an inflight fire, **Sgt J.L. Gilman RAF (Can.)**, **P/O W.J. Loney**, Sgt R.E. Bennett RAF, Sgt J. Taylor RAF and Sgt E.J. Lowater RAAF killed.
- 18-19 51 Sqn. Whitley V Z6566 MH-Q shot down by flak. The pilot Sgt W.B. James MiD RAF, gave his parachute to another crew member whose parachute had been destroyed, but survived the crash landing to join the rest of the crew, **Sgt H.R. James**, **Sgt D.A. Switzer**, P/O C.D. Roberts RAF and Sgt A.G. Lowe DFM RAF as PoW (O. Clutton-Buck). Sgt W.B. James was awarded a DFM for his actions, but sadly contracted tuberculosis, and although repatriated died Nov. 10, 1944.
- 18-19 51 Sqn. Whitley V Z6569 MH-S shot down by a night fighter, Sgt L.A. Evetts RAF killed, **P/O A.G. Trites**, P/O H.B. Robertshaw RAF and Sgt R.A.C. Hooper RAF PoW, **Sgt J.L. Ives** evaded. See April 28, 1945.
- 18-19 149 Sqn. Wellington Ic X9704 OJ-B damaged by a night fighter over Holland and force landed, P/O M.I.A. Mendoza RAF and P/O J.C. Lynn RAF killed, **P/O R.R. Henderson**, Sgt W.J.R. Culpen RNZAF, Sgt C.G. Jones RAF and Sgt K.K. Sterrett RAF PoW.
- 18-19 218 Sqn. Wellington Ic N2844 HA-M shot down over the Zuider Zee by a night fighter,

Sgt A.M. Wilson RAAF, Sgt R.G. Boswell RAF and P/O E.D. Pockney RAF killed, **Sgt L.J. George RCAF (UK)**, Sgt K.C. Shearing RAF and Sgt S.A. Maquire RAF missing. See <http://www.teunispats.net/fr-wwii.htm> for details.

Tuesday

**19 Retreating Soviet forces blow up Zaporozhe Dam on the Dnieper River, second largest hydro-electric dam in the world (with generators built in USA).**

- 19 22 Sqn. Beaufort I AW211 OA-F overshot a landing and crashed returning from a GARDENING sortie, **P/O H.E.J. Whiston**, Sgt P.E. Miller RAF, Sgt K.W.S. Ramsden RAF and Sgt A.G. Petty RAF killed.
- 19 111 Sqn. Spitfire IIa P7528 shot down over France in the evening, one of 3 Spitfires lost and 1 damaged by fighters, **Sgt J.B.M. Vilandr   PoW** (vraim at [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 19 125 (Newfoundland) Sqn. Defiant I T4110 crashed in England, Sgt R. Bastow and Sgt A.G. Davis (RAF or RAF (Nfld.??)) bailed out unharmed (*Flypast*, Dec. 1982, [www.sungreen.co.uk/Lydbrook/Wartime\\_memories\\_of\\_Lydbrook.html](http://www.sungreen.co.uk/Lydbrook/Wartime_memories_of_Lydbrook.html))
- 19 242 (Canadian) Sqn. Hurricane II Z3743 shot down on a shipping strike, P/O J.P. McKechnie RAF PoW.
- 19 403 Sqn. Spitfire Va R7342 KH-K shot down escorting CIRCUS 81, **P/O K.H. Anthony PoW**.
- 19 403 Sqn. Spitfire Va R7260 KH-R, **P/O N.R.D. Dick**, claimed two Bf 109s destroyed before being badly damaged by another over the coast of France while escorting CIRCUS 81. With a failing engine he managed to get near the English coast before bailing out and was rescued, safe. His combat report was included in *The R.C.A.F. Overseas - The First Four Years*, published during the war.
- 19 #8 EFTS, Vancouver, BC, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4308 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).
- 19 unknown unit, LAC D. Docherty RAF accidentally drowned at Clear Lake, Manitoba

**19-20 At the request of the Australian government to have their soldiers under 1 command in the Middle East, Australian and Indian troops defending Tobruk are withdrawn by sea to join those who have been fighting in Syria. They are replaced over 11 nights by Polish soldiers, all moved in great secrecy, using fast naval ships, escorted by fighters during the daylight hours (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).**

**Kiel attacked by 108 aircraft but cloud, rain and icing conditions make for very poor bombing (BC War Diaries).**

- 19-20 104 Sqn. Wellington II W5416 believed lost over the North Sea on operations, Sgt J. Haney RAF killed, **Sgt D.C. Marshall**, **P/O J.G. Rogers**, F/L W.W. Burton RAF, Sgt

K.M. Woodhead RAAF and Sgt H.E. Johnson RAF missing.

Wednesday

**20 Canadian Prime Minister *Mackenzie King* arrives in England (CJCA headline).**

**415 Sqn. RCAF formed as a Coastal Torpedo Bomber unit (CCMA) (RCAF Sqns.).**

Thursday

**21 German troops capture Novgorod (CJCA headlines).**

***In Paris a German Naval Cadet is shot and killed on the Metro by a French Communist in revenge for the execution of a French communist prisoner 2 days before, the first killing attributed to the Resistance in the city. In return 3 further communist prisoners were killed, and revenged by further killings of German servicemen, the spiralling violence would lead to the administration of the city being taken over by the SS in 1942 (R. Hansen).***

***First British convoy of supplies leaves Reykjavik, Iceland for Soviet arctic ports (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).***

- 21 92 Sqn. Spitfire Vb W3330 damaged on a fighter sweep, **P/O P.L.I. Archer RCAF (Barbados)** wounded for the second time in 6 weeks. See June 17, 1943.
- 21 102 Sqn. Whitley V Z6862 stalled and crashed in England just after taking off on a training flight, **P/O P.B. Detlor**, Sgt I.C. Hay RAF, Sgt D.J.M. Bush RAF and Sgt N.G. Williams RAF killed, **Sgt C.S. Neveu** injured (R. Allenby, [www.aircrewremembered.com](http://www.aircrewremembered.com)). See May 8-9, 1942.
- 21 201 Sqn. Sunderland II W3982 missing after attempting an open sea landing following a fighter attack far off the Shetland Islands, **LAC(AG) J.F. Richard RAF (Can.)**, F/O A.G. Evill RAF, P/O F.W. Selfe RAF, Sgt J.M. Simmons RAF, Sgt L.H. Barraclough RAF, Sgt J.A.C. King RAF, Sgt D.M.V.P. Devereux RAF, Sgt E.O. Adams RAF, Sgt K.E. Newman RAF, Sgt W.P.J. Hancox RAF, F/S E.W.W. Gange RAF, LAC T.J. Gordon RAF and LAC H. Mills RAF missing.
- 21 403 Sqn. Spitfire V W3438 KH-G shot down over France escorting CIRCUS 84, **F/O D.J. McKenna** bailed out seriously burned and was injured when he landed. See Sept. 8, below.
- 21 403 Sqn. Spitfire Vb P8740 KH-E shot down over France escorting CIRCUS 84, Squadron commanding officer S/L B.G. Morris RAF PoW.
- 21 403 Sqn. Spitfire Va R7279 KH-S shot down over France escorting CIRCUS 84, **Sgt C.E. McDonald RCAF (USA)** PoW, but escaped to Spain in June, 1943, for which he was awarded the MM. He later transferred to the USAAF. He flew F-86 fighters in Korea where he was killed in a flying accident ([www.conscript-heroes.com](http://www.conscript-heroes.com) MI-9



files, <http://aircrewremembered.com>, Awards). See also D. Black 2009.

- 21 411 Sqn. a flight of 2 Spitfire IIa aircraft scrambled, but without making an interception, 411 Sqn's. first operational flight. One of the two pilots in P8657 DB-X was **P/O D.J.M. Blakeslee RCAF (USA)**, who went on to command 133 (USA) Sqn. RAF, made up of US volunteers, and later transferred to the USAAF where he commanded the 4th Fighter Group as a Lt. Col. and finished the war with a score of 15½ air and 2 ground victories. With 500 operational sorties totalling over 1,000 hours of combat time he had flown the most missions of any US fighter pilot during the war (wikipedia). A photograph of this pilot as a F/L appeared in *The R.C.A.F. Overseas - The First Four Years*, published during the war. See November 18, below.
- 21 610 Sqn. Spitfire Vb W3455 DW-U shot down over France on an escort sortie, F/L D.W. Crowley-Milling DFC RAF, who had been a flight commander in 242 (Canadian) Sqn. under S/L Bader in the Battle of Britain, evaded.
- 21 #9 AOS RAF Anson I N9877 flew into the sea on a training flight **LAC(N) D.T. Clark RAF (Can.)**, **LAC(N) C.F. Chapman RAF**, **Sgt R.H. Grattan-Doyle RAF** and **AC2 A.W. Mills RAF** killed, **AC2 H. Whittaker RAF** missing ([www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 21 #59 OTU Hurricane IIb Z5070 landed, lost, in Eire, **Sgt R.F. Tees** interned (released Oct. 1943) (D. Burke, [www.w2irishaviation.com](http://www.w2irishaviation.com))

Friday

**22 Attacks on German soldiers in Paris bring threat of shooting of random hostages ([www2total.com](http://www2total.com) Chronology/1941).**

- 22 #57 OTU, Wales, Spitfire Ia L1082 crashed after colliding with another Spitfire Ia R7018 in a practice dogfight, **P/O R.D. Crozier RCAF (USA)** killed in the former, and **P/O A.W. Park RAF (S. Africa)** in the latter.
- 22 #61 OTU Spitfire Ia R6836 crashed in England practicing low level manoeuvres, **Sgt W.H. Smith RCAF (USA)** killed.
- 22 #1 Air Navigation School, Rivers, Manitoba, clerk **AC1 H.A. Dean** was killed in an automobile accident in Headingly, Manitoba
- 22 #4 SFTS, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Crane I #7700 stalled and crashed near the airfield on a solo flying practice, **LAC(P) H.O. Richardson** killed. See #12 SFTS loss July 25, 1942.

**22-23 Ninety seven bombers attack Mannheim, and 23 more to Le Havre (BC War Diaries).**

- 22-23 10 Sqn. Whitley V T4234 ZA-Z flew into high ground returning from Le Havre, **P/O K.W. Liebeck** and **Sgt G. Fletcher RAF** killed, **Sgt L.R. Silver**, **Sgt J.M. McLaughlan** and **Sgt R.N. Speer** injured. The tail turret broke off with Sgt Speer, who managed to get out then returned to the wreck where he freed Sgt McLaughlan who was

trapped in the wreckage. Together they found Sgt Silver who had been thrown from the crash. They waited until daylight at the wreck then proceeded down hill until they found a rail line that they followed until they reached a station and help (R. Allenby). See May 30-31 and June 5-6, 1942. Post war Sgt Silver wrote a book about his experiences in the Air Force, *Last of the Gladiators: A World War II Bomber Navigator's Story*, Airline Publishing Ltd, 1995.

22-23 106 Sqn. Hampden I AE220 shot down by a night fighter over Germany, P/O J.P. Erly DFC, P/O A.F. McGruer RNZAF, Sgt A.L.P. Rawlinson RAF and Sgt J.W. Goddard RAF killed.

Saturday

**23 Vichy Government makes "terrorist" (ie, resistance) activities a capital offence (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).**

**#36 SFTS (RAF) becomes operational at Penhold, Alberta with an auxiliary landing field at Innisfail (C. Simonsen).**

- 23 413 Sqn. Catalina I AH556 crashed in Scotland after taking off for a night flying practice with the elevator trim set nose down, Sgt P.J.N. Coady, F/O A.L. Fowler DFC RNZAF, F/O M.A. Hirst RAF, AC1 P.Q. O'Brien RAF and instructor Ens. D.A. Eldred USN killed, AC Muir RAF and Sgt R.B.H. Scroggs RAF injured.
- 23 #35 SFTS, North Battleford, Saskatchewan, AC2 W.J. Keenan RAF died of a heart attack while playing soccer at #12 SFTS, Brandon, Manitoba (B. Barry et al).

Sunday

- 24 500 Sqn. Blenheim IV Z6039 MK-Q shot down off Holland attacking two German escort vessels, Sgt J.E. Mylrea, P/O G.C.M. Fletcher RAF and Sgt H. Walton RAF missing. TSGNO states Sgt Mylrea was from Victoria BC, but CCL Vol. 1 states he was from Los Angeles, California, USA.
- 24 #21 EFTS, Chatham, NB, Finch II #4448 crashed near Soggieville, NB (R.W.R. Walker).

**24-25 Düsseldorf attacked by 44 bombers, but thick cloud forces bombing on estimated position. A special group of Hampden aircraft was used to attack search light defences and report some effect (BC War Diaries).**

24-25 51 Sqn. Whitley V Z6505 MH-F shot down over Holland by a night fighter, F/S C.J. Powell, F/S A.R. Lacharite, Sgt J.C.W. King RAF, F/O E.R. Templer RAF and Sgt V. Thompson RAF PoW. See <http://www.crashsiteslimburg.nl/MAININDEX/index-Whitley-Z6505-MH-F/index-Whitley-Z6505-MH-F.htm> for information on the crash site. F/S Lacharite was later awarded a BEM for his activities trying to escape, which he succeeded in doing in 1945. These are detailed in *The R.C.A.F.*

Overseas - *The Sixth Year.*

24-25 78 Sqn. Whitley V Z6742 returned to England from an operation but caught on fire and was abandoned. Four crew, P/O Fransden RAF, Sgt Becker RAF, Sgt Young RAF and Sgt Gale RAF survived, but **Sgt D.A. Sinclair** did not bail out and was killed in the crash.

Monday

**25 Norwegian Arctic island of Spitsbergen occupied by Canadian troops to evacuate Norwegian and Russian population and destroy anything of use to Germany. Spitsbergen was a major source of coal for German occupied Norway. CP liner RMS Empress of Canada used to transport the force to the island.**

**Soviet and British troops occupy portions of Iran in a joint operation. Soldiers were moved by air into the oil fields to protect British and Indian nationals, and aircraft from HMS Hermes protected a naval force landing Indian soldiers (C. Shores).**

**Canadian built Canso A amphibian, a license built version of the PBY-5a Catalina, begins service with the RCAF (Griffin CMA).**

- 25 14 Sqn., Iraq, Blenheim IV V5444 was one of 11 aircraft making a long-range leaflet drop on the Iranian capitol of Tehran. Due to the lean mixture used to extend the range 3 suffered engine troubles, 2 returned safely but V5444 crash landed just inside the Iraq border, **S/L D.M. Illsley DFC RAF (Can.)**, Sgt J.H. Hibbert RAF and P/O E. Burden DFC RAF safe. See Nov. 14, below.
- 25 Central Flying School, Trenton, Ontario, Harvard I #1350 suffered it's sixth accident (R.W.R. Walker). See October 17, below.
- 25 #2 Air Navigation School, Pennfield Ridge, NB, Anson I #6644 was engaged on a search flight for a missing aircraft (Anson I #6649) when it crashed checking a bonfire on the ground near Liverpool, NS, ground wireless operator **AC1 G.J. Elliott, Sgt G.T. Woodhams**, F/L W.S. Smallman RAF and Sgt S. Street RAF killed. The airmen they were searching for had already been found, safe (#34 OTU Roll of Honour).
- 25 #31 EFTS, De Winton, Alberta, DH.82C Tiger Moth #5069 crashed near Chestermere Lake, Alberta (R.W.R. Walker).
- 25 unknown unit (#15 EFTS?), DH.82C Tiger Moth #4191 damaged at Regina, Saskatchewan (R.W.R. Walker).

**25-26 Bomber Command sends 49 bombers to Karlsruhe and 45 to Mannheim. Bad weather again encountered (BC War Diaries).**

25-26 7 Sqn. Stirling I N6020 MG-B lost over Germany, **Sgt W.E. Allan, Sgt J.D. Edworthy**,

F/O K.O. Blunden RAF, P/O J.D. Wright RAF, Sgt G. Nicholson RAF and P/O E.F. Drew RAF killed, Sgt D.A. Lloyd RAF PoW.

24-25 35 Sqn. Halifax L9572 TL-G lost over Belgium, **Sgt J.B. Anderson**, P/O J. McGregor-Cheers RAF, Sgt T.P. McHale RAF, Sgt W.N. Collins RAF, Sgt A.A.S. Heggie RAF, Sgt J. Fuller RAF and P/O V.M. Markham RAF killed. See August 12-13, above. (referenced by S. Hadaway).

25-26 40 Sqn. Wellington Ic X9749 BL-J lost over Belgium, **Sgt R.J.F. Perras**, S/L A.C. Martin RAF, P/O T.R. Fyles RAF, P/O R.R. Reynolds RAF, Sgt G. Knight RAF and F/O W. Wright RAF killed.

Tuesday

**26 The US House Committee on Un-American Activities, set up in 1938 to hear reports of suspected communist activity in the USA, heard testimony beginning this date that indicated that Nazi Germany had set up a system to provide pre-written speeches on Anti-Semitism, and the military and political supremacy of Germany, to members of the US Congress. These Congressman were paid to read this propaganda into the Congressional Record (the US version of Hansard) which would make them publicly available. The same Congressmen, using a false flag committee demanding reparations from England from the First World War, would then be able to order hundreds of thousands of copies of this propaganda printed at government expense, and give it to groups set up by Nazi Germany, and send it free through the US Post Office as 'franked' mail-outs from their offices, mis-using their privilege as members of Congress. This system, which began organizing in 1933 when Hitler became Chancellor, was designed to foment dissent in the USA, attack Jewish people there, and prevent the US from entering the war. Although this led to several trials, delay and obfuscation by defending lawyers, and using their political power, resulted in no legal actions being taken against elected Congressman for their seditious actions (R. Maddow). See August 31, below.**

**By order of Privy Council the Canadian Army Chemical Warfare Experimental Station is set up at Suffield, Alberta, and Chemical Warfare Laboratories established in Ottawa. Later factories to produce chemical warfare agents and other dangerous chemicals needed for the war effort are built at a purpose built site in Ontario, creating the city of Ajax, run by the Crown Corporation Defence Industries Limited.**

26 122 Sqn. Spitfire Ia X4898 flew into the ground landing in England, **P/O R.E. Robinson** killed.

26 242 (Canadian) Sqn. Hurricane II Z4001 shot down by flak off France, P/O H. Quillam RAF killed.



- 26 226 Sqn. Blenheim IV Z7305 MQ-T shot down by flak on an anti-shipping strike, one of 5 Blenheims lost, Sgt S. Burdon RAF killed, **Sgt C.C. Topping** and Sgt G.V. Smith RAF (Australia) missing (Bill Houle [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 26 #1 ITS Toronto, Ontario, **AC2 J.A. Buckham** died.
- 26 #5 SFTS, Brantford, Ontario, **LAC D.G. May** was struck and killed by a propeller of Anson I #6022 during night flying practice.

**26-27 Cologne attacked by 99 bombers which claim good bombing in clear conditions, but German defence organizations report that most bombs missed the city (BC War Diaries).**

26-27 9 Sqn. Wellington Ic W5703 came down in France after suffering engine trouble leaving it's target over Germany, **Sgt J.T. Stickle**s, Sgt S. Murray RAF and Sgt R.P. Wright RAF PoW, S/L H.E. Bufton RAF, Sgt W.F. Crampton RAF and Sgt K.B. Read RAF evaded.

Wednesday

**27 Italian MC.202 fighters make their first operational sorties in Russia, claiming 8 victories (H.W. Neulen).**

**Assassination attempt on Vichy leaders at Versailles (ww2total.com Chronology/1941). Vichy Prime Minister Pierre Laval wounded when at a parade honouring the first contingent of volunteer French soldiers leaving to fight the Soviet Union.**

**Operation of private British railways taken over by Government for the war effort (K. Farrington).**

**Disabled by a depth charge attack by a 269 Squadron Hudson from Iceland, U-570 surrenders to the aircraft. Later intercepted by a naval force of armed trawlers and destroyers (including HMCS Niagara) the U-boat was put into RN service as HMS Graph, where it was subject to detailed analysis by RN and USN groups before entering active service, the only U-boat to serve on both sides during the war (R. McNeill).**

**First US cargo "Liberty Ship" is launched, built from the same British 'North Sands' design as Canada's Park and Fort ships but modified to use welded steel construction rather than riveted plates for faster production (wikipedia).**

- 27 22 Sqn. Beaufort I N1171 OA-H lost at sea on a GARDENING sortie, **Sgt T.S. Royan** and F/S H. Menary DFM RAF killed, Sgt F.S.R. Heard RAF and Sgt R.P.S. Grenfell RAF missing.

- 27 71 (USA) Sqn. Spitfire IIa P7308 XR-D, P/O W.R. Dunn RAF (USA) shot down 2 Bf 109 fighters before being hit and wounded by a third (www.rafcommands.com). He managed to return to make a safe landing in England. This brought his score as a fighter pilot to 5½, making him the first "ace" in the US Eagle Squadrons. P/O Dunn had enlisted in the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada and been sent to England and, briefly, France before transferring to the RAF. While with the Seaforths he had been credited with shooting down 2 Ju 87 aircraft while manning a machine gun, which he did not include in his score. After his recovery he was sent back to Canada as a gunnery instructor, then transferred to the USAAF where he went back to Europe, shot down 2 more aircraft, and ended the war as a Lt Col flying fighters in China (V. Haugland, www.spitfires.ukf.net).
- 27 402 Sqn. Hurricane IIb Z5001 collided with a Spitfire aircraft over the Channel on an escort sortie, F/L T.B. Little was seen to bail out but was not found. He had been shot down and wounded on Sept. 11, 1940 attacking a formation of He 111 aircraft in a #1 (F) Sqn. RCAF Hurricane.
- 27 402 Sqn. Hurricane IIb Z3424 shot down on an escort sortie, Sgt D.W. Jenkin PoW.
- 27 403 Sqn. Spitfire IIa P8726 lost on an escort to CIRCUS 86, F/L E.C. Cathels RAF (Can.) PoW. F/L Cathels had enlisted in the RAF in 1936, and had flown for some years in Egypt (Roy Nixon www.rafcommands.com).
- 27 #5 SFTS, Brantford, Ontario, two Anson I aircraft on approach collided and crashed, killing LAC(P) K.F. Davis RCAF (USA) in #6190 and LAC(P) A. Switzer in #6154.
- 27 #14 SFTS, Aylmer, Ontario, Harvard II #3189 failed to recover from a spin, LAC(P) Forcey bailed out and safe (M.L. McIntyre).
- 27 #32 SFTS, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Harvard II #2570 crashed, LAC A.R. Herbert RAF killed.

**27-28 Bomber Command sends 91 bombers to Mannheim and 21 on other operations, no losses to enemy action but 8 aircraft crash in England (fog?) (BC War Diaries).**

**Soviet bombers attack Königsberg (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).**

- 27-28 78 Sqn. Whitley V Z6508 lost off the coast of France, Sgt P. Gennon RNZAF and Sgt G.T. Harper RAF killed, Sgt S.E. Rowed, P/O K.W. Davies RAF and Sgt J.W. Bills RAF missing.
- 27-28 #2 (Coastal) OTU Blenheim IV T1945 became lost on a solo flight, P/O M.H. Gifford force landed on the Dutch island of Texel where he was taken PoW (Hans Nauta & Dick, www.rafcommand.com).

Thursday

**28 After light resistance Iranian forces surrender, but the Government still refuses to**

**surrender or expel German and Italian nationals (C. Shores). See September 17, below.**

**Daylight RAF attack on Rotterdam Harbour by 18 Blenheim bombers hit two ships but lose 8 aircraft (Polsson).**

**#6 B&G School sent 12 Battle I trainers to Trenton to be used for scenes in the movie "Captains of the Clouds" (S. Shail).**

- 28 21 Sqn. Blenheim IV V6436 YH-L lost over Holland, **P/O F.K. Orme**, F/O A.H. Collins RAF and P/O S.F.M. Gunnis RAF killed on this aircraft, one of four 21 Sqn. Blenheims lost on this operation.
- 28 41 Sqn. Spitfire Va R7255 lost, **Sgt W.F. Bodkin** missing.
- 28 88 Sqn. Blenheim IV Z7445 lost over Holland, **F/L J.O. Alexander RAF (Can.)**, F/S A.J. Hardy RAF and F/S J.L. Briggs RAF killed. W.R. Chorley notes that F/L Alexander had been awarded a medal of the Royal Humane Society for saving a life at sea.
- 28 226 Sqn. Blenheim IV Z7299 MQ-F swung on take-off for operations, **Sgt R.J. O'Connell**, Sgt Saunders RAF and P/O Robertson RAF safe.
- 28 #13 OTU RAF Blenheim IV Z6099 believed lost over Irish Sea on a navigation exercise, **P/O C.K. Bowen**, P/O D.J. Ritchie RAAF and Sgt C.W. Strutt RAF missing.
- 28 #55 OTU Hurricane I Z4046 crashed in England, killing **Sgt J.A. Parker**.
- 28 #78 Wing, England, radar mechanic **LAC J.S. Watson** was killed by electrocution in an accident (M. Cummings).
- 28 #32 SFTS, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Harvard II #2735 crashed, Sgt K.I. Gilbert RAF killed.
- 28 #32 SFTS, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Harvard II #2809 crashed, LAC P.J. Shannon RAF killed ([www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).

**28-29 Duisburg attacked by 118 bombers which claim good results. Hampdens again used in anti-searchlight attacks, but lose 2 of the 6 aircraft involved (BC War Diaries).**

- 28-29 7 Sqn. Stirling I N3666 MG-Z was attacked and badly damaged by a Bf 110 fighter over the North Sea, following which it crash landed at it's base, rear gunner Sgt H. MacRae RAF wounded, **Sgt M. Roach DFM**, F/L D.J.H. Lay DFC RAF, Sgt C. Tourville RAF, Sgt W.H. Robinson RAF, Sgt A. Chambers RAF and Sgt J. Donlan RAF safe.
- 28-29 7 Sqn. Stirling I W7438 lost over Germany, **Sgt F.C. Child RAF (Can.)**, **P/O C.F. Hart**, **F/S A. Penn RAF (Can.)**, P/O J.E. Chilvers RAF, Sgt J.W. Blakey RAF, Sgt G.J. Truscott RAF and Sgt N.R. Cowin RAF killed. P/O Hart had previously been interned May 16, 1941 when his aircraft crashed in Portugal, returning to the

Squadron June 4, 1941. Sgt Child was a Biggs' Boy (K. Stofer).

- 28-29 40 Sqn. Wellington Ic Z8839 BL-L crashed in Germany, P/O J.E. King RAF, Sgt B.T. Kearsley RAF and Sgt A.A. Cormack RAF killed, **Sgt J.C. Bredin**, Sgt A.C.T. Barter RAF and Sgt T. Arnold RAF PoW.
- 28-29 104 Sqn. Wellington II W5595 EP-E lost over Germany, **Sgt A.G. Geddes**, **Sgt J.A.D. Rheaume**, Sgt G.H. Spickett RAF, Sgt H.A. French RAF, Sgt E.S. Jones and Sgt D.C. Hayward RAF killed.
- 28-29 405 Sqn. Wellington II W5488 LQ-B lost, **Sgt D.M. Hughes**, Sgt J.W.T. Davies RAF, Sgt R.J. Hollobone RAF and P/O E.M. Watts RAF killed, **Sgt I.S. Quinn** and Sgt D.S. MacLeod RAF PoW.

Friday

**29 At an America First rally in Oklahoma City Charles Lindbergh stated an armed Britain could not be trusted and might attack the United States, followed by another speaker advocating declaring war on England to free India. These statements were not popular to the general public, and support for the movement began to decline (wikipedia). As well, at this time, many in the USA (including Lindbergh) equate Canada with Britain, so these statements are of great concern to Ottawa, implying that a military threat to Canada from an Isolationist USA was possible, similar to the Fenian Raids of the 1860s, supposedly intended to free Ireland from England by attacking Canada.**

- 29 OADU Wellington II W5569 enroute to the Middle East overran it's landing at Gibraltar and collided with Beaufighter "L5896", **Sgt H.R. Teskey** killed, **Sgt L.F. Meyer**, Sgt L.A. Dyan RAF, Sgt R.D. Stevenson RAF and Sgt C. Desmond RAF injured, Sgt H.J. Ryan RAF and passenger Lt Cdr Longdon safe.
- 29 19 Sqn. Spitfire Ila aircraft were on a morning air-sea rescue search for their Commanding Officer, S/L W.J. Lawson DFC RAF, shot down off the Dutch coast the previous day, when they were intercepted by Bf 110 aircraft and 4 Spitfire Ila aircraft were shot down with the loss of **P/O P.D.G. Stuart** missing in P8668, Sgt G.J. Parkin RAF missing, P/O P.H. Edwards RAF (not found in CWGC) and Sgt Davies RAF (not found in CWGC) missing/killed or PoW (www.rafcommands.com).
- 29 242 (Canadian) Sqn. Hurricane IIb Z3557 crashed in England on a patrol, P/O N.J. Lezmore RAF killed (www.rafcommands.com).

**29-30 Bomber Command sends 242 sorties out on this night, including 143 to Frankfurt and 94 to Mannheim, 5 lost (BC War Diaries).**

**138 Squadron RAF begins operations in support of resistance and SOE groups in occupied Europe on this night, using bombers to drop agents and supplies (BC War Diaries).**



- 29-30 102 Sqn. Whitley Z6951 crashed in England on operation to Germany, **Sgt P.E. Carreau**, Sgt A.E. Masters RAF and Sgt W.V. Atkinson RAF killed, Sgt F.G. Kuebler RAF and Sgt C. Higson RAF injured.
- 29-30 103 Sqn. Wellington Ic R1213 was struck by lightning over Holland and crashed, **Sgt A.H. Figg**, Sgt G.P. Williams RAAF, Sgt H.A. Kelly RAF and Sgt J. Grassom RAF killed, P/O W.R. Oldfield RAF and Sgt H. Dunn RAF PoW.
- 29-30 115 Sqn. Wellington Ic X9826 KO-D is believed to have been shot down over England by an Intruder, **Sgt W.H. Blades**, Sgt W.J. Cowell RAF, Sgt F.J. McGaw RAF, Sgt J.K. Murdoch RAF and F/S A. Forse RAF killed, **F/S J.W. Boyce** injured. See Sept. 1, below.
- 29-30 214 Sqn. Wellington Ic R1604 lost over Holland, **Sgt E.W. Foxlee**, Sgt E. Halestrap RAF, Sgt J.E. Jerrard RAF, Sgt K. Morris RAF, Sgt J.H. Williamson RAF and Sgt G. Klusky RAF killed. When the wreckage of this aircraft was excavated in 1972, it was reported that there were indications it's loss may have been due to a lightning strike (<https://aviation-safety.net>).

Saturday

**30 Soviet armoured offensive in Ukraine begins, but is stopped after 4 days (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).**

- 30 38 Sqn. Wellington Ic X9737 lost attacking Tripoli, P/O D.P.F. Mauchlen RAF and Sgt S.G. Shirley-Thomson RAF killed, **F/S L.G. Spilsbury**, F/L S.H. Wrinch RAF and WO H.J. Phillips RAF PoW (H. Welting [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 30 39 Sqn. Maryland II AH367 shot down by Bf 110 aircraft on operations in the Middle East, **S/L J.S.T. Halliday RAF (Can.)** killed, Sgt L.F.S.F. Fouracre RAF, Sgt S.H. Wakeling MiD RAF and Sgt A. Williams RAF missing (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1; CWGC; [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 30 42 Sqn. Beaufort I L9834 AW-V crashed in Scotland, hitting a hill just after taking off on an operation, **Sgt L.C. Mansell**, S/L G.S.P. Rooney DFC RAF, F/O C. Grant RAF and F/S R.S. Knott RAF killed.
- 30 232 Sqn. Canadian built Hurricane I Z7062 was on an army co-operation exercise making mock attacks on various defence positions when the pilot misjudged his height, clipped sandbags defending a machine-gun site and killed Gunner H. Seekens, 68 Light AA Regiment. The aircraft spun into a garage and burned, P/O J.H. Wire RAF killed ([aircrashesnearstanleyandconsett.blogspot.ca](http://aircrashesnearstanleyandconsett.blogspot.ca), D. Burke and alclark at [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 30 410 Sqn. Defiant N1731 crashed on a hill in Scotland on a night training flight, Sgt D.W. Hall RAF and F/S D.G. Cresswell RAF killed ([www.aircrashesites-scotland.co.uk](http://www.aircrashesites-scotland.co.uk)).
- 30 #4 SFTS, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Crane I #7681 crashed NW of Blaine Lake, Saskatchewan, on a cross country navigation exercise, killing **LAC(P) R.G. Measor** and **LAC(P) W.S. Morriss RCAF (USA)**. See #12 SFTS loss July 25, 1942.

Sunday

**31 Pennsylvania-Central Airlines DC-3 NC21789, Trip 19, from Washington DC to Pittsburgh crashed in the hills of Virginia in a violent thunderstorm killing all 25 crew and passengers on board, including Senator Ernest Lundeen of Minnesota, one of the Congressman heavily involved in the German propaganda scheme (R. Maddow).**

- 31 44 Sqn. Hampden I AD939 crashed in England on a training flight after colliding in mid-air with a 412 Spitfire, below. **LAC F.B. Prest RAF (Can.)**, P/O P.R. Owen and Sgt D.G. Forbes RAF killed. W.R. Chorley notes that LAC Prest was a candidate for aircrew training.
- 31 412 Sqn. Spitfire IIa P8586 collided in mid-air with 44 Sqn. Hampden I AD939 over England. **P/O W.R. Hughes** killed in the Spitfire (www.spitfires.ukf.net). See above.
- 31 #7 EFTS, London, Ontario, Finch II #4509 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).
- 31 #19 EFTS, Virden, Manitoba, **LAC(P) C.R. Holt RCAF (USA)** drowned at Green Bay, Lake Superior, he has no known grave (www.rafcommands.com).
- 31 #31 EFTS, De Winton, Alberta, DH.82C Tiger Moth #5055 crashed near Calgary Airport (R.W.R. Walker).
- 31 unknown unit, F/O R.D. Parker RAF killed in a car accident near Clinton, Ontario

**31-1 Cologne (103 bombers) and Essen (71) attacked, but clouds again disrupt bombing (BC War Diaries).**

- 31-1 12 Sqn. Wellington II W5577 PH-U shot down off Dieppe, **Sgt W.B. Clark**, P/O R.N. Dastur IAF, Sgt R.B. Russell RAF killed, **Sgt J.F. Wolff**, P/O C.P. Kosla IAF and Sgt P.J. Lewis RAF missing. Both IAF aircrew were part of a group of 24 IAF pilots sent to England during the Battle of Britain (Jagan www.rafcommands.com).
- 31-1 44 Sqn. Hampden I AD726 lost over the North Sea, **Sgt H.A. Taylor** and Sgt R.K. Hayes RAF killed, Sgt S.A. Harvey RAF and F/S J.E. Phillips RAF missing.
- 31-1 99 Sqn. Wellington Ic R1411 LN-N had returned from it's crews first operation and diverted to another airfield. While in the landing circuit it was shot down by a Ju 88 Intruder and crashed, **Sgt A.F. Brodribb**, P/O G.S. Eccles RAF, Sgt D.H. Hodge RAF, Sgt D.R. Mallett RAF and Sgt G.E. Boxall RAF killed, Sgt Stevens RAF injured (H. Welting www.rafcommands.com).
- 31-1 101 Sqn. Wellington Ic R1703 SR-J lost over Belgium, **Sgt J.B. Redden**, P/O J.F. Ashton RAF and Sgt E.R.V. Lane RAF killed, **Sgt R.T. Wood RCAF (USA)** PoW, Sgt L.A. Warburton RAF and Sgt J.W. Hutton RAF evaded.
- 31-1 102 Sqn. Whitley V Z6837 lost over Belgium, **P/O E.G.M. Anderson**, **Sgt M.S. Humphrey**, **Sgt T.H. Wood**, Sgt T.C. Boyle RAF and Sgt N.C.J. Carter RAF killed.
- 31-1 207 Sqn. Manchester I L7316 EM-U shot down by flak over Germany, **Sgt W.M. Cadney**, F/S R.W. Gray RAF, P/O P.G.C. Wood RAF and Sgt B. Akrigg RAF killed,

P/O T.R. Gilderthorp RAF and Sgt L.C. Parker RAF PoW.

31-1 405 Sqn. Wellington II W5535 was on a training flight when it suffered an engine fire and crash landed in England, where it burned out, **Sgt A.N. McLennan**, Sgt Turner RAF, Sgt L.J.J. Hanley RAAF, Sgt H.S. McNeil RAF and one crewman safe (R. Allenby).

***Late August, McGill University, Montreal, a poison gas based on fluorine is discovered. Called Compound Z, it is kept secret for over 40 years and later cited as one of Canada's greatest contributions to Chemical Warfare (Polsson).***

## **September 1941**

***#116 (BR) Sqn. begins to re-equip from Catalina flying boats to Canso A amphibians (RCAF Sqns.). 401 Sqn. begins to re-equip with Spitfire IIa aircraft (RCAF Sqns.). Having temporarily used Spitfire V aircraft in August, 403 Sqn. begins to re-equip with Spitfire Vb aircraft (RCAF Sqns.). 415 Sqn. receives Beaufort I torpedo bombers (R. Hayward).***

***In the summer the USA began looking at establishing airfields in Baffin Island, Greenland and Iceland to ferry short ranged aircraft directly to England. To begin the work in this month weather reporting stations were established at Fort Chimo in Labrador (CRYSTAL I), near Frobisher Bay (CRYSTAL II) and on Padloping Island (CRYSTAL III) in the NWT (now Nunavut) (J. Bykofsky & H. Larson).***

***125 (Newfoundland) Sqn. RAF becomes operational as a night fighter unit (wikipedia).***

***In Rome, in one of it's few coups, Italian Intelligence obtains the US State Departments diplomatic Black Code (Oxford). See Dec. 18, below.***

Monday

***1 US Office of Scientific Research and Development (OSRD) begins a crash program to develop an atomic bomb, on the belief that German research had a two year head start on this work, which later proved incorrect (Oxford).***

***In the Moscow Conference supply of aircraft to the Soviet Union had been discussed. Most of these initially supplied were to be Hurricanes, which were readily available, and it was decided to send an RAF Wing of Hurricanes to***

***Murmansk to assist in the defence and provide type training to Russian units. First aircraft for #151 Wing RAF arrive in Archangel, USSR, in crates, with ground crew (M. Sheppard). See Sept. 7, below.***

***The Hurricane and P-40B fighters initially supplied were not able to meet the latest Bf 109F fighters used by the Luftwaffe on equal terms, in part because the high octane fuel their engines were intended for was not available in the USSR, but their superior radios were a revelation to the Soviet air forces (Bergström & Mikhailov V.2).***

***#13 SFTS, St. Hubert, Quebec, opened (<http://www.bombercrew.com/BCATP.htm>).***

- 1 RAF Ferry Command, Liberator I AM915 crashed near Campbelltown, Scotland, flying from Canada, pilots Capt. K. Garden (Aus.) BOAC, G.L. Panes (UK) BOAC, **Radio Officer S.W. Sydenham (Can.)**, Flight Engineer C.A. Spence (US), and passengers Count Guy De Baillet-Letour (Belgium), Professor R.B. Mowat (UK), Dr. Mark Benjamin, British Air Ministry technical officer E. Taylor (UK), Capt. S. Pickering USN and Lt. Col. L.H. Wrangham RM killed (Christie & Peak District Air Crashes website).
- 1 115 Sqn. **F/S J.W. Boyce** died of the injuries sustained August 30, above.
- 1 #9 SFTS Summerside, PEI, Harvard II #2860 swerved on landing and struck a vehicle, **LAC(P) J.L. Cail** killed.
- 1 #14 EFTS, Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4163 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

***1-2 Cologne attacked by 54 bombers, but some report the use of decoys fires to mislead bombers, city reports few bombs in it's area (BC War Diaries).***

***First RCAF night fighter victory when **F/O R.C. Fumerton** and **Sgt L.P.S. Bing** in a 406 Sqn. Beaufighter II R2336 destroy a Ju 88 over England (CCMA, RCAF Sqs.).***

- 1-2 40 Sqn. Wellington Ic R1030 BL-R ditched off England on an operation, P/O A.R. Fitch RAF and Sgt T. Robertson RAF killed, **Sgt W.V. Parslow**, Sgt T. Stabler RAF, P/O A. Kinnerburgh RAF and Sgt A.C.S. Delgado RAF safe.
- 1-2 44 Sqn. Hampden I AE152 KM-R believed lost over the North Sea, P/O E.A.W. Thompson RAF killed, **P/O H.J. Cook**, Sgt E. Dyer DFM RAF and Sgt W. McBeth RAF missing.
- 1-2 50 Sqn. Hampden I AE305 crash landed in England on an operation, **Sgt R.M. Gifford**, F/S F.A. Titcomb RAF, Sgt Raynes RAF and Sgt Christy RAF safe.



Tuesday

- 2 404 Sqn. Blenheim IV L9394 crashed in Scotland on a training flight, **Sgt W.E. Dale**, Sgt E.G. Allen RAF and Cpl. L.W. McKinley RAF killed.
- 2 409 Sqn. Beaufighter IIF R2469 crashed in England, squadron Commanding Officer **W/C N.B. Petersen** and P/O A.N. Slater RAF killed (aviation-safety.net).
- 2 #4 AOS, London, Ontario, Anson #6141 was taking off and was too close to Anson #6146 which had just landed. The pilot of #6141 tried to miss the other aircraft by climbing steeply but his undercarriage struck it and he crashed, pilot O.A. Lütken (formerly with the RNor.AF) and civilian instructor **R.W. Reain** were killed on #6141, 2 students survived. The civilian pilot **Lamont** and 3 crew survived on #6146 (paulmcmillan, H. Welting & R.W.R. Walker at [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 2 #31 EFTS, De Winton, Alberta, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4247 crashed near Calgary, Alberta, killing **P/O D.G. McLeod**, LAC(P) B.V.S. Woods RAF badly injured (Dakota [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com))
- 2 unknown unit in USA (possibly Lincoln Airplane and Flying School at Lakeland Florida), LAC R.A. Cleave RAF missing in Stearman PT-17D 40-1876, lost in bad weather off Florida (D. Burke [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).

**2-3 Bomber Command sends 201 sorties out on this night including 126 bombers to Frankfurt and 49 to Berlin, 10 to Ostend and 16 GARDENING sorties, 12 aircraft lost (BC War Diaries).**

- 2-3 57 Sqn. Wellington II W5434 LX-Y crashed in England after striking a house in poor visibility returning from an operation, **F/S L.T. Lawson**, **Sgt D.E. Soles**, **F/S A.C. Turgeon**, Sgt L.T. Hutchison RAAF, Sgt F.K. Crossley RAF and Sgt F. McNeill RAF killed. F/S Lawson had survived a ditching June 4, above.
- 2-3 102 Sqn. Whitley V Z6946 crashed in England in the village of Kirton, Suffolk on return from operations, causing heavy damage to the community and injuring a child on the ground. **F/S L.M. Bowen**, **F/S D.M. Bozer**, **F/S S.T. Modeland**, **P/O J.C. Nixon** and Sgt A.F. Jagers RAF killed. Five pews at the local Church have been dedicated to the memory of these crew members.
- 2-3 104 Sqn. Wellington II W5435 EP-F flew into trees and crashed attempting a forced landing on return from Frankfurt, **Sgt J.H. Hegan**, P/O R.A.A. Doherty RAF, P/O P. Dawson RAF, Sgt K.D. Boyce RAF, Sgt J. Williams RAF and Sgt Williams (RAF?) injured (R. Allenby). See Jan. 15-16, 1942.
- 2-3 214 Sqn. Wellington Ic R1717 lost off the coast of France, **Sgt J.C. Brakeman**, **F/S J.P. McKay**, Sgt L.W. Price RAF, Sgt L. Black RAF, Sgt C. Hambleton RAF and F/L R.H. May RAF killed.

Wednesday

**3 Soviet offensive in Smolensk region ([ww2total.com](http://ww2total.com) Chronology/1941).**

***The first use of gas chambers at Auschwitz, Poland, 600 Soviet PoWs and 250 sick prisoners no longer able to work were killed with cyanide gas (wikipedia, Polson).***

***412 Sqn. P/O J.G. MaGee RCAF (USA), while on a high altitude test flight in a Spitfire, is inspired to write the poem High Flight, which he then includes as a part of a letter to his mother. It becomes world famous as a description of flight. See Dec. 11, below.***

- 3 Cargo ship *MV Richepanse* bombed and then torpedoed, sinking west of Ireland bound for England, P/O W.M. Bishop RAF, P/O J.R. Cox RAF, P/O H.H. Hay RAF and P/O F.J. Kruszynski RAF, returning from training in Canada, among the 41 missing and killed.

***3-4 Brest attacked by 140 bombers, but most recalled due to bad weather. Only 53 bombed through smoke screens, none lost but 3 crashed in worsening weather in England (BC War Diaries).***

- 3-4 58 Sqn. Whitley V Z6869 GE-T crashed in England after being recalled from an operation, F/S W.H. Trewin, Sgt R.L. Ward, P/O A.A. Law RAF and Sgt C.O. Steggall RAF killed, P/O E.D. Comber-Higgs RAF injured. Sgt Ward was from Verdun, Quebec, but is also listed as a US citizen.

Thursday

***4 German U-boat attacks the destroyer USS Greer in the Atlantic in error after being depth charged by an RAF aircraft. The Greer responds with depth charges, which miss. Presented in press as an unprovoked attack by the U-boat (Polsson et al).***

***#35 SFTS, North Battleford, Saskatchewan opened (<http://www.bombercrew.com/BCATP.htm>).***

- 4 92 Sqn. Spitfire Vb W3182 shot down over France on a sweep, P/O J.E.T. Asselin immediately began trying to evade by obtaining clothes from French field workers, but was taken PoW in the act. In prison he participated in escape activities and escaped on three occasions, but was recaptured. Post war he received an MiD for his efforts ([airforce.ca/awards](http://airforce.ca/awards), T. Barris).
- 4 #31 EFTS, De Winton, Alberta, DH.82C Tiger Moth #5112 crashed 3 miles from Delacour, Alberta, killing P/O B.A. MacCallum, his student was badly injured (R.W.R. Walker).

Friday

- 5 #12 OTU Wellington Ic W5708 flew into ground on a night training exercise, **Sgt W.H. Fagan**, Sgt L.H. Hook RAF, P/O G.L. Dames RAF and Sgt P.M. Cordy RAF killed.

**5-6 Last Soviet air raid on Berlin of a total of 10. The forward airfields used for these were occupied by the advancing German army, ending the attacks (www.globalsecurity.org). The Soviet heavy bombers are then used for tactical purposes such as night attacks on supply dumps and transportation centres in German back areas, and for the supply of arms to partisan groups (Oxford). The heavy DB-3 and TB-3 bombers are replaced by newer twin engined Il-4 bombers more suited to the tactical bombing role, marking the end of Russian strategic bomber development (see July 29, 1944). Ironically the development of a large strategic heavy 4-engined long range bomber force in the 1930's by the USSR, and used for propaganda purposes, had been a strong influence in the creation of the US and UK strategic bomber forces. See July 29, 1944.**

Saturday

**6 Imperial Conference in Tokyo, Army Minister General Tojo argues successfully for Japan to plan for a war to obtain access to oil and other resources in British and Dutch colonies if negotiations to lift the embargo fail to show results by early October. This also means fighting the USA, the other remaining power in the region, based in the Philippines (Oxford).**

- 6 10 Sqn. Whitley V Z6932 was taking off from an airfield where it had diverted after becoming lost on an air test in poor visibility, when it flew into power lines and crashed, **Sgt W. Stuart**, P/O R.C. Austin RNZAF and Sgt P.W. Bryant RAF killed, Sgt R. Whitlock RAF injured.

**6-7 Thirty German bombers were operating over the Nile Delta on this night, two were shot down. As well Fw 200 patrol aircraft modified to carry torpedoes were searching for ships in the Gulf of Suez, at the Red Sea end of the Suez Canal, making 1 attack (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).**

**A chemical factory at Huls attacked by 86 bombers, plus 24 GARDENING sorties off Norway, 8 lost (BC War Diaries).**

- 6-7 10 Sqn. Whitley V Z6942 lost on operations, **Sgt J.H. Morgan**, **Sgt N.S. Jones**, F/S R.M. Holder RAF, P/O P.R.M. Runnacles RAF and Sgt J. Gounds RAF PoW.
- 6-7 10 Sqn. Whitley V Z6478 ZA-S was shot down over Holland by a night fighter, **F/S R.H. Wilson**, Sgt P.T. Takarangi RNZAF, Sgt A. Poupard RAF, P/O J.F. Laurie-Dickson RAF and Sgt R.J. Garrod RAF killed. See <http://www.teunispat.net/fr-wwii.htm> for

details.

- 6-7 77 Sqn. Whitley V Z6824 shot down by a night fighter over Holland, **Sgt E.C.E. Myers**, **P/O N. Woodward RCAF (UK)**, S/L A.J. Hannigan RAF and Sgt C.M. Evans RAF killed, Sgt D. Thomas RAF PoW.
- 6-7 77 Sqn. Whitley V Z6668 lost over Germany, **Sgt J.H. Painter**, P/O R.J. Minnis RNZAF, Sgt D.W. Mercer RAF (USA), Sgt D.G. Kemp RAF and Sgt D.W. Gillies RAF killed.
- 6-7 78 Sqn. Whitley V Z6864 was returning from Huls when it was attacked by a German Intruder and crashed landed in England, **Sgt T.B. Miller**, Sgt B.T.M. Jones RAAF, Sgt Jones RAF, Sgt Vere RAF and Sgt Rouse RAF were injured. Sgt Miller exited the burning aircraft and then returned to assist the pilot out of the aircraft. He then re-entered the aircraft and pulled out the badly injured wireless operator, whose clothing was on fire, then beat out the flames with his hands. For his efforts he was awarded the George Medal. This was his second operational sortie (R. Allenby). See June 1-2, 1942.
- 6-7 102 Sqn. Whitley V Z6574 DY-B came down in the sea off the English coast, **F/S J. Glover**, **F/S A.L. Halsey**, P/O J.R. Croucher RAF, Sgt H.L.B. Morphett RAAF and Sgt J.R. Tugman RAF missing.
- 6-7 102 Sqn. Whitley V Z6970 DY-R shot down by a night fighter over Holland, **Sgt L.A. Stock**, Sgt P.C. Eyre RAF, Sgt K.P. Withyman RAF and Sgt T. McGill RAF killed.

Sunday

**7 US freighter attacked and sunk in the Gulf of Suez (torpedoed by Fw 200, above?).**

**Hurricanes of 81 and 134 squadrons, #151 Wing RAF, are launched off HMS Argus to land at the Vaenga-Pervaya airfields in Northern Russia to help defend the port of Murmansk, and train Soviet airmen on Hurricanes. After a month the RAF airmen returned to England, while the Hurricanes were turned over to a new Russian unit, the 78th IAP (Fighter Air Regiment) (Y. Rubin). **P/O J.E. Walker**, **K. Besley** and **P/O D. Ramsay** were part of this operation (A.J. Simpson et al). In 1942 plans for a larger Wing of 4 squadrons (Hurricanes and Spitfires) to be sent to the USSR were cancelled, possibly due to the high losses of shipping to Murmansk (Steve Brew [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).**

- 7 226 Sqn. Blenheim IV Z7312 MQ-N lost off Holland on an anti-shipping strike, **F/L C.E. Haggitt RAF (Can.)** killed, P/O R.F. Bennett RAF and F/O C.D. Ramsay RAF missing.
- 7 #17 OTU Blenheim IV R3875 spun and crashed on a cross country exercise, **Sgt B.A. Coukell RCAF (USA)**, Sgt M.F. Fox RAF and Sgt E.C. Brearley RAF killed.

**7-8 Berlin attacked by 197 bombers, 51 sent to Kiel and 41 to Boulogne plus other sorties for a total of 303 sorties with 18 losses (BC War Diaries). This is the**



***first anniversary of the first major night bombing of London, the beginning of the Blitz (D. Newton).***

- 7-8 7 Sqn. Stirling I N6046 MG-Y shot down over Germany by flak, **F/S A. Yardley RAF (Can.)**, Sgt J.H. Boulton RAF, Sgt L.E.J. Davenport RAF, F/L C.M. Hall RAF (Aus.), Sgt D. Owens RAF, Sgt A. Speakman RAF and Sgt J.M. Sutton RAF all PoW. According to Sgt Davenport's grandson (Davenport7 www.rafcommands) pilot F/S Yardley was a Canadian and survived after bailing out without a parachute after his fall was broken by trees.
- 7-8 12 Sqn. Wellington II W5598 PH-N lost over Germany, S/L P.F. Edinger RAF, Sgt R.G. Hill RAF, Sgt W.E. Stayte RAF, Sgt R.C. Baumber RAF and Sgt A.F. Suckling RAF killed, **P/O J.W. McCarthy** PoW. P/O McCarthy possibly the same person injured June 28, above, in #23 OTU Wellington R1662.
- 7-8 12 Sqn. Wellington II Z8328 lost on operations, **Sgt T.V. Johnston**, **F/L W.J. Peat**, Sgt A.H. Smith RAAF, S/L S.S. Fielden RAF, Sgt R. Ledgerwood RAF and Sgt L.R. Lanfear RAF PoW.
- 7-8 51 Sqn. Whitley Z6744 lost over Germany, **Sgt H.B. Clark**, Sgt J.P. Wood RAF, Sgt D.C. Bass RAF, Sgt J. Taylor RAF and F/S L.S.B. Younger RAF killed.
- 7-8 58 Sqn. Whitley V Z6841 GE-F was hit by flak over Berlin then attacked by a night fighter but returned to land safely in England, **Sgt W.L. Belous**, S/L S.A. Middleton RAF and 3 crew safe (R. Allenby). See December 27-28 below and 19-20 July 1942.
- 7-8 106 Sqn. Hampden I AE299 lost over Germany, **F/S F.J. Matkin**, Sgt H. Mann RAF, Sgt J. Plant RAF killed, Sgt M.C. Curties RAF PoW.
- 7-8 115 Sqn. Wellington Ic R1798 KO-B lost over Holland, **F/S J.G.O'H. Keating**, Sgt F.A. Baty RNZAF, Sgt G.A. Cook RAF, P/O R.Le M. Cox RAF, Sgt I.P.M. Gordon RAF and Sgt J.G. Selley RAF killed.
- 7-8 149 Sqn. Wellington Ic X9705 OJ-J lost over Germany, **Sgt J.M. Dixon**, **Sgt M.M. Keswick**, **Sgt W.R. Malkemus RCAF (USA)**, Sgt G.W. Fenton RAF, Sgt S.D. Chamberlain RAF and Sgt E.C. Hatton RAF killed.
- 7-8 207 Sqn. Manchester I L7380 EM-W damaged by a night fighter over the North Sea still outbound. Reached an alternate target of Wilhelmshaven and bombed, but unable to make it back and forced landed on an island off Holland, **Sgt R.B. MacLeod**, **F/S E.S. Miller**, **F/L W.J. Lewis DFC MiD RAF (Can.)**, Sgt C.S. Powell RAF, Sgt D. Kingston RAF and Sgt C.F. Hall RAF PoW.
- 7-8 405 Sqn. Wellington II W5521 LQ-P was hit over Berlin and out of control the pilot, **Sgt J.S. Saunders**, ordered a bail out, **Sgt P.S. MacNutt**, **P/O W.K. Mackey**, **Sgt J.A. Smith**, F/S R. Perkin RAF and Sgt J.S. Courtnall RAF all PoW. Sgt Saunders then regained control and headed to neutral Sweden (?) with his damaged aircraft, but crash landed on the Island of Sylt (in the North Sea), where he set the aircraft on fire before being taken PoW. Sgt Smith was later repatriated to Canada (Resmoroh

at [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).

7-8 407 Sqn. Hudson V AM556 RR-E, W/C H.M. Styles RAF makes the squadrons first offensive operation, bombing a ship off Holland (RCAF Sqns.).

Monday

**8 Canadian troops raid Spitsbergen (CJCA headline) (public announcement, see Aug. 25 above).**

**Leningrad is encircled by German and Finnish troops beginning 872 days of siege (Polsson). Last road access to the city cut on this day (Guardian). Heavy bomber attacks on Leningrad in the evening destroy fuel and food reserves in the besieged city (ww2total.com Chronology/1941). Besides military units some 2½ million civilians are trapped in the city (Oxford).**

**Soviets begin deporting descendants of German settlers in Russia to Siberia (ww2total.com Chronology/1941). Some of these communities dated back to the reign of Catherine the Great in the 1700's.**

**HMS Ark Royal flies off Hurricane fighters into Malta (D. Sommerville). All of these refuelled and flew on to Egypt (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).**

**After commanding 257 Squadron *S/L H.P. Blatchford RAF (Can.)* is promoted to Wing Commander and given command of the Digby (RCAF) Fighter Wing (Brown & Lavigne). See April 4, 1943.**

8 90 Sqn. Fortress I (B-17C) AN525 WP-D shot down over Norway by a Bf 109T (Lt. Jakobi), *F/S H.M.J.J.A. Merrill*, *F/O D.A. Romans DFC RAF (Can.)*, P/O F.G. Hart RAF, Sgt P.B. Corbett RAF, Sgt J. Brown RAF, Sgt W.G. Honey RAF and Sgt R.H. Beattie RAF killed (floyd williston at [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)). There were 4 Fortress aircraft on this operation, 2 were shot down and 2 returned unable to bomb, one damaged too badly to repair. The other Fortress lost (AN533) fell into the sea, but AN525 was the first Fortress aircraft lost over occupied Europe, and the wreckage was closely examined by Luftwaffe Intelligence. Some parts are still at the crash site ([ktsorens.tihlde.org](http://ktsorens.tihlde.org)). See Sept. 25, below. The Bf 109T was a naval version of the fighter intended for use on the uncompleted aircraft carrier *Graf Zeppelin*.

8 403 Sqn. *F/L D.J. McKenna* died as a PoW of injuries sustained Aug. 21, above.

8 #4 SFTS Saskatoon Saskatchewan Crane I #7814 nosed over during a forced landing near Sterieux, Saskatchewan, *LAC T.H. O'Connell* injured. See April 17, 1943, 408 Sqn.

Tuesday

**9 Curtiss Kittyhawk fighter enters service with the RCAF in Canada (Griffin CMA).**

***Speaking to the House of Commons Churchill stated that the third clause of the Atlantic Charter applied only to countries occupied by Nazi forces, and not to Britain's colonies such as India. In India this statement was offensive even to those who supported England, and led to motions in the Central Assembly that the Charter be applied to India (S. Raghavan).***

- 9 #116 (BR) Sqn. RCAF, Catalina I Z2139 'B' crashed off Northwest River, Labrador, landing in rough water, Marine Section **Sgt A.W. Appleby** managed to reach the wreck in a dinghy equipped with an outboard motor and despite the rough seas rescued 6 of the 8 man crew, **F/L R.E. Shaw** and **Sgt A.N. Van Allen** missing, **LAC G.H. Forrester** slightly injured, **S/L M.G. Doyle**, **Sgt J.G.C. Cook**, **AC1 A.H. Enchin**, **Sgt D.H. Fraser** and Eastern Air Command passenger **F/O W.G. McCardell** safe (wwwsimon at www.rafcommands.com). Sgt Appleby was awarded a British Empire Medal (Awards).
- 9 #18 EFTS, Boundary Bay, BC, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4338 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

***9-10 First large attack on Kassel made by 95 bombers, plus 13 other operations, no losses (BC War Diaries).***

Wednesday

***10 Plan for the reinforcement of Hong Kong with two battalions of Canadian soldiers approved by Churchill (Polsson). This was based on **Gen. Grasett's** debriefing on Hong Kong, and on his suggestion (B. Greenhous).***

***Convoy SC-42 which left Sydney, NS, August 31 with a Canadian escort force, diverts to a port in Iceland after heavy attacks by U-boats, having sunk 2 U-boats but losing 16 merchant ships to wolfpack attacks (Polsson). HMCS Chambly and HMCS Moose Jaw sink the U-501 off Greenland (RCN Chronology).***

- 10 242 (Canadian) Sqn. Hurricane II BD767 lost on a patrol, Sgt P.Y. Reilly RAF missing.
- 10 236 Sqn. Blenheim IV T1811 ND-C lost over the sea while escorting an airliner, **Sgt A.K. MacLean** and P/O C.B. Pearson RAF killed, Sgt L.H. Winter RAF missing.
- 10 #61 OTU Spitfire Ia X4483 was hit by another in mid-air, clipping off it's tail and crashed, killing **Sgt R.B. James** (www.spitfires.ukf.net; www.rafcommands.com).
- 10 #2 Wireless School, Calgary, Alberta **LAC H.L. Axler** died of complications following surgery (www.rafcommands.com).

**10-11 Turin, Italy, attacked by 76 bombers with 5 aircraft lost (BC War Diaries).**

10-11 103 Sqn. Wellington Ic R1396 lost without trace, F/S G.R. Blackmore, P/O D.L. Petrie RAF, Sgt P.M. Bennett RAF, Sgt G.S. Rye RAF, Sgt C.E. Wagon RAF and Sgt A.W. Vernon RAF missing.

10-11 104 Sqn. Wellington II W5576 EP-N ditched in the North Sea, F/L H.T. Beare, Sgt G.T. Woodruffe RNZAF, S/L D.M. Strong RAF, Sgt J.A. Chubb RAF, Sgt N.S. Fisher RAF and Sgt R. Ritson RAF PoW.

Thursday

**11 In response to attacks on US shipping and the Greer incident President Roosevelt authorizes US military to shoot at German aircraft or ships operating in areas of US interests.**

**Ground breaking for new headquarters for US Military, later called the Pentagon (wikipedia). It was attacked by an airliner that deliberately crashed into one section 60 years to the day after this ceremony, killing 64 people on the airliner and 125 people on the ground.**

**Representing the America First group trans-Atlantic flyer Charles Lindbergh makes a speech at Des Moines, Iowa, that warned Jewish groups that "agitated for war" that they would be the first to suffer when it was lost. Widely reported and criticized, this speech was seen as a major blow to the isolationist movement (Oxford).**

11 102 Sqn. Whitley V Z6870 stalled on final approach practicing night landings and crashed, Sgt H.E. Moore, S/L J.D. Reardon RAF (Can.) and F/S J.W.R. Griffiths RAF killed, Sgt E.W. Smith was pulled from the burning aircraft by an unidentified air gunner who also survived the crash (R. Donovan; www.rafcommands.com). Sgt Smith was a Guinea Pig, but recovered from his burns and served 2 tours in Bomber Command, and in the RCAF post war, retiring in 1970 from the CAF as a Lt. Col.

11 #53 OTU Spitfire Ia K9976 crashed, killing Sgt R.E. McMurray (K9976 discussion page, www.rafcommands.com).

11 #10 (BR) Sqn. Digby #750 was badly damaged in an accident at Gander taking off to practice landings due to the pilot, F/L R.A. Butts, forgetting to remove the control locks, he and 4 other pilots safe (C.L. Annis, R.W.R. Walker). See Oct. 3, below.

**11-12 Heinkel factory at Rostock the target of 56 bombers, while shipyards at Kiel (55) and Warnemunde (32) targeted, but cloud causes a switch of targets to city centres. Other operations include 20 bombers to Le Havre, 8 to Boulogne and 20 GARDENING sorties, 6 bombers lost (BC War Diaries).**



- 11-12 10 Sqn. Whitley V P5109 ran out of fuel returning from an operation over Germany and ditched in the North Sea, **Sgt K.A. Irwin**, P/O R.P. Purvis RAF, P/O J.C. Greenfield RAF, Sgt R.L. Fittell RAF and Sgt J. Nightingale RAF missing. See details 10 Squadron loss October 1-2 below.
- 11-12 75 (New Zealand) Sqn. Wellington Ic R1038 lost without trace, **F/S T.B. Hopkins**, Sgt N. Tweedie RAAF, Sgt K.V.D. Roe RAF, Sgt K.A. Tomlinson RAF, Sgt M.W.S. McVety RAF and Sgt D.F. Dunlop RAF missing.
- 11-12 106 Sqn. Hampden I AE300 down over Denmark, **Sgt R.J. Dunn**, Sgt J.A. Bannister RAF, Sgt F.W. Davies RAF and Sgt J.A.S. Philson RAF taken PoW within 2 days (H. Welting at [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 11-12 144 Sqn. Hampden I AE118 crashed in England returning from an a operation, **Sgt A.J. James** and P/O Booker RAF injured, Sgt S.J. Binns RAF and Sgt Crossley RAF safe.
- 11-12 149 Sqn. Wellington Ic X9879 OJ-V shot down over Germany, **F/S D.W. Bennett**, **F/S I.P. Graham**, Sgt R.H. Kenvin RAF, Sgt P.M. Wakefield RAF, Sgt D.G. Wallis RAF and Sgt D.J. Wyatt RAF killed.

Friday

**12 First Anson II built by National Steel Car Co. flies at Hamilton, Ontario (Molson & Taylor).**

***Lindbergh's remarks criticized in US Press, leading to further loss of support for the America First organization, while in Europe German and Italian propagandists claim Roosevelt's statements on the USS Greer Incident means he wants the USA to enter the war (wikipedia).***

***The Sir Fredrick Banting Memorial Hospital, named for Dr. Banting who died in the crash of an ATFERO Hudson the previous February, is opened in Gander, Newfoundland, by Air Commodore Prince George, Duke of Kent RAF (C.F. Warren et al). Soon after he concluded a long visit to Canada and the USA by flying back to England in an LB-30 aircraft, the first member of the Royal Family to fly the Atlantic. See August 25, 1942.***

- 12 81 Sqn. Vaenga, USSR, 5 Hurricanes including **P/O J.E. Walker** in Z5157 engaged 5 Bf 109 fighters protecting a spotter aircraft, 3 were claimed shot down and the spotter damaged for the loss of 1 pilot, Sgt N. Smith RAF (M. Sheppard).
- 12 #4 (Coastal) OTU London II flying boat K5913 bounced and crashed into the sea landing off Scotland, **Sgt G.W. Gates**, **Sgt R.R. Wright**, AC1 F.F. Addison RAF, AC2 A.C. Nixon RAF, AC2 D.J. Page RAF and Sgt J. Perry RAF killed, AC2 J.C. Marshall RAF ([www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 12 #19 OTU Whitley V T4333 believed lost over the sea due to a navigation error, **Sgt**

S.G. Batchen, Sgt J.L. Collins, F/S R.F. Stephens, F/S R.L.R. Younger and Sgt M.S. Dawe RAF missing.

- 12 RCAF Station Trenton (Central Flying School?), Ontario, Harvard I #1323 crashed near Stirling, Ontario, killing P/O J.F. Laycock and P/O L.S. Percival (R.W.R. Walker).
- 12 #19 EFTS, Virden, Manitoba, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4149 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

**12-13 Bomber Command sends 130 bombers to Frankfurt, 21 to Cherbourg and 10 GARDENING sorties with 2 losses. Bombing in Frankfurt good through cloud, but Mainz, not a target, also reported being bombed (BC War Diaries).**

Saturday

**13 Stalin proposes that England send a large force of soldiers either in Arctic Russia through Archangel, or in the south of Russia through Iran, to take some of the pressure off the Soviet Army. Churchill pointed out that the western Allies did not have the resources at this time, and to undertake this would mean halting all operations in the Mediterranean, which was a strategic area for England. From this point on Stalin was insistent that a Second Front be established by the Commonwealth and (later) US forces to divert German forces from the Soviet Union (P. Adair).**

**HMS Ark Royal and HMS Furious fly off 46 Hurricanes into Malta with 1 loss, bringing the total of fighters flown to the island to 59 in the last 6 days. Of these 22 remained in Malta and 37 had been sent on to Egypt (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1). Among those flying on to Egypt were P/O W.A.G. Conrad, P/O G.C. Keefer and P/O L.C. Wade RAF (USA) (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1). Sometimes identified as RCAF, P/O Wade, whose father had flown in the US/French Lafayette Escadrille in the First World War, had enlisted in the RAF in Canada.**

- 13 HMS Furious, Hurricane II Z5218 was taking off to fly to Malta with other fighters when it struck the aircraft carrier's island, caught fire and flew into the sea, Sgt W.R. Finlay missing.
- 13 #13 OTU RAF Blenheim I L6793 crashed in England on a training flight, Sgt D.A. Neal killed.
- 13 #12 SFTS, Brandon, Manitoba, Crane I #7859 crashed near Rathwell, Manitoba on a cross country training flight, attributed to unauthorized low flying, LAC(P) J.P. Seymour RCAF (USA) and LAC(P) W.S. Shand RCAF (USA) killed. See #12 SFTS loss July 25, 1942.
- 13 Test and Development Flight, RCAF Station Rockcliffe, Ontario, Crane #7919 aircraft crashed near Ramsayville, Ontario, in a test dive following a structural failure killing

S/L F.E.R. Briggs the flight commander and engineer F/L W. Richards (C. Charland at [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)). See #12 SFTS loss July 25, 1942. S/L Briggs had done considerable research work in the RCAF including testing the first versions of the Frank Anti-G Suits, developed in Canada for fighter pilots.

- 13 RCAF Station Trenton, LAC J.J. Ireland and #6 RD AC2 G.C. Vinkle died in Cobourg, Ontario from injuries from a car accident.

**13-14 The warships in Brest were attacked by 147 bombers, but were covered by smoke screens (BC War Diaries).**

- 13-14 99 Sqn. Wellington Ic X9703 LN-G crashed on take-off and burned, blocking the runway for 5 more bombers to take off on an operation, Sgt J.W. Humphrey, Sgt J.S.F. Watt RAF, Sgt Bell RAF, Sgt J.K. Whitfield RAF, Sgt H. Martin RAF and Sgt Bolton RAF safe.

Sunday

**14 Commonwealth forces in Egypt re-designated Eighth Army (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).**

**With agreement of the Danish Government in exile sailors from the US Coast Guard cutter Northland occupy and destroy a secret German weather station in Greenland and capture it's support ship, an ex-Norwegian trawler, the first overt military action of the USA in the war ([http://www.jacksjoint.com/cutter\\_northland\\_at\\_war.htm](http://www.jacksjoint.com/cutter_northland_at_war.htm), wikipedia).**

- 14 406 Sqn. Beaufighter IIc R2473 crashed in England, F/O H.J. Findlay and F/S E.K. Vickers killed.
- 14 #2 (Coastal) OTU Blenheim IV V5789 crashed in England on a practice flight, Sgt J.B. Spero, Sgt J.R. Talbot and Sgt K.T.F. Blackmore RAF missing (H. Welting [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).

- 14-15 38 Sqn. Wellington Ic X9685 lost an engine on approach in Malta returning from a mine laying sortie off Tripoli and crash landed, Sgt J.F. Otten, Sgt S.J. Rane RAAF, Sgt D. Lyth RAAF, Sgt J.C. Smith RAF and Sgt A. Maxwell RAF injured, P/O MacLean RAF safe. Fireman AC1 J. Bond RAF was injured rescuing the crew, and died of his injuries September 16 (BLME V.2 Errata).

Monday

**15 German forces complete encirclement of Kiev (Polsson). Soviet soldiers could have been withdrawn, but were ordered by Stalin to stand and are now trapped (Oxford).**

***Hitler now changes his mind on the direction on the campaign. Believing Russian forces to be on the verge of collapse, he orders the advance on Moscow to resume. In the time gained by the halt, however, the Soviet Army has re-organized and built new defences in front of Moscow. In fact it is the Germans who are in trouble, having no reserve units left and running out of material at the front due logistic failures in what was planned to have been a short war (Oxford).***

- 15 18 Sqn. Blenheim IV V6425 crash landed in England after hitting the sea on a low level bombing practice, **P/O G.C. Pryor RCAF (Argentina)**, Sgt Mills RAF and Sgt Buckley RAF injured. See Nov. 8, below.
- 15 121 (USA) Sqn. Hurricane IIb Z3667 hit a tree while stunting over soldiers on an army co-operation exercise in England, killing **P/O E.W. Mason** (V. Haugland). P/O Mason was a Canadian born in the USA.
- 15 207 Sqn. Manchester I L7318 EM-K crashed in the landing circuit carrying back a servicing party that had worked on a squadron aircraft that had landed damaged at another station, **P/O J.R. Clements**, **P/O J.P.A. Sawyer RCAF (Bahamas)**, F/O E.E.G. Crump RAF, Sgt N.A. Mathison RAF, LAC L.W. Carter RAF, LAC J.F. Riding RAF, LAC H.F. Winter RAF, AC1 R. Boyd RAF, AC2 J.W. Grace RAF and AC2 J. Lister RAF killed.
- 15 #8 (BR) Sqn., Nova Scotia, RCAF, pilot **Sgt D.R. Heathcote** died as a result of injuries received in a car accident.
- 15 #19 EFTS, Virden, Manitoba, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4965 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).
- 15 #20 EFTS, Oshawa, Ontario, Finch I #1026 destroyed in a crash (R.W.R. Walker).
- 15 unknown unit, **AC2 C.B.P. Bruegeman** died of natural causes on a train at Kenora, Ontario.

***15-16 Bomber Command dispatches 219 aircraft, including 169 to Hamburg and 45 to Le Havre. Nine bombers lost (BC War Diaries).***

- 15-16 15 Sqn. Stirling I N6021 LS-O shot down by a night fighter over Germany, **F/S W.C. MacKenzie**, **Sgt F.C. Snead**, P/O H.J.A. Dyer MiD DFM RAF, P/O E.J.D. Guild RAF, Sgt T.H.B. Jones RAF, Sgt A.D. Wallace RAF and Sgt A. Needham RAF killed. All except P/O Dyer had survived a crash exactly 1 month before when their Stirling I W7435 LS-W crashed just after take-off.
- 15-16 35 Sqn. Halifax I L9503 TL-P crash landed in Germany, P/O H.S. Brown RAF killed, **F/S J.A. Arnsby**, **Sgt S.T. Fisher**, S/L J.H. Barrett RAF, Sgt J.W. Hays RAF, Sgt H.E. Greene RAF and Sgt R. Shaw RAF PoW.
- 15-16 51 Sqn. Whitley V Z6957 lost over Germany, Sgt J.T. Evans RAF and Sgt V. Flynn RAF killed, **P/O J.I. Davies**, Sgt J.C. Gowland RAF and Sgt J.H. Davis RAF PoW.
- 15-16 75 (New Zealand) Sqn. Wellington Ic X3205 shot down by flak over Germany, Sgt J.A.



Ward VC RAF, Sgt H.G. Sloman RAF, Sgt R.W. Toller RAF and Sgt K.H. Toothill RAF killed, **F/S L.E. Peterson RCAF (USA)** and Sgt H. Watson RAF PoW. Sgt Ward had been awarded the Victoria Cross July 7-8, above, when he crawled out on the wing of his Wellington aircraft in flight to smother a fire burning in an engine nacelle.

15-16 75 (New Zealand) Sqn. Wellington Ic X9759 lost over Germany, **P/O H.M. Aitchison RCAF (UK)**, Sgt A.H.R. Hawkins RNZAF, Sgt J.G. Foulkes RAF, Sgt D.P. Fawcett RAF killed, Sgt R.B. Blakeway RNZAF and **Sgt W.E. Mullins** PoW (O. Clutton-Brock; R. McNeill PoW List for confirming Sgt Mullins RCAF).

15-16 106 Sqn. Hampden I AE232 shot down over Germany by a night fighter, **F/S J.J. McIntyre** missing, Sgt K. Richardson RAF, Sgt H.D. Clapham RAF and Sgt H. Kirk RAF PoW.

Tuesday

**16 US announces it will provide escorts to convoys carrying Lend Lease material up to 26° W (<http://www.worldwar-2.net/timelines>), for the escorting of convoys by US Navy ships.**

16 #25 OTU Hampden I P4302 stalled and crashed attempting a go-around after landing, **P/O D.D. Christie** killed, Sgt R.G. Henderson RAF and Sgt G.A. Hawkins RAF injured.

16 Central Flying School RAF, Oxford II V3502 crashed in England, **Sgt G.M. Jackson** killed, **Sgt G.D. Noton** injured ([www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).

16 #9 SFTS, Summerside, PEI, Harvard II #2851 crashed near the airfield killing **LAC(P) C.R. Moore**.

16 #12 EFTS, Goderich, Ontario, Finch II #4695 crashed on take-off from Kitchener-Waterloo airport, killing **LAC(P) M.M. Hart Jr.**

16 unknown unit, Sgt J.M. Fawcner RNZAF was killed in a car accident near Blenheim, Ohio, USA.

**16-17 First large German bomber attack on Cairo (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).**

**Karlsruhe attacked by 55 bombers, but only 37 bomb due to bad visibility (BC War Diaries).**

Wednesday

**17 After negotiations with the Iranian government fail Soviet and Commonwealth soldiers occupy Tehran (C. Shores). See October 17, below.**

**Listening to foreign radio programs in Germany becomes a crime punishable by death (wikipedia).**

**Bomber Command has 24 Blenheims and 6 Hampdens over France plus 3 Blenheims on coastal patrol, no losses (BC War Diaries). The Hampdens were from 408 Squadron, the first RCAF CIRCUS operation. The target was a Shell facility in France, but was not identified and was not bombed. Five of the six Hampdens were damaged by flak and fighter attack (AE351, AE297, AE230, AE286 and AE187), AE245 was undamaged (Bomber Command Museum Newsletter Fall 2022).**

**Control of convoys from Canada, including operations of the RCN, handed over to US Navy by Royal Navy, Canada not consulted (J.A. Boutilier et al).**

**US allocates \$100 million to provide war material to the USSR (<http://www.worldwar-2.net/timelines>).**

- 17 54 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AB813 lost over France escorting CIRCUS 95, Sgt J.D. Draper killed.
- 17 408 Sqn. Hampden claims a Bf 109 fighter shot down over France (FF Years).
- 17 #17 OTU Blenheim IV R3814 came down in the North Sea on a navigation exercise, Sgt D.H. Farley RAF and F/S W.F. Jeffery RAF missing, Sgt T.F. Heron rescued, injured.
- 17 #1 B&G School, Jarvis, Ontario, armourer Sgt G.B. Jackson killed in a car accident near Hagersville, Ontario
- 17 #34 SFTS, Medicine Hat, Alberta, Oxford I AR937 crashed, LAC B.V. Castle RAF killed.

**17-18 Thirty eight bombers return to Karlsruhe (BC War Diaries).**

Thursday

**18 Decision made to build Avro Lancaster bombers in Canada (<http://www.bombercommandmuseum.ca>). (Replaces planned Stirling production?)**

**Operational use of VLR (Very Long Range) Liberators of 120 Squadron delayed by need for these aircraft on Return Ferry flights for Ferry Command (R. McNeill).**

**USN destroyers begin escorting convoys carrying Lend-Lease material from Canada most of the way across the Atlantic, crossing the mid-Atlantic gap of air coverage (C.E. Hipperson).**

**While the US Navy took over all high speed (HX) convoys the RCN was given the job**

***of escorting all the slow (SC) convoys to the hand-over point with the RN. Massive expansion of the RCN, inferior equipment and rushed training of new seamen (compared to RN) meant that as the U-boat campaign moved steadily westward the cracks began to show in the RCN's defences. Already vulnerable by their slow speed which left them in the danger zone longer and unable to evade when detected, the Canadian escorted SC convoys took the heaviest losses in this period, and their overworked escorts were blamed (Oxford). See Jan. 12, 1942.***

- 18 88 Sqn. Blenheim IV V6380 RH-G lost attacking a convoy off Belgium, **P/O R.M. Burlinson RCAF (USA)** and Sgt M.A. Stratton RAF killed, P/O B.E. Hislop RAAF missing.
- 18 88 Sqn. Blenheim IV Z7488 RH-F shot down by a fighter on an anti-shipping patrol, **Sgt R.S. Hambly**, P/O T.E. Cooper RNZAF and F/S S.R.E. Hammersley RAF missing.
- 18 132 Sqn. Spitfire Ia R6685 collided in mid-air over Scotland with Spitfire Ia AR214 and both crashed, **P/O W.O. Wallace** killed in R6685, P/O A.M. De La P. Disney RAF killed in AR214 ([www.spitfires.ukf.net](http://www.spitfires.ukf.net); [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 18 402 Sqn. Hurricanes escorting Blenheims claim the Squadrons first enemy aircraft destroyed, a Bf 109 by **Sgt G. McClusky** in Hurricane IIb Z3341 (RCAF Sqns.). See Oct. 18, below.
- 18 405 Sqn. Wellington II W5492 LQ-K crashed on an air test in England when its dinghy broke loose and fouled the elevators, causing a catastrophic dive, **Sgt J.M. Maxon RCAF (USA)**, Sgt N.W. Thompson RNZAF, Sgt R.G. Chandos RAF, Sgt F.P. Turton RAF, Sgt C.H. Fletcher RAF, Sgt W.I. Strother RAF and AC1 H. Armitage RAF killed, Sgt G. Phillips RAF missing. There is a stained glass window in Sgt Maxon's memory in the Cathedral in Memphis, Tennessee (R. Allenby).

Friday

***19 Kiev, capital of the Ukraine, falls to German forces after several weeks of fighting, 600,000 Russian soldiers were captured (Oxford).***

***A German air raid on Leningrad kills over 1,000 (wikipedia).***

***German and Finnish forces in the Arctic are stopped 30 miles from Murmansk, where the front line remains static for the next 3 years.***

***Marshall Law declared in Moscow (Oxford).***

***Off Greenland the corvette HMCS Lévis escorting convoy SC-44 is torpedoed and sunk with the loss of 18 crew, the first Canadian corvette lost in the war. Four cargo ships also lost to attacks by 5 U-boats. US Navy destroyers were sent***

***to assist, their first naval deployment in direct overt support, as opposed to defensive actions, in the Battle of the Atlantic (wikipedia; M. Milner).***

- 19 #9 EFTS, St. Catharines, Ontario, Finch II #4564 spun and crashed into power lines in Niagara Township, Ontario on a routine training flight, LAC(P) F.A. Smith RCAF (USA) killed.

***19-20 Bomber Command sends 72 bombers to attack Stettin, but only 60 reach the city where the specific targets assigned were found hard to locate, 2 lost (BC War Diaries).***

***Submarine launched Italian "frogmen" sink a naval tanker and another ship at Gibraltar (<http://www.worldwar-2.net/timelines>).***

- 19-20 58 Sqn. Whitley V Z6936 GE-Q lost over Germany, Sgt J.D. Robertson, F/L R.E. Orchard DFC RAF (NZ), P/O J.C. Howell RAF, Sgt E.J. Start RAF and F/S T. Wood RAF killed.
- 19-20 405 Sqn. Wellington II Z8344 LQ-F lost on an operation to Germany, Sgt C.W. Forman, Sgt T.F. Dougall RAF, P/O W.B. Towler RAF, Sgt J. Lord RAF, Sgt D.J. Clayden RAF and Sgt J. Emsley RAF PoW. Sgt Clayden and Sgt Lord died as a PoWs on April 19 and April 22, 1945 respectively, as a result of strafing by Allied fighters in Sgt Clayden's case.

Saturday

- 20 205 Sqn. Catalina I W8411 lost on a patrol from Singapore, F/O D. Shaw RAF (Can.), AC1 A.C. Attwood RAF, Sgt W.D. Lambert RAF, F/S E.G. Newnham RAF, LAC F. Teasdale RAF, Sgt L.L. Thomas RNZAF, Sgt S.W. Todd RAF, Sgt J.L. Whitticase RAF and LAC G.A. Widdowson RAF missing (CWGC; [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 20 18 Sqn. Blenheim IV R3843 WV-F shot down by flak attacking a convoy off Holland, Sgt W. Meadows RAF and Sgt J.E. Pearson RAF killed, F/S J.M. Nickelson missing (possible reference to this in D.A. Fraser's "Live to Look Again").
- 20 #16 OTU Canadian built Hampden I P5314 was on a night training flight when it was shot down over England by an Intruder, Sgt N. van der Merve RAF (S. Rhod.), Sgt D.A.J. Paine RAF, Sgt J.H. Ixer RAF and Sgt R. Leagas RAF killed (H. Moyle).

***20-21 Bomber Command sent 74 bombers to Berlin, 34 to Frankfurt and 28 to Ostend. All the aircraft sent to Germany were recalled when the weather in England went bad, some bombed other targets, 4 bombers were lost and 15 crashed in England (BC War Diaries).***

- 20-21 57 Sqn. Wellington Ic R1271 ditched off the English coast on operations due to an engine fire, Sgt J.H. Sherriff RAF missing, Sgt S.H. Dunn, Sgt J.C. McGeach RAF, Sgt C.G. Freeman RAF, Sgt D.J.O. Pyre RAF and Sgt E.E. Hartland RAF rescued.



- 20-21 57 Sqn. Wellington Ic R1706 returned to its base with damage bad enough that it was written off, **Sgt F.R. Humphreys**, Sgt E.R. Backhouse RAF, Sgt Greenwood RAF, Sgt H.T. Smith RAF, Sgt M.E.G. Hastings RAF and Sgt G. Maher RAF safe.
- 20-21 75 (New Zealand) Sqn. Wellington Ic R1518 returned to England from an operation over Germany and was diverted to another airfield due to fog. Unable to land it was abandoned to crash, **Sgt D.F. Barkhouse**, Sgt J.A. Matetich RAF, Sgt Jordan RAF, Sgt Lawton RAF, Sgt F.H. Worlledge RAF and Sgt A. Service RAF safe. See Oct. 15-16 below.
- 20-21 75 (New Zealand) Sqn. Wellington Ic T2805 ran out of fuel returning from operations due to bad weather and force landed in England, **Sgt R.G. Craig** injured, P/O A.S. Raphael RAF, Sgt Machin RAF, Sgt M.A. MacDonald RAF, Sgt C.E.J. Aichison RAF and Sgt J.H. Godfrey RAF safe. See Sept. 22, below. W.R. Chorley notes that an account of this incident can be found in the book "*A Village at War (Horning 1939-1945)*".
- 20-21 77 Sqn. Whitley V Z6934 lost over Germany, **Sgt L.G. Sinclair**, **F/S B.G. Wilbee**, Sgt R.F. Archer RAF, P/O S. Goulston RAF and Sgt C.A. Foster RAF killed.
- 20-21 101 Sqn. Wellington Ic X9922 returned to England from an operation with its radios unserviceable and crashed into trees attempting to descend through weather to fix its position, **F/S D.G. Chattell**, **P/O W.R. Lugar**, P/O D.I. Evans RAF and Sgt F.D. Rogers RAF killed, Sgt W.R. Dil RNZAF and Sgt Rawbathan RAF injured. Sgt Dil died soon after from his injuries.
- 20-21 103 Sqn. Wellington Ic X9665 lost over Germany, **Sgt G.F. Findlay**, P/O I. Murchie RAF, Sgt D. Blake RAF, P/O A.G. Milne RAF, Sgt D.P. Hawkes RAF and Sgt J.P. Bell RAF killed.
- 20-21 103 Sqn. Wellington Ic R1539 crashed in England attempting to land in fog on return from an operation, **Sgt G.K. Proctor**, Sgt A.H. Rex RAF, P/O A.G. Stanes RAF, Sgt E.G. Paul RAF and Sgt E.G. Lennon RAF killed, Sgt Bennett RAF injured.
- 20-21 144 Sqn. Hampden I X3030 was landing from operations when it struck power lines and crashed, **Sgt H.D. Weaver**, Sgt E.B. Parker RAF, Sgt R.F. Abernethy RAF and Sgt J. Tankard RAF killed.
- 20-21 214 Sqn. Wellington II W5452 BU-U hit trees and crashed attempting an emergency landing, **P/O J.B. Ruston RCAF (USA)**, Sgt I.J. Green RAF, Sgt L.D. Kissack RAF, P/O C.W. Abrey RAF and Sgt J. Aitken RAF killed, P/O White RAF injured.

Sunday

**21 First flight of a De Havilland Canada built Anson II at Downsview, Ontario (Molson & Taylor).**

- 21 129 Sqn. Spitfire Vb P8752 lost over France escorting a CIRCUS, **P/O C.L. MacDonald** killed.
- 21 #20 OTU Wellington Ic R1171 overshot the runway, stalled and crashed in Scotland,

- Sgt J.A. McEachern, P/O A.D. Morris DFM RAF and Sgt G.E. Kelly RAF killed.
- 21 RAF Ferry Command Hudson III AE545 lost enroute to England, F/L R.F. Leavitt DFC RAF (Can.), Sgt E.W. McFall and Radio Operator R.D. Anderson (Can.) missing. F/L Leavitt had previously served with #1 PRU flying Spitfires, and in April, 1941 returned safely from Norway after his aircraft had been damaged by flak. He managed to recover from a spin and keep his damaged engine running to cross over the sea to a crash landing in Scotland, where he was injured, but the photographs he had taken were recovered. For this he received his DFC (B. Barry et al).
- 21 #11 EFTS Cap de la Madeleine Quebec LAC(P) O. Najemnik RCAF (USA) was on a solo flight in Fleet Finch II #4651 when he jumped out of the aircraft and was killed. A book was published in the Czech republic by Pavel Vancata, *RCAF bylo jejich osudem*, about 3 RCAF/RAF airmen, including LAC Najemnik.
- 21 #16 EFTS, Edmonton, Alberta, DH.82C Tiger Moth #5110 damaged near Edmonton and written off just 5 weeks after coming on Air Force service (R.W.R. Walker).
- 21 #31 SFTS, Kingston, Ontario, Harvard II AJ698 crashed into a lake near Kingston, LAC R.P. Marshall RAF killed.
- 21 #32 OTU, Patricia Bay, BC, Anson I N9818 crashed into a mountain near Yale, BC, Sgt L.P. Britland, F/O L.W. Brooks and AC2 D.B. Wortley killed and buried at the crash site. They are also commemorated on the Ottawa Memorial. (NOTE: R.W.R. Walker confirms the aircraft was on charge to #32 OTU but AC2 Wortley was on leave from #7 SFTS).

Monday

**22 Hitler halts Finnish-German attacks on Russian port of Murmansk and instead orders forces to cut Murmansk rail communications (Polsson).**

- 22 OADU Wellington Ic Z8335 lost between Malta and Egypt, Sgt E.J. Mutton, Sgt A.R. Powell, Sgt R.B. Hewitt RAF, Sgt J.C. Edwards-Cross RAF, Sgt A.J.B. Hallett RAF and Sgt A.F.W. Moraes RAF missing.
- 22 75 (New Zealand) Sqn. Sgt R.G. Craig died of injuries sustained in the force-landing of Wellington T2805 the day before.
- 22 114 Sqn. Blenheim IV V5490 crashed in England after hitting a ships mast in a practice area, P/O F.H. Brown, P/O R. Feilden RAAF and Sgt S.S.J. Collier RAF killed.
- 22 #52 OTU Hurricane I V7080 made a wheels up landing in Scotland, Sgt J.D. Massey uninjured, but he was re-directed from fighter to bomber aircraft (<http://www.yorkshire-aircraft.co.uk/aircraft/yorkshire/york41/v7080.html>). See February 23, 1943. The aircraft was repaired, see November 11, 1942.
- 22 Experimental Station, Suffield, Alberta, Lysander II #417 crashed, F/O D.F. Langmack RCAF (USA) and S/L K.L. Ashfold RAF killed. This was the second Lysander built in Canada.

- 22 #2 EFTS, Fort William, Ontario had 5 DH.82C Tiger Moth aircraft reported with minor damage on this date, #4001, #4006, #4009, #4019 and #4028 (R.W.R. Walker).
- 22 #19 EFTS, Virden, Manitoba, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4151 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).
- 22-23 38 Sqn. Wellington Ic Z8776 'E' lost bombing Tripoli from Malta, Sgt R. Secomb RAAF injured and PoW but died in Italian hospital in Tripoli days later, **Sgt P.F. Bold**, **Sgt R.H. Toshack**, Sgt J.C. Sheridan RAF, Sgt W.J. Poole RAF and F/S W.F.P. Brown RAF have no known grave (BLME V.2 Errata). Sgt Bold, Sgt Toshack, Sgt Sheridan RAF and Sgt Poole RAF had all been interned in Portugal July 13, above.

Tuesday

**23 German authorities in occupied France announce those helping or hiding Allied airmen will be shot (men) or sent to a concentration camp (women) (<http://www.worldwar-2.net/timelines>).**

- 23 616 Sqn. Spitfire Vb W3433 collided with Spitfire W3517 off the English coast, **P/O E.H. Burton RAF (Can.)** missing, Sgt J.B. Slack RAF was killed in W3517.
- 23 #14 SFTS, Aylmer, Ontario, Harvard II #3211 crashed from a spiral dive while night flying, LAC(P) Reynolds injured (M.L. McIntyre, R.W.R. Walker).

Wednesday

**24 BOAC takes over operation of Ferry Commands Return Ferry transatlantic service (M.J.H. Taylor).**

**Atlantic Charter signed by nine Governments-in-exile (K. Farrington).**

- 24 124 Sqn. Spitfire Ia X4108 hit a hill in mist in the Orkney Islands while on a convoy escort, **Sgt R.H. Pauley** killed ([www.spitfires.ukf.net](http://www.spitfires.ukf.net), <http://www.crashsiteorkney.com/page22.htm>).

Thursday

**25 Last attack in Europe by 90 Squadron using Fortress I aircraft, squadron transferred to Middle East due to poor results (BC War Diaries) and other aircraft sent to Coastal Command. This use by the RAF was criticized by USAAF planners as a misapplication of the aircraft, using only it's high altitude performance capability. They pointed out the aircraft was intended to be operated in large formations at high altitude, offering mutual defence with their guns. The RAF view is that this theory of mutual support had been tried and failed in their Wellington flights over the North Sea in 1939, and by the Luftwaffe in the Battle of Britain. In fact these early Fortress aircraft were not equipped with the powered turrets and the tail guns of later versions, and the**

**RAF did not have enough of the bombers (20 total) to apply them in formations, nor the luxury of time to work out the bugs of a new design. The combat reports from the deployment were useful, however, in proving that high altitude was not as effective a protection as had been thought, and paving the way for the redesigning the early versions of the B-17 to the heavier armed and armoured B-17E and F types. Even these had problems flying high altitude defensive formations, leading to the even heavier armed YB-40 and B-17G.**

**In Central Russia the first squadron of Spanish fighter pilots began operations after training in Germany (H.W. Neulen).**

**In the Arctic German aircraft return to the deserted and destroyed community of Longyear City on Spitsbergen, landing a radio transmitter team and later a meteorological party (R.C. Nesbit).**

25 245 (N. Rhodesia) Sqn. Hurricane II AP524 crashed after a mid-air collision on a weather test flight, **P/O W.K. Hutchison** killed, P/O P.G. Herrick RAF killed in Hurricane II BD738 (aircrewremembered.com).

25 #53 OTU Spitfire Ia L1054 crashed into the sea off Wales, **Sgt G.F. Parker** killed (www.spitfires.ukf.net; www.rafcommands.com).

Friday

**26 A 6 Sqn. Gladiator at the Kufra Oasis in southern Libya drove off an Italian SM.79 reconnaissance aircraft, the last combat of this biplane fighter in the RAF (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).**

26 48 Sqn. Hudson III V9104 stalled from a tight turn on approach to land from a navigation exercise, **F/O C.E. Dewar** RAF (Can.), F/O K.G. Smith RAF, Sgt A.N. Clethero RAF, F/S F. Hyde RAF, LAC W.C. Brooks RAF and F/S L.A. Birkett RAF killed.

26 #58 OTU Spitfire Ia R6983 failed to return from a local training flight in England. The wreck of the aircraft was found Sept. 29, **Sgt G.G. Taylor** killed (#58 OTU Roll of Honour).

26 #60 OTU Defiant V1138 crashed approaching to land in Scotland, killing **P/O R.C. Colley**.

**26-27 Bomber Command dispatched 104 bombers to Cologne, Emden, Mannheim and Genoa, but they were recalled when the weather turned bad in England. Several bombed other targets and one Wellington of 311 (Czechoslovakia) Sqn. carried out its sortie to Genoa and returned safely, but 1 was lost over Europe and 4 crashed in England (BC War Diaries).**



26-27 9 Sqn. Wellington III X3222 crashed in England attempting to land after being recalled from operations, Sgt H.W. White RAF and Sgt R.G. Lifford RAF killed, **P/O J.B. Thompson** died in hospital of injuries, Sgt J. Gingles RAF and Sgt J.A. Chisholm RAF survived with injuries and Sgt J.A. Lovis RAF was uninjured. This was the first Wellington III lost by Bomber Command.

26-27 115 Sqn. Wellington Ic R1332 KO-X radioed that it had one engine on fire before coming down in the sea. Sgt R.G. Wernham RAF killed, **Sgt M.E. Farnan RAF (Can.)**, **F/S A. Harkness**, **Sgt J.S. Lappin**, **P/O C.S. White** and Sgt J. Horabin RAF missing. W.R. Chorley notes that Sgt Farnan may have enlisted in the RAF in the Far East in 1940 (BCL Vol. 9).

Saturday

**27 Battleship HMS Nelson is damaged by Italian torpedo bombers while escorting ships to Malta. One of the cargo ships is also lost (H.W. Neulen). The remaining 8 ships reach Malta Sept. 30, landing 50,000 tons of food and other supplies (D. Sommerville).**

**Blenheim bombers and their fighter escort sent to attack railroad junction at Amiens attacked by German fighters, including new Fw 190s, leading to a large dogfight (<http://www.worldwar-2.net/timelines>).**

**On Oahu, Hawaiian Territory, there was a US Army and Navy exercise to test newly installed radar units guarding Pearl Harbour. The radar units detected aircraft from carriers at sea and were able to guide USAAF fighter aircraft to an interception 25 miles from the naval base (Simmonds & Smith).**

27 33 Sqn. Hurricane I W9325 was escorting a 451 Sqn. RAAF Hurricane I on a morning reconnaissance in Libya when both were intercepted and shot down by Bf 109 fighters, **P/O C.C. Lowther** missing (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).

27 37 Sqn. Wellington Ic R1095 'F' was standing ready for an operation at a dispersal in the desert when one of its bombs exploded, killing the crew, **F/S M.V. Connolly**, Sgt W.T.C. Selman RAF, Sgt D.O. McFall RAF, Sgt L.R. Mack RAF and Sgt B.G. Watson RAF. Only the pilot, F/L E.E.C. Tomkins RAF, survived, having just left the aircraft to obtain a seat cushion.

27 250 Sqn. Kittyhawk shot down by Bf 109s while escorting 21 Sqn. SAAF Maryland bombers over Bardia, Libya, **P/O S.A. Wells RAF (Can.)** missing.

27 104 Sqn. Wellington II W5432 EP-H was on an air test after being repaired from flak damage suffered July 4-5 but crashed on approach to land, **P/O J.R. Robertson**, Sgt L.M. Rhodes RAF, Sgt M.W. Wright RAF, Sgt G.B. Dundas RAF, Sgt B.K.G. Willmer RAF and Sgt V.E.T. Riddiford RAF killed.

27 402 Sqn. Hurricane IIb Z5005 lost on a CIRCUS escort, **P/O S.A. Graham** PoW

(<http://francecrashes39-45.net>).

- 27 403 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AD207 KH-C shot down escorting CIRCUS 103b, Squadron commanding officer S/L R.A.L. Knight DFC RAF killed ([www.spitfires.ukf.net](http://www.spitfires.ukf.net); CWGC; [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 27 403 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AB963 KH-E damaged escorting CIRCUS 103b, **Sgt H.D. MacDonald** returned, wounded, and hit an obstruction when landing ([www.spitfires.ukf.net](http://www.spitfires.ukf.net); [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)). Possibly the same person as **F/L H.D. MacDonald DFC & Bar** killed Nov. 30, 1943.
- 27 411 Sqn. with 12 Spitfire IIa aircraft flew top cover to 266 and 412 Sqn. on a fighter sweep, attacking a group of enemy fighters, **P/O R.W. McNair** in P8263 damages a Bf 109, but the Squadron loses a Spitfire in it's first combat, **P/O J.D. MacFarlane RCAF (USA)** in Spitfire IIa P8172 hit by flak but managed to glide across the Channel and ditch just off shore of England (RCAF Sqn.; [www.spitfires.ukf.net](http://www.spitfires.ukf.net); [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)). **F/L K.A. Boomer** also claimed a Bf 109 damaged in this fight (FF Years). See September 25, 1942.
- 27 603 Sqn. Spitfire Vb W3233 lost on a trip over France, **F/S W.J. Archibald** killed. F/S Archibald was nicknamed "Punchy".
- 27 616 Sqn. Spitfire Vb W3334 lost over France on a fighter sweep, **P/O R.G. Sutherland** killed. P/O Sutherland had been slightly injured when he undershot a landing June 2, 1941.
- 27 #20 OTU Wellington Ic Z8809 crashed into a stationary aircraft when landing at Lossiemouth, Scotland, **P/O R.D. Anderson**, **Sgt D.H. Budden**, Sgt W.G. Chant RAF, Sgt J.D. Hogden RAF, F/S F.C.N. Kiteley RAF and F/S H.J.H. Kitson RAF killed ([www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 27 #22 OTU Wellington Ic X9908 crashed short of the runway making a single engined landing, **Sgt C.J. Donahue**, Sgt K.N. Carpenter RAF, Sgt J.L. Bell RAF and P/O H. Stiles RAF injured, Sgt K.J. Gill RAF safe. See Jan. 1-2, 1944.
- 27 #59 OTU Hurricane I P3602 force landed, **Sgt M.C. Cuthbert** safe
- 27 RAF Ferry Command, Hudson III AE577 landed in Baldonnel, Eire from Gander, Newfoundland. Instead of being interned the aircraft was treated as "in distress", and allowed to take-off again for Aldergrove, Northern Ireland, but crashed at Dundalk, Eire, **F/L L.R. Dubuc**, **Sgt F.J. Goodwin RAF** and **Radio Officer S.R. Kenny** killed. Dennis Burke has details of this loss on his website [www.ww2irishaviation.com](http://www.ww2irishaviation.com) where he points out that Sgt Goodwin had married in Canada, but was waiting until he arrived back in England to tell his family.
- 27 RAF Ferry Command, Hudson III AM940 missing on a flight over the Atlantic from Gander, **Sgt W.R. Lance**, **F/O H.W. Oldham** and **Radio Operator C.H. Small (Nfld.)** missing. There is an account by **S/L E.H. McCaffery** (then P/O and navigator on another Ferry Command Hudson) of the crossing on this night and the weather they encountered in *Critical Moments*, Lancaster, C. et al.

27-28 108 Sqn. Wellington Ic T2729 'V' lost off the island of Rhodes in the Mediterranean after an engine failed, **F/S T.C. Fitzgerald**, WO S. Howarth RAF, S/L G.F. Irving RAF, F/S E.H. Keeping RAF, F/L M.J. Miller RAF and F/S W. Trotter missing.

Sunday

**28 First PQ convoy of supplies for Russia departs from Iceland for Archangel.**

***A convoy of 8 merchant ships of 9 dispatched reaches Malta. This important convoy was escorted by 3 battleships (including the Prince of Wales just returned from the Atlantic Conference), the aircraft carrier Ark Royal, 5 cruisers and 18 destroyers with 8 submarines running support operations, plus attacks on Italian airfields by new long range Beaufighter and Blenheim aircraft sent to Malta. A sortie by the Italian fleet turned back when they discovered they were outnumbered (D. Newton, wikipedia).***

***Germans massacre 33,000 Jews at Babi Yar, a ravine near Kiev.***

***SS General Heydrich appointed to take over Bohemia and Moravia in former Czechoslovakia (<http://www.worldwar-2.net/timelines>), begins program to clean out "anti-German" influences. See May 27, 1942.***

***In Moscow US Envoy Averell Harriman and **Lord Beaverbrook**, acting for Britain, meet with Stalin to discuss provision of arms to the Soviet Union (wikipedia).***

***#36 SFTS, Penhold, Alberta, opened on this date (official opening?) (<http://www.bombercrew.com/BCATP.htm>).***

28 111 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AB924 crashed in England after a mid-air collision, **F/S D.J. Connolly** killed, Sgt T.E. Jonson (RAF?) safe from Spitfire R7192 which was repaired ([www.spitfires.ukf.net](http://www.spitfires.ukf.net); [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).

28 500 Sqn. Blenheim IV Z6163, possibly MK-U, shot down near Brest on a bombing sortie, **F/S J.D. Appleyard**, F/L F. Reece RNZAF and Sgt W.H. Smyth RAF (N. Ireland) evaded, but were taken PoW on Nov. 10, 1941 (R. McNeill & jives11, [forum.12oclockhigh.net](http://forum.12oclockhigh.net)).

28 #16 OTU RAF, Anson I R9694 GA-E was on a navigation exercise and became lost in poor visibility. With a failed radio and running short of fuel it was abandoned over England, **Sgt G.A. McKay**, **Sgt R.B. Petersen**, **Sgt R.R. Stewart** and Sgt A.H. Gardener RAF safe. See May 8-9 and July 31-Aug. 1, 1942.

28 #6 EFTS, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4032 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

**28-29 After having suffered a period of bad weather Bomber Command sends 44 bombers to Frankfurt, 41 to Genoa and 7 to Emden, 5 were lost and 5 crashed in England (BC War Diaries).**

- 28-29 9 Sqn. Wellington Ic R1279 lost over the Italian Alps after radioing it had engine trouble, **P/O J.R. Freeland**, F/S W.S. Kitson DFM RAF, Sgt R.G. Gove RAF, Sgt J.R. Palmer RAF, Sgt J.W. Lee RAF and Sgt J.A. McLean RAF killed.
- 28-29 57 Sqn. Wellington Ic Z8868 DX-C lost over the sea on an operation to Italy, **Sgt G.L. Chapman**, **F/S R.G. Postans**, Sgt H.A.A. North RAAF, Sgt J.W. Paul RAF, Sgt A.H. Greenwood RAF and Sgt G. Hudson RAF killed.
- 28-29 75 (New Zealand) Sqn. Wellington Ic R1177 crashed in England after being abandoned by it's crew on return from an operation over Germany, **P/O E.M. Sangster**, **Sgt B.W. Shelnutt RCAF (USA)**, **Sgt H.A.D. Stanley**, Sgt S.J.G. Isherwood RAF, Sgt H. Bell RAF and Sgt Climie RAF safe. See Oct. 26-27, below.
- 28-29 99 Sqn. Wellington Ic T2879 was last heard from 10 hours after departing for an operation over Germany. The aircraft came down off Holland, **P/O W.R.J. Brown**, Sgt H.M. MacDonald RNZAF and Sgt I.J. Robertson RAF killed, Sgt A.W.M. Chapman RAAF, Sgt J.S. Parry RNZAF and Sgt E. Fieldhouse RAF missing.
- 28-29 99 Sqn. Wellington Ic X9761 lost on a sortie to Germany, Sgt E. Coleman RAF, Sgt J.L. Trask RAF and F/S H.G. Lewis RAF PoW, **Sgt J.B. Dicks**, Sgt H.L. Birk RAAF and Sgt W.H. Dyer RAF evaded ([www.conscript-heroes.com](http://www.conscript-heroes.com) MI-9 files).
- 28-29 99 Sqn. Wellington Ic Z8869 crashed in England returning from an operation, **Sgt J.W. Humphrey**, Sgt J.D. Broadley RNZAF, Sgt H. Martin RAF, Sgt D. Richardson RAF, Sgt J.K. Whitfield RAF and Sgt J.S.F. Watt RAF killed.

Monday

**29 Hitler orders that besieged Leningrad and all it's inhabitants are to be "wiped from the face of the earth" (Polsson). He forbids his army from accepting the surrender of the city, orders attacks on the city by aircraft and artillery, and states they will kill the citizens by starvation and disease (Oxford).**

**#8 Air Observer School opens at Ancienne Lorette, Quebec City, with Anson aircraft (Chris [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)). #22 EFTS also begins operations at Ancienne Lorette on this day with Finch trainers (<http://www.bombercrew.com/BCATP.htm>).**

- 29 #16 OTU Canadian built Hampden I P5308 flew into a hill in England on a bombing exercise, Sgt E.M. White RAF, Sgt J.K. Howe RAF, Sgt K.D. Greenwood RAF and Sgt J. Amott RAF killed.
- 29 #5 EFTS, High River, Alberta, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4039 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).



29 #32 EFTS, Bowden, Alberta, DH.82C Tiger Moth #5056 stalled and crashed from a poor approach, LAC A.H. Walter survived (injured?) (R.W.R. Walker).

**29-30 Stettin attacked by 139 bombers, Hamburg by 93, and 14 other operations for a total of 246 sorties with 10 aircraft lost and 9 crashed in England (BC War Diaries).**

29-30 58 Sqn. Whitley V Z6939 GE-E crashed in England just short of it's airfield returning from an operation, Sgt G.B. Watters RAF and Sgt R. Hayden RAF killed, Sgt J.E. Turner RAAF died of injuries, Sgt W. Cawthorne RAF injured, **Sgt G.F. McHugh** safe (R. Allenby). See September 30-October 1, 1942.

29-30 58 Sqn. Whitley V Z6944 GE-R lost without trace, **Sgt S.I.C. Moulds**, P/O I.A.N. Atchison RAF, Sgt J.R.M. Vaisey RAF, Sgt C.B. McMullan RAF and Sgt J.E. Horne RAF missing. A photo of this aircraft appears on the back of W.R. Chorley's BCL'41.

29-30 77 Sqn. Whitley V Z9150 lost over Germany, **Sgt J.C. Hiltz**, **Sgt H.W. McColm**, Sgt A.H.K. Pedley RAF, P/O E.G. Smith RAF and Sgt R.W. Dunkley RAF killed.

29-30 102 Sqn. Whitley V Z6871 DY-A flew into high ground in England returning from an operation, **Sgt D.K. Kibbe RCAF (USA)** killed, Sgt C. Miller RAF, Sgt R. Gayler RAF injured, P/O D.B. Delaney RAF, Sgt P.L.N. Trehearn RAF and Sgt C. Carr RAF safe (R. Allenby).

29-30 115 Sqn. Wellington Ic X9910 KO-Y shot down by a night fighter over Holland, **P/O W.K. Colfe**, Sgt J.H. Goodey RAAF, Sgt T.W. Bull RAF, Sgt T.D. Griffiths RAF, Sgt A.R. Hulls killed, P/O N.R. Shuttleworth RAF PoW.

Tuesday

**30 #10 (BR) Sqn., Gander, Newfoundland, Digby responds to a report of a U-boat without success, believed to be it's first contact with the enemy (C. Vincent).**

**By this date all flying schools in Canada planned under the BCATP agreement except 3 were opened, seven months ahead of schedule (RCAF Sqns.).**

30 #35 SFTS, North Battleford, Saskatchewan, Oxford I AS550 crashed after colliding in mid-air with Oxford AS186, LAC B.T. Evans RAF and P/O D.H. Hodgkison RAF killed. LAC M.R. Hall RAF was injured in AS186 (I.M. Macdonald and NickFenton at [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).

**30-1 Bomber Command sends 82 bombers to Hamburg and 40 to Stettin, plus 43 other sorties with 1 loss (BC War Diaries).**

30-1 9 Sqn. Wellington III X3347 crashed on return to base from an operation, **Sgt A.S. Barron**, **Sgt L.M. Ramsey**, Sgt S.F. Hall RNZAF, Sgt A.O. Humble-Smith RAF, Sgt J.J.W. Hurley RAF and Sgt A. Taylor RAF injured.

## **October 1941**

**401 Sqn., 411 Sqn. and 412 Sqn. exchange their Spitfire IIa aircraft for Spitfire Vb fighters (RCAF Sqns.). 402 Sqn. receives bomber Hurricane IIb aircraft (Hurri-bombers) for day INTRUDER operations (RCAF Sqns.). #5 (BR) Sqn. re-equips with Canso A aircraft (RCAF Sqns.). #4 Training Command Headquarters opened at Calgary, Alberta, to operate training schools in BC, Alberta and Saskatchewan (C. Simonsen).**

**125 (Newfoundland) Sqn. begins to receive Defiant II night fighters.**

**Control of RCN escorts and RCAF anti-submarine squadrons placed under US command (Douglas and Greenhous). This was done by the Royal Navy without consulting the Canadian naval command, and in the belief that in the event of the USA entering the war the USN would take over the bulk of escort duties in the western Atlantic (J.A. Boutilier et al). See October, 1942.**

**The rate of dispatch of Red Cross Parcels to Canadian and Commonwealth PoWs rose to 22,500 per week by this month (O. Clutton-Brock). At some point an agreement was made for Canada to supply these to Australian prisoners, as well as for general distribution. See July, 1943.**

**During this time Japan's PM Prince Konoye offered to travel to Washington for personal discussions with President Roosevelt to resolve the embargo issue, but this was not taken up (Oxford).**

Wednesday

**1 Soviet Black Sea Fleet begins mass evacuation of soldiers, civilians and equipment from Odessa (Oxford).**

**After advancing south on the eastern shore of Lake Ladoga in September, Finnish forces turn east, reaching the western shores of Lake Onega on this date. This leaves only the southern shore of Lake Ladoga in Soviet possession as a route into besieged Leningrad (D. Sommerville).**

**1 #7 SFTS, Fort MacLeod, Alberta, aero engine mechanics LAC W.M. McHeffey and LAC M. Wyman were killed when accidentally struck by a passenger train in the CPR Freight yards at Fort MacLeod, Alberta.**

**1 #31 EFTS, De Winton, Alberta, DH.82C Tiger Moth #5113 spun in near Balzac, Alberta,**

seriously injuring the student pilot (R.W.R. Walker).

- 1 #31 EFTS, De Winton, Alberta, DH.82C Tiger Moth #5132 crashed near the Calgary Airport (R.W.R. Walker).
- 1 RAF Ferry Command, flying accident, TSGNO notes **W. Campbell (Can.)**, Sgt Gordon RAF and S/L G.H. Reid RAF killed, but no matches found in CWGC or C.A. Christie.

***1-2 Karlsruhe (45 bombers) and Stuttgart (31) targeted on this night, but the Karlsruhe force was recalled due to fog (BC War Diaries).***

- 1-2 10 Sqn. Whitley V Z6941 ZA-O was returning from trying and failing to find Stuttgart. Unforecast winds had blown them off course and when they ran out of fuel they ditched in what turned out to be the Bristol Channel, **Sgt T.J. Beare**, **P/O J.V. Watts**, Sgt G.W. Ninness RNZAF, P/O T.W.G. Godfrey RAF and Sgt W.W. Watt RAF evacuated the aircraft but the dinghy did not inflate automatically (www.raafcommands.com). The crew managed to manually inflate the dinghy and board it with difficulty and were found safe in the morning. A later investigation found that the automatic lanyard on every aircraft on the Squadron (and possibly in the Command) had been assembled with a retaining knot in the wrong location which would prevent them inflating and this was soon set right (J.V. Watts). See April 26-27, 1942
- 1-2 #119 (BR) Sqn. Bolingbroke I #714 "Ida" was sent to search for a ditched USN aircraft. Unsuccessful, it became lost returning and force landed at Greenland, New Hampshire, USA, **F/L P.H. Douglas**, **Sgt L.C. Fulton**, **Sgt A.H. Roy** and **LAC (W/Op) J.A. Bond** safe.

Thursday

***2 Soviet forces hold at Leningrad (CJCA headline).***

***Offensive to capture Moscow begins (Oxford).***

***Hitler broadcasts to Germany that the Soviet Union is virtually defeated, invites all European nations to join Germany in a "Crusade against bolshevism" (Oxford).***

***Off Peenemünde a rocket powered Me 163 V1 prototype flown by test pilot Heini Dittmar unofficially breaks the world speed record for aircraft at 1,004 km/h (623.85 mph or mach 0.84) on a rocket powered run after a towed release. The aircraft lost control as it neared Mach 1 due to compressibility effects, but regained control as it slowed and made a safe landing (B. Johnson; R. Olejnik). See August 20, 1947.***

- 2 106 Sqn. Hampden I AD768 lost and abandoned over Eire, **Sgt F.W. Tisdall**, Sgt H.J. Newby RAF, Sgt D. Reid RAF and Sgt J. Wakelin RAF interned.
- 2 #32 EFTS, Bowden, Alberta, DH.82C Tiger Moth #5025 crashed near Swift Current, Saskatchewan after the pilot, Sgt Lucas (RAF?) lost control and bailed out (R.W.R. Walker).

Friday

**3 The film The Maltese Falcon starring Humphrey Bogart premiers (wikipedia).**

**#14 SFTS, Aylmer, Ontario, opened (<http://www.bombercrew.com/BCATP.htm>).**

- 3 226 Sqn. Blenheim IV Z7292 crashed in Northern Ireland landing on a training flight, pilot **F/S B.J. Faurat** safe.
- 3 #10 (BR) Digby #748 PB-V settled into trees on take-off from Gander due to frost on the wings, and was heavily damaged, **F/L R.A. Butts** second accident (C.L. Annis, R.W.R. Walker). See October 11, below.
- 3 #11 (BR) Sqn. Hudson I #773 crashed taking off from Dartmouth, NS, caught fire and blew up, **F/S H.F. Taylor** and crew safe. See Jan. 27 and May 6, 1942.
- 3 #5 SFTS Brantford, Ontario, **S/L C.D.B. Green DFC** died in hospital in Toronto. S/L Green had won his DFC in the First World War.

**3-4 Over 100 bombers make small attacks on Rotterdam, Antwerp and Brest. Due to bad weather conditions further night operations by Bomber Command would be held up until October 10 (BC War Diaries).**

Saturday

**4 Norwegians threatened with starvation if anti-Nazi acts did not end (wikipedia).**

- 4 #21 OTU Wellington Ic R1146 flew into trees in mist after taking off on a ferry flight, **Sgt J.F. Duggan**, P/O J.E.A.H. Fairfax DFM RAF, Sgt D. Winstanley RAF, Sgt O.J. Simmonds RAF, Sgt V.A. Taylor RAF, Cpl J. Laxton RAF and AC2 E.C. Ryall RAF killed.

**4-5 Wellingtons attack Benghazi (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).**

Sunday

**5 Acting on information from spies in Tokyo that Japan plans to attack Dutch, British and US possessions to the South, but not the USSR, Stalin orders 12 more divisions transferred from Eastern Russia to the West (Polsson).**

**Preparations to evacuate government from Moscow implemented, as well as a million residents, all sent east (Oxford).**



- 5 33 Sqn. Hurricane I fighters were escorting a 451 Sqn. RAAF Lysander over Libya when they were intercepted and two shot down by Bf 109s, **P/O D.R. Lush** (Z4188) and Sgt F. Seamer RAAF (Z4768) were taken PoW (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).

**5-6 RAF bombers attack Tripoli (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).**

Monday

**6 New German offensive against Soviets begins (CJCA headline). Offensive against Moscow?**

**6-7 RAF bomber attack on Piraeus (port of Athens), Greece (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).**

Tuesday

**7 First snow falls in central Russia, followed by heavy rains, turning roads to muddy tracks and limiting off-road operations (Polsson). This affects both sides engaged in the fighting, but most seriously the inadequate German supply lines. This delays equipping German front line units with winter clothing and equipment (Oxford).**

**German forces break through Soviet defence line at Vyazma, surrounding several Russian army groups (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).**

- 7 #42 OTU Blenheim V5762 crashed in England, **P/O D.B. Alan-Williams RAF (Can.)**, Sgt G.L.B. Arthur, Sgt W. Hebditch, and Sgt G.B. Ashton killed (Dick www.rafcommands.com).

Wednesday

**8 Orel falls to German army (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).**

- 8 #15 OTU Wellington I L4323 crashed in England on an navigation exercise, **Sgt B.R. Stevenson**, F/S J.M. Wilde DFM RAF and Sgt A.W. Beynon RAF killed, F/O L.C. Boore DFM RAF, P/O W.H. Pinfold RAF, Sgt S. Davies RAF and Sgt T.G. Holden RAF injured.
- 8 #3 Manning Depot, Edmonton, Alberta, **AC2 A.A. Hoyle** died in hospital of natural causes.

Thursday

- 9 81 Sqn., Vaenga, USSR, a large attack by German Ju 88 bombers was intercepted by RAF Hurricanes, **P/O D. Ramsay** and **P/O J.E. Walker** were among those who made claims on the bombers (M. Sheppard).

- 9 107 Sqn. Blenheim IV Z7644 on an anti-shipping sweep from Malta collided in mid-air with 107 Sqn. Blenheim IV Z7638 over Sicily and both crashed, **Sgt W.K. Hunting**, F/O N.W. Walders RNZAF and Sgt S. Jones RAF killed in Z7644, and W/C F.A. Harte DFC RAF, P/O C.O. Bloodworth RAF, F/O T. Wewage-Smith RAF and passenger Lt. E.A.C. Talbot GC MBE Royal Engineers, were killed in Z7638. Lt Talbot had been awarded his George Cross for his bomb disposal work on Malta (various).
- 9 #19 OTU Whitley V Z6750 missing on night practice bombing sortie, **Sgt P. Kelly RCAF (USA)**, Sgt L.H. Oldman RAF (Australia), Sgt E.H. Brace RAF and Sgt G.W. Gray RAF missing.
- 9 #1 EFTS, Malton, Ontario, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4378 lost aileron control over the airfield, pilot bailed out, aircraft crashed and burned (R.W.R. Walker).
- 9 #7 EFTS, Windsor, Ontario, Finch II #4425 crashed near the airfield (R.W.R. Walker).
- 9 #14 SFTS, Aylmer, Ontario, Harvard II #3226 crashed near Eden, Ontario, **LAC(P) J.J. Elliot RCAF (USA)** and **LAC(P) W. Langhorne RCAF (USA)** killed.

Friday

**10 Britain warns Japan that if it takes aggressive action in the Pacific they will declare war.**

**Heavy losses of light bombing aircraft lead to responsibility for Operation CHANNEL STOP being transferred to Fighter Command (R. McNeill).**

**As winter begins in the Arctic Hitler orders Finnish and German forces attacking towards the Murmansk railway to hold positions, and plan for an offensive to capture the port in 1942 (Polsson). At around this time he orders his armies blockading Leningrad to begin an offensive to the west to encircle Lake Ladoga and link up with Finnish forces (Oxford).**

**A German sponsored plebiscite in Luxembourg to endorse the Duchy becoming part of Germany is ignored by 97% of the population (Oxford).**

**Rain begins to fall in the battle area in front of Moscow, slowing down the German advance as fields turn muddy over the next week (Oxford).**

**#115 (F) Sqn. RCAF transfers from Rockcliffe, Ontario, to Patricia Bay, BC (RCAF Sqn.).**

**First flight of a MacDonald Bros. Aircraft Ltd. built Anson II in Winnipeg (Molson & Taylor).**

- 10 33 Sqn. Hurricane I Z4268 shot down in Egypt escorting ships from Tobruk, **P/O T.C. Patterson** has no known grave (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).
- 10 407 Sqn. Hudson V AM586 RR-T lost on an anti-shipping patrol, **P/O H.F. Hegarty**, **F/S D.S. Mather**, **Sgt C.J. McCrum** and F/O J.W. Renwick RAF, the Squadron Gunnery Leader, missing (407 SH).
- 10 500 Sqn. Blenheim IV V6171 MK-F crashed off the English coast on a patrol, F/O C.C.G. Webb RAF (NZ) killed, **F/S R.C. Roberts** and Sgt R.H. Coomber RAF missing.
- 10 #17 OTU Blenheim I K7048 crashed in England, possibly due to an engine failure, **Sgt P.A. Paquet** injured.
- 10 RCAF Station Trenton, Ontario **AC2 J.M.L. Arbour** died of natural causes.
- 10 #19 EFTS, Virden, Manitoba, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4264 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

**10-11 Bomber Command again active, sending 78 bombers to attack the Krupp works at Essen, 69 to Cologne plus 5 Hampdens on searchlight suppression, 23 to Dunkirk, 22 to Ostend, 22 to Bordeaux and 13 to Rotterdam, a total of 232 sorties, 12 bombers lost (BC War Diaries).**

- 10-11 12 Sqn. Wellington II W5379 PH-O lost over Holland, **Sgt A.J. Childs**, P/O D.W.D. Faint RAF, P/O G.C. Frew RAF and Sgt K.H. Price RAF killed, P/O W.A. Wise RAF and Sgt W.G. Morton RAF PoW.
- 10-11 12 Sqn. Wellington II Z8397 crash landed on a beach in England, slid onto a mine and exploded, killing **Sgt J.L.S. Dunlop RCAF (USA)**, Sgt F.H.N. Tothill RAF, Sgt R.H. Todman RAF, Sgt A.E. Cosgrove RAF, F/S A.A. Norden RAF and Sgt A. Pilkington RAF.
- 10-11 57 Sqn. Wellington Ic X9756 lost over Germany, **F/S F.R. Humphreys**, Sgt D. MacDonald RAAF, Sgt E.R. Backhouse RAF, Sgt H.T. Smith RAF, Sgt M.E.G. Hastings RAF and Sgt G. Maher RAF killed.
- 10-11 57 Sqn. Wellington Z8897 lost over Germany, **Sgt C.T. Harbottle**, Sgt W.E. Hearle RAAF, Sgt M.C. Young RAF, Sgt J.E. Medhurst RAF, Sgt J.G. Hanlin RAF and Sgt T. Kelly RAF killed.
- 10-11 58 Sqn. Whitley V Z9154 GE-T shot down by a night fighter over France, F/S A.R. Robbins RAF, Sgt A.W. Cooper RAF and Sgt T.A.W. Hamilton RAF killed, **P/O D.S. McDonald** missing and **Sgt W.H. Sproule** PoW.
- 10-11 409 Sqn. Defiant I AA281 "*Nightingale*" crashed in England, **F/L F.S. Watson** killed, F/S H.G. MacKinnon RAF bailed out and safe (A. Brew via A. Smart at forum.12oclockhigh.net; D. McIntosh; www.rafcommands.com). F/L Watson had flown in the Battle of Britain.

## Saturday

- 11 107 Sqn. Blenheim IV Z7618 from Malta shot down into the sea attacking an Italian convoy off Libya, **Sgt G.F. McLeod**, Sgt A.D.M. Routh RAF and Sgt R.N. Parker RAF missing.
- 11 107 Sqn. Blenheim IV Z9663 from Malta shot down by anti-aircraft fire attacking an Italian convoy off Libya, F/O R.A. Greenhill RAF and Sgt A.M. Smith RAF missing, **Sgt C.A. Whidden** was picked up, wounded, and made PoW. See Nov. 4, below.
- 11 130 Sqn. Spitfire Vb P8098 '*Enfield Spitfire*' hit a dispersal hut doing a beat up of an airfield, **Sgt A.E. Mokanyk** killed ([www.spitfires.ukf.net](http://www.spitfires.ukf.net); [www.rafdavidstowmoor.org](http://www.rafdavidstowmoor.org); [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 11 217 Sqn. Beaufort I AW197 MW-E lost off the French coast on a GARDENING sortie, **Sgt C.C. Thomsen**, Sgt K.W. Perry RAF and Sgt C.E. Earl RAF missing, Sgt F.J. Gornall RAF PoW.
- 11 RAF Ferry Command, Hudson III AM951 lost over the Atlantic from Gander, pilots W.J. Guy (UK), W.A. Herron (US) and **Radio Operator C.L. Larder (Can.)** missing (Christie).
- 11 #10 (BR) Sqn. Digby #754 crashed at Gander returning from a patrol when it landed downwind and skidded on the wet runway into a ditch, **F/L R.A. Butts** third crash in a month (C.L. Annis, R.W.R. Walker).

**11-12 Bomber Command sends 27 bombers to Emden and 112 GARDENING sorties with no loss (BC War Diaries).**

**Firestone Rubber plant in USA destroyed by fire with loss of nearly 16,000 tons of rubber, a major blow to the US Defence buildup (wikipedia).**

## Sunday

- 12 43 Sqn. Hurricane II Z2807 crashed in England after a mid-air collision with Hurricane II Z3270 in a practice dogfight, **Sgt J.A.R. Turner** was killed in Z2807, while F/L A.B. Hutchison RAF crash landed in Z3270 ([www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).

**12-13 Nuremberg is targeted by 152 bombers on it's first major attack, but most get lost and bomb targets up to 65 miles away. The small village of Lauingen located beside a river (similar in shape to the river at the target) was one of these and it was heavily damaged by 200 bombs and 750 incendiaries. Four people died and 44 houses were destroyed. Bremen was also targeted by 99 bombers, and the Huls chemical works by 90 more. Thirteen of the 373 sorties dispatched were lost (BC War Diaries).**

- 12-13 12 Sqn. Wellington II W5552 lost on operations, **Sgt C.W. Lewis**, **Sgt D.C. Jackson**, Sgt K.A. Cometti RNZAF, Sgt C.B. Elsdon DFM RAF, Sgt F.G. Pett RAF and Sgt N.



Cass RAF PoW.

- 12-13 15 Sqn. Stirling I N6047 LS-P shot down over Belgium by a night fighter, **Sgt G.J. Goodwin**, Sgt S. Bentley RAF, Sgt I.L. Evans RAF, Sgt F.A. Lamb RAF, Sgt B.W. Wareham RAF, P/O V.C.H. Colbourne RAF, P/O H. Mohr-Bell RAF and P/O T.E. Wootton RAF killed.
- 12-13 40 Sqn. Wellington Ic X9619 BL-M crashed in Belgium, shot down by a night fighter, **F/S T.L. Duxbury**, P/O I.M.V. Field RNZAF, F/O E.J. Sugg RAAF, Sgt H.R.G. Chapman RAF, Sgt P.F. Collis RAF and Sgt R.A. Dundon RAF killed (H. Welting [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 12-13 57 Sqn. Wellington Ic R1757 lost over Holland, **F/S W.H.S. Byers**, **P/O H.L. Myers**, Sgt P.F.M. Cooke RNZAF, Sgt A.W. Jefferies RAF and Sgt W.C. Woods RAF killed, **P/O L. Rickard** PoW.
- 12-13 58 Sqn. Whitley V Z9155 GE-G was diverted to another airfield due to a crashed aircraft at it's base but ran out of fuel and crashed in England, **F/S W.H. Burns**, **Sgt H.E. Donson**, Sgt C.G. Lord RAAF, Sgt J.G. Rich RAAF and Sgt H.C. Lee RAF killed (R. Allenby).
- 12-13 75 (New Zealand) Sqn. Wellington Ic X9981 lost over Belgium, **P/O J.A. Robinson**, Sgt J.R. Ashley RAF, Sgt F.E. Austin RAF, Sgt R.G. Butt RAF, Sgt D.C. Holley RAF and S/L P.B. Chamberlain RAF killed.
- 12-13 76 Sqn. Halifax I L9561 MP-H shot down over Holland by a night fighter, the pilot, **F/S E.B. Muttart** was killed but his crew, P/O N.F. Trayler RAF, Sgt D. Cotsell RAF, Sgt L.A. Roberts RAF, Sgt R.W.P. Alexander RAF, Sgt W.H. Hunt RAF, Sgt G.H. Patterson RAF and Sgt J.W. Duffield RAF managed to bail out and were taken PoW.
- 12-13 76 Sqn. Halifax I, **Sgt P. Morin** (RAF (Can.) or RCAF?), lost an undercarriage when landing and swung off the runway with a hung-up bomb, which did not explode. Tail gunner Sgt S.D. Gook DFM RAF, who re-mustered as a pilot and trained in Canada, later emigrated to Canada and served 10 years in the RCAF (Lancaster, C. et al).
- 12-13 77 Sqn. Whitley V Z6801 lost over Belgium, **Sgt J. Alterson**, **F/S C.G. Taylor RCAF (Nfld.)**, Sgt W.E. Mortimer RAF, Sgt D.G. Robb RAF and P/O R.L. Lloyd RAF killed.
- 12-13 102 Sqn. Whitley V Z6761 crashed in England after running out of fuel on return from an operation, **Sgt J.W. Stell**, Sgt J.M.M. Wilson RAF, Sgt D.C. Wilson RAF, Sgt C. Miller RAF and Sgt O.T. McIlquham RAF safe.
- 12-13 214 Sqn. Wellington Ic X9762 lost on an operation, **Sgt H.R. Boyd**, Sgt J.A. Key RAF, Sgt A. Saxton RAF, Sgt R. Mutch RAF, Sgt C.W.G. King RAF and Sgt C.W. Heathman RAF PoW. Sgt Heathman was killed April 19, 1945 when the column of prisoners he was part of was strafed in error by Allied fighters.

Monday

**13 German Intruder operations over Bomber Command bases in England end by**

**personal order of Hitler. His official reason was propaganda, as Bomber Command operations increased over Germany he wanted the population to see the destruction of bombers themselves, rather than hearing numbers on radio that they might choose to disbelieve. This decision might also have been influenced by RAF Intelligence countermeasures, which having determined the Intruders were directed to bomber stations by the radio traffic of their operations, began broadcasting fake 'operational' messages that sent German Intruder flights to inactive stations (B. Kite), as well as isolating the Intruders to areas where they could be engaged by night-fighters. This decision, however, conceded that the RAF controlled the sky over England by night as well as by day, and gave Bomber Command airfields operational security that lasted until nearly the end of the War.**

**Russian resistance at Vyazma ceases, hundreds of thousands of prisoners taken (Polsson). Again most would die due to mistreatment in German PoW camps (Oxford).**

**Commander of the army in the Netherlands East Indies, Lt General G.J. Berenschot, killed in the crash of a Lodestar near Batavia (ww2total.com Chronology/1941; UK National Archives). He was returning from a meeting with the British commander in Malaysia (<https://ww2gravestone.com>). He was considered a very able commander and was part Indonesian. His death was a great loss to both the Netherlands and Indonesia (wikipedia).**

#### **#8 Bombing & Gunnery School opened at Lethbridge, Alberta (S. Shail).**

- 13 71 (USA) Sqn. Spitfire Vb AD112 shot down in a fight with enemy fighters while acting as an escort in a CIRCUS, F/O G.C. Daniel RCAF (USA), wounded, PoW, coming ashore in France after 3 days in his dinghy. F/O Daniel was only 14 when he enlisted in the RCAF in 1939, which he was unaware of as his birth record had been poorly recorded. He had served in 242 (Canadian) Squadron in the Battle of Britain at 15 and was 16 when taken prisoner (V. Haugland).
- 13 402 Sqn. Hurricane IIb Z3421 shot down by flak escorting a CIRCUS, F/L H.S. Crease PoW (ref. in A.J. Simpson et al).
- 13 411 Sqn. scores it's first victory, a Bf 109 destroyed and another probably destroyed by P/O R.W. McNair in Spitfire IIa P7679 DB-F while the squadron was providing top cover again to a sweep by 266 and 412 Sqn. P/O McNair had shot down the first fighter, part of a group orbiting a pilot who had ditched, and was then shot up by a second while leaving. Despite damage to his own aircraft, and on fire, he managed to shoot down his attacker before bailing out over the Channel where he was rescued (FF Years).

- 13 412 Sqn. scores it's first victory, a Bf 109 destroyed off the French coast by **Sgt E.N. MacDonell** in Spitfire IIa P7856 VZ-E (RCAF Sqns.).
- 13 #5 (Coastal) OTU Beaufort I L9951 crashed in England, **P/O F. Redfern** and LAC W.R. Soady RAF killed (www.rafcommands.com).
- 13 #16 OTU Anson I N9668 was taxiing away from a landing when it was hit by Canadian built Hampden I P5345, both aircraft were written off (www.rafcommands.com). **Sgt W.H.E. Phillips** and P/O Paxton RAF were slightly injured and 2 crew safe in the Anson, **Sgt D.F. Allen** was injured in the Hampden. See April 17, 1942.
- 13 #16 EFTS, Edmonton, Alberta, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4202 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).
- 13 unknown unit, **AC2 O.C. Johnson** killed near Dorion, Quebec, in a highway accident.

**13-14 Düsseldorf attacked by 60 bombers and Cologne by 39, plus 19 other operations, 6 bombers lost (BC War Diaries and BCL'41).**

- 13-14 44 Sqn. Hampden I AD975 shot down over Belgium by a night fighter, **F/S G.H. Edmondson**, Sgt E. Owen RAF, Sgt G.R. Ramsey RAF and Sgt G. Shearer RAF killed.
- 13-14 207 Sqn. Manchester I L7321 EM-D shot down over Belgium by a night fighter, **Sgt A.F. Dickson**, **P/O W.E. Simpson**, P/O F. Mason RAF, P/O J. Unsworth RAF, F/S E. Moulding RAF killed, P/O H.B. Carroll RAF and Sgt G.T. Cox RAF evaded.
- 13-14 407 Sqn. sank the small dredger *Hamm 109* off Terschelling, the Squadrons first victory (I. Wikene).

**Tuesday**

- 14 #4 (Coastal) OTU Lerwick I L7268 was seen to crash into the sea with one engine on fire, P/O A.G. Hall RAF and Sgt R.W. Ballard RAF killed, **P/O G.D. Gilmour**, Sgt J.A. Johnston RNZAF, Sgt G. Kidd RAF, AC2 J.K. Kidd RAF, Sgt P. Spackman RAAF, and AC2 S.O. Wainwright RAF missing, AC2 D.P. Taylor RAF, P/O V. Marshall RAF and Sgt H.F. Cole RAF survived (A. Storr; www.rafcommands.com).
- 14 #16 OTU Hampden I P1227 landed downwind in error and was wrecked when it ran off the landing area, **Sgt G.H.A. Halcro** and Sgt H. Kendall RAF safe.
- 14 #22 OTU Wellington Ic R1654 lost control and crashed in poor visibility in England, **Sgt W.L. Falardeau**, **Sgt B.I. Hoese RCAF (USA)**, Sgt L.G. Woodfield RAF, Sgt R. McNamara RAF and Sgt A. Hildebrandt RAF killed.
- 14 801 Sqn., FAA, Canadian built Hurricane I Z7078 crashed, Sub Lt(A) H.E. Duthrie RNZNVR safe (Errol Martyn at www.rafcommands.com). See June 14, 1942.

**14-15 Nuremburg again attacked by 80 bombers, but they are scattered by cloud and icing. Only 1 reports bombing it's assigned target (and the Siemens factory was hit), 13 more bombed the target area and 51 went to alternative targets.**

***Twelve other operations, 6 bombers lost (BC War Diaries).***

- 14-15 40 Sqn. Wellington Ic Z8782 BL-H exploded in the air over Germany killing **F/S R.M. McIntyre**, **F/S J.E. Weir**, Sgt K.G. Edis RAF, Sgt J.E. Hawkins RAF, Sgt R.E. Bates RAF and F/S I.J. McDonald RAF.
- 14-15 78 Sqn. Whitley V Z9213 crashed in England low on fuel returning from an operation, **P/O D.S. King RCAF (Argentina)**, P/O Pruden RAF, Sgt Jupp RAF, Sgt Lyndon RAF and Sgt Campbell RAF safe. See Dec. 30, below.
- 14-15 #15 OTU Wellington Ic R1783 lost over France on a NICKEL sortie, **F/S W.S. Barclay**, **Sgt D.A. Cameron**, **Sgt D.A. Rutherford**, Sgt A.E.R. Beverley RAF, Sgt W.H. Box RAF and Sgt W.M. McGarry RAF killed.
- 14-15 #15 OTU Wellington Ic R1275 lost over France on a NICKEL sortie, **Sgt E.A. Tredenick**, Sgt T.J. Snell RAF, Sgt J.C. Spragge RAF, Sgt P.B. Tomes RAF and Sgt E.J. Waldron RAF killed, WO C.L. Humphrey RAF PoW.

Wednesday

***15 SS Fort St. James launched in Vancouver, the first of 198 'Fort' cargo ships built for the British merchant service (S.C. Heal).***

***First appearance of the Archie cartoon characters (wikipedia).***

- 15 114 Sqn. Blenheim IV L9382 shot down by fighters off the coast of Holland on an anti-shipping patrol, **P/O W.H. Davidson**, Sgt E.K. Saul RAF and Sgt G.D. Peppler RAF missing. A photo of this crew can be found in the book *"Live to Look Again"*.
- 15 114 Sqn. Blenheim IV V5875 shot down by fighters off the coast of Holland on an anti-shipping patrol, Sgt C.S. Balzer RAAF killed, **Sgt H.L. Elliot** and Sgt V.F.W. Slade missing.
- 15 139 (Jamaica) Sqn. Blenheim IV V6249 lost without trace, **Sgt W.P. Thom RCAF (UK)**, S/L R.T. Stubbs DFC RAF and Sgt J.W. Bradley RAF missing. The above three losses were 3 of 7 aircraft lost of 24 dispatched by 2 Group on this day with no survivors.
- 15 #2 SFTS, Uplands, Ontario, **S/L C.E. Wilmot AFC**, a pilot veteran from the First World War, was killed when he accidentally walked into the rotating propellor of Harvard II #2556.
- 15 #5 ITS, Belleville, Ontario, **LAC G.H. Manning** was killed in a car accident in Moncton, NB, while on leave.
- 15 #11 (BR) Sqn. Hudson I #777 was taking off at Dartmouth, NS when it swung off the runway, took off it's undercarriage, caught fire and was destroyed when the depth charges exploded, crew safe (R.W.R. Walker).
- 15 *MV Vancouver Island* (ex German ship *Weser*) torpedoed by U-558 west of Ireland with the loss of 73 crew and passengers, 21 survivors. Among those lost are **Sgt E.M. Brennan**, **Sgt E.D. Simon**, **P/O F.D. Simpkins** and **P/O E.L. Simpson** missing and



Civilian Technical Corps members **W.C. Andrew**, W.J. Ash, **J.D. Barter**, J. Blain, D.C. Blossom, J.F. Countryman, A.L. Crosby, G. Easton, R.E. Folk, P. Gilfond, R.R. Godfrey, M. McNulty, J. Price, H.P. Simonson, T.C. Sines, C. Singer, J.C. Speer, C.L. Stratton and A.E. Templeton missing. The Civilian Technical Corps was a group of volunteers with special skills, mostly US citizens who could not serve in the RAF under US law (Ian Brown [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).

**15-16 Bomber Command sends 34 bombers to Cologne, but bombing scattered, some up to 30 miles away (BC War Diaries).**

15-16 75 (New Zealand) Sqn. Wellington Ic W5663 lost over Germany, Sgt H.D. Grimes RAAF, P/O T.B. Robertson RNZAF, Sgt R.C. Barker RAF and Sgt D.L. Beney RAF killed, **Sgt J.B. Stephenson** and Sgt G.F. Cole RAF PoW. Information on Sgt Stephenson's experiences as a PoW can be found at <http://www.ww2talk.com/forum/prisoners-war/13952-canadian-prisoner-war-diary.html> (information from Nick Fenton [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)). This aircraft had been damaged July 15-16, above.

15-16 75 (New Zealand) Sqn. Wellington Ic X9916 missing, **Sgt D.F. Barkhouse**, F/S F.L.R. Wood RNZAF, F/S N.H. Welsh RNZAF, Sgt J.A. Matetich RAF, Sgt F.H. Worlledge RAF and Sgt A. Service RAF killed. See Sept. 20-21, above.

Thursday

**16 Having failed to resolve the embargo by the USA and other countries, Japanese PM Prince Konoye is forced out of office on the question of going to war and is replaced by Army Minister General Tojo. Tojo was chosen as it was felt his appointment would signal to the USA that they should moderate their demands while at the same time appeasing the Army faction, thus preventing a war (Oxford).**

**Soviet agent in Tokyo, Richard Sorge, who accurately reported the date of the German attack on the USSR, and that Japan would be entering the war but not against the Soviet Union, arrested in Japan. He is held until 1944 then executed ([ww2total.com](http://ww2total.com) Chronology/1941).**

**Soviet evacuation of Odessa ends (Oxford). German forces take Odessa (CJCA headline).**

16 107 Sqn. Blenheim IV Z7511 crashed just after taking off in Malta when an engine caught fire, Sgt E.H. Brenton RAAF and F/O S. McAllister RAF killed, **Sgt W.E. Martin** was rescued, burned and injured, by groundcrew. He began a long journey to England where he became a "Guinea Pig" at East Grinstead (R. Donovan). See April 22-23, 1942.

- 16 42 Sqn. Beaufort I L9939 AW-W lost without trace on a ROVER patrol, **F/O A.E. Snell**, P/O G.S. Turner RAF, F/S R.L. Robinson RAF and Sgt G.G. King RAF missing.
- 16 59 Sqn. **Sgt D.C. Simpson RAF (Can.)** died in hospital in South Africa of natural causes (www.rafcommands.com).
- 16 78 Sqn. Whitley V Z6646 crashed on a training flight in England after both engines failed at low altitude, **Sgt G.O. Dufort RAF (Can.)**, P/O B.O. Smith RAF, Sgt R.F. Whithorn RAF seriously burned, **Sgt I.L. Kidd** slightly injured, one crewman safe (R. Allenby; www.rafcommands.com). All the three burned airmen became "Guinea Pigs" at East Grinstead, Sgt Dufort being one of the first Canadian "Guinea Pigs" (R. Donovan). R. Allenby notes the pilot, P/O Smith, was unable to return to operational flying and became a doctor himself, studying under Dr. McIndoe at East Grinstead and later treated war victims in Southern Rhodesia.
- 16 401 Sqn. Spitfire Vb was being investigated for stoppages of its cannons by a company representative when it suddenly discharged, killing the civilian and narrowly missing the pilot beside him, **P/O C.W. Floody** (D. McIntosh). See October 27, below.
- 16 #25 OTU Anson I W2626 crashed practicing night landings, Sgt E.H.C. Hardman RAF killed, **Sgt G.S. Douglas** injured.
- 16 #1 ITS, Toronto, Ontario, **AC2 J.C. Davie RCAF (USA)** died of natural causes in hospital.
- 16 #2 Training Command, a flight of 21 Oxfords were being ferried from Fort William, Ontario, to #36 SFTS at Penhold, Alberta. At Regina, Oxford I AT445 collided in the air with Oxford I AS571 and crashed on the airfield boundary, Sgt J. Wright RAF killed, Oxford AS571 landed safely (paulmcmillan at www.rafcommands.com).
- 16 Conversion Training School, Picton, Ontario, Battle Trainer I R7422 has its second accident when its undercarriage jammed and it made a belly landing (S. Shail). See Jan. 29, 1942.

**16-17 Duisburg attacked by 87 bombers, 22 more to Dunkirk and 15 sent to Ostend, 2 bombers lost (BC War Diaries).**

**Destroyer USS Kearny attacked and damaged by a U-boat while supporting Canadian escorted convoy SC-48. 11 USN sailors killed and 22 injured (wikipedia). This leads to changes in the US Neutrality Act, allowing greater defensive actions by US forces (Oxford). See Nov. 13, below.**

- 16-17 40 Sqn. Wellington Ic Z8862 BL-B lost over Germany, **Sgt J.A. Jacques RCAF (USA)**, Sgt J.A. Lamb RAF, Sgt A.H. Harman RAF, F/S P.L. Hennington DFM RAF and F/O P.C. Campbell-Martin MC RAF killed, S/L T.G. Kirby-Green RAF PoW. S/L Kirby-Green was part of the Great Escape and was one of 50 recaptured escapers executed by the Gestapo. W.R. Chorley (BCL Vol. 9) mentions that F/O Campbell-

Martin was a veteran of the RFC from the First World War, seconded from the Canadian Field Artillery. He had been wounded and taken PoW February 3, 1918, with pilot Lt E.G. Green, when DH.4 A7873 was shot down in a fight over Belgium by Fokker Triplanes. He later escaped and was awarded the MC, but was dismissed from the RAF in 1921 after a Court Marshall. He was born in India and returned there between the wars, returning to England in 1939 (discussion page at [greatwarforum.org](http://greatwarforum.org)).

Friday

**17 General Tojo made Premier of a new Japanese Cabinet (CJCA headline).**

***After the abdication of the Shah of Iran, and the negotiation of terms of occupation during the war, the Soviet and Commonwealth forces depart Tehran to occupy the zones and communication routes they need, leaving the new Shah Reza Pahlavi (21 years old) ruling the country (C. Shores).***

- 17 #15 OTU Wellington Ic R3205 lost over the Irish Sea in gale conditions on a cross country exercise, **Sgt C.J.S. Buckle RAF (Can.)**, Sgt W.A.C. Dickinson RAF, Sgt H. Tattersfield RAF, Sgt R.E. Arnold RAF, Sgt C.W. Almond RAF and Sgt F.W. Church RAF missing.
- 17 #16 OTU Canadian built Hampden I P5310 was on a navigation exercise when an engine failed and a propellor flew off, causing the aircraft to crash in Wales, P/O J.A.D. Scroggie killed, **Sgt J. Bremmer (RCAF?)**, Sgt R.F.A. Young RAF and Sgt Hart RAF injured. Sgt Young died of his injuries the next day ([www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 17 #41 OTU pilot **P/O R.M.W. Gosnell** died in hospital in Scotland of natural causes.
- 17 Central Flying School, Trenton, Ontario, Harvard I #1350 suffered the seventh accident of it's career, following which it was turned into an Instructional Airframe #A 152 and used in training at #1 TTS, St. Thomas, Ontario (R.W.R. Walker).
- 17 #14 SFTS, Aylmer, Ontario, Harvard caught fire in the air, instructor **Sgt S.A. Sanderson** ensured his student **LAC L.M. Sullivan RCAF (USA)** had bailed out safely before leaving the aircraft, for which he later received an Air Force Medal. See Oct. 20, 1943 and November 7, 1943.
- 17 #35 SFTS, North Battleford, Saskatchewan, Oxford I AS490 crashed, Cpl T.E. Leahy RAF and Cpl F.A. Mitchell RAF killed.
- 17-18 37 Sqn. Wellington Ic Z8735 'N' was unable to locate it's landing ground returning from a sortie over Benghazi and force landed near the coast in Egypt, **P/O J.F.R. Mitchell**, Sgt R.A. Mirre RAAF, Sgt R.D. Mattock RAF, Sgt T. Penrose RAF, Sgt J. Blanche RAF and Sgt C.V. Catherall RAF safe ([www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).

Saturday

**18 Advancing German units break into the outer ring of the Moscow defences (Oxford).**

***Wage and price controls take effect (CJCA headlines).***

***RCAF Base Torbay, Newfoundland, the first aircraft to land on the uncompleted runway include 3 USAAF B-17 and a RCAF Digby patrol bomber (an unofficial race?). Later in the month the first sanctioned use was the emergency landing of a Ferry Command Liberator aircraft trapped by severe snow storms. Torbay's uncompleted runway was the only one available and the pilot, Capt. S.T.B. Cripps, BOAC, managed to find it and land although it damaged it's nose wheel (St. John's: A History of the Airport).***

- 18 208 Sqn., Sollum, Egypt, Canadian built Hurricane PR.I Trop. T9536 'J' was captured by advancing German forces. This Hurricane had previously flown as a fighter in Greece with 33 Squadron in 1941. It was put back into service in German markings and was later re-captured by Allied forces in May 1942, and went to an OTU after refurbishing (<http://captured-wings.wikia.com/wiki/T9536>).
- 18 402 Sqn. Magister N3394 crashed in England, killing pilot **Sgt G. McClusky** and his passenger, **Capt. D.R. McNabb DDS**, Canadian Dental Corps. Sgt McClusky was credited with the first enemy aircraft destroyed by 402 Sqn. the month before. The RCAF had no dental service at this time, and relied on Army dentists from the CDC.
- 18 #1 SFTS, Camp Borden, Ontario, Harvard II #2671 crashed on practicing night circuits at the Alliston landing ground, LAC E.A. Brooks RAAF killed (A. Storr).

Sunday

**19 State of siege declared in Moscow, evacuation of Soviet government begins (Oxford).**

- 19 400 Sqn. Tomahawk I AH851 SP-A, **P/O G.A. Rogers**, attempted to fly under a narrow bridge in England but misjudged, taking off 3' of one wing and making a high speed, wheels up landing that wrote off the aircraft but left P/O Rogers slightly injured (*Airforce Magazine*, Vol. 11, #3, 1987; corrs. C. Mills).
- 19 404 Sqn. Blenheim IV Z5753 EE-T believed to have gone down off Scotland returning from a convoy escort, **Sgt I.A.M. Barber**, Sgt E. Gillam RAF and Sgt J. Shaw RAF missing. [Note, this aircraft was also recorded as shooting down an enemy aircraft in December, believed to be in error.]
- 19 502 Sqn. Whitley V Z6502 YG-U crashed on take off for an anti-submarine patrol, **Sgt J.B. Murray**, P/O D.B. Collie RAF, Sgt R. Bagley RAF, Sgt R.C. Sawyer RAF, Sgt S.A. Smith RAF and Sgt J.E. Bacon RAF safe (R. McNeill). See Nov. 24, below.
- 19 #1 SFTS, Camp Borden, Ontario Harvard II #2604 crashed near Banks, Ontario, **P/O R.D. Wilkes** and **LAC G.A. Yearsley** killed.



Monday

**20 Liverpool bombed (CJCA headline).**

**Canada's *PM Mackenzie King* agrees to British request for troops to Hong Kong (Polsson). King and his Minister of Defence *Ralston* were both cautious about this, but depended for advice on the military situation on *Gen. Crerar*, who based his opinion that there was "no military risk" on his discussion with *Gen. Grasett* in July (B. Greenhous).**

**In Nantes, France, the local German military commander is shot and killed in the street by a communist resistance group (R.C. Nesbit).**

**Russian resistance at Bryansk ends with thousands of prisoners again taken, German army now 40 miles from Moscow (Polsson).**

**Sole RCAF example of the Barkley-Grow T8P #758 is struck off strength with the RCAF after serving with #12 (Comm) Squadron where it had been used as a transport, including flying the Governor General on one occasion (R.W.R. Walker). It was sold to Maritime Central Airways and became CF-BMV. See December 17, 1942.**

- 20 88 Sqn. Blenheim IV L9020 crashed in England on a training flight, *F/S B. Fullerton*, *Sgt I.A. MacDonald*, F/O P.C. Nangle RAAF and army observer 2Lt W.J.T. Fieldhouse of the Royal Norfolk Regiment killed (A. Storr).
- 20 149 Sqn. Wellington Ic Z8795 OJ-C lost over Belgium, crashing into the Scheldt river, *P/O D.W. Brubaker* and Sgt L.E. Scantlebury killed, *Sgt L.F. Capstick*, P/O A.C.L. Hodge RAF, Sgt J. St.G. Johnston RAF and Sgt J.W. Horrocks RAF missing.
- 20 #11 EFTS, Cap de la Madeleine, Quebec, Finch II aircraft #4655 and #4625 collided in mid-air over the airfield, *LAC(P) P.R. Brimberry RCAF (USA)* was killed in #4655 and *LAC(P) R.T. Williams RCAF (USA)* was killed in #4625.
- 20 #14 EFTS, Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4125 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

**20-21 Bremen attacked by 153 bombers which report good bombing, but the city records it as a "small raid". Wilhelmshaven attacked by 47 bombers, 36 sent to Emden, 35 to Antwerp, 5 GARDENING and 8 OTU sorties, 9 bombers lost (BC War Diaries).**

20-21 106 Sqn. Hampden I AD984 crashed in Germany, *Sgt J.L. Lockwood*, Sgt G.F. Williams RNZAF, Sgt W. Alton RAF and Sgt T.G. Jones RAF killed.

20-21 207 Sqn. Manchester I L7487 EM-N lost over the North Sea returning from operations,

P/O G.S. MacDonald killed, P/O H.S. Ray, Sgt D.D. Taylor, P/O J.C.L. Ruck-Keene RAF, F/S J.S. Cooper RAF, Sgt W.H. Cubbon RAF and Sgt H.C. Gardner RAF missing.

20-21 408 Sqn. Hampden I P1212 EQ-T crashed attempting to land in England from an operation, Sgt A.T. McMillan, Sgt D.G. Bradley RNZAF and Sgt R.A. Stansfield RAF killed, Sgt E.L. Coles RAF badly injured (www.aircrewremembered). This was the first aircraft loss for 408 Sqn.

20-21 #23 OTU Wellington Ic Z8786 'Q' crashed landing from a NICKEL sortie over France, some members of the crash tender crew were injured by exploding ammunition and bombs while putting out the fire in the burning bomber, but the crew Sgt F.A. Tait, F/L R.J. Newton RNZAF, F/S Cooper RAF, Sgt H. Smith RAF, Sgt P.N. Herbert RAF, Sgt Harrison RAF, Sgt H.F. Farley RAF and Sgt G.T. Ramm RAF were safe. See Jan. 28-29, 1942.

Tuesday

**21 In Nantes, in retaliation for the killing of the German commanding officer, 48 French prisoners and detainees are executed, and it was announced that a further 50 Frenchmen would be executed if those responsible for the murder were not found in 48 hours. This draws public condemnation in the press, and by US President Roosevelt, British PM Churchill, and Vichy French President Pétain, who offered himself as a hostage. The deadline was postponed, and further executions in this matter cancelled, due to the public reaction in the USA and Vichy France (R.C. Nesbit). See December, below.**

**BC elections indecisive (CJCA headlines). In British Columbia in a general election, the Provincial CCF party edges out the Liberal party in the popular vote, but wins only 14 seats to the Liberals 21. In a minority position the Liberals and Conservatives form a coalition Government (www.schudak.de, wikipedia).**

21 82 Sqn. Blenheim IV V6146 UX-O shot down into the sea by a fighter on an anti-shipping strike against a convoy off Holland, P/O H.H. Pibus, P/O B.B. Barber RAAF and Sgt E.W. Paine RAF missing (A. Storr).

21 401 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AB863 shot down by a Bf 109 over France, Sgt B.F. Whitson wounded and PoW.

21 #19 OTU Whitley V P5103 crashed in Scotland on a bombing exercise after having engine problems, Sgt R.T. Oliver, Sgt H.G. Roughton RNZAF, P/O L.T. Young RNZAF and Sgt J. Reid RAF killed, Sgt S. Scott RAF injured.

21-22 104 Sqn. Wellington II Z8411 'Z' overshoot it's landing in Malta returning from an operation over Naples and hit an obstruction, Sgt E.M.G. Davies RAF killed, F/S P.S.G. Thornton RNZAF and P/O D. Ellis RAF injured, Sgt Bapton, P/O J.C. Boyers

RAF and F/S Dixon RAF safe.

**21-22 Bremen shipyards attacked by 136 bombers, but most miss due to haze, 16 other operations, 3 lost (BC War Diaries).**

21-22 44 Sqn. Hampden I AE257 lost over the sea, P/O W.H. Budd RAF and Sgt M.J. Hughes killed, **P/O D. Schafheitlin** and Sgt W.E. Austin RAF missing.

21-22 142 Sqn. Wellington IV Z1210 QT-M lost over the sea, **F/S J.F. Gauley**, **F/S T.E. Parker**, Sgt L.W. Shearing RAF and Sgt B.R. Thomas RAF killed, Sgt J. Forrest RAF and Sgt E.L. Phillips RAF missing (CWGC).

Wednesday

**22 Japanese Army Ki-46 aircraft flies a reconnaissance sortie from Saigon over airfields in Thailand and northern Malaysia, observed by RAF (Shores, Cull & Izawa).**

**RCAF School of Army Co-Operation formed at Rockcliffe, Ontario using Lysander aircraft (RCAF Sqns.).**

**#37 SFTS (RAF) began operations at Calgary, Alberta (C. Simonsen, <http://www.bombercrew.com/BCATP.htm>).**

22 18 Sqn. Blenheim IV Z7898 'W' was attacking a target in Libya when it flew into the parachute retarded bombs from the proceeding aircraft and blew up in the air, **F/S J.D. Woodburn DFM**, Sgt L. Lawson RAF and Sgt G. Robinson RAF killed.

22 413 Sqn. Catalina I AH566 lost on a special reconnaissance off Norway, **W/C R.G. Brieze** killed, **P/O W.J. Hoover**, **Sgt K.C. Lawry RAF (Can.)**, **F/O C.C. Proby RAF (Can.)**, AC1 T.H. Atkin RAF, AC2 W. Benson RAF, F/S W.H. Martin RAF, Sgt L.J. Harris RAF, AC1 A.H. Agus RAF and Sgt R.E. Austin RAF missing.

22 #16 OTU Canadian built Hampden I P5318 flew into a hill in England on a night training flight, Sgt E. Robinson RAF, Sgt R. Gordon RAF and Sgt S.K. Holland RAF killed.

**22-23 Bomber Command sends 123 bombers to Mannheim but only 58 report bombing the target due to cloud and icing, 42 attack alternate targets (BC War Diaries).**

22-23 99 Sqn. Wellington II W5454 was on an operation when it radioed that it was returning to base after an engine fire, but was not heard from again, **Sgt S.G. Westbrooke**, Sgt T.H.C. Mahon RAF, Sgt D.W. Soden RAF, Sgt J.H. Kay RAF, Sgt R.D. Partridge RAF and Sgt J.D.H. Lewis RAF missing.

22-23 103 Sqn. Wellington Ic T2506, **P/O R.G. Keefer**, lost both engines due to icing. The aircraft dove and the crew prepared to bail out. P/O Keefer re-started the engines at a lower level and returned to England with **P/O J.P.S. Calder**, **Sgt L.C. Diaper**, Sgt M.B. Brown RAF and Sgt A.C. Dalton RAF safe, but the rear gunner Sgt (R.W. or T.?) Cox RAF had already bailed out and is believed to have evaded

(www.rafcommands.com). See October 24-26, below.

- 22-23 150 Sqn. Wellington Ic T2967 JN-J lost over Germany, **P/O G.C. O'Neill**, Sgt A.L. Bradshaw RAF, Sgt P.P.F. Du Pre RAF, Sgt H.I.S. Armes RAF, Sgt K. Carter RAF and Sgt R.L. Hunt RAF killed.
- 22-23 405 Sqn. Wellington II Z8419 LQ-V lost, believed over the sea, after bombing, **F/S L.H. Jackson** killed, **Sgt L.E. Dodge**, **Sgt C.R. Hall**, **F/S G.F. Marr**, **Sgt P.T.W. Walker** and Sgt W.L.N. Johnston RAAF missing.
- 22-23 408 Sqn. Hampden I P1218 EQ-Q lost over Germany, F/S F.A. Titcomb RAF, Sgt P.A.G. Ragg RAF and F/S R.R. Walker RAF killed, **Sgt R.M. Gifford** PoW.

Thursday

**23 Manning Depot for Women, later #6 Manning Depot, opened at Havegal College, Toronto (CCMA).**

***Animated Walt Disney movie Dumbo is released (wikipedia).***

- 23 131 Sqn. Spitfire IIa P8546 stalled and crashed in Wales after an engine failure, **Sgt D.A.E. Bremner** killed (www.spitfires.ukf.net; mcmillan\_p at www.rafcommands.com).
- 23 133 (USA) Sqn. Hurricane IIb Z3649 crashed making a low pass over the officers mess at his base in Northern Ireland returning from a convoy patrol, **P/O G.R. Bruce RAF (Can.)** killed (V. Haugland; www.rafcommands).
- 23 236 Sqn. Blenheim IV V5728 ND-J was escorting a convoy when it signalled it had engine problems and ditched near Calf Island in the Republic of Ireland (Eire), where **Sgt D.A. Woodman** was injured, and **Sgt P.O. Webster** and **Sgt C.S. Brady** were interned. See Oct. 24, below. (D. Burke, www.ww2irishaviation.com)
- 23 #3 SFTS, Calgary, Alberta, motor transport driver **LAC R.W. Burns** was driving a tractor on the active runway without lights when Anson I #6438 landed, hitting the tractor and killing LAC Burns.
- 23 #31 OTU Debert, NS, Hudson V AM895 was on a night training flight and crashed attempting a forced landing at D'Abord La Plouffe, Quebec, killing **P/O J.F. Boyd**, **Sgt A. Kirsch**, **P/O A.E.G. Wainwright** and LAC A.J. Morris RAF, AC1 E.W. Marsh RAF injured (31 OTU/7 OTU Roll of Honour; Griffin; www.rafcommands.com). See October 30, below.
- 23 #31 OTU Debert, NS, Hudson V AM896 was on a long distance flight exercise when it flew into the ground near Great Village, NS, killing **Sgt R.F. Kelley**, **P/O R.A. Luard**, **P/O C.B. O'Hanley** and Sgt N.L. Hornsey RAF (31 OTU/7 OTU Roll of Honour). See October 30, below.

**23-24 Bad weather again scatters 114 bombers sent to attack shipyards at Kiel (BC War Diaries).**



Friday

**24 Luftwaffe pilot Lt Franz von Werra, lionized in the press for his successful escape from Canada earlier in the year, goes missing on a flight over the North Sea (wikipedia).**

24 236 Sqn. **Sgt D.A. Woodman** died as an internee in Ireland of injuries from the crash landing of Blenheim V5728 the day before.

**24-25 Frankfurt targeted by 70 bombers, but only 8 report reaching the target in bad weather (BC War Diaries).**

24-25 51 Sqn. Whitley V Z6874 lost over France, **Sgt C.E. Wheeler RCAF (Nfld.)** killed, **Sgt J.P. Magwood**, Sgt G.M. Porrett RAF and Sgt D.G. Pinney RAF PoW, and **Sgt H.R. Wilson** evaded. According to an ex-crewman of Sgt Wilson, he landed in a town (Calais?) where his parachute hung up in the lights of a movie theatre. Fortunately he was released by the actions of prostitutes who saw him land, and also hid him until they could get him to the resistance, who got him to Spain (J. Harris RAF, ex-408 and 420 Squadron, via Maccas81 at [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)). See January 27-28, 1944.

24-25 103 Sqn. Wellington Ic T2506 PM-(C?) lost returning from an operation, abandoned over Eire, **P/O R.G. Keefer**, **P/O J.P.S. Calder**, **Sgt L.C. Diaper**, Sgt A.C. Dalton RAF, Sgt M.B. Brown RAF and Sgt A. Virtue RAF interned. P/O Calder, P/O Keefer and Sgt Dalton later escaped ([www.yorkshire-aircraft.co.uk](http://www.yorkshire-aircraft.co.uk), D. Burke at [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)). See also Aug. 9, 1943 and July 21, 1944. A book about the this incident, *Grounded in Eire*, was published in 2001. Sgt Virtue died in Ireland of natural causes in 1944 (COL BRUGGY at [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)). Dennis Burke has details of this loss on his [www.ww2irishaviation.com](http://www.ww2irishaviation.com) website.

24-25 144 Sqn. Hampden I AE316 believed to have ditched off the coast of Belgium, Sgt A.W. Smith RAF killed, **Sgt F.C. Stephenson** missing, **F/L I.H. Kingwell RAF (Can.)** and Sgt L.A. Parker RAF PoW.

24-25 405 Sqn. Wellington II W5489 LQ-A was damaged by flak over Germany. After returning to land safely at it's base a fire broke out when taxiing to it's dispersal and the aircraft was burned out, **P/O L.P. Frizzle**, **Sgt R. Graham**, **Sgt D.L. Pickard**, P/O Gibson, Sgt Allen and Sgt Jones (RAF or RCAF?) safe (R. Allenby). This Wellington was one of three which made the first RCAF bombing attack of the war June 12-13, above. See November 26-27, 1943.

Saturday

**25 #10 (BR) Sqn. RCAF Digby #740 PB-L from Gander, Newfoundland, attacks a U-boat but the bombs failed to explode (R.W.R. Walker). This is reported as the first confirmed attack by an Eastern Air Command aircraft on a U-boat, S/L C.L.**

***Annis pilot (RCAF Sqns.). (Note previous attacks July 16 and 22, above, by #116 (BR) Sqn.)***

- 25 107 Sqn. Blenheim IV Z7704 crashed in Libya on a road patrol, Sgt A. Stanier RAF killed, **F/S W.T. Shaver** and Sgt G.L. Wincott RAF injured. See Oct. 26 below.
- 25 125 (Newfoundland) Sqn. Defiant I T3985 partially abandoned after hitting a balloon cable on a night patrol and crashed, Sgt C.A.G. Dale RNZAF killed, Sgt J.B. Bayliss RNZAF safe (www.rafcommands.com).
- 25 232 Sqn. Canadian built Hurricane I Z7072 crashed in England making a forced landing, **Sgt H.A. Grant** killed (www.nelsam.org.uk; ).
- 25 OADU Wellington Ic X9989 crashed in England after take-off due to a flap failure, **F/S C.A. Bergsten RCAF (USA)**, **Sgt L.G. Rowe**, P/O A.E. Mackie RAF, Sgt H.H. Taylor RAF and Sgt K.S. Turner RAF killed, **Sgt D.G. Anderson** injured (BLME V.2 Errata). See Nov. 19 below.
- 25 #25 OTU Hampden I P1234 hit a balloon cable in poor visibility and crashed, killing **P/O J.W. Atkin**, Sgt L.M.G. McDonald RNZAF, Sgt H. Hughes RAF and Sgt H.E. Jacobs RAF.
- 25 #2 Training Command, clerk **Sgt G.H. McMurray** tragically killed himself after shooting his family in Canada (www.rafcommands.com). His father was **The Honourable E.J. McMurray KC**, who had once served as Canada's Solicitor General in 1925 and who had acted in defence of the leaders of the 1919 Winnipeg General Strike (mhs.mb.ca).
- 25 #31 OTU, Debert, NS, Hudson V AM886 crashed near Big Tupper Lake, New York, USA on a cross country navigation exercise, **Sgt D.R. Gill**, **P/O A. Nowosad** and **P/O T. Shellshear** killed (31 OTU/7 OTU Roll of Honour).
- 25 #14 EFTS, Portage La Prairie, Manitoba, two DH.82C Tiger Moth aircraft, #4124 and #4173, collided and crashed 1 mile east of Newton, Manitoba. **LAC(P) J.R. Blackwood** in #4124 and **LAC(P) L.J. Kane RCAF (USA)** in #4173 were both killed.

Sunday

***26 407 Sqn. sent 6 early morning ROVER sorties off the coast of Holland, 5 of which found and attacked shipping (407 SH).***

- 26 107 Sqn. **F/S W.T. Shaver** died in Libya of injuries sustained the previous day. His crewman, Sgt G.L. Wincott RAF died of his injuries on Oct. 27.
- 26 40 Sqn. Wellington Ic X9974 was one of 16 aircraft taking off in England for Gibraltar on a re-positioning flight to the Middle East when it struck a boundary fence and lost it's pitot tube. The aircraft stalled and crashed attempting a return landing, crew **Sgt D.Y.N. Crosby**, **Sgt A.N. Irving**, **P/O C.G.R. Saunders**, **Sgt H.L. Steadman**, P/O A. Lodge RAF, Sgt V.J. Hale RAF, and passengers **F/S H. Higginson RAF**, Sgt E. Beard RAF, Cpl G.I.F. Davies RAF and **LAC C. Robson** killed. (as per CWGC; BCL'ME places this Oct. 23-24).

- 26 *HMS Argus*, LAC R.W. Horsfield RAF (Can.) died hospital in England of natural causes (www.rafcommands.com). The FAA still made use of RAF maintenance men at this time and LAC Horsfield was one of these. He was also a Biggs' Boy (K. Stofer).
- 26 #23 OTU Wellington Ic T2844 'B3' crashed after it's life raft deployed and fouled the controls. The aircraft went into a dive and broke up in the air, P/O M.F. Gibson, Sgt P.E. Lacey, Sgt T.N.D. Boyd RAAF, P/O H. Rose RAF, F/S W. Walker RAF, P/O R.C. Symes RAF and Sgt F.H.P. Tolley RAF killed.
- 26 #55 OTU Hurricane I P3609 crashed killing Sgt S.J. Connell.

**26-27 Hamburg attacked by 115 bombers which do more damage than usual, 17 bombers attack Cherbourg and 5 GARDENING operations off Kiel, 4 bombers lost (BC War Diaries).**

- 26-27 57 Sqn. Wellington Ic R1722 crash landed in England due to a fuel management error when returning from an operation, P/O J.A. Watson killed, Sgt Andrews RAF injured, Sgt Wilson RAF, P/O Scarlett RAF, Sgt Cox RAF and Sgt Meek RAF safe.
- 26-27 57 Sqn. Wellington Ic Z8946 DX-S lost over Denmark, Sgt L.C. Bentley, Sgt D.S. Fisk killed, Sgt F.W. Wade missing, P/O I.H. Collett RNZAF, P/O J.S. Walters RAF and Sgt T.C. Bartle RAF PoW.
- 26-27 75 (New Zealand) Sqn. Wellington Ic Z1168 lost, Sgt B.W. Shelnutt RCAF (USA) missing, P/O E.M. Sangster, Sgt H.A.D. Stanley RCAF (USA), Sgt D.J. Pyman RNZAF, Sgt S.J.G. Isherwood RAF and Sgt H. Bell RAF PoW. Most of this crew had had to bail out of a 75 (New Zealand) Sqn. Wellington Ic R1177, Sept. 28-29 above.
- 26-27 106 Sqn. Hampden I AE136 lost over Germany, F/S D.J. Carmichael, Sgt R.A. Gladen RAF, Sgt E. Haste RAF killed, P/O J.M. Wood RAF PoW.

Monday

**27 Winnipeg Grenadiers and the Royal Rifles of Canada depart Vancouver for Hong Kong (Polsson).**

**#117 (BR) Sqn. transferred from North Sydney, NS, to Jericho Beach, BC (RCAF Sqns.).**

- 27 114 Sqn. Blenheim IV Z7309 RT-G shot down off Holland by German fighters, Sgt J. Bradshaw, P/O W.G.C. Beatson RAF and P/O H. Jones RAF missing.
- 27 152 Sqn. Spitfire IIa P7901 shot down by a British convoy in the North Sea in error, F/S E.O. Grimsdick missing (www.spitfires.ukf.net).
- 27 401 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AB983 shot down over France on a fighter sweep, P/O J.A. Small killed (D. McIntosh).
- 27 401 Sqn. Spitfire Vb W3601 was damaged over the Channel returning from France on a fighter sweep and F/S S.L. Thompson radioed that he was going to bail out over

the English coast, but he was found dead near his crashed aircraft with an unopened parachute (D. McIntosh).

- 27 401 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AB991 failed to return from a sweep over France on a fighter sweep, **F/O C.A.B. Wallace** missing. F/O Wallace had fought in the Battle of Britain.
- 27 401 Sqn. Spitfire Vb shot down over France on a fighter sweep, **P/O B.G. Hodgkinson** PoW, either Spitfire W3955 or W3964 ([www.spitfires.ukf.net](http://www.spitfires.ukf.net)). P/O Hodgkinson had been a radio announcer before the war and a book, *Spitfire Down*, is his story of his experiences as a pilot and as a PoW.
- 27 401 Sqn. Spitfire Vb shot down over France on a fighter sweep, **P/O C.W. "Wally" Floody** PoW. P/O Floody had worked in many jobs during the Depression, including in mines and as a PoW this experience led him to being deemed a tunnelling specialist (T. Barris). He was a leader in building the tunnels used in the Great Escape, and was a technical advisor for the 1963 movie. See March 25, 1944. His aircraft either Spitfire W3955 or W3964 ([www.spitfires.ukf.net](http://www.spitfires.ukf.net)).
- 27 401 Sqn. Spitfire Vb damaged over France and crash landed near Rye in England, **F/O E.L. Neal** safe (D. McIntosh). See November 18, below.
- 27 401 Sqn. Spitfire Vb W3452 shot up over the Channel returning from France on a fighter sweep and abandoned over England at low level, **Sgt G.B. Whitney** safe (D. McIntosh). See April 28, 1942. This combat is referenced in the book *The R.C.A.F. Overseas - The First Four Years*, published in 1944.
- 27 #119 (BR) Sqn. RCAF Bolingbroke IV.W #9023 DM-E ditched in St. Margarets Bay, NS, 3 crew injured, 1 safe (R.W.R. Walker)

#### Tuesday

- 28 145 Sqn. Spitfire IIa P8044 "*Canadian First Division*" lost control in clouds and dove into the ground returning from a convoy patrol, **P/O H.L.M. Young** killed ([www.spitfires.ukf.net](http://www.spitfires.ukf.net)).
- 28 MSFU Canadian built Hurricane I P5183 force landed in the Mersey River in England, F/O A.C. MacLaren RAF safe (H. Welting [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com), <http://www.yorkshire-aircraft.co.uk>).
- 28 #59 OTU Hurricane I V7236 stalled in a turn and spun into the ground attempting to make a forced landing, killing **Sgt S.D. Fassino RCAF (USA)**.
- 28 #5 Manning Depot, Valcartier, Quebec, **AC2 W.J. Findley** died in hospital of natural causes.
- 28 #31 SFTS, Kingston, Ontario, LAC E.R. Reynolds RAF died after being accidentally hit by a propellor.

#### Wednesday

- 29 #53 OTU Spitfire Ia P9459 and Ia X4823 aircraft collided and crashed into the sea, **Sgt L.R. Brunette RCAF (USA)** and **P/O J.A. Jodoin** missing ([www.spitfires.ukf.net](http://www.spitfires.ukf.net)).



29 RAF College SFTS Cranwell, Oxford I R5942 crashed after controls jammed when caught in a snowstorm in England, pilot instructor **F/L E.M. Cowperthwaite RAF (Can.)**, LAC(P) D.C. Ross RAF and LAC(P) W.J.V. Samuel RAF killed (H. Welting & R. McNeill [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).

29-30 148 Sqn. Wellington II Z8330 'S' lost attacking shipping off Crete, **P/O D.M. Elliott**, Sgt T. Taranto RAAF, Sgt J.I. Bramwell RAF, Sgt D.F. Conley RAF, Sgt S.C. Ray RAF and Sgt D.H. Warner RAF missing (<http://aviationarchaeology.gr>)

**29-30 Cloud over the targets prevents 45 bombers from attacking Schipol Airport near Amsterdam, 16 bombers attack naval ships at Brest, 1 bomber lost (BC War Diaries).**

Thursday

**30 Siege of Soviet naval base at Sevastopol begins ([ww2total.com](http://ww2total.com) Chronology/1941).**

***Twenty die in St. Thomas air crash (CJCA headline). American Airlines "Flight 1" DC-3 NC25663 from New York to Detroit crashed into a field near St. Thomas, Ontario, in hazy conditions with the loss of all 20 on board. No explanation for this accident has been determined (CAHS Journal). The development of a recording device for aircraft flight was one of the recommendations from this crash, another was the reinforcement of cockpit windows to resist bird strikes, considered one of the possible causes (R. Schweyer, Final Descent: The Loss of the Flagship Erie, privately published, 2014). In 2023 this accident was subject of a symposium at the Canadian Aviation Museum in Windsor (CBC story [Historic Canadian plane crash mystery to be probed in Elder College course, Oct. 30, 2023](#), which includes many details of this crash.)***

***The US Naval Oiler USS Salinas, returning to the USA from Argentina, Newfoundland, was hit and badly damaged by 2 torpedoes that wounded one of the crew (<http://www.homeofheroes.com>).***

***US President approves Lend-Lease to USSR (wikipedia). Most of this would be in the form of food, high quality steel and industrial equipment to allow expansion of production of Russian factories. Other material would be of more direct use, for example over the duration of the war some 425,000 trucks were supplied which helped in making the Russian Army a mobile force (Oxford).***

***At an America First rally in Madison Square Garden Charles Lindbergh attacks***

***President Roosevelt, accusing him of "dictatorship and subterfuge" to get the USA involved in the war (wikipedia).***

- 30 780 Sqn. HMS Daedalus, RNAS Lee-on-Solent, Proctor collided with Shark K5650 and crashed near RNAS Eastleigh, **Sub Lt(A) P. Fahrenholtz RNVR** killed, Sub Lt(A) J.E. Hampson safe on the Shark (Highgroundsman [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)). Finn Buch, who opened the discussion page on this incident, noted that Sub Lt Fahrenholtz was from Denmark but a resident of Toronto. He had enlisted in the Canadian Army when the war broke out, but was returned to Canada and discharged following an accident, whereupon he joined the FAA.
- 30 OADU Blenheim IV Z7782 was enroute to Malta from Gibraltar when it was intercepted and damaged by Italian fighters and crash landed on the coast of Sicily, **P/O H.J. Knight, F/S J.D. Graham RCAF (USA)** and Sgt I.J. Bevan RAF taken PoW (R. McNeill PoW List).
- 30 #1 Bombing & Gunnery School **AC2 I.B. Morehouse** killed near Jarvis, Ontario in a motorcycle accident.
- 30 #3 EFTS London, Ontario, Finch II #4434 crashed practicing manoeuvres, **Sgt D.A. Campbell and LAC(P) M. Disbrowe** killed (R.W.R. Walker).
- 30 #14 EFTS, Portage la Prairie DH.82C Tiger Moth #4110 and #5160 collided in mid-air and crashed near Newton, Manitoba, **LAC(P) T.G. Stevenson** killed in #4110 and **LAC(P) McPhadden** was injured in #5160 (R.W.R. Walker).
- 30 #31 OTU, Debert, NS, AC1 E.W. Marsh RAF died of injuries at Debert, NS, from Hudson AM895 that crashed on October 23, above. He is buried in Scotland (31 OTU/7 OTU Roll of Honour, [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).

Friday

***31 Fire in the H. Booth and Son clothing factory in Yorkshire kills 49, most women and teenagers (ww2total.com Chronology/1941; examinerlive.co.uk).***

***Twenty seven killed in a mine explosion in Nordegg, Alberta (CJCA headline).***

***The sculptured mountain at Mount Rushmore, South Dakota, USA, is completed after 14 years of work.***

***Soviet forces withdraw from Crimea (CJCA headline).***

***In the continental USA expansion of the USAAF continues, and it has nearly reached it's target of personnel, but the number of combat aircraft totals only 348 of the 945 authorized total, and only 269 of these are the modern aircraft (B-17, B-18, B-25, B-26 and A-20) ordered (Hagedorn & Hagedorn). This is in part due to the exporting of aircraft to other countries, especially the***

***Commonwealth, and does not accurately reflect the increase in aircraft production in the USA.***

***Destroyer USS Reuben James attacked and sunk by U-552 while escorting Convoy HX-156 off Iceland. The destroyer had placed itself between the convoy and suspected U-boats. It was hit by a torpedo from U-552 and sank with the loss of 115 sailors, 44 survived (wikipedia; M. Milner).***

- 31 220 Sqn. Hudson V AM618 NR-M failed to return from a patrol after transmitting an SOS, **F/L G.C. Birchall RAF (Can.)**, P/O J.P. Croker RAF, Sgt A.M. Barr RAF and Sgt G.L.D. Bailey RAF missing.
- 31 #52 OTU Hurricane I P3031 crashed killing **Sgt H.C. Cotnam**.
- 31 #4 Wireless School, Guelph, Ontario **LAC(WAG) S.E. Rozell** died in a car accident near Freelon, Ontario
- 31 #11 SFTS Yorkton, Saskatchewan Harvard II BW194 crashed near Ebenezer, Saskatchewan, **LAC(P) L.E. Armstrong** killed (R.W.R. Walker).

***31-1 Bomber Command sends 123 bombers to Hamburg (only 56 bomb due to bad visibility), 48 to Bremen (13 report bombing, Bremen records none), 25 to Dunkirk, 7 to Boulogne, 18 GARDENING sorties and 2 OTU operations, 6 bombers lost (BC War Diaries).***

- 31-1 35 Sqn. Halifax I L9504 TL-H was attacked and badly damaged by night fighters, and forced to jettison it's bombs. Rear gunner **Sgt H. Rivedal RCAF (USA)** was wounded, but safe with the rest of the crew, Sgt P.B. Robinson RAF, Sgt Larson, P/O A. Abel RAF, Sgt N.H. Hood RAF, Sgt Howard RAF and Sgt J.N. Hindle RAF, when they landed back in England (R. Allenby). Sgt Rivedal later transferred to the USAAF and was an instructor at #1659 OTU (Linzee via Bert A1 on [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 31-1 51 Sqn. Whitley V Z9141 MH-J shot down by a night fighter over Holland, **Sgt V. Sature RCAF (Poland)**, **F/S E. Warburton**, P/O S.D. Steel RNZAF, F/L E.A. Barsby RAF and Sgt J.H. Knight RAF killed.
- 31-1 51 Sqn. Whitley Z9920 MH-V lost over the sea, **F/S A.T. Bradly**, Sgt C.A. Guan RAAF, Sgt W. Bourke RAAF, Sgt G.O. Williams RAF and Sgt S. Burgess RAF missing.
- 31-1 76 Sqn. Halifax I L9602 MP-N lost without trace, **P/O F.C. Brooks**, **Sgt J.R. Johnson RCAF (Jamaica)**, **F/S C.S. O'Brien**, P/O N.F. Mclean RNZAF, Sgt C.E. Wood RAF, F/S J. Flannigan RAF and Sgt J. Mycock RAF missing.
- 31-1 77 Sqn. Whitley V Z6950 lost over Germany, **F/S J.M. Boyd**, **Sgt J.H. Stoll**, Sgt H.E. Roberts RAF, Sgt H.R. Elliott RAF and Sgt W. Partington RAF killed.
- 31-1 77 Sqn. Whitley V Z6953 lost without trace, **P/O R.J.A. Cleverdon**, **Sgt W.T. Hall**, Sgt A.F.C. Couch RAF, P/O F. Simpson RAF and Sgt W. Lowe RAF missing.
- 31-1 115 Sqn. Wellington Ic X9873 KO-P shot down by a night fighter onto an island off the

Dutch coast, **Sgt H.E. Woolley**, **Sgt P.V. Brazier**, **Sgt A.W. Clarke**, WO J.W.B. Snowden RAF, **Sgt A.E. Robinson** RAF and **F/S P.J.C. Darvill** RAF PoW. Photos of the crashed aircraft (identified as X9875) in *Flypast* magazine January 1986 shows the aircraft carried a "Saint" stick figure with a bomb as artwork. **Sgt Woolley** wrote a book about his PoW experience, "*No Time Off For Good Behaviour*", General Store Publishing, 1990 (K. MacLean [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).

31-1 407 Sqn. Hudson crash landed at it's base due to flak damage, **Sgt D. Moss**, **Sgt D.V. Thesiger** RAF, **Sgt T.M. Stockdale** RAF and **P/O D.H. Brown** safe. This aircraft was part of a Squadron strike on a convoy off the Dutch coast (407 SH). See Dec. 22, below.

## **November 1941**

**#6 (BR) Sqn. RCAF begins to re-equip with Stranraer aircraft (RCAF Sqns.). #118 (F) Sqn., Dartmouth, NS, begins to re-equip with Kittyhawk I aircraft (RCAF Sqns.). #120 (BR) Sqn., Patricia Bay, BC, begins to re-equip with Stranraer flying boats (RCAF Sqns.).**

***Having been rebuffed on his attacks on Tobruk Rommel plans a careful attack for late November, and begins building artillery positions and building up supplies for the assault (M. Carver).***

***US Red Cross calls for increased blood donations in case of war, but announces that it will not accept donations of "coloured" people. After a year of protests it announced that donations of blood by African Americans would be taken, but these donations would be kept separate and used only for the treatment of "coloured" soldiers (2013 CBC Massey Lectures 'Blood: The Stuff of Life'). Note that there is no difference in blood between ethnicities.***

Saturday

***1 Operational control of the US Coast Guard in the Atlantic passed from the US Treasury Branch to the US Navy for military purposes (C.E. Hipperson).***

***Canadian escorted convoy SC-52 detected by U-boats off Cape Race, Newfoundland, the furthest west U-boat operation of the war so far. Unable to move fast enough to evade a wolfpack, and fearing the convoy would have a continuous and heavy battle, it was turned back to Nova Scotia, the only Atlantic convoy to be turned back in the war. U-boats sank 4 ships and 2 more were lost in groundings (M. Milner).***



- 1 404 Sqn., 2 Blenheim IV aircraft collided over Scotland when performing at an air show, **F/S R.F. Leighton**, AC1 T.A. Gray RAF and AC2 T. Clapperton RAF killed when T1946 crashed, **P/O Inglis** and **Cpl H.E. Holmes** were injured on Z6339 (ktsorens.tihlde.org).
- 1 409 Sqn. Beaufighter IIc crewed by **W/C P.Y. Davoud DFC** and Sgt T. Carpenter RAF intercept and shoot down a Do 217, the Squadrons first victory (RCAF Sqns.).
- 1 #2 (Coastal) OTU Beaufighter Ic T4650 crashed in England, **Sgt J. Parsons** and AC2 C.T. Blyth RAF killed (R. Allenby).
- 1 #16 OTU Canadian built Hampden I P5303 spun and crashed in England on a navigation exercise, **Sgt C.R. Hollingworth**, Sgt T.G. Williams RAAF, Sgt J.M. Butterworth RAF and Sgt A.R. Enderby RAF killed (A. Storr). W.R. Chorley notes that a week before this incident Sgt Hollingworth and Sgt Enderby had parachuted safely out of a Hampden with problems before it's pilot managed a safe landing.
- 1 #5 EFTS, High River, Alberta, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4993 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).
- 1 #7 B&G School, Paulson, Manitoba, Battle I #1964 written off after a crash (R.W.R. Walker).
- 1-2 148 Sqn. Wellington II Z8332 'C' crash landed in fog in the desert returning from operations over Benghazi, **Sgt M.R. Knisley** and Sgt H.B. Cassie RNZAF injured, P/O R.B. Milburn RAF, Sgt D. Hutchison RAF, Sgt W.P. Griffiths RAF and Sgt R.P. Morley RAF shaken but safe.
- 1-2 Kiel targeted by 134 bombers, of which 70 report bombing through thick cloud, city records no bombs in its districts (BC War Diaries).**
- 1-2 407 Sqn. Hudson attacks damaged 6 ships off Terschelling and a neutral Swedish ship off Holland (I. Wikene, FF Years).

Sunday

**2 Attacks by #2 Group Blenheims on shipping ended this date, due to high losses, with a 4 aircraft sortie off Norway. Bomber Command had lost 139 aircraft on these operations since March (BC War Diaries). Coastal Command attacks on shipping continued.**

**Germans capture Kursk (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).**

- 2 #17 OTU Blenheim IV Z5947 lost control in cloud and crashed in England, **P/O C.W. Bush Jr. RCAF (USA)**, P/O A.T. Sims RAF and Sgt E.J. Bush RAF killed.
- 2 #13 OTS, Patricia Bay, BC, Stranraer #932 was taking off on a training flight when an engine burst into flames. **F/O R.L. Rizon RCAF (USA)** aborted the take-off, and when the extinguishers didn't work, ordered the crew, **P/O A.B. Mills**, **LAC A.A. Norridge**, **LAC W.J. Hunt**, **LAC J.A.I. Young** to jump overboard. Making a final

check he found 1 crewman would not leave the aircraft and had lost his life vest, so he and LAC Hunt, who re-boarded the aircraft to assist, used fire extinguishers and water buckets to put out the fire, but the upper and left wings had been burnt out and the aircraft was written off. For this F/O Rizon was awarded an AFC (R.W.R. Walker; *Aeroplane Monthly*, April 2001; H.A. Halliday at rafcommands.com). After the US joined the war F/O Rizon transferred to the USAAF and was in charge of the school creating air rescue squadrons with OA-10 (Catalina/Canso) aircraft. Postwar he was instrumental in creating USAF Rescue units in Korea and commanded the helicopter rescue operations in the 1953 North Sea flooding in The Netherlands (E. Arnold, *Rescue!*, Bantam Books, 1958 abridged edition).

- 2-3 OADU, Wellington Ic Z1040 was enroute from Gibraltar to Malta when it was shot down off Sicily by Italian fighters, **F/S J.G. Smith**, Sgt R. Wade RAF, Sgt G.E. Williamson RAF, Sgt N. Bradley RAF, Sgt W.H. Jeffries RAF and Sgt E.A. Main RAF missing.
- 2-3 407 Sqn. Hudson, **Sgt J.W. Creeden**, sank 1 ship and other pilots damaged 4 more on the North Sea coast (I. Wikene). See Feb. 12, 1942.

Monday

**3 #111 (F) Sqn. re-formed at Rockcliffe, Ontario, on Kittyhawk I aircraft (RCAF Sqns.).**

- 3 #53 OTU Spitfire Ia X4913 missing on a training flight. The wreckage was found in hills in Wales July 21, 1942, **Sgt C.C. Gardner** killed (www.spitfires.ukf.net). The crash site is now part of a hiking trail of 4 wreck sites. It is noted that this accident was the longest an aircraft was missing over land in England during the war (www.everytrail.com).
- 3 #55 OTU Hurricane I V7158 crashed when letting down in bad weather, **Sgt A.G. Dumville** killed (Chris Davies www.rafcommands.com).

Tuesday

**4 After plans and personnel from England are sent to De Havilland Canada, a contract is given for production of the Mosquito bomber at their Downsview, Ontario plant (T. Judge). See September 22, 1942.**

**Isolationist demonstrators in Detroit pelt British Envoy Lord Halifax with eggs and tomatoes (wikipedia).**

- 4 107 Sqn. wireless air gunner **Sgt C.A. Whidden** died in hospital as a PoW in Tripoli, Libya, from wounds received in the loss of Blenheim Z9663 Oct. 11, above.
- 4 500 Sqn. Blenheim IV Z5959 MK-X lost in the IJsselmeer on an anti-shipping strike, **F/O W.J. Sipprell RAF (Can.)**, Sgt A.T. Hall RNZAF and Sgt H.R. Davies RAF missing. F/O Sipprell was a Biggs' Boy (K. Stofer).
- 4 #2 AOS, Scotland, Oxford I AT486 crashed on a navigation exercise, **Sgt C.A. Des**

- Baillets** and LAC H. Hodgekinson RAF killed (R. Allenby).
- 4 #5 (Coastal) OTU Beaufort I L9961 collided with Beaufort I N1087 'X2' practising formation flying and crashed in England (R. Hayward). Beaufort N1087 landed damaged, but **P/O C.R.B. Weidenfeller RCAF (USA)**, P/O K.J. Dierden RAF, Sgt L.P. Griffen RAF and Sgt G.F. Neale RAF were killed in L9961 (www.rafcommands.com).
- 4 #5 EFTS, High River, Alberta, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4993 stalled and spun in from low altitude, killing **Sgt H.G. Hayes**.

**4-5 Bomber Command sends 28 Wellingtons to attack the Krupp works in Essen, but only 9 report having identified and bombed the target, no aircraft lost (BC War Diaries).**

- 4-5 408 Sqn. Hampden I was engaged in a GARDENING sortie off Germany. Over the drop point they encountered clouds, the pilot P/O D.F.H. Biggane RAF, circled the area until he found a hole and dropped below them. There he was lit up by search lights and engaged by naval flak from two ships which hit and damaged one wing, but managed to lay his mines and returned to England, he and his crew, **Sgt W. L. Reinhart**, Sgt L. Littlewood RAF and Sgt J. I. Williams (RCAF or RAF?) safe (FF Years, Awards). This was cited in the award of a DFC to P/O Biggane (H.A. Halliday). Sgt Littlewood and Sgt Reinhart were later awarded the DFM, and later served with 109 Squadron. P/O Reinhart DFM also received the DFC (Awards). See December 21-22, 1942.
- 4-5 #5 (BR) Sqn. RCAF, BC, Stranraer #946 enroute from Penticton, BC to Vancouver crashed on Mount Baldwin near Squamish, BC, **Sgt J.F. Bliss RCAF (USA)**, **Cpl J.R.B. Fernie**, **Sgt G.S. Palmer**, aero engine mechanic **LAC C.M. Ross**, aero engine mechanic **LAC G.F. Willett** killed. The wreckage was not found until 1947 (victoriatimescolonist website). The crew is buried at the crash site.

Wednesday

**5 German drive on Moscow halted (CJCA headline).**

***Commitment for Japan to go to war against Britain, The Netherlands and the USA is decided in a conference where the plan was debated in the presence of the Japanese Emperor. As was traditional in Japan he makes no comment at this conference, which gives the decision of the debate the implicit power of the Will of the Emperor. Personally Hirohito was not in favour of the war, but not having support in cabinet to stop it, had to endorse it as being the decision of his government (Oxford). This was planned to be a short war as Japanese military and naval leaders believed the USA, their main opponent, would sue for peace after being defeated in the Pacific (Oxford). If the Allies were guilty***

*of misreading the aims and signals of the Japanese, Japan also failed to understand what kind of anger it would create in the USA by its actions. Besides the cultural component the racial impact of an attack by a "non-white" country should also be considered. The effect of racism in the Pacific War on both sides, and between western Colonial powers (including the Dominions) and their subjects, would add to the miseries of that theatre, and explain much of what happened after it ended. See August 4, 1944 and January 27, 1947.*

***First flight of an Ottawa Car & Aircraft produced Anson II at Ottawa (Molson & Taylor).***

- 5 18 Sqn. Blenheim IV Z7922 'A' was shot down attacking a convoy off the coast of Libya, **P/O J.J. Kelly RCAF (USA)**, Sgt R.J. Morris RAF and P/O P.H.M. Clark RAF missing.
- 5 18 Sqn. Blenheim IV Z7801 'P' was shot down attacking a convoy off the coast of Libya, **F/S G.A. Lowe**, Sgt H. Vickers RAF and Sgt A.F. Daniels RAF missing.
- 5 404 sqn. Blenheim IV L9337 EE-Q lost on a patrol, **F/S J.G. MacKay**, Sgt T.E. Hedefine RAF and Sgt W.J. Pearce RAF missing.
- 5 407 Sqn. Hudson V AE655 RR-R shot down by a night fighter off Holland on an anti-shipping strike, **P/O J.F. Codville** killed, **Sgt G.N. Bryan**, **F/S F.T. James**, **F/S R.L. Armsby** RAF missing. See <http://www.teunispats.net/fr-wwii.htm> for details.
- 5 608 Sqn. Hudson V AM642 UL-R missing from a shipping strike, **F/S F.J. Hazlett**, **F/S G.R. Yeates**, Sgt J. Sansome RAF and Sgt E.W. Elkington RAF missing.
- 5 #31 SFTS, Battle TT.I #1891 force landed on Amherst Island near Kingston, Ontario, after the engine stopped while towing a drogue. Not repaired (S. Shail).

***5-6 Cherbourg attacked by 24 bombers, 11 more on anti-shipping patrols and 24 GARDENING sorties made, 4 bombers lost (BC War Diaries).***

- 5-6 144 Sqn. Hampden I AD846 shot down by flak off Holland on an anti-shipping patrol, **F/O E.L. Shea** and Sgt R.L. Frank RAF missing, P/O D.A. Baker RAF and Sgt J.S. Crossley RAF PoW.

Thursday

***6 Stalin makes a speech claiming the Soviet Union is fighting the war single handedly (Polsson). See November 7-8, below.***

***400 Sqn. makes the RCAF's first Army Co-Operation operation, W/C H.W. Kerby and P/O G.C.H. Jackson in Tomahawk aircraft flew a reconnaissance over the coast of France and attacked a gun post (FF Years). See December 13 below and July 29-30, 1943.***



- 6 #22 OTU Wellington Ic X9702 was in the landing circuit when it suffered an engine failure and attempted to land downwind. When it was apparent it was overrunning the landing area an attempt was made to go around again with one engine but the aircraft stalled and crashed, WO J.A. Rich DFM RAF and P/O R.R. Clamp RAF killed, **Sgt D.A. Mitchell**, Sgt C.R. Whitworth RAF and P/O J.N. Sanders RAF injured. See Sept. 28-29, 1942.

Friday

**7 Soviet hospital ship Armenia torpedoed by German aircraft off Crimea with the loss of 5,000 - 7,000 wounded, refugees and medical staff, only 8 survivors (wikipedia).**

**In Moscow the annual Military Parade in Red Square celebrating the October Revolution is held, troops parading in front of Stalin, many marching directly into the front lines from the parade (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).**

**Senior Japanese military and naval commanders informed that Japan will begin hostilities against England, the Netherlands East Indies and the USA in 1 month if diplomatic efforts fail to achieve concessions (wikipedia, W. Fowler).**

**Informed by intercepted and decoded messages US Secretary of State Hull, then in negotiation with the Japanese to defuse the situation in the Far East, warns the US Cabinet that war between Japan and the USA could break out at any moment.**

- 7 23 Sqn. Boston I BD124 crashed in the sea, **F/S D.E. Chapman**, **Sgt J.R. Sullivan**, F/O N. Cox RAF and **F/S D.J. Parr** RAF missing (www.rafcommands.com).
- 7 72 (USA) Sqn. Spitfire Vb W3367 was shot down over France on a RODEO, **P/O H. Birkland** MiD PoW. P/O Birkland helped construct the tunnels used in the Great Escape (T. Barris). See March 31, 1944
- 7 607 Sqn. Hurricane IIc BE474 crashed in England while engaged in low flying, killing **Sgt W.L. Fraser**.
- 7 #53 OTU Spitfire Ia X4772 spun out of clouds and crashed in Wales, **Sgt I.R. Trafford** killed (www.spitfires.ukf.net).
- 7 #56 OTU Hurricane V6735 lost in a flying accident in England, no details, **Sgt D.L. Meisner** killed (H. Welting www.rafcommands.com).
- 7 #16 SFTS, Hagersville, Ontario, pilot **F/L G.J.C. Reid** killed in a car accident near Mount Hope, Ontario

**7-8 Frustrated by recent bad weather Bomber Command planned to send a very large force to Berlin on this night, possibly also in response to Stalin's speech. A**

**late weather forecast again changed some plans, but 392 bombers were dispatched, including 169 to Berlin, 75 to Cologne, 55 to Mannheim, 37 on ROVER patrols over the Ruhr (attacking targets of opportunity), 28 to Ostend and 22 to Boulogne plus a further 13 GARDENING sorties. Due to the bad weather losses were far higher than any other attack of the war so far, 37 bombers. Only some 70 of the force sent to Berlin reported they reached the city, and bombing was scattered and light. Bomber Command would not send another major attack to Berlin until early 1943. See Nov. 13, below.**

- 7-8 7 Sqn. Stirling I N3677 MG-J shot down by a night fighter over Germany, **F/O D.B. Van Buskirk RCAF (USA)**, Sgt J.E. Chadwick RAF, Sgt S.J. Fenson RAF, P/O G.E. Sweeney RAF, Sgt D.H. Stronach RAF, Sgt C. Murch RAF and Sgt D.G. Pack RAF killed.
- 7-8 35 Sqn. Halifax I L9603 TL-P shot down by a night fighter on a ROVER patrol over the Ruhr, Sgt E.R. Thomas RAF, Sgt R.F. Thompson RAF and P/O G. Whitaker RAF killed, **F/S C.R. Witcher**, Sgt R.R. Drummand RAF, Sgt A.R. Kilminster RAF and F/O M.O. Stephens RNZAF PoW (R. McNeill [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com); O. Clutton-Brock).
- 7-8 51 Sqn. Whitley V Z9130 lost on operations, **P/O D.A. Simpson** and S/L P.G.S. Dickenson RAF killed, **Sgt W.M. Chambers** and Sgt A.V. Carpenter RAF missing, Sgt B.S. Walley RAF (Aus.) PoW ([aircrewremembered.com](http://aircrewremembered.com), <https://au.news.yahoo.com/sw-pilots-life-noteworthy> 15/04/23).
- 7-8 51 Sqn. Whitley V Z6839 MH-O lost over Holland, **Sgt A.W. MacMurray**, **Sgt C. Kelly**, Sgt A.J. Robottom RAF, Sgt J.H. Telfer RAF and Sgt S.J.T. Wilkins RAF PoW.
- 7-8 57 Sqn. Wellington Ic Z8903 missing on a ROVER patrol, **Sgt W.F.P. Sellars**, Sgt S.D.C. Gray RAF, P/O E.E. Brown RAF, Sgt E.I.L. Grego RAF, Sgt R.F. Whitton RAF and Sgt M.W. Cullerne RAF missing.
- 7-8 58 Sqn. Whitley V Z6818 GE-N missing on a ROVER Patrol over the Ruhr, **Sgt K.C. Carr**, **F/S F.M. Legere**, **P/O K.B. McGoun**, P/O E.G. Mounsey RAF and Sgt A.G. Kinnear RAF missing.
- 7-8 58 Sqn. Whitley V Z6972 GE-P believed to have come down in the sea in the early morning hours returning from an operation over Berlin, **P/O C.T. Lane**, **Sgt H.F. Stentiford RCAF (USA)**, P/O K.M. Tuckfield RAF, Sgt D. Rowley-Blake RAF and Sgt A. Scott RAF missing.
- 7-8 75 (New Zealand) Sqn. Wellington Ic X9951 lost over Germany, Sgt J.C.M. Gibson RNZAF killed, **P/O D.A. Webster RCAF (USA)**, Sgt T.P. Duffy RNZAF, P/O W.R. Methven RAF, Sgt A.B. Frisby RAF and Sgt R. Pattison RAF PoW.
- 7-8 78 Sqn. Whitley V Z9151 lost over Germany, Sgt E.J. Sargent RAF killed, **P/O J.V. Saunders**, Sgt E.W. Penn RAF, Sgt T. Hall RAF, Sgt T. Paterson RAF and Sgt E.G.S.H. Freeman RAF PoW.
- 7-8 99 Sqn. Wellington Ic T2554 LN-F lost over Germany, Sgt R.J. Bell RAAF killed, **Sgt**

- R.B. Martin RCAF (USA), Sgt A. Featherstone RCAF (USA), F/O P.R. Searcy RAAF, F/L J.P. Dickinson RAF and Sgt J.H. Bowman RAF PoW.
- 7-8 99 Sqn. Wellington Ic X9739 lost over Germany, Sgt A. Mackenzie RAF and Sgt R. Dean RAF killed, Sgt M.G. Bowen, P/O W.D. Moore RAF, F/L H.H. Henderson RAF and F/O H.A. Goodwin DFC RAF PoW.
- 7-8 101 Sqn. Wellington Ic R1701 SR-K last heard on radio stating it would be ditching, but a search in the area it is thought to have gone down found no trace of the aircraft. P/O A.L. Miller, P/O W.D.C. Hardie RAF, Sgt B.J. Wrampling RAF, Sgt W. Buchan RAF, Sgt W. Watson RAF and Sgt R.A. Berry RAF missing.
- 7-8 102 Sqn. Whitley V Z6796 lost over the sea, Sgt E.M. Leftley, Sgt R.O. Bryant RAAF, Sgt R.C. Matthews RAF, Sgt R. Brown RAF and Sgt W. Miller RAF missing.
- 7-8 102 Sqn. Whitley V Z9128 lost over the sea, F/S J.A. Steeves, Sgt V.L. Brown RAAF, Sgt T.H. Thorley RAF, P/O J.C.A. Allchin RAF and Sgt W.C. Clarke RAF missing.
- 7-8 106 Sqn. Hampden I AD932 missing returning from a GARDENING sortie off Norway, Sgt S.J.H. Jones RAF killed, F/O B.G. McIver DFC, F/L T.B. Herd DFC RAF and Sgt H. Sell DFM RAF missing.
- 7-8 142 Sqn. Wellington IV Z1211 QT-M shot down into the sea off Holland by a night fighter, Sgt S.A. Hart RAF missing, F/S T.V.S. Wiggins, Sgt C.L. Dennes RNZAF, Sgt F.W. Day RAF, F/S P.W. Duckers RAF and Sgt H.J. Gibson RAF PoW (<http://www.aviationarchaeology.org.uk>).
- 7-8 149 Sqn. Wellington Ic X9878 OJ-A lost, P/O H.R. Crowe, Sgt S.W. Dane RAF, Sgt P.I. Leeman RAF, Sgt A.C.A. Davis RAF and Sgt J.C. Pengelly RAF killed, Sgt F. Jenkinson RAF PoW.
- 7-8 405 Sqn. Wellington II W5553 LQ-D lost over Germany, F/S C.H. Bell, F/S A.L.D. Hassan, Sgt R.D. Killin, Sgt G.A. McLeod, P/O M.K. Solheim and Sgt C.C. Hynam RAF killed. F/S Hassan had previously served in the RCMP (R. Allenby).
- 7-8 405 Sqn. Wellington II LQ-B (possibly Z8358) was unable to locate its target so it bombed Kiel as an alternate where it was coned by searchlights and hit by flak before escaping. On return it landed at a non-operational airfield where it struck obstructions that cause further damage, F/L J.E. Fauquier, Sgt Scott (possibly Sgt W.L. Scott), P/O Gibson, Sgt F.J. Tatro, Sgt M.R.? Robson (possibly Sgt M.P.F. Robson) and Sgt Andrew safe (R. Allenby). F/L Fauquier was later commanding officer of 405 Squadron for two tours and finally of 617 (Dambuster) Squadron. See June 27-28, 1942 and August 10-11, 1943.
- 7-8 408 Sqn. Hampden I AD972 was attacked by a night fighter, and pilot Sgt V.C. Dadson told the crew to stand by to bail out, as he smelled smoke and thought the bomber was on fire. This turned out to be incorrect, but observer Sgt B.W. Palastanga RAF had already bailed out over the Netherlands and was killed when he landed in the sea, the aircraft returned to England, F/S Dadson, Sgt W.R. Wilkinson RAF and Sgt Morgan RAF safe (H. Moyle, <http://www.teunispats.net/fr-wwii.htm>, FF Years). See

January 25-26, 1942.

- 7-8 413 Sqn. Catalina I AH569 on a patrol over the Shetland Islands encountered severe weather conditions and despite radio and icing problems managed to return safely, crew AC Bradford, Sgt Everett, Sgt Hughes, P/O Naish, F/S Owen, P/O Riddy, Sgt Shaw and AC Ward cold but safe after 8 hours in freezing conditions. The report from this flight was reproduced in full in *The R.C.A.F. Overseas-The First Four Years*, published in 1944.

Saturday

**8 Leningrad, Exhausted, German forces manage to reach and take Tikhvin on the railway to Leningrad, where Soviet forces hold them (Oxford). Cutting the rail line, however, disrupts supplies to Leningrad via Lake Ladoga.**

- 8 18 Sqn. Blenheim IV Z7895 'F' from Malta shot down attacking a convoy in the Ionian Sea, **F/L G.C. Pryor RCAF (Argentina)**, Sgt D.E. Mills RAF and Sgt T.R. Buckley RAF missing. This crew had been injured in the loss of Blenheim V6425, Sept. 15, above.
- 8 90 Sqn. Fortress I AN529 WP-C force landed in the desert short of fuel after bombing Benghazi, **P/O W.M. Struthers**, Sgt C.S. Barber RAF, F/O Dr. A.J. Barwood RAF (Squadron medical officer, studying the effects of high level flying operations), Sgt K.H. Brailsford RAF, Sgt T.J. Gwynn RAF, F/S S.F. "Dick" Pannell RAF, F/O J.C. Stevenson RAF and Sgt L.E. Wardill RAF safe (discussion page, [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com); R.M. Stitt; BLME V.2 Errata). The crew were later rescued by a unit of the Long Range Desert Group. See April 6-7, 1943.
- 8 97 Sqn. Manchester I L7466 OF-N failed to return from a search over the sea for missing aircrew, **Sgt C.R. Bronson RCAF (USA)**, Sgt N.J. Weston RAAF, F/L C.P.D. Price DFC RAF, P/O G.H.J. Pickering RAF, F/S C. Stanley DFM RAF, Sgt A.R.A. Dexter RAF and **Sgt F.W. Manners RAF** missing.
- 8 401 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AA925 "Jersey II" lost over France on a escort operation, **Sgt R.W. Gardner** killed. *Jersey II* was one of two Presentation Spitfires purchased by retired businessman W.A. Black of Montreal (en830 and C. Charland at [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 8 401 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AB922 lost over France on a escort operation, **F/O J.G. "Scruffy" Weir** shot down with burns and was taken PoW. F/O Weir was one of the tunnellers in the Great Escape, see T. Barris for details.
- 8 403 Sqn. Spitfire Vb W3822 stalled and crashed on landing, **F/S F.A. Higgins** killed.
- 8 412 Sqn. Spitfire Vb W3959, part of a section of 4 escorting CIRCUS 110, shot down by enemy fighters, **S/L C. Bushell** missing. S/L Bushell had arrived in England with #110 (AC) Sqn. RCAF, later 400 Sqn., and had flown operationally on Tomahawk aircraft earlier in the year.
- 8 412 Sqn. Spitfire Vb W3952, part of a section of 4 escorting CIRCUS 110, shot down



- by enemy fighters, **P/O K.R.E. Denkman** missing.
- 8 412 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AD270, part of a section of 4 escorting CIRCUS 110, shot down by enemy fighters, **F/S O.F. Pickell** missing.
- 8 #1 Anti-Air Co-operation Unit Henley TT.I L3265 crashed in England, **LAC F. Farwell RAF (Nfld.)** and Sgt J. Czapinski RAF (Poland) killed ([www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).

**8-9 Essen attacked by 54 bombers and 8 searchlight suppression aircraft, 18 sent to Dunkirk and 8 to Ostend, 8 bombers lost (BC War Diaries).**

- 8-9 75 (New Zealand) Sqn. Wellington Ic X9977 shot down by a night fighter over Holland, **F/S T.E. Elliott**, F/S A.H. Harrison RNZAF, Sgt T.Y. Wyllie RNZAF, Sgt R. Dundas RAF, Sgt G.S. Nunn RAF and Sgt W. Massey RAF killed.
- 8-9 102 Sqn. Whitley V Z9212 shot down over Germany by a night fighter, **Sgt I. Stein**, Sgt G.W. McDonald RAF and Sgt T. Rogers RAF killed, **Sgt A.L. Lord** and F/O T.H. Taylor RAF PoW.
- 8-9 408 Sqn. Hampden I AE433 EQ-D shot down over Holland by a night fighter, **P/O J.C. Monkhouse**, P/O E.L. Houghton RNZAF, Sgt A.J. Gallan RAF and Sgt J.E. Woodward RAF PoW.

Sunday

**9 Yalta in the Crimea falls to German forces (ww2total.com Chronology/1941). See February 4, 1945.**

- 9 #16 OTU Hampden I P1225 suffered a heavy landing in fog and caught fire, **Sgt Stipe** and his crew safe (H. Moyle).
- 9 #6 EFTS, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4034 damaged and struck off (R.W.R. Walker).
- 9 #7 B&G School, Paulson, Manitoba, armorer **LAC K.E. Heal** was killed when he walked into the arc of the propellor of a taxiing Battle aircraft, probably obscured by the hood of the parka he was wearing (letter, *Airforce Magazine*, Vol. 26, #1, 2002).

**9-10 Hamburg attacked by 103 bombers, 21 other sorties, 2 bombers lost (BC War Diaries).**

- 9-10 9 Sqn. Wellington III X3352 had an engine knocked out by flak over it's target in Germany, flew back to England but crashed trying to land, **Sgt A.N. Jenkins**, Sgt W.E. Pendleton RAF, Sgt J. Cartwright RAF, Sgt H.G. Cawdron RAF, Sgt W.C. Sadler RAF and Sgt D.S. Nicholas RAF injured.
- 9-10 408 Sqn. Hampden I AE438 EQ-N lost over Belgium, **P/O J.C. Wilson**, Sgt E.B.T.M. Robertson RNZAF, Sgt D.V. Markall RAF and Sgt D.F.W. Norton RAF killed.

Monday

- 10 213 Sqn. Hurricane, **Sgt F.A.W.J. Wilson RAF (Can.)** part of a flight that scrambled to

intercept enemy aircraft. After sharing in the destruction of a Ju 88 which damaged his aircraft Sgt Wilson bailed out into the sea and was later rescued (acesofww2.com). See March 12, 1942.

- 10 #2 Wireless School, Calgary, Alberta, DH.82C4 Menasco Moth II #4833 crashed and burned in the Big Springs School schoolyard. Student LAC(WAG) K.M. Gravell extracted himself from the wreckage and despite severe injuries and his clothing being on fire, attempted to get back into the burning wreckage to try to bring out his pilot P/O J. Robinson. Big Springs School teacher Mrs. F. Walsh and her students stopped him in this endeavour and rolled him on the ground to douse the flames on his clothing. Despite burns to her own face, Mrs. Walsh and her students rendered first aid until help arrived, and Mrs. Walsh refused treatment for her burns and shock until the airman had been attended to. Sadly LAC Gravell died of his injuries. It was believed that had he tried to extinguish his clothes rather than trying to rescue the pilot he would of lived. LAC(WAG) K.M. Gravell was posthumously awarded the George Cross for his actions, while Mrs. Walsh received the George Medal. There is a cairn on the site to commemorate this incident.

The above is the official version. According to one of the students who was involved in this accident the pilot, F/O Robinson, was a close friend of Mrs. Walsh and frequently flew over the school at low level to drop notes, to the delight of the students. On this occasion he dropped a package to Mrs. Walsh, but while turning and observing it's fall hit the peaked roof with one of his lower wings and crashed. Mrs. Walsh was certainly in shock at the sight of the crash and death of her friend. He does not recall any of the events as outlined above, although he was not present for the entire episode as he was one of those who owned a bicycle and they were sent cycling the 2 miles to the nearest telephone (the schools phone having been cut off by the crashing aircraft) to summon help. He did mention that the memory of the recovery of the remains of the aircraft and pilot gave him bad dreams for years. His summation of the incident was "There wasn't a lot of valour there that afternoon." [pers. comm. May 8, 2005, name withheld by request].

I present the above to illustrate a common problem faced by historians, the different views by different people of the same event. One recorded in official records, based on interviews with several people involved by those responsible for investigation of the events, the other the memories of a single witness who must himself have been badly affected by this tragic event, possibly unaware of the actions of others involved.

Tuesday

**11 McNaughton rests after illness (CJCA headline). Lt. Gen. McNaughton was**

***commander of Canadian Army in England at this time.***

- 11 32 Sqn. Hurricane IIb Z3889 failed to gain height after take-off and crashed into a building, killing **Sgt C.J.M. Howlett** ([www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 11 115 Sqn. Wellington III X3394 crashed in England on a training flight, **Sgt R.O. Newbury RAF (Nfld.)**, **Sgt L.H. Pitt**, Sgt G.D.H. Dutton RAF, Sgt B.E. Dew RAF, Sgt R.C. Knott RAF, Sgt J.L.L. Arthur RAF and medical officer F/L Dr. H.S. Mellows RAF killed.
- 11 402 Sqn. Hurricane IIb BE472 was shot down over France on a bombing sortie, **F/S M.R.R. Vair** killed.
- 11 #16 OTU Hampden I L4035 was practicing circuits when it stalled and crashed in England, **Sgt A.H. Stack**, **Sgt J.L. Yeo** and Sgt S.J. Carberry RAF killed.
- 11 #55 OTU Hurricane I P3318 crashed in England, **Sgt W.M. McCausland** killed ([wwwrsimon at www.rafcommands.com](http://wwwrsimon.at)).
- 11 #56 OTU RAF Master I N7960 crashed, **Sgt M.T.G. Willson RAF (Can.)** and P/O J.R. Sale killed ([www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 11 #58 OTU Spitfire Ia L1083 lost in cloud and crashed on a formation exercise, killing **Sgt A.B. McKie** (J. Corbett [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 11 #1 (CAC) Flight RCAF Lysander II #423 crashed and burned on landing at Millidge Ville, Saint John, NB, killing **F/L A.B. Jobin** and **P/O J.W. Wood**.
- 11-12 40 Sqn. Wellington Ic X9765 'A' ditched returning from an attack on Naples following an engine failure, P/O J.H.S. Bebington RAF was lost in the ditching, **Sgt J.I. Henderson** and Sgt C.P. Greenhill RAF missing after their dinghy overturned in a storm, **Sgt F.G.S. Fox**, S/L A.D. Greer RNZAF and Sgt D. Moorey RAAF were picked up in a dinghy and made PoW. BCL'ME V.1 notes there is a detailed account of this loss in D. Gunby's earlier book *Sweeping the Skies*.
- 11-12 407 Sqn. Hudson sinks the small Dutch vessel *Vios IV* off Ymuiden (I. Wikene).

Wednesday

**12 Thirty seven Hurricane fighters launched from aircraft carriers HMS Argus and HMS Ark Royal, 34 manage to land in Malta ([ww2total.com](http://ww2total.com) Chronology/1941). This included the first section of pilots of 242 (Canadian) Squadron, which was intended to be based in Malta. **Sgt D.J. Howe** of 605 Sqn. was also part of this flight (<http://raf-112-squadron.org>). Loss of the aircraft carrier HMS Ark Royal (below) stranded the ground crew and some pilots in Gibraltar ([tonyot at www.britmodeller.com](http://tonyot.at)). These were sent by sea around Africa, destined for Egypt, but when Japan attacked in the Far East they were sent there, splitting the Squadron. See March 9, 1942.**

- 12 249 Sqn. Hurricane IIa Z2397 shot down by flak on a sweep over Sicily killing **W/C M.H. 'Hilly' Brown DFC & Bar, CG (Fr.)**, **MM (Czech.)** and **MC (Czech.) RAF (Can.)**

on his first sortie since posted to the Mediterranean (CWGC; www.rafcommands.com; wikipedia). W/C Brown had previously flown in the France and the Battle of Britain. He was officially credited with 7½ victories but is believed to have destroyed 15, the records being lost or poorly recorded during the Battle of France.

12-13 148 Sqn. Wellington II Z8338 'Z' missing on an operation to Benghazi, Libya, Sgt J. Davison RAF and Sgt H. Colling RAF killed, F/S F.G. Nadeau, F/S J.J. Watson RAF, F/S H.O. Talty RAF and Sgt F.A. Pegram RAF missing (BLME V.2 Errata).

Thursday

**13 In a meeting of German commanders in Russia many urge the suspension of attacks given the exhaustion of their troops, the closing in of winter weather and the supply situation, but Hitler insists the attacks continue, in a final attempt to seize Moscow (Oxford).**

**Following the losses on the bombing operation of Nov. 7-8 the RAF bomber campaign was the subject of debate at the highest levels of the British government. There were fears of a stalemate like that of the First World War, with Britain being unable to engage in a land campaign in western Europe. Another factor was the promise to support the Soviet Union and the criticism by Stalin (and Bomber Command was the only arm of the Allied forces then capable of giving this support).**

**Given the Butt Report which showed targeting of individual factories was not working a new proposal targeting entire neighbourhoods of cities to destroy their factories was prepared, and although not accepted entirely by PM Churchill as it would require too many bombers, it was combined with the promise of new heavy bomber types and technical developments in locating targets as a basis for a new bombing strategy (BC War Diaries). Thus it was decided that Bomber Command would be expanded, better techniques of navigation and targeting at night would be developed, and better tactics developed. In the meantime, until the new aircraft types were in service in larger numbers, Churchill and the War Cabinet instructed Bomber Command to virtually halt bombing operations for the winter months. Only limited operations were to be made for the next three months while better methods of bombing were investigated and developed, and Bomber Command was allowed to expand (BC War Diaries). See Feb. 14, 1942.**

**For a useful description of the problems associated with Bomber Command**



***operations of this period see J.V. Watts, who flew Whitleys on operations at this time, whose crew was one of those who were selected for taking target photographs later used in the Butt Report, who was later involved in the introduction of the Halifax and who went on to complete a tour in Pathfinders.***

***RN aircraft carrier HMS Ark Royal torpedoed in the Mediterranean by a U-boat (Polsson).***

***US Neutrality Act repealed by a small margin (<http://www.worldwar-2.net/timelines>).***

- 13 #3 SFTS, Calgary, Alberta, AC2 P. Ferner died after being struck by a car.
- 13 #6 EFTS, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4046 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).
- 13 #33 ANS, Hamilton, Ontario, Anson I W1672 crashed, LAC D. Donahue RAF, LAC D.A. Drayton RAF and LAC R.A. Gillman RAF killed, F/L A.L. McDowell RAF and AC1 J.L. Higham RAF injured (H. Halliday [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).

Friday

***14 HMS Ark Royal sinks 30 nautical miles from Gibraltar.***

***US Marines in China ordered to leave for the Philippines (C.E. Hipperson). Marines had been stationed in China to protect US interests and civilians since 1927 (wikipedia).***

- 14 47 Sqn. Wellesley I L2659 took off from an airfield in Abyssinia to search for a reported enemy aircraft but crash landed due to an engine failure, S/L D.M. Illsley DFC RAF (Can.) killed, Sgt L.J. Martin RAAF and Sgt K.V. Rann RAF injured. See also Aug. 25, above.

***14-15 Two escorted freighters enroute to Malta are sunk by Italian SM.79 torpedo bombers off Tunisia (H.W. Neulen).***

- 14-15 OADU Wellington Ic Z8989 was enroute from Gibraltar to Malta when it was attacked and forced to ditch by Italian fighters from the island of Pantelleria. The crew was picked up by an RN High Speed Launch from Malta, Sgt B.H. Cameron injured, Sgt J.P. Barlow, Sgt P. Potter, Sgt C.C. Duncum RNZAF, Sgt R.H. Leonard RAF and Sgt C.C. Welch RAF safe ([www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)). BCL'ME V.1 notes there is a detailed account of the rescue in the book *Call Out* by F. Galea.
- 14-15 404 Sqn. Blenheim IV P4845 EE-D is believed to have been attempting a forced landing in Scotland when it hit a wall in bad visibility, P/O J.G. Dunlop died of injuries, LAC J.M. Jones RAF injured ([www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).

Saturday

**15 Japanese Envoy arrives in Washington (CJCA headline).**

**Final German offensive to seize Moscow begins (Polsson).**

**418 Sqn. RCAF formed in England as an Intruder unit on Boston III aircraft (CCMA, RCAF Sqns.).**

- 15 33 Sqn. Western Desert, Hurricane I Z4505 shot down while protecting it's airfield from a German air attack, **P/O L.J. Anderson RAF (Can.)** managed to force land, slightly injured (www.rafcommands.com; Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1). See November 23, below.
- 15 609 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AD507 shot down by flak over France, **Sgt K.N. Laing** PoW (www.rafcommands.com).
- 15 #11 OTU Wellington Ic R1149 stalled and crashed in poor visibility approaching to land, **Sgt J.W. Early**, **Sgt H.A. Leopold**, Sgt K.H. Butler RAAF, Sgt A.G. Arnold RAF and Sgt E.H. Jaques RAF killed, Sgt G.A. Adkin RAF injured.
- 15 #3 EFTS, London, Ontario, **Sgt R.T. Murdie** was killed in a car accident.

15-16 37 Sqn. Wellington Ic W5626 'Q' lost attacking Bardia in Libya, **Sgt R.F. Rudee RAF (Can.)**, **P/O H.A. Staszak**, Sgt G. Anderson RAF, Sgt C.V. Catherall RAF, F/O P.R. Bellamy RAF and P/O J.B. King RAF missing (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).

**15-16 In it's first operation under the new directives Bomber Command sends 49 aircraft to Emden and 47 to Kiel, 9 to Boulogne and 5 GARDENING sorties, 8 lost (BC War Diaries).**

15-16 99 Sqn. Wellington Ic L7873 LN-J lost without trace, **Sgt B.J. Dermody**, F/S T.C.B. Patterson RNZAF, Sgt W.A. McAllen RAAF, Sgt D.E. Hall RAF, Sgt L.R. Townsend RAF and Sgt R.L. Cooke RAF missing.

15-16 99 Sqn. Wellington Ic Z8975 LN-X missing after attacking Emden, **Sgt F. Peever**, Sgt G.A. Farmery RAF, Sgt J.O.M. Lobo RAF (Ceylon), Sgt J. Morris RAF, Sgt R. North RAF and Sgt A.E. Nosworthy RAF missing.

Sunday

**16 Canadian troops arrive at Hong Kong (CJCA headline). There they joined two British and two Indian battalions to defend the Colony (W. Fowler).**

**Japanese submarines begin to depart Japan for war patrols off Hawaii, the coast of Canada, the USA and other locations in the Pacific.**

**#32 EFTS begins flight training at the newly constructed airfield at Bowden, Alberta (C. Simonsen).**

- 16 608 Sqn. Hudson V AM883 UL-N flew into high ground in Scotland in poor weather returning from a patrol to Norway, F/S R.C. Wood RAF, WO R.J. Neville RAF and F/S L.J. Pain RAF killed, gunner **Sgt P.J. Sheridan** was badly injured, including a broken jaw. He walked to a farm nearby where he was nearly shot because he could not speak and identify himself (ktsorens.tihlde.org).
- 16 #2 SFTS Uplands, Ontario, Harvard IIb #3086 and Harvard II #2584 collided in mid-air and crashed 5 miles south of the airfield, killing **LAC(P) J.W. Anderson** in #3086 and **LAC(P) W.R. Heath RCAF (USA)** in #2584.

**16-17 Bombay aircraft are used to drop specially trained soldiers to sabotage Axis aircraft in Libya prior to the upcoming offensive. These run into bad weather, forcing one Bombay to land on what turned out to be an enemy airfield (it attempted to escape but was shot down). Other groups of soldiers were picked up by LRDG vehicles but were tracked by aircraft and destroyed. Over half the force was lost. This was the first operation of what became the British Special Air Service (SAS) (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).**

**British Commandos landed by submarine attack German and Italian headquarters in Libya with the express goal of killing Gen. Rommel, but achieve little with heavy losses, the General was not there that night (D.J. Zimmerman, Operation Flipper: The Commando Raid on Rommel's Headquarters, [www.defensemmedianetwork.com](http://www.defensemmedianetwork.com)). Both these operations were to help Operation CRUSADER, beginning on the 18th.**

Monday

**17 The Harrow tankers taken into RCAF service are struck off on this date (Griffin CMA).**

- 17 #17 OTU Blenheim IV V5421 was abandoned over England when it ran into severe weather on a cross country exercise, **Sgt S.E. Strate** and his crew safe.
- 17 #2 SFTS Uplands, Ontario, Harvard II #3020 crashed near Chrysler, Ontario, killing **LAC(P) P.A. Tait** and **LAC(P) R.D. Hiles RAF**.
- 17 #3 SFTS, Calgary, Alberta, **AC2 M.T. Forster** died in hospital of injuries from an automobile accident on Nov. 13.
- 17 #9 EFTS, St. Catharines, Ontario Finch II #4605 crashed during a solo flight, killing **LAC(P) J. Aho**.

Tuesday

**18 British Eighth Army opens an offensive in Libya, Operation CRUSADER, the largest Commonwealth offensive operation of the war so far. The operation was expected to clear North Africa of Italian and German forces and regain control**

*of the Mediterranean theatre (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).*

*Initial air operations were helped by bad weather and rain that affected the Axis airfields while leaving the RAF, SAAF and RAAF airfields functional. This bad weather hampered German and Italian air reconnaissance, which in turn caused Rommel to not realize the size of the operation for nearly 48 hours (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1). This begins a month of confusing combat on the Egyptian/Libyan border in which attacking British, Indian, South African, Australian and New Zealand units suffer heavy losses to German and Italian anti-tank guns, but German units in turn suffer losses they are unable to make up and are forced to retreat into Libya.*

*To understand armoured warfare of this period in a simple way it can be compared to the children's game "Rock-Paper-Scissors". Infantry units were able to capture ground, but in the desert had to move in vehicles (due to the climate and to keep up with the tanks), which made them vulnerable to armoured vehicles. Armoured vehicles in turn are vulnerable to anti-tank weapons (at this period almost exclusively artillery). These anti-tank units depend on infantry for protection, and the vulnerable tanks need infantry to clear the guns. Thus guns counter tanks, tanks counter infantry, and infantry counter guns.*

*Note that this simple model does not take into account air support, but keep in mind that aircraft have short endurances, they come and go, they usually can make only one heavy attack, and if they miss they have to return and land to re-arm, and be briefed on the next target, while an artillery gun that misses just corrects it's aim on the next shot. The "cab rank" system of "on call" air support had not yet been developed. When implemented it would require large reserves of aircraft (which did not exist in the Desert at this time) and air superiority (which neither side had over the battleground). Thus, in this battle, aircraft were not the decisive force they would become. (The advantage of air support was the area they could cover from a base, their speed of delivery of an attack compared to land vehicles and ships, and their relatively small support, supply and manpower train compared to other weapons of the period).*

*The desert of North Africa was also a vast open theatre for the movement of armies. It is not just sand, nor is it flat. It is landscape like any other, flat or hilly, bedrock, stones and even swamps in low areas, cut with valleys (wadis), all obscured with windblown sand. It's main feature (besides heat in the day and*



*cold at night) is its lack of water or vegetation. This meant that there was no cover, but also few obstructions. Vehicles were able to travel at will, given restrictions of terrain and fuel. Armoured warfare in the desert thus became more like war at sea, with fleets of tanks and trucks moving rapidly, following compass courses, coordinated by radio, slowed or limited only by their logistic support and/or enemy action. As referred to above infantry could not keep up and were limited in mobility when on foot by the heat and lack of water, having to be carried in trucks to attack points. This left them very vulnerable to the swift moving armour. Without an effective infantry screen moving tanks could be surprised by emplaced anti-tank guns (M. Carver).*

*In the desert at this time it was the anti-tank gun that ruled, and the German army had developed these weapons and their tactics to the highest standard in the world. They also deployed far more anti-tank guns than Commonwealth units did, and the Luftwaffe controlled dual 88mm anti-aircraft/anti-tank guns were also integrated into army units. These guns, and their effects, were not always apparent as when tanks fought tanks the Allies often did not take notice of the effects of the anti-tank gun fire, tending to credit their losses to the enemy tanks instead (M. Carver).*

*As the war went on other anti-tank weapons were developed, such as infantry carried grenade launchers (PIAT) and rockets (Bazooka, Panzerfaust), which gave infantry effective ways of dealing with armoured vehicles at short range. As the fighting moved from the unique conditions of the desert into more temperate locations with vegetation, the balance was restored, and tanks were forced to become more dependent on infantry, which in turn became more mobile and effective given adequate water and ground cover. The size and range of anti-tank artillery would also increase, as would the size of the main weapons carried by armoured vehicles. The vulnerability of deployed infantry in an armoured attack would remain, however, until the innovations made by the Canadian Army in Normandy (see Operation TOTALIZE, Aug. 7-8, 1944).*

*Another fact of desert warfare is the lack of anything for a modern army. Every item an army needs to operate had to be brought to the fighting troops, not just fuel, parts, lubricants, ammunition and medical supplies, but water, food, shelter, blankets, stoves, clothing, and so on. The desert offers nothing that can be used to keep an armed force mobile and effective in the field (A. Beevor). For the German and Italian forces their supply line was open to attack by submarines and aircraft based in the island of Malta, while the*

***Allied supply line required ships to sail around Africa, or aircraft to be ferried across the continent. Both sides made use of trucks, tanks, artillery, food, fuel and even uniforms captured from the other to supplement their own resources.***

***One effect of Operation CRUSADER was the re-deployment of 20 U-boats from the Atlantic to the Mediterranean. This was at a time when the RN escorts had become more effective in escorting convoys, and the US Navy support enabled them to increase escorts to convoys heading south to Gibraltar and around Africa, but this in turn further extended the escort region of the RCN, struggling to expand and train without adequate equipment or time. By the end of the year all RCN destroyers then serving in England were ordered to return to Canada to help by the RN, who felt that the RCN escorting would break down under the strain, but this did not happen (M. Milner).***

- 18 1 Sqn. Hurricane IIc BE576 flew into a hill in poor weather in England, **Sgt E.H. Ruppell** killed.
- 18 7 Sqn. Stirling I N6087 MG-A returning from operations was making a forced landing with one engine on fire when it flew into telephone wires and crashed, **F/S P. Comroe**, F/L J.T. O'Brien RAF and Sgt J.E. Rose RAF killed, P/O J.A. Lopez RAAF, Sgt A. Grant RAF, Sgt J. Devlin RAF and Sgt T. Ryder RAF injured, Sgt M.A. Sullivan RAAF safe. P/O Lopez died soon after of his injuries, and Sgt Grant died Nov. 21 of his injuries. Sgt Sullivan was the rear gunner and when he emerged from his turret he found the aircraft on fire and no other crew visible. He re-entered the burning aircraft and assisted crewmen to escape. With the help of soldiers who arrived on the scene he rescued two crewmen with broken legs, and then despite his own hands being burned, entered the wreck a third time to ensure all who could had been rescued. For this he was awarded the George Medal. See Dec. 18, below.
- 18 401 Sqn. Spitfire Vb aircraft on a sweep over France engaged Bf 109 fighters, with 2 probably destroyed by **F/O H.A. Sprague** and **P/O D. Gilbert**, a shared probably destroyed **F/L E.L. Neal** and **Sgt D.R. Morrison** (on his first operation), and one damaged by **P/O D.J.M. Blakeslee RCAF (USA)** (D. McIntosh). See November 22, below.
- 18 #9 SFTS, Summerside, PEI, Harvard II #2864 was seen to dive into the water off Point Prim, PEI, killing **Sgt S.M. Levine**.

Wednesday

**19 British forces attack into Libya (CJCA headline).**

***Cruiser HMAS Sydney sunk in an engagement with the German commerce raider***

***Kormoran off the coast of Western Australia with no survivors. The Kormoran also sank, most of the crew was later rescued. The loss of the Sydney was one of the enduring mysteries of the war for Australia and the search for the wreck went on for decades. It was located in 2008.***

- 19 18 Sqn., three of six Blenheim IV aircraft were lost flying from Malta on an anti-shipping strike off Libya, **Sgt H. Macaulay**, Sgt J.H. Woolman RAF and Sgt R.V.W. Walker RAF missing in V6492 'P' and **Sgt C.D. Newsome**, Sgt D.W. Buck RAF and Sgt F. Thompson RAF missing in V6060 'U'. Three RAF missing on the third aircraft (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).
- 19 113 Sqn. Blenheim IVF V5866 crashed in Libya just after take-off, **Sgt W.T. Lee**, Sgt J.F. Hemus RAF and Sgt J.B. Dewar RAF killed (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).
- 19 OADU, air gunner **Sgt D.G. Anderson** died in England of injuries sustained Oct. 25 in the loss of OADU Wellington X9989.
- 19 41 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AB858 shot down into the English Channel off the coast of France, **S/L L.M. Gaunce DFC RAF (Can.)** missing. S/L Gaunce was the Squadron commanding officer, having previously commanded 46 Squadron. He had served in 615 Sqn. during the Battle of Britain and was credited with 5½ victories. He had previously survived being shot down Aug. 18 and Aug. 26, 1940.
- 19 #13 SFTS, St. Hubert, Quebec, Harvard IIb #3110 on a night training flight was caught by a ground fog and hit a barn near the airfield trying to land, **LAC(P) R.H. Guthrie** killed.
- 19 USAAF 2nd Pursuit Sqn., 52 Pursuit Group, P-40E 41-513 force landed out of fuel near Sarnia, Ontario, pilot F.D. Bernard safe (AAIR).
- 19-20 38 Sqn. Wellington Ic Z8711 'F' was lost and abandoned out of fuel over the desert returning from a sortie over Libya, **Sgt Swingler**, Sgt A.G. Metcalf RNZAF, P/O McLean RAF, Sgt Dawson RAF, Sgt Peak RAF and Sgt Poole RAF set off walking for the coast and were spotted 2 days later and rescued (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).

Thursday

**20 #117 (BR) Sqn. RCAF de-activated at Jericho Beach, BC, staff, crews and Stranraer aircraft used to reinforce other West Coast squadrons (RCAF Sqns.).**

- 20 109 Sqn. Wellington Ic Z8907 was on a electronic counter measures sortie when it was shot down in North Africa by Bf 109 fighters, **P/O O.B. Hughes RCAF (USA)**, **Sgt E.A. Lowther**, **F/S H.I. Wolf**, Sgt D. Cross RAF, Sgt A. Dean RAF and Lt Col R.P.G. Denman [a British Army Radio Countermeasures specialist] killed, F/O D.J. Cruikshank RAF survived (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1). Sgt Lowther had survived a ditching on operations over Europe the previous August.
- 20 806 Sqn. FAA Canadian built Hurricane I (Trop.) Z6985 shot down North Africa, Lt(A)

J.W. Pangbourne RNVR killed ([www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).

- 20 #16 SFTS aero engine mechanic **AC2 N.S. Armstrong** died of natural causes.
- 20 #31 GRS, Charlottetown, PEI, Anson I N4894 lost, AC1 N.W. Thomas RAF killed, LAC S.V. Clench RAF, LAC N.J. Ficken RAF and P/O A.J. Freeman RAF missing.
- 20 #31 SFTS, Kingston, Ontario, Harvard II AJ701 crashed into Lake Ontario just after taking off, LAC J. Oldfield RAF killed (R.W.R. Walker).

Friday

**21 German forces take Rostov on the Don River, but are then forced back (Polsson).**

- 21 401 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AD255 crash landed in England returning from a convoy patrol when it's engine failed, **Sgt C.R. Golden** injured ([www.spitfires.ukf.net](http://www.spitfires.ukf.net)).
- 21 414 Sqn. Tomahawk AH902 spun out of cloud in bad weather at low altitude and crashed, killing **P/O G.M. Dunaway RCAF (USA)**.
- 21 #19 OTU Whitley V N1430 crashed at it's airfield due to an engine failure, Sgt V.E. Overall RAF killed, **Sgt R.H. Beardall**, Sgt D. Cooper RAF, Sgt J. Irvine RNZAF and Sgt A.H. Jackson injured ([www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)). See Nov. 24, below.
- 21 #53 OTU Spitfire Ia X4849 flew into the ground from a tight turn at low level killing **P/O J.R. Minard RCAF (USA)**.

Saturday

**22 416 Sqn. formed in England as a fighter unit equipped with Spitfire IIa and IIb aircraft (RCAF Sqns.).**

***German raider Atlantis sunk in the Atlantic by HMS Devonshire (wikipedia). Unlike the Penguin it chooses not to open fire so it's identity as a raider would be uncertain, and Allied naval units searching for it would not be withdrawn. This was possible due to the presence of U-126, which kept the Devonshire at a distance, preventing the capture of the survivors. But the effect was diminished by Allied ULTRA intercepts.***

- 22 33 Sqn. Hurricane I V7828, P/O L.C. Wade RCAF (USA) claimed a Ju 88 bomber shot down, and later an Italian SM.79 reconnaissance aircraft in two separate fights at their advanced landing ground in southern Libya. **P/O D.L. Edy** also attacked the Ju 88 bombers in the first incident, damaging one (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1). See November 23, below.
- 22 109 Sqn. Wellington Ic X9988 lost on a electronic counter measures sortie over the desert, shot down by an MC.200 fighter, **P/O W.A. Keogh**, F/O D.S. Jefferies RAAF, Sgt R.E. Nicholson RAF, Sgt J.B. Hughes RAF, Sgt M.A. Forrest RAF and Sgt D. Sidebottom RAF killed. The wreckage was later found and the crew buried at the wreck site by an army patrol. Postwar a search for the remains found they were buried in a minefield and recovery was not possible (A. Storr), but they are now



interred in the Knightsbridge War Cemetery in Libya (CWGC). These aircraft carried equipment designed to jam the radios of German armoured vehicles (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1; BLME V.2 Errata).

- 22 112 Sqn. Tomahawk IIb AN330 shot down by flak strafing enemy vehicles, **P/O J.J.P. Sabourin** bailed out and returned slightly wounded (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1). See December 5, below.
- 22 401 Sqn. Spitfire V AD516 shot down by a Fw 190 on a fighter sweep, **F/O H.A. Sprague** PoW. F/O Sprague was part of the Great Escape (T. Barris).
- 22 401 Sqn. Spitfire V, **F/S J.A.O. Levesque** claims a radial engined German fighter over France and a second damaged, the first Fw 190 shot down in combat by a Commonwealth squadron. F/S Levesque's sketch of the new unidentified fighter, which turns out to be fairly accurate, is copied and sent to all fighter squadron's for information (*Airforce Magazine*, September 1983; A.J. Simpson et al). See Feb. 12, 1942.
- 22 401 Sqn., other results from this fight were a Bf 109 destroyed by **P/O I.C. Ormston**, a Bf 109 destroyed and a second damaged by **P/O D.J.M. Blakeslee RCAF (USA)**, two Fw 190 destroyed and one damaged by **Sgt D.R. Morrison**, and Bf 109s damaged by **S/L N.R. Johnston** and **Sgt Northcott** (D. McIntosh). (Sgt Northcott was later commissioned and identified by D. McIntosh as 'P/O Jeff Northcott', possibly the same as W/C G.W. Northcott?). See December 8, below.
- 22 #12 Group Flight or 288 Sqn. Lysander II P1714 landed downwind, overshot the landing area, climbed out too steep and crashed in England, **Sgt N.A. Ritchie** killed, Sgt J.F. Stein RAF injured ([www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 22 #25 OTU Anson I AW939 abandoned over England when it became lost in cloud with an unserviceable radio, **Sgt J.B. Ashbourne**, **Sgt W.C. Howell**, **P/O J.F. Chevalier**, **P/O T.A. Lumb RAF** and Sgt H. Dracass RAF safe (R. Allenby). See March 29-30 and June 2-3 1942.
- 22 #111 (F) Sqn. Kittyhawk I 'T' AK875 (#1047) had a slight accident at Rockcliffe, Ontario. The aircraft was repaired and later served in Alaska with #111 (F) Sqn., then with #133 (F) Sqn., it is now in the collection of the US National Air & Space Museum in Washington, DC (R.W.R. Walker). See July 13, 1942.
- 22 #6 EFTS, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4015 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).
- 22 #16 EFTS, Edmonton, Alberta, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4141 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

Sunday

**23 British forces recapture Bardia and Capuzzo in Libya (CJCA headline).**

- 23 33 Sqn. Hurricane I (trop.) V7772 hit by flak and force landed in the dark in Libya, **P/O L.J. Anderson RAF (Can.)** returned, safe (John Engelsted at

www.rafcommands.com). Earlier in the day P/O Anderson had shared in shooting down a Bf 110 in Hurricane I V4633 (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1). P/O Anderson enlisted in the RAF in 1938, and trained as a bomber pilot. He had been badly wounded in early Wellington operations in the desert, and on recovery was re-trained as a fighter pilot. Following his service in Africa he was a flying instructor on fighters at #1 OTU in Bagotville, Quebec before returning to bombers, where he flew 2 tours of operations in Italy on Boston bombers. He left the RAF as W/C L.J. Anderson DFC in 1948 (Lancaster, C. et al).

- 23 33 Sqn. Hurricane I Z4565, P/O D.L. Edy, shared a Ju 88 bomber probably shot down with 2 other Squadron pilots (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1). See January 7, 1942.
- 23 250 Sqn. Tomahawk IIb AK530 shot down in North Africa, F/S D.M. Palethorpe missing (www.rafcommands.com).
- 23 41 Sqn. Spitfire Va R7213 spun into the sea after having engine problems returning from operations over France, Sgt D. Fleming killed.
- 23 207 Sqn. Manchester I L7300 EM-F was landing from a transit flight when it went out of control and ended up in a lake, P/O F.A. Roper RCAF (USA), P/O H.W. Buckton RAF, P/O C.F.H. Edwards RAF, P/O A.W.T. Hills RAF, Cpl W.J. Mulhern, F/O S.E. Pattinson RAF, P/O J. Plaistow RAF, Sgt Smith RAF and Sgt J.E. Van Puyenbroek RAF slightly injured (www.rafcommands.com). P/O Roper would complete a tour of operations before transferring to the USAAF where he reached the rank of Lt Col.
- 23 602 Sqn. Spitfires Vb aircraft AD256 and AD251 both flew into high ground England killing Sgt R.A. MacKay and Sgt L.J. Burke respectively.
- 23 608 Sqn. Hudson V AM715 UL-T lost over Denmark on an anti-shipping patrol, F/S G.N. Fullerton, F/S R.H. MacMillan, Sgt J. Short RAF and Sgt F.G. Simmons RAF killed.
- 23 Central Training School, Picton, Ontario, Harvard II #3231 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

**23-24 Fifty three bombers sent to Lorient, 37 to Dunkirk, 11 Stirlings to Brest and 4 OTU sorties, no losses (BC War Diaries).**

Monday

**24 Canadian 5th Division lands in England (CJCA headline).**

- 24 33 Sqn. Hurricane I Z4311, P/O L.C. Wade RAF (USA) claimed a CR.42 and shared an SM.79 over Libya (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).
- 24 502 Sqn. Whitley VII Z6927 YG-U crashed in Northern Ireland after running out of fuel, lost, in bad visibility, Sgt J.B. Murray, P/O D.B. Collie RAF, Sgt R. Bagley RAF, Sgt R.C. Sawyer RAF, Sgt S.A. Smith RAF and Sgt J.E. Bacon RAF safe. See Oct. 19, above.

24 #19 OTU **Sgt R.H. Beardall** died of injuries received Nov. 21.

24-25 40 Sqn. Wellington Ic Z1046 ditched after attacking Benghazi, Libya, lost due to radio failure. **F/S M.R. Chabot**, Sgt R.R. Kelly RAF, Sgt G.S. Stephens RAF and Sgt H. Ehitaker RAF missing, Sgt T.W. Parker RAF and Sgt E.I. Cooper RAF were picked up from a dinghy after 5 days and made PoW (R. McNeill, rafcommands.com PoW list).

Tuesday

**25 In the Mediterranean off Egypt the battleship HMS Barham is destroyed by a magazine explosion after being torpedoed by U-331 (D. Sommerville).**

25 #14 SFTS, Aylmer, Ontario, Harvard IIb #3124 '90' was taking off when it swung off the runway, lost a gear leg, spun around and skidded backwards into a tree, LAC(P) Waterhouse RAAF safe. Later rebuilt as Instructional Airframe #A 153 (R.W.R. Walker).

25-26 37 Sqn. Wellington Ic Z8798 'L' lost attacking Benghazi, **Sgt L.S. Barker**, **P/O J.M. Taylor RCAF (UK)**, P/O G.E. Guthrie RNZAF, Sgt G.M. Goldfinch RNZAF, Sgt H. Rose RAF and Sgt C.J. Bournier RAF all PoW (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1; H. Welting at www.rafcommands.com). See March 11, 1944.

25-26 148 Sqn. Wellington II Z8362 'K' lost an engine after taking off from a desert landing ground and crash landed, **Sgt H.B. Johnston** and Sgt F.A.M. Docker RAF were killed and have no known grave, Sgt J.B. Starkey RNZAF, Sgt C.H. Balfort RAF, Sgt Butterfield RAF and Sgt O.G. Williams RAF safe (www.rafcommands.com).

**25-26 Bomber Command sends 18 bombers to attack German naval ships in Brest and 17 to Cherbourg, no losses (BC War Diaries).**

Wednesday

**26 Italian MC.202 fighters make their operational debut over the desert, attacking a formation of Kittyhawk fighters and claiming 7 shot down (H.W. Neulen). A development of the MC.200 re-engined with a Daimler-Benz inline liquid cooled DB.601 engine it is considered one of the best fighters of the war, but was limited by its light armament of two heavy machine guns which was mandated by Italian Air Force policy.**

**Responding to Japanese proposals to allow the situation in the Far East to stay the same pending a negotiated settlement, US Secretary of State Hull proposes a plan (the "Hull Note") which requires the withdrawal of the Japanese military from China and French Indo-China (but not Manchuria), withdrawal from the pact with Germany and Italy, and the signing of non-aggression pacts with**

***the USA, Britain, Holland, China and the USSR before ending the embargo (Shores, Cull & Izawa), in effect, returning to the status of pre-1937, and the war with China. This is viewed in Japan as unacceptable and as an ultimatum (Oxford).***

***Japanese carrier force departs northern Japan to approach Hawaii via a northern route (Polsson).***

***Ernest LaPointe dies (CJCA headline).***

***#11 (BR) Sqn. RCAF Detachment sent to Torbay, Nfld. (RCAF Sqns.).***

26 74 Sqn. Spitfire IIa P7551 shot down off England attempting to intercept 3 Ju 88 aircraft at night, **P/O A. Williams** killed (www.spitfires.ukf.net).

26 #19 OTU Whitley V Z9279 crashed due to a hard night landing, **Sgt H.W. Blackwell** killed, Sgt J. Taylor RAF injured, Sgt P/O W.R. Trevetham RAF, Sgt H.E. Owens RAF, Sgt J.W. Cook RAF safe (www.rafcCommands.com).

26 Test and Development Flight, Rockcliffe, Ontario Airacobra I AH621 force landed in the Gatineau Hills area of Quebec due to fuel starvation and written off, **F/L R.B. Middleton** (12 (Comm) Sqn.) safe (C. Charland; J. Vernon).

26-27 38 Sqn. Wellington Ic Z8736 'Q' lost near Derna, Libya, possibly due to severe weather, **F/S G.J. McKhool**, F/O R.J. Cooper DFC RAF, Sgt T. McNeil RAF, P/O P. Eastman RAF, Sgt L. Peaker RAF and Sgt A.D. Wren RAF have no known grave (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1; BLME V.2 Errata).

***26-27 Bomber Command sends 100 bombers to Emden, but only 55 report bombing, 3 lost (BC War Diaries).***

26-27 214 Sqn. Wellington II Z8373 lost without trace, **P/O C.D. Cooling**, **F/S N.G. Hettrick**, Sgt M.A. Weavers RAF, P/O A.D. Moore RAF, Sgt H.J. Cooper RAF and Sgt G.L. Hall RAF missing.

Thursday

***27 Warnings of imminent war with Japan issued to US Army and Naval forces in the Pacific (Polsson).***

***417 Sqn. RCAF formed as a Fighter unit in England on Spitfire IIa and IIb aircraft (RCAF Sqns.).***

***German Army reaches their closest point toward Moscow, 30 km (about 19 miles) from the city (wikipedia).***

27 9 Sqn. Wellington III X3287 abandoned to crash into Herne Bay after an engine



damaged by flak caught fire, **Sgt G.G. Armstrong** and Sgt P.W. Bilsborough RAF fell into the sea and died, **F/S W.T. Ramey RCAF (USA)**, Sgt J. Amphlett RAF and Sgt K.W. Stevens RAF injured, Sgt J. Rutherford RAF safe. See April 23, 1942. There is an account of this loss in the book "*No Need To Die*" by G. Thorburn.

- 27 607 Sqn. Hurricane IIb BE401 shot down off France on a fighter/bomber sortie, **Sgt W.E. Hovey** missing.
- 27 #2 (Coastal) OTU Blenheim IV N3596 stalled when landing and crashed in England, **Sgt C.P. McLellan** killed (R. Allenby).
- 27 Canadian built Sea Hurricane Ia BW838 was on a ferry flight to Halifax when it was blown out to sea by high winds. F/O A.S. Linney RAF flew back to land and belly landed on the beach near Liverpool, NS. The aircraft was damaged but repaired and later flew with #118 (F) and #126 (F) squadrons and #1 OTU (C. Charland [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com), R.W.R. Walker).
- 27 Canadian built Sea Hurricane Ia BW839 force landed near Musquoboit east of Petpeswick, NS, on a ferry flight to Halifax due to bad weather, F/O H.T. Mitchell RAF safe. The aircraft was damaged but repaired and later served with #118 (F), #127 (F) and #129 (F) squadrons and #1 OTU (C. Charland [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com), R.W.R. Walker).
- 27 Canadian built Sea Hurricane Ia BW840 missing on a ferry flight from Pennfield Ridge, NB to Dartmouth, NS, probably came down in the sea due to weather, P/O E.T. Bradford RAF missing. The aircraft like the two noted above were meant to be spare aircraft for the MSFU, and BW840 was later taken onto books of #118 (F) for write off purposes, but never served with this unit (R.W.R. Walker; BillWalker and Gaudet at [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).

**27-28 Düsseldorf targeted by 86 bombers, of which 52 claim to have bombed the target. Cologne also hit (alternate target?), 2 bombers lost (BC War Diaries).**

- 27-28 408 Sqn. Hampden I AE437 EQ-U went down at sea after misunderstanding it's radio steer to return to England, **F/S H.E. Marshall**, F/O J.A. Caldwell RAF, Sgt R. Crawley RAF and Sgt E.A. Harry RAF missing (H. Moyle).

Friday

- 28 #2 Manning Depot, Brandon, Manitoba, **Sgt D.E. McAuley** died in hospital of natural causes.
- 28 #4 SFTS pilot **Sgt C.E. Tubach RCAF (USA)** in the USA, in hospital, following an operation ([www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).

Saturday

**29 Soviet forces re-take Rostov (CJCA headline). Successful Soviet counter attacks on German armies stop German advance (toward Moscow?) (Polsson).**

- 29 104 Sqn. Wellington II Z8404 'K' written off in Malta when the engine cut on approach to land from an operation and it overshot the runway, **Sgt Sproule**, P/O R.A.A. Doherty RAF, Sgt P. Dawson RAF, Sgt K. Boyce RAF, Sgt Ridley RAF and F/S Simons RAF safe.
- 29 42 Sqn. Beaufort I N1015 AW-F was returning from an operation still carrying its torpedo when it became separated from the rest of its flight. Lost, it flew into power cables in England and crashed, where the torpedo exploded, killing **Sgt A.E. Shaw**, Sgt D.B. Heron RAF, Sgt D.G. Liveston RAF and Sgt R. Brown RAF.
- 29 214 Sqn. Wellington Ic X9752 crashed in England, possibly due to an engine failure, while returning from a diversion airfield where it had landed after an operation to Germany, **Sgt S.J. Miller RAF (Can.)**, Sgt A.H. Barford RAF, Sgt A.D. Southall RAF, Sgt R.G.C. Walton RAF and Sgt T.A. Quinn RAF killed, Sgt Stewart RAF injured.
- 29 #3 ITS, Victoriaville, Quebec, **AC2 A.J. Hurford RCAF (USA)** killed himself in hotel ([www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 29 #31 PD RAF, LAC R.B.W. Chapman RAF died in Montreal, Quebec, of natural causes ([www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).

Sunday

**30 Coastal Command Whitley VII Z9190, F/O R.W.G. Holdsworth RAF, of 502 Sqn. sinks U-206 using Air to Surface Vessel (ASV) radar, the first sinking of a submarine by radar (M.J.H. Taylor). This extended detection of surfaced submarines from purely visual, to visual and electronic means, and meant surfaced submarines could be attacked at night.**

***In three months of operations 407 Sqn. had attacked 52 ships off Holland, scoring hits on 32 of these (407 SH). This was more than the other Coastal Command anti-shipping squadrons attacks in this period combined. A comment by an officer in Coastal Command that the Squadron was "fighting like demons" was reported, and the name "Demons" was adopted as the Squadron name (K. Abbott). The wartime book The R.C.A.F. Overseas-The First Four Years devotes an entire chapter to this Squadron's Hudson attacks on shipping off the coast of Holland.***

***In the Far East Japanese naval units are reported moving in large numbers, causing concern over their intentions to Dutch and British territories (D. Sommerville).***

- 30 74 Sqn. Spitfire IIa P8460 crashed off the coast of Wales, **Sgt J.A. Brown** killed.
- 30 133 (USA) Sqn. Spitfire IIa P8074 'Garfield Weston 1' suffered an engine failure over Eire returning from a convoy escort, P/O R.L. Wolfe RAF (USA) bailed out and interned. This Spitfire was one of 20 donated by Canadian millionaire W.G. Weston (owner of Weston Foods), and in 2011 the remains of the aircraft were recovered

from the bog in which it had crashed (<http://aviationarchaeology.co.uk/2011-digs/spitfire-ii-a-p8074>).

- 30 #1 AOS RAF, Wigtown, Scotland, Lysander III R9072 crashed on take-off, **Sgt E.B. Stephenson** killed ([www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 30 #4 SFTS, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Crane I #7833 landed on top of Crane I #7663 while both were approaching to land, which they did successfully while still stuck together. **LAC(P) C. Murray** was slightly injured in this accident (see June 17, 1943).

***30-1 Bomber Command sends 181 bombers to Hamburg, and 50 more to Emden, with other operations sending out a total of 246 sorties and losing 15 aircraft (BC War Diaries).***

- 30-1 58 Sqn. Whitley V Z6506 GE-V lost without trace, **P/O E.M.D. Romilly RCAF (USA)**, Sgt A. Whewell RAF, Sgt G.C. Davies RAF, P/O E.D. Comber-Higgs RAF and Sgt T.H. Marlowe RAF missing. (dodo at [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com) notes P/O Romilly was a nephew of Winston Churchill, had been educated in England, and had served as a British national in the International Brigades in Spain).
- 30-1 58 Sqn. Whitley V Z6507 GE-X lost without trace, **F/S R.L.J. Lizotte**, P/O H. Knight RAF, P/O F.D. Hammersley RAF, Sgt G.S.H. Mott RAF and Sgt D.S. Kay RAF missing.
- 30-1 58 Sqn. Whitley V Z6575 GE-B lost over Germany, **F/S D.G. McKay** and Sgt J.S. Gearing RAF killed, Sgt N.S. Bidwell RNZAF, Sgt J.H.K. Deane RAF and F/O F. Ivins RAF PoW.
- 30-1 76 Sqn. Halifax I L9604 MP-W crashed on return to England from an operation when the brakes failed and the aircraft ran off the landing area, **Sgt M.H. Roberts**, Sgt G.R. Herbert RAF, **Sgt J.H.G. Bingham** RAF, Sgt Street RAF, Sgt J.B.F. Fanning RAF, Sgt Fulton RAF and Sgt M.C. Glover RAF safe (R. Allenby). See June 23-24, 1942.
- 30-1 77 Sqn. Whitley V Z9299 lost over Germany, **Sgt R.B. Vose RCAF (USA)**, Sgt R.W. Weymouth RAF, Sgt P.W. Hewitt RAF and Sgt J.W. Woodroffe RAF killed, Sgt D.B. Grundy RAF PoW.
- 30-1 101 Sqn. Wellington Ic R3295 SR-P ditched in the Frisian Islands, **Sgt W.L. Johnson RCAF (USA)**, Sgt P. Winfield RAF, Sgt I.G. Davies RAF, Sgt T.A Cooke RAF, Sgt A.W.J. Cleeve RAF and Sgt A.L.R. Heath RAF PoW. Photos of the wreck were printed in "*Wellington at War*", and *Flypast* magazine, Jan. 1986. Sgt Heath was later a renowned abstract artist.
- 30-1 142 Sqn. Wellington IV Z1202 lost without trace, **Sgt S.L. Innes**, F/S K.W. Barnfield RAF, Sgt F. Fishwick RAF, Sgt J.O. Edmonds RAF, Sgt G.P. Hughes RAF and Sgt R.O. Dowling RAF missing.
- 30-1 405 Sqn. Wellington II W5476 last heard saying they were returning to base early from

an operation, presumed lost at sea, S/L R.C. Bisset DFC & Bar MC (Czech.) RAF (Can.), F/S C.E. Hillmer, F/S A.J. Knight, Sgt R.P. Mann, F/O R.A. Mather and Sgt W.L. Evans RAF missing. S/L Bisset flew his first operation Sept. 4, 1939 in a 102 Sqn. Whitley dropping leaflets.

## **December 1941**

*"Sam, if it's December 1941 in Casablanca, what time is it in New York?" Rick Blaine, "Casablanca".*

***The RAF was suffering from high numbers of failures in aircrew training resulting from inadequate selection techniques. Aware of the progress of Dr. Bott in this field with the RCAF he and Dr. C.R. Myres, his associate, were asked to come to England to use the methods pioneered by the RCAF in aircrew selection for the RAF. They were replaced in Canada by W/C S.N.F. Chant, who had a specialty in statistical analysis (English).***

***In England Conscription is extended to women (Oxford).***

***Canada announced that \$1 billion of food and war material would be sent to England as a gift, without any repayment required. To put this into perspective R. Prior notes that this was a value higher than England had received from Lend-Lease to date (\$900,000), and that England had purchased by cash, gold, or loan from the US \$3.2 billion worth of food and supplies in 1941, and this loan was a major factor in allowing the Commonwealth to continue to oppose Hitler. It would be followed in January, 1943, by the Canadian Mutual Aid program, similar to Lend-Lease, for all the Allied nations.***

***In Canada it was decided to create a flying component to the RCN. It was arranged for Canadian naval airmen to receive training in the Royal Naval Fleet Air Arm while remaining in the RCNVR (W. Carrol via Chris Kanca, [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)). See September 30, 1943.***

***During this month the German Navy broke the Royal Naval code used for assembling and routing convoys, which allowed them to position U-boats to attack them. See June, 1943 (D. Syrett).***

Monday

***1 In Tokyo in an Imperial Conference in the presence of the Emperor the 'Hull Note' of***



***Nov. 26 is presented and rejected, and the decision to proceed with the planned war is endorsed (Oxford).***

***Uncertainty about Japanese naval movements causes a State of Emergency to be issued in Malaysia (D. Sommerville).***

***Dutch forces in the Netherlands East Indies mobilized, RAAF in Australia placed on alert for moving to forward bases in the Mandated Islands it controlled in the Pacific (D. Vincent).***

***Soviet internal production of aircraft since June totalled 7,000, but losses of 12,600 (including nearly 1,000 captured intact or repairable (H.W. Neulen)) meant the number of aircraft available for combat against Germany numbered only 2,500. Aircraft factories which had been evacuated from the invasion area were back in production or being re-established, and production rates would rise in the future (Oxford).***

***Hampden bomber enters service with the RCAF in Canada (Griffin CMA). Many Canadian built Hampden I bombers surplus to requirements in England were flown back to Canada to be used in torpedo training.***

***#8 EFTS closes at Vancouver to move to Boundary Bay, BC, where it begins operations the next day (<http://www.bombercrew.com/BCATP.htm>).***

- 1 274 Sqn. Hurricane IIa Z2510 shot down by German fighters over the desert while providing top cover to Free French bombers, one of 4 Hurricanes lost in this fight, **F/S D.W. Almon** PoW ([www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com); Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).
- 1 274 Sqn. Hurricane IIb Z5064, **P/O W.A.G. Conrad**, claimed a Bf 109 shot down (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1). See December 13, below.
- 1 407 Sqn. Hudson V AM778 RR-J was forced to ditch into the sea with an engine on fire after striking the mast of a ship it was attacking off the Dutch coast, **P/O H.N. Fraser**, Sgt G.L. Neeves RAF, F/S S. Archer RAF and Sgt J. Quinn RAF took to their dinghy, and were rescued and made PoW several days later.
- 1 #4 AOS, England, Botha I L6478 crashed on a delivery flight, pilot **Sgt R.A. Errington** killed.
- 1 #5 B&G School, Dafoe, Saskatchewan, Battle I #2068 crashed on the ice of frozen Quill Lake 5 miles from the air base near a target range during air to ground gunnery training, **Sgt J.L.G. Cote**, LAC C.A. Coles RAAF and LAC R.K. Crothers RAAF killed (A. Storr). The wreck later sank through the ice (S. Shail).
- 1 #19 EFTS, Virden, Manitoba, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4266 crashed eleven miles north of the airfield, **LAC(P) R.L. Greer** killed (Griffin).

Tuesday

**2 British battleship HMS Prince of Wales with the battlecruiser HMS Repulse arrive at Singapore to counter Japanese actions in the Far East and support US forces in the Philippines as agreed in the ABC-1 talks. They were supposed to be accompanied by the new aircraft carrier HMS Indomitable, but she had been damaged in an accident while working up in the Caribbean and was delayed for repairs (Shores, Cull & Izawa). HMS Repulse had worked up for it's deployment to Singapore in Halifax, NS (CBC Ideas, Lost Innocence Part 2, War at a Distance).**

Wednesday

**3 US Intelligence intercepts orders sent to Japanese embassies in Hong Kong, Singapore, Batavia, Manila, Washington and London to destroy most of their codes and secret correspondence (Polsson).**

**In India Gandhi's individual civil disobedience campaign had resulted in thousands of arrests of Congress party members. Although urged by some of his own party to endorse mass civil disobedience, Gandhi remained committed to this policy, knowing it was having an effect on England's policies toward India while at the same time not being offensive enough for the Viceroy to take drastic action against them that might cause widespread violence. Indeed, plans had been made that would have eliminated the party if it had taken that step. Finally the bad publicity of the arrests and imprisonments was too much and on this date all the remaining Congress party members detained for making individual statements of civil disobedience, or arrested for supporting the policy (about 5,000) were released (S. Raghavan).**

- 3 229 Sqn. Hurricanes flown by S/L W.A. Smith RAF and Sgt C.W.M. Burns RAF (Can.) intercepted an Italian S.84 reconnaissance aircraft over Egypt which S/L Smith shot down (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).
- 3 #22 MU (or #1 Coastal OTU) Canadian built Hurricane X AF985 crashed near the shore of the Solway Firth, S/L T.G. Pace RAF missing (alclark, davew and malcolm\_raf at www.rafcommands.com).
- 3 #8 Repair Depot, DH.82C Tiger Moth #5918 crashed and written off less than 3 weeks after being taken on strength by the RCAF, possibly on a test flight, at Parkdale, Manitoba, near where St. Andrews airport is today (R.W.R. Walker).

Thursday

**4 Heavy snowfall and temperatures on the Moscow front dropping below -30° C at night are affecting German tanks, vehicles and artillery (Oxford). German**

**drive on Moscow halted. Soviet losses since June total 4,000,000 soldiers killed, missing or prisoner, 13,000 aircraft, 20,000 artillery guns and 17,000 tanks (Polsson).**

**In Libya Commonwealth forces begin a new offensive in the south, but are held up for two days by Italian units. Meanwhile New Zealand forces have reached Tobruk. Short on supplies Rommel is unable to counter attack effectively and is forced to withdraw to the west (S. Raghavan).**

**US War Plans to support England and the Free French (as outlined in the ABC-1 talks) in the case of an attack leaked to press and published on this date, seized on by Isolationists as proof President Roosevelt was planning to involve the USA in the world war (wikipedia). The government replied that creating such plans was always necessary and good policy for any nation's defence. Isolationist senators called for a public enquiry, but all this was overtaken by coming events. If the plans had been leaked earlier it might have affected the adoption of the Lend-Lease bill.**

**(Dec. 5 local date) First six Australian built Beaufort II aircraft arrive at Singapore intended to replace the obsolete Vildebeest torpedo bombers (R. Hayward).**

- 4 #16 SFTS, Hagersville, Ontario, Anson I #6477 and #6734 collided during landing at base, the only casualty was LAC(P) F.R. Cook who was killed in aircraft #6477, LAC(P) L.L.V. Toupin slightly injured in #6734 (www.rafcommands.com). See March 8-9, 1943.

Friday

**5 Hitler agrees that the offensive on Moscow is to stop. He also orders air groups freed from the offensive to re-locate to Sicily to attack and neutralize Malta (D. Sommerville).**

- 5 33 Sqn. Hurricane I V7832 P/O L.C. Wade RAF (USA) was strafing Italian aircraft in North Africa when one blew up under him and damaged his aircraft. He made a forced landing in the desert where Sgt Wooler landed beside him to fly him back to their base, but damaged his aircraft. Both pilots walked back to Commonwealth lines (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).
- 5 112 Sqn. Tomahawk IIb AK541 GA-Q damaged by enemy fighters over the desert, P/O J.J.P. Sabourin safe (<http://raf-112-squadron.org/planelosses.html>). Flying Tomahawk AK457 on this date he also claimed a G.50 fighter, a Bf 109 and a Ju 87 destroyed, and a G.50 and a Bf 109 damaged (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1). See June 1, 1942.
- 5 252 Sqn. Beaufighter Ic, flown by F/O D.A. Smith on a patrol from Malta to protect

- arriving aircraft, discovered a BR.20 bomber lost enroute to North Africa and shot it down into the sea (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1). See December 9, below.
- 5 32 Sqn. Hurricane II BE582 shot down in the English Channel on a RAMROD sortie, **Sgt W. Fitch RCAF (USA)** missing.
- 5 234 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AA723 lost attacking radar sites in France, **Sgt J.H. Walker RAF (Can.)** missing. Sgt Walker was a Biggs' Boy (K. Stofer).
- 5 407 Sqn. Hudson V AM556 RR-E shot down by flak on an anti-shipping strike off Holland, **Sgt G.M. Drennan, Sgt J.D. Drennan, F/S S.T.C. Thomson** and Sgt R.J. Fido RAF missing. The Drennan's were twin brothers, both wireless operator air gunners.
- 5 457 Sqn. RAAF Spitfire IIa P7502 caught fire in flight, **F/L A.L. Edy DFC RAF (Can.)** bailed out too low and was killed in England. F/L Edy had fought in the Battle of Britain and had been shot down and bailed out of another Spitfire Dec. 12, 1940.
- 5 607 Sqn. Hurricane IIb BE548 lost on a bombing sortie to France, **Sgt A.L. Lewis** missing.
- 5 #20 OTU Wellington I L4348 crashed in Scotland while on a navigation exercise, **Sgt A.R. McCoy RAF (Can.)**, F/S H.S.D. Goss RAF, Sgt M.E. Kent RAAF, Sgt A.J. Wilson RNZAF and Sgt A. Flint RAF killed.
- 5 #55 OTU Hurricane I N2662 crashed in England, **Sgt J.D. Lenehan** was killed bailing out.
- 5 #55 OTU Hurricane I W9199 flew into the ground when doing unauthorized low flying, **Sgt L. Burntack** badly injured (Roy Nixon www.rafcommands.com).
- 5 #55 OTU, Hurricane I V6793 force landed after the pilot made a fuel selection error, **Sgt C.W. Ollett** safe (Roy Nixon www.rafcommands.com). The aircraft was repaired, but crashed in 1944. An ex RCAF Hurricane XII #5667 is displayed in the markings V6793 carried in the Battle of Britain.
- 5 #14 SFTS Harvard II #3198 crashed two miles NE of Tillsonburg, Ontario, killing **P/O L.C. Gooch** and LAC (P) R.L. Brockhoff RAAF.
- 5 #37 SFTS, Calgary, Alberta, Oxford II AS365 crashed, LAC E.C. Thomson RAF killed.

**5-6 Soviet Army makes surprise counter attack in front of Moscow, begins to force German army back nearly 300 km by the end of the month (Polsson, Oxford). Both sides were in poor shape. The German army was exhausted and overextended, with poor logistic support, but still outnumbered Soviet forces facing them. These Russian forces, reinforced by units from the eastern Soviet Union, were equipped with whatever military equipment was left in the country, the best soldiers, airmen, tanks, aircraft and artillery having been destroyed or captured already (Bergström & Mikhailov V.2).**

- 5-6 40 Sqn. Wellington Ic R1066 'K' shot down after a long fight with an Italian CR.42 fighter while attacking Naples, Italy, **F/S T.J. Arsenault**, Sgt L.J. Abbott RAAF, Sgt



W.H. Poole RAF and P/O A.J. Pyle RAF killed, F/O D.F. Hutt RAF and P/O I.E. Miller RAF PoW.

Saturday

**6 British forces renew offensive in Libya (CJCA headline). Britain declares war on Finland, Hungary and Romania (Oxford).**

**US Uranium Advisory Committee meets to organize accelerated research on the nuclear bomb (wikipedia).**

**First 13 sections of a 14 part declaration of war transmitted to Japan's Washington Embassy, decoded transcript delivered to Secretary of State Hull and President Roosevelt by US Intelligence, but it's meaning is not obvious.**

**(From this point until early 1942 events taking place on the same day, but on opposite sides of the International Date Line dividing the Pacific Ocean, will be identified with the local date. This is to correct many misconceptions caused by the size of the Japanese plan of attack, in terms of areas of operation the largest war plan ever executed.)**

**(Dec. 7, local date) In the early morning 205 Sqn. Catalina I W8417 FV-Y from Singapore, sent to shadow Japanese invasion fleet previously spotted heading towards Thailand, is attacked without warning by a Japanese E13A floatplane just as it reached the patrol area, then shot down by a Japanese Army Ki-27 aircraft from French Indo-China. No radio message was received from the lost aircraft. F/S W.B. Webb RAF, Sgt E.A. Bailey RAF, Sgt C.B. Treloar RAAF, F/O P.E. Bedell RAF, Sgt S. Abram RAF, Sgt P. Eaton RAF, LAC A.H. Chapman RAF and AC1 W.D. Burnett RAF missing (A. Storr, and Shores, Cull & Izawa). This was the first combat action by Japan in the war in the Pacific (Shores, Cull & Izawa), but it was not confirmed until the war was over.**

**In the afternoon (Dec. 7, local date) an RAAF Hudson located part of the convoy, now split up, heading toward Thailand, and was fired upon. In Singapore these events led to the belief Japan intended some military action, but no action could be taken by Malaysian Command until it was known if the target was Malaysia or Thailand. Commanding Admiral of the RN naval force, consulting with US military and naval leaders in Manila, Philippines, recalled by air to Singapore. Hong Kong forces put on war alert.**

**(Dec. 7, local date) RAAF Hudson patrol aircraft arrive at Rabaul (D. Vincent).**

- 6 238 Sqn. Hurricane IIb BD923 lost in North Africa, **F/O A.R. Zatonski RAF (Can.)** missing (www.rafcommands.com). TSGNO notes that F/O Zatonski had returned to operations after being shot down, wounded and burned in 1940, see August 28, 1940.
- 6 #1 Signals School wireless operator air gunner **Sgt R.M. Cann** killed when struck by a train in England.
- 6 #17 OTU Blenheim IV L4894 stalled and crashed in England while approaching to land in gusty conditions, **P/O C.H. Woodworth**, F/S M. Thompson RAF and **Sgt R. Barr** RAF (Eire) killed.
- 6 #3 Training Command, Montreal, Quebec, service police **Cpl G.B. Eastland** died of natural causes.
- 6 #32 EFTS, Bowden, Alberta, DH.82C Tiger Moths #5041, LAC(P) F.D. Clarke (RAF?), and #5807 collided when landing, both aircraft repaired (R.W.R. Walker).

Sunday

**7 Canada and New Zealand declare war on Finland, Hungary and Romania (Oxford).**

***On Hitler's orders the "Night and Fog Decree" is issued, authorizing the execution of non-German citizens in occupied countries who commit crimes against the German military forces. Those taken under this decree are to be executed in secret or sent to die in concentration camps, and their families are to be refused any information on their fates or final resting places (Oxford). This is a deliberate attempt to induce fear in occupied countries by having opponents "disappear", a tactic later adopted by other right wing regimes. See June 10, 1942.***

***In St. John's Newfoundland the Admiral in charge of the RCN Newfoundland Escort Force was able to report that the struggle to train his convoy escort crews was beginning to have good effects, and with more ships transferred back from England he was able to better maintain and rest his crews, and that the RCN seemed to have come through the strain of the last year and that the worst was over. In the last month U-boats in the Atlantic had been mostly withdrawn to other theatres and it looked like the work of the convoy escorts was successful. Ironically the Japanese attack in the Pacific on the same day, and the breaking of the RN Convoy Code by Germany, changed all of this in the next few months (M. Milner).***

***Just after midnight Washington time the 14th part of the Japanese message was received and was decoded by the US Army by 0900 local time. It is not understood as a declaration of war but does indicate Japan will break***

*relations with the USA at 1300 Washington time.*

*In Malaysia at 0115 local time (Dec. 8th local date) Japanese offensive begins in Pacific as troops come ashore at Kota Bharu. They are engaged on the beaches by Indian Army units and attacked by RAAF Hudson aircraft from the airfield there, but force their way ashore despite heavy losses, overrunning the airfield at Kota Bharu later that day, which gives them an airbase in northern Malaysia. Other Japanese forces land north of the Thai border to scattered resistance and cross Thailand to invade western Malaysia by land, aiming at the RAF airfield at Alor Star (S. Raghavan). Both are reinforced later by Japanese units transported from French Indo-China by rail.*

*90 minutes later (sunrise, Dec. 7. local time, 1300 Washington time) Japanese carrier aircraft attack the US Naval base at Pearl Harbour, Hawaii, sinking or damaging 7 battleships and many other vessels (**Electrician's Mate 3rd Class F.A. Ellis Jr. USN (Can.), Fireman 2nd Class R.J. Bergin USN (Can.), Fireman 1st Class W.J. Brown USN (Can.) and Radioman 2nd Class E.W. Lang USN (Can.)** were among those killed in the attack, B. Barry et al). Radar warning of the inbound aircraft was discounted as an expected flight of B-17 aircraft flying from California. The heavy loss of battleships limits US abilities to reinforce it's bases in the Philippines, as had been planned. Aircraft carriers were another primary target of this attack, but by chance none were in port on this day. By default the aircraft carrier becomes the major warship of the US Navy in the Pacific, and all naval actions had to be organized around this fact.*

*A second air attack on Pearl Harbour, targeting base repair facilities and fuel storage areas, was cancelled, as it was felt the risk of attack by US carriers known to be at sea near Hawaii was too great. This left the Pearl Harbour naval base intact and able to support the US carrier and submarine forces (see May 30, 1942). The Japanese carrier force retired to the North.*

*One of the Japanese A6M fighter aircraft in the Pearl Harbour attack, damaged, force lands on the privately owned and restricted access Hawaiian island of Ni'ihau. When the Hawaiian residents become aware that evening by radio broadcasts that Japan had attacked the Territory they arrested the pilot and attempted to signal their islands owner (on the adjacent island) for assistance (they had no radio transmitter on the island). The pilot convinced the three Japanese American residents on Ni'ihau to help him, and they attacked his guard, released him and in turn took captive some of the Islanders. On the*

**13th of December there was a fight between the captive islanders and pilot, the airman was killed after shooting and wounding one of the islanders, and one of the Japanese Americans killed himself. That these ethnic Japanese American citizens (two born in US territory) would assist a stranded Japanese pilot was concerning to the US and Canadian authorities, and may have influenced the decision to intern the Japanese civilian populations in those countries (wikipedia). Strangely little interest was shown in examining the largely intact A6M fighter. See February 19 and June 3, 1942.**

**At the same time as the attack on Pearl Harbour the Japanese submarine I-26 stopped the US steamer Cynthia Olsen, outbound from Seattle to Hawaii with lumber for military construction there. After letting the crew board it's lifeboats it sank the steamer with gunfire. The ship's SOS was received in San Francisco nearly an hour before reports of the attack on Pearl Harbour, the first indication that mainland USA had of the Japanese attacks. The crew disappeared in the ocean despite later assistance from another Japanese submarine (B. Coyle).**

**At 0330 local time (Dec. 8 local date) General MacArthur in the Philippines receives information on the attacks underway at Pearl Harbour (Oxford).**

**Official delivery of 14-point Japanese message in Washington (delayed by translation and typing problems and made late after the attacks in Pacific have already begun) to US Secretary of State Hull (who knows of the attack at Pearl Harbour) by Japanese diplomats (who do not).**

**Civil aviation in large parts of the USA was ordered grounded in the afternoon as the military responded to the attacks (pers. comm. US Navy veteran).**

**At dawn local time (Dec. 8 local date) Japanese forces attack Shanghai and Hong Kong (Polsson). Hong Kong airport attacked from the air, all 7 RAF aircraft there destroyed (Oxford). In Shanghai the attack on Pearl Harbour was reported and soon after Japanese sailors boarded the gunboat USS Wake, which surrendered to them. The gunboat HMS Peterel, warned by the British Consulate, came to battle stations and when boarded, the captain ordered the Japanese sailors off the boat. It was then shelled by a Japanese cruiser and shore batteries, returning fire with rifles and machine-guns until it was sunk, with the loss of 6 of it's 18 RN crew onboard, and an unknown number of local Chinese non-combatant crewmen. Two more sailors were taken PoW onshore and the last remaining RN crewman remained free and worked for**



***Allied spying operations in Shanghai during the war (BBC WW2 People's War; wikipedia).***

***Japanese air attack on the Philippines also planned for dawn, local time (Dec. 8, local date), grounded by fog in Formosa (Taiwan), leaving them vulnerable to attack by US Army Far East (USAFE) B-17 heavy bomber force of 35 aircraft, the most powerful US military force in the area. Between 0330 and 0900 USAAF General Brereton twice requested permission to launch the B-17s against Formosa's airfields and was refused both times by MacArthur (this was denied by MacArthur post war but evidence is irrefutable (W.H. Bartsch and others)). Finally permission was given to Brereton for a mission to take-off at 1100 local time. Then the launch time was put back again to await the results of a reconnaissance flight (Oxford).***

***0900 Philippines time (Dec. 8 local date) Scattered Japanese aircraft over the Philippines trigger an attack warning, fighters are scrambled and the B-17s are flown off from the Clark Field base to prevent them being destroyed in an expected attack, ordered to orbit Manila area.***

***At noon local time (Dec. 8 local date) Wake Island attacked by Japanese bombers from the Marshall Islands. Pan-Am Martin M.130 flying boat NC14715 "Philippine Clipper" strafed and damaged, but leaves later in the day for Midway with Pan-Am employees and passengers.***

***1015 Philippines time (Dec. 8 local date), fog in Formosa begins to lift, Japanese air raids begin to launch. A6M2 fighters using their very long range capability and after special training, provide fighter escort to targets 575 miles away, the longest single engine fighter escort operation ever flown to this date (J.B. Lundstrom). In the Philippines the all clear is given and the B-17 and fighter force begins to land to re-fuel (Oxford).***

***1130 Philippines time (Dec. 8 local date), reports of approaching Japanese attack begin to be received from observers in the north of Luzon. An air raid warning is issued at 1145. Although other airfields received it Clark Field did not. Additional warning by radio is not acknowledged. Warning by telephone disregarded or miscarried (Oxford).***

***1230 Philippines time (Dec. 8 Local date) the Japanese bomber and fighter attack on Clark Field begins, finds the USAFE B-17 bomber force lined up on the ground (parking options were limited by lack of dispersal facilities), and***

***destroys half the force, damaging most of the remainder. The fighter base at Iba is also attacked, destroying the radar installation there (the only working set in the islands at that time). Between the two attacks 56 USAAF fighters are also destroyed on the ground or in the air, the bulk of the fighter forces in the Philippines. Without the battleships from Hawaii US offensive capability in the Far East is thus eliminated and MacArthur is now engaged in a defensive war without air superiority or chance of reinforcement. This loss of bombers was as important as the Pearl Harbour attack in deciding the course of the war in the Pacific, but while the latter was the subject of many enquiries as to the command failures that led to it, no enquiry was made into MacArthur's decisions (Oxford, Bartsch).***

***During the day in Malaysia air attacks on RAF bases catch many aircraft on the ground, and force others to re-deploy to safer bases. Singapore is bombed for the first time (D. Newton). Just 3 days after arriving in Malaysia a single RAF Beaufort II flew two photo reconnaissance sorties over the Japanese invasion fleet off Singora where it was attacked and badly damaged by Japanese fighters. It returned safely, landing at Kota Bharu where it was destroyed on the ground by Japanese fighters before the airfield was overrun (R. Hayward).***

***In Australia, when the news of the attacks became known, the Radiophysics Laboratory, which had been looking into building radar sets in Australia, began to put their work into practical use to design a simple and air portable ground radar station (Simmonds & Smith). See Dec. 12, below.***

***In the United States the attack had a devastating impact on groups opposed to the US entering the war, and led to the demise of the America First party, and the end of **Father Coughlin** as a major influence in US Society. His radio program, once reaching an audience of 30 million US citizens, soon ended as did his newspaper Social Justice when it was denied lower postal rates.***

***In England a sudden snow storm caught many aircraft in the air and several crashed trying to land ([www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).***

***Off the Grand Banks the corvette HMCS Windflower is sunk in a collision with a merchant ship in fog with the loss of 23 seamen (RCN Chronology).***

***#32 EFTS relocates to Bowden, Alberta (<http://www.bombercrew.com/BCATP.htm>).***

7 (Dec. 8, local date) 60 Sqn. Blenheim I L4913 shot down by anti-aircraft fire attacking

- invasion shipping off Kota Bharu, P/O W.A.B. Logan RAAF and Sgt T. Clarke RAF missing or killed, **F/L W.E. Bowden RAF (Can.)** was rescued after 24 hours by a Japanese ship and became the first Allied airman to be taken PoW in the Pacific War ([www.mansell.com/pow\\_resources](http://www.mansell.com/pow_resources), H. Welting [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 7 (Dec. 8, local date) 60 Sqn. Blenheim I L4829 shot down by anti-aircraft fire attacking invasion shipping off Kota Bharu and crashed onshore, **F/S R.J.H. Pyle RAF (Can.)**, S/L G.P. Westropp-Bennett RAF (Eire) and Sgt R.A. Webb killed. They have no known grave (Col Bruggy [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 7 274 Sqn. Hurricane IIb Z2395 shot down in Libya, **P/O J.S.G. Gain** killed (brian [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 7 274 Sqn. Hurricane IIb Z5260 crashed in Libya after a running battle with German and Italian fighters, **P/O F.H. Sutton RCAF (USA)** killed (H. Welting [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com), Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).
- 7 274 Sqn. Hurricane IIb BD880, **P/O G.C. Keefer**, claimed an MC.202 destroyed and another damaged in the same fight (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1). See December 8, below.
- 7 121 (USA) Sqn. Spitfire Vb W3711 lost over Belgium on a RHUBARB, **F/O R.F. Patterson RCAF (USA)** killed. F/O Patterson was from a wealthy family, owners of the Lucky Strike brand of cigarettes (N. Budanovic).
- 7 #9 FTS, Master I T8404 crashed making a night take-off, **Sgt V.D.B. Martin** and Sgt H.J. Lewis RAF killed ([www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 7 #22 OTU Wellington Ic T2566 'C' lost engine power in a sudden snow storm over England, followed by a rapid descent into trees, **P/O J. Lynas**, P/O W.J. Turner DFM RAF and Sgt P.R. Chancellor RAF killed, **P/O R.J. Jackson** and Sgt Lane RAF seriously injured. See June 29-30, 1942.
- 7 #22 OTU Wellington Ic X9625 was attempting to land in a heavy snow storm but was misaligned with the runway and did an overshoot. In bad visibility the bomber flew into a local hill, **WO2 A.D.W. Cuthbert**, Sgt J.H.A Cox RAF, P/O J.E. Allen RAF and Sgt Allen RAF injured.
- 7 #52 OTU Spitfire Ia X4354 crashed in England, **Sgt N.W. Barbeau** killed ([www.spitfires.ukf.net](http://www.spitfires.ukf.net)), one of 6 Spitfires from this unit that crashed or force landed in a sudden snow storm with 2 fatalities. Sgt Barbeau crashed into the village of Stratton St. Margaret, hitting a tree but causing no casualties in the village, where he is considered a hero. There is a memorial to this airman at the crash site ([www.ww2talk.com](http://www.ww2talk.com), [www.highworthhistoricalsociety.co.uk](http://www.highworthhistoricalsociety.co.uk)). In 2021 a Blue Plaque historical memorial was unveiled in the village where he crashed (BBC).

**7-8 Bomber Command sends 130 bombers to Aachen, 30 to Brest, 24 to Calais, 23 to Ostend, 22 to Dunkirk, 19 to Boulogne as well as 3 OTU sorties, total 251 sorties with 5 losses (BC War Diaries).**

7-8 144 Sqn. Hampden I AD791 lost over Belgium, **F/S A.H. Lawrence RCAF (Jamaica)**, Sgt F.K. Calcutt RAF, Sgt R.E. Hirons RAF and Sgt G. Barnes RAF killed.

Monday

**8 (Dec. 9 local date) Bangkok, Thailand is under Japanese control, Tarawa and Makin Islands invaded and captured by Japanese.**

**Britain, Australia, New Zealand, Canada etc. declare war on Japan. Soviet Union remains neutral. President Roosevelt addresses Congress, which votes to declare war on Japan with 1 vote opposed (Polsson). US Navy ships in Hawaii search for the Japanese strike force, but an error in intercepting radio transmissions sends them to the south, rather than to the north of the Islands where the attack originated.**

**In Los Angeles local police forces occupy the Murphy Ranch compound of the Silver League (intended as the future "world headquarters" of Fascism) and detain it's staff. Following Germanys declaration of war on the USA (December 11, below) the Silver League dissolved, but it's leader W.D. Pelley, continued attacks in the press on the US government which led to his being imprisoned (wikipedia).**

**In Canada the RCMP takes steps to arrest and intern those Japanese and Japanese Canadians identified at threats to national security, a total of 38 individuals, while all Japanese owned fishing boats (about 1,200) are impounded and all people of Japanese origin are ordered to register (Douglas & Greenhous). See January 8, 1942.**

**Hitler halts remaining offensives in central Russia, orders capture of Sevastapol in the Crimea (Polsson).**

**At Chelmno in Poland the first murder of Jews by gassing occurs, the beginning of Hitler's 'Final Solution' program (Oxford).**

**#7 Sqn. RCAF reformed as a Bomber Reconnaissance unit at Prince Rupert, BC, flying Blackburn Shark aircraft (RCAF Sqns.). #32 OTU Beauforts at Patricia Bay, BC redesignated as #32 TB (Torpedo Bomber) Sqn. and flew operational anti-submarine patrols and torpedo armed anti-ship ROVERS off the BC coast for the rest of the month until other units could be re-deployed. It then reverted to an OTU (R. Hayward). See May 27, 1942.**

8 274 Sqn. Hurricane IIb Z5066 shot down in Libya, **Sgt A.L. Hanes RAF (Can.)** PoW



(www.rafcommands.com).

- 8 274 Sqn. Hurricane IIb BD880, **P/O G.C. Keefer**, damaged a Bf 109 over North Africa (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1). See May 25, 1942.
- 8 401 Sqn. Spitfire Vb, a section of aircraft were sent to escort ASR launches searching for pilots of fighters shot down earlier in the day (see below) when they attacked by German fighters, one Bf 109 was shot down by **Sgt D.R. Morrison**, and three more were damaged by **P/O D.J.M. Blakeslee RCAF (USA)**, Sgt G.B. Whitney and **Sgt W.D. Hagyard** (D. McIntosh). See February 11, 1942 and April 28, 1942.
- 8 405 Sqn. AC1 A.C. Popeley RAF killed when a 406 Sqn. Beaufighter IIc R2404 making a single engined landing overran the runway and struck the vehicle he was in. F/O Mitchell and Sgt Dobell safe in the Beaufighter (W.R. Chorley; www.rafcommands.com).
- 8 410 Sqn. Defiant I V1137 (RA-K?) night fighter struck trees coming in to land in poor weather returning from a scramble interception and crashed. Although himself injured, gunner F/S J.J. Townsend RAF pulled his injured pilot F/L R.L.F. Day RAF from the burning aircraft, then with help from a civilian protected him from the weather and administered first aid before ensuring the aircraft's guns were rendered safe. For this he was awarded the British Empire Medal (A. Thomas, *Defiant, Blenheim and Havoc Aces*, Bloomsbury Publishing, 2012).
- 8 411 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AD264 crashed in the Channel on a fighter sweep, **P/O J.R. Coleman** killed.
- 8 411 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AA840 missing on operations, **Sgt D.A. Court** missing.
- 8 #22 OTU **WO2 A.D.W. Cuthbert** and P/O J.E. Allen RAF died of injuries received the previous day in the crash of a Wellington aircraft.
- 8 #60 OTU Defiant N1570 missing on a training flight, **Sgt T.E. Tressam** missing.
- 8 #34 SFTS, Medicine Hat, Alberta, Harvard II AJ763 crashed near the relief landing ground at Holden, Alberta, practising night landings, **LAC(P) J. Pryor** killed.

**8-9 (Dec. 9-10 local date) British naval force of battleship HMS Prince of Wales and battle cruiser HMS Repulse which sortied from Singapore, and the Japanese naval force protecting their invasion fleet, unknowingly come within gun range of each other in the dark before reversing their courses. Neither fleet spotted the others ships.**

Tuesday

**9 (Dec. 10, local date) D Company, Winnipeg Grenadiers, was sent from Hong Kong Island to the mainland as reinforcements, and in the afternoon became the first Canadian soldiers to engage in combat in the War (J. Boileau).**

**(Dec. 10, local date) Japanese forces land on northern Luzon in the Philippines. US**

**Naval base at Cavite in the Philippines virtually destroyed by bombing attack. Island of Guam captured by Japan from US forces.**

**(Dec. 10 local date) Warships HMS Repulse and Prince of Wales sunk off the coast of Malaysia by Japanese G3M naval bombers operating from airfields near Saigon in French Indo-China. Although within range of airfields in Malaysia the ships had no fighter protection as the admiral in command did not inform RAF in Malaysia of his location, intentions or request any patrols. Japanese losses are 4 aircraft (D. Newton). Without this naval force Singapore is not capable of taking offensive action against the Japanese or offering support to US forces in the Philippines.**

**Blackout declared on Canadian Pacific Coast.**

**#9 (BR) Sqn. RCAF formed on Stranraer aircraft at Bella Bella, BC.**

**Camp X (Special Training School No. 103) opens near Oshawa, Ontario. Besides giving initial training to volunteers from Canada and the USA for clandestine operations overseas it also housed the main communications centre for passing top secret information to and from Ottawa, Washington and London, England (Oxford.)**

- 9 143 Sqn. Beaufighter T4868 shot down in North Africa, Sgt D.J. Ashcroft RAF killed, **F/O D.A. Smith** PoW (www.rafcommands.com). See Dec. 14, below.
- 9 25 Sqn. Beaufighter IF X7580 stalled and crashed on take-off in England, **P/O R.E. Holder** and F/O G.G. Waddington RAF killed (aviation-safety.net).
- 9 #17 OTU Blenheim IV R3675 was banking at low level when it suffered an engine failure and crashed, **Sgt S.O. Hill** injured. See July 28-29, 1942.
- 9 #1 B&G School, Jarvis, Ontario, Battle I aircraft #1604 and #1814 were engaged in gunnery exercises when they collided in mid-air. Battle #1604 landed safely, but #1814 crashed three miles NW of Fisherville, Ontario, killing **F/O E.J. Bounds**, **LAC(WAG) J.S.W. Gray** and **LAC(WAG) F.G. Barber** RAF.

**9-10 407 Sqn. and 217 Sqn. sink the large German freighter MV Madrid off Ymuiden (I. Wikene).**

- 9-10 217 Sqn. Beaufort I AW190 MW-K shot down by flak attacking a German convoy off Holland, **P/O M. Lee** RAF killed, **F/S J.A. Foster**, **Sgt H. Carter** RAF and **Sgt J.A. Chadaway** RAF missing (R. Hayward).

Wednesday

**10 (Dec. 11 local date) Japanese naval forces attacking Wake Island are repulsed by**

***US Marine ground forces and F4F (Wildcat) fighter aircraft.***

***(Dec. 11 local date) Japan and Thailand sign a peace treaty, giving Thailand territory in Laos, Burma and Malaysia; Japanese Army forces in Thailand cross into Burma.***

***#111 (F) Sqn. RCAF leaves Rockcliffe for Sea Island, BC, by train (RCAF Sqns.).  
#120 (BR) Sqn. deploys from Patricia Bay to Coal Harbour, BC (RCAF Sqns.).***

***Louis St. Laurent made Justice Minister (CJCA headlines).***

- 10 #13 OTU RAF Blenheim IV L9383 crashed after an engine cut on take-off, F/S G.H. Schrader, Sgt A.W. Steadman RAF and Sgt W. Dunn RAF killed.
- 10 #10 EFTS, Mount Hope, Ontario, DH.82C Tiger Moth aircraft #5895 and #5910 collided in mid-air over Caledonia, Ontario, both aircraft returned safely with minor damage (R.W.R. Walker).

Thursday

***11 (Dec. 12 local date) Canadian, Indian and British forces fighting in Hong Kong retreat to the Island from the mainland, severely outnumbered by 20,000 invading troops (W. Fowler). Japanese forces land on southern Luzon in the Philippines (Shores, Cull & Izawa).***

***Germany and Italy declare war on the US under terms of their treaty with Japan, but Japan does not declare war on the USSR in return. USA in turn declares war on Italy and Germany (Polsson). Note that Germany's declaration of war with the USA was the only formal declaration of war made by Nazi led Germany. Hitler believed that the USA was unable to back up it's policies with military action, and that Japan could handle them while Germany defeated Russia. He also underestimated Roosevelt, whom he considered an "imbecile" (Oxford). His poor opinion of the US military ability was based on his racial beliefs. As the USA was made up of many different cultures and races (a "mongrel" nation in his ideology) it could never defeat the soldiers of a racially pure nation such as he imagined Germany was. Both he and Japanese leaders badly underestimated the industrial capacity of the USA as well.***

***Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Nicaragua also declare war on Germany and Italy (<http://www.worldwar-2.net/timelines>).***

***The America First Committee voted to dissolve itself, but with no regrets, stating***

*they had been right and the US would not be involved in the world war if their policies had been applied (wikipedia). Charles Lindbergh requested reinstatement in the USAAF, but this was denied him under orders from President Roosevelt. Nonetheless, Lindbergh worked as a test pilot and consultant during the war, and served overseas in New Guinea as a company advisor for Lockheed where he taught pilots how to greatly improve the range of their fighters using fuel saving techniques he had developed and, with the permission of General MacArthur, he flew over 50 combat missions against the Japanese in P-38 fighters and shot down several aircraft, all without publicity at his request.*

*Italian air mail flights across the South Atlantic to Brazil and Argentina by SM.83 aircraft ended (H.W. Neulen). US diplomatic and intelligence services began a campaign to find and eliminate German, Italian and Japanese influences on South American governments, including supplying aircraft to airlines to replace German and Italian aircraft in use there (Ernst K. Gann, Fate is the Hunter, Simon & Schuster, 1961).*

*Leningrad, Soviet forces regain Tikhvin, and rail access to Lake Ladoga (Oxford).*

*The RCAF had at this time several thousand members from the USA, experienced pilots and aircrew, in pilot instruction and other duties. Most wished to return to the USA so special arrangements were put in place to allow these pilots to leave the RCAF and join the USAAF, USN, USMC or USCG aviation services (F.T. Keim). It is estimated that during the war 3,800 RCAF instructors and trained aircrew returned to serve in the US forces, while about 5,000 (being trained or already deployed to operational units) remained in the RCAF (H.A. Halliday <http://www.rafcommands.com/archive/00040.php>).*

- 11 250 Sqn. Tomahawk IIb AN344 shot down 30 miles from Tobruk, killing F/S M.A. Canty ([www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 11 42 Sqn. Beaufort I AW243 AW-O shot down by flak attacking shipping off Norway, F/L O.L.S. Philpot DFC RAF (Can.), F/S F.J.J. Smith RAF, P/O E.R. Hester RAF and P/O G.M. Rackow RAF survived 3 days in their life raft before being found and made PoW, suffering from frostbite and exposure (R. Hayward; R.J. Laplander; [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)). See October 29, 1943.
- 11 144 Sqn. Hampden I AE353 crashed off the English coast, P/O J.H. Dunn, Sgt C.E. Gailey RAF (Can.), P/O C.B. Payne RAF and P/O A.L. Smiley RNZAF killed, F/O A.J.B. Monk missing.
- 11 253 Sqn. Hurricane II Z3239 crashed in England, Sgt H.L. Hicks killed.
- 11 404 Sqn. Blenheim IV T1808 EE-N swung on take off into a sand dune when a tire



burst on a training flight, **Sgt J.V. Ensom** safe.

- 11 412 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AD291 VZ-H collided in mid-air with Oxford II T1052 aircraft over England and crashed, killing **P/O J.G. Magee RCAF (USA)** in the Spitfire and LAC E.A. Griffin RAF in the Oxford (www2b.abc.net.au). P/O Magee had been born in China of US Missionary parents, and educated in England and the USA. He was the author of the poem "*High Flight*". See Sept. 3, above.
- 11 #119 (BR) Sqn. RCAF Bolingbroke IV #9053 crashed into a wooded area short of the runway at Yarmouth, NS, approaching to land after an engine failed, **Sgt E.G. Bawtinheimer**, **Sgt J.F. Riess** and **Sgt W.C. Whitman** killed (424 SH).
- 11 #2 Wireless School, Calgary, Alberta, DH.82C4 Menasco Moth (II #4837?) crashed at Midnapore, Alberta, attempting a forced landing, **LAC(P) G.F. Ryan** was killed and **LAC(WAG) E.A. Lowry** injured.

**11-12 Sixty bombers sent to Cologne where 23 report bombing and starting a large fire, but this was probably a decoy as Cologne recorded no bombing on this night. Other operations include 34 bombers to Le Havre, 21 to Brest and 5 GARDENING sorties off Kiel, 3 bombers lost plus 2 crashed in England (BC War Diaries).**

- 11-12 57 Sqn. Wellington Ic T2959 crashed in England returning from operations, **Sgt P.L. Gurd**, **Sgt J.M. McKenzie**, Sgt D.A. Watson RAF, Sgt E.R. Carter RAF, Sgt S.H. Jackson RAF and Sgt R.P. Manwaring RAF killed.
- 11-12 218 Sqn. Wellington Ic W5727 HA-V had an engine catch fire outbound on an operation. The pilot, Sgt Brewerton RAF, ordered the crew, **Sgt N. Williamson**, **Sgt W.M. McDonald**, Sgt Longmore RAF, Sgt Cox RAF and P/O Taylor RAF, to bail out over England, before making a forced landing, all were safe.
- 11-12 408 Sqn. Hampden I AE148 EQ-B Bar lost over Denmark on a GARDENING sortie, **P/O W.F. Hull**, F/S D.L. Todd RNZAF, Sgt L. Harding RAF and Sgt S. Jamieson RAF killed.

Friday

**12 German army forced to retreat from in front of Moscow. Hitler demands they stand and defend all ground taken, against advice of his generals who recommend strategic withdrawals to better defensive lines (Oxford).**

**Japanese submarine I-10 sinks US freighter Donnyvale between Hawaii and the US Coast and machine guns its survivors in their lifeboats. The submarine was acting on the orders given to all Japanese submarines at this time, but these were unpopular and usually ignored (B. Coyle). Off Borneo the Canadian merchant ship Shinai is attacked and sunk by Japanese aircraft. It was salvaged in 1942 and placed into service as the Shinai Maru, and was sunk by**

**US aircraft off the Celebes September 16, 1944 (RCN Chronology;  
[www.shipbuildinghistory.com/canadaships/wwone.htm](http://www.shipbuildinghistory.com/canadaships/wwone.htm); [www.wrecksite.eu](http://www.wrecksite.eu)).**

***In Australia the first example of their locally designed air portable ground radar, later called the LW/AW, was ready for testing. During the next two years this simple radar would become one of the most important radar sets used on front lines by US and Australian forces in the South West Pacific area (Simmonds & Smith).***

- 12 55 Sqn. Blenheim IV Z5908 shot down into the Mediterranean by a Bf 110 fighter after intercepting a convoy, **Sgt R.T. Quilter RAF (Can.)**, F/S J.H.L. Thompson RAF and Sgt R.T. Morris RAF missing.
- 12 94 Sqn. pilot **Sgt G.C. Bailey** died of natural causes in Egypt.
- 12 3 Sqn. Hurricane IIc BD943 crashed in England, **Sgt D.R. McCullough** killed.
- 12 22 Sqn. Beaufort I N1085 OA-G lost over France on a bombing sortie, **F/O A.W. Troup** killed, Sgt I.W. Jones RAF, Sgt C. Guest RAF and Sgt A.A. Ferguson RAF PoW.
- 12 #41 OTU Tomahawk IIa AH919 spun and crashed in England killing **P/O J.H. Murchie**.
- 12 #57 OTU two Spitfire Ia aircraft collided and crashed in England killing **Sgt J.S. Bird** in R7062 and **Sgt A.C. Bone** in R6829.
- 12 #1 SFTS, Camp Borden, Ontario, Harvard II #2612 crashed into Lake Ontario near Hamilton, Ontario, after becoming lost, killing **P/O A.C. MacDonald**.
- 12 #2 Wireless School, Calgary, Alberta, **LAC(WAG) E.A. Lowry** died of injuries received in a crash the previous day.
- 12 #4 SFTS, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, **F/O W.G. Monkhouse** died in hospital of natural causes.
- 12 #5 SFTS, Brantford, Ontario, armourer **LAC C.W. Mitchell** died in hospital of natural causes.
- 12 #9 SFTS, Summerside, PEI, **F/S A.H. Morton** was killed in an accident while in charge of a snow clearing party at Summerside.
  
- 12-13 37 Sqn. Wellington Ic N2780 'E' damaged by flak over Libya near Derna and ditched off shore of Malta, **P/O W.A. Tanner** and Sgt W.L. Pointing RAF missing, F/O A.L. Davis RAF and Sgt H.J. Buck RAF injured, Sgt Carver RAF and Sgt Pearson RAF safe (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).
- 12-13 70 Sqn. Wellington Ic X9686 'Z' shot down in Libya near Derna, **F/S D.G. Pettet**, F/S W.H.J. Milner RNZAF, F/O K.C. Kitto RAF, Sgt A.O. Hawkes RAF, Sgt E.R.G. Lewis RAF and Sgt B.J. Williams RAF killed (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1).

Saturday

**13 In the Mediterranean 2 Italian cruisers and 2 destroyers sunk or damaged by 3 RN and 1 Royal Netherlands Navy destroyers (Polsson). They were carrying fuel**

***in drums needed for the fighting in North Africa, which made them vulnerable (ww2total.com Chronology/1941).***

***The collapse of a glacier in Peru caused a landslide that killed between 4,000 and 6,000 people (wikipedia).***

- 13 107 Sqn. Blenheim IV Z7368 shot down in the sea in a shipping strike in Greece, F/S J.S.A. Calderwood, F/S A.P. McLean and Sgt R.D. Gracie RAF killed.
- 13 107 Sqn. Blenheim IV Z7800 shot down in the sea in a shipping strike in Greece, Sgt A.J. Comeau, Sgt R. Haggett RAF and Sgt A.J. Lee RAF PoW.
- 13 274 Sqn. Hurricane IIb aircraft flown by S/L S. Linnard RAF (Z6064) and P/O W.A.G. Conrad (Z4000) shared a Ju 87 shot down in North Africa (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1). See February 8, 1942.
- 13 56 Sqn. Hurricane II Z3082 was engaged in a fighter affiliation exercise with a Wellington when it went out of control and crashed, killing F/S M.B. Innes.
- 13 87 Sqn. Hurricane II Z3050 crashed in England, Sgt H.J. Robinson killed.
- 13 400 Sqn., two Tomahawk I aircraft returning from a sortie over France shot down in mid channel by enemy fighters, P/O H.F. English missing in AH812 and P/O G.C.H. Jackson missing in AH865 (ref. in FF Years).
- 13 #56 OTU Hurricane II P3809 crashed in England, Sgt N.C. Pow killed.
- 13 #22 EFTS, Ancienne Lorette, Quebec, Finch II #4550 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).
- 13 Test and Development Flight, Rockcliffe, Ontario, Hudson III T9385 lost both engines due to icing and force landed hitting a telephone pole and trees near Mount Grove, Ontario (C. Charland).
- 13 unknown unit, AC2 J.R. Boyd killed in a gravel pit cave-in at Patricia Bay, B.C.
  
- 13-14 40 Sqn. Wellington Ic X9993 was hit by flak when laying mines off Benghazi, which damaged the hydraulics. With flaps and undercarriage down the aircraft limped to a crash landing in Tobruk. The crew, Sgt G.A. Little, Sgt G.H. Easton RNZAF, Sgt C.N. Hardman RAF, Sgt F.H. Cochrane RAF (injured), Sgt K.R. Blackhurst RAF and Sgt A.E. Boorman RAF safe. See Dec. 22, below.
- 13-14 #31 OTU, Debert, NS, Hudson III BW382 missing on a local flying exercise, Sgt C.B. Rourke, P/O M.E.C. Bird RAF, P/O K.W. Blyth RAF and P/O A. Pickles RAF missing (31 OTU/7 OTU Roll of Honour).

Sunday

***14 (Local date Dec. 15) attempted Japanese invasion of Hong Kong Island repulsed (Oxford). The sole destroyer in the port, with gunboats in support, attacked the boats being gathered by the Japanese for a landing, at the cost of the destroyer, which ran aground and was damaged beyond further use and later***

***abandoned (B. Greenhous).***

- 14 14 Sqn. Blenheim Z5860 lost over Libya on an operation to attack enemy transport, **F/S W.R. Campbell**, Sgt J.A. Redfern RAF and Sgt F.W. Dennis RAAF missing.
- 14 143 Sqn., **F/O D.A. Smith** shot down December 9, above, shot and killed by Italian soldiers while trying to escape (brian & H. Welting [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 14 Allied HQ Comm Flight, Lysander I R2647 crashed in Egypt, **F/O C.A.G. Ferguson RAF (Can.)** killed, no known grave (R. McNeill at [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 14 209 Sqn. Catalina I AH530 WQ-T was taking off on a patrol when it hit a boat and crashed, **Sgt J.P. Taylor**, F/L E.A. Jewiss DFC RAF and Sgt A. Berry RAF killed, **P/O F.R. Wellings RCAF (UK)**, Sgt W.W. Stenning RAF, Sgt F.F. De Smidt RAF, Sgt H.H. Penrose RAF, Sgt S. Napier RAF and Sgt H. Greenwood RAF missing, Sgt Rudge RAF and Sgt Tew RAF survived.

***14-15 Brest targeted by 28 bombers, but only 1 reports attacking the target. Three bombers sent to Cherbourg and 2 more GARDENING sorties made, 3 bombers lost plus one crashed in England (BC War Diaries).***

- 14-15 83 Sqn. Canadian built Hampden I P5393 OL-T was taxiing out for a GARDENING sortie when it collided on the ground with Hampden I AE374 OL-R, bombed up for a sortie over Brest. The mine on P5393 exploded, destroying both aircraft, P/O The Honourable W.R.C.B. Parker RAF and Sgt C. Love RAF were killed, and Sgt H. Standen RAF and Sgt L. King RAF injured on P5393, the crew of AE374, Sgt J.M. Thompson RAF, Sgt J. Ryan RAF, Sgt J. Rooney RAF and Sgt P.N. Foster were slightly injured.
- 14-15 408 Sqn. Canadian built Hampden I P5392 EQ-W crashed in England returning from operations over France, **Sgt J.C. Tomlin**, Sgt C.C. Gibson RAF, Sgt E.W. Sterling RAF and F/S W.R. Williams RAF killed.
- 14-15 408 Sqn. Hampden I AT133 EQ-X lost without trace, **F/S R.L. Thompson**, **Sgt J.L. Vaughn**, Sgt B. Howells RAF and Sgt W. Oates RAF missing.

Monday

***15 (Dec. 16, local date) Japanese forces invade Penang Island off Malaysia and land at Sarawak (Shores, Cull & Izawa).***

***Soviet government returns to Moscow (Oxford).***

***419 Sqn. formed in England as a Bomber unit on Wellington Ic aircraft (RCAF Sqns.).***

***Torbay (St. John's) airbase in Newfoundland formally opened by RCAF for use by RCAF and USAAF (St. John's: A History of the Airport). This site was***



*selected in 1940 against the advice of local residents who pointed out that the location of Cochrane Pond, being on higher ground, was a better location as it was kept free of fog by local winds. Frequent low visibility is still a problem at the airport to this day (pers. comm. R. Schamper 1992).*

*At about this time **Sgt G. Beurling RAF (Can.)** completes his pilot's training at OTU and is offered a commission, based on his skills as a pilot. He turns the offer down, saying "He doesn't feel like an officer" (Nolan), possibly a reaction to his being turned down by the RCAF for his lack of education. He is posted to 403 Squadron flying Spitfires.*

**#9 Bombing & Gunnery School opened at Mont Joli, Quebec (S. Shail). #39 SFTS, Swift Current, Saskatchewan, opens**  
(<http://www.bombercrew.com/BCATP.htm>).

- 15 600 Sqn. Beaufighter II R2312 lost on operations, **F/L C.G. Imlay RAF (Can.)** killed, Sgt P.G. Pearce RAF missing.
- 15 #11 OTU Wellington Ic X3170 was descending on a night cross country exercise when it flew into the ground and crashed in England, **Sgt H.B.L. Gittins RCAF (Argentina)**, Sgt B.L. Grove-Palmer RAF, Sgt W.R. Myles RAAF, Sgt D.J. Dempsey RNZAF, Sgt A.L. Sanderson RNZAF and Sgt P.N. Lister RAF killed.
- 15 #61 OTU Master T8794 crashed, **Sgt S.P. Kurek** and AC1 I. Hackett RAF killed ([www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 15 #71 OTU Spitfire Ia X4923 "*Nix over Six Secundus*" crashed in England, **Sgt P.R. Roach** killed (TSGNO says #61 OTU, and aircraft "X3923"). The Spitfire was a presentation aircraft from the Woolworth's Department Store chain. *Nix over Six* was a store motto, meaning nothing priced over 6 pence (AndyR and northeagle at [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)). This was the second aircraft so named, hence the latin tag.
- 15 #13 OTU [#13 OTS Operational Training Squadron?] Patricia Bay, BC, Stranraer #927 crashed making a landing in heavy seas off Nanoose Bay, Vancouver Island and sank, AC1 R.W. Adams, **Sgt G.H. Andrews**, AC1 R.A. Blakely, **Sgt J.C. Gunn**, **Sgt R.T. Mitchell**, aero engine mechanic **LAC W.D. Riley**, **P/O R. Wood** killed, **F/L D.C. MacDougall** missing.
- 15 #6 SFTS, Dunnville, Ontario, Harvard II #2763 crashed, LAC A.C. Willis RNZAF killed.
- 15-16 407 Sqn. Hudson V AM731 RR-H lost in the Wadden Sea on an anti-shipping sortie off Holland, **P/O P.G. Ford** and **Sgt W. Turley** killed, **P/O L.W. Almquist RCAF (USA)** and **P/O J.A. Bitcon** missing. This was the first all RCAF crew lost in Coastal Command. See W. de Jong's page about the Dutch Island of Vlieland at [www.626-squadron.co.uk](http://www.626-squadron.co.uk) for some information on the crew.

**15-16 Bomber Command sends 25 aircraft to Ostend and 17 to Brest, plus 5 GARDENING sorties to Wilhelmshaven with 1 loss (BC War Diaries).**

Tuesday

**16 Battleship IJNS Yamato commissioned into the Japanese Navy (wikipedia).**

**MV Don Jose enroute from Vancouver to Hong Kong via Manila carrying equipment and vehicles (including Bren Gun Carriers) for the Canadian Army, docks in Manila and turns over it's cargo to the US Army there, where the trucks and carriers are used in fighting by US and Philippine forces (www.cofepow.org.uk). Another shipment of Hong Kong bound Canadian Bren Gun Carriers ended up in New Caledonia, where they are turned over to US Army and later taken into combat at Guadalcanal by the "Americal" Division (Coggins).**

**(Dec. 17, local date) Japanese forces land in British Borneo (Polsson).**

- 16 411 Sqn. Spitfire Vb W3639 lost in the English Channel, P/O G.A. Chamberlain missing.
- 16 411 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AD117 DB-F shot down in France, P/O T.D. Holden killed.
- 16 #4 ADF (Aircraft Delivery Flight?) Spitfire IIa P8267 being delivered to 133 (USA) Sqn. became lost and force landed in the Republic of Ireland, Sgt G.D. Fowler interned (D. Burke, www.ww2irishaviation.com)
- 16 #58 OTU Spitfire Ia X4841 and X4851 collided on the runway when one taxied out in front of the other that was landing, killing Sgt N.P. Julian and injuring Sgt L.D. Kippan.

**16-17 Wilhelmshaven targeted by 83 bombers, plus 22 bombers and 18 GARDENING sorties sent to Brest, 32 bombers to Ostend, 14 to Dunkirk, and 4 OTU sorties with 1 bomber lost (BC War Diaries).**

- 16-17 102 Sqn. Whitley V Z6973 hit by flak and crashed into the sea off France attacking Dunkirk, F/S W.G. Caldwell, F/S W.A. Evans RCAF (USA), Sgt D.G. Jack RAAF, Sgt F.E. Baldock RAF and Sgt G.E. Thompson RAF killed.

Wednesday

**17 (Dec. 18 local date) Japanese forces successfully land on Hong Kong Island. Attacks by British MTBs result in heavy RN losses (Oxford).**

**After bombing and artillery barrages the German assault on Sevastopol begins (Bergström & Mikhailov V.2).**

***Rommel recognizes he is running low of supplies and tanks in the ongoing battles on the Libyan border, begins planning a fighting withdrawal to the ports of Benghazi and Tripoli to resupply (M. Carver). ULTRA intercepts reveal that between May and October submarines, ships and aircraft from Malta had reduced deliveries of fuel to Libya by 90% (Oxford).***

- 17 30 Sqn. Hurricane, **F/L R.T.P. Davidson**, encountered an aircraft, possibly a He 111, at dusk on a convoy patrol off North Africa, which he claimed shot down (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1). See January 13, 1942.
- 17 #72 OTU, Egypt, Blenheim IV Z7628 missing in the Red Sea area of Egypt, **P/O A.G. Smith**, F/O C.R. Freeman RAF, Sgt P.P. Hussey RAF, Sgt F.W. Wheeler RAAF and Sgt W. Armour RAF missing (A. Storr).
- 17 #2 AOS, England, Anson N9842 crashed, **P/O O.C.B. Crump**, **Sgt W.J. Pegg**, **P/O W.M. Pepper Jr.** and Sgt A. Gibbons RAF killed (www.rafcommands.com).
- 17 #20 OTU Anson I R9585 XT-H collided with #8 FTS Master I N7931 and both crashed in Scotland, **P/O V.E. Friesen**, **Sgt J.A. Stewart**, **Sgt R.K. Cook RAF (Nfld.)**, F/S C. Stowe RAF, P/O H.R. Cutten RAF, F/S L.J. Kuhrt RAF and 2Lt J.S. Nairn RE were killed in the Anson, **Sgt W.W. Hughes** and F/O D.G. Buchanan RAF killed in the Master (davew & alclark, www.rafcommands.com).
- 17 #58 OTU, **Sgt L.D. Kippan** died of injuries received the day before.
- 17 #16 SFTS, Hagersville, Ontario, Anson I #6548 crashed practising night circuits killing **LAC(P) G.H. McClure**.
- 17 #31 EFTS, De Winton, Alberta, student started DH.82C Tiger Moth #5811 without assistance. When started the aircraft began moving before he could reach the cockpit and ran into DH.82C Tiger Moth #4056. Both damaged aircraft were repaired and finished the war (R.W.R. Walker).
- 17 unknown unit, **LAC D.E. Breck** died of natural causes in Canada.

***17-18 Brest attacked by 121 bombers (80 report bombing), 14 to Le Havre (1 bombed) plus 2 OTU sorties made, 2 losses (BC War Diaries).***

Thursday

***18 (Dec. 19, local date) On Hong Kong Island the headquarters of **Brigadier J. Lawson** twice **MiD CG (France)**, commanding the Canadian forces, was surrounded by Japanese soldiers. In a last communication to the British headquarters he stated that he and his staff were going to leave the position to fight outside "rather than be killed like rats". They were soon killed by machine gun fire. Brig Lawson was the highest ranked member of the Canadian Army killed in combat in the war (J. Boileau, wikipedia).***

***Leningrad, German army pushed back from October advance, but they destroy the***

***railway as they retreat (Oxford).***

***Brest attacked in daylight by 47 bombers who report accurate bombing, but lose 6 aircraft (BC War Diaries).***

***First of 6 long range U-boats depart France for operations off the US coast. Soon detected and plotted by RN radio listening service, warnings and daily position updates are passed on to RCN and US Navy (M. Gannon, english.turkcebilgi.com). The response of the US Navy was to pull all of its destroyers that had been assisting in escorting convoys from Iceland and Newfoundland back to the eastern USA, where they would make anti-submarine patrols (M. Gannon, wikipedia). This tactic was a rejection of the convoy system developed by the Royal Navy.***

***In Egypt, acting under Churchill's orders for full co-operation and disclosure to the USA, access to daily reports on the 8th Army are provided to the US Embassy's Military Attache in Cairo. Despite concerns about its security he sends these on to Washington using the US 'Black Code', which are then intercepted by Italian Intelligence and provided to the German military, who send them to Rommel the same day, giving a daily accurate report of the forces facing him, their location, condition and intentions. This continues until June 29, 1942 (Oxford).***

***Off the US Pacific coast the Japanese submarine I-17 damages the timber carrier Samoa, and disabled the tanker Emidio, which later drifted ashore and was wrecked. The submarine was attacked by a US Navy PBY aircraft, but escaped (B. Coyle, wikipedia).***

***A submarine launched E14Y1 aircraft makes a reconnaissance flight over Pearl Harbour seeking information on US carriers and returns safely (B. Coyle). See January 6, 1942***

- 18    14 Sqn. Blenheim IV V6183 'U' was on a transit flight for operations from a forward landing ground in the desert when an engine failed and it landed wheels up, **P/O L.R. Farrow**, F/L H.K. Keck RAAF and Sgt M. German safe.
- 18    #70 OTU, Kenya, Blenheim IV V5576 collided in mid air with Blenheim IV Z6430, flying instructor **F/O A.T. Darling RAF (Can.)** and Sgt M.H. Genney RAF were killed in V5576, Z6430 landed safely (amrit & P.H. Temple www.rafcommands.com). F/O Darling had completed a tour of operations in 1940-41. He is buried in England.
- 18    7 Sqn. Stirling I W7436 MG-D shot down on a daylight attack over Brest, **Sgt W.M. Baker** and Sgt J. Towns RAF killed, Sgt F.K. Lister RAAF, S/L L.W.V. Jennens RAF,



Sgt J.C. Webb RAF, Sgt E.V. Smith RAF and Sgt F.V. Davis RAF taken PoW. This loss is profiled by G. Saouzanet.

- 18 7 Sqn. Stirling I N3680 MG-Y shot down by fighters off the French coast on a daylight attack on Brest, P/O N.F. Durban, Sgt M.A. Sullivan GM RAAF, Sgt K.R. Taylor RNZAF, F/L B. Parnell MiD RAF, Sgt J.H.M. Pulford RAF, F/S R. Wheatley RAF and Sgt T.P. Wright RAF missing. Sgt Sullivan had been awarded his George Medal for his actions just a month before on Nov. 18, above.
- 18 15 Sqn. Stirling I N3665 LS-S on a daylight operation over Brest last seen over the target under attack by fighters, P/O C.L. Smith DFM RAF killed, F/S W.H. O'Neill, F/S C.P. Goulding RNZAF, F/L G.G. Heathcote MiD RAF, Sgt J.F. Bente RAF, F/S R. Exelby MiD RAF, Sgt D.G. Penman RAF and F/S J. Peters RAF missing.
- 18 15 Sqn. Stirling I W7428 LS-Z last seen on fire and under attack by fighters on a daylight attack on Brest, F/S J.L. Ruthven, F/O G. Bunce RAF, Sgt D. Ferguson RAF, P/O R.N. Chancellor RAF, Sgt K.A. Jefferys RAF, F/S W. Wooldridge RAF, Sgt R. Shearer RAF and Sgt P.G. Osman RAF missing.
- 18 97 Sqn. Manchester I L7490 OF-U had it's elevator shot away when making a daylight attack on Brest. The aircraft returned to England but crashed while landing, Sgt H. Bischlager, F/S J.L. Gibson, Sgt R.T. Bray RAF, W/C D.F. Balsdon RAF, F/S G.E.A. Pendrill DFM RAF, Sgt F.Y.D. Kerr RAF, Sgt L.W. Jones DFM RAF and F/L R.A. Wright RAF killed.
- 18 97 Sqn. Manchester I R5795 OF-W attacked by enemy fighters off Brest on a daylight attack and shot down into the sea, Sgt M.R. Heinisch, P/O N.G. Stokes RAF (Australia) and Sgt G.G. Fell RAF missing, F/S I. Hewitt, Sgt G.P. Thomas RAAF and Sgt T.M. Wade RAAF PoW.
- 18 404 Sqn. first air victory, Blenheim IV Z5753 EE-T scrambled and destroyed a Ju 88, W/C H.P. Woodruff, F/S I.R. Sims and P/O Mathews crew (RCAF Sqns.). (According to other sources this aircraft had been lost Oct. 19, above).
- 18 #52 OTU Spitfire Ia R7061 'Edglets' flew into a hill in England, Sgt R.P. Owen RCAF (USA) killed (www.spitfires.ukf.net, R. Allenby).
- 18 #15 EFTS, Regina, Saskatchewan, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4228 written off after being damaged on this date (R.W.R. Walker).

**18-19 RN battleships HMS Queen Elizabeth and HMS Valiant are attacked and crippled while anchored at Alexandria by Italian frogmen (Polsson). This brings the total of Allied battleships sunk or disabled to 10 in the last 11 days, plus one destroyed in November. As well a cruiser is sunk, 2 more are damaged, and a destroyer was lost from the RN flotilla based in Malta that ran into an Italian minefield off Tripoli the same night (D. Sommerville). This changes the balance of naval power in the Mediterranean in Italy's favour. However, as both battleships sank in shallow water with their upper works intact the Navy**

***begins an elaborate deception that the ships were undamaged in the attacks, which makes the Italian Navy uncertain as to Allied strength.***

***Brest attacked by 19 bombers without loss, but 2 crash in England (BC War Diaries).***

***Off Washington State the Japanese submarine I-25 shells the tanker L.P. St. Clair, which escapes up the Columbia River (B. Coyle).***

18-19 78 Sqn. Whitley V Z9308 crash landed in England on a night attack on Brest, **Sgt J.A. Attwell**, Sgt Martin RAF, Sgt Howitson RAF, Sgt Turpin RAF and Sgt Johnston RAF safe.

Friday

***19 Japanese land on Hong Kong Island (CJCA headline).***

***(Local date Dec.20) Japanese invasion force in Hong Kong meeting stronger than anticipated resistance, forced to halt to regroup (Oxford). Sgt Major John Robert Osborn of the Winnipeg Grenadiers saves the lives of other soldiers by throwing himself on a Japanese grenade he was unable to throw out of their position, for which he receives a posthumous Victoria Cross after the war.***

***Japanese land on Mindanao, Philippines (Shores, Cull & Izawa). First Japanese attacks on Netherlands East Indies (Oxford).***

***After dismissing many commanders for retreating or requesting to retreat, Hitler assumes the position of Commander in Chief of the German army. He holds this position for the rest of the war, commanding without a real staff or advisors (Oxford). Mussolini and Japanese envoys recommend he come to terms with Stalin, which was a possibility (Stalin had sent secret messages via Bulgaria seeking peace in July), but he refused (Oxford).***

***FAA Wildcat (F4F) fighters flying off the first escort carrier HMS Audacity (formerly the German high speed fruit carrier Hannover) shoot down 2 Fw 200 Condors (ww2total.com Chronology/1941). See Dec. 21-22, below.***

***420 Sqn. RCAF formed as a Bomber unit in England on Hampden I aircraft (CCMA) (RCAF Sqns.).***

19 755 Sqn. FAA Lysander IIIa V9663 crashed on an air test, Lt(A) J.D. Parker RNVR and Capt. K.L. Ford Royal Marines killed. (www.fleetairarmarchive.net notes Capt. Ford's father was a member of the Canadian Engineers, and was killed in the First

World War.)

- 19 #15 OTU Wellington II Z8364 accident, **S/L J.H. Van MiD RAF (Can.)** killed, **F/O R.E. Chandler** and Sgt A. Wood RAF injured, Sgt R.H. Adams RAF, Sgt W.R.H. Iliffe RAF and Sgt H.F. Pocock RAF safe ([www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 19-20 70 Sqn. Wellington Ic T2987 'O' shot down by flak over Benina Airfield, Libya, **P/O H.D. Grey RAF (Can.)**, **F/S E.E. Nelson**, Sgt P.F. Matthews RAAF, Captain L.N. Evans SAAF, Sgt J.F. Liles RAF, S/L H. Parkinson RAF, F/S D.E. Webb RAF killed (A. Storr; BLME V.2 Errata).
- 19-20 70 Sqn. Wellington Ic Z8728 'U' crashed attempting a forced landing after losing an engine returning from a sortie attacking Benina Airfield, **F/S C.M. Complin RCAF (UK)**, Sgt H.H. Brown RAF, Sgt M. Hogarth RAF, Sgt R.G. Prior RAF, W/C W.A.A. De Freitas DFC RAF and P/O D. Woodcock RAF killed.

Saturday

**20 First land based aircraft to land in Bermuda, an RAF Ferry Command Liberator from Dorval, Quebec, lands at newly completed USAAF Kindley Field, first of regular shuttle services between Dorval and Bermuda (<http://www.bermuda-online.org/aviation.htm>).**

**Off Santa Cruz Island the Japanese submarine I-23 damages the tanker Agwiworld, which manages to make a port under fire (B. Coyle).**

- 20 84 Sqn. Blenheim IV T2394 flew into the ground in a dust storm at Gambut, Libya, on a sortie to attack enemy motor transportation, **WO2 C.H. Bumstead**, F/S C.S.H. Bayford RAF, Sgt C.S. Mort RAF and Sgt T.W. Sherratt RAF killed. WO Bumstead was a passenger on the flight.
- 20 #59 OTU Hurricane I R4086 collided on approach with another Hurricane and crashed, killing **Sgt K.F. Peters**.
- 20 RCAF Station Trenton, Ontario, Harvard I #1346 crashed near Belleville, Ontario, **P/O F.N. Hilton RCAF (USA)** and **P/O R. McRee RCAF (USA)** killed (R.W.R. Walker).
- 20 #18 EFTS, Boundary Bay, BC, DH.82C Tiger Moth aircraft #4099 and #4052 collided in mid-air. **LAC(P) D.P. Froud** successfully bailed out of #4052 but fell into the Fraser River and drowned. (R.W.R. Walker notes that Tiger Moth #4099 was turned into instructional airframe A 359 in 1944 and #4052 was a Presentation Aircraft but the name of the donor is not known).

Sunday

**21 (Dec. 22 local date) Attack on Wake Island destroys last of US Marine fighter aircraft. Japanese land on western Luzon, Philippines (Shores, Cull & Izawa).**

- 21 201 Sqn. Sunderland II W3998 crashed on take-off in England for a transitioning flight

to Gibraltar, F/L D.J. Fletcher RAF, AC1 R. Cunningham RAF, Cpl J.H. Martin RAF, F/S H.F. Mitchell RAF, AC2 J. Robinson RAF and AC2 W. Watson RAF killed, **Sgt J.W. Douglas RAF (Can.)**, AC1 K.W. Bennett RAF, LAC J.B. Hides RAF, Sgt H.L. Southall RAF and LAC J.H. Wallace RAF missing, Sgt G.F.H. Booth RAF, P/O W.W. Ince RAF, Sgt H.S. Lodge RAF and Sgt A. Penny RAF injured. Sgt Douglas was a Biggs' Boy (K. Stofer).

- 21 #1 (Coastal) OTU Hudson V AM624 crashed into rising ground in the lake district, **Sgt E.D. Parrish**, F/O S.D.J. Dalgleish RAF, Sgt J.W. Leadill RAF and Sgt C.H. Page RAF killed (R. Allenby).
- 21 #5 EFTS, High River, Alberta, DH.82C Tiger Moths #5858 and #5927 collided on the ground. Both repaired, see October 30, 1942 (R.W.R. Walker).
- 21 #13 SFTS, St. Hubert, Quebec, Harvard II #3145 struck a hill near St. Sauveur Des Monts, Quebec, **P/O A.H. Coulter** killed.

**21-22 812 Sqn. FAA Swordfish uses ASV radar to sink the U-451 at night off Morocco (M.J.H. Taylor).**

***First escort carrier HMS Audacity sunk by a U-boat off Finisterre on her 4th convoy escort voyage. On these she had shot down 7 Fw 200 aircraft and forced several U-boats to dive, so they could be avoided. The ship was part of an escort for convoy HG-76, heading to England. A destroyer and 2 merchant ships were lost as well, but 5 of the 12 attacking U-boats were also sunk (D. Sommerville).***

***At Gander, Newfoundland, a weather balloon carrying a light for tracking was released to track winds aloft. Variable wind conditions at the airport caused the balloon to move in different directions, appearing from the ground to be a light circling the airport. Spotted by observers on the ground it was believed to be an aircraft, and as all known flights were accounted for, it was deemed hostile. This resulted in a general alert and a blackout being implemented all over Newfoundland. In Gander local army patrols unable to find keys to locked buildings resorted to shooting out exterior lights. The Dominion was blacked out for 3 hours until the unknown light was explained (C.F. Warren et al).***

***Around this date the Japanese Navy had submarines stationed off the Pacific coast of North America from the Mexican border to Vancouver Island, seeking to destroy naval ships using US ports and the Canadian naval base at Esquimalt. In particular they were seeking the USN carriers, which they believed would abandon the Pearl Harbour base and seek refuge in mainland***



***US ports, a serious misreading of the USA and the US Navy (B. Coyle).***

Monday

***22 (Dec. 23, local date) Japanese land on Wake Island (Shores, Cull & Izawa).***

***Allied aircraft in Malaya evacuated to Singapore and Sumatra (G. Beauchamp).***

***Arcadia Conference begins in Washington, DC, between PM Churchill and President Roosevelt, on the future conduct of the war. These built on the framework of the ABC-1 talks and the Atlantic Conference.***

***North of Los Angeles the Japanese submarine I-19 shells the tanker H.M. Storey in view of civilians on a beach. On fire, the tanker made it to a small port and was saved (B. Coyle).***

- 22 40 Sqn. crew of Wellington Ic X9993, **Sgt G.A. Little**, Sgt G.H. Easton RNZAF, Sgt C.N. Hardman RAF, Sgt F.H. Cochrane RAF, Sgt K.R. Blackhurst RAF and Sgt A.E. Boorman RAF were returning to Malta in a 230 Sqn. Sunderland T9071 which was attacked by Bf 110 aircraft and forced landed in the sea, Sgt Hardman RAF killed in the attack and Sgt Boorman was wounded after he took over the rear turret when it's gunner was mortally wounded. Sgt J. Dupont RAAF claimed a Bf 110 as a probable after taking over from a wounded gunner (D. Newton). F/O B.E.L. Odhams RAF died of wounds the next day (Kevin www.rafcommands.com). According to B. Barry et al, **E.B. Knight**, later a F/L, was a member of the flying boats crew. The survivors of the Sunderland evaded, and later returned to Allied lines with 130 Italian PoWs. See May 26, 1944.
- 22 407 Sqn. Hudson V AM728 RR-V lost on a ROVER patrol off of Holland, possibly shot down by flak, **F/S J.M. Cluff**, **F/S D. Moss DFM**, Sgt M.H. MacDonald RAF and Sgt S.C. Herbert RAF missing (407 SH).
- 22 78 Sqn. observer **F/S A.C. Darrell** died in England of natural causes.
- 22 #13 SFTS, St. Hubert, Quebec, **Cpl W.H.E. Leach** died of natural causes.
- 22 Security guard **LAC W.J. Redford** died in Canada of natural causes after having been medically discharged less than a month before (www.rafcommands.com).

***22-23 Wilhelmshaven attacked by 22 bombers, none lost (BC War Diaries).***

22-23 405 Sqn. Wellington II W5560 LQ-M returned from an operation to Germany early with engine problems and crash landed on approach to land, **Sgt L.S. Mather**, Sgt R.N. Lonergan RAAF and Sgt A.R. Skuthorpe RAF injured, Sgt G.A. Tilley RAF and Sgt Campbell RAF safe (R. Allenby; www.rafcommands.com).

Tuesday

**23 (Dec. 24 local date) Wake Island captured after an all night fight (Polsson).**

**(Dec. 24 local date) Japanese land a third force on south east Luzon (Shores, Cull & Izawa).**

**(Dec. 24 local date) In the Philippines General MacArthur orders his forces to prepare to withdraw to the Bataan Peninsula after declaring Manila to be an "open city" (Polsson). The withdrawal to this strong defensive position had been part of US planning for more than a decade but it relied on quick relief by US forces sailing across the Pacific escorted by battleships, and did not envision that the Japanese would have already seized bases east of the Philippines, or that they would have eliminated the naval escort force. Further this defensive plan had been declared obsolete by MacArthur when he took over command in the Philippines (as his intentions were to hold the islands as a base for offensive operations using his bomber and fighter force similar to England and the RAF), so no pre-positioning of supplies and ammunition to Bataan had taken place, and no defensive positions, supply dumps, hospitals, roads or airfields had been prepared there.**

**(Dec. 24 local date) The first Blenheim IV bombers sent as reinforcements arrive in Singapore, led by F/L C.W. Harper RAF (Can.). Sgt L. Keene was one of the aircrew (Shores, Cull & Izawa). See June 18, 1942.**

**VLR Liberators of 120 Sqn. arrive over Convoy HG-76 well out to sea and succeed in driving off U-boats shadowing the convoy, the first success for these long range aircraft. With further escorts from England and aircraft patrol the convoy made England without further losses (M. Milner).**

**Off the US Pacific coast Japanese submarines attacked 3 merchant ships, torpedoing and sinking the tanker Montebello, bound for Vancouver, off Monterey Bay (B. Coyle).**

23     240 Sqn. Catalina I W8418 BN-U crashed into the sea in England on landing from a convoy escort, F/O V.V. Havlicek RCAF (Czech.), P/O A.G.W. Debonnaire RAF, F/S F.R. Lewis RAF, F/S G.E. Jones RAF, Sgt J.S. Gray RAF and Sgt S. Lockett RAF missing, P/O K.A.W. Patterson RAF safe, Sgt Murphy RAF, Sgt Westby RAF and Sgt Missett RAF status unknown (safe?) (R. McNeill, Wynnum www.rafcommands.com). A book was published in the Czech republic by Pavel Vancata, *RCAF bylo jejich osudem*, about 3 RCAF/RAF airmen, including F/O Havlicek.

- 23 #12 OTU Wellington Ic DV430 flew into the ground on a night flying exercise, **Sgt C.L. McCallum, Sgt G.E. Ford**, Sgt R.H. Badland RNZAF, Sgt G.H. Ferguson RAF and Sgt G.C. Cavanagh RAF were all injured, but not seriously. See July 31-Aug. 1, 1942.
- 23 MSFU, CAM Ship *Eastern City*, **LAC R. Finnie RAF (Can.)** missing, believed to have been lost overboard ([www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 23 #33 EFTS, Caron, Saskatchewan, brand new DH.82C Tiger Moth #5967 crashed into the South Saskatchewan River near Medicine Hat on a ferry flight from Calgary after striking wires strung across the river, P/O R.G. Littlewood RAF (#34 EFTS) killed (B. Barry et al, D.J. Carter, R.W.R. Walker).

**23-24 Bomber Command sends 68 bombers to Cologne, 47 to Brest, 9 to Ostend, 3 to Dunkirk and 17 GARDENING sorties with no losses but two crash in England (BC War Diaries).**

Wednesday

**24 A planned simultaneous shelling of major ports from BC to California by Japanese submarines on Christmas Eve, planned pre-war, was called off as it was feared there would be retaliations on Japanese living in Canada and the USA. Attacks on shipping continued however as a timber ship was torpedoed and a US Navy armed yacht was chased and run aground. These attacks on shipping might have been more effective but the submarines were equipped with a newly developed torpedo that suffered many defects. Defence in Canada and the USA was complicated by these submarines releasing dummy periscopes made from bamboo that attracted many attacks and made it seem these submarines were everywhere. Convoys were soon organized on the US Pacific coast, and the RCN became responsible for escorting from the Strait of Juan de Fuca north to Alaska, and west to Dutch Harbour and later as far as Adak. These included convoys of Lend-Lease material heading to the Soviet Union (B. Coyle).**

**(Dec. 25 local date) Running out of ammunition and short of water, exhausted British, Indian and Canadian forces in Hong Kong surrender to Japanese. Mistreatment of civilians and prisoners occurs, including the massacre of wounded soldiers and medical staff at hospitals. Of the 1,973 Canadian soldiers sent to Hong Kong 290 were killed and 493 wounded in the fighting. Of the 1,683 taken prisoner 260 would die in Japanese PoW camps, and the health of all the survivors was badly affected by malnutrition. As happened across the Far East no information on the Canadian or other Allied soldiers fates was reported by the Japanese, and their families had to wait until the**

**wars end to find out who had survived. Nursing sisters *Lt Kay Christie* and *Lt Anna May Waters* were the only women in the Canadian Military to be captured in the war, both survived to be repatriated in 1945 (J. Boileau).**

***Islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon off Newfoundland seized by Free French forces (CJCA headline). US Secretary of State Hull demands that Canada take action to evict them and return the Islands to Vichy control under the Panama Declaration are politely ignored (Oxford). Neither France, Newfoundland, Britain or Canada were a party to the Panama Declaration.***

- 24 OADU Wellington II Z8377 landed on a ferry flight at Malta but the pilot, *Sgt K.H. Owens*, was blinded by the sun and taxied the aircraft off the airfield into soft ground. The aircraft was only slightly damaged but was destroyed by enemy bombing before it could be recovered.
- 24 #7 B&G School, Paulson, Manitoba, *AC2 D.R. Young RCAF (USA)* died of carbon monoxide poisoning when on home leave.
- 24 #12 SFTS, Brandon, Man, Crane I #7773 crashed, LAC H.G. Deery RNZAF killed. See #12 SFTS loss July 25, 1942.
- 24 #36 SFTS, Penhold, Alberta, Oxford I AS523 crashed, LAC D.A. Phillips RAF and LAC P.E. Bushell RAF injured. See Dec. 26, below and Jan. 6, 1942.

Thursday

- 25 205 Sqn. Catalina I AH540 'Z' was on a reconnaissance from Singapore seeking a reported group of Japanese ships when it was intercepted by a Japanese bomber that set it on fire and forced it to land on the sea. The survivors, *P/O D.B. Babineau*, F/L R.A. Atkinson RAF (Aus.), P/O S.E. Scales RNZAF, Sgt R.A. Borchers RAAF, Sgt T.D. Morris RAF, Sgt P. Smith RAF, Cpl J. Wyant RAF, LAC D. Ballard and Petty Officer Heath RN, were picked up the next day by a Dutch submarine, almost all burned or wounded. This was this crews third action in the last 10 days. The second aircraft on this operation flown by *S/L A.M. Jardine RAF (Can.)*, was not intercepted (A. Storr; Shores, Cull & Izawa).
- 25 *Sgt R.A. Bishop* and air gunner *Sgt D. Houston RCAF (USA)* were lost at sea when the Swedish SS *Shantung* caught fire in Convoy and was abandoned in the Atlantic ([www.naval-history.net](http://www.naval-history.net)), and later sunk by Coastal Command aircraft January 2, 1942, off Iceland. Two crew and 3 passengers were lost. The cause of the fire was suspected to be sabotage ([www.wartimes.ca](http://www.wartimes.ca)).
- 25 #14 SFTS, Aylmer, Ontario, Harvard II #2772 crashed, no injuries, aircraft repaired (M.L. McIntyre).

***25-26 Soviet forces make a series of amphibious landings on the Kerch Peninsula in support of besieged Sevastopol (Oxford).***



Friday

**26 #8 (BR) Sqn. RCAF moved from Sydney, NS to Sea Island, BC (RCAF Sqns.).**

**Churchill addresses the US Congress (K. Farrington).**

**(Dec. 27 local date) Manila bombed by Japanese Army Air Force (Polsson).**

**(Dec. 27 local date) Japanese Army establishes a PoW Information Bureau to receive information provided by the Allied nations under the Geneva Convention on Japanese taken prisoner. This Bureau did not pass any of this information on to the relatives of the Japanese prisoners, as the military wished to maintain the idea that no Japanese soldier or sailor ever surrendered (wikipedia). At around the same time the Japanese government informed the Allies that although they had not ratified the 1929 Geneva Convention they would follow it, when in fact they never did. (Note that this policy was recent, and Japan in it's war with Russia in 1905 and in the First World War followed similar humane policies as the rest of the industrialized world in treatment of PoWs) (wikipedia).**

- 26 18 Sqn. Blenheim IV Z7796 lost on an anti-shipping patrol off Sicily, believed shot down, **Sgt W.C. Marshall RAF (Can.)**, Sgt J.F. Billett RAF and Sgt O.C. Summers RAF missing (Gunby & Temple).
- 26 OADU Blenheim IV Z7972 ditched just after leaving Malta when an engine cut out, P/O J.G. Heatherington RAF missing, **Sgt G.F. Wallace** and Sgt G.T. Weston RAF injured.
- 26 #13 OTU RAF Blenheim P4856 crashed when an engine failed on take-off on a training flight, **Sgt W.F. Boggs RCAF (USA)**, Sgt F.R. Morris RAF and Sgt J.W. Kennedy RAF killed.
- 26 Western Air Command Marine Squadron, Workshop Scow M-159 unknown location, seaman **Sgt C.D. Walker** drowned while on duty. These unpowered ships were built for the RCAF in the 1930s, and were able to provide maintenance to flying boats and act as weather stations (www.nauticapedia.ca).
- 26 #3 Manning Depot, Edmonton, Alberta, radio mechanic **AC2 L.L. Long** died in hospital of pneumonia (B. Barry et al).
- 26 #20 EFTS, Oshawa, Ontario, DH.82C Tiger Moth #5908 lightly damaged in Erin Township, possibly a forced landing (R.W.R. Walker). See December 28, below.
- 26 #36 SFTS, Penhold, Alberta, LAC D.A. Phillips RAF died of injuries in the loss of Oxford AS523 (Dec. 24, above), buried in Scotland.

Saturday

**27 Operation ARCHERY, a Commando raid on Vaagso, Norway, first Combined Operation of the war, takes place. Part of the long range fighter cover was provided by Blenheim IVFs of 404 Squadron. Bomber Command loses 8 of 29 aircraft sent to support the attack (BC War Diaries). (See W.H. Cleaver for a description of this operation by 404 Sqn.). As a result of this operation Hitler believed England might be planning to invade Norway, and among other measures a number of U-boats were kept in the Arctic for a four month period, away from the Atlantic convoys and North American coast (D. Sommerville).**

**Off Oregon the Japanese submarine I-25 torpedoed and damaged the tanker Connecticut in the Columbia River. This was the last attack of the year as the submarines, not having seen any aircraft carriers, had been ordered to pull back to blockade Hawaii (B. Coyle).**

- 27 110 Sqn. Blenheim IV V6448 lost supporting Commando landings at Vaagso, Norway, shot down by flak when attacking shipping off the Norwegian coast, P/O D.M. Jenkinson, P/O R.J. McLachlan and Sgt R.C Hawkes RAF missing.
- 27 404 Sqn. Blenheim IVF Z6181 EE-B, Sgt McCutcheon, Sgt Cleaver and Sgt Cruikshanks, claimed 1 Bf 109 probable and another as probably destroyed in a fight over the Commando operation at Vaagso (COL BRUGGY and CZ\_RAF at [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)). The sortie from Wick to Vaagso and return took 6 hours.
- 27 #111 (F) Sqn. Kittyhawk I AK887 (RCAF #1049) spun, crashed and burned in residential Vancouver near 2261 South West Marine Drive while on a practise flight, Sgt C.B. Pierce killed (R.W.R. Walker). Due to the urgency to improve defences on the West Coast these aircraft were obtained quickly from the USA from production for England and flown with their RAF serials. There were also shortages of coolant and radio equipment for the fighters (440 SH).

**27-28 Bomber Command sends 132 bombers to attack Düsseldorf, 96 claim to have bombed the target but the city reports only light damage. Other operations include 34 bombers to Boulogne, 29 to Brest, 5 GARDENING sorties and 6 Blenheims of 82 Sqn. to bomb Soesterburg Airfield, the first INTRUDER operations to suppress Luftwaffe night fighters. Seven bombers and one Special Operations aircraft were lost (BC War Diaries).**

- 27-28 58 Sqn. Whitley V Z9210 GE-J shot down over Germany, F/S F.J. Goat, Sgt R.A. Scott RAF, Sgt K.E. Stewart RAF, Sgt E.S. Briggs RAF and Sgt R.I. Rhodes RAF killed.
- 27-28 58 Sqn. Whitley V Z6841 GE-F lost without trace, F/S J.J. Lynch RCAF (USA), P/O M.J. Hunt RNZAF, Sgt E.F.E. Hodges RAF, Sgt R.A. Johnson RAF and Sgt I. Allan RAF missing.

- 27-28 77 Sqn. Whitley V Z6956 lost over Germany, Sgt W.A. Blackburn RAF killed, **P/O C.W. Murphy**, WO C.H. Grace RAF, Sgt A.B. Wiggins RAF and F/O R.J. Kimbell RAF PoW.
- 27-28 77 Sqn. Whitley V Z9226 lost over Germany, **WO2 W. Jowett**, P/O A.D. Scott-Martin RAF, P/O J.N. Chisholm RAF, Sgt S.G. Thompson RAF and Sgt P.G. Clark RAF killed.
- 27-28 77 Sqn. Whitley V Z9306 KN-S shot down over Holland by a night fighter, **F/S E.D. Ozment**, P/O C.A.C. Havelock RAF, Sgt R. Shuttleworth RAF and Sgt E. Fieldson RAF killed, **Sgt D.M. Godard** was taken PoW. F/S Ozment had been slightly injured in a flying accident near Juniata, Saskatchewan on March 5, 1941.
- 27-28 138 Sqn. Whitley V Z9385 crashed on return to base from a Special Duties operation PICKAXE II to Germany, **Sgt J.R. Petts**, Sgt G.R.S. Gordon RAF and Sgt H.A. Pickering RAF killed, **F/S A.W. Reimer** injured (see Jan. 12, 1942).

Sunday

- 28 407 Sqn. Hudson, pilot **P/O L. Cowperthwaite**, was one of 10 Squadron aircraft attacking a large convoy off Holland. After scoring 2 direct hits on a merchant ship his Hudson was hit by flak that wounded wireless operator air gunner (in the turret position?) Sgt W. Middlemiss RAF, breaking both his legs. Sgt Middlemiss continued to direct P/O Cowperthwaite until the aircraft was clear of the convoy's flak before fainting. He was later awarded a MiD (407 SH).
- 28 OADU Blenheim IV Z7294 stalled and crashed into the sea off Gibraltar after an engine cut on approach and the wheels were raised by mistake instead of the flaps, Sgt R. Sangster RAF and passenger Cpl W.H. Wallett RAF missing, **Sgt D.R. McKinnon** and P/O A.T. Lawson-Tancred RAF injured. Sgt McKinnon possibly lost July 29, 1942 in a 18 Sqn. Blenheim.
- 28 #20 EFTS, Oshawa, Ontario, DH.82C Tiger Moth #5908 damaged again in Erin Township for the second time in two days. It is thought it crashed making a take-off from the site of it's forced landing on December 26. More extensively damaged, it was not repaired (R.W.R. Walker).

**28-29 Clear weather gave Bomber Command the opportunity to make damaging attacks on Wilhelmshaven (86 bombers), Huls (81), Emden (40) and other operations, 217 total sorties, 6 lost (BC War Diaries). Operation ANTHROPOID, two Czechoslovakian agents trained by the SOE in assassination, dropped into Czechoslovakia (R. Moorhouse). See May 27, 1942.**

- 28-29 51 Sqn. Whitley V Z9202 MH-P believed shot down off the Dutch coast by a night fighter, **F/S O.H. Burchell**, **Sgt J.H. Durning**, Sgt F.G.W. Roberts RAF, Sgt R.A. Priestly RAF, Sgt H.J. Groom RAF and Sgt E.A. Spicer RAF missing.

28-29 405 Sqn. Wellington II W5561 LQ-J lost over Germany, **F/S J.R.F. Bourgeau**, **F/S J.C. Donkin**, **Sgt D.K. Gordon RAF (Can.)**, Sgt E.J. Williams RNZAF, Sgt R. James RAF and Sgt W. Langhorne RAF killed.

28-29 408 Sqn. Hampden I P1165 EQ-B shot down over Holland by a night fighter, Sgt D.W. Thane RNZAF, Sgt D.T. Williams RAF and Sgt P.F. Isaac RAF killed, **P/O S.B.K. Brackenbury** PoW.

#### Monday

- 29 40 Sqn. Wellington Ic X9907 was bombed up and the crew was nearby waiting to board it when it was destroyed in an air raid on Malta, Sgt F.J. Sunley RAF was killed, **Sgt D.T. Taylor**, Sgt A.J. Brogan RAF, Sgt J.A. Tipton RAF, Sgt J.D. Martin RAF and Sgt S. Sheperdson RAF were injured. There were 4 more 40 Sqn., a 104 Sqn. and 2 OADU Wellingtons destroyed in this raid. See Oct. 24, 1942.
- 29 213 Sqn., Egypt, Hurricane I Z4205 crashed on take-off due to an engine failure, killing **P/O R.C. Du Pasquier RCAF (Switzerland)**.
- 29 242 (Canadian) Sqn., two Hurricane aircraft collided over Malta, **P/O M.C. Blanchard RCAF (USA)** killed in Hurricane IIc BE343, **F/L S.E. Andrews** parachuted to safety from Hurricane IIb BE344 ([www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 29 10 Sqn. Halifax II L9614 collided on take-off for a night training exercise with Halifax II V9981 and both were written off. There were no casualties on V9981, but **Sgt W.W. Tripp** and Sgt W.C. Green RAF were killed in L9614. The other crewmen involved in this accident were Sgt J.H. Beare RAF, S/L J.A. Crockett RAF, F/O J.H.N. Molesworth RAF, F/O J.H.N. Molesworth RAF, Sgt S.T.A. Rouse RAF, W/C J.A.H. Tuck RAF and Sgt W.W. Watt RAF injured, **Sgt F. Faljoski**, **P/O R.P. Hughes**, Sgt P/ Bell RAF and Sgt V.C. Howick RAF safe ([www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 29 #19 OTU Whitley IV K9029 was in the landing circuit when an engine caught fire, forcing it to crash land, **Sgt H. Harrison** and his crew safe.
- 29 #10 (BR) Sqn. RCAF Gander, Newfoundland, Digby #744 lost on anti-submarine patrol, **F/S A. Chapman**, **Sgt C.G. Heeney**, armourer **LAC J.S. Legon**, **P/O A.W. Runte**, **P/O K.G. Schaefer** and **F/O J.W.P. Skidmore RCAF (USA)** missing.
- 29 #1 Manning Depot, Toronto, Ontario, **AC2 A.F. Gillap** collapsed and died of natural causes while on parade ([www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com)).
- 29 #5 EFTS, High River, Alberta, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4090 crashed attempting a forced landing 5 miles south east of High River, killing **LAC(P) K.K. McLaughlin**.

#### Tuesday

**30 Churchill addresses Canadian Parliament.**

***Just after his speech Ottawa portrait photographer Yousef Karsh photographs Churchill, creating one of the most famous images of the British Prime***



**Minister, now appearing on the new British £5 note.**

***Bomber Command sent 16 Halifax bombers on a daylight attack on Brest, 3 lost and the rest damaged (BC War Diaries).***

- 30 Three Catalina flying boats arrive in Singapore to reinforce 205 Sqn., navigators **F/O J.M. Barnes** and **Sgt R.D. Bonnar** were part of the crews (T.W. Melnyk).
- 30 35 Sqn. Halifax II R9364 TL-M hit in the fuselage and an engine by flak but returned safely to England, **P/O R.J. Lane**, Sgt H.A. Williams, Sgt A. Sykes, Sgt L.S. Thorpe RAF, Sgt F.E. Flint, Sgt L. Martin and Sgt Crowther safe (R. Allenby; 35squadron.wordpress.com). See April 27-28, 1942.
- 30 76 Sqn. Halifax II L9615 MP-X hit by flak attacking Brest in daylight and crashed off the French coast, **F/S W.R. Gates**, **P/O D.S. King RCAF (Argentina)**, Sgt S.M. Wilson RAAF, Sgt P.D. Randall RAF, Sgt L. Blair RAF, Sgt H.J. Toski RAF and Sgt F. Eaton RAF missing. See also Oct. 14-15 above.
- 30 #55 OTU, two Master aircraft T8567 and N8076 practicing instrument flight, collided over their airfield and crashed. **P/O A.R. Kirby** and Sgt L.D. Wright RAAF were killed in T8567 and Sgt P.M. Piggott RAAF and Sgt W.G. Bothe RAAF were killed in N8076 (A. Storr).
- 30 #4 (BR) Sqn. RCAF, Ucluelet, BC, Stranraer #928 crashed into dense forest near the base returning from an anti-submarine patrol, **F/O R.J. Gray**, **Sgt M.N. McKay**, **P/O A.C. Scruton** and air frame mechanic **Cpl W.J. Zenkie** killed, 4 crew survived (*BC Times Colonist, Other BC Crashes and Losses*).

Wednesday

***31 Germans forced off of Crimean Peninsula (Oxford).***

***(Jan. 1, 1942 local date) US and Philippine forces on Luzon are concentrated in the Bataan Peninsula, Japanese Army units enter Manila. RAAF Hudsons from Rabaul make a damaging attack on the Japanese base at Kapingamarangi, southern most of the Caroline Islands (D. Vincent).***

***With the outbreak of the war the two special long range aircraft designed for the non-stop flight from Tokyo to New York, now known as the Tachikawa A-26 (for Asahi 2600), which were behind schedule but nearly complete, are stored (T. Gywnn-Jones). See May, 1942.***

- 31 229 Sqn. Hurricane "BD276" lost in Libya, **F/S C.W.M. Burns** missing (B. Barry et al). Probably Hurricane IIb BD726 (jcfri www.rafcommands.com).
- 31 #22 OTU pilot **Sgt K.W. Reilly** was killed when he was struck by a car in England.
- 31 #6 (BR) Sqn. RCAF, Alliford Bay, BC, Stranraer #922 QN-F caught fire and sank at moorings while undergoing a daily inspection in the early morning when leaking fuel

was set on fire by the work crews lanterns (H. Tate, R.W.R. Walker).

***31 In the USA production of military aircraft reached 19,433, an increase of 80% over the previous year (P.A. Sammons).***

***Manpower of the RCAF 8,264 officers and 90,340 airmen and airwomen. Overseas strength of the RCAF had risen from 3 to 21 squadrons deployed in England. Over 79 Air Cadet units were operating across the country (Airforce Magazine, Spring 1991).***

***In 1941 the BCATP graduated 9,367 pilots, 2,884 navigators and 4,132 wireless operators, bomb aimers and air gunners (Oxford).***

[www.bombercommandmuseumarchive.ca](http://www.bombercommandmuseumarchive.ca)