During the year the chief RCAF Medical Officer in England, W/C A.R. Tilley, moved from London to East Grinstead where his training in reconstructive surgery could be put to effective use (R. Donovan). See July 1944.

January 1942

419 Sqn. begins to equip with Wellington Ic aircraft (RCAF Sqns.).

Air Marshal H. Edwards was posted from Ottawa, where as Air Member for Personnel he had overseen recruitment of instructors and other skilled people during the expansion of the BCATP, to London, England, to supervise the expansion of the RCAF overseas. There he finds that RCAF airmen sent overseas are not being tracked or properly supported by the RAF. At this time the location of some 6,000 RCAF airmen seconded to RAF units are unknown to the RCAF. He immediately takes steps to change this, and eventually had RCAF offices set up in Egypt and India to provide administrative support to RCAF airmen posted to these areas. He also begins pressing for the establishment of truly RCAF squadrons under Article 15 (a program sometimes referred to as "Canadianization"), despite great opposition from the RAF (E. Cable). He succeeded, but at the cost of his health, leading to his early retirement in 1944.

Early in the year the Fa 223 helicopter was approved for production.

In a program designed by E.A. Bott the results of psychological testing on 5,000 personnel selected for aircrew during 1942 were compared with the results of the actual training to determine which tests were the most useful. The results of this study were then used to refine the selection process, making RCAF aircrew selection one of the most advanced in the world (English).

During 1942 anti-submarine aircraft of Coastal Command began to replace the camouflage scheme used, which had light colours on the underside only similar to aircraft used over land, with a new scheme that had the bottom and sides of the aircraft painted white. Tests had shown that this white scheme would better blend into the pale colour of the sky, when cloud covered or clear, and delayed attacking aircraft being spotted by submarine lookouts by 10-15 seconds, which markedly increased their probable success, just as it does for fishing seabirds. This white scheme was also used on aircraft that operated at night looking for submarines using radar, which seems odd until one considers that these aircraft then "blended in" during the day when parked on the ground, and neither their special status with secret equipment, nor the fact that they were used primarily at night, was obvious to observers or photo interpreters. It is interesting to note that in the book The R.C.A.F. Overseas - The Fifth Year, published during the war, a photo was published with the caption "A
Wellington of the Demon [407] Squadron”, but the aircraft is a black painted B.II, an already obsolete version, not a radar equipped GR.XIV, possibly for secrecy purposes. (It is also interesting to note that present RAF Maritime Patrol aircraft are painted a shade of light brown, as white would stand out against modern air pollution). See June, below.

[This change in the colour scheme of anti-submarine aircraft was the first of many changes made by the Operational Research Section of Coastal Command, a group of scientists whose job it was to analyze the tactics of Coastal Command and determine what worked and improve what didn’t. For a useful discussion of this work see M. Gannon’s Black May. One of their improvements later applied to all Commonwealth Air Forces was centralization of aircraft maintenance, which increased the number of aircraft serviceable, and thus increased the number that were available to be flown on operations. Readers will note the appearance of Service Echelons which were part of this program.]

As well at this time the Air Ministry in London opened a new Missing Research Section, to build a database of every Commonwealth airman missing or killed over enemy territory, to assist in later investigations of their fates (S. Hadaway). See December, 1944.

(From this point on I will try to place aircraft losses on a daily basis from East to West from the International Date Line, events in the Pacific, Middle East, Africa, Europe and North America in that order, to give sense of the global aspect of the war and RCAF operations).

Thursday

1 Soviet advance from Moscow continues (Polsson). Stalin makes public statement predicting victory over Germany in 1942 (Oxford).

Rommel makes a fighting withdrawal to Tripoli (M. Carver).


Air Force Headquarters Ferry Squadron formed at Rockcliffe, Ontario (RCAF Sqns.).

Fifteen nations including Canada sign the Declaration of the United Nations in Washington.

In order to conserve steel for war production, manufacture and sale of private cars and trucks is stopped in the USA (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).

1 #60 OTU Defiant I N3432 flew into a hillside in the Lake District of England on a ferry flight, Sgt H. Wolf RCAF (USA) killed (R. Allenby).

Friday

2 Manila and the bombed out Cavite Naval Base are captured by advancing Japanese forces
Eighth Army storms Bardia in Libya.

415 Sqn., due to shortages of Beaufort torpedo bombers the Squadron returns its Beaufort I aircraft and begins to receive Hampden I aircraft configured as torpedo bombers (RCAF Sqns.). (For details of the development of the Hampden for torpedo bombing see I.H. Masson).

#14 (F) Sqn. formed at Rockcliffe, Ontario, on Harvard aircraft (RCAF Sqns.).

First trained members of the Canadian Women's Air Force Auxiliary report for duty to #2 SFTS, Uplands, Ontario.

#8 EFTS closes after only a month at its new base at Boundary Bay, BC (http://www.bombercrew.com/BCATP.htm).


2 417 Sqn. Spitfire Ila P7983 in a ground collision with Spitfire P7544 (www.spitfires.ukf.net). P7983 later repaired, but P7544 was written off.

2 402 Sqn. bomber Hurricane Iib BE483 shot down over the English Channel on a shipping reconnaissance, F/S B.P. O'Neill killed.

2 #10 (BR) Sqn. RCAF Digby #738 PB-N, F/O D.G.J. Maltby, was unable to maintain altitude due to engine problems after taking off from Gander, and ditched in Lockyer Bay, Newfoundland, where it was destroyed by an electrical fire, two crew injured (Dakota www.rafcommands.com). The remains of the aircraft were salvaged (Hagedorn & Hagedorn).

2-3 Bomber Command sent 58 bombers to Brest and St. Nazaire and 36 aircraft on GARDENING off France and the North Sea coast. Bad weather kept most of the bombing force from finding their targets and only 15 bombed, no losses (BC War Diaries).

2-3 78 Sqn. Whitley V Z6556 was returning from operations over France and flew into high ground descending through cloud, Sgt A.J. Attwell, Sgt J.D. Johnson, Sgt E.C. Smith RAF, F/O K. Blyth RAF and Sgt V.E. Shirley RAF were all injured (R. Allenby). See January 5-6, 1945.


Saturday

3 General Wavell appointed commander of Commonwealth forces in Pacific (CJCA headline). General Wavell was appointed commander of ABDA (American-British-Dutch-Australian) Forces to hold the barrier of Borneo, Indonesia and Malaysia (D. Sommerville).
Secret Royal Navy base in Maldives becomes operational after 3 months of intensive construction (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).

3  #22 OTU Wellington Ic X9640 crash-landed attempting a single engined landing at night after an engine failure, killing Sgt H.A. McLennan and F/S G.M. Bigglestone RAF, and injuring Sgt C.T. Martin, Sgt Murphy RAF and Sgt Shoesmith RAF. See Jan. 5, below.

3  #9 (BR) Sqn. RCAF, Bella Bella, BC, AC2 I.A. MacDonald was killed when an aircraft collided with a dinghy.

3-4 Brest attacked by 18 bombers, and 10 more on GARDENING sorties in North Sea, 2 bombers lost (BC War Diaries).


Sunday

4 First Japanese air raid on Rabaul in New Britain (Shores, Cull & Izawa). Japanese Navy land based and flying boat bombers from Truk attacked in 2 waves but cause little damage, the garrison having been warned by RAN Coast Watchers (D. Vincent) (see August 20, below). Day and night attacks would continue until the town and port were occupied January 22, below.

4  30 Sqn. Hurricane I Z4418 shot down over Egypt, P/O F.A. Scott missing.


4  82 Sqn. Blenheim IV Z7689 lost in transit from Egypt to Malta, believed to have been intercepted and shot down by an enemy fighter, F/S D.W. Beirnes, Sgt J.J.H. Robbins RAF and Sgt P. Channing-Pearce RAF missing.

4  82 Sqn. Blenheim IV Z9676 lost between Egypt and Malta, believed shot down by an enemy fighter, Sgt W.C. McNally, Sgt A.L. Guy RAF and Sgt R.M. Mander RAF missing.


4  #7 (BR) Sqn. RCAF, Ucluelet, BC, Shark III aircraft #518 collided with Shark III #549 when practicing air firing and crashed at Shattock Hill, BC, killing F/S J.E.E. Cormier and F/O R.E. McLeod. The other Shark landed safely.

4  #9 AOS St. Jean, Quebec, LAC(Ob) J.E.G. Nadon and his brother, RCAF Station Trenton based Sgt J.Y.J. Nadon, with Sgt Nadon's wife were killed when their car stalled on a level crossing and was struck by a train at Westboro, Ontario.

4  Troopship Duchess of Richmond (ex-Canadian Pacific liner), Sgt M.J. Comer RAF died (Marks www.rafcommands.com), buried at sea? He is commemorated on the Ottawa Memorial.

Monday

5 Russians recapture Belev (CJCA headline). Reinforcements are landed at Sebastopol by the Soviet Black Sea Fleet (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).

Malta under sustained attack by dive bombers for the next two days (Canwell & Sutherland).

A large Italian convoy of supplies lands at Tripoli (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).

#33 EFTS, Caron, Saskatchewan and #41 SFTS, Weyburn, Saskatchewan, open on this date (http://www.bombercrew.com/BCATP.htm).

5 405 Sqn. Wellington II W5589 LQ-F crashed attempting a forced landing in snowy conditions on an air test after an engine burst into flames, Sgt J.B. Gayfer, F/S O.B. Lefurgey, F/S W.A. Robertson, F/S P. Wityck and Sgt J.D. Garrow RAAF killed. Sgt M.P.F. Robson was supposed to have been part of this crew but he missed the transport taking him to the dispersal (R. Allenby). See Feb. 26, below.

5 #22 OTU, Sgt C.T. Martin died of injuries received Jan. 3.

5 #56 OTU Hurricane crashed, Sgt J.B.R. Lalonde killed. Possibly Hurricane I V6734 (malcolm_raf and H. Welting www.rafcommands.com).

5 #11 (BR) Sqn. RCAF, Dartmouth, NS, pilot F/L W.H.E. Drury died of natural causes in hospital.

5 #3 Manning Depot, Edmonton, Alberta, F/O H.O. Nicholl died of natural causes in hospital in Edmonton.

5-6 German warships in Brest attacked by 154 bombers, with 10 more GARDENING off shore and 37 sorties to Cherbourg plus 5 OTU sorties. There were no losses but accurate bombing was hampered by a smoke screen (BC War Diaries).

5-6 407 Sqn. Hudsons sink 1 ship and damage another in the North Sea (I. Wikene).

Tuesday

6 A second successful reconnaissance flight over Pearl Harbour is flown by a submarine launched E14Y1 aircraft (B. Coyle).

Soviet soldiers cross newly formed ice to recapture Hogland Island off Leningrad (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).

6 616 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AA923 lost on a convoy patrol, F/S M.M. Waite missing.

6 #19 OTU Whitley V N1498 flew into high ground descending from a navigation exercise, P/O J.G. Castling RNZAF, P/O J.G. Irvine RNZAF, Sgt C.S. George DFM RAF and Sgt C.W. Green RAF killed, Sgt E.F.J. Kane, Sgt D. Pike RAF and Sgt C.M. Edgehill RAF injured. In 1984 a memorial to those killed was erected at the crash site (E. Martyn at www.rafcommands.com).

6 #32 SFTS, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Harvard II #2724 crashed, LAC R.F. Crowhurst RAF killed.

6-7 148 Sqn. Wellington II Z8363 "F" returned from an operation over Tripoli to its advanced landing ground, then took off for an LG in Egypt but became lost and crash landed in Egypt out of fuel, Sgt W.H. Rothemel, Sgt F.J. Cunnliffe, F/L D.A. Cracknell RAF, Sgt A.C. Fisk RAF, Sgt J.J. Hunter RAF and Sgt C.B. Cox RAF safe.

6-7 The German warships in Brest were attacked by an evening raid of 31 Wellingtons which managed to damage the Gneisenau with a near miss. Other operations over Germany, France and Norway totalled 51 bombers, 1 aircraft lost (BC War Diaries).

6-7 12 Sqn. Wellington II W5514 PH-S was engaged in evasive manoeuvres over Brest, France when the bail out order was given. Only the second pilot, Sgt H.D. Bryant, bailed out before control was regained and the order rescinded. Sadly Sgt Bryant was posted missing. The aircraft crashed on approach to land in England but the rest of the crew, P/O J.M. Garlick RAF, Sgt N. Erskine RAF, Sgt B.L. Schauenberg RAF, Sgt E.F.A. Matthews RAF and Sgt J. Stevens RAF were safe.

6-7 12 Sqn. Wellington II W5523 shot down into the sea off Brest by flak, F/S W.G. Yorke, Sgt P.C. Voller RAAF, Sgt E. Hill RAF, Sgt J. Wild RAF, Sgt J.W. Young RAF and Sgt R.B.H. Driver RAF missing.

6-7 57 Sqn. Wellington Ic Z1096 crashed just after takeoff in England for an evening attack on Brest, F/S D.R. Richardson, Sgt E. Ewings RAF, Sgt R.L.N. Simmons RAF, Sgt L.J. Roe RAF and Sgt V.H. Montstephens RAF killed. The farmer whose land the aircraft crashed on pulled the injured and burned rear gunner P/O S.G. Carter RAF from the wreck.

6-7 102 Sqn. Whitley V Z9289 had an engine overspeed over the coast of France and returned to England. There it could not maintain height and the bomb load was jettisoned safe. Still descending the failed engine was restarted, but burst into flames. The pilot, Sgt A. Hollingsworth RAAF, held the aircraft until the crew had bailed out. He was killed in the crash, possibly while preventing the aircraft crashing into housing (R. Allenby). F/S A.G. Buchanan died when his parachute failed, but Sgt E.A. Brain, Sgt J.T.C. Hazeldine RAF and Sgt L. Jackson RAF survived, the latter injured. There is a plaque remembering Sgt Hollingsworth and F/S Buchanan near the crash site, and a memorial garden at the crash site today (R. Allenby).

Wednesday

7 Encouraged by success in front of Moscow a general counteroffensive by Soviet forces begins over the entire German/Russian front (Polsson). This was on the orders of Stalin and against the advice of his generals, who recommended concentrating available strength against the German forces which had threatened Moscow (D. Sommerville).


7 407 Sqn. Hudsons make a strike by 12 aircraft that damages 7 ships off Terschelling (I. Wikene).

7 504 Sqn. Spitfire Ila P7823 crashed in Eire, P/O W.B.B. McManus killed.

7-8 Bomber Command sent 95 bombers to Brest and St. Nazaire without loss (BC War Diaries).
Thursday

8 Japanese forces land in North Borneo (Shores, Cull & Izawa).

Air Marshal Sir Richard Peirse RAF, C-in-C of Bomber Command, posted to command Allied Air Forces in India, possibly due to losses in Nov. 7-8, 1941 operation (BC War Diaries).


404 Sqn. AC2 S.L. Gregory RAF killed in the Shetland Islands, either hit by a truck (404 SH) or was hit by a propellor (COL BRUGGY www.rafcommands.com).

#1 AOS, Malton, Ontario, Anson I #6831 lost over Lake Ontario, LAC A.M. Morgan, LAC B.B. Sutton RAAF, AC2 J. Witts RAAF and Staff Pilot Mr. C.B. Rutherford missing (Ken MacLean www.rafcommands.com).

34 SFTS, Medicine Hat, Alberta, Harvard II AJ789 crashed 8 miles from the airfield on a routine training flight P/O G.F.S. Mackie and LAC(P) A.W. Robinson RAF killed.

8-9 Brest attacked by 151 bombers plus 31 to Cherbourg, 5 GARDENING and 2 OTU sorties, 1 bomber lost (BC War Diaries).

Friday

9 A specially modified RAAF Hudson bomber makes a photographic reconnaissance of the Japanese base at Truk (D. Vincent).

92 Sqn. Spitfire 'BM298' lost, Sgt H.V. Payne killed. [Serial number suspect, Spitfire BM298 went to Portugal in 1946 (www.spitfires.ukf.net)].

104 Sqn. Wellington II W5491 crashed after taking off as the flaps were left down, and burst into flames, Sgt W.R. Sloggatt RAAF and F/S S.R. Bult RAF killed, Sgt A.C.K. Parsons RAAF died of injuries, F/O V.E. Tapp and Sgt A.J. Brown RAF badly injured, Sgt H.J. Phillip RAF slightly injured. R. Allenby notes F/O Tapp was repatriated back to Canada in May due to his injuries. This aircraft had been with 405 Squadron and was damaged June 4, 1941, by a German air raid, the first RCAF bomber damaged in service.


RAF Ferry Command Hudson III V9125 lost on a ferry flight out of Gander, F/S F.F. Garrity DFM RAF (Can.), F/L J.L. Mitchell RCAF (USA) and F/O K.P. O'Donnell RAF (Aus.) missing. (TSGNO states F/S Garrity lost on a 206 Sqn. Sunderland.)

Composite Training Squadron, Rockcliffe, Ontario, Oxford II #1521 was damaged when it was struck while parked by a Battle #1873, the second incident with this aircraft (R.W.R. Walker).

#1 Manning Depot, Toronto, Ontario, AC2 E. de Lorme died in hospital of natural causes.

USAAF 96th Bomb Sqn., 2 Bomb Group, B-17E 41-2393 crashed landing at an airport in Newfoundland (AAIR).

9-10 Bomber Command attacks the warships at Brest with 82 bombers plus 5 more GARDENING off the port and a NICKEL sortie over France with the loss of 1 bomber (BC War Diaries).
Saturday

10 Japanese land in Dutch Borneo (Shores, Cull & Izawa).

US carrier Saratoga torpedoed off Hawaii by a Japanese submarine, out of service for 5 months (Polsson). See August 31, below.

#119 (BR) Sqn. RCAF deploys from Yarmouth to Sydney, NS (RCAF Sqns.). #121 (K) [Composite] Sqn. RCAF formed at Dartmouth, NS, by combining Eastern Air Command’s Communications Flight and Target Towing Flight, later adding Rescue and Salvage Flight (July) and Calibration Flight (August) (RCAF Sqns.). Similarly #122 (K) Sqn. formed at Patricia Bay, BC, by combining Western Air Command’s Communications and Coastal Artillery Co-operations flights (RCAF Sqns.).

10 1 Sqn. Hurricane IIc crashed when the engine failed making a night landing, Sgt G. Scott injured (P. Caygill). See June 26, below.


10 #32 EFTS, Bowden, Alberta, DH.82C Tiger Moth #5837 flew into the ground 7 miles from Olds, Alberta, seriously injuring LAC(P) Bradley (RAF?) (R.W.R. Walker).

10-11 Bomber Command sent 124 bombers to Wilhelmshaven plus 5 more GARDENING off the port. Good bombing was reported, but only light damage was done. Other operations included 29 bombers to Emden, 2 to Boulogne, 6 INTRUDER and 1 NICKEL sortie, 5 bombers and 1 INTRUDER lost (BC War Diaries).


10-11 103 Sqn. Wellington Ic Z1142 was set on fire and the pilot ordered the crew to bail out. Just after F/L G.E. McGill bailed out the fire went out and the aircraft returned to England. F/L McGill was taken PoW and took part in the Great Escape (T. Barris). This aircraft was later lost in a training accident April 15, 1943 with #21 OTU. See also March 31, 1944.


Sunday

11 Japanese invade Celebes (Shores, Cull & Izawa).


11 416 Sqn. Spitfire damaged when it landed wheels up, Sgt Marshall safe for the second time this day (416 SH).
11-12 Brest attacked by 26 bombers without loss (BC War Diaries).

Off Cape Sable, NS, the German U-123 torpedoes and sinks the SS Cyclops, with the loss of 87 passengers and crew, the first U-boat attack off the North American coast. HMCS Red Deer rescued 90 survivors (wikipedia, www.warsailors.com). See January 14, below.

Monday
12 First daylight bombing raid on Singapore (Shores, Cull & Izawa).

US Navy passes on warning of arrival of U-boats off US coast to its Coastal commands, including Coast Guard, civilian aircraft and boat patrols. Resources to counter the U-boats are limited (partially due to the loan of 50 old destroyers to England in 1941). Neither USN, USCG or USAAF have training in aerial anti-submarine warfare. Despite this, advice from England to black out coastal lights and concentrate shipping in convoys is ignored (english.turkcebilgi.com). Lighthouses, navigation buoys and towns are still lit, and ships still used navigation lights when sailing at night. The US Navy made regular anti-submarine patrols by ships but these are not effective as the U-boats learned the schedule and chose to avoid them (D. Sommerville, M. Gannon). Modern analysis indicates the possibility that the poor performance of the overworked, under trained and poorly equipped RCN escorts observed by the USN prior to their entry into the war, combined with the USN’s aggressive tradition of seeking the enemy out, misled them into dismissing the advice from the English as defeatist. For an example of this the RN Convoying Instructions that guided RCN tactics stated the first priority was the safe and on time arrival of the convoy, while the US Navy instructions placed this as the last priority, while the first priority was to engage enemy forces (M. Milner). There may also have been a prejudice at higher levels of US command about any operational advice given by the Royal Navy. Certainly the RCN had set up an efficient convoy control system, to which the US Navy had been introduced and integrated into (to take over it’s command, as per British plans) but they chose not make use of it (Oxford, J.A. Boutilier et al).

12 70 Sqn. Egypt wireless operator air gunner F/S J.R. Chalmers died of injuries from a vehicle accident.


12 Merchant ship SS Hyngaren was in transit from Halifax to England, P/O M.M. Stewart and P/O S.H. Wright believed swept overboard and are missing.

12 #119 (BR) Sqn. Bolingbroke IV.W #9063, Sgt R.C. Parker, Sgt W.M. Howes, Sgt L.G. Game and Sgt L.A. Gazely, sighted a submarine east of Sydney, NS, and attacked with no results (424 SH).

12 #5 EFTS, High River, Alberta, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4059 damaged and written off (R.W.R.
Walker).

12 #9 SFTS, Summerside, PEI, Harvard II AH202 crashed in a snow squall attempting a night landing, LAC(P) B.L. McIntyre killed.

12 #31 GRS, Charlottetown, PEI, Anson I W1722 collided with N5358 and crashed, AC1 J.F. Agar RAF, LAC E.L. Beaumont RAF and F/O G.D. Calderhead RAF killed.

12 #31 GRS, Charlottetown, PEI, Anson I N5358 crashed after colliding with W1722, LAC K. Ellis RAF, F/L B.J. Rofe RAF and AC1 G.W. Taylor RAF killed. A young employee of the YMCA Canteen at #31 GRS flying as a guest, 16 year old Phillip Compton, was also killed in this accident, but it is not known with which crew (F. Williston at www.rafcommands.com).

12 #32 OTU, Patricia Bay, BC, AC2 F.G. Bradley RAF died, no details.

12 unknown unit (Ferry Command?), P/O M.P. Angland RNZAF, P/O M.M. Campbell RNZAF and P/O W.U. Hewett RNZAF missing in Canada.

Tuesday

13 Dutch forces in Borneo surrender.

A convoy arrived in Singapore with crated Hurricanes and replacement pilots from 17, 135, 136 and 232 Squadrons, including Sgt C.F. Marsh (135 Sqn.), P/O R. Mendizabal, Sgt J.H. Leetham and Sgt J.P. Fleming (all 136 Sqn.) (Shores, Cull & Izawa).

Test Pilot Helmut Schenke becomes the first person to save his life with an ejection seat after the He 280 test aircraft he is flying loses control due to icing while testing impulse jet engines (wikipedia).

In Washington ARCADIA conference agreement reached for USAAF Strategic bombers to be based in England attacking Germany alongside RAF Bomber Command (Polsson).

First flight of the Sikorsky XR-4 Hoverfly helicopter (wikipedia).


13 #8 B&G School, Lethbridge, Alberta, Battle I #2067 caught fire on a gun camera exercise and was destroyed by fire after making a force landing near Picture Butte, Alberta, no casualties (S. Shail).

13 USAAF 71st AB Sqn. Canadian built C-64 (Norseman) 42-5046, force landed due to weather near Stephensville Crossing, Newfoundland (AAIR).

Wednesday

14 U-123 sinks the Norwegian tanker Norness 60 miles off Long Island, opening their campaign of attacks on shipping off the US Coast. This was the second of nearly 400 ships that would be lost to U-boats in North American waters this year (wikipedia, english.turkcebilgi.com, www.warsailors.com). See July 19, below.

ARCADIA conference ends in Washington. At these talks Lord Beaverbrook, as Minister of Supply for England, had reviewed the planned US construction of aircraft and other
war materiel, and strongly recommended the totals be increased. His point being that the US estimates for losses were far below what England had witnessed in Europe. President Roosevelt listened, and production scales were increased (Butler & Hagedorn). In the event this increase was soon overtaken by losses, but without it Allied forces would have faced even greater shortages than they did in the next year.

**British Columbia coastal region declared "protected area" to legalize removal of Japanese and Canadians of Japanese origin from the coast.**

14 94 Sqn. Canadian built Hurricane Ila DG632 (formerly P5190 or P5199) missing in North Africa, no details (R. Allenby). This was one of 7 Hurricanes lost by the Squadron on this day, all shot down by 2 Bf 109s (Shores, Massimello & Guest).

14 #22 OTU Wellington Ic DV481, stalled and crashed on an overshoot during night flying exercise after a failure of it's airspeed and artificial horizon instruments, Sgt G.C. Boudreau, F/S R.L. Horning, F/S B.D. Farmbrough RAF, Sgt G.M. Gee RAF and Sgt J.H. O'Conner RAF killed.

14 #60 OTU Defiant V1182 lost over the North Sea, Sgt K.G. Drinkwater and 1 crew missing (aviation-safety.net).

14 #32 SFTS, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Harvard II #2800 crashed, LAC R.L. Jackson RAF and P/O H.K. Jones RAF killed.

14 #37 SFTS, Calgary, Alberta, Oxford I AS382 crashed, LAC E.C. Dunbavand RAF killed.

14 Queen's University Detachment, Kingston, Ontario, radio (radar?) mechanic AC2 R.T. Letts died in hospital of natural causes.

14 unknown unit, Finch I #1022 was destroyed in a crash at St. Hubert, Quebec (R.W.R. Walker).

14-15 Hamburg targeted by 95 bombers, but only 48 bombed the target, losing 4. Other operations included 18 bombers to Emden, 11 to Rotterdam, 17 INTRUDERS over Holland and 5 GARDENING sorties off Germany, 4 bombers and 1 INTRUDER lost (BC War Diaries).


14-15 #17 OTU Blenheim I L1303 crashed in a night flying exercise, F/S S.S. Lang RCAF (USA) and Sgt A.J. Sistrom RAF killed.

- - In Egypt there are food shortages and demonstrations in the streets crying welcome to the German Army (Oxford). Meanwhile heavy air attacks on Malta combined with use of Italian Navy capitol ships to protect convoys to Africa has allowed Italian and German forces in Libya to rebuild their armoured units (D. Sommerville).

**Thursday**

**15 School of Army Co-operation, Rockcliffe, Ontario, redesignated #123 Army Co-operation Training (ACT) Squadron RCAF (RCAF Sqns.).**
unknown AMES [RDF] station, Malaysia, continued to operate despite being bombed and strafed by Japanese aircraft. When Japanese soldiers were within ½ mile of the station it was ordered evacuated, which was carried out quickly and without the loss of any secret equipment under the leadership of the unit commander F/O B.W. Martin, despite most of the personnel suffering from tropical fevers (H.A. Halliday). See February 9, below.


#8 SFTS, RAF, Scotland, Master I T8880 dove into the sea off Scotland, P/O R.N. Wycherley killed.

15-16 RAAF Catalinas attempt to bomb targets at Truk, 1 crashed on take-off and the other 5 found extreme bad weather over the islands, only 1 dropping bombs, results unknown (D. Vincent).

Bomber Command returned to Hamburg with 96 bombers, 52 reported bombing the target in poor visibility without doing any major damage. Fifty more were sent to Emden, plus 5 INTRUDERS and 4 bombers attacking airfields in Holland and 3 GARDENING off the North Sea coast. Six bombers were lost over Europe and a further 8 crashed in England (BC War Diaries).

U-123 enters the approaches to New York harbour, and on it's way out sank the Canadian owned British registered tanker SS Coimbra off Long Island which exploded with the loss of 36 crew (M. Gannon, http://uboat.net).

15-16 10 Sqn. Halifax II L9622 ZA-G crashed in England returning from an operation, P/O V.L. Brice, F/S D. Savage, P/O M. Von Dadelszen RNZAF, Sgt H.K. Taylor RAF, Sgt T. Cowan RAF and Sgt J.C. Bradley RAF killed, Sgt M.S.F. Schneider survived with serious injuries. On a night of poor weather and deep snow the aircraft was not heard when it crashed but the fire brought several local people to the scene where they found Sgt Schneider with one of the injured crew he had apparently pulled out of the wreckage. Rescuers pulled out 4 more injured airmen and found one killed, but all of the injured died that night except Sgt Schneider who recovered and returned to flying despite his head injuries (R. Allenby). See January 13, 1943.


15-16 77 Sqn. Whitley V Z9163 KN-C was returning from an operation to Germany and collided with an unknown object while landing, Sgt D.H. Bootsma RCAF (USA), Sgt B. Whitham RAF, P/O E.M. Hooper RAF, Sgt Barfoot (RAF?) and Sgt R. Wilde RAF safe (R. Allenby). See June 11, below and April 9-10, 1944.

15-16 103 Sqn. Wellington Ic R1395 lost over Germany, F/S G.P.M. Hardesty, Sgt J.S. Dainton RAF, Sgt A. Stockdale RAF, Sgt A.B. Thomas RAF and F/S E. Twelves RAF killed, Sgt T.B. Lewis RAF PoW. See October 6, below.

15-16 104 Sqn. Wellington II W5493 EP-D returning from operations over Germany was lost in bad weather and flew into high ground in England while descending, striking rising ground, F/S
J.B. Turner, Sgt D.R. Bradley RNZAF, Sgt J. Wilmot RAF and Sgt G. White RAF killed, Sgt W.J. Hegan and Sgt J.A. Upham RAF injured (R. Allenby). This was the second time Sgt Hegan had survived a flight-into-ground crash.

15-16 106 Sqn. Hampden I P1341 shot down by flak over Denmark, Sgt C.O.R. Rousseau, Sgt W.S. Dashwood RNZAF, Sgt A.W. Horseman RAF and Sgt E.A. Moore RAF taken PoW.

15-16 150 Sqn. Wellington Ic Z1078 flew into high ground in England in a snow storm returning from an operation over Germany, Sgt T.W. Irving RNZAF killed, P/O B.A. McDonald, Sgt L.W. Hunt RNZAF, Sgt F.G. Maple RAF, Sgt W.H. Allworth RAF and Sgt C.F. Glover RAF injured. It is possible P/O McDonald was killed Aug. 11, 1943 in a Mosquito loss.

15-16 214 Sqn. Wellington Ic R1759 believed to have crashed in the sea off England on operations to Germany, F/S E.E. Hale RCAF (USA), Sgt G.J. Peck RCAF (USA) killed, F/S W.J. Elder, P/O H.J. Woodrow RNZAF, Sgt J.B. Myers RAF and Sgt A.L. Lax RAF missing.

15-16 408 Sqn. Hampden I AE393 EQ-G crashed in England returning from operations over Germany, F/S J.A. Bunting RAF, Sgt J.R. Appleby RAF and Sgt M. Jones RAF killed, S/L W.J. Burnett DFC RAF (Can.) injured. After recovering from his injuries S/L Burnett was promoted to Wing Commander and was the tactics officer at #6 Group RCAF headquarters. In 1944 he was the commanding officer of 138 Squadron, involved in Special Operations. He stayed in the RAF post war and retired as an Air Commodore, DSO DFC AFC CG (Fr.) in 1968 (Allison & Hayward, R. Allenby).

15-16 419 Sqn. Wellington Ic Z1145 VR-A crashed in the sea off England after running out of fuel due to damage returning from an operation, P/O T.G. Cottier, F/S L.C. Powell killed, P/O C.H. Lomas and Sgt T.N. Pugh RAF missing. Two survivors, Sgt A.E. Cox RAF and Sgt J.A.H. Lucas RAF, were rescued after 2 hours in the water. P/O Cottier had earlier survived a crash near Buckingham Palace. This was the first loss by 419 Squadron on only it's second operation (419 SH). This aircraft had previously force landed, lost, in the Republic of Ireland Dec. 21, 1941 but been allowed to depart (D. Burke, www.ww2irishaviation.com)

Friday

16 TWA Flight 3 crashes near Las Vegas killing 22 people including actress Carole Lombard and her mother returning from a War Bond tour (wikipedia).

16 Troopship MV Llangibby Castle with over 1,400 troops and cargo heading to the Far East was torpedoed in a convoy north of the Azores, blowing off her rudder and the rear gun. Twenty six of the passengers were killed including LAC C. Trask RAF (Nfld.) missing. The ship was steered using the undamaged propellers to the closest port in the then neutral Azores. In the three day trip it was attacked by long range Fw 200 Condor aircraft, but fought them off. After the maximum stay in a neutral port the ship and her troops were towed to Gibraltar, and finally sailed back to England, still without a rudder. Repaired, it transported troops to the TORCH landings in November (below). Later converted to a Landing Ship, Infantry she landed some of the first and second waves of Canadian soldiers at JUNO BEACH on D-Day (uboat.net).

16 #118 (F) Sqn., Dartmouth, NS, two Kittyhawk aircraft strafe a surfaced U-boat 10 miles east of Halifax, F/O W.P. Roberts obtaining many hits with aircraft #1042 (RCAF Sqns.). Sgt J.W. Halloway was his wingman (H.A. Halliday).

16 #120 (BR) Sqn., Coal Harbour, BC, Delta #689 written off in an accident at Lethbridge, Alberta, no details (E.P. Gardiner).
#12 SFTS, Brandon, Manitoba, two Crane I aircraft practicing formation flying collided. Aircraft #7791 hit #7826, cutting off it's tail. Crane #7826 crashed near the airfield at Rivers, Manitoba, killing LAC(P) H.F. Gibson.

#20 EFTS, Oshawa, Ontario, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4976 destroyed by fire (R.W.R. Walker).

unknown unit, LAC J. Hardyment RNZAF died at Rivers, Manitoba, no details.

USAAF 77th Bomb Sqn. RB-26 40-1461 crashed taking off at Whitehorse, Yukon, crew safe (AAIR).

USAAF 77th Bomb Sqn. B-26 aircraft 40-1453, 40-1501 and 40-1459 are forced to land out of fuel and lost in Northern BC, all crews rescued (AAIR). The three wrecks, all near each other, make the location famous as "Million Dollar Valley". They were recovered in 1971 (www.explorenorth.com).


USAAF 41st R (restricted use ?) Sqn., B-17B 39-009 crashed on take-off at Argentia, Newfoundland, crew safe (AAIR).

Saturday

17 Italian and German units forced from Halfaya Pass (CJCA headline). This refers to the capture of units left behind by Rommels withdrawal to Tripoli.

First U-boat attack on Murmansk bound convoy in the Arctic (D. Sommerville).


404 Sqn. Blenheim IVF shoots down a Bf 109 in a dogfight off the coast of Norway (404 SH).

#27 OTU Anson I N5030 flew into high ground in cloud on the Isle of Man on a night navigation exercise. F/S E.C. McManaman, F/S J.C. Addy DFM RAF and Mr. G. Halford, an English meteorologist, were killed, but WO A.S Patterson RAF, F/S H. Johnston RAF, Sgt K.H. Livett RAAF and Sgt N. Dann RAAF survived with injuries.

17-18 Bremen was targeted by 83 bombers but only 8 could find the target. Others bombed alternate targets such as Hamburg. Other operations include 24 bombers to Emden, 2 to France, 2 to airfields in Holland and 8 GARDENING sorties off France and Germany, 4 bombers were lost (BC War Diaries).


17-18 405 Sqn. Wellington II Z8329 LQ-L ditched in the North Sea due to flak damage, S/L W.B. Keddy DFC RAF (Can.) killed, F/S G.J. Masse RCAF (USA), Sgt P.A. Gale RAF and F/S G.F. Gurr RAF missing, Sgt R.L. Turnbull and F/L D.R.S. Scrivner RAF survived with severe frostbite, being rescued by a destroyer after 14 hours adrift in a life raft. 405 Squadron History has a detailed description of this loss from F/L Scrivner. Sgt Turnbull also required reconstructive surgery for injuries received in the crash. After treatment as a "mashed" Guinea Pig Sgt Turnbull returned to operations with Coastal Command (R. Donovan).

17-18 405 Sqn. Wellington II, S/L J.E. Fauquier drops the first 4,000 HC bomb used by the RCAF (FF Years).
Sunday

18 Soviet airborne troops landed behind German lines near Vyazma (ww2total.com Chronology/1942). This was the first landing in an attempt to block the retreat of German units. Eventually over 7,000 airborne soldiers were dropped or landed in the area over the next month, but although they reached their blocking objective, advancing ground forces were unable to join up with them and they were forced to retreat to a defensive area with heavy losses (http://www.bergstrombooks.elknet.pl/bc-rs/Zerst.htm). See September 24, 1943.


18 #10 SFTS Dauphin, Manitoba, Crane I #7968 collided in mid-air with Crane I #7875 and crashed, killing F/O T.H. Caulkin and LAC(P) D.G. Irvine.

Monday

19 British North Borneo captured by Japanese forces. Japanese army attacks Burma from Thailand (Shores, Cull & Izawa).

Canadian National Steamship Lines passenger/freight liner Lady Hawkins enroute to Bermuda from Halifax and Boston torpedoed off Cape Hatteras by U-66 and sinks in 20 minutes. Only 71 survivors of 321 passengers and crew were rescued, 5 days later, from a lifeboat. Those lost include RAF Ferry Command pilot L.E. Adels (USA), pilot H.E. Fausett (USA) and flight engineer AC1 E.E.C. Snell RAF. A group of US construction workers heading to the US bases in Bermuda, all from St. Joseph, Missouri, lost 37 of 40 on board (http://www.homeofheroes.com). This was the worst loss of life from a Canadian Merchant Navy ship in the war (McKee).

19 126 Sqn. Hurricanes, Malta, F/O J. Kay RAF and P/O B. Main shoot down 1 Ju 88 and damage a second (Shores, Cull and Malizia).

19 240 Sqn. Catalina I Z2148 was damaged in combat, and flew into a hill in Scotland attempting to return to base, P/O G. Schell, Sgt A.R. Breakspear RAF, Sgt E. Henowy RAF, Sgt S. Irvine RAF, Sgt A.O. Pitcher RAF, Sgt L.A. Lowe RAF and F/L H. Goolden RAF killed.

19 409 Sqn. Beaufighter IIf R2475 crashed in England on an operational flight killing F/S A.I. Murray and Sgt L.H. Svendsen RAF.

19 #20 OTU Wellington Ic R1646 crashed in a remote area of Scotland. The wreckage was not discovered until Feb. 19, and was not reached by ground parties until Feb. 23. They found Sgt R.J. Jackson, F/S H.J. Kelley, F/O J.W. Thomson DFC RNZAF, Sgt J.B. Riley RAF, Sgt B.C. Dickson RAF, Sgt R.A. Milliken RAFAF, Sgt M.H.J. Kilburn RAF and Sgt W.M. Greenbank RAF all had been killed (Linzee www.rafcommands.com). Cycle Kinross website notes that the engines were removed from the crash site in 1999, and one is preserved at Braemar in Scotland as a memorial to all the aircraft lost in the local glens (www.gairney.plus.com/Aircraft).

19 #59 OTU Hurricane V7385 was caught by poor weather and force-landed in England, P/O R.R. Hines died of injuries when he struck his head on the instrument panel, having not tightened his shoulder straps (H. Welting at www.rafcommands.com; R. Allenby).
#10 (BR) Sqn. RCAF, Gander, Newfoundland, Digby aircraft flown by F/L J.M. Young made an attack through snow flurries on a U-boat (Hagedorn & Hagedorn). See September 4, 1943.

#2 B&G School, Mossbank, Saskatchewan, F/O C.F. Lawson RCAF (USA) and administration F/L J.A. Peterson killed in crash of Harvard II #3797 near Briercrest, Saskatchewan. F/L Peterson had been a pilot in the First World War (B. Barry et al, R.W.R. Walker).

#12 SFTS, Brandon, Man., Crane I #7756 and Crane #7747 were involved in a flying accident (collision?), LAC G.H.W. Hamilton RNZAF was killed in the former and LAC R.F. Kitto RNZAF was killed in the latter.

#18 EFTS, Westminster, BC, DH.82C Tiger Moths #4327 and #4372 collided in mid-air on approach to land and crashed, F/S S.J. Muckle was killed in #4327 and LAC(P) G.D. Waltham and LAC(P) J.H. Willett in #4372. F/S Muckle had been slightly injured May 3, 1941 at #18 EFTS Patricia Bay in a Tiger Moth crash (possibly #4278).

#32 OTU, Patricia Bay, BC, Cpl G.A. Gimbert RAF died of an illness at Esquimalt, BC (K. MacLean and Marks at www.rafcommands.com).

19-20 148 Sqn. Wellington II W5584 "W" lost in Middle East on an operation to Greece, shot down into the sea, Sgt H.T. McGrath, F/O W.J. Carroll RAAF, S/L M.E. Abbott DFC RAF, P/O J.B. Merry RAF (serving under the name Scard), Sgt I.T. James RAF and Sgt J.A. Sellars RAF missing (http://aviationarchaeology.gr). (BCL'ME V.1 states lost Jan 20-21, Storr states 19-20, CWGC says 19th)

Tuesday

20 Japanese carrier aircraft make a large attack on Rabaul (Shores, Cull & Izawa).

Japanese forces begin invasion of Burma from Thailand (S. Raghavan).

Rain falling in the Libyan desert immobilizes forward Commonwealth fighter units (Shores, Massimello & Guest).

Wannsee Conference held in Germany to plan "Final Solution" to Jews in Europe (Polsson). Chaired by General Heydrich, planning for extermination of Jews and other "Anti-Social" groups from occupied countries determined, and this included plans for those in England, Eire, Spain, Switzerland, Portugal and Sweden once these countries were controlled by Germany (Oxford). Basis of the movie "Conspiracy".

20 OADU Wellington II Z8504 left England for Gibraltar en route to Egypt, but came down in the sea after an engine failed. After 8 days in a dinghy the survivors, Sgt J.D. Shanahan RCAF (USA), Sgt L.J. Rymal and Sgt T.H. Webb RAF, came ashore in French Morocco, where they were interned until after the TORCH landings in November. The other 3 crewmen, Sgt L. George RAAF, P/O J. Bergson RAF and P/O J. Gardiner RAF, are listed as missing. See also April 2, 1944.

20 OADU Wellington Ic AD602 crashed into the sea taking off from Gibraltar, Sgt J.T. Park RAF, Sgt A.J. Nuttall RAF, Sgt E. Connelly RAF and Sgt N.C. Slee RAF killed, Sgt R.W. Ticknor and Sgt J.W. McPhee survived.
20-21 Bomber Command sent 25 bombers to Emden, losing 4 (BC War Diaries).

Rainfall in Libya continues overnight on forward Commonwealth airfields (Shores, Massimello & Guest).

Edward Hopper completes his most famous painting "Nighthawks".

Reinforced from Europe, and fully informed on his enemies dispositions by the broken US diplomatic code, Rommel begins attacks on Commonwealth forces in Libya, catching them off guard and re-arming from the fighting of the previous months (M. Carver). Due to their waterlogged airfields the forward Commonwealth fighter force began to relocate after hard work produced one useable airstrip. This was completely fortuitous as they had no idea a German attack on their area was coming (Shores, Massimello & Guest).

Wednesday

21 Japanese carrier aircraft make a series of attacks in north east New Guinea (Shores, Cull & Izawa).

Bremen attacked again by 54 bombers (only 28 report bombing the target), 38 are sent
to Emden plus 7 to Boulogne, 8 attacking airfields in Holland, 1 GARDENING sortie in the North Sea and 12 NICKEL sorties over France, 7 bombers were lost (BC War Diaries).


21-22 408 Sqn. Hampden I X3051 EQ-U lost without trace on an operation to Germany, P/O H.W. Clarke, Sgt R. Brown RAF, Sgt P.B. Chapple RAF and Sgt R.G. Eves RAF missing.

21-22 408 Sqn. Hampden I AD754 was attacked by a night fighter over Holland but returned to England on one engine where it crash landed, Sgt T.I. May was killed, Sgt V.R. Baker RAF died Jan. 23 of his wounds, Sgt W.A. Millward RAF and Sgt J.P. Farrow RAF wounded. Both Sgt Millward, who had claimed one Bf-110 shot down in the fight, and Sgt Farrow were awarded DFM’s (H. Moyle, 408 SH, FF Years, Awards).

21-22 420 Sqn. Hampden I AT130 PT-S shot down over Holland by flak, S/L V.T.L. Wood RAF, Sgt D.De L. Grealy RAF, Sgt D.G. Semple RAF and Sgt R.L. Bott RAF all PoW on the squadron's first operation.

Thursday

22 Japanese forces land at Rabaul, New Britain, while their aircraft carriers attack Port Moresby in southern New Guinea (Shores, Cull & Izawa).

British army being driven back in Burma.

Supplies arrive in Leningrad on this date, brought in by trucks on an ice road over Lake Ladoga, civilians evacuated on return trips. The ice road bypasses the German occupied lake shore, but trucks run a gauntlet of attacks by German bombers (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).

German advances in North Africa continue (D. Sommerville). The last two advanced RAF fighter squadrons take off from their waterlogged airstrip under fire from German artillery (Shores, Massimello & Guest).

22 232 Sqn. Hurricane IIb BE579 shot down over Singapore by A6M fighters escorting a bomb attack, F/S J.H. Leetham killed. Since arriving with his squadron in Singapore F/S Leetham had been credited with 2 Japanese aircraft destroyed and 1 probably destroyed (Shores, Cull & Izawa).

22 232 Sqn. Hurricane IIb BM903, P/O R. Mendizabal was slightly wounded in the legs before shooting down a Japanese bomber attacking Singapore (Shores, Cull & Izawa).

22 126 Sqn. Hurricanes in action over Malta, P/O B.W. Main RAF (Can.) claimed a Ju 88 destroyed but his aircraft was damaged by return fire. P/O J.M.S. Crichton and P/O D.A. Tedford RAF (Can.) also made claims (Shores, Cull and Malizia). See Feb. 4 and 24 below.

22 242 (Canadian) Sqn. Hurricane damaged by friendly anti-aircraft fire returning to Malta, Sgt R.V. Harvey safe (Shores, Cull and Malizia). See March 1, below.

22 407 Sqn. Hudson V AM602 RR-M crashed at Donna Brook airfield on return from an anti-shipping patrol. The rescue and fire crews rushed to the scene, but the bomb load
exploded just after they arrived, killing many. Total lost from the aircraft were P/O R.E. Dann, Sgt. J.C. Gaudet, Sgt G.E.A. Romain RAF and Sgt J.E. Duval RAF killed, F/S H.A. Wilkins missing, and 11 members of the ground crew killed. Casualties were heavier because the fire and rescue crew were just changing shift when the crash occurred and both crews responded to the alarm (pers comm A.D. Squires).

22  #10 (BR) Sqn. RCAF, Gander, Newfoundland, Digby flown by F/L E.M. Williams sighted a U-boat returning from a convoy patrol and attacked. Two depth charges hung up on the first attack, but the third exploded near the submerging submarine. Two follow up attacks were made and the location marked with flares. The area was searched until the weather closed in, forcing the U-boat to remain underwater (Hagedorn & Hagedorn).

22  #111 (F) Sqn., Kittyhawk I AL180 (RCAF #1085) caught fire just after taking off and crashed near Patricia Bay, BC, Sgt Ortham (or Orthman) bailed out safely (BC Times Colonist, Remembering Patricia Bay).

22  #5 EFTS?, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4320 damaged at High River, Alberta and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

22  #34 SFTS, Medicine Hat, Saskatchewan, Harvard II AJ761 swung on take-off and struck Harvard AJ818, causing it to crash. P/O J.G. Hoar and LAC E.T. Markham RAF were killed in AJ818.

22  Composite Training Squadron, Rockcliffe, Ontario, Oxford II #1525 collided with a hangar when the brakes failed (R.W.R. Walker).

22-23 Munster attacked by 47 bombers, which cause only light damage, plus 5 to Dunkirk, 6 INTRUDERS over Holland, 9 GARDENING sorties off Germany and the North Sea and 5 NICKEL sorties, 1 bomber and 1 minelayer were lost (BC War Diaries).

22-23 106 Sqn. Hampden I AT146 lost without trace on a GARDENING sortie off France, F/S S.A. Morrison, Sgt H.S.E. Ellis RAF, Sgt A.S. Chantrell RAF and Sgt W. Holland RAF missing.

Friday

23 Rabaul in New Britain and Kavieng in New Ireland seized from Australian forces by Japanese (Shores, Cull & Izawa). Of the military force taken prisoner at Kavieng only the officers survived the war, and of the European, Chinese and mixed race civilians only a handful survived, most being executed by the Japanese in the next two years (http://www.jje.info/lostlives/exhib/potp/index.html).

A Japanese force makes a second landing in the Celebes (Shores, Cull & Izawa).

23  33 Sqn. Hurricane I (P3822?) shot down by ground fire attacking enemy transport in the desert, P/O D.L. Edy made a forced landing. P/O L.C. Wade RCAF (USA) attempted to land under fire to pick up him up, but the terrain was too rough and P/O Edy waved him away, and was taken PoW (Bill Walker & Many Souffian www.rafcommands.com, Shores, Massimello & Guest). See January 12, 1944.

23  #21 EFTS, Chatham, NB, Finch II #4797 failed to recover from a spin while practicing instrument recoveries and crashed on the south side of the Little Black River, NB, killing Sgt I. Gagne RCAF (USA).
24 USAAF fighters arrive in Java. Rangoon bombed (Shores, Cull & Izawa).

24 66 Sqn. Spitfire IIa P8430 was in a mid-air collision with Spitfire IIa P7843 ‘Aldergrove’ and crashed into the sea off England, F/S R.M. Taylor missing on P8430, Sgt J.F. Hubbard RAF missing from P7843 (wwwrafdavidstowmoororg).

24 #2 Wireless School, Calgary, Alberta, LAC(WAG) R.A. McCre RAAF died in hospital of natural causes (A. Storr).

24 #4 B&G School, Fingal, Ontario, physical training instructor Cpl N.R. Seddon died in hospital of natural causes.

24 #33 EFTS, Caron, Saskatchewan, brand new DH.82C Tiger Moth #5982 was destroyed in a crash just west of Rowletta Station, Saskatchewan, when the pilot suspected fumes were building up in the cockpit and bailed out (R.W.R. Walker).

24 RAF Ferry Command, Hudson III AM932 lost from Gander, Radio Officer H.G. Meyers, navigator S/L E.D. Chantler RAF, pilot B.A. Hosny (Egypt) and pilot R.W. Whitmore (US) missing.

24 RNor.AF, Little Norway, Toronto Island Airport, Ontario, Curtiss H-75 lost over Lake Ontario, T.J. Nalki missing (wikipedia).

24 unknown unit, photographer AC2 M.J.M. Badre died of natural causes in Canada.

24-25 Japanese forces landing at Balikpapan in Borneo are attacked by US destroyers, as well as NEI Air Force Martin WH-3 bombers and a Dutch submarine, which cause damage but cannot stop the invading force (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).

Sunday

25 Japanese forces land in New Britain, New Ireland and the Solomon Islands.

Thailand declares war on England and the United States (wikipedia). England responds but the USA does not, viewing Thailand as an enemy occupied country, not an enemy (Oxford).

British armoured formations in North Africa suffer crippling losses to German and Italian forces (D. Sommerville).

25 232 Sqn., Far East, Hurricane IIb BE641 disappeared in cloud in bad weather on a patrol from Singapore, possibly fell into the sea, Sgt C.F. Marsh missing. In the last 12 days since arriving in Singapore Sgt Marsh had been credited with 1 Japanese aircraft destroyed and 1 damaged (Shores, Cull & Izawa).

25 136 Sqn. Sgt M.C.H. Cuthbert part of a flight of 4 Hurricane reinforcements that arrived in Burma on this date (Shores, Cull & Izawa).

25 249 Sqn. Hurricane Z5147 shot down over Malta, P/O C.F. Sluggett safe (Shores, Cull & Izawa).

25 222 Sqn. Spitfire Vb W3448 was last heard requesting emergency homing instructions when flying off England, P/O F.C. Duggan missing.

25 #23 OTU Wellington Ic R1803 overshot the landing field making an engine out landing. Unable to gain height it flew into a hill near the airfield, Sgt J.H. Bye killed, Sgt I.D. Steward RAF and Sgt P.E. Poulson RAF injured, Sgt J.G. Forbes, Sgt W.L.F. Kellow RAF
(Can.) and Sgt W. Clayton RAF safe. See also May 29-30, 1942.

25-26 Brest re-visited by 61 bombers with no observable results, and 3 GARDENING sorties off France without loss (BC War Diaries).


Monday

26 Japanese forces land at Endau, eastern Malaysia, close to Singapore. Two destroyers and all available RAF Vildebeest torpedo bombers, held back for this, are sent to attack the invading ships. Almost all are shot down by Japanese fighters, and both destroyers are sunk (Shores, Cull & Izawa). The production of modern Beauforts in Australia to replace the obsolete RAF Vildebeest torpedo aircraft was just beginning, only 6 reached Singapore but they were unarmed and unequipped and the crews untrained, so the 5 surviving aircraft had been withdrawn back to Australia (D. Duxbury www.rafcommands; Shores, Cull & Izawa; R. Hayward).

First US troops land in Northern Ireland (Times).

26 36 Sqn. Vildebeest III K4188 was one of two large flights of Vildebeest torpedo bombers nearly wiped out making an attack on a Japanese invasion fleet off Endau, Malaya, shot down by Japanese Ki-27 fighters, F/S G. Ewen and Sgt P.C. Hay RAAF have no known grave. F/L B.B. Willmott RAF bailed out, wounded, and was rescued by one of the RN destroyers. He was later evacuated from Malaysia and was killed August 28, 1944, as a W/C flying Beaufighters in England (COL BRUGGY and fairlop, www.rafcommands.com).

26 #14 OTU Hampden I P1186 crashed in England on a night bombing exercise, P/O J.M. Marok RCAF (USA), P/O W.H. Lynch RAAF, P/O S.S. White RAAF and Sgt E. O'Connell RAAF killed. The reasons for the crash were not found.

26 Air Force Headquarters Ferry Sqn. RCAF Electra #7841 crashed near MacGregor, Manitoba, attempting a landing after it ran out of fuel in snow and darkness, aero engine mechanic LAC T.C. Bate (#8 Repair Depot, Winnipeg, Man.), pilots F/L W.J. Dyson (flying the aircraft) and WO2 W.F. Field, administration officer F/O J.H. Thrift, Sgt J.C. Clark RAF, Sgt H.W. Holland RAF and Sgt A.R. Lane RAF were killed. This was a return ferry flight from a delivery of Anson aircraft from Winnipeg to #41 SFTS at Weyburn, Saskatchewan. The RAF personnel were attached to #2 Communications Flight. A plaque commemorating this crash was unveiled in MacGregor June 25, 1995 (Airforce magazine Vol. 26, #4). F/O Thrift was a veteran of the First World War and a former member of the Estevan City Council (B. Barry et al).

26 #2 SFTS Uplands, Ontario, Harvard IIb #3237 crashed at Kingston, Ontario, killing Sgt G.F.J. Clark and LAC(P) A.C. Cornell. This aircraft was last seen engaged in low flying near Sgt Clark's home (Halliday, H.A., Unnecessary Accidents).

26 #2 SFTS Uplands, Ontario, Harvard II #2887 crashed near Hainsville, Ontario, killing LAC(P) J.H.A. Johnston and LAC(P) D.E. MacCool RCAF (USA). This aircraft was also lost in low flying near a relations home (Halliday, H.A., Unnecessary Accidents).

26 #14 EFTS, Portage la Prairie, Man., DH.82C Tiger Moth #4117 spun and crashed near
Oakville, Man., LAC(P) J.A. Lawn severely injured. See April 7, below.

26-27 Bomber Command sent 71 bombers to Hannover (only 32 reported bombing the target), 31 to Emden, 25 to Brest, 6 GARDENING and 4 NICKEL sorties including 2 to Germany, the first pure leaflet sorties over Germany since April 1940. Three aircraft were lost (BC War Diaries).


Tuesday

27 232 and 258 Squadron Hurricanes are flown off HMS Indomitable to Batavia, Java, to reinforce the air defences of the Netherlands East Indies. Among the 48 pilot's are P/O J.K. McKechnie, P/O T.W. Watson, P/O W.M. Lockwood, Sgt G.J. Dunn, P/O C. Kleckner RCAF (USA), P/O A. Brown RAF (Nfld.), Sgt R.B. Keedwell and Sgt N.M. Scott (Shores, Cull & Izawa). See Feb. 5, below.

27 #1 Section, Aircraft Delivery Unit F, Egypt. Hurricane aircraft went into a spin and crashed on approach to land, F/S J.S. Blaikie killed.

27-28 #11 (BR) Sqn. RCAF Hudson #768 came down in Newfoundland in bad weather returning from an anti-submarine patrol, the wreckage was not found for several days (R.W.R. Walker). F/S H.F. Taylor safe, F/L A.S. Pilcher was among those injured (see Dec. 2, 1943). This was F/S Taylor's second crash, see Oct. 3, 1941 and May 6, below. TSGNO notes that G/C Foss from Torbay made several flights with a Tiger Moth to bring out the crew.

Wednesday

28 Allies win Macassar battle (CJCA headline) [Probably reference to naval Battle of Balikpapen, Jan. 24-25, above, which was widely publicized at the time as the first US Navy victory in the Pacific War.]

British Army in Malaysia begins withdrawing to Singapore Island (Polsson).

28 232 Sqn. Hurricane overshot and damaged on landing at Batavia from the second group landing from HMS Indomitable, due to a faulty airspeed gauge, Sgt G.J. Dunn safe.

28 401 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AA851 hit a tree avoiding flak on a RHUBARB sortie but the pilot, F/O A.E. Harley, managed to return his damaged aircraft to England.

28 #22 OTU Wellington Ic X9935 crashed in England after an engine failure, F/S R.H. Vearncombe killed, Sgt Haines, P/O Robson, P/O Robinson, Sgt Fletcher, Sgt Dawe and Sgt Edwards injured. TSGNO states that 3 of the injured crew were RCAF members.

28 #59 OTU, Hurricane I V6579 landed, lost, in the Irish Republic, Sgt S.B. Walcott RCAF (USA) safe.
allowed to fly back to England. Dennis Burke notes Sgt Walcott, who was later interned by Vichy French in North Africa, then transferred to the USAAF, was subject of articles in Flypast magazine, March & April 2008 (D. Burke, www.ww2irishaviation.com)

28 #32 SFTS, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Harvard II #2807 flew into the ground near Pense, Saskatchewan, while practicing aerobatics, killing LAC(P) T.F. Hastings RCAF (USA).

28 USAAF ACFC Harvard II AJ987, AJ985 and AJ986 on a ferry flight crashed or forced landed near Maple Creek, Saskatchewan, due to weather, pilots H.W. Moseley and N.T. Cornell killed (AAIR). These aircraft were being delivered for RAF use under Lend-Lease.

28 VPB-82 USN, Argentia, Newfoundland, PBO (Hudson) patrol plane, PO1c D.F. Mason (pilot), AMM1c A. Baldwin, AMM2c A. Zink and AARM C. Mellinger (http://www.homeofheroes.com), attacked a U-boat which then submerged. Believing they had sunk it they sent the message "SIGHTED SUB SANK SAME", which was widely reported and used as a slogan during the war, although post war research found the U-boat was not sunk (wikipedia). See March 1, below. (Adm Daniel V. Gallery, when commanding the USN PBY base in Iceland, later closed his officers club when one of his patrol aircraft muffed their first attack on a U-boat soon after it had opened. He said it would remain closed until they had sunk a U-boat. The next day his aircraft did successfully attack and sink a U-boat, and sent the message "SANK SUB OPEN CLUB", which was not used for propaganda!)

28-29 Munster was the target of 84 bombers, but none could identify the target in poor visibility, and although many reported bombing the area no bombs were reported landing in Munster. Other operations included 48 bombers to Boulogne, 29 to Rotterdam, 16 INTRUDERS and 2 NICKELS over France, 5 bombers were lost and 1 more shot down in error by a British ship (BC War Diaries).

28-29 77 Sqn. Whitley V Z9148 KN-L was damaged by flak over Germany but returned to land in England, Sgt N. Leftly, Sgt R.F. Smith, Sgt J.R. Affleck RAF, P/O E. Cane (RAF?) and Sgt Spires (RAF?) safe (R. Allenby). See April 8-9 and September 9, below.

28-29 78 Sqn. Whitley V Z9305 was shot down into the sea in error by friendly anti-aircraft fire, F/S D.R. Campbell and Sgt R.W. Dobson killed, Sgt A.N. Williams RAAF, P/O D.L. Williams RAF and Sgt D. Curnick RAF missing. F/S Campbell was buried at sea and he is listed on the Runnymede Memorial.


28-29 106 Sqn. Hampden I X3058 ditched returning from a sortie. The crew managed to get into the dinghy but F/S A.G. Patrick, Sgt R.W.A. Biddlecombe RAF and Sgt F.W. Baker RAF died of exposure before they were rescued 16 hours later, only Sgt Brown RAF survived.


Thursday

29 Another Japanese force is landed in Borneo (Shores, Cull & Izawa).

German-Italian counter offensive in Libya re-captures Benghazi.
First broadcast of BBC radio program 'Desert Island Discs' (ww2total.com Chronology/1942). The show is still running today.

In Montreal the 'Kraut Line' of the Boston Bruins NHL team, Milton Schmidt, Woody Dumart and Bobby Bauer, enlisted together in the RCAF. They were sent to Ottawa for training so they could play on the RCAF Ottawa Flyers hockey team. Their enlistment encouraged other NHL players to enlist, and within the year many of them had in the Army, Air Force and Navy, where besides serving they also played on a growing number of military hockey teams (M. Joost). See April 27, below.

29 232 (Provisional) Sqn., Singapore, Hurricane Iib crash landed with undercarriage problems returning from attacking a Japanese bomber formation, P/O R. Mendizabal safe.
29 8 RD, Winnipeg, Man., AC2 E.F. Thompson RAF died, no details.
29 9 EFTS, St. Catharines, Ontario, Finch II #4560 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).
29 Conversion Training School, Rockcliffe, Ontario, repaired Battle Trainer I R7422 collides on the ground with Norseman #2477 and #2479 (S. Shail). See Feb. 13, below.
29 USAAF UC-64 (Norseman) 42-5047 crashed landing at Ungava Bay, HBCo. Post in Labrador, crew safe (AAIR).

29-30 Bomber Command sent 9 Halifax and 7 Stirlings to Trondheim to attack the battleship Tirpitz, but only 2 aircraft managed to reach Norway where they bombed shipping targets, 1 Stirling lost (BC War Diaries).

Friday
30 Japanese A6M fighters shoot down a QANTAS C-class flying boat G-AEUH 'Corio' off Timor with the loss of 13 of the 18 on board. The flying boat was being used on flights to carry refugees from the Netherlands East Indies to Australia (wikipedia).

Japanese forces land on Ambon Island, which has the Netherlands East Indies second largest naval base (D. Sommerville), defended by Dutch, Australian and US forces (wikipedia).

Final British forces withdrawn to Singapore Island (Shores, Cull & Izawa).

Canadian Pacific Airlines is formed in Canada by the amalgamation of Canadian Airways and several smaller bush airlines (M.J.H. Taylor).
30 115 (BR) Sqn. RCAF, Patricia Bay, BC, Bolingbroke I #716 had an engine catch on fire on an air test. One crewman (___ M.R. Whyte) bailed out, then pilot Sgt A.D. Houston attempted to land on the shore of Cowichan Bay, but was killed in the crash (BC Times Colonist, Remembering Patricia Bay).
30 #36 SFTS, Penhold, Alberta, Cpl S. Ryder RAF died in an accident involving a tractor.

Saturday
31 258 Sqn. Hurricanes flown from *HMS Indomitable* go into action over Singapore, claiming 2 Japanese aircraft shot down for the loss of 1 pilot and 2 Hurricane II destroyed, 3 Hurricanes damaged (including one flown by P/O C. Kleckner RCAF (USA) of 8 engaged (T. Kelly).
31 #1 (Coastal) OTU Hudson I T9308 crashed in Scotland, P/O D.M. Burgess and Sgt J.R.V. Bones RAF killed. In training P/O Burgess had once buzzed his old high school (Middle Road School) outside of Port Credit, Ontario (S.A. Squires pers. comm. 2013).

31-1 **Bomber Command sends 72 bombers to Brest, 31 to St. Nazaire, 14 to Le Havre and 13 NICKEL sorties to France. Five bombers were lost (BC War Diaries).**
31-1 61 Sqn. Manchester I L7472 was coned by searchlights over Brest, France, hit by flak and set on fire before clipping a balloon cable and ditching. Part of the crew bailed out and part were on board when the aircraft ditched. During the evacuation Sgt S.J. MacLean became trapped in the escape hatch and despite efforts by his pilot F/L R.D. Fraser RAF he went down with the aircraft and was drowned. Sgt MacLean and Sgt G.H. Marshall RAF are missing, F/S W.H. Shorrock, F/L Fraser RAF, F/L W.H. Hannigan RAF, Sgt A.W. Hadley RAF, Sgt B.H. Mullen RAF and F/S T.W. Walsh RAF were taken PoW.
31-1 61 Sqn. Manchester I R5787 QR-M Hit by flak and crash landed in France, P/O J.R.B. Parsons RAF and Sgt W.T. Holmes RAF killed, Sgt T.A. Butterworth RAF died of his injuries, Sgt K.W. McCaskill RAF died Feb. 3 of injuries, Sgt R.T. Kindred RAF and Sgt R.V. Griffiths RAF PoW, wireless operator Sgt A.L. Wright RAF (Can.) evaded, reaching Spain where he was imprisoned for 4 months before returning to England in the fall where he re-mustered as a pilot. He later flew Special Operations in the Balkans with 148 Sqn., including flights to supply the Polish fighters in the Warsaw Uprising. A comment by a local historian, gildas, on Sgt Wright's evasion can be found on the [www.rafcommands.com](http://www.rafcommands.com) webpage Escape/Evasion Reports (http://www.rafcommands.com/archive/03392.php).

February 1942
417 Sqn. re-equips with Spitfire Vb aircraft, 419 Sqn. begins to receive Wellington III aircraft to operate in conjunction with IC aircraft (RCAF Sqns.). #14 (F) Sqn. RCAF, Rockcliffe, Ontario, begins receiving Kittyhawk I aircraft (RCAF Sqns.).

Sinkings along Canadian and US East Coast continue as a second wave of U-boats arrive, followed by more sent to the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico
During the month the first shipborne HF/DF units were mounted on convoy escorts, which would give them accurate bearings and cross ranges on U-boats broadcasting radio reports nearby. Even with one HF/DF unit in an escort force, they would know if the convoy had been detected, and how many U-boats were in contact with them, and an escort could run down the bearing and force the U-boat to submerge, attack it if possible, or make the submarine lose contact with the convoy (M. Milner).

**Sunday**

1 German Navy introduces a new ENIGMA code machine for U-boats. Prior to this ULTRA intercepts had given a good picture of U-boat locations and intentions, enabling the routing of convoys around "wolfpacks" and limiting losses. As a result of this new code machine shipping losses to U-boats in the mid-Atlantic begin to rise, combined with the broken British Convoy Code and with the continued losses on US coast (Oxford). See December, below.

As part of the planned movement of the Scharnhorst, Gneisenau and Prinz Eugen from Brest, German radio countermeasures began a program of jamming of British radars along the south coast of England, increasing the power gradually each day so the interference won't be noticed (J. Foreman).

US Navy carrier aircraft make their first offensive attack when the carriers Enterprise and Yorkton launch strikes in the Marshall Islands (TIGHAR discussion pages on TBD wrecks).

1 or 2, A Japanese minesweeper is sunk and 2 more damaged clearing mines off Ambon (wikipedia). See Feb. 2, below.

1 Luftwaffe Ju 88 bombers attack RAF Sumburgh in the Shetland Islands, damaging seven 404 Sqn. aircraft and wounding 6 squadron members, AC1 D.M. Clark RAF and AC2 N. Leitch RAF died of their wounds (404 SH).

**Monday**

2 Allied forces defending Ambon surrender to Japanese. Over the next two weeks groups of surrendered Dutch and Australian soldiers were executed by Japanese Naval personnel, totalling over 300 murdered (the Laha Massacre), possibly in retaliation for the sunken minesweeper. The remainder were later shipped to China. Only 177 of the 582 Australians captured at Ambon survived the war (wikipedia).

Egyptian Prime Minister resigns and Britain demands King Farouk appoint a new PM that would support their policies. He refuses. British troops and armoured cars then surround his palace and the British Ambassador, the real power in the country, demands his abdication. King Farouk appoints the British choice for Prime Minister, and he was confirmed later in a General Election (Oxford).
British War Cabinet approves bombing of French factories engaged in war production (Polsson).

Admiralty warns of readiness of German capital ships in Brest, believes that attempt to try to sail through Channel is imminent (Barker).

2 118 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AA741 shot down into the English Channel on a RHUBARB sortie, P/O E.J. Ames missing. His wingman returned with a damaged aircraft.

2 #4 SFTS, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Crane I #7703 crashed, LAC M.D. Knight RNZAF killed. See #12 SFTS loss July 25, 1942.

2 unknown unit, no details, AC1 G.L. Austin died in Canada.

Tuesday

3 First major Japanese air raid on Eastern Java inflicts major losses on defending Dutch fighters (Shores, Cull & Izawa). First attack by Japanese fighters on P1 airfield at Palembang, Sumatra (T. Kelly).

Further RAF reinforcements arrive at Batavia by ship, including Sgt W.H. James, Sgt H.P. Low, Sgt W.H. Monsell and Sgt R.C. Smith (Shores, Cull & Izawa).

German troops enter Derna, Libya.

Based on the Admiralty assessment, Operation FULLER to attack German warships attempting to run the Channel is executed, placing airborne radar pickets around Brest and bringing designated units to 2 hours readiness (Barker).

CWAAF renamed the RCAF (Women’s Division) or WDs.

3 #2 B&G School, Mossbank, Saskatchewan, AC1 H.H. O’Neil died of natural causes in hospital in Port Coquitlam, BC. He had been Absent Without Leave from his station since Jan. 21.

3 unknown unit, AC2 D.M. Taylor died on active service in Canada, no details.

Wednesday

4 Japanese aircraft attack Allied fleet off Java (Shores, Cull & Izawa).

Lord Beaverbrook appointed UK Minister of Production (ww2total.com Chronology/1942). He lasted only 12 days in this position, resigning after attacks by his political foe, Ernest Bevin (Minister of Labour and National Service) (wikipedia).

4 21 Sqn. Blenheim IV Z9806 "Z" was on a sortie to Sicily from Malta when it flew into the sea, W/C W.R. Selkirk MiD RAF and P/O F.C. Ashley RAF missing, Sgt S. Phillips PoW. This was one of 4 Blenheims lost from an attack of 6 launched on the harbour at Palermo (D. Newton).

4 126 Sqn. Hurricane II BV167 was one of three Hurricanes shot down from a scramble over Malta, P/O B.W. Main RAF (Can.) missing (Shores, Cull & Izawa).

4 #119 (BR) Sqn. RCAF Bolingbroke IV #9063 was on a night flight when it flew into a hill near Whycocomag, NS, Sgt W.R. Dikeman RCAF (USA), P/O I.B. MacDonald and F/S R.F. Varey killed.
#10 EFTS, Mount Hope, Ontario, DH.82C Tiger Moth #5901 crashed near Binbrook, Ontario, near what is now Sinclairville (R.W.R. Walker).

Thursday

5 Canadian Pacific liner RMS Empress of Asia (16,400 tons), in use as a troop ship, bombed and sunk off Singapore (Polsson).

5 232 Sqn. Hurricane crash landed in Singapore due bomb damage to the landing field, P/O J.K. McKechnie safe (Shores, Cull & Izawa). See February 12, below.

5 #1 (Coastal) OTU Hudson V AM687 crashed off Scotland, P/O W.S. Brown, P/O J.H. Watt, Sgt J.E. Bond RAF and Sgt A.W. Rolfe RAF missing (malcolm_raf www.rafcommands.com).

5 #5 (Coastal) OTU Beaufort I W6479 'Z1' lost on a night navigation exercise, Sgt H.E. Johnson, Sgt D.M. Lindsay, Sgt W.A. Pickering and 1 crew missing (R. Hayward).

Friday

6 First major air attack by Japanese on Sumatra (Shores, Cull & Izawa).

Daylight GARDENING operation by 46 bombers off Frisian Islands, 1 Hampden lost (BC War Diaries).

6 258 Sqn. Hurricane II shot down over Palembang, Sumatra, P/O C. Kleckner RCAF (USA) has no known grave. T. Kelly dates this and the following actions on Feb. 4.

6 258 Sqn. Hurricane II damaged over Palembang, Sgt N.M. Scott landed safely (T. Kelly).

6 258 Sqn. Hurricane II P/O R.B. Keedwell was hit and wounded by a Japanese fighter over Palembang. He managed to land his aircraft but collided with a burning bomber on the ground. He was badly burned escaping from the wreckage. According to his friend Terrence Kelly he was wounded in the legs and was not able to escape his burning fighter quickly. See Feb. 11, below.


6 #52 OTU Spitfire Ia's X4932 and R7206 were in a mid-air collision, Sgt B.H. Cassidy was killed in X4932.

6 #59 OTU Hurricane I P3463 crashed in Scotland, Sgt W.A. Campbell killed.

6 #17 EFTS, Stanley, NS, Finch II #4791 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

Saturday

7 Second daylight GARDENING operation off the Frisian Islands by 32 Hampdens intercepted by German fighters, 3 Hampdens lost (BC War Diaries).


7 601 Sqn. Airacobra I AH585 UF-O swung on take off and collapsed an undercarriage leg when it hit a snowbank in England, Sgt E.G. Shea safe (R. Allenby). See April 20, below.

7 SS Empire Sun, a CAM ship, torpedoed and sunk off Nova Scotia with the loss of 11, including 1 RAF member of the MSFU unit, possibly AC2 G.C.G. Cross RAF listed as missing in
Canada on this date (CWGC & discussion page on SS Empire Sun, www.rafcommands.com).

**7**

**#17 EFTS, Stanley, NS, Finch II #4634 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).**

**Sunday**

**8 Gasmata, New Britain, taken from Australian forces by Japanese.**

**Japanese forces land on Singapore Island.**

**Soviet forces re-take Kursk from German Army (wikipedia).**

**8**

74 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AD568 lost off Scotland after being scrambled to patrol the Firth of Clyde, F/S J.H.G. Matthews killed.

800 Sqn. Tomahawk AH747 and DH.82 Tiger Moth R4952 collided in mid-air and crashed at RAF Station Odiham in England, killing F/L D.G. Morris in the Tomahawk, and F/L J.M. Ogilvie and Captain M.C. Hawkins, Canadian Army Dental Corps, in the Tiger Moth.


8 **#12 OTU Wellington Ic X9954 crashed just after take-off on a transit flight back to base, F/S W.R. Donaldson, Sgt F. Llewellyn RCAF (USA), Sgt W.G. Smith, Sgt E.G. Hatch RAF, Sgt R.G. Holmes RAF, Sgt T.R. Gamble RAF and Sgt A. Smith RAF killed (http://www.bcar.org.uk/new1942-incident-logs).**

8 **#22 OTU Wellington Ic T2714 DD-C crashed in high ground in the Lake District of England on a navigation exercise, apparently after becoming lost following the failure of it’s wireless, Sgt J.G. Rutherford RAF, although injured, walked 3 miles to get assistance, but there was no one to save, Sgt L.J.R. Bechard, F/S E.G. Jenner, P/O D.J. Richardson, Sgt L.G.J. Mizen RAF and Sgt J.G. Hardie RAF killed. Sgt Rutherford was MiD for his efforts. He was lost in a #10 OTU Whitley just over a year later (http://www.peakdistrictaircrashes.co.uk; R. Allenby).**

8 **#52 OTU Spitfire Ia R7135 crashed in England, Sgt J.R. Pierce killed.**

8 **#19 EFTS, Virden, Manitoba, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4318 and #4962 both written off after a mid-air collision (R.W.R. Walker).**


**Monday**

**9 Japanese troops land on Island of Singapore (CJCA headline).**

**Occupation of the Celebes by Japan completed (Shores, Cull & Izawa).**

**French liner Normandie, 80,000 tons, burns and capsizes in New York Harbour (CJCA headline) while being overhauled for use as a troopship, due to sparks from a welding torch. One of the largest and fastest passenger liners in the world, this was a serious setback for plans to move US troops to Europe.**
unknown AMES unit, Singapore, F/O B.W. Martin was again forced to abandon his radar station to advancing Japanese soldiers, but first all secret equipment was destroyed. He later returned with a volunteer party to an area still in dispute with Japanese forces to destroy another radar installation (H.A. Halliday). See Feb. 12, below.

#1 OADU Wellington Ic DV496 undershot a landing at Gibraltar and was wrecked, Sgt L.J. Hogan and his crew safe.

9-10 211 Sqn. Blenheim IV Z7699 lost over Malaysia on a night attack on the Japanese occupied airfield at Kluang, P/O G. Ritchie RAAF and Sgt J.B. Keeping RAAF killed, S/L K.C.V. Dundas DFC, Flying Cross (Greece), MiD RAF (Can.) missing (A. Storr). S/L Dundas had flown photo reconnaissance in North Africa, and bombing operations in North Africa and Greece, before being sent out from Egypt to Malaysia after the Japanese landings there, arriving only a week before his loss. According to information on the Malaya Historical Group website (dated 2001, downloaded Aug. 2005) the aircraft took off from Palembang, Indonesia to attack the Japanese occupied airfield at Kluang, Malaysia, 60 miles north of Singapore, but did not return. In 1945 an RAF Search Party identified the wreckage of K7699 in the Mankibil Rubber Estate near Kluang. Close by the Japanese had buried P/O Ritchie and Sgt Keeping, but the Search Party did not find the remains of the pilot. Dundas Lake in northern Saskatchewan is named in his honour (B. Barr et al). See also http://www.211squadron.org/kcvd_dundas.html.

Tuesday
10 Occupation of Borneo completed by Japan (Shores, Cull & Izawa).


HMCS Spikenard torpedoed and sunk in the Atlantic by U-136. Only 8 survivors were found 19 hours later (B. Barry et al)

10 73 Sqn. Hurricane II BD957 was shot down in Egypt on a ferry flight, F/S E.S. Foster killed.
10 #1 (Coastal) OTU, Hudson III V9127 crashed in poor visibility in Wales, F/S G.R. Duncan, F/O D.C. Anderson RAAF, Sgt J. Harker RAF and Sgt R. Hodgson RAF killed (A. Storr).
10 #14 OTU Hampden I X2989 wrecked making an emergency landing, P/O W.C. Anderson and his crew safe.
10 #16 OTU Hampden I P2142 abandoned over it's airfield after an engine failed, Sgt E.A. Robinson and his crew safe.
10  #25 OTU Manchester I L7478 was approaching to land when an engine failed and the aircraft crashed, Sgt F. King RAF killed, P/O E.R. Seibold injured (R. Allenby). See June 2-3, below.

10  #52 OTU Master II AZ311 aircraft crashed, Sgt. J.A. Arn RCAF (USA) killed (H. Welting www.rafcommands.com).

10  #55 OTU Hurricane I P3664 crashed in England, Sgt J.D.L. Graham killed.

10  Air Force Headquarters Ferry Sqn., Rockcliffe, Ontario, Battle I #2115 was on a ferry flight to #9 B&G School, Mont Joli, Quebec, when it crashed at Clappisons Corners, Ontario, reason not known, F/O E. Montgomery RCAF (USA) killed (S. Shail).

10-11 Bremen attacked by 55 bombers without loss. Minor operations of 3 bombers to Emden, also 20 bombers to Brest which see nothing due to clouds. No losses (BC War Diaries).

Wednesday

11 A convoy of 3 fast merchant ships sails from Alexandria to re-supply Malta, sailing to a rendezvous off Tobruk in an attempt to fool Axis forces (Shores, Massimello, Guest, Olynyk and Bock).

A PRU Spitfire photographs the German warships Scharnhorst, Gneisenau and Prinz Eugen moored at the fuel docks in Brest, but no special action is taken (J. Foreman).

US Forces land at Netherlands Islands of Aruba and Curacao in the Caribbean to take over defence of the oil production facilities (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).

#34 EFTS Assiniboia, Saskatchewan opens (www.bombercrew.com/BCATP.htm).

11  258 Sqn. P/O R.B. Keedwell died in hospital in Java of his injuries. He has no known grave. (This is the date from CWGC. TSGNO states P/O Keedwell passed away Feb. 10. S. Shores details the events that lead to him being wounded and burned occurring Feb. 7, but states he passed away within 24 hours. T. Kelly states he was injured Feb. 4 at Palembang in Sumatra in the fight in which P/O Kleckner was killed, which CWGC lists as occurring Feb. 6).

11  1 Sqn. Hurricane II BD945 was practicing night interceptions when it overshot it's landing and crashed in England, killing Sgt E.G. Parsons (P. Caygill).

11  248 Sqn. Beaufighter lost over the Bay of Biscay, F/L A.B. Parker RAF (Can.) missing.

11  401 Sqn. Spitfire Vb W3178 YO-Q shot down by flak attacking shipping off the French coast, F/S W.D. Hagyard missing.

11  #9 SFTS RAF, England, Master I T8404 collided in mid-air with DH.82 Tiger Moth T7850, both aircraft crashing. Sgt A.J. Maher and P/O Buckland RAF were killed in the Master, P/O Jones RNZAF and F/O Pledger RAF were killed in the Tiger Moth (ref. in J. Rennison's Wings over Gloucestershire, cited by davew in www.rafcommands.com).


11  #52 OTU Spitfire crashed, Sgt G.A. Davis killed. Possibly Spitfire I P9546 which crashed after an inflight structural failure (malcolm_raf at www.rafcommands.com).
#4 SFTS, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Crane I #7868 crashed and burned just after a night take-off at the Vanscoy landing ground, P/O F.G. Hovey and LAC(P) L.G.H. Wilson RNZAF killed, LAC(P) D.M. Hunter RNZAF injured. LAC Hunter survived the war, transferred to the RAF and was killed in an accident in 1957 (E. Martyn and C. Charland, www.rafcommands.com).

**11 Channel Dash, Evening, German warships** Scharnhorst, Gneisenau and Prinz Eugen prepare to leave Brest to force their way through the English Channel. Hitler wanted them returned to Germany to counter any possible Russian/British/US invasion of Finland and Norway. He overruled his admirals who pointed out that the ships were more valuable in France threatening Allied convoys (Oxford).

To support the ships German jamming of the British radars along the Channel had been in place for several months, the strength of the jamming signal being incrementally increased each night to prevent RAF operators from noticing. As well a very large, elaborate and effective plan for a fighter screen was in place before daylight, with relieved German fighter patrols hopping down the coast to prepositioned refuelling airfields to keep pace with the ships as they moved along the coasts of France, Belgium, Holland and Germany.

**11-12 Bomber Command sends 49 bombers to Mannheim, 31 to Le Havre, 18 Wellingtons to Brest, 5 NICKEL sorties and 1 GARDENING sortie with 2 losses** (BC War Diaries).

Channel Dash, The attack on Brest delayed the departure of the German warships Scharnhorst, Gneisenau and Prinz Eugen and their escorting destroyers. If they had left on schedule they would have been detected by the Coastal Command Hudson on airborne radar picket. This aircraft finished it's patrol but the relieving aircraft was intercepted by a German night fighter, which it was forced to avoid. After the attack it was found that the radar was unserviceable, possibly due to the manoeuvres made to avoid the night fighter. The backup aircraft's radar also failed (J. Foreman). In the coverage gap before they were replaced the German fleet passed undetected through the picket, heading for the Channel. They would not be discovered for another 12 hours.


Thursday

12 The Malta bound convoy meets off Tobruk and heads to Malta under heavy escort (Shores, Massimello, Guest, Olynyk and Bock).

12 232 Sqn. Hurricane II BG768 was caught in a storm while covering ships evacuating from Singapore and crash landed in swamp in Sumatra, P/O J.K. McKechnie was injured but managed to make his way to a river where a Dutch naval ship took him to safety (Shores, Cull & Izawa). He was later evacuated to India, see July 4, below.

12 unknown AMES unit, Singapore, again had to be destroyed before capture by F/O B.W. Martin. F/O Martin was evacuated from Singapore and in 1946, now a Squadron Leader, was
awarded an OBE (H.A. Halliday).

274 Sqn. Hurricane II BD821 lost in the Mediterranean, F/L A.J. Smith RAF (Can.) missing (Shores, Massimello, Guest, Olynyk and Bock). TSGNO notes F/L Smith had flown with 74 Sqn. in the Battle of Britain, and he also flew with 30 Sqn. in Greece, where B. Barry et al reports he was captured but escaped.


405 Sqn. AC2 R.P. Marriott RAF died of injuries received the previous day when he was part of a party cleaning snow from a dispersal and accidentally backed into a turning propellor (405 SH, R. Allenby).

12 Operation FULLER, or the Channel Dash, by German battlecruisers Scharnhorst, Gneisenau and Prinz Eugen from France to Germany with very heavy fighter protection by German Luftwaffe and surprise heavy jamming of British radar.

Although plans had been made by the RAF and RN to counter this (see April 29, 1941) the German ships achieved tactical surprise by late detection and running through in daylight, which was not anticipated. They also picked a day of low cloud and reduced visibility. Due to this Bomber Command aircraft detailed for FULLER had been stood down during the day without this being reported to higher command, and those that were available were being held at 4 hours notice instead of the 2 hours notice the plan specified (Oxford). Thus planned RAF and RN air operations fell apart due to confusion and poor weather with attacks being made on the ships piecemeal in the face of well planned and heavy fighter protection, radar jamming, flak, and bad weather. Attacks on the ships were made from their detection entering the Channel until they were lost in darkness off the coast of Holland. Nine RCAF Squadrons took part in these attacks, 4 from Bomber Command, 4 from Fighter Command and 407 Sqn. Coastal Command. The Scharnhorst and Gneisenau were damaged in the evening not by aerial attack but by aircraft dropped mines laid previously, but both managed to make port at Kiel. Ironically they are easier for the Royal Navy to monitor and contain in German ports than they had been in France (D. Sommerville). See February 26-27, below.

49 Sqn. Canadian built Hampden I P5324 believed to have been shot down into the sea attacking German warships, Sgt T.K. Downes RAF, Sgt B. Hunter RAF and Sgt D.G.F. Poxon RAF killed, Sgt T.H.F. Wood RAF missing.

114 Sqn. Blenheim IV T1922 RT-K shot down attacking German cruisers in the Channel, P/O R.E. Drysdale and Sgt A.S. Maynard RAF killed, Sgt J.S. Pullen RAF missing.

129 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AA921? was shot down in the Channel by flak, P/O G.J. Davis missing [this aircraft was recorded lost from 129 Sqn. Feb. 28, 1942 www.spitfires.ukf.net].

137 Sqn. Whirlwind, P/O J.L. Dehoux was one of 8 escorting RN destroyers in the Channel which were attacked by German fighters, he returned safely but 4 Whirlwinds were lost (D. James). See September 2, 1943.

401 Sqn. Spitfire Vb W3131 shot down by Bf 109 aircraft, P/O J.A.O. Levesque PoW. He had been credited with 4 aircraft destroyed, including the first victory over a Fw 190. Postwar P/O Levesque flew Sabres in Korea, where he shot down a MiG-15 (Airforce, September 1983). 401 Sqn. was to have escorted RN Swordfish torpedo bombers, but did not find them. This was the Swordfish group that was all shot down, and leader Lt Cdr Esmonde
RN was awarded a posthumous VC (H.A. Halliday).

403 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BL337 KH-K scrambled, lost control in cloud and abandoned, possibly collided with Spitfire AD273, F/S McDonald safe.

403 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AD273 KH-C scrambled and crashed into the sea off Brighton after colliding with BL337, P/O J.N. Cawsey was seen to bail out but was not found by a search.


407 Sqn. Hudson V AM598 RR-P lost attacking Scharnhorst and Gneisenau in the Channel, F/L L. Cowperthwaite, Sgt W.B. Lenover, F/O J.E. Lister and F/S N.J. Jones RAF missing. F/L Cowperthwaite, F/O Lister and F/S Jones were posthumously given MiDs. These two Hudson's were part of a formation that were to meet a fighter escort at another airfield before making their attack, however due to miscommunication the fighters did not take off (their instructions were to wait for the bombers to land and refuel first). After circling for a time waiting for the fighters to join them some of the Hudson's landed while five others continued on to the German ships without an escort. S/L Anderson and F/L Cowperthwaite's aircraft were last seen making bomb runs on the ships under heavy fighter attack. Both were considered outstanding officers on the Squadron (pers. comm. A.D. Squires).

407 Sqn. Hudson V, F/S W.A. Creeden, Sgt G. Hancox RAF and Sgt H.G. Everett RAF were awarded DFM's for their actions attacking a German destroyer, then fighting off enemy air attacks (407 SH, H.A. Halliday). See May 15, below.

407 Sqn. Hudson V, F/S R.J. Majeau, Sgt J.A. Richard and Sgt G.F. Cook dove in to attack one of the cruisers. Though attacked by Bf 110 aircraft they drove them off but were hit by flak that jammed the bomb bay doors closed. They were awarded MiDs for this action (407 SH).

408 Sqn. Hampden I, S/L D.S.N. Constance RNZAF used flak bursts above the clouds to locate the ships and dropped out of the clouds over the German fleet where he was quickly badly hit, losing an aileron which limited his manoeuvrability. Nonetheless he completed his bomb run, suffering further hits to the body of the aircraft which damaged the radio and navigation compartment, one shell passing through the wireless station floor, between the legs of the operator, and out through the roof. The wireless operator F/O R. Van den Bok RAF managed to repair the radio enabling navigator P/O R.J. Hardingham to navigate their damaged bomber back to a safe landing in England. All three were awarded DFCs (FF Years, Ex Air-Gunner Short Bursts, May, 2004, http://www.airmuseum.ca/mag/0405.html). See August 28-29, below.


420 Sqn. Hampden I P4400 PT-J lost without trace attacking German warships off the Dutch coast, P/O J.R. Topping DFM RAF, Sgt F.W. Ashfield RAF, F/O E.G. Fowler RAF and Sgt
T.H. Mate RAF missing.

12 420 Sqn. Hampden I AT134 PT-K lost attacking German warships off the Dutch coast, S/L G.L.B. Harris RAF (NZ), F/S A.H. Brunt RAF and Sgt P.V.E. Rothery RAF killed, F/O H.H. Miller missing.


12 #7 Air Gunner School, RAF, Lysander II P1719 crashed in Wales, Sgt A.V. Roffey and AC1 C. Thomas RAF killed.

12 #5 EFTS High River, Alberta DH.82C Tiger Moth #4995 crashed near Stavely, Alberta after a mid-air collision, Sgt G.H. Campbell and LAC(P) D.J. Dawson killed.

Friday

13 Evacuation of Singapore begins (Shores, Cull & Izawa). The evacuating ships have to run through the gauntlet of Japanese aircraft coverage. Many do not make it.

The water supply pipeline from the Japanese occupied mainland to Singapore Island is cut. There are stored water supplies on the Island, but not enough to maintain the defenders for long.

Approval for construction of a military road through Canada to Alaska given (M.H. Williams). See March 8, below.

13 258 Sqn. Hurricane II was the last of a group landing at Palembang P1 airfield on a ferry flight from Java when it was attacked by a Japanese fighter, Sgt N.M. Scott bailed out at low level and safe. The Japanese fighter suffered a wing failure recovering from its attack and crashed (T. Kelly). See January 21, 1944.

13 411 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AD195 DB-M was hit by flak on an anti-shipping patrol. Pilot F/S J.L. Mitchell managed return nearly to the English coast, where he ditched off of Dover, but was not seen to exit the aircraft and is missing.

13 #22 OTU Wellington Ic R3229 was landing from an exercise when it overshot the landing zone and crashed due to failure of the flaps, Sgt G.A. Molozzi, P/O W.A. Smith RAF, P/O K. Mould RAF, Sgt Mitchell RAF, Sgt Lane RAF, Sgt Murphy RAF and F/S Swain RAF injured. See Feb. 13, 1943.

13 #20 EFTS, Oshawa, Ontario, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4348 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

13 #34 SFTS, Medicine Hat, Alberta, Oxford I AS478 crashed, LAC J.A. Fox RAF killed.

13 Conversion Flight School, Rockcliffe, Ontario, repaired Battle Trainer I R7422 has it's fourth accident and second belly landing at Pendleton, Ontario, following an engine problem (S. Shail). See Jan. 21, 1944.

Saturday

14 Japanese invasion forces land on Sumatra. Japanese paratroops are dropped on RAF airfields near Palembang in Sumatra, S/L J.E. Tayler RAF (Can.), Sgt N.C. Scott and P/O R.L. Cicurel RCAF (USA) were involved in the ground fighting (Allison & Hayward, Shores, Cull & Izawa). Sgt G.J. Dunn strafed landing paratroops in a
Hurricane before being forced to leave low on fuel, Sgt R.C. Smith and Sgt H.P. Low were among those taken PoW (Shores, Cull & Izawa). The airfield was neutralized (Shores, Cull & Izawa).

Leningrad, at around this time the railroad to Leningrad is rebuilt, under attack by German bombers, as close to the front as possible. This improves deliveries of supplies to Lake Ladoga, where the ice road continues to bring in supplies and takes out evacuees. This is also under attack, but continues to function. Rations in the City, however, have been below survival levels since November (Oxford).

Heavily attacked the convoy to Malta fails with the loss of two of the three ships. No supplies reach the island (Shores, Massimello, Guest, Olynyk and Bock).

RAF Bomber Command issues Area Bombing Directive (WWII Mag, W.R. Chorley). British War Cabinet issues directive to RAF Bomber Command to target "the morale of the enemy civil population and in particular of the industrial workers" (BC War Diaries). See Quebec Conference, August 24, 1943.

The departure of the German warships from Brest released Bomber Command to focus on this new directive. In the attacks on these ships over 3,400 tons of bombs had been dropped which despite heavy flak, fighter and smoke defences had kept the ships damaged enough to prevent their re-deploying into the Atlantic and attacking thinly escorted convoys, at the cost of 127 bombers lost (BC War Diaries).

First flight of the re-designed Douglas DC-4 (C-54) 4-engined transport (wikipedia). See July 15, 1946.

Air Force Headquarters Ferry Squadron is redesignated #124 (Ferry) Sqn. at Rockcliffe, Ontario, (RCAF Sqns.).


14  #16 OTU Hampden I P2081 crashed in England when it flew into trees approaching to land at night, F/S W.J. Hodge and Sgt J.R. Viau killed, Sgt J. Pegrum RAF and one crew injured. W.R. Chorley notes Sgt J.R. Viau's brother, Private A. Viau, RCAMC, also died in England.

14  #55 OTU two Hurricane aircraft, Mark I V6955 and Canadian built Mark X AF976, were engaged in a mock dogfight when they collided over Tudhope Village, England, and crashed. Sgt C.J. Scott was killed in AF976 (J. Corbett www.rafcommands.com). Sgt J. Porter RAF bailed out of V6955 too low and was also killed after apparently staying with his crippled aircraft to steer it away from the village below.

14  #1 SFTS, Camp Borden, Ontario, Harvard II #2616 crashed through ice into Lake Simcoe near Big Bay Point during a snowstorm, P/O J.T. Martin and LAC F.S. Howarth RAAF missing (Storr).

14-15 Bomber Command sends 98 aircraft to Mannheim plus 15 to Le Havre and a NICKEL
sortie. Only 67 aircraft reported bombing Mannheim but damage was again very light. Two bombers were lost (BC War Diaries).

Sunday

15 British, Australian and Indian forces in Singapore surrender to the smaller Japanese invading force. Cpl(N) R. Everson RAF (Can.) was one of those taken PoW and survived the war (Allison & Hayward). AC J.S. (Jack) Ford RAF (Nfld.) of 36 Sqn. was another taken PoW, see August 9, 1945.

Japanese forces land at Palembang port. Evacuation of airfields at Palembang begins, delayed by fog. After taking off and unable to continue due to fog a flight of Hurricanes is guided back by Very flares, Sgt J.P. Fleming's aircraft overturned but he was rescued, safe, from the wreck by bystanders (Shores, Cull & Izawa).

#113 Sqn. RCAF reformed as a Bomber Reconnaissance unit at Yarmouth, NS, on Hudson III aircraft.

15 252 Sqn. Beaufighter Ic T4830(?) "F" from Malta had just shot down an Italian Cant Z.506B floatplane in the Mediterranean when it was shot down by two German Ju 88C night fighters, F/S G.A. Jackson RCAF (USA) and Sgt A.A. Largent RAF missing (R. McNeill www.rafcommands.com).

15 #8 Air Gunners School, Scotland, Lysander III T1744 dived into the ground at low altitude, Sgt J.A. Davis and LAC J.F. MacKenzie RAF killed (davew www.rafcommands.com).

15 #5 ITS, Belleville, Ontario, AC2 K.W. Robertson Jr. RCAF (USA) died in a car accident in Pontiac, Michigan, USA.

15 #32 OTU, Patricia Bay, BC, Beaufort I N1006 RD-B crashed into the ocean after an engine failed, no details (R. Hayward).

15-16 Twenty six bombers sent to St. Nazaire but only 9 bomb due to cloud, three are lost in crashes in England (BC War Diaries).


Monday

16 Prime Minister Tojo of Japan announces implementation of Co-Prosperey Sphere in Japanese controlled areas of Asia. Evacuation of Sumatra begins. Allied convoy heading to Bali attacked and turned back to Australia (Shores, Cull & Izawa).
On Bangka Island in Indonesia a group of about 60 shipwrecked wounded soldiers with 22 Australian Army Nursing Service nurses, escapees from Singapore, surrender to a group of Japanese soldiers. The men were marched away and killed, and then the nurses were ordered to walk into the sea where they are machine gunned, 21 killed, one left for dead survived with one wounded soldier who later died of his wounds.

In Europe RAF begins operational use of Boston bomber for daylight attacks.

#123 (ACT) Sqn. RCAF deployed from Rockcliffe, Ontario, to Debert, NS (RCAF Sqns.).
16 249 Sqn. Malta, S/L P.S. Turner RAF (Can.) takes command of the Squadron (Shores, Cull & Izawa). S/L Turner had previously flown in 242 (Canadian) Squadron in the Battle of France and the Battle of Britain.
16 48 Sqn. Hudson V AM873 missing on a patrol from Scotland, F/O S. Birch killed, Sgt J.G. Purcell, Sgt J.M. Bonnefin RAAF and Sgt J. Croll RAF missing (A. Storr; COL BRUGGY www.rafcommands.com).
16 82 Sqn. Blenheim IV V6454 UX-Z hit the ground in a turn, possibly due to an incorrectly set altimeter, Sgt J.M. Ambler RAF (Can.), P/O K.H. Bottrill RAF and Sgt J.M. Roberts RAF killed. TSGNO states Sgt Ambler was from Edmonton, Alberta, but CWGC notes his parents were English.

16-17 U-boat torpedoes 5 tankers off Venezuela, beginning of the naval war in the Caribbean (Oxford).

Forty nine bombers are sent on GARDENING sorties to the Frisian Islands, plus 28 Wellingtons on roving sorties over Germany, 5 INTRUDERS over Holland and 22 NICKEL sorties over France and Belgium, 2 bombers lost (BC War Diaries).


Tuesday
17 Sydney Harbour, Australia, scouted by Japanese submarine launched scout plane, first of several over flights of Australian ports in next few weeks (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).

#111 (F) Sqn. leaves Sea Island for Patricia Bay, BC (RCAF Sqns.).
17 #1 OADU Wellington Ic DV458 was enroute to Malta from Gibraltar but was attacked by fighters and crash landed in a lake in Tunisia, Sgt G. Mcintyre RAF killed, Sgt W.W. Morton RAF missing, P/O J.C. Hardy, P/O R.A. Green (or Greene) RCAF (USA), P/O F.H. Phillips RAF and P/O R.T. Bromwich RAF interned by the Vichy French government.
17 #1 OADU Wellington Ic AD649 overshot landing at Malta and was wrecked, P/O I.C. Beckwith and his crew safe.
17 233 Sqn. Hudson V AM612 lost on a shipping strike, P/O L.N. Sarles, F/S B.F. Culf MiD RAF, Sgt P. Harrison and F/L J.W. Potter DFM RAF missing.
17 402 Sqn. Hurricane IIb aircraft BE471 and BE419 scrambled in the evening and flew into combat with Bf 109 aircraft off Portsmouth, both returned damaged, F/S Emberg and F/S H.A. Keene respectively, safe.


17 #55 OTU Canadian built Hurricane I Z7052 crashed in England in a snow storm, Sgt J.W. Yost killed.

Wednesday

18 In Newfoundland, US destroyers Pollux and Wilkes, with supply vessel Truxton, enroute to Argentia, run aground on the Burin Peninsula. The Wilkes was re-floated, but the Pollux and Truxton break up with the loss of 203 USN sailors. Residents of the towns of Lawn and St. Lawrence, and the Iron Springs Mine near the wreck sites, rescued and sheltered 140 sailors. In appreciation the US Government built the Memorial Hospital in St. Lawrence in 1954.

Newfoundland Ranger J.J. Hogan was traveling to an assignment by ship, but stopped to assist in the rescue of the survivors, one of whom gave him a clasp knife in thanks (G.A. Pauls). See May 8, 1943.

In Oranjestad on the Dutch Island of Aruba in the Caribbean a U-boat surfaced in the harbour in daylight and torpedoed an oil tanker. It was spotted almost immediately by the crew of a USAAF B-18 bomber that was refuelling after escorting tankers from Venezuela to the island. The crew scrambled aboard their aircraft but then had to taxi toward the U-boat which had manned it's main deck gun. Turning around to take-off the bomber was only 500m from the U-boat which then began to prepare to dive. The B-18 took off, turned and made an attack on the diving U-boat which drove it away, before landing to re-arm and take-off again. The torpedoed tanker was beached (Hagedorn & Hagedorn).

As part of a drive to buy Victory Bonds in Manitoba RCAF aircraft with German markings flew simulated attacks on the city of Winnipeg and "bombed" the town of Selkirk (wikipedia). See February 19, below.


18 #17 OTU Blenheim IV L1359 was taxiing to take off when it ran into Blenheim I L6808, P/O J.V. Hadland RAF and P/O S. Coshall RAF were on L1359 and P/O J.H. Ellis was the pilot of L6808, all safe.

18 #1651 Conversion Unit (CU) Stirling I "C" was heavily damaged making a landing, F/S H.R. Millichamp and his crew safe. See April 25-26, below.

18 #3 Manning Depot, Edmonton, Alberta, AC2 W.H. Smalley died in hospital of natural causes.

18 #37 SFTS, LAC C.W. Johnson RAF died of natural causes in Calgary, Alberta (K. MacLean
and Marks at www.rafcommands.com).

18-19 Bomber Command sent 25 GARDENING sorties off Germany and 7 NICKEL flights over France and Belgium with 1 loss (BC War Diaries).

18-19 420 Sqn. Hampden I AD915 PT-F hit by flak and ditched off Holland, Sgt H. Baker RAF and Sgt J.R.B. Adams RAF killed, P/O R. Kee RAF and Sgt W.H.J. Rutledge RAF PoW. D. Parker notes that this aircraft had been on a NICKEL sortie over Paris two nights before.

Thursday

19 Japanese carrier aircraft attack Darwin, Australia (CJCA headline). Darwin was the point of departure for reinforcements to Timor and Java (which were due to be invaded as well). To prevent it's further use as a supply point in a possible Allied offensive 242 Japanese aircraft from 4 carriers plus land based bombers and flying boats attacked the port and offshore shipping in the largest single Japanese attack on the Australian mainland. In a repeat of the Pearl Harbour attack an early observers warning was discounted as an expected formation of Allied aircraft. Ten cargo ships and a US destroyer were sunk and 35 cargo ships damaged out of 45 in harbour, most of the Allied aircraft based there were destroyed or damaged, and around 300 people were killed for the loss of 1 Japanese aircraft. Heavy damage was inflicted on the town's defences, airfields and stored material. It is thought half of the 2,000 civilians in the town fled into the surrounding bush after the attack, and invasion scares spread across Australia (wikipedia, Oxford). If an invasion had been mounted there was almost nothing available in northern Australia to stop it at this time. The single lost Japanese aircraft was an A6M fighter that force landed on an island off-shore where it was examined and parts retrieved, but although largely intact the RAAF had no local means of retrieving it (D. Vincent).

In France the ex-Premier Leon Blum, along with ex-Premier Reynaud and army commander General Gamelin, are tried by the Vichy government for "War Guilt", ie, being responsible for causing the war. Their defence is strong, and annoying to the Germans, who order the trial suspended. Blum is sent to a concentration camp but survives the war, forming a caretaker government in 1946 until elections can be held (worldatwar.net/biography, D. Sommerville).

In Winnipeg the simulated invasion of the city continued. Called "If Day", it involved 3,500 Canadian army troops and with other volunteers, all dressed in German uniforms rented from Hollywood. In the early morning RCAF aircraft with German markings "bombed" the city which was defended by anti-aircraft guns firing blank shells. Elaborate demonstrations of light tanks, troop formations, aid stations, and simulated casualties were followed by the cities "surrender" in mid morning, following which it was occupied by the "German" forces who set out arresting and interrogating government officials, taking over radio stations, posting proclamations, etc, all carried out in great detail. Other towns also participated. The event drew international attention in the press and over $3 million was raised for the war effort (wikipedia).
19 40 Sqn. Wellington Ic Z9113 left Malta for Egypt but force landed when a propellor flew off, F/S C. Ruggles, F/S C.A. Armstrong RNZAF, Sgt P. Street RAF, Sgt M.K. Johnson RAF, Sgt B. Holloway RAF and Sgt R.D. Kirkwood RAF safe.
19 #5 EFTS, High River, Alberta, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4094 stalled and spun in from a low level turn near the airfield, LAC(P) M. Huculak killed.
19 #32 EFTS, Bowden, Alberta, DH.82C Tiger Moth #5155 crashed, LAC R.J. Whyte RAF killed.
19 #33 SFTS, Carberry, Man., Anson I N9607 crashed near Melbourne, Manitoba, F/O D.P. Watson RAF and LAC G.C. Wellings RAF killed (B. Walker).

19-20 Bali and Timor invaded by Japanese forces (Shores, Cull & Izawa). Japanese forces invade the island of Timor, including neutral Portuguese Timor. Airborne marines are dropped by parachute behind the landing area, trapping Dutch and Australian forces, but being nearly wiped out by counter attacks. This and the Soviet operation at Vyazma are believed to be the first examples of what would later be called vertical envelopment (Oxford) (see also May 19, 1941). Australian and Dutch soldiers that escaped the invasion continued to resist as Guerillas in mountainous Portuguese Timor until withdrawn in Feb. 1943, having tied up an entire Japanese division (wikipedia, D. Vincent).

Friday
20 Japanese forces land on Bali (CJCA headline).

USS Lexington task force approaches Rabaul, but is attacked and forced to withdraw (Shores, Cull & Izawa). Fighter patrols from the carrier inflicted heavy losses on attacking bombers, the professional skill of the USN fighter pilots coming as a surprise to the Japanese, and was viewed with concern. This action was the first check to their military success in the South Pacific and resulted in postponements of planned landings in Papua New Guinea. The US Navy did not place the same importance on this action, having withdrawn in large part to refuel it's escorts. The system of refuelling and transferring stores while underway, later of major importance in carrier operations, had not yet been developed (E.P. Hoyt).


20 #17 OTU Blenheim IV Z5899 hit barrage balloon cables in bad weather on a low level flight exercise and crashed, F/S W.T. Kyle, Sgt L.S. De Lisser RAF (Jamaica) and Sgt E. Scott RAF killed.
20 #1652 CU Halifax I L9564 was damaged in a heavy landing, P/O R.S. Turnbull DFM and his crew safe (R. Allenby).
20 #1 Central Flying School, Trenton, Ontario, Fawn II #283 crashed in an inverted spin, P/O J.D. Douglas and P/O C.F. Hanisch RCAF (USA) killed.
20 #1 Service Flying Training School, Camp Borden, Ontario, Harvard II #3173 crashed near Edenvale, Ontario, F/L D.B. Gardiner killed.

Saturday
21 Captains of the Clouds, a Warner Brothers propaganda film starring Dennis Morgan and
James Cagney, about the BCATP and filmed in Canada with the co-operation of the RCAF, opened in New York, London (England), Ottawa, Cairo, Melbourne, Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver simultaneously. RCAF pilots and parades of Air Cadets were at many of these screenings (wikipedia). This was the first movie filmed using the Technicolor process in Canada.

21 404 Sqn. Blenheim IV V5433 EE-F crashed on the Island of Grunay in the Outer Skerries returning from a patrol off the coast of Norway, F/S C.D.G. Brown, F/S J.H. Oliver and Sgt T.W. Coy RAF killed (shetlopedia.com). There is a monument now at the crash site (404 SH).

21 #16 OTU Hampden I X2968 crashed on a night flying exercise after several attempts to land, Sgt D.G. Allen and Sgt G.C. Robertson RAF killed.

21 #3 OTU, Patricia Bay, BC, pilot Sgt W.M. Hatfield and WAG P/O B. Hutchison were attached to 115 (BR) Sqn RCAF and were killed when they overshot a landing at Shoal Harbour, BC in Hudson I #776 MX-T. They attempted a go-around with full flaps but stalled into the water.

21 #10 SFTS, Dauphin, Man., Cpl R.M. Justice died at home of natural causes.

Sunday

22 Air Chief Marshal Arthur Harris appointed C-in-C of Bomber Command. He begins implementation of new directives from the Air Ministry, and brought a keen tactical mind to the problems of strategic bombing. He implemented several new methods including concentrating his force on attacking one target at a time, using a concentrated bomber "stream", and increased the use of incendiary bombs, combined with high capacity blast bombs, to start extremely large fires (BC War Diaries).

Although the numbers of aircraft in Bomber Command had not changed much in the last year due to squadrons being detached to Coastal Command and the Middle East, the types of aircraft were changing as the Lancaster and Halifax heavy bombers replaced the Hampden, Whitley and Manchester. As well new equipment was beginning to arrive to improve night navigation. The first of these, already mentioned, was GEE, a device which displayed electrical pulses from several ground stations from which an accurate position in near real time could be determined (BC War Diaries).

The first officers of USAAF 8th Air Force arrive in England (BC War Diaries).

22 #19 OTU Whitley V P5101 was taking off on an air test when an engine failed just after getting airborne. Attempting an emergency single engine landing the pilot P/O W.D. Sugrue turned too steeply and crashed, P/O Sugrue and LAC J.H. Potts RAF killed.

22 #59 OTU Hurricane I V7156 came down in the sea off Scotland, Sgt D.T. Vail missing.

22 #3 SFTS, Calgary, Alberta, Crane I #8129 dived into the ground while engaged in instrument flight instruction, possibly due to carbon monoxide poisoning, F/S H.E. Pitt, LAC(P) O.J. Nichols RAAF and LAC(P) F.G. Pike RAAF were killed (A. Storr). See #12 SFTS loss July 25, 1942.

22 #10 SFTS, Dauphin, Man., Crane I #7921 was practicing precautionary landings when it dove into the ground near Valley River, Man., killing LAC(P) K.F. Somerville. See #12 SFTS loss
July 25, 1942.

22-23 Fifty bombers sent to Wilhelmshaven to bomb the floating dock there which might be used to repair damaged German warships, but cloud obscured the target, so bombs were dropped in the general area, without any result. Other operations include 12 bombers to other targets, 5 GARDENING sorties and 2 NICKEL flights over France, all without loss (BC War Diaries).

Monday

23 German cruiser Prinz Eugen torpedoed off Norway by RN submarine Trident (ww2total.com Chronology/1942, wikipedia).

23 10 Sqn. Whitley V Z6756 overshot the landing area attempting an emergency one-engined landing, P/O G.W. Caldwell injured, Sgt O.N. Morris RAF, Sgt A. Taylor RAF and Sgt K.R. Bunney RAF safe.


23 402 Sqn. bomber Hurricane (Hurribomber) IIb BE479 crashed in England, F/S I.J. Eady killed.


23 #1 Central Flying School, Trenton, Ontario, two Harvard aircraft were in a mid-air collision, P/O D.R. Beardall was the only casualty, killed in Harvard II #2955.

23 #15 SFTS, Claresholm, Alberta, Crane I #8747 broke formation in a practice flight and crashed near Parkland, Alberta, LAC(P) S.M. Rodgers killed. See #12 SFTS loss July 25, 1942.


23-24 Japanese submarine I-17 shells an oil refinery near Santa Barbara, California, causing little damage but provoking an invasion scare on the West Coast. Another Japanese submarine launched a floatplane to fly a reconnaissance over Pearl Harbour undetected the same night. See March 3-4, below.


Tuesday


Japanese bombers attack Port Moresby in New Guinea. There are no defending fighters based there (D. Newton).
Off Turkey the passenger ship SS Struma, having put into port with an inoperative engine, and carrying Romanian Jewish refugees to Palestine, was towed to sea by Turkish authorities where it is torpedoed and sunk by a Soviet submarine, killing 768 people with 1 survivor (wikipedia).

In northern Russia a German corps is surrounded and trapped by Soviet forces. They are supported and re-supplied by air transports, delivering over 200 tons of supplies each day (D. Sommerville). See April 21, below.

Canadian Order in Council passed authorizing internment of Japanese and Canadians of Japanese descent (including Canadian Army veterans of the First World War) and their removal from the West Coast of Canada to detention camps inland. This is at the request of the BC and US governments and against the advice of the RCMP. The order also includes seize and sale of their private property, to defray the costs of their internment. Part of the reasoning behind this action was that the Japanese Government officially defined citizenship by ethnicity. They viewed children born in other countries of Japanese parents as Japanese citizens. These actions may have been influenced by the events that occurred on the Hawaiian island of Ni'ihau after the attack on Pearl Harbour (see December 7, 1941).

In the USA the internment of Japanese citizens and ethnic Japanese US citizens threatened the agricultural industry in the western States, where most of them had been employed. To counter this the USA and Mexico agreed to allow Mexican farm labours to work in the USA, called the Bracero Program, which continued until 1964 (Oxford).

Newspapers in Los Angeles report that the refinery at Santa Barbara had been bombed by Japanese aircraft and shelled by Japanese ships (B. Coyle).

24 249 Sqn. Hurricane Z3580, S/L P.S. Turner RAF (Can.) and Hurricane BG771, P/O D.A. Tedford RAF (Can.) were in a fight over Malta when they were bounced by German fighters (Shores, Cull & Izawa). S/L Turner was slightly wounded, but his aircraft was set on fire and his canopy jammed, forcing him to make an emergency landing. P/O Tedford radioed he was wounded and bailed out, but was not found. (Shores et al, quote sources that indicate P/O Tedford was a US citizen, but TSGNO lists him as Canadian, from Windsor, Ontario).

24 53 Sqn. Hudson V AM563 PZ-X missing from anti-shipping patrol after it hit the mast of a ship it was attacking and crashed onto an ice floe, P/O K.S. Davies, P/O R.D. Fairbairn and F/O D.A. Ray RAAF missing, P/O F.S. Knight RAF (Can.) was thrown onto the ice floe when the aircraft broke up and was rescued and made PoW (A. Storr, who identifies P/O Knight as a Canadian; POW List www.rafcommands.com).

24 418 Sqn. Boston III W8335 flew into the ground in England on a training flight, killing F/S A. Kreut, F/S F.C. O’Connor, LAC J.W. Moore RAF and Sgt B.C. Smith RAF (418 SH). This was the first aircraft lost by the Squadron (H.A. Halliday www.rafcommands.com). Note that CWGC dates this loss on Feb. 25, possibly crashed at night?

24 #52 OTU Spitfire crashed in England, Sgt I. MacKenzie killed. Possibly #52 OTU Spitfire la
X4036 which flew into the ground in bad visibility on this date (www.spitfires.ukf.net).

24 #1 SFTS, Camp Borden, Ontario, Harvard #2623 collided with #14 SFTS Yale #3373 (below) and crashed, LAC W.J. Hogan RAAF killed in #2623 (A. Storr, R.W.R. Walker). (A. Storr states that both LAC Hogan and LAC Loginoff were killed in #3373, #14 SFTS, see below.)

24 #4 SFTS, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Crane I #7717 crashed, LAC L.W. Gillan RNZAF killed. See #12 SFTS loss July 25, 1942.

24 #6 SFTS, Dunnville, Ontario, Harvard II #2847 crashed near Otterville, Ontario, after a mid-air collision on a cross country flight with Harvard #3072 (below), LAC(P) R. Davidson killed (R.W.R. Walker).

24 #14 SFTS, Aylmer, Ontario, Harvard IIb #3072 crashed near Otterville, Ontario, after a mid-air collision with Harvard #2847 (above) on a navigation exercise, killing LAC(P) C.H. McCredie (R.W.R. Walker).

24 #14 SFTS, Aylmer, Ontario, Yale #3373 collided with Harvard #1 SFTS #2623 (above) and crashed, LAC N.A. Loginoff RAAF killed (A. Storr, R.W.R. Walker).

24-25 In Los Angeles, California, defence forces on edge due to the shelling by a Japanese submarine the night before, respond to reports of aircraft with air raid alerts and anti-aircraft fire throughout the night, affecting an estimated 2,000,000 people. Three civilians died from shell splinters, and three others suffered fatal heart attacks (wikipedia).

Wednesday
25 #21 EFTS, Chatham, new Brunswick, LAC A.L. Little died in hospital from injuries suffered in a car accident.

25-26 Bomber Command sends 61 bombers to attack the floating dry dock at Kiel, hitting the harbour area and destroying 1 ship. Aluminium factories in Norway were targeted by 21 bombers plus 19 GARDENING sorties and 3 NICKEL sorties also carried out, a total of 104 sorties with 3 losses (BC War Diaries).

25-26 12 Sqn. Wellington II Z8410 was on an operation to German ports when it radioed it was diverting to Sweden due to engine problems. The aircraft came down in Denmark where WO2 E.E. Littlefield RCAF (USA), WO D.R.W. Wardill RAAF, S/L R.B. Abraham RAF, P/O E.N. Foinette RAF, Sgt G.R. Duckham RAF and Sgt C.F. Payne RAF were taken PoW.

25-26 214 Sqn. Wellington Ic X9939 was hit by flak over Kiel but returned to England where it force landed and burnt out, the crew, P/O E.D. Baker, F/S S.S. Dawes, Sgt J. Lancaster RAF, Sgt E.G.W. Shotter RAF, Sgt Cole RAF and F/S E.H Erby RAF were safe. See April 1-2, below.

Thursday
26 Internment of Japanese and Japanese Canadians begins in Canada.
26 401 Sqn. aero engine mechanic Cpl J.P. Trugeon died in England from injuries sustained after he was run over by a truck.
26 #1 Y Depot, Halifax, NS, air gunner Sgt G.G. McNeill died in hospital in Vancouver of natural causes while on embarkation leave.
26 #6 EFTS, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4207 damaged and written off
#14 SFTS, Aylmer, Ontario, Yale #3422 suffered an engine failure and crashed near the airfield, LAC(P) Givens seriously injured (M.L. McIntyre).

26-27 Floating dry dock at Kiel attacked again by 49 bombers, hitting the Gneisenau in the dock and damaging it so badly it was decided to rebuild the ship rather than repair it (wikipedia). However some bombers dropped bombs in Denmark, killing civilians there. Other operations included 27 GARDENING sorties off Germany and 5 NICKEL sorties, a total of 81 with 3 losses (BC War Diaries).


26-27 10 Sqn. Halifax II L9623 ZA-O was caught by searchlights attacking German ports and damaged by flak but returned, F/S T.J. Beare, Sgt F.J. Falkoski, P/O J.V. Watts, P/O T.W.G. Godfrey RAF, Sgt D.A. Clephane RAF, Sgt Bell and Sgt O’Conner safe (R. Allenby). See June 5-6 below.

26-27 144 Sqn. Hampden I L4178 was returning from an operation over Germany when it ran out of fuel in bad weather and crashed in England, F/S J.B. Gray, Sgt J.A. Eves RAF, Sgt R.A. Bland RAF and F/O H.E. Aspey MiD RAF killed (R. Allenby). F/S Gray was a brother to Lt(A) R.H. Gray VC DSC twice MiD RCNVR (see Aug. 9, 1945).

26-27 158 Sqn. Wellington II Z8536 NP-S took off on a sortie to Germany when it suffered an engine failure. The bombs were jettisoned at low level but they exploded, causing the bomber to crash, Sgt T.H. Bennett, F/S C.H.L. Brown, F/S C. Hackney, F/S R.F. Robb, Sgt K. Winterton RAF and Sgt N.A. Morgan RAF killed. R. Allenby notes that as late as 1970 an unexploded bomb jettisoned from this aircraft was found and destroyed.


Friday

27 Battle of the Java Sea, combined Dutch, US and British fleet attempting to intercept invasion forces bound for Java defeated by Japanese Navy.

USS Langley, the US Navy’s first aircraft carrier now converted to an aircraft transport and carrying P-40 fighters and pilots to Java as reinforcements, is sunk by air attack off south Java (Shores, Cull & Izawa).

Japanese aircraft bomb Andaman Islands in the Bay of Bengal (CJCA headline).

The British Army Air Corps is formed to fly assault glider aircraft, and later to fly Artillery Observation Post (AOP) aircraft (M.J.H. Taylor). The AOP units would be RAF Squadrons formed around light aircraft with Army pilot/spotters and later Army
observer/gunners as aircrew, using RAF trades for aircraft maintenance and Army personnel for support.

27 112 Sqn. Kittyhawk I AK959 crashed taking off on a scramble in the desert to pursue Bf 109 aircraft which had just strafed the units landing ground, Sgt E.M. Jackson has no known grave (http://raf-112-squadron.org/planelosses.html; Shores, Massimello, Guest, Olynyk and Bock).

27 #1 OADU Blenheim IV V5535 was making a single engined approach to Gibraltar but came down in the sea, Sgt W. Teale, Sgt J.P. Barnett RAF and Sgt M.V. Cole RAF injured.

27 #1 OADU Wellington Ic DV510 left Gibraltar for Malta enroute to India, but became lost in severe weather, and was mislead by false radio bearings, coming down out of fuel in Sicily where the crew, Sgt J.L. Turner, P/O G.A. Kennedy RNZAF, Sgt M.H.C. Berrie RAAF, Sgt T. Bell RAF, Sgt R.H. Watton RAF and Sgt R. Jefferson RAF, were taken PoW.

27 #1 OADU Wellington Ic BB475 enroute to India left Gibraltar for Malta but ditched, lost, in the Straits of Messina between Sicily and Italy, F/S A. Moran, Sgt G. Foster, Sgt R.S. Daniel, Sgt C. Grimwood, Sgt W. Oxendale and Sgt T.L. Kenner RAF PoW. F/S Moran managed to escape Italy in September, 1943 (www.conscript-heroes.com MI-9 files).

27 #4 B&G School, Mossbank, Saskatchewan, Battle I #1719 damaged, reclassified as Instructional Airframe #A 162 (R.W.R. Walker).

27 #8 B&G School, air gunner Sgt E.L. Sams died in hospital of natural causes.

27-28 Airborne Commando raid on German radar station at Bruneval in France captures important equipment and information to allow countermeasures to protect bombers, especially in the development of WINDOW. Troops were dropped on target by 12 Whitley aircraft, and after removing equipment and destroying the station, were evacuated by sea (R. Williams).

Dry dock at Kiel attacked again by 68 bombers. They found the target completely cloud covered but 47 reported bombing the area. No bombs reported landing in the city at all. Wilhelmshaven was also attacked, also without result, by 22 bombers, plus 15 GARDENING sorties, 3 bombers lost (BC War Diaries).

Saturday


28 205 Sqn. Catalina I W8426 FV-U, S/L A.M. Jardine RAF (Can.), was at a naval port in Java for an engine change when the Dutch Navy gave orders to destroy the facility. In spite of protests and his best efforts the nearly flight ready flying boat was destroyed, stranding him and his crew in Java. See January, 1945, comments on Borneo.

28 A&EE Albemarle I P1365 was part of the test program for this new aircraft when it crashed in England from a stall in a turn after an engine failed, P/O T.W. Caston, P/O J.C. "Lucky" Fisher and F/S D.L. Mullins RAF killed (amrit and dfuller52, www.rafcommands.com, D.C. Webb). P/O Caston and P/O Fisher had survived a ditching June 20, 1941.

28 401 Sqn. Spitfire Vb X4666 was shot down by enemy fighters over the Channel on a RAMROD sortie, F/S G.F. Clarke missing.

28 409 Sqn Beaufighter IIf T3015 crashed in England after an engine fire. The RAF navigator
was able to bail out safely but pilot P/O R.M. Murchie RCAF (USA) was killed.

#16 OTU Hampden I N9065 (originally built as an inline engined Hereford) was burnt out after a fire following a hard night landing, Sgt J.H. Stilborn and crew safe.

#2 ETS, Fort William, Ontario, DH.82C Tiger Moth #5817 suffered damage after a hard landing by LAC(P) R.V Gough.

#5 EFTS, High River, Alberta, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4996 crashed and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

unknown unit, LAC G. Butt RAF (Nfld.) died at Bellvue, Ontario.

March 1942

US Office of Scientific Research and Development (OSRD) orders 60 tons of uranium oxide from Eldorado Mining, which is enough to begin re-opening of the mine at Port Radium in the NWT. To speed up this work Eldorado requests priority delivery of two Lockheed 18 Lodestar aircraft from the US, which is approved. Recovery of ore abandoned along the shipping route in 1940 expedites early deliveries. (Eldorado also became a major supplier of Radium 226 for use in luminescent instruments for the military, for example, in watches, compasses and instruments for aircraft and armoured vehicles).

#11 (BR) Sqn., Dartmouth, NS, and #119 (BR) Sqn., Sydney, NS, begin to receive Hudson III aircraft (RCAF Sqns.). 402 Sqn. and 416 Sqn. re-equip with Spitfire Vb aircraft (RCAF Sqns.).

125 (Newfoundland) Sqn. begins to re-equip with Beaufighter IIf night fighters (wikipedia).

Royal Navy transfers 24 anti-submarine trawlers and 10 corvettes to the USN to assist in anti-submarine work on US East Coast. The US Navy orders 15 further corvettes from Canadian shipyards, 8 served in the US Navy and the remaining 7 were transferred to the RN under Lend-Lease (wikipedia). Ships along US coast are still not being put in convoys (english.turkcebilgi.com).

-- F/L or WO A.L. Hanes RAF (Can.) shot down and made PoW during this month (www.rafcommands.com)

-- F/L J.B.D. Wilson and his RAF crew taken PoW during this month after having to ditch their Beaufort off Sicily (Airforce magazine, Winter 1990).

Sunday

1 Japanese invasion forces land on Java just after midnight. Japanese forces with tanks manage to travel 30 miles through the night to over-run an RAF bomber airfield at dawn, preventing a strike against the invasion fleet from taking off. 84 Sqn. S/L J.E. Tayler RAF (Can.), who had been involved with ground fighting Feb. 14 against Japanese paratroops, was caught up again in the fighting but managed to escape.
Soviet counter-offensive in the Crimea begins (wikipedia).

Heavy attacks made on Malta (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).


To accommodate growing number of women volunteering for the RCAF #7 Manning Depot opened at Rockcliffe, Ontario.

1 242 (Canadian) Sqn. Hurricane II Z4002 shot down into the sea off Malta, F/S R.V. Harvey killed.
1 605 Sqn. Hurricane Z3756 had just been involved in attacking Ju 88 bombers over Malta when it was shot down, F/S D.J. Howe bailed out but broke his leg when landing (Shores, Cull & Izawa).
1 122 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BL500 "Gymkhana II" crashed in cloud conditions in England returning from a formation practice flight, killing P/O A.L. Logan (R. Allenby).
1 #5 (Coastal) OTU Beaufort I L4445 crashed on a low level bombing exercise when it flew into the River Taw in England, P/O R.S. Brimacombe and P/O R.A. White RAAF killed, Sgt P. Scott RNZAF slightly injured (A. Storr). This was the 5th Beaufort built, one of the development batch before production began (R. Hayward).
1 #11 EFTS, Cap de Madeleine, Quebec, Finch II #4808 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).
1 #33 SFTS, Carberry, Manitoba, AC1 K.M. Townsend RAF died when he was hit by a propellor.

1-2 RAF bombers attack Tripoli in Libya (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).

Monday
2 Japanese aircraft attack towns in New Guinea, including Port Moresby (E.P. Hoyt).

Japanese flying boats spotted over Broome, Australia, a major communication point between Indonesia and Australia. See March 3, below.

RAF and US AVG fighters evacuate Rangoon for airfields in northern Burma (Shores, Cull & Izawa).

In England the second Gloster E.28/39 reaches 430 mph (690 km/h) using the Whittle W.1A engine (wikipedia).

An order of 300 Lend-Lease Stearman PT-27 aircraft to be built for the RAF was transferred to the RCAF beginning on this date. These were supposed to be equipped for winter operation with canopies and heaters, but were built as standard US PT-17 aircraft instead and a kit was to be designed and provided to convert the aircraft to PT-27 standard later. In the event only the final aircraft was finished as a PT-27, and
low priority delayed the delivery of the kits until after winter had started in Canada, leaving most of these aircraft frozen and unusable. See April 24, 1943.

2 242 (Canadian) Sqn. Hurricane shot down by Japanese fighters over Java, Sgt J.P. Fleming bailed out, but when he landed he was strafed by the fighters, and was wounded. Local natives took him to a first aid post and he was evacuated to a hospital. This was overrun the next day and he was taken PoW (Shores, Cull & Izawa). As a prisoner he risked death with an RAF man as they kept hidden and maintained a secret radio receiver that gave the prisoners news of the war (H.A. Halliday).

2 242 (Canadian) Sqn. Hurricane hit by anti-aircraft attacking enemy troops and crash landed in Java, P/O T.W. Watson safe. His aircraft was using excessive fuel and thus could not return, so P/O Watson chose to keep attacking ground targets until he was hit, his third time shot down in the last few weeks. He evaded and returned to his squadron, travelling 100 miles over 3 days but was injured in a car crash on the trip. Due to his injuries on March 7 he was flown to Australia, where after recovery he was seconded to the RAAF, completed a tour in Kittyhawk aircraft with 77 Squadron RAAF, and then as an instructor before being recalled to Canada, where he retrained as a bomber pilot to fly Liberators in India (T.F.J. Leversedge).


2 #14 SFTS, Aylmer, Ontario, Harvard #3053 force landed after an inflight fire following a spin, F/L R. Treleaven and his student safe (M.L. McIntyre).

2 #17 EFTS, Stanley, NS, Finch II aircraft #4753 and #4783 collided at low altitude after take-off, LAC(P) F.E. Gullison slightly injured. See Feb. 8, 1943.

2-3 Wellington bombers attacking Palermo in Sicily hit Italian ammunition ship Cuma, which burns before exploding March 4 damaging several other ships (ww2total.com Chronology/1942, D. Newton).

2-3 89 Sqn. Beaufighter If X7635 intercepted a He 111 over Alexandria, Egypt, and shot it down in a hard fight. Return fire knocked out an engine and hit the gunsight. In a second attack the other engine was knocked out. The crew was preparing to force land in the Nile Delta without engines at night when one engine picked up. It still took an hour to return to it's base where a wheels up landing was made, F/O R.C. Fumerton slightly wounded and Sgt L.S. Bing safe. F/O Fumerton was awarded a DFC for this sortie (Shores, Massimello, Guest, Olynyk and Bock, http://acesofww2.com/can/aces/fumerton.htm).

Tuesday

3 Japanese fighters from Indonesia attack Broome, Australia, destroying aircraft on it's airfield and sinking 16 flying boats anchored offshore. Unknown to the Japanese many of these Dutch and RAF aircraft had military and civilian refugees (many the families of the Dutch crews) from Indonesia and Malaya who were unable to go ashore due to overcrowding in the small town. Many were drowned or were killed in the exploding aircraft, the total is still unknown.

413 Sqn. ordered to relocate from Scotland to Ceylon due to Japanese gains in the Pacific (RCAF Sqns.). Aircraft begin leaving next day.
3. 17 Sqn. Hurricane IIb BM920 shot down into the Sittang River near Rangoon, Burma, Sgt C.E. Wisrodt RCAF (USA) missing (H. Welting www.rafcommands.com).


3. #3 SFTS Calgary, Alberta, Crane I #8169 dove and crashed into ground near Cochrane, Alberta, during instrument flight training, LAC(P) J.L. Clarke and LAC(P) L.T. Loton RAAF killed. See #12 SFTS loss July 25, 1942.

3. #41 SFTS, Weyburn, Saskatchewan, Harvard II #2656 crashed, LAC R.W. Maxwell RAF killed.

3-4 Desert Air Force bombers attacked Benghazi (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).

Until this date bombing attacks on industrial facilities in occupied countries had been restricted, but as more factories were taken over for the German war effort this policy was changed allowing attacks with precautions to limit deaths of civilians on the ground (FF Years). RAF Bomber Command began implementing these new instructions on an attack on the Renault truck factory at Billancourt near Paris (producing trucks for the German military), using 235 bombers flying a common approach (or stream) and attacking in three timed waves over 2 hours, the first use of this type of pre-planned concentrated attack. The first wave is composed of crews selected for their experience to ensure accuracy, and heavy use was made of flares to illuminate the aiming points. The factory had no anti-aircraft defences. Damage to the plant is heavy, but some scattered bombs hit nearby workers housing causing 367 deaths as few people had taken shelter. Only one bomber was lost over France and three in accidents in England (BCL'42). These tactics marked a turning point of the air war as Bomber Command began to become an effective force (BC War Diaries).

Other operations included 4 bombers to Emden, 4 INTRUDER sorties (cancelled), 2 NICKEL sorties and 4 GARDENING sorties off Germany by Lancaster aircraft, their first operational use. Total sorties for the night were 249 with 2 lost (BC War Diaries).


Wednesday

4 Darwin attacked by 8 Japanese A6M fighters that destroy an RAAF Hudson (D. Vincent). See March 6-7, below.

Commons passes call for National Plebiscite on Conscription to be held April 27. This was MacKenzie King's response to the pressure from the Opposition and in his Cabinet for overseas conscription, asking to be released from his promises to Quebec not to do this by seeking a National consensus (Oxford).

4 185 Sqn. Hurricane BD826 "A" damaged by return fire when attacking a Ju 88 bomber over Malta, F/S J.W.S. Fletcher safe (Shores, Cull & Izawa). See April 28, below.

4 213 Sqn. Hurricane II BE157 lost in Burullus Lake, an enclosed body of water on the Egyptian coast between Alexandria and Port Said, Sgt M.S. Lee missing (Shores, Massimello,
Guest, Olynyk and Bock).

4 158 Sqn. Wellington II Z8405 NP-B was landing from a training flight but overshot the landing and struck a fuel truck, Sgt R.C. O'Brien and his crew safe (R. Allenby). See May 30-31 and November 30, below.

4 USAAF ACFC P-39F 41-7176 crashed near #14 SFTS station at Aylmer, Ontario, 2Lt C.A. Kinzie USAAF killed (AAIR, M.L. McIntyre).

4-5 In their first operational use Japanese H8K 4-engined flying boats, refuelled by submarines enroute, attempt to bomb Pearl Harbour, Hawaii, but are unable to inflict any damage due to weather (M. Huggins).

Thursday

5 Japanese capture Batavia, Java.

5 84 Sqn. S/L J.E. Tayler RAF (Can.), F/L Wyllie RAF, F/L Holland RAF and F/L Owen attempted to escape Java by boat to Australia but were shipwrecked and turned over to the Japanese to be PoWs by local residents.

5 95 Sqn., Freetown, Sierra Leone, Sunderland I L5805 locates survivors of SS Ben Mohr after a 9 hour search. With a calm sea the decision was made by F/L Robertson RAF to land on the water, and after jettisoning it's depth charges (some of which exploded even though rendered safe by wireless air gunner F/S H.W. Adams), 56 crew were rescued (G. Coombe).

5 409 Sqn. aero engine mechanic AC1 J.A.G.I. St. Hilaire died in hospital in England after being struck by a truck.

5 #22 EFTS?, Finch II #4452 damaged at Ancienne Lorette, Quebec and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

Friday

6 Aircraft carrier HMS Eagle flies off 18 Spitfires to Malta, the first of the type deployed overseas as fighters, fifteen arrive on the Island (D. Sommerville, Canwell & Sutherland).

6 242 (Canadian) Sqn. 2Lt N. Anderson SAAF died as a prisoner in Java. He had gone missing in a Hurricane on a sortie 2 days before (H. Welting www.rafcommands.com)

6 #119 (BR) Sqn., Sydney, NS, Bolingbroke IV.W #9112, Sgt L.C. Fulton, Sgt D.E. Merriam, Sgt R.T. Smith and Sgt M.R. MacKay, sighted a submarine diving. After a search a periscope was spotted and attacked, without result (424 SH).

6 #17 EFTS, Stanley, NS, Finch II #4791 crashed in Minas Basin, F/S J. MacKay and LAC(P) G.W. Power killed.

6-7 RAAF sent 4 Hudson’s to bomb the airstrip in Timor being used by Japanese fighters, one written off when landing. This was the first of many such small operations to Timor in the next few months as the RAAF undertook the only offensive option it could while Allied forces in the Northern Territories were built up (D. Vincent)

6-7 162 Sqn. Wellington Ic Z8905 "O" was on a radio intelligence sortie to Rhodes and failed to return, Sgt K. Westbrook, Sgt R.G. Tregenza RAAF, Sgt M.H. Knowles RAF, Sgt A.F. Murrel RAF, Sgt A. Levy RAF, Sgt J.A. Drever RAF, Sgt R.C. Rawlins RAF and, it is
believed, Lt Baker RN, taken PoW.

Saturday

7 British evacuate Rangoon (CJCA headline). 2nd Victory Loan raises $843,127,900 (CJCA headline).

7 unknown unit, radio (radar?) mechanic Cpl. W.S. Pink was killed while fighting with ground forces in the Netherlands East Indies against the invading Japanese forces. He has no known grave.

7 14 Sqn. Blenheim IV V5954 was on a bombing sortie to Libya when it flew into the ground due to haze in the desert, F/S W.V. Howey, Sgt K.W. Stevenson RAF and Sgt Johnson RAF killed.

7 33 Sqn. Hurricane II Z5311 crashed in Libya killing F/S C.W.D. Crichton.

7 #2 (Coastal) OTU Beaufighter Ic T3231 stalled and spun in from low level, killing F/S M.M. Hurley on his first solo flight on this type of aircraft. He had attempted to land 4 times and been cut off by other aircraft. On his last attempt he left his undercarriage down, and the aircraft stalled after an engine failed on the go-around (R. Allenby).

7 #4 SFTS Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Crane I #7657 was being ferried at low altitude when the fabric peeled off the right wing, the aircraft crashed killing F/S H.C. Campbell, LAC(P) B.D. Cook and LAC(P) H.V. Ford. See #12 SFTS loss July 25, 1942.

7 #16 SFTS Hagersville Ontario, Anson I #6708 dove into the ground near Renton, Ontario, while practice flying, LAC(P) H.W.H. Parslow killed.

7 #18 EFTS, Boundary Bay, BC, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4340 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

7 #37 SFTS, Calgary, Alberta, Cpl C.A. Crapper RAF died, no details.

7 USAF ACFC RA-29 (Hudson) 41-23546 crashed landing at an airport at Montreal, Quebec (AAIR).

Sunday

8 Japanese forces invade New Guinea (CJCA headline). Japanese land at Salamaua and Lae on New Guineas northern coast. US and Australian forces are working to reinforce Port Moresby on the southern coast and expand it’s airfields (E.P. Hoyt).

Java and Rangoon surrender to Japanese (Shores, Cull & Izawa).

In Java at Pameungpeuk, P/O R. Mendizabal, who had been shot down March 3, above, teamed with Sgt S. Munroe RAAF, Sgt A. Martin RAAF, Sgt D. Jones RNZAF, and Ensign F. Pelder, Netherlands East Indies Air Force, to repair a sabotaged Lockheed 212 (Lockheed 12 bomber) L-201, and with a fuselage full of extra fuel and a jerry rigged distribution system, managed to fly to an airfield in western Java (Shores, Cull & Izawa). See March 11, below.

Malta was under air raid alert for 21½ hours on this day (P. Lamboit).

unknown unit, AC or LAC R.C. Adolph taken PoW in Java.

unknown unit, radar technician Cpl. R.C. Neal taken PoW in Batavia. See June 2, 1945.

403 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BL661 shot down over the Channel on a CIRCUS escort, P/O D.S. Aitken missing.


#14 OTU Hampden I L4110 was on a night bombing exercise when it suddenly descended in level flight with the undercarriage and flaps down, striking the ground but then overturned, Sgt J.F. MacPhail and Sgt A.H. Hanson RAAF killed, Sgt E.R. Lumsdaine RAAF and Sgt F. Wellington RAAF injured (A. Storr).

37 Sqn. Wellington Ic Z9038 "H" was taxiing out to take off from Luqa, Malta, on a mine laying sortie, when it struck another Wellington Ic DV483 "Y", taking off for the same purpose. Both caught fire and the mines carried on them then exploded. On Z9038 WO1 S.J. Kozlowski, Sgt H.N. Walker RAAF and Sgt E. Goodfellow RAF were killed, F/S J.H.A. Marcotte, Sgt V.F. O'Hagan RAF and Sgt A.T. Thomas RAF injured. In DV483 Sgt N.J. Knight RAAF was killed, Sgt R.M. Herman RAAF missing, F/O C.J.L. Boyd RAF, Sgt A.G. Thomas RAAF and Sgt H. Williams RAF were injured, and F/O Kirkman RAF was blown out of his rear turret unharmed by the explosion of the mines.

First of three nights of attacks on Essen using the new GEE radio navigation in operational use (Polsson; I. Brown www.rafcommands.com). Essen was attacked by 211 bombers, plus 38 on other operations, with the loss of 8. Although the sky was clear bombing was poor due to industrial haze. GEE could aid in accurate navigation but it did not provide a method of accurate bombing. It was also known that it would eventually be jammed, but would always provide accurate navigation points outbound and especially for returning aircraft (BC War Diaries).

12 Sqn. Wellington II Z8409 PH-H shot down by a night fighter over Germany, Sgt F.J. Menshevk RCAF (USA), Sgt M.S. Duder RAF, Sgt E.I.C. Wood RAF, F/S K. Crouch RAF and Sgt G.E. Warren RAF killed, Sgt H.E. Macey RAF PoW.


101 Sqn. Wellington III X3656 SR-L lost without a trace on an operation to Germany, Sgt R.F. Lawrence RAF (Can.), P/O C.W. Luin RAF, Sgt M.W. Fenwick RAF, F/S S.J. Brown RAF, Sgt L.W. Calderhead RAF and Sgt C. Parry RAF missing.


408 Sqn. Hampden I AD842 crashed on the runway just after taking off on a GARDENING sortie F/S F.F. MacKinnon, Sgt R. Ball RAF and Sgt W.D. Morris RAF killed, Sgt D.C. Hunter was injured. See Feb. 26, 1943.
Monday

9 Allied forces in Java, Netherlands East Indies surrender. Among those taken prisoner were S/L J.E. Tayler RAF (Can.) (84 Sqn., ref. above), P/O W.M. Lockwood (242 Sqn.), Sgt G.J. Dunn (242 Sqn.), Sgt J.P. Fleming (242 Sqn.), Sgt L. Keene (34 Sqn.), S/L A.M. Jardine RAF (Can.) (205 Sqn.) and many others. See March 13 and April 15, below. S/L Jardine had been involved in the fighting in Malaysia and Indonesia since the beginning of the war in the Pacific. He had been involved in the loss of the Prince of Wales and Repulse, flown many reconnaissance sorties and bombed Japanese airfields at night with Catalinas. Post war he transferred to the RCAF and had a distinguished career, retiring as a Group Captain.

By this date 242 (Canadian) Squadron had been effectively destroyed in the Far East (wikipedia), and its remaining pilot's in Malta had been absorbed by other units. See April 10, below.

In Burma Japanese troops complete the capture of Rangoon, cutting off supplies to China along the Burma Road. British and US military and air forces retreat from northern Burma to China and India. China is now completely isolated by sea and land. See July 15, below.

At this time and prior Indian civilians (merchants and contract labourers) fled Burma to India ahead of the Japanese. Many by ship, some by air, but most by land along the coast. Some estimate around 450,000 Indians left Burma in this period. Those on the land route soon overwhemed local resources, and with anti-Indian feelings in Burma (against merchants during the Depression, and with the rise of Burmese Nationalism in the same time) combined with the events of the exodus, it is thought as many as 50,000 may have perished before reaching safety. Those who reached India returned to their homes where their stories of the defeat of the British, combined with reports of defeats in France, Libya, Greece, Malaysia and now Burma, led many to question the future of India and especially Britain's rule there (S. Raghavan).

S/L L.V. Chadburn becomes CO of 416 Squadron, the first graduate of the BCATP to command a squadron. See June 13, 1944.

9 137 Sqn. Whirlwind P7036 went into a spin and crashed in England, killing P/O C.W. De-Shane.
9 401 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BL538 crashed when the wing failed on practise aerobatics, Sgt A.D. Blakely killed.
9 401 Sqn. driver LAC W.F. Cramer killed when hit by a bus.
9 418 Sqn. Boston III W8314 crashed in England when an engine failed on take-off (H.A.

9. #15 (P) AFU Oxford I V3957 crashed on a landing approach after colliding with Oxford I V3912, P/O W.A. Dakers was killed in V3957, Sgt C.O.A. Lawrence RAF and P/O G.A. Park (RAF?) survived on V9312, both aircraft crashing side by side on the airfield (R. Allenby).

9-10 Essen again attacked by 187 bombers with scattered results due to heavy ground haze, many other cities in the Ruhr Valley record being bombed. Fourteen other operations, 3 losses (BC War Diaries).

Tuesday

10. USS Yorkton launches a strike across New Guinea against Japanese landings at Lae and Salamaua, RAAF Hudsons also attack, several Japanese ships sunk or damaged (E.P. Hoyt, D. Vincent).

10. 122 Sqn. Spitfire Vb R6917 overturned in soft snow when landing, Sgt W. Griffin injured (R. Allenby).

10. 131 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AB242 struck the water tower and crashed into the Officers Mess at RAF Llanbedrog, Wales, when engaged in low-flying, P/O H.A. O’Blennes killed (www.spitfires.ukf.net).

10. 401 Sqn. Spitfire Vb force landed in England with a damaged propellor after a collision over the sea, F/L W. Napier safe.

10. #118 (F) Sqn. RCAF, Dartmouth, NS, Kittyhawk I #1032 crashed into the Bedford Basin at Halifax in a snow squall, killing F/S G.H. Isralson.

10. #36 SFTS, Penhold, Alberta, Oxford I AR972 crashed at the Big Bend relief airfield near Innisfail, Alberta, after colliding on approach with Oxford AS674, LAC R.A. Stevens RAF killed in AR972, Sgt S. Gulliver RAF safe in AS674 (Griffin, C. Simonsen; C. Charland www.rafcommands.com).

10-11 Last night of GEE attacks on Essen by 126 aircraft, including 2 Lancasters, the first operational bombing sortie by this aircraft type, by chance one year exactly after the first operational use of the Halifax. Cloud obscured the target, and although 62 bombers claimed to have bombed the city only 2 bombs are recorded to have fallen near the Krupps factory, and other damage in the city is negligible. Other operations include 23 bombers to Boulogne and 3 GARDENING sorties off France for a total of 152 sorties with the loss of 4 bombers (BC War Diaries).

10-11 149 Sqn. Stirling R9295 OJ-G "East India III" damaged on an operation and attempted to belly land in England, but overshot the landing, hit some trees and crashed, F/S L. Kowalski, S/L L.W. Coleman DFC & Bar RAF (NZ), F/O C.L. Pilkington RAF, Sgt R.A. Shea RAF, Sgt D.A. Graham RAF, Sgt J. Millichip RAF and Sgt H. Skelton RAF killed, Sgt Harris RAF survived, injured.

10-11 419 Sqn. Wellington Ic Z1077 VR-P was landing from an operation over Germany, but landed downwind, overshot the landing ground and hit an air raid shelter, the crew Sgt F.D. Bardour, Sgt F.M. Van Geun, Sgt J.H. Foy RAF, Sgt Falkinder RAF, Sgt J.H.F. Munday RAF and P/O B.L. Kenyon RAF safe. See July 13-14, below.

Wednesday

11 Under orders from President Roosevelt, General MacArthur leaves the Philippines with his family by torpedo boat and later submarine, to take command of US forces in Australia (Polsson).

11 In western Java P/O R. Mendizabal and his party fly their repaired Lockheed 212 full of fuel 1,200 miles to Ceylon (Shores, Cull & Izawa). See August 10, 1943.

11 #19 OTU Whitley V Z6628 ditched off Scotland just after take-off when an engine failed, injuring Sgt H. Smith. After climbing aboard their dinghy Sgt R.T. Scott called out that he would swim ashore for help, but he drowned. Sgt N.F.T. Brown RAF also died in this incident. The ditched aircraft later drifted to shore.


11 #31 B&G School, Picton, Ontario, Battle I K9194 was wrecked in a forced landing at Wampoos Island near Prescott, Ontario (S. Shail).

11 #32 SFTS, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, LAC R.V. Cockcroft RAF died (R.W.R. Walker).

Thursday

12 Soviet forces attacking on all fronts (CJCA headline).

German Naval Commander in Chief Raeder tells Hitler that Malta’s defences have been eroded enough that an invasion was likely to succeed. Hitler replied that Italy was planning this (R.C. Nesbit).

12 455 Sqn. RAAF Canadian built Hampden I P5326 UB-V crashed taking off on a training flight when an engine failed, Sgt Andrew RAAF killed, Sgt Miflin RAF injured (H. Moyle, A. Storr).


12 #1 EFTS, Malton, Ontario, DH.82C Tiger Moth #5888 was making a forced landing near Clairville, Ontario, when it collided with a tree and was damaged, later repaired (R.W.R. Walker).

12 #13 (OTS), Patricia Bay, BC, AC2 W.M. Nixon killed by the accidental discharge of a rifle.
12-13 A successful attack was made on the shipyards at Kiel by 68 Wellington bombers, and another with poor results by 40 bombers on Emden. As well 27 GARDENING sorties and 1 NICKEL sortie carried out, 8 bombers lost (BC War Diaries).

12-13 9 Sqn. Wellington III X3603 was attempting to land with an engine out returning from operations over Germany when it went out of control and crashed short of the runway. Sgt A. Swiderski, Sgt Webb RAF, Sgt Vickers RAF, P/O V.W. Saul RAF, Sgt J. Rutherford RAF and Sgt F.C. Evans RAF safe. See June 11-12, below.

12-13 75 (New Zealand) Sqn. Wellington III X3585 lost without trace on an operation to Germany, F/O J.F.K. Sandys RCAF (UK), Sgt R.J.D. Woodcock RNZAF, P/O J. Earle RNZAF, F/S H.J. Price RNZAF, F/L T.J.D. Baber MiD RNZAF and Sgt L.J. Dunn RAF missing. TSGNO states F/O Sandys was from Kent, England, but W.R. Chorley states he was from the Channel Islands.

12-13 77 Sqn. Whitley V Z9312 believed lost in the North Sea on an operation to Germany, Sgt A.J. Pratley RAF killed, F/S J.E. Gilfoy, F/S W.A. Murphy, P/O D.B. Bailey RAF and Sgt E.C. Reynolds RAF missing. See S. Hadaway for details on how the remains of Sgt Pratley were identified.

Friday

13 Sgt L. Keene part of an escape attempt from Java by boat, but the party was shipwrecked and turned over to the Japanese by local villagers (Shores, Cull and Izawa).

13 401 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AD234 crashed in England returning from a CIRCUS escort after being hit (shot?) by a German fighter, S/L A.G. Douglas RAF bailed out and safe.

13 415 Sqn. Hampden TB.I AT247 GX-W crashed in the sea off the Isle of Wight on a training flight, P/O J.R. Hebert, F/S A.T. Murtha killed, F/S H.R. Hatfield, F/O W.L. Mackay missing. This was 415 Squadrons first aircraft loss.


13 #3 (Coastal) OTU Whitley V P5051 lost over the sea on a navigation exercise, F/S E.C. Evans killed, P/O J.R. Gorham, Sgt L.J. Martin RAAF, Sgt D. Walker RAF and Sgt R.A. Bell RAF missing (COL BRUGGY at www.rafcommands.com).

13 #6 (Coastal) OTU Hudson III T9395 swung on take-off and written off by damage, Sgt W.M. Crane, P/O A.M. Rhodes RAF (injured), P/O Barnett RAF (injured) and possibly Sgt W.E. Loucks safe (R. Allenby). See May 15, below.

13 #16 OTU Hampden I X2906 spun and crashed practicing circuits, killing P/O G.F. Keele and P/O R.A.S. Parker RNZAF.


13 #14 SFTS, Aylmer, Ontario, Harvard #3070 lost and belly landed near Exeter, Ontario (M.L. McIntyre).

13-14 Cologne attacked by 135 bombers with GEE equipped bombers carrying flares and incendiaries which accurately mark the target for a successful attack, 53 other operations, 4 losses (BC War Diaries).

13-14 61 Sqn. Manchester I L7395 was forced to abandon an operation to Germany due to radio and engine problems. It returned to England where it was abandoned, P/O R. Heggie, P/O J.R. Hubbard RAF, Sgt P.C.V. Joslin RAF, F/S J.G. Clelland RAF, Sgt A.W. Baker RAF, Sgt T.C. Stanley RAF and Sgt P. Jones RAF bailed out safely.

13-14 77 Sqn. Whitley V Z6975 KN-V stalled and crashed into a house on approach to land after an operation to France, possibly due to icing. F/S J.L. Moore RCAF (USA), Sgt J.E. Church RAF, Sgt K.C.E. Corke RAF and Sgt N.S. Smith RAF killed, F/S R.J.H. Lewis died later of his injuries.


Saturday

14 General Reconnaissance Flight, Burma, Hudson, F/S F. Brown, was hit by flak and his navigator was killed. He landed at Akyab in the dark but the aircraft ran into an unmarked bomb crater and was wrecked, rest of crew safe (Shores, Cull & Izawa).


14 USAAF 91st Observer Sqn., 73rd Observer Group, O-47 37-310 crashed landing at Rockport, Quebec (AAIR).

Sunday


US Navy PBO (Hudson) bomber from VPB-82, Argentia, Newfoundland, flown by CPO D.F. Mason pilot, AMM1c A. Jurca, AMM2c A. Zink and AARM C. Mellinger (http://www.homeofheroes.com) sinks U-503, second sinking for US forces. These successes by land based aircraft lead to the re-evaluation of the US Navy policy of using flying boats for maritime patrol, resulting in development of PV-1 aircraft from the Lockheed Ventura, and the long ranged PB2Y, developed from the B-24 (Liberator).

15 94 Sqn. Kittyhawk I AK807 was engaged in a mock combat when it entered an inverted spin at high altitude and crashed in Egypt, F/S M.D’O. Rochfort killed.

15 234 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BL668 force landed in bad weather in England, P/O Loncke injured. Three other Spitfires were forced down from this flight, with 1 killed, 1 injured and 1 safe (Chris Pointon www.rafcommands.com).
15 #12 SFTS, England, Oxford AB641 collided on take-off with Oxford II AP465 and crashed, Sgt J.L. Wyatt RCAF (USA) and F/O D.R. Olver RAF were killed in AB641, F/L R.J. Jouault DFC RAF and 1Lt W.B. Straver RNeth.AF were killed in AP465 (H. Welting www.rafcommands.com)

15 #35 SFTS, North Battleford, Saskatchewan, Oxford I AS221 crashed, LAC R. Waugh RAF and LAC B.D. Wickham RAF killed.

15-16 108 Sqn. Liberator II AL577 was on a transport flight from Egypt carrying crews to ferry more aircraft back to Egypt, and departed Gibraltar for England, but off course crashed into high ground in northern Eire. All the crew, Sgt L.R. Williams RAFAF, W/C R.J. Wells DFC RAF, P/O J.P. Tolson RAF, F/S P.H. Morey RAF, Sgt C.J. Ingram RAF, Sgt H.J. Gibbons RAF and F/L F.C. Barrett RAF were killed, as well as passengers F/S C.S. Goodenough, P/O G.F. King, Sgt W.P. Brooks RAF, Cpl A.M.S. Brownlie RAF, F/S G. Buchanan RAF, F/S L.G. Jordan RAF and Sgt H.W.T. Sloman RAFAF. P/O W.B. Stephens RAF died of injuries, and Sgt C.R. Amos RAF, F/O J.R. Anderson DFC RAF and Sgt S.F. Hayden RAF survived seriously injured. Sgt Amos was killed in an OTU loss Dec. 31, 1943, and D. Burke at www.rafcommands.com notes he and his family had connections with Argentina. See also Dennis Burke’s site of aircraft crashed or landed in Ireland during the war at www.ww2irishaviation.com.

Monday

16 US troops arrive in Australia (CJCA headline).


16 133 (USA) Sqn. Spitfire lost on convoy patrol, P/O H.C. Brown RAF (Can.) missing. CWGC and V. Haugland state P/O Brown was from the USA, but TSGNO says he was Canadian.

16 406 Sqn. Cpl. G. Grant died on service, no details.

16 #2 (Coastal) OTU Beaufighter If T4863 crashed in England attempting a forced landing after an engine failed, killing F/S R.W. Leach and Sgt D.J. Levy RAF. It was thought the pilot selected the wrong fuel tank which led to fuel starvation (R. Allenby).

16 #57 OTU Spitfire la AR212 crashed in England after colliding with Spitfire la X4605, Sgt S.W. Steenson killed (www.spitfires.ukf.net).


16 #39 SFTS, Swift Current, Saskatchewan, Harvard II AJ946 crashed, LAC S. Broome RAF killed.

Tuesday

17 US General MacArthur arrives in Australia from the Philippines.

#111 (F) Sqn., Patricia Bay, BC, is adopted by the Saanich Indians, adopting a Totem Pole
for a Squadron symbol, becoming the first “Thunderbird” squadron in the RCAF (426 Sqn. later adopted the name officially) (440 SH).

17 49 Sqn. Hampden I P1226 flew into a sea cliff in bad visibility making land fall on a training flight, killing P/O R.E. Manders and P/O D.A. Cook RAF. P/O Manders listed his home town as Shanghai, China.

17 #6 (Coastal) OTU Hudson V AM804 dived into the sea, believed to have gone out of control in a steep turn, P/O F.B. Cobb, F/S W.A. Walker and P/O J.H. Braybrooks RAF killed, F/S L.J. Krapek, Sgt F.H. McMullin and F/S J.R. Dickerson RAF missing (R. McNeill and D. Burke at www.rafcommands.com).

17 #14 OTU Hampden I AD749 crashed trying to land at night in poor visibility, Sgt H.H. Davis RCAF (USA) and his crew safe. See April 19-20, below.

17 #59 OTU Canadian built Hurricane X AG114 lost in the sea, F/S W.O. Krueger RCAF (USA) missing.

17 #59 OTU Hurricane R4098 was caught by bad weather and unable to land. Sgt W.W. Smith abandoned the aircraft but his parachute failed to open and he was killed.

17-18 405 Sqn. Wellington W5497 LQ-M overran it's landing returning from a night training flight and was badly damaged, F/S F.H. Mitchell RAAF and his crew safe (R. Allenby).

Wednesday


18 86 Sqn. or 22 Sqn. Beaufort I W6474 lost enroute to the Middle East, F/O E.P. Brinkworth, F/O W.A. Thornton RAAF, Sgt A.L. Brigstocke RAF and Sgt C.N.B. Bohling RAF missing (A. Storr, R. Hayward).

18 #1 OADU, England, Beaufighter Ic T4937 flew into high ground, F/S R.W. Le Mere RCAF (USA) and Sgt H. Rogerson RAF killed (malcolm_raf www.rafcommands.com).

18 #15 OTU Wellington I L4265 swung on take-off in England and collided with a parked #5 Ferry Pilots Pool Hudson I N7332 before becoming airborne and crashing, Sgt R.H. Riedy RCAF (USA), F/S C.G. Wiley and Sgt W.J.D. Carter RAF killed.

18 #60 OTU Defiant N1629 collided over England with another Defiant and crashed, Sgt G.A.P. Sanders was killed.

18 #6 AOS, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan Anson "9740" (possibly R9740) crashed near Kinistino, Saskatchewan, on a navigation exercise, LAC(OB) H.W. Hurst, LAC(OB) C.S. Lapp, F/O O.A. Ness and the civilian Staff Pilot G.K. Hyer were killed.

Friday

20 Heavy attacks on Malta by Luftwaffe units in Sicily begin in an attempt to neutralize the island (H.W. Neulen).

(For a good description of the life of aircrew on Malta please see E. Cameron).

Operation OUTWARD, the launching of balloons from Britain to damage power lines (with trailing wires) or cause forest fires (with primitive incendiary devices) begins. Over 99,000 balloons were launched when winds were favourable, the last in Sept. 1944,
causing damage and fires, and forcing German aircraft to spend time destroying them (wikipedia). Given the short range, these are very crude devices when compared to the later Japanese Balloon Bombs, but were very effective for their small cost. See July 12, below and Jan. 19-20, 1944.

20 249 Sqn. Spitfire, P/O R.W. McNair claims a Bf 109, his first victory over Malta (H.A. Halliday).
20 42 Sqn. Beaufort I L4514 AW-R crashed attempting a forced landing in the Shetland Islands on an anti-shipping strike, P/O T.T.B. Stoker, Sgt N.A. Branchflower RAF and Sgt A.J. Woolsey RAF killed, Sgt Bond RAF injured (R. Hayward, CWGC).
20 97 Sqn. Lancaster I L7570 OF-B was taking off on a GARDENING sortie in poor visibility when it’s trailing aerial struck a house top. The aircraft crash landed on a beach with slight damage but was inundated by rising tide and damaged beyond repair. This was the first Lancaster lost on operations by Bomber Command. The crew, P/O Colquhoun, F/O E.E. Rodley RAF, Sgt Healey RAF, Sgt Merralls RAF, Sgt Cummings RAF, Sgt J. Cripps RAF (injured) and Sgt Ratcliffe RAF were all safe.
20 unknown unit, observer F/O G.E. Walker DFC RAF (Can.) died in England when he fell out of a window. F/O Walker had already completed a tour of operations with 7 Squadron on Stirlings, and his DFC citation refers to an attack on the German cruiser *Scharnhorst* (Allison & Hayward, Awards).

Saturday

21 After weeks of unopposed daily attacks by Japanese fighters and bombers on Port Moresby in New Guinea the first Kittyhawks of 75 Squadron RAAF arrive to provide a defence, where they are promptly engaged by friendly anti-aircraft artillery before managing to land. That afternoon they shoot down a Japanese reconnaissance aircraft (D. Newton).

*Magwe airfield in Burma bombed by Japanese (Shores, Cull & Izawa).*

*HMS Eagle flies off 9 more Spitfires to Malta, where very large bombing raids by Luftwaffe forces are occurring daily (Canwell & Sutherland).*

*Russian forces close in on Orel (CJCA headline).*

*J.S. Woodsworth*, one of the founders of the CCF Party in Canada, dies in Vancouver (wikipedia). A life long pacifist, his vote on principle was the only dissenting vote against declaring war on Germany on Sept. 10, 1939. As late as 2012 this would be cited in the Canadian Parliament to score political points, ignoring the reason for his vote.

21 94 Sqn. Kittyhawk I AK748 lost in North Africa, believed shot down by German fighters, P/O R.H. McKillop has no known grave (Shores, Massimello, Guest, Olynyk and Bock).
21 274 Sqn. Hurricane II Z5313 shot down by flak attacking an airfield in North Africa, Sgt E.A. Mullis missing (Shores, Massimello, Guest, Olynyk and Bock).
21 #6 Repair Depot, Trenton, LAC G.R. Stokes died in hospital of natural causes.
21 #17 EFTS, Stanley, NS, Finch II #4742 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).
21 #31 OTU, Debert, NS, LAC P.W.E. Miller RAF died of injuries sustained when he fell from an

Sunday

22 Newly arrived Kittyhawks from Port Moresby attack the Japanese base at Lae, destroying several aircraft on the ground (D. Newton).

Second heavy air raid on Magwe, Allied air forces in Burma nearly eliminated (Shores, Cull & Izawa).

As the war in the Pacific widened the US saw the defence position of India could be better if that country was a fuller member of the Allies, and were critical of Britain's policies there. At their urging, and after discussions in Cabinet, Cabinet Minister Stafford Cripps arrived in India to discuss the future of that country with the leaders of the various factions involved (S. Raghavan).

Battle of Sirte, Italian battle fleet attempts to intercept Malta bound convoy, kept off by RN cruisers (ww2total.com Chronology/1942). Luftwaffe bombers also making attacks on this convoy of 4 ships, sinking one (R.C. Nesbit).

22 #3 Communications & Ferry Unit, RCAF, NA-26 Harvard #3345 crashed in a snowstorm 10 miles east of Kingman, Maine, F/O A.S. Armour RCAF (USA) killed. This aircraft was a one of a kind, it was the first of the North American basic trainers with retractable undercarriage, essentially the prototype of the Harvard/AT-6 Texan/SNJ/Wirraway/KW10W1/Sk-14 family of aircraft. After use as a demonstrator by North American Aircraft it had been sold to the RCAF and converted to Harvard II standard after service with #2 SFTS at Uplands and the Central Flying School at Trenton (R.W.R. Walker).

22 #16 SFTS, Hagersville, Ontario, a flight practicing formation flight encountered a snowstorm. Anson II #7186 crashed in the bad weather, Sgt J.N. Forst RCAF (USA) killed.

22-23 418 Sqn. flies its first operation, a night bombing attack on an oil refinery in Belgium (418 SH).

Monday

23 The see-saw fight in New Guinea continues as Japanese fighters from Lae attack and surprise Kittyhawks at Port Morseby, destroying 2 (D. Newton).

Andaman Islands in the Bay of Bengal taken by Japanese Forces.

Aerial bombing of Malta convoy sinks all three cargo ships from the supply convoy after they arrive in port, destroying most of the supplies sent before they can be unloaded (ww2total.com Chronology/1942; R.C. Nesbit).

Hitler orders defences along the Atlantic coast of Europe to be built up to repel any invasion, beginning the creation of the "Atlantic Wall" (Polsson).


23 #119 (BR) Sqn., Sydney, NS, Bolingbroke IV.W #9066, Sgt C.S. Buchanan, Sgt W.M. Howes, Sgt H.B. Wilson and Sgt R.A. Matterm, was launched in response to an SOS from the ship SS Bayou Chico, being pursued by a submarine. On searching the area they discovered a surfaced U-boat which they attacked and damaged (424 SH). The merchant ship escaped unscathed (M.L. Hadley, U-Boats Against Canada: German Submarines in Canadian Waters).

23 #5 B&G School, Dafoe, Saskatchewan, two Battle I aircraft #2069 and #1892 collided and crashed 6 miles SE of Dafoe on a gunnery exercise, LAC(WAG) E.P. Harris and F/S. H. Naoum were killed in #2069; LAC(WAG) D.F. Hood and LAC(WAG) G.G.J. Hower RCAF (USA) were killed in #1892, their pilot Sgt W.M. Haggart survived after bailing out (S. Shail).

23 #32 EFTS, Bowden, Alberta, DH.82C Tiger Moth #5049 crashed (R.W.R. Walker).

Tuesday

24 Selective Service adopted; two new Army divisions planned (CJCA headlines). [This probably refers to the planned Plebiscite on Conscription, see April 17, below.]

24 411 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AB268 DB-B missing on a CIRCUS escort, WO1 R.H. Gridley missing.

24 411 Sqn. Spitfire Vb W3215 ditched in the English Channel on a CIRCUS escort, P/O J.W. Sills was found dead in a dinghy May 13, 1942, and buried in France (www.spitfires.ukf.net).

24 411 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AB281 shot down over France on a CIRCUS escort, P/O W.F. Ash RCAF (USA) evaded but was later taken PoW. He participated in several escape attempts for which he was awarded an MBE and these are referenced in The R.C.A.F. Overseas - The Sixth Year. A photograph of P/O Ash meeting PM Mackenzie King appears in Aeroplane Monthly, Vol. 9, No. 1, 1985.

24 411 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AB183 Sgt Taylor wounded over France on a CIRCUS escort by German fighters, landed damaged in England.

24 412 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BL471 shot down over France on a CIRCUS escort, S/L J.D. Morrison killed. S/L Morrison was the Squadron commanding officer at the time.

24 412 Sqn. Spitfire Vb shot down over France on a CIRCUS escort by German fighters, P/O A.T.A. Young PoW.

24 #19 OTU Whitley V Z6933 crashed in Scotland on a night exercise. The wreckage and the bodies of the crew, Sgt D.F. Drake, Sgt G.K. MacRae, Sgt A. Blackman RAF, Sgt F. Jennings RAF, Sgt J. Sutcliffe RAF, P/O R.R. Flint RAF and P/O R.E. Wheatley RAF, were buried under snow and were not found until June 5 (http://warmemscot.s4.bizhat.com).

24 #14 SFTS, Aylmer, Ontario, fire fighter AC1 E.W. Yates died of natural causes while on leave.
Wednesday

25 Japanese seize Andaman Islands (CJCA headline).

One of the largest aerial fights over Malta occurs when seventy German bombers plus escorts again bomb newly arrived transports and docks in Grand Harbour (Canwell & Sutherland).

25  136 Sqn. Hurricane shot down into the sea off Akyab Island, Burma, killing P/O R.L. Payn (noted as "R.C. Payne" by Shores, Cull & Izawa).

25  15 Sqn. Stirling I N6094 LS-R was landing after a training flight and turned at too high a speed off the runway, collapsing it’s undercarriage and being damaged beyond repair, WO1 T.W. Hare, Sgt R.W. Golder RAAF, Sgt F.W. Cooper RAF, Sgt R. Thompson-Horan RAF, P/O Henry RAF, Sgt K. Taylor RAF, Sgt E.R.C. Oakley RAF and Sgt G. Stephenson RAF safe.

25  455 Sqn. RAAF Canadian built Hampden I P5329 UB-J was returning to it's base from a diversion airfield after making a GARDENING sortie off France when it lost a propeller and crashed, F/L A.H. Metcalfe DFC RAF, F/O J.A. Sayer RAAF, F/S G.S. Wilson RAF and Sgt F.M. Donohoe RAAF killed (A. Storr).

25  #14 OTU Canadian built Hampden I P5398 crashed on a night training flight in England, Sgt B. Noseworthy RAF (Nfld.), Sgt E.J. Biddulph RAF (Rhodesia), Sgt R.V. Daniels RAAF and Sgt A.W. Westgate RNZAF killed.

25-26 The Krupp Works in Essen was again targeted by 254 bombers, and although good bombing was claimed by crews most of the effort was diverted to a decoy site. Other operations include 27 bombers to St. Nazaire, 38 GARDENING sorties off France and 30 NICKEL sorties, for a total for the night of 349 sorties with 11 losses (BC War Diaries).

25-26 61 Sqn. Manchester I L7497 shot down by a night fighter over Germany, F/S J.R. Dow, Sgt C.G. Furby RAF, Sgt J.E. Smart RAF, Sgt D.C. Brockley RAF, Sgt J. Buckley RAF, Sgt W.A. Roberts RAF and Sgt H.H. Fetherston RAF killed.


Thursday

26  94 Sqn. Kittyhawk I AK739 FZ-R was shot down near the Adem-Acroma Road in Libya, killing F/S V.A. Laurence on his first operational flight (Shores, Massimello, Guest, Olynyk and Bock).

26  408 Sqn. Hampden I AE139 crashed in England on a transit flight back to it’s base from where it had landed from an operation, F/S H. Phalempin, P/O D.E. Vipond and Sgt G.A. Medd RAF killed, Sgt E.V. Conwell RAF injured.

bailed out and safe, slightly injured. See Sept. 3, 1942.

26 418 Sqn. Boston crashed on take off, followed by the explosion of the bomb load. The crew managed to clear the wreck but Squadron commanding officer W/C G.H. Gatheral RAF and P/O Muirhead were injured (418 SH). This occurred taking off on the Squadron's first operation as an Intruder unit (M. Huxtable www.rafcommands.com). See March 28-29 below.

26 603 Sqn. Spitfire went into a dive and disintegrated in the air over Scotland, P/O W.I. Jones RCAF (USA) killed. Probably Spitfire Vb BL510 lost by 603 Sqn. this date in a flying accident (www.spitfires.ukf.net).

26 #16 OTU Hampden I P1212 flew into the ground on a night training exercise, Sgt N.G.W. Boyce, F/S R.C. Dobie, F/S D.C. Lindsey RCAF (USA), F/S R.J. O'Leary killed.

26 unknown unit, LAC A.M. Galbraith died in England on the aerodrome at Tempsford in a motorcycle accident.


26 unknown unit, aero engine mechanic AC2 M.A. Beetz died of natural causes in Canada.


26-27 Again Essen and the Krupp works attacked by 115 bombers, but again results are poor. Other operations were 8 aircraft to Le Havre, 11 INTRUDERS over Holland, 36 GARDENING sorties and 15 NICKEL flights over France, 13 bombers and 2 INTRUDERS lost (BC War Diaries).


Friday

27 Last RAF units in southern Burma at Akyab Island are forced to retreat to India (G. Beauchamp).


407 Sqn. Hudson V was in transit to a forward base when it collided with a balloon cable. W/C A.C. Brown managed to bring the damaged aircraft down safely (407 SH). See March 27-28, below, for the reason for the deployment.

409 Sqn. Beaufighter II T3142 was on a training flight when it entered a flat spin and crashed from high altitude, WO2 J.W. Dickson, S/L B.A. Hanbury and P/O P.M. Sweet killed. S/L Hanbury was a veteran of the Battle of Britain (http://battleofbritain1940.net). (TSGNO notes S/L Hanbury killed Dec. 31, 1942, but CWGC confirms this date).

#14 OTU Hampden I L4108 overshot the runway and crashed on a night landing exercise in poor visibility, killing Sgt R.F. King RAF (Nfld.) and Sgt A.R. Frazer RAAF.

#22 OTU Wellington Ic R1472 was wrecked when it overshot the landing ground practicing night landings, Sgt W.T. Cormack and Sgt K. Edmonds RAF safe. Failure of the airfield lighting system contributed to the accident. See May 30-31, below.

#32 OTU, Patricia Bay, BC, Beaufort I W6473 RD-M was on a publicity tour in the USA when an engine began failing enroute to Abilene, Texas, and severe vibration tore it off the airframe. The pilot, S/L N.K. Lloyd RAF, managed to make a controlled crash landing near Rodeo, New Mexico, navigator F/L P.A. Kimpton RAF killed, S/L Lloyd, Cpl J.R. Berth-Jones and AC1 R. West slightly injured (R. Hayward, aviation-safety.net).

38 Sqn. Wellington Ic AD596 "M" was hit by flak making a torpedo attack in the Mediterranean and crashed into the sea, Sgt W.E. Lucan RAF missing, Sgt J.F. Otten, Sgt H. Buckingham RAF, Sgt V.A. Munnings RAF and Sgt S.J. Padgham RAF were taken PoW. Sgt Otten escaped from Italy in September 1943 (www.conscript-heroes.com MI-9 files).

27-28 Commando attack on St. Nazaire, to destroy the Normandie dry dock and prevent possible repair of the Tirpitz in France if the ship arrives there (Polsson). Raid succeeds, but with very heavy casualties, including Surgeon Lt. W.J. Winthrope RCN MiD. Bomber Command attacks German positions around the town with 62 bombers to both aid the commando attack and distract the defenders. Eight INTRUDER and 15 GARDENING sorties also undertaken, 1 bomber, 3 minelayers and 1 INTRUDER lost (BC War Diaries). 407 Sqn. Hudsons were part of the escort for the returning ships from this operation (407 SH).

77 Sqn. Whitley V Z9221 was supporting the landings at St. Nazaire but had to return as they could not identify their target in cloud. After jettisoning it's bomb load into the sea the aircraft flew into high ground in England, Sgt D.M. Colledge RAF killed, Sgt J.W.P.E. Louthood, P/O J.A. Harrison RNZAF, Sgt A.M. Weddell RNZAF and F/S D.M. Donovan Fuller RAF injured. P/O Harrison although injured made his way off the moor where they had crashed to seek help, for which he received a DFC (R. Allenby).

138 Sqn. Whitley V T4166 NF-B lost over the sea after dropping an agent (Operation WATERCRESS) and supplies (CATARRH) in occupied Holland, Sgt G.R. Wood RAF killed, P/O R.W. Franklin RAF (Can.), P/O S. Widdup RAF, Sgt J. Thompson RAF, Sgt K. Hailstone RAF and Sgt W.C. Evans RAF missing. The agent, A.A. Baatsen, was captured on landing, interrogated and executed Sept. 7, 1944. This was the first of the NORTHPOLE (NORDPOL) operations planned for Holland, which the German counter intelligence had completely compromised due to arrests made earlier. Despite warnings and failures of security codes which should have indicated that the organization was "blown” British SOE did not recognize the failure until April 1, 1944, when the Germans
wrapped up the operation by sending an uncoded message complaining that the number of agents dropped to them were less than before.


27-28 408 Sqn. Hampden I AE219 EQ-R missing from a GARDENING sortie off Holland, P/O W.M. Fraser, WO2 A. Jenkins Jr. RCAF (USA), Sgt A.F. Trawford RAF and Sgt H.A.B. Bird RAF missing.


It is believed that at least 2 of these 3 Hampdens were shot down by a night fighter.

Saturday

28 First 413 Sqn. Catalina AH561 QL-Y (F/L R. Thomas RAF) arrives in Ceylon (Stuart, Ragnar J. Ragnarsson at www.rafcommands.com).

US Navy warns Royal Navy Eastern Fleet in Ceylon that decoded messages indicate a force of Japanese aircraft carriers is heading to attack their bases there April 1 or 2. Non-essential shipping is sent to safe ports (Stuart).


28 #10 OTU Whitley V P4953 crashed into trees after the engines failed on take-off, P/O E.A. Taylor and Sgt J.A. Elkington RAF injured.

28-29 Attack on German port of Lübeck by 234 bombers results in destruction of 1/3 of city by fire, closing the port for three weeks. Much of the destruction was to the medieval centre of the city, built primarily of wood. This was the first major success by Bomber Command. Good visibility and light defences assisted in making an accurate attack. There were 23 other sorties as well over Holland and France, 12 bombers were lost (BC War Diaries). See April 23-24, below.

418 Sqn. dispatches 6 Boston III aircraft to patrol airfields in France on it’s first INTRUDER operation (RCAF Sqns.).


28-29 83 Sqn. Manchester I R5781 OL-R lost over Germany, F/S P.C. Walsh, Sgt W.L. Cox RAF, Sgt J. Rooney RAF, Sgt E. Thomas RAF, F/O T.A. Lumb RAF and Sgt S.T. Woodbridge RAF killed. TSGNO notes that F/S Walsh had been slightly injured in an aircraft accident at #6 EFTS, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan on Feb. 16, 1941.

B.E.P. Sadler RAF (special operator) and F/S R.A. Walker RAF missing (A. Storr).


28-29 420 Sqn. Hampden I AE246 PT-V was hit by flak over the target and tried to reach Sweden but was forced to ditch off Denmark, Sgt K.T. Hyde, S/L G.R. Tench RAF, F/S H. Thorne RAF and Sgt F.A. Durnan RAF PoW (Argus & Kratluskeren at www.rafcommands.com).

Sunday

29 India offered self rule (CJCA headline). British Government offers India Dominion status after the war (ww2total.com Chronology/1942). These were reports on the Cripps Mission in India. See April 11, below.

Seven more Spitfires are flown into Malta off HMS Eagle (Canwell & Sutherland).

29 401 Sqn. Spitfire Vb "261" shot down by flak over the English Channel, Sgt Pope bailed out and rescued, safe. Possibly Spitfire Vb AD232 abandoned over England on this date (www.spitfires.ukf.net).

29 402 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BL989 came down into the sea after the engine failed over the Bristol Channel on a convoy patrol, F/S L.G. Elliott missing.

29 405 Sqn. air frame mechanic LAC N.R. McLeod died in hospital in England of natural causes.


29 MSFU, Dartmouth, NS, Canadian built Sea Hurricane Ia BW842 damaged in a crash. See July 16, 1943 (R.W.R. Walker).

29-30 Twenty six GARDENING sorties off Denmark and 6 NICKEL operations over France with the loss of 2 minelayers (BC War Diaries).


Monday

30 Canada on Pacific War Council (CJCA headline).

Royal Navy Eastern Fleet sails from ports in Ceylon and Maldives to assemble for first
time. Most of the ships are old and air support from the 2 RN carriers is weak in relation to Japanese forces, but this was not known at the time as both the size and capability of the approaching Japanese force were seriously underestimated. It is hoped that using radar equipped torpedo bombers the RN forces could ambush the Japanese carriers at night (Stuart). At this time the Royal Navy Fleet Air Arm was the only carrier force equipped with radar and that practiced night operations (D. Sommerville).

#35 EFTS Neepawa, Manitoba and #36 EFTS Pearce, Alberta open on this day (www.bombercrew.com/BCATP.htm).


30-31 German battleship Tirpitz near Trondheim, Norway, targeted by 34 Halifax bombers but was not spotted, flak positions nearby bombed by three bombers (BC War Diaries). This and the following series of attacks made use of armour piercing bombs and special mines, developed for these attacks. These were naval mines with the contact fuses removed and replaced with a hydrostatic fuse like a depth charge. They were to be dropped along side of the battleship where they would explode under water, damaging the ship by hydraulic compression. Each Halifax could carry 4 of these devices (P. Nash). Middlebrook and Everitt note only 1 loss from this operation.


30-31 76 Sqn. Halifax II R9453 MP-K ran out of fuel and went down at sea returning from an attack on the German battleship Tirpitz, S/L A.P. Burdett RAF killed, P/O N.F. Bowsher, F/S W.J. Cadger, F/S L.W. Fletcher, Sgt L.W. Hanson RAF, Sgt D.C. Martin RAF and Sgt S. Davis RAF missing. See also http://www.archieraf.co.uk/archie/9453mpk.html.
Tuesday

31 413 Sqn. begins operations from Ceylon with a single aircraft (Stuart).
31  #1 OADU Wellington Ic DV517 swung on landing at Gibraltar from England and was wrecked, P/O N.W. Knight and his crew safe.
31  USAAF 41st R Sqn., B-17B 38-259 crashed making a landing at Harmon Field, Newfoundland (AAIR).

Spring thaw and shortages of equipment brings Russian offensive to a halt, leaving many units in vulnerable and extended positions (Oxford).

April 1942

405 Sqn. begins to re-equip with Halifax B.II 4-engined bombers and 410 Sqn. begins to re-equip with Beaufighter IIf night fighter aircraft (RCAF Sqns.).

As part of "Canadianization" 403 Sqn. becomes an all RCAF pilot unit, Sgt G. Beurling RAF (Can.) is posted to 41 Squadron RAF. After almost 4 months of bomber escort operations Beurling has flown only as a wing man, but before his transfer his skills are again recognized with the offer of a commission, which he again refuses (Nolan).

In the US plans to begin limited convoying of ships on East Coast implemented (english.turkcebilgi.com). These are small convoys moving in daylight and anchoring in harbours at night (Oxford). Despite the donation of RN ships to the USN the lack of available US escorts leads to RCN ships being sent to assist. This causes reductions in sailing of convoys to England from Halifax (D. Sommerville).

At this time the RAF recorded some 7,000 Commonwealth airmen among the hundreds of thousands of soldiers and sailors missing in the Far East following the victories of Japan in Hong Kong, Malaysia, Indonesia and Burma. It was expected that Japan would provide and exchange lists of those killed or captured through neutral parties as Germany and Italy did, but this never happened, as Japan, culturally, had no interest in such matters. This added to the burden of these men’s families as well as to those taken prisoner and their governments (S. Hadaway).

#2 Flight Instructor School opens at Claresholm, Alberta (http://www.bombercrew.com/BCATP.htm).

Wednesday

1 Gibraltar was attacked by 3 SM.82 bombers which caused no damage (H.W. Neulen).

Gas Rationing starts in Canada. (Possibly due to losses of tankers in Caribbean and East
Coast).

#3 OTU RCAF, Patricia Bay, BC and #5 OTU RCAF, Abbotsford, BC (later at Boundary Bay), opened (http://www.bombercrew.com/BCATP.htm).

1. 80 Sqn. Hurricane IIc BE706 lost off Gambut, Libya, F/S A.D. Nightingale missing (Shores, Massimello, Guest, Olynyk and Bock).

1. 418 Sqn. Boston III W8333 crashed in England on a night flying test, Sgt M.H. Brandon, F/S E.A. Owen, Sgt C.L. Lewis-Hall RAF and 1 RAF killed. This aircraft had taken part in the units first operation, March 26, above (M. Huxtable www.rafcommands.com).

1. 804 Sqn., FAA, Canadian built Sea Hurricane I Z7064 struck telephone lines during a an army support exercise and crashed in Northern Ireland, Sub Lt(A) G.P. Mollison RNVR killed (forum.keypublishing.com).

1. #20 OTU Wellington Ic R1760 JM-X lost a propeller and came down in the sea off Scotland, P/O J.L. Bradbury, F/S W.G. Reid RCAF (USA) and Sgt J. Chivers RAF missing, Sgt G.H. Elliott RAF died of injuries, Sgt W.L. Moots and P/O J.D. Mullins RAF survived, injured.

1. #10 (BR) Sqn. RCAF, Gander, Newfoundland, Digby aircraft on a patrol engaged and damaged by gunfire from a freighter, crew safe (Hagedorn & Hagedorn).

1. #14 SFTS, Aylmer, Ontario, Harvard II #3224 was on a training flight when it dove into the ground near Lakeview, Ontario, killing LAC(P) G.L. Kirk and P/O J.K. McLean.

1. unknown unit, F/S W.G. Cunningham RAF was killed in a car accident in North America, location unknown.

1-2 On this night Bomber Command attempted a new tactic of attacking railway lines at low level using 35 Wellington and 14 Hampdens to attack the line between Hanau and Lohr in Germany. However defences were not as sparse as expected and 12 Wellingtons and 1 Hampden were lost. The idea was abandoned. Fifty six bombers also attacked Le Havre, 41 targeted the Ford factory near Paris, 3 INTRUDER, 15 GARDENING and 5 NICKEL operations for a total of 169 sorties, with a total of 15 losses (BC War Diaries).


1-2 57 Sqn. Wellington III Z1565 lost over Germany, F/S A.A. Bussell, F/S W.M. Fraser, Sgt W.J. Paterson RNZAF, Sgt R.C. Roberts RAF and Sgt F.H. Miller RAF were killed, Sgt A. Leese RAF PoW. F/S Fraser had survived the loss of a #11 OTU Wellington June 21, 1941.

1-2 144 Sqn. Hampden I AD959 lost over Germany, F/S G.M. Robertson, Sgt A.H. Cassam RAF and Sgt J.O. Davies RAF killed, Sgt L.A.E. Smith RAF PoW.


1-2 214 Sqn. Wellington Ic R1789 lost over Germany, Sgt S. Burtwell RAF (Can.), Sgt A.E. Rees
RAF, Sgt K.H. Tibbatts RAF, Sgt P. Wood RAF, Sgt J.C. Dunn RAF and Sgt H. Downs RAF killed.


1-2 214 Sqn. Wellington Ic Z1156 lost over Germany, crashing into the Rhine River, F/S W.R. West, Sgt A.A. Ferguson RAF, Sgt V.P.W. Wheaton RAF, Sgt D.O. George RAF, Sgt H. Chilvers RAF and Sgt N. Ramsbottom RAF killed.


Thursday

**2 British leave Burma oilfields (CJCA headline).**

*After sailing east to ambush Japanese fleet for the last 3 nights, and returning to the west in the day, RN Eastern Fleet is forced to retire to the Maldives to refuel and resupply, leaving light forces of 2 cruisers, 1 aircraft carrier and 1 destroyer in Ceylon for escort and overhaul.*

**413 Sqn., second aircraft arrives in Ceylon, Catalina of S/L L.J. Birchall (Stuart).**

**422 Sqn. RCAF formed in Northern Ireland as a Coastal unit with flying boats (CCMA, RCAF Sqsns.).**

2 126 Sqn. Spitfire Vb (Trop.) BP844 shot down off Malta, P/O W.F. McCarthy missing.
2 #101 OTU DH.82 Tiger Moth T7190 crashed in England when doing unauthorized low flying, Sgt R.T. Edwards RCAF (USA) and P/O R.L. Keniston RCAF (USA) killed.

2-3 The Ford factory near Paris again attacked, successfully, by 50 bombers, 49 more to Le Havre, 30 on GARDENING off France, 3 losses (BC War Diaries).

2-3 455 Sqn. RAAF Canadian built Hampden I P5325 UB-B lost without trace on a GARDENING sortie off France, P/O J.E. Maloney RAAF, Sgt C.F. Woodburn RAAF, Sgt H.E. Rowley
RAAF and P/O H.N. Young RAAF missing.

Friday

3 Japanese raid Darwin (CJCA headline). See April 25, below.


Saturday

4 Japanese carrier forces sighted by 413 Sqn. RCAF Catalina which manages to send signal to Ceylon before being shot down (below), enabling all remaining shipping in ports to be sent to safety. Royal Navy fleet was just entering harbour in Maldives, unable to return quickly, but manages to replenish and sail part of the fleet by midnight and the rest in the early morning, returning to attack the Japanese force (Stuart).

4 413 Sqn. Catalina I AJ155 QL-A flown by S/L L.J. Birchall spots Japanese Fleet off Ceylon, sends warning before being shot down by A6M Zero fighters that killed one crew. After force landing in the sea the aircraft was strafed several times by the fighters, 2 wounded survivors in life jackets were killed, the rest of the crew survived as they were not wearing lifejackets and were able to dive under water. Sgt J. Henzell RAF, Sgt I.N. Davidson RAF and WO L.A. Colarossi RAF missing, S/L Birchall, WO B. Onyette, Sgt B. Catlin RAF, Sgt Cook RAF, ___ P.O. Kennedy RAF and Sgt F. Phillips RAF made PoW, all wounded (www.mansell.com). See April 18, below. On his release S/L Birchall was awarded a DFC for his actions on this day and made a member of the Order of the British Empire for his actions as a prisoner. As senior camp officer in 4 Japanese PoW camps, he twice intervened against mistreatment of prisoners and suffered beatings and solitary confinement for his actions (for details on his time as a PoW see Airforce, June & Sept. 1983). He served in the RCAF post-war where he retired as an Air Commodore and Chief of Air Operations before serving as Commandant of Royal Military College, Kingston, Ontario.


4 #2 (Coastal) OTU Blenheim I L6795 collided in mid air with Blenheim I L1125 and both crashed, one on the shore and the other just offshore. P/O J.D. Mair RAF was killed, Sgt F.E.S. Warren RAF and F/S W.T. Braun missing from L6795, Sgt G.A. Edmonds RAF, Sgt G.E. Peart RAF and Sgt V.G.H. Copas RAAF were killed on L1125 (Dick www.rafcommands.com, quoting from G. Warner, Blenheim historian).

4 #122 (K) Sqn. RCAF Patricia Bay, BC, RCAF Lysander II #461 dove into the water near Piers Island, BC, P/O W.S. Wooster killed.

4-5 240 Sqn. Catalina flight surveys abandoned settlements on Spitsbergen Island (R.C. Nesbit).

Sunday

5 At Port Moresby the first USAAF fighters, P-39s, arrive, to support RAAF fighters engaged in defending the port (D. Newton).
Mannu Island taken by Japanese north of New Guinea.

Japanese air attacks on Colombo, Ceylon. Underestimating the range at which Japanese could attack, RAF fighter forces were caught unprepared despite the warning of the day before. Radar units which had been sent to Colombo had yet to be deployed. RAF and RN lost 19 fighters and 6 torpedo bombers against 7 Japanese aircraft destroyed and 15 damaged. Second strike sinks RN cruisers Cornwall and Dorsetshire, sailing from Colombo to join the main fleet, in an intense 15 minute attack, but fail to spot the rest of the British fleet from the Maldives nearby (Stuart). That evening Albacore radar search aircraft from the RN carriers locate the Japanese fleet but one is shot down and the other driven away preventing an accurate position report, frustrating a planned night attack by the radar equipped Albacore torpedo bombers (wikipedia).

5 30 Sqn. Hurricane IIb shot down by Japanese fighters and force landed near Colombo, Ceylon, after destroying a D3A dive bomber, P/O D.A. McDonald safe (Shores, Cull & Izawa).

5 30 Sqn. Hurricane F/L R.T.P. Davidson RAF (Can.) credited with an A6M and a Japanese bomber shot down. He had previously flown Blenheims in Greece and Crete, where he shot down an Italian floatplane. Flying Hurricanes over Libya he destroyed a Ju 52/3m and an SM.79. With his victories on this day he became the only Canadian credited with destroying aircraft of all three major Axis powers (H.A. Halliday). See May 8, 1944.

5 205 Sqn. Catalina Z2144 shot down near Ceylon, searching for the Japanese carrier force, F/O A.W. Abbot, F/L H.D.T. Leach RAF (Can.) missing (B. Barry et al). F/S E.A. Allen RAF, Sgt W.C.F. Dodd RAF, Sgt A.T.E. Danniells RAF, F/L J.R. Graham RAF, LAC I. Lewis RAF and Sgt R.D. Walker RAF were also listed as missing from 205 Sqn. on this date (CWGC).

5 258 Sqn. Hurricane I damaged defending Colombo, Ceylon, from attacking Japanese carrier aircraft, P/O A. Brown RAF (Nfld.) safe (Shores, Cull & Izawa).

5 258 Sqn. Hurricane II BG696 badly damaged by Japanese fighters over Colombo, Ceylon, Sgt K.W. Morehouse safe (Shores, Cull & Izawa).

5 unknown unit, Hurricane flown by F/O J.H. Whalen claims 3 Japanese dive bombers shot down, which adds to the three German aircraft he had claimed in fighting over North Africa in 1941 (H.A. Halliday). See April 18, 1944.

5 OADU Beaufort II AW298 crashed and burned at Luqa, Malta enroute from Gibraltar, P/O H.P. McKee, Sgt J.D. Hawkins RAF, Sgt K.L. Thomas RAF and P/O E.P. Smith RNZAF killed.

5 43 Sqn Hurricane Iic Z2893 crashed in England, F/S H.J. Helbock RCAF (USA) killed. He was using the Franks 'Anti-G' suit (developed in Canada) at the time of the crash, which was being flight tested by 43 Squadron (lrorraineluke at www.rafcommands.com).

5 72 or 403 Sqn., Spitfire W3170 overturned making a down wind landing, WO D.L. Rawson was injured. See November 23, below.


5 #3 AFU Oxford I V3869 crashed in England, Sgt B. Jeffery killed.
5   #6 EFTS, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4252 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).
5   #14 SFTS, Aylmer, Ontario, Harvard #3212, which had force landed in fog at Port Bruce some
days before, was attempting to take off when it struck an outhouse and was damaged
(M.L. McIntyre).
5   #15 SFTS, Claresholm, Alberta, Crane IA FJ112 crashed into an H-hut barracks on the airfield,
P/O B. Atkinson RAF seriously injured and Sgt. L.W. Mickleborough RAF injured in the
aircraft, Cpl. W.A. Fahlman seriously injured and AC1 W.E. Currie, AC1 A.D. Cameron,
AC1 H.A. Ray, Cpl N.D. Robinson, AC1 J.D. MacMullin and Cpl R.S. Pesto were injured in
the barracks. The aircraft was later re-serialized #8763 with others in this batch of Cranes
before being written off in 1943 (corres. M. Joost, DND, 18/10/24)

5-6 Cologne bombed by 263 bombers which claimed a successful attack but again bombing
was scattered and damage light. Twenty more bombers attacked the Gnome &
Rhône aircraft engine factory in France but did not hit the target. Other operations
included 18 bombers to Le Havre, 18 INTRUDERS over Holland and 11 GARDENING
sorties off France, a total of 318 sorties with the loss of 5 bombers (BC War Diaries).

5-6 51 Sqn. Whitley V Z9323 MH-X made two runs on the Gnome & Rhône factory but was
damaged and driven off by flak, Sgt Shaw, Sgt L.A. Chennell RAF, Sgt R.G.D. Mathews
RAF, Sgt A.J. Fromings RAF and Sgt Reading safe (R. Allenby).

5-6 75 (New Zealand) Sqn. Wellington III X3489 shot down over Germany, F/O G.E. Mitchell DFM
RCAF (USA), W/C R. Sawrey-Cookson DSO DFC RAF, P/O W.F. Budge RNZAF, Sgt R.H.
Emery RAF, Sgt E. Hainsworth RAF and Sgt D.P. Stock RAF killed. F/O Mitchell had won
his DFM repelling an attack by a German night fighter in June 1941 and he had also
survived the crash landing of a 7 Squadron Stirling Aug. 14-15, 1941. He was the first US
citizen to be decorated by the RAF in the war (H.A. Halliday, Canada’s Yanks).

Monday

6 Japanese forces land on Bougainville in the Solomon Islands.

In the Bay of Bengal a second fleet of Japanese cruisers and carrier aircraft are attacking
merchant ships at sea (Shores, Cull & Izawa), and are shadowed for a time by a #2

Canadian Army formed in England (CJCA headline). Formed by combining Divisions in
England.

6  407 Sqn. Hudson V AM696 RR-D lost off the Dutch coast on a daylight anti-shipping patrol,
P/O J.D.A. Foley, F/S N.A. Leckie, P/O H. Lowry and WO1 D.A. McCann missing. See K.
Abbot for a description of this loss. After this daylight patrols were discontinued.
6  #16 OTU Hampden I P1299 spun and crashed on a practice bombing exercise, F/S A.B.
McKeith, F/S W.B.M. Wilson, Sgt F.A. Dann RAF and Sgt H.G. Stalker RAF killed. F/S
McKeith's brother, Sgt W.R. McKeith, 1st Hussars, Royal Canadian Armoured Corps, was
killed in Holland with the Canadian Army April 14, 1945 (B. Barry et al, CWGC).
6  #20 OTU Wellington Ic N2859 JM-W crashed in Scotland after an engine cut after take-off, Sgt
D. Lees RAF killed, P/O J.R. Moore and P/O R.M. Jenkins RAF died of injuries, Sgt Walton
injured.

6-7 Bomber Command again attacked the Krupp works in Essen, with 157 aircraft, but severe storms, icing and cloud cover again broke up the attack, only light damage reported. Five bombers were lost (BC War Diaries).


Tuesday

7 #52 OTU Master crashed after takeoff, Sgt L.N. Brown and F/O H.K. Smith RAF killed (P. Cornwell).
7 #5 B&G School, Dafoe, Saskatchewan, LAC J.P. Carmody was killed in a car accident while home on leave in Pembroke, Ontario.
7 #14 EFTS, Portage la Prairie, Man., LAC(P) J.A. Lawn was killed in a vehicle accident while on leave. He had been injured Jan. 26, above, in the crash of a Tiger Moth aircraft.
7 #10 AOS, Chatham, NB, Anson I #6631 crashed, LAC C.R.H. McFarlane RNZAF and Cpl H.S. McKinnon RNZAF killed.

7-8 37 Sqn. Wellington Z9033 hit by flak over Benghazi, Libya, badly wounding pilot WO2 K.J.D. Hawkins. The aircraft returned to Egypt but WO Hawkins died in hospital of his wounds.
7-8 37 Sqn. Wellington Ic DV411 crashed and blew up in Egypt after taking off for an operation to Benghazi, WO1 C.H. Tourville, Sgt S. Walker RAF, Sgt G.C. Pearson RAF and Sgt J.L. Stuart RAF killed. WO Tourville is referenced in D.A. Fraser's book Live to Look Again

Wednesday

8 Japanese carriers again sighted off Ceylon by an RAF Catalina. Ships leave Trincomalee, including the carrier HMS Hermes. Despite air searches the RN fleet did not intercept the Japanese force before it had sailed out of its range and on this date had to retire to its base in the Maldives to refuel (Stuart).

Malta endures its 2,000 bombing raid of the war.

8 15 Sqn. Stirling I W7511 LS-T swung on take-off for an air test and crashed, the wreck then catching fire, F/S J.J. Rigby and his crew safe.
8 42 Sqn. Beaufort I N1172 AW-S ditched in the North Sea after running out of fuel due to flak damage after attacking a convoy, Sgt E. Sheperd RAF and Sgt T. Pugh RAF killed, F/S J.G. Morrison RCAF (USA) and F/S A.B. Johnson RAF missing (www.flensted.eu.com, R. Hayward).
8 #7 School of Aerial Gunnery, England, Whitley K8942, Sgt J.B. Denton RAF pilot, unidentified
RCAF Sgt(AG) crewman accidentally fired his guns on a practice air-to-air gunnery sortie (brian www.rafcommands.com). One of the bullets struck and killed an ATS member on the airfield, possibly Pvt Lydia Amy Slingo, attached to 9 Anti-Aircraft Regiment, RA, who was listed as killed on this date (CWGC).


8  #23 OTU Wellington Ic R1597 crashed in Wales, possibly due to weather, F/S J.M. Kennedy, Sgt W.M. Lomax RAF, Sgt W. Smith RAF, Sgt F.T. Ellingham RAF, Sgt W.H. Lacey RAF, Sgt N. Griffen RAF and Sgt D.W. Dowling RAF killed.

8  #42 OTU Blenheim IV V5720 crashed in England, P/O L.B. Sceales and F/S W.J. Stevenson killed.

8  #60 OTU Blenheim IV Z5871 crashed in England, pilot Sgt S.B. Moffitt and passenger Sgt R.W. Hunter, assigned to #3 Personnel Reception Centre, Bournemouth, killed.

8  RAF Ferry Command, Hudson Illa FH246 lost over the Atlantic, Pilot R.G. Miller (US), Radio Officer N. Frankelson and F/O W. Murray RAF missing.

8  #14 EFTS, Portage la Prairie DH.82C Tiger Moth #4115 was approaching to land and failed to see a #2 AOS Anson I #6501 also landing. They collided in mid-air just short of the runway, the Anson was damaged but repaired, but the Tiger Moth was written off (R.W.R. Walker).

8-9 89 Sqn. Beaufighter If X7743, F/O R.C. Fumerton and Sgt L.S. Bing, shot down 2 He 111 bombers over the Nile delta (Shores, Massimello, Guest, Olynyk and Bock).

8-9 Hamburg targeted by 272 bombers but again only light damage due to icing and stormy weather. Scattered bombing hits a ship yard in Bremen, however, damaging 4 U-boats under construction. Le Havre attacked by 13 Wellington bombers, plus 3 INTRUDERS, 24 GARDENING and 16 NICKEL sorties, a total of 328 sorties with 6 losses (BC War Diaries).


8-9 419 Sqn. Wellington III X3467 VR-N had an engine catch fire over Germany. After jettisoning the bomb load and guns the fire was brought under control, and the engine restarted, only to have the second engine break into flames. This was extinguished and the engine feathered, when the first engine caught fire again, followed by the second when it was restarted (419 SH). The bail-out order was given, and all the crew except wireless operator air gunner P/O E.R. Howard got out before the aircraft exploded. P/O Howard was killed, F/S W.R. MacWilliam, F/S H. Brooks, F/S J.P. Paton, F/S W.C. Parker and F/O A.B. Crighton were taken PoW. F/S Brooks made several escape attempts and was recaptured twice before a successful escape in May, 1943 (419 SH; 6th Year). He stayed in Poland and served with the Polish Home Army (resistance) until 1945 for which he was
awarded a MC (ref. R. MacLaren). F/O Crighton, a trained musician, become the leader of the Stalag Luft III band which while a legitimate group was also used to cover clandestine activities such as counterfeiting identification documents for escaping PoWs (T. Barris). He was later a professor of Music at the University of Alberta (Edmonton Journal, Jan. 31, 2004). F/S Winston Churchill Parker was a distant relation to British PM Churchill (Airforce, Spring 1991). Several of F/S Parker’s artifacts from his time as a PoW are in the collection of the Bomber Command Museum in Nanton, Alberta, and were featured in their Fall 2019 Newsletter.

Thursday

9 US and Philippine Forces surrender at Bataan. Surrendered Philippine Army officers and NCO’s executed. US and Philippine troops marched with hands tied 80 miles to railhead for transport to prison camp without water or food. Japanese soldiers robbed and beat the prisoners, and killed any who could not walk. Five to ten thousand Filipino and over 600 US servicemen died on what became known as the Bataan Death March.

Japanese carrier aircraft attack Trincomalee, Ceylon (CCMA). With radar warning all 23 available fighters are sent to meet them, but are overwhelmed by the size of the raid and the quality of the Japanese aircraft and pilots, and lose 8 fighters while only destroying 4 Japanese aircraft. Japanese bombers then sight and sink the RN aircraft carrier HMS Hermes and it’s escorting destroyer, HMAS Vampire, the first aircraft carrier to be sunk by aircraft. Five other ships also sunk. While the Japanese aircraft were away from their ships 9 unescorted Blenheims of 11 Squadron RAF attacked their carriers, the first attack on Japanese carriers of the war. The carrier Akagi was near missed, but 1 Blenheim was shot down during the attack and 4 more were lost on the return flight when they met the Japanese aircraft returning to their carriers, for the cost of 2 A6M fighters.

Now realizing how vulnerable their ships were to Japanese carrier attack the Eastern fleet is divided to protect the coasts of Africa and western India, not returning to Ceylon in strength until late 1943 (Stuart). This was important to prevent Japanese naval forces from reaching the Red Sea and cutting off ship supply access to Egypt just as German and Italian forces were advancing towards the Suez Canal (Oxford).

421 Sqn. formed in England as a fighter unit (RCAF Sqns.).

9 unknown squadron, WO1 W.H. James captured in Java [this may be a typo for March 9, date of the surrender of Allied forces in Java. TSGNO states WO James was shot down in a 607 Sqn. Hurricane on this date, but Allied air operations over Indonesia had ended with the surrender]. See July 21, 1942.

9 413 Sqn. Catalina I AH561 QL-Y shot down off Ceylon, again after finding the Japanese carrier force, F/O R.G. Hervey, Sgt J.K. Hooper, Sgt P. Bourke RAF, Sgt D.L. Housley RAF, F/O R.K. Bourne RAF, F/L R. Thomas DFC RAF (S. Africa) and F/O A.W. Donald RAF missing (Ragnar J. Ragnarsson www.rafcommands.com). This crew gave warning that the fleet was approaching Trincomalee.
unknown unit, Hurricane claims damage on 3 Japanese dive bombers attacking Trincomalee before it is shot down, Sgt C. Gauthier wounded (H.A. Halliday).

#10 EFTS, Mount Hope, Ontario, DH.82C Tiger Moth #5889 crashed at Elfrida, Ontario (now part of the City of Hamilton) (R.W.R. Walker).

#10 SFTS, Dauphin, Manitoba, Crane I #7957 crashed near Makinak, Man., Sgt D.D. Dean RCAF (USA) and LAC S.F. Bradley RNZAF killed. See #12 SFTS loss July 25, 1942.

#1444 Flight Hudson III AE524 crashed taking off at Luqa, Malta, enroute to the Middle East, F/S K.L. Hardy killed (www.aviationinmalta.com).

Friday

Unable to work out an agreement between the various parties in India, the Viceroy, and the desires of Roosevelt and Churchill, the Cripps Mission to India ends in failure. It’s actions, meetings, statements and conclusions have been debated ever since, but it certainly did not help the debate on Dominion status or independence for Indians (S. Raghavan).

242 Sqn. RAF was reformed in England as a fighter Squadron equipped with Spitfires. It’s designation as "Canadian" was dropped, however, as RCAF units were now being formed overseas. As a fighter unit the Squadron fought in North Africa before returning to Malta for the invasion of Sicily, and was disbanded in Italy in November, 1944, reforming the same month in England as Transport Squadron (wikipedia).

17 Sqn., Loiwing, China, Hurricane II BG824 shot down by Japanese fighters, Sgt J.F. Barrick RCAF (USA) force landed, burned in the face and upper body by hot oil, and managed to get clear before his wrecked fighter was strafed and destroyed. He walked for two hours before being found by Chinese soldiers and rescued (Awards). He was later evacuated to India (Shores, Cull & Izawa). This sortie was cited in the award of a DFM to Sgt Barrick, who was soon commissioned (Awards).

PRU Spitfire failed to return, F/O J.B. Ayer RAF (Can.) missing. From Ottawa, F/O Ayer was born in Bangor, Maine, USA (Allison & Hayward).

412 Sqn. Spitfire Vb aircraft BL242 and #1 PRU Spitfire Vb AD305 collided in mid-air over England and both crashed, F/S G.S. Gould was killed in AD305.

#14 SFTS, Aylmer, Ontario, AW2 Mary Kathryn Heysel was killed in a car crash in Aylmer when on leave.

Essen and the Krupp works again targeted by Bomber Command with 254 aircraft. Predicted clear skies were not found and the force was scattered in cloud. Bombing was poor, including a 8,000 lb. HC bomb which was used operationally for the first time but with no recorded result. Forty bombers were sent to Le Havre, as well as 3 INTRUDER, 3 GARDENING and 5 NICKEL sorties, a total of 305 sorties with 16 losses (BC War Diaries).


61 Sqn. Manchester I R5785 QR-M was hit by flak over France and ditched 20 miles off the
English coast where the crew, Sgt D.H. McSporran, Sgt F. Hartley RAF, Sgt A.V. Cuthbert RAF, Sgt D.J. Meikle RAF, Sgt J.J.M. Rigley RAF, Sgt K.J. Watson RAF and Sgt H.E Hardy RAF took to their life raft. Due to the chances of wind and tide they were blown away from England to France, where they made landfall 5 days later on the Cherbourg Peninsula. Sgt Meikle tried to swim ashore but drowned, the others survived and were made PoW.

10-11 214 Sqn. Wellington Ic HF856 lost over Germany, F/S H.A. Neal RCAF (USA), P/O J.W. Murray RAF, Sgt C.W. Penny RAF, Sgt F. Bonser RAF, Sgt D. Smith and Capt. H.M. Butterworth Royal Artillery (attached to the Squadron) killed. Capt. Butterworth may have been engaged in analysis of German anti-aircraft (flak) defences.

Saturday

11 A force of 10 USAAF B-25 bombers and 2 B-17s carrying support staff, led by USAAF General Royce, depart from Australia for Mindanao in the Philippines, then surrounded by Japanese controlled islands (Martin & Stephenson).

India rejects self rule (CJCA headline). This was in reference to the failure of the Cripps Mission to India, but this headline of the time reflects only one point of view on the matter.


11 408 Sqn. Hampden I AT186 crashed in England on a bombing practise flight, Sgt M. Marment RNZAF and his crew safe.


11 #2 B&G School, Mossbank, Saskatchewan, Battle I #1900 caught fire in the air and force landed on the bombing range at Johnstone Lake where it burnt out, pilot badly injured, 2 students slightly injured (S. Shail).

11 #16 SFTS air frame mechanic AC2 V.D. Woods died in hospital of natural causes.

Sunday

12 Royce force of B-25s in Mindanao, using stocks of fuel and bombs stored there, attack targets on Cebu Island and Luzon (Martin & Stephenson).

417 Sqn. stands down and returns it’s aircraft prior to moving to Egypt.

12 58 Sqn. Whitley crashed in the sea off England, F/S R.S. Fleming killed, one crew reported missing. Sgt B.J. Langley RAF was reported killed on this date from 58 Squadron (CWGC).

12 107 Sqn. Boston III W8355 OM-G hit by flak attacking targets in France and ditched in the Channel, Sgt T.J. Delaney RAF (Nfld.), Sgt C.F. Docherty RAF and Sgt A.S. Hatton RAF died, F/S J.F. Connolly RAAF PoW.

12 412 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BL643 went down in the English Channel due to enemy action, F/S S.G. Napier was found by rescue units but was dead.

616 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AD375 lost off the French coast, P/O H.R. Strouts missing.

#1 PRU Spitfire PR.IV AA798 crashed in England on a sortie to Rotterdam, F/O E.W.R. Fortt killed.

#55 OTU Canadian built Hurricane X AF968 collided in mid-air with Hurricane I V6748 and both crashed, Sgt H. Mills RAF killed in AF968, and Sgt K.S. Cornwell was killed in V6748 (www.nelsam.org.uk, www.readytogo.net, CWGC).

RAF Ferry Command Ferry Captain F.A. Matson (USA) killed on a local flight from Prestwick, Scotland.

#14 (F) Sqn., Sea Island, BC, Kittyhawk AL137, P/O H.F. Heather, collided on the ground with #8 (BR) Sqn. Bolingbroke #9042, F/S L. Barnard and LAC A. McDonald. No injuries reported and both damaged aircraft were repaired and returned to service.

#35 EFTS, Neepawa, Manitoba, DH.82C Tiger Moth #1265 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

12-13 B-25s of Royce force attack Japanese targets at Cebu and Davao from Mindanao in the Philippines (Martin & Stephenson).

Another attack on the Krupp plant at Essen by 251 bombers. Again scattered by cloud but the factory area was hit and a fire started. In the last month Bomber Command had attacked this target with 8 large operations totalling 1,555 sorties, losing 64 bombers. The Krupp factory was hit only twice in this period. The problem was not mounting the attacks, or locating the targets, Bomber Command had the aircraft and resources to do this, but of accurately marking and hitting the target. Other operations on this night include 27 bombers to Le Havre, 18 to Genoa, Italy (again, frustrated by clouds), 4 INTRUDERS, 20 GARDENING and 7 NICKEL sorties. Total for the night was 327 sorties with 10 bombers lost (BC War Diaries).

7 Sqn. Stirling I N3679 crash landed on return to England from an operation over Germany when the undercarriage would not lock down, P/O R. Colwell, P/O N.E. Winch RAF, Sgt B.A. Iverson RAF, Sgt F.E. Booth RAF, P/O G.R. Wood RAF, Sgt E.D. Williams and F/S J. Hanken RAF safe.

49 Sqn. Hampden I AT196 ran out of fuel returning from operations and crashed in England. The pilot Sgt J.T. James RAF called for the crew to bail out several times before he bailed out at low level and was injured, but Sgt W.J. Marshall, Sgt H. Taylor RAF and Sgt J.T. Smith RAF did not leave the aircraft and were killed in the crash (R. Allenby).

76 Sqn. Halifax II R9452 MP-L collided with some maintenance equipment taking off on an operation and lost part of its undercarriage. The pilot, F/S J.N. Hobbs, managed to keep the aircraft under control and climbed out to sea, where the bombs were jettisoned. After burning off fuel the pilot and crew, Sgt W.H. Charlesworth RAF, Sgt Butler, Sgt H.D. Jones, F/S Rooney, Sgt Roberts and Sgt R. Davidson (RAF or RCAF?), all bailed out safely although Sgt Butler broke his leg on landing (R. Allenby).


405 Sqn. Wellington II W5531 LQ-U crashed in England on return from an operation over Germany after twice trying to subdue a fire in one of it's engines, F/S G.R. Graves and pilot


Monday

13 Royce B-25 force in Mindanao makes a daylight attack on Davao before withdrawing back to Australia (Martin & Stephenson).

417 Sqn. leaves England by ship for Desert Air Force (CCMA).

Last Fairchild 71 utility aircraft struck off service with the RCAF (Griffin CMA).

13 172 Sqn. Leigh Light equipped Wellington VIII Z8731 "B" flew into a seaside cliff in southern England following the loss of a propellor, P/O H.W. Russ, F/O E.A. Blair RNZAF, P/O F.C. Le Bon RAF, P/O L. Noble RAF and Sgt C.T. Daniel RAF killed (R.C. Nesbit). The Leigh Light equipment had not yet been used operationally at this time. The wreckage was not found until April 21, and some can still be seen on the beach below the cliff.

13 #2 AFU pilot P/O G.E. Robson RCAF (USA) killed in an accident in England, no details.

13 #19 OTU Whitley V BD209 was on a cross country flight when an engine failed. Returning to base the second engine also failed and the aircraft ditched off shore of Scotland, Sgt R.H. Baird and his crew safe.


13 #1 SFTS, Camp Borden, Ontario, Harvard II #3176 side-slipped at low level over Georgian Bay, touched the water and crashed, LAC(P) R.R. Foster RCAF (USA) killed.

13 #16 SFTS Hagersville Ontario, Anson I #6751 crashed near Victoria, Ontario, LAC(P) O.K. Nickerson killed.

13 #35 SFTS, North Battleford, Saskatchewan, Oxford I T1169 broke up in the air and crashed near Cloan, Saskatchewan, LAC T.D. Bower RAF and LAC F.C. Cannings RAF killed (R.W.R. Walker).

Tuesday

14 #132 (F) Sqn. RCAF formed at Rockcliffe, Ontario on Kittyhawk aircraft (RCAF Sqns.).

14 39 Sqn. and 22 Sqn. sent 8 Beauforts with an escort of 4 Beaufighters from Egypt to attack a convoy in the Mediterranean. When found the Beaufighters had reached the limit of their range and had to turn back, but the Beauforts attacked, only to find a very heavy escort of fighters which chased them to Malta. Five were lost, no ships were hit. 39 Sqn. Beaufort I N1169 shot down by fighters after attacking the convoy, F/L R.G.W. Beveridge killed, F/S
N.A. Payne, Lt P. Laverick RN and Sgt G.S. Fox RAF missing (sm www.rafcommands.com).

14 39 Sqn. Beaufort N1186 came down 6 miles off Malta, the pilot, F/O R.B. Seddon RAF and Sgt T.B. Keegan RAF, badly wounded, stayed at the ditching site in their life jackets while P/O M.W. McGregor and Sgt A. Miller RAF attempted to swim to shore. Only P/O McGregor made it after 5 hours and was found the next day, F/O Seddon, Sgt Miller and Sgt Keegan missing (R.C. Nesbit, Kevin and E. Martyn at www.rafcommands.com, Shores, Massimello, Guest, Olynyk and Bock). See August 20, 1943.

14 #21 OTU Wellington Ic R1085 stalled and crashed in England after a propeller came off in flight, F/S L.W. Sheffler RCAF (USA), Sgt T.V. Yde RNZAF, Sgt J.M.S. Millar RAF, Sgt G.D. Lindsay RAF, P/O R. Bloor RAF and Sgt L.L. Bennett RAF killed.

14 #1652 CU Halifax I L9576 was practicing two engine flying when it went into a spin and crashed, possibly caused by rudder overbalance which early marks of Halifax aircraft suffered from, F/S D.R. Cox, F/O F.J. Joshua RAF, Sgt A.T. Howell RAF, Sgt J.E. Gurney RAF, Sgt E.J. Spencer RAF, Sgt G. Marks RAF, AC1 C.G.C. Keighley RAF, AC1 T. Mahady RAF and AC2 F.S. Goodwin RAF killed (R. Allenby).


14 #4 B&G School, Fingal, Ontario, Battle I #1746 had a hydraulic leak that blinded the pilot, making it’s second belly landing (S. Shail). See Nov. 22, 1944.

14 #17 EFTS, Stanley, NS, Finch II #4762 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

14-15 Bomber Command sent 208 bombers to Dortmund but attacks were scattered all over the Ruhr Valley in mist, 23 bombers sent to Le Havre all dropped their bombs in open country side, 5 INTRUDERS and 1 Stirling on a GARDENING sortie for a total of 237 sorties on this night, 10 losses (BC War Diaries). One 419 Wellington, F/S Swanson, flew to the target only to have it’s entire bomb load ‘hang-up’, and brought it back to a safe landing, unable to even jettison it (419 SH).

14-15 10 Sqn. Halifax II R9492 ZA-G ran out of fuel over England returning from an operation over Germany. The pilot, F/O R.P. Hughes RCAF (Argentina), ordered the crew, Sgt R. Atkinson RAF, Sgt Trembath RAF, P/O Ganderton RAF, Sgt Stubley RAF, Sgt Triggle RAF and Sgt Tyson RAF, to bail out, then he attempted an emergency landing but was unsuccessful. F/O Hughes was killed, he was the only casualty.

14-15 10 Sqn. Halifax II W1045 ZA-J ran out of fuel returning from an operation over Germany and ditched off the English coast, the crew, WO2 D.J. O’Driscoll RCAF (Nfld.), F/S J.M. McLaughlin, P/O Dempsey RAF, Sgt S. Oakford RAF, Sgt Saunders RAF, Sgt Harison RAF and Sgt V.L. Wiles RAF took to their life raft and were rescued (R. Allenby). See May 8-9, below.


14-15 103 Sqn. Wellington R1344? was returning from an operation when an engine caught on fire and lost a propeller. The extinguisher system put out the fire, and a belly landing was made, P/O G.H. Gosman and crew safe (R. Krumin).

14-15 214 Sqn. Wellington Ic Z1148 shot down over Belgium, F/S B.O. Gates RCAF (USA), P/O R.B.
Halliday, F/S D.H.M. Jacques, F/S R.M. Lawrence, Sgt S. Cox RAF and Sgt E. St. Trond RAF killed. This crew had all been injured in the loss of #12 OTU Wellington Ic X9931 on Jan. 18, above.


14-15 405 Sqn. Wellington II W5427 LQ-N lost over Germany, F/S J. Cormack, Sgt W.S. "Tex" Tyler RCAF (USA), Sgt D.M. MacFarlane RAF (Can.), Sgt A.G. Harvey RAF and Sgt M.D. Jones RAF killed. Sgt Tyler was known for insisting on wearing his cowboy boots while in uniform (Linzee www.rafcommands.com).

14-15 405 Sqn. Wellington II Z8530 LQ-A abandoned over England on return from operations, Sgt J.W. Bell, F/S H.A. Echinn RAAF, F/S Francis RAF, Sgt Wood RAF and F/S Pickard RAF safe. See June 29-30, below. This was the last Wellington lost by 405 Sqn. before it began conversion to Halifax B.II aircraft.

14-15 408 Sqn. Hampden I AT141 believed to have been shot down by a night fighter over Germany, F/S J.L.R.A. Boisvert, F/S F.E. Hagel, F/S A. McClintock and Sgt J. Johnstone RAF killed.


Wednesday

15 By order of King George VI the George Cross is awarded to the Island of Malta and it’s citizens (Polsson). During this time Italian laid minefields would force the RN submarines to leave the island, while food shortages would affect military and civilians alike. Health declined on the Island, and in the summer an epidemic of typhus would break out (Oxford). From January 1 to July 24 there was only one 24 hour period without a bombing attack (Oxford). Aircrew of reconnaissance and attack aircraft were also affected, and crews became ad hoc mixtures of who was healthiest flying whatever aircraft was available (R.C. Nesbit). On this date there are only 6 fighters serviceable to defend the Island (Canwell & Sutherland).

The ice road on Lake Ladoga supplying Leningrad is run until the melting ice drowns it on this date, and it is replaced by boats when the ice breaks up. Some 440,000 evacuees had been brought out of the City. Electrical lines and fuel pipelines are laid across the Lake bottom. In the late summer German E-boats and Italian midget submarines attack the supply boats, and are engaged by Russian naval craft on the lake, the winter coming before these have much effect on the supply runs (Oxford, ww2total.com Chronology/1942).

Smith, F/O H. Siddell RAF and P/O Campbell RAF escaped from their prison in Indonesia, killing a guard. They attempted to steal a Japanese Ki-56 transport aircraft and fly to Ceylon but were caught in the aircraft after getting one engine started. They were tortured and then executed on this date. After this Allied prisoners were ordered to sign papers agreeing not to escape. The Senior British Air Officer ordered that no one was to sign the illegal document, for which he was beaten. After other prisoners were put into solitary confinement without water or food until they signed the papers the SBAO ordered all the prisoners to sign, as the papers would have no effect due to being signed under duress. At about this same time S/L Jardine RAF (Can.) at another camp was also part of an escape planned with a re-conditioned Dutch Air Force Martin WH-3 bomber, but the Senior RAF officer vetoed the attempt in view of the Japanese threat to execute 6 prisoners for every Allied airman who escaped (Shores, Cull & Izawa; A.M. Jardine).

15 MSFU CAM Sea Hurricane V6843 collided with a Tiger Moth over England and they both crashed, P/O E.R. Taylor killed in the Sea Hurricane.
15 #44 Group, RAF Ferry Command, Hudson IIIa FH263 landed in the Republic of Ireland after an engine seized crossing the Atlantic, Sgt G.M. Morrish, Sgt C.B. Killips and Sgt E.O. Lodge RAF safe. (D. Burke, www.ww2irishaviation.com)
15 #2 SFTS, Uplands, Ontario, Harvard IIb #3280 crashed near the airfield on a night flying exercise, LAC(P) L.E. Yates killed.

Mid-April, US Army proposes buildup in England prior to planned invasion of France in the spring of 1943 (Polsson).

15-16 Bomber Command again returns to Dortmund with 152 aircraft but again cloud and icing disrupted the attack. There were 45 other sorties as well, 4 bombers were lost (BC War Diaries).
15-16 156 Sqn. Wellington III X3697 crashed in Belgium, P/O A.G. Griffith, Sgt A.C.F. Digby RAF, Sgt O.R. East RAF, Sgt G.D. Randall RAF, Sgt E.G.A. Stevens RAF and Sgt R.C.E. Willingham RAF killed. This was 156 Squadrons first loss.

Thursday
16 175 Sqn. Hurricane IIb BE485 was on a RAMROD sortie when it suffered a coolant leak and ditched into the sea off England, F/S B.W. Forman was seen in his dinghy but was not rescued in time and died. This was the Squadrons first operation.
16 296 Sqn. Hotspur BT745 glider undershot a landing, one person possibly killed on the ground, Sgt E.A. Smith injured (R. McNeill www.rafcommands.com).
16  #11 EFTS RAF, Perth, Scotland, Magister I R1921 crashed, Sgt L.L. Armour and Sgt J.R. Derzonca killed.

16-17 Only minor operations by Bomber Command on this night, 21 bombers and 21 GARDENING sorties to French ports and 11 NICKEL sorties, 2 losses (BC War Diaries).


16-17 156 Sqn. Wellington III X3417 believed to have crashed into the sea off the Loire River on a GARDENING sortie, Sgt D.S. Hall RAF and P/O J. Sheffield RAF killed, Sgt J.R. McRae RAF (Nfld.), F/S R. Kinsey RAF, Sgt R.V. Hagborg RAF and Sgt J.J. Smith RAF missing.

Friday

17 Two German prisoners escape from Bowmanville, Ontario, PoW camp. One was discovered that day before the escape had been noticed and the second, Peter Krug, was recaptured in Texas, short of the Mexican border. Three US residents were imprisoned for aiding him in the USA. Krug attempted at least two more escapes (Hodgeson).

Augsburg Raid, daylight strike by Lancasters on MAN diesel plant making U-boat engines. Twelve Lancasters flew at low level over 1,000 miles to Germany behind a diversionary CIRCUS attack in France, 4 were shot down when the formation accidentally met a group of fighters, 8 attacked the target where flak shot down three of them, 5 returned to England where the formation leader S/L J.D. Nettleton RAF (South Africa) of 44 Sqn. was awarded a Victoria Cross. Damage to the plant was light, in part due to some bombs that failed to explode.


17 44 Sqn. Lancaster I R5510 KM-A hit by flak over the target and crashed nearby, F/S D.H. McAlpine, F/S R.J. Flux DFM RAF and Sgt I. Edwards RAF killed, F/O A.J. Garwell DFM RAF, Sgt L.L. Dando RAF, Sgt F.S. Kirke DFM RNZAF and Sgt J. Watson RAF were taken PoW. Sgt Kirke was promoted to WO in prison and received the DFC, the first member of the RNZAF to hold both medals.


17 97 Sqn. Lancaster I R5513 OF-P hit by flak and exploded over the target, F/S J.G. Donohue RCAF (USA), WO T.J. Mycock DFC RAF, Sgt N.C. Hayes MiD RAF, WO L. Harrison MiD RAF, F/S S.E. Eades MiD RAF, Sgt D. MacDonald RAF and F/S W. Shelley RAF killed.

17 97 Sqn. Lancaster I L7573 LF-K hit by flak over the target and crashed nearby, F/L D.S.R. Hepburn, P/O A.T. Webb MiD RAF, Sgt R.S. Page MiD RAF, Sgt A.M. Cox RAF, F/S D.W. Harrington MiD RAF and F/S V. Wilding RAF killed, S/L J.S. Sherwood DFC RAF was the only survivor when he was catapulted from the crash and taken PoW.

17 121 (USA) Sqn. Spitfire Vb AD498 shot down over France, F/S F.C. Austin RCAF (USA) killed.

17 403 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BL590 shot down by German fighters on a RAMROD, the pilot, F/S
Messum, bailed out [into the sea?] and rescued.


17  #6 (Coastal) OTU Hudson II T9378 was practicing night circuits and crashed on approach to land when it struck a tree, Sgt C.M. Carkner, Sgt A. Powell RAF and Sgt J.E. Taylor RAF killed, P/O R.W. James RAF badly injured (R. Allenby).


17  #22 OTU Wellington Ic X9624 was involved in a taxiing accident, air gunner F/S G.M.L. Robertson RCAF (Nfld.) killed.

17  #6 SFTS, Dunsville, Ontario, Harvard II #2839 crashed and burned near Fisherville, Ontario, LAC(P) A.S. Guelich RCAF (USA) and LAC(P) A.L. Rankin RNZAF killed.

17  #31 EFTS, DH.82C Tiger Moth #1201 written off after a crash at De Winton, Alberta (R.W.R. Walker).

17-18 Blackout imposed on US East Coast to prevent use of lights by U-boats for navigation and aiming torpedos (Polsson).

Hamburg was attacked by 173 bombers of whom 107 claim to attack, with light to moderate damage reported, 22 bombers to St. Nazaire, 4 to Le Havre, 6 INTRUDERS and 9 GARDENING sorties, a total of 214 sorties with the loss of 10 bombers (BC War Diaries).


17-18 50 Sqn. Manchester I R5782 lost over Germany, the pilot P/O G. Baker RAF and the rear gunner Sgt H. Knight RAF were killed, but the rest of the crew, Sgt F.J.S. Pearce, F/S C.B. McKenzie RNZAF, Sgt R.B. Dawson RAF, F/S A.T. Griffiths RAF and Sgt S. Crawford RAF, bailed out and were taken PoW.


Saturday

18 Led by Col. James Doolittle USAAF, a pre-war aeronautical engineer and fighter pilot also known for his air racing skills, 16 USAAF B-25 Mitchell medium bombers launch from the aircraft carrier USS Hornet to attack Tokyo. The attack was planned to have been launched at dusk, bombed in the night, and landed at dawn at prepared airstrips in China where they would be refuelled and flown to safe bases further inland, to be used to support the Nationalist Chinese, however the task force was detected by small Japanese boats deployed as pickets, resulting in an early launch, a daylight bombing and the aircraft running out of fuel at night over China.
This largely symbolic attack embarrassed and enraged the Japanese military who had considered their home islands beyond reach of US forces. A huge operation was mounted in China to capture the airmen and destroy the prepared landing fields, which included the release of biological agents. An estimated 10,000 Chinese citizens were killed or died as the US survivors were smuggled to safe areas (wikipedia).

Of the 80 crew on the aircraft 5 were interned in the USSR when they landed at Vladivostok against orders, and 65 bailed out over China where one died when his parachute failed, 2 drowned when they ditched off the Chinese coast and 8 were captured by the Japanese.

Those captured were denied the status of Prisoners of War and tried as criminals (ironically this is similar to the treatment by the USA of combatants captured in Afghanistan since 2001). Three were executed and the remainder sentenced to prison terms in China where one died of starvation before they were released at the end of the war.

S/L L.J. Birchall and his surviving crew shot down off Ceylon April 4, above, were landed in Yokohama a few days later and displayed publicly to Japanese crowds who abused them, angry at the attack (www.personainternet.com).

This attack also led to the end of further Japanese naval action in the Indian Ocean as the carrier force was recalled (thus preventing the possibility of Japanese naval support assisting in the Desert War by blockading the Red Sea and the Suez Canal), and to the decision by the Japanese to mount a major naval attack to seize Midway Island, hoping to draw out and destroy the remaining US Navy fleet in the Pacific. It also led to the development of balloon borne bombs to attack Canada and the USA (Mikesh).

18 108 Sqn. Wellington Z8955 crashed in Egypt from low level while on an air test, F/S W.D. Burd, LAC W.B. MacFarlane RAF, LAC J. Norman RAF, AC2 E. Hopkins RAF and AC1 C.V. John RAF killed.
18 407 Sqn. Hudson V AM878 RR-B missing on an anti-shipping strike off the Dutch coast, P/O R.A.C. Draper, P/O E.D. Girardot RCAF (USA) and F/S B.W. Weaver killed, F/S E.G. Alexander and F/S D.S. Kennedy missing (www.airwar4045.nl). P/O Draper was the Squadrons signals leader and was on board to observe radio equipment under operational conditions (407 SH, http://www.626-squadron.co.uk/willem34a.htm). Dutch historian Wellem de Jong notes that pilot P/O Giradot moved to the USA and became a resident after marrying an American. His father Francis Girardot and his uncles David Girardot and Alfred Girardot, had all been pilots in the RFC/RAF in the First World War. His father re-enlisted in the RCAF in 1940 and served as Equipment Officer in #1 (Fighter) Squadron during the Battle of Britain. P/O Girardot’s brother was serving in the RAF, in Radar development (http://www.626-squadron.co.uk/willem34a.htm).
18 #15 Conversion Flight Stirling I N6090 LS-Z swung landing from a local flying practice and was wrecked, F/S I.L. Charbonneau and Sgt W.C. Brodie safe. See May 8-9, below.
Sunday

19 U-boat shells oil refinery at Curacao, without causing much damage (ww2total.com Chronology/1942). USAAF aircraft attempt to locate the submarine (D. Hagedorn).


19 #111 (F) Sqn. RCAF Kittyhawk I AL212 (RCAF #1090) lost off Galiano Island, BC, Sgt D.L. Stapleton missing.

19-20 70 Sqn. Wellington Ic T2842 "P" was abandoned over Egypt due to a failure of the instruments on an operation to Benghazi, Sgt E.D. Allen RAF died of head injuries but the rest of the crew, P/O R.A. Sharp, Sgt Dawson RAF, P/O Carr RAF, Sgt Todd RAF and Sgt Taylor RAF safe.

19-20 58 Sqn. Whitley V Z9388 crashed into the sea off Ireland after losing an engine on a Coastal Command patrol, F/S D. Newlove killed, Sgt. K.L. McAdam RNZAF, Sgt A.T.G. Gough RAF, Sgt R.J. Harwood RAF, Sgt J. McClelland RAF and Sgt P.J. Leahy RAF missing. A Memorial service for this crew was held in July 1986 (Flypast June 1986).


Monday

20 US Forces in Cebu and Panay islands in the Philippines surrender to Japanese.

In Malta after a month of heavy air attack only 7 fighters remain serviceable from the five fighter squadrons based there (H.W. Neulen). The aircraft carrier USS Wasp is used to launch 47 Spitfire Vc aircraft which arrive in Malta. Among these were P/O R.P.W. Sewell, P/O W.E. Cripps, P/O R.F. Tilley RCAF (USA), WO F.H. Belcher and Sgt E.G. Shea, all from 601 Sqn., and P/O O.M. Linton, P/O C.B. McLean, Sgt S.B. Walcott RCAF (USA), P/O G. Murray RCAF (USA), P/O F.E. Almos RCAF (USA) and P/O D.E. Booth RCAF (USA), all from 603 Sqn. (Shores, Cull and Malizia).

On arrival in Malta these new Spitfires were subjected to bomber attacks and fighter sweeps from German units in Sicily. Within 48 hours two thirds of these fighters had been destroyed (Shores, Cull and Malizia). There was an enquiry onto the losses by Malta AOC AVM Hugh Lloyd, and he determined two factors. The pilots who flew the Spitfires in were relatively inexperienced, and the aircraft were flown in in an unprepared state, with guns that had not been test fired and radios that were not tuned to the frequencies required. In future, he reported, only experienced pilots were to fly into Malta, and the aircraft were to be combat ready on arrival, not requiring further maintenance before being flown operationally (D. Nijboer, Five versus the Lightning, Flypast, January 2020). See May 8, below.

In the Atlantic Ocean U-459, the first Milckuh (Milk Cow, or submersible tanker & supply
submarine), met and refueled it's first attack U-boat, greatly increasing the reach of U-boats on the shores of North America and in the mid-Atlantic Gap (M. Gannon).

#125 (F) Sqn., Sydney, NS formed on Hurricane I aircraft (RCAF Sqns.).

20 30 Sqn. Hurricane "JGN91" ran into the slipstream of another aircraft at low altitude and crashed in Ceylon, F/S J.B. Lisle killed. (JS291? JS391?)


20 603 Sqn, USS Wasp, Spitfire Vc BP958 suffered engine problems after launching to fly to Malta. Unable to keep up Sgt S.B. Walcott RCAF (USA) flew alone, and flew close to what he believed was a yacht when his engine began emitting smoke (possibly hit by gunfire). He turned inland to Algeria where he made a forced landing with undercarriage problems. He was interned by Vichy French authorities and twice attempted to escape. Following his release after the invasion of French North Africa he returned to England where he had thought to have defected. There he transferred to the USAAF and returned to North Africa to fly ground attack operations in P-39 aircraft (M. Gleeson http://forum.12oclockhigh.net/showthread.php?t=2611). The defection story has been published in several books.

20 608 Sqn. Hudson V UL-T AM713 flew into a cliff in Norway after attacking a ship off the coast, F/S A.A. Hemery, WO L.C. Bonthan RAF, Sgt B.H. Leek RAF and F/S T.E. Willey RAF killed (ktsorens.tihldo.org, R. McNeill www.rafcommands.com). There is a monument at the crash site.

20 #3 (Coastal) OTU Wellington Ic T2834 flew into the ground in England, P/O H.E. Rath and Sgt K.M. Miegel RAAF killed.


20 #16 OTU Hampden I P1297 spun into the ground on a training flight, F/L J.E. Morgan and Sgt D.J. Taynen killed.

20 #16 OTU Canadian built Hampden I P5388 swung taking off on a training flight and crashed into Hampden I L4202, damaging it. Sgt H.A. Vallis, Sgt W.J. Wilkinson, Sgt D.S. Jackson and P/O Edmunds were safe in P5388, but it was written off (H. Moyle).


20-21 138 Sqn. Whitley V Z9158 NF-V flew into ground in England returning from a NICKEL sortie after being diverted due to weather, F/S W.J.E. Lines, P/O I.A. Miller, Sgt R.F. Shaddick RAF and Sgt S.W.F. Leigh RAF killed, rear gunner Sgt K. Hubbard RAF survived with injuries. In 2019 a scale model of this aircraft was made for display at the Bomber Command Museum in Nanton, Alberta.

Tuesday

21 The German force surrounded in Northern Russia is relieved by advancing German units on this day, after nearly 3 months (D. Sommerville). The successful air supply of this force may have influenced the decision to supply the Stalingrad force later in the year.
Goblin fighter (licence built Grumman FF-1) struck off service with the RCAF (Griffin CMA).

21 126 Sqn. Malta, Spitfire Vc BP976 "O" shot down, P/O S.F. Brooker RAF (Can.) bailed out but was shot and killed as he descended. His body was not recovered. P/O Brooker had arrived in Malta the previous day flying a Spitfire off the carrier USS Wasp.

21 126 Sqn. Spitfire Vb (Trop.), possibly AB336, crashed in Malta after hitting a radio mast in combat, P/O H.A. Putnam RCAF (USA) killed (H. Welting www.rafcommands.com).


21 Ferry Command Hudson IIIa FH335 crashed near New Carlisle, Quebec, S/L J.T. Gutray, Sgt R.R. Kember and Sgt P.A. Beavis RAF killed.

21 #20 EFTS, Oshawa, Ontario, DH.82C Tiger Moth #5168 crashed during an instrument exercise killing Sgt J.C. Hammond and Sgt E.V. McGuire (R.W.R. Walker). Sgt McGuire is listed as from Toronto but is buried in Fenton, Michigan, USA.

Wednesday

22 Commandos raid Boulogne (CJCA headline).

22 603 Sqn. Spitfire lost near Malta, P/O G. (Scotty) Murray RCAF (USA) missing. As a teenager P/O Murray had been a noted builder of flying model aircraft, and his death was reported in the US magazine "Flying Aces", August 1942 and at least one other modelling magazine.


22 Composite Training School, Trenton, Ontario, F/L A.H. O'Neill died in hospital in Toronto of natural causes.

22-23 #1 OADU Wellington Ic DV548 one of 2 Wellingtons lost without trace after leaving Malta for Egypt, F/S E.F. Bramley RCAF (UK), F/S A.W.C.E. King, F/S E.H. Martin, Sgt R.S. Oliver RAF (Can.), P/O J.H. Reid RAF (Can.) and Sgt J. Smith RAF missing. B. Barry et al notes that P/O Reid from Saskatchewan had gone to sea in the 1930's and earned a Master's Certificate working for the CP Steamships line. He was a ship's captain when he volunteered for the RAF in 1940. His father, Pvt E.H. Reid, had been killed at the Battle of Vimy Ridge in 1917. F/S Martin's brother, Sgt W.E. Martin, had been badly burned in a Blenheim crash in Malta Oct. 16, 1941, and had just reached an RAF hospital in England on this date (R. Donovan).

22-23 Cologne targeted by 69 GEE equipped bombers to see if it can be used for accurate bombing. Results mixed, from accurate to 10 miles away. Other operations include 23 bombers to Le Havre, 63 GARDENING sorties off Germany and Denmark, and 1 NICKEL over France, 4 bombers lost (BC War Diaries).

22-23 9 Sqn. Wellington III X3759 crashed in England on an operation to Germany, F/S J.M. Hubbert, Sgt W.T. Ramey RCAF (USA), F/S J. Sebarris, Sgt J.W. Jasper RNZAF and Sgt E.E. Eglington RAF killed, Sgt P.G. Russel RAF injured. Sgt Ramey had been slightly injured
Nov. 27, 1941 in the loss of 9 Sqn. Wellington III X3287.

22-23 149 Sqn. Stirling I R9307 swung and crashed on take-off for operations, P/O A.F. Cheetham and it is believed the crew of P/O K.W.B. Moodie, Sgt B.E. Smith RAF, F/S V. Carraline RAF, Sgt Morrison RAF, Sgt F.B. Pomeroy RAF and F/S J.A. Shaw RAF safe. See May 4-5, below.


22-23 419 Sqn. Wellington III, pilot P/O Fillmore, on return to England one of the crew, F/S Fudge, bailed out in error but landed safely (419 SH).

Thursday

23 #14 (F) Sqn. RCAF departs Rockcliffe, Ontario for Sea Island BC (RCAF Sqns.).

Lancaster I R5727 arrives in Gander, Newfoundland, enroute to the National Steel Car plant in Malton, Ontario to serve as pattern aircraft for Lancaster production (http://www.bombercommandmuseum.ca).

23 #1 TTS, St. Thomas, Ontario, aero engine mechanic AC2 S.K. Whaley died in hospital of natural causes.

23 #11 EFTS, Cap de Madeleine, Quebec, Finch II #4737 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).


Bomber Command sends 143 bombers to attack Rostock, plus 18 specially tasked bombers to hit the Heinkel aircraft factory nearby. Moderate damage was done to the city and none to the factory. Four bombers were lost (BC War Diaries).

In retaliation for the successful attack on Lübeck in May, in which many historic buildings were destroyed, Hitler orders that English cities of similar historic importance were to be bombed by the German Luftwaffe, beginning with Exeter (25 bombers) on this night. These were called the "Baedeker Raids" owing to a propaganda claim the cities were selected using the Baedeker tourist guide book (wikipedia). As well, and for the first time, the Luftwaffe begins creating a unified day and night fighter command to defend Germany (Oxford).

23-24 106 Sqn. Manchester I L7463 "Sri Sarjah" suffered an engine fire over Denmark and the pilot, P/O H.M. Stoffer, ordered his crew to jump (http://www.lancaster-archive.com). He was killed when the aircraft broke up, but P/O J.H. Paton, F/L T. Prescott-Decie RAF, Sgt I. Hamilton RAF, Sgt N.S. Lewis RAF, F/O N.J.C. Polock RAF and Sgt J.C. George RAF successfully bailed out and were taken PoW.

Friday

24 Lucy Maude Montgomery, creator of the Anne of Green Gables stories, dies in Toronto (wikipedia).
148 Sqn. wireless air gunners Sgt A.B. Balinson, F/S A.E. Charron and 5 civilians were killed, 13 civilians injured when two shelters in Valetta, Malta were hit by bombs.

122 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BL462 believed shot down in the sea after combat with Fw 190 aircraft of JG-26 when supporting CIRCUS 132 attacking Ostend in the afternoon, F/O R.E. Hardy missing. Losses supporting this CIRCUS of 12 Boston aircraft totalled 12 Spitfires. These include 2 from 72 Sqn., 3 from 122 Sqn. (inc. P/O Hardy), 1 from 124 Sqn. (P/O Macdonell), 5 from 234 Sqn. and 1 from 313 Sqn. Aircrew losses were 7 pilots killed, 4 PoW, 1 injured and one unknown, presumed safe. They include 1 RAF (Czech.), 2 RAF (USA), 1 South African (RAF?), 5 RAF and 4 RCAF, including F/S Fisher and Sgt Machan (below), both PoW. No bombers were lost.

124 Sqn. Spitfire Vb W3436 reported ditched in the North Sea after combat with Fw 190 aircraft when escorting CIRCUS 132 attacking Ostend in the afternoon, P/O E.N. Macdonell missing [note spelling correct as per his nephew, Mac Hayden of Edmonton].

234 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BL623 shot down by German fighter aircraft on a CIRCUS escort, F/S F.C. Fisher PoW.

234 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AD463 shot down by German fighter aircraft on a CIRCUS escort, Sgt S.H. Machan PoW.

408 Sqn. airframe mechanic LAC J.F. McMahon died in hospital in England of natural causes.

412 Sqn. Spitfire Vb W3900 crashed in England, P/O A.P.L. "Apple" Smith bailed out too low and was killed (B. Barry et al).


24-25 Second attack on Rostock by 125 bombers, 91 targeting the city and 34 the Heinkel factory. Heavy damage was done to the town but again the factory was not damaged. Other operations included 39 bombers to Dunkirk, 4 INTRUDERS and 3 NICKELS, 1 bomber and 1 INTRUDER lost (BC War Diaries).

Luftwaffe bombers return to Exeter for the second of the Baedeker Raids (wikipedia).

24-25 51 Sqn. Whitley V BD190 MH-J was returning from an operation to Germany short of fuel, called for a radio course to land but turned the wrong way. Out of fuel a forced landing in a field was attempted but the wheels had to be retracted to keep from overrunning the space and the aircraft was badly damaged, the 4 man crew, F/S R.J. Heather, F/L C.P. Towsey MiD RNZAF, Sgt E.R. Mitchell RAF and Sgt D.B. Ross RAF safe (R. Allenby). See March 12-13, 1943.


Saturday

25 Japanese navy land based bombers and fighters make a heavy attack on Darwin in Australia, but this had been foreseen by Intelligence, and with radar warning some
50 USAAF fighters met the attack, claiming 11 shot down (D. Vincent). See April 27, below.

**CIRCUS operations of 36 Boston aircraft attack railways, airfields and harbours in France (BC War Diaries).**

#115 (F) Sqn. RCAF flying Bolingbroke aircraft at Patricia Bay, BC, transferred to RCAF Station Annette Island, Alaska, and RCAF "Y" Wing, US Alaskan Command, for operations (RCAF Sqns.).

On arrival they run into US Customs, who demand duty be paid on aircraft and equipment. When informed that the Squadron were there at the request of the US War Department they waive the duty owed on the aircraft and equipment, but levy duties on personal belongings of the RCAF airmen. This was not paid (R. Steacy). See June 2, below.


25 107 Sqn. Boston III AL286 shot down by flak attacking Cherbourg, France, Sgt R.E. Neathway RAF killed, Sgt S.G. Richardson RAF (Can.) missing, F/O K.N. Symons RAF and Sgt E. Dixon RAF PoW.

25 118 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BL297 shot down on a CIRCUS escort to France, P/O D.Y. Claxton missing.

25 403 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AR368 shot down over France by fighters on a CIRCUS escort, P/O W.F. Munn killed.

25 403 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AB978 crashed in the English Channel after a mid-air collision with another Spitfire Vb BL708, P/O W. Zoochkan missing. See below.


25 403 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AD206 shot down over France on a CIRCUS escort, F/S E.B. Argue PoW (www.spitfires.ukf.net). He was later repatriated (FF Years).

25 412 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BL784 shot down over France on a CIRCUS escort, P/O J.A. MacCague [or McCague] PoW.

25 412 Sqn. Spitfire Vb W/C H.P. Blachford RAF (Can.) returned to England wounded in a damaged aircraft after combat over France escorting a CIRCUS.


25 #11 EFTS, Cap de la Madeleine, Que, Finch II #4675 spun and crashed near the airfield on an instrument training exercise, Sgt S. Rogow killed.

25-26 Third heavy attack on Rostock by 128 bombers, 110 to the city and 18 again specially tasked with the Heinkel factory, hitting both targets. Design drawings for the new He 219 night fighter are destroyed, delaying it’s development (Bateson). As well 6 Stirlings were on a long range sortie to the Skoda works at Pilsen, Czechoslovakia, plus 32 sorties to Dunkirk, 2 INTRUDERS and 5 NICKEL sorties (BC War Diaries). Middlebrook and Everitt notes only the loss of 1 Stirling, from the Pilsen operation.

German bombers attack Bath in England with more than 100 bombers as part of the Baedeker Raids (wikipedia). Some 1,300 were killed or injured and 20,000 buildings destroyed or damaged in this resort town which had no industry, and no anti-aircraft artillery or balloon defences (news.bbc.co.uk).

25-26 103 Sqn. Wellington Ic DV579 PM-Z lost without trace on an operation to Germany, F/S C.L. Bray DFM, Sgt F.O. Eivers RAF, Sgt S.H. Harle RAF, Sgt A.F. Blencowe RAF, Sgt H.B. Bullen RAF and Sgt D.W. Musgrove RAF missing.
25-26 460 Sqn. RAAF Wellington IV Z1384 UV-F was attacked 3 times by a Bf 110 night fighter which they claimed destroyed, but left them damaged, Sgt R.G.D. Read, Sgt S. Levitus RAAF, Sgt A.F. McKinnon RAAF, Sgt H.R. Brodie RAAF, Sgt G. Viner RAAF and Sgt L.R. Clarke safe (R. Allenby). See May 21, below.

Sunday
26 Coal mine explosion at Honkeiko Colliery, Japanese occupied Manchuria, leaves 1,549 dead, the worlds worst known mine disaster (wikipedia).

In England a group is formed to find a way of dispersing fog from emergency airfields to allow aircraft to land in bad weather (M.J.H. Taylor). See Nov. 19-20, 1943.

German Reichstag meets for the last time, declares Hitler the "Supreme Judge of the German People", and dissolves itself (wikipedia).

26 601 Sqn. Spitfire Vc (Trop.) BR125 shot down over Malta killing P/O W.E. Cripps.
26 411 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AB804 crash landed in England after it had a aileron shot off when escorting a CIRCUS, F/S Taylor safe.
26 #1 EFTS, Malton, Ontario, DH.82C #1221 crashed and written off (R.W.R. Walker).
26 #3 Training Command, LAC A.E. McIver, just returned from overseas due to illness, died in
hospital in Montreal of natural causes after falling ill on the train taking him home to Wolseley, Saskatchewan (B. Barry et al).

**26-27 Fourth and final attack on Rostock, 106 aircraft, split between the two targets, manage most destructive attack of the series causing heavy damage to both. Over 60 percent of the town is destroyed, as is most of the Heinkel factory. The partially built He 219 prototype survives, however, and is transferred to Vienna for completion (Bateson). Germans use term "Terrorangriff" [Terror Raid] to describe this new style of attack. Other operations totalled 36 sorties, 4 bombers were lost (BC War Diaries).**

**Bath in England again attacked by German bombers (wikipedia).**

26-27 10 Sqn. Halifax II R9493 ZA-E hit by flak over Dunkirk that damaged the tail and knocked out an engine. Unable to bomb accurately they jettisoned their bombs into the sea and returned to England, F/S J.M. McLaughlan, Sgt P.T. Nahass RCAF (USA), Sgt E.F. Allen, Sgt Atkinson, Sgt W. Everett and Sgt Trembath safe (R. Allenby).

26-27 77 Sqn. Whitley V Z9386 KN-W ditched in the Baltic due to flak damage on an operation over Germany, Sgt H.W. Hands, P/O E.H. Valentine RAF, Sgt H. Durnam RAF and Sgt J. Waterworth RAF PoW. Sgt Durnam later died in captivity.


26-27 460 Sqn. RAAF Wellington IV Z1325 UV-H was returning from Rostock when it was attacked by a Bf 110 night fighter that seriously wounded the rear gunner F/S D.A. Black and second pilot, Sgt A.L. Moyle RAAF. The turret was knocked out and F/S Black was unable to tell the pilot they were being attacked by a night fighter due to his injuries, so the pilot Sgt D.G. Kitchen RAAF took evasive manoeuvres for a flak attack. This did lose the night fighter, but not until it had made several more attacks. The damaged aircraft landed in England where F/S Black and Sgt Moyle went to hospital, Sgt Kitchen and the remainder of his crew, Sgt L.H. James RAAF, Sgt D.J.W. Watson RAF and Sgt D. Tinkler RAF safe (R. Allenby).

Monday

**27 Another large force of Japanese land based navy bombers with a fighter escort attacked Darwin in Northern Australia, losing heavily to USAAF fighters. As a result of the losses in these two attacks and continued bombing of their bases in Timor by the RAAF, the Japanese bomber force was withdrawn out of range of bases in Australia (D. Vincent).**

**National Plebiscite on Conscription held.** Outside of Quebec 64% vote in favour, but in
Quebec the vote is 76% against. PM Mackenzie King is shocked by the result and decides to postpone Conscription for overseas service as long as possible to keep the country together (Polsson). The Government deletes the home-service-only clause of the National Resources Mobilization Act on May 11, but does not take further action. "Conscription if necessary, but not necessarily conscription." is how King described this policy (Oxford).

The depth of feeling in Quebec should not be underestimated, G.G. Blackburn notes that one of his gunners who had volunteered from Quebec was completely cut off by his family and community, who would not even send him a letter.

#126 (F) Sqn. RCAF formed at Dartmouth, NS, on Hurricane XIIA aircraft (RCAF Sqns.).

With the help of the 'Kraut Line', the RCAF Ottawa Flyers hockey team defeats the Port Arthur Bearcats in a 5 game series to win the Allan Cup. However, the policy that members of the RCAF serve as airmen first led to the team being broken up for training and posting to other duties. All three members of the 'Kraut Line' later served in #6 Group in England, for example (M. Joost). See also October 14, 1943.

18 Boston bombers attack Ostend and Lille (BC War Diaries).

#38 SFTS, Estevan, Saskatchewan, opened on this date (http://www.bombercrew.com/BCATP.htm).

27 unknown unit, Trans-African Ferry, Hurricane IIc force landed on a beach at Cotonou, Dahomey (now Benin) following an engine failure on the first leg of it's delivery flight to Egypt, F/L A.R. McFadden interned by Vichy French. He was released December 19, 1942 (From Takoradi to Timbuktu, Airforce, Vol. 24, #3, 2000)

27 107 Sqn. Boston III Z2194 shot down over France by German fighters, Sgt G.S.G. Black, Sgt K.N. Carpenter RAF and Sgt J.F. Williams RAF PoW.

27 133 (USA) Sqn. Spitfire Vb BM264 shot down off Belgium on a CIRCUS, P/O W.C. Wicker RCAF (USA) killed. There were 10 Spitfires and 2 Hurricanes lost on this CIRCUS, as well as 1 Spitfire from CIRCUS 142 and 2 from CIRCUS 143 on this day. Many of the heavy losses from CIRCUS operations at this time was a direct result of the introduction of the new Fw 190 fighter.

27 226 Sqn. Boston III Z2249 MQ-D "Donald Duck" shot down by flak in Belgium, Sgt D. Handford RAF killed, F/O W.A. Keech and Sgt W. Phillips RAF PoW. Photographs of F/O Keech talking to German soldiers at the crash site were later published in the German Signal magazine and have been reprinted since.

27 403 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AA834 collided in mid air over France with 403 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BM123, F/L H.P. Duval MId RAF (Can.) killed in AA834, and S/L C.N.S. Campbell DFC RAF, the Squadron commanding officer, was taken PoW from BM123. F/L Duval is reported to have been shot down in France in May 1940 and to have flown with 65 Sqn. during the Battle of Britain (not in list of pilots in Battle over Britain).

27 416 Sqn. Spitfire "BL799" spun from very high altitude and crashed in Scotland, believed due to an oxygen failure, F/S A. Walker killed.
27 418 Sqn. Boston III W8386 crashed when landing, crew safe (H.A. Halliday
www.rafcommands.com).
27 #12 OTU radio mechanic LAC J.F. Burns killed in a car accident in England.
27 #23 OTU Wellington Ic R1618 "D1" crashed on take off for practice night circuits due to pilot
error, Sgt V. Ardis, Sgt L.E. Bosvert, Sgt C.D. Dixon, P/O L.W. Munro RNZAF, Sgt R.A.
Hamilton RAAF, P/O T.W. Copson RAF and Sgt S.G. Perks RAF all injured. See Aug. 20-
21, below.
27 #3 SFTS, Calgary, Alberta, Crane I #8701 collided in mid-air with Fort #3591 and crashed near
the airfield, LAC(P) B.A. Flatt, F/L H.M. Rowlings and Link Trainer Instructor F/O H.H.
Weeks were killed.
27 #6 EFTS, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, DH.82C Tiger Moth #3846 damaged beyond repair
(R.W.R. Walker).

27-28 Cologne attacked by 97 bombers which hit 9 industrial sites and over 1,500 houses in
good visibility even though many bombs again fall outside of the city. Eleven
people were killed and 52 injured on the ground. A further 43 Halifax and Lancaster
bombers sent to attack the battleship Tirpitz in Norway, 12 bombers to Dunkirk, 8
GARDENING and 8 NICKEL sorties, 17 bombers lost from the 168 sorties flown.
This night saw the last use of Whitley bombers by Bomber Command front line
squadrons (BC War Diaries).

German Baedeker Raids continue with an attack on Norwich (wikipedia).
27-28 7 Sqn. Stirling I N3727 MG-G presumed to have come down in the sea on a GARDENING
sortie, P/O G.W. Wilkinson RAF killed, F/S L.N. Hodgins, F/L B.M. Denny RAF, Sgt G.W.
Craft RAF, Sgt L.F. Evans RAF, Sgt A. Penman RAF and Sgt T.J. Savage RAF missing.
27-28 10 Sqn. Halifax II W1041 ZA-B shot down in Norway by flak attacking the battleship Tirpitz, Sgt
J.S. Murray, F/S J. Colgan RAF, Sgt T.H.A. Eyles RAF and F/L H.G. How RAF, who was
wounded, taken PoW, W/C D.C.T. Bennett RAF (Aus.), Sgt H. Walmsley RAF and Sgt
C.R.S. Forbes RAF evaded to Sweden. A noted navigator and pilot W/C Bennett had led
the first Ferry Command flight across the Atlantic Nov. 10-11 1940 before joining the RAF,
and on his return to England was appointed AOC of the newly formed Target Finding force
of Bomber Command.
27-28 35 Sqn. Halifax II W1048 TL-S hit by flak attacking the German battleship Tirpitz in Norway
and crash landed on an ice-covered lake near Hocklingen, Norway. One of the crew, Sgt
V.C. Stevens RAF, broke his leg and was made PoW, but the remainder of the crew, Sgt
P.G. Blanchett, P/O D.P. McIntyre RAF (Can.?), P/O I. Hewitt RAF, Sgt D.L. Perry RAF and
Sgt R.H.D. Wilson RAF evaded to Sweden. The aircraft broke through the ice and sank in
90 feet of water 12 hours later (P.P. Nash). In 1973 the nearly intact wreck was recovered
and it is now on display at the RAF Museum, Hendon, one of only 2 Halifax aircraft known
to exist today.
27-28 97 Sqn. Lancaster L7572 OF-L shot down attacking the German battleship Tirpitz in Norway,
F/L J.G. MacKid DFC RAF (Can.), P/O R.B. Underwood RAF, P/O T.N. Tree RAF, Sgt E.
McDermott RAF, Sgt W.K.F. Marshall RAF, Sgt F. Bennett RAF and Sgt R. Day RAF killed.
F/L MacKid had won his DFC in leading attacks on the Gneisenau and Scharnhorst in
Brest, France in Dec. 1941. The aircraft crashed very near 35 Sqn. Halifax II W1020, lost
the same night, and there is a stone at the latter site commemorating both crews (ktsorens.tihlde.org and www.archieraf.co.uk).

27-28 102 Sqn. Halifax II W7653 DY-A shot down over Belgium outbound on an operation to Germany, Sgt T.K. Robinson RAF, Sgt J. Garraway RAF and Sgt I. Edwards RAF killed, F/S J.W. Ralston, Sgt R.B. Shoebridge RAF and Sgt G.H. Lee RAF were taken PoW, but F/S L.W. Carr RAF managed to contact the resistance and they helped him to evade, arriving in Spain 3 weeks after being shot down. This sortie was retailed in G. Bowman’s book on parachute escapes.


Tuesday

28 Japanese in northern Burma take Lashio. Chinese retreat from Loiwing, and Allied air forces evacuate Burma, the AVG into China, the RAF to India (Shores, Cull & Izawa).

Around this date 121 (USA) Sqn. Spitfire Vb was damaged on a strafing sortie, F/O W.L.C. Jones RCAF (USA) PoW (V. Haugland, exact date not given).

#117 (BR) Sqn. RCAF re-activated at North Sydney, NS, using crews and Canso A aircraft from #116 (BR) Sqn. (RCAF Sqns.).

28 185 Sqn. Malta, pilot P/O J. McFarlane died of injuries received April 19 when the airfield at Luqa was attacked just as the aircraft he was travelling on from England had landed.

28 186 Sqn. Hurricane Z2698 shot down over Malta, P/O J.W.S. Fletcher jumped from the aircraft but his parachute caught on the tailplane and he was killed.


28 401 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AB917 crashed in England returning from a fighter sweep over France escorting CIRCUS 144, P/O G.B. Whitney Jr. killed. P/O Whitney had survived a bailout from his Spitfire Oct. 27, 1941.

28 401 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BL598 shot down over France escorting CIRCUS 144, P/O J.A. Ferguson PoW.


28 #116 (BR) Canso, F/L N.E. Small, attack a U-boat, no result (I. Wikene).

28 #2 EFTS, Fort William, Ontario, DH.82C Tiger Moth #5159 crashed and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

28 #14 SFTS, Aylmer, Ontario, Harvard IIb #3093 crashed at Summer’s Corner, Ontario, when practicing night flying, LAC(P) R.A. Welsh killed.

28-29 Kiel targeted by 88 bombers, 54 of which claim good bombing results, and indeed
damage was done to three shipyards, but a military hospital and the University library were also hit. Thirty four Halifax and Lancaster bombers return to attack the Tirpitz, plus 16 other operations, 9 bombers lost (BC War Diaries).

Bombing attack on Alexandria in Egypt kills over 100 (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).

Luftwaffe bombers attack the city of York in England, part of the Baedeker raids (wikipedia).

28-29 70 Sqn. Wellington Ic Z8766 "Y" was landing in North Africa from operations over Benghazi when it was shot down by an enemy intruder, F/S L.M. Doyle, F/S J. Paton, P/O A.C. White and Sgt J.F. Bunting RAF were killed, Sgt G. Douglas RAF died later of his injuries and Sgt C.W. Croft survived, injured.


28-29 35 Sqn. Halifax II W1053 TL-G shot down by flak over Norway attacking the Tirpitz, Sgt C.F. Russell RAF killed, P/O J.R. Roe, F/S W.R. Parr, Sgt D.C.G. Butchart RAF, Sgt D.R.P. Williams RAF and Sgt J.S. Morrison RAF evaded but were all captured and taken PoW (Linzee www RAFcommands.com). For a detailed account of their loss and capture see her webpage http://www.archieraf.co.uk/archie/1053tlg.html. There is a memorial to the crew at the crash site (ktsorens.tihlde.org).

28-29 406 Sqn. Beaufighter, P/O A.G. Lawrence, shot down a Ju 88 attacking York (C. Goss; FF Years).

28-29 406 Sqn. Beaufighter, F/O D.C. Furse, shot down a Do 217 attacking York (C. Goss; FF Years).


28-29 419 Sqn. Wellington III attacked and badly damaged over the North Sea on the return flight by a night fighter that wounded the observer F/S E.S. Alexander and the tail gunner and shot off a propeller blade. With one engine out and its propeller partially shot off the Squadron commanding officer W/C J. 'Moose' Fulton RAF (Can.) managed to fly in ground effect over the sea. F/S Alexander despite his wound freed the injured tail gunner from his wrecked turret with an axe, then resumed navigating the bomber back to England. Approaching the coast W/C Fulton restarted the damaged engine and gained enough height to return to base and made a belly landing without further injuries. W/C Fulton was awarded a DSO for this return, and F/S Alexander received a DFM (419 SH, FF Years, Awards). See July 28-29 below and January 14-15, 1944.

Wednesday

29 Explosion of ammonium nitrate at a chemical plant in Belgium kills 189 (wikipedia).

29 62 Sqn. or GR Flight Hudson III AE574 shot down near Rangoon on a reconnaissance sortie, P/O R.A. Baker killed, P/O J.W. Arthurs and P/O L.G. MacLeod missing (Shores, Cull & Izawa). Sgt E. Graham RAF and P/O K.F. Harvey RAF were also missing from this Squadron on this date (CWGC).
43 Sqn. Canadian built Hurricane X fighters AF961 (modified to IIb standard with cannon wings) and AG236 taken on strength, where they were coded FT-Y and FT-L respectively (J. Beedle, The Fighting Cocks: 43 (Fighter) Squadron, 2nd ed., Pen & Sword Books, 1985).

#4 EFTS, Windsor Mills, Quebec, Finch II #4665 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

#15 SFTS, Claresholm, Alberta, Sgt K.W.C. Holt RAF killed and P/O J. Jamieson RAF injured when DH.82C Tiger Moth #4196 crashed from low level near the designated forced landing practise field near Stavely, Alberta (R.W.R. Walker; C. Charland www.rafcommands.com).

29-30 Bomber Command sent 88 bombers to attack the Gnome & Rhône aircraft engine factory near Paris. The factory was not hit but other nearby industries were damaged. Other operations included 20 to Ostend, 6 INTRUDERS, and 5 GARDENING sorties, 6 bombers lost (BC War Diaries).

Norwich again attacked as part of the Baedeker Raids (wikipedia).


Thursday

30 Japanese naval force with aircraft carriers sails from Truk to escort ships for the invasion of Port Moresby on the southern coast of New Guinea (D. Sommerville). See May 3, below.

Japanese Army captures Central Burma from British and Indian forces.

During the month the Luftwaffe in Sicily had flown nearly 9,600 sorties over Malta, dropping 6,700 tons of bombs, sinking or damaging ships, submarines, aircraft and putting most of the Naval Dockyard there out of service (wikipedia).

#2 ANS, Pennfield Ridge, NB, was closed on this date. See Feb. 1, 1944.

30 99 Sqn. Sgt H.M. Robertson, PoW captured July 3-4 1941 was shot and killed trying to escape.

30 #19 OTU Whitley V Z6641 force landed on a beach in Scotland after an engine failure, Sgt J.W. Einarsen and his crew safe. See July 25, 1943 and Feb. 25-26, 1944.

30 #12 SFTS Brandon, Manitoba, Crane I #7884 crashed on an air test, killing aero engine mechanic Sgt G.W. Burkholder, aero engine mechanic Cpl H.F. McGuire and F/S D.H. Patenall.

30 #13 SFTS, St. Hubert, Quebec, Harvard II #3018 and #3000 collided in midair. Harvard #3000
returned to base damaged, but #3018 crashed near Windsor Mills, Quebec, killing LAC(P) M.R. Davis RCAF (USA). See June 28, below.

30 #15 EFTS, Regina, Saskatchewan, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4025 spun and crashed near the airfield, killing LAC(P) H.C.G. Kleinau RCAF (USA).

30 unknown unit Hurricane I #1368 crashed near Birch Grove, NS, after the engine seized following a coolant leak, pilot bailed out safe (R.W.R. Walker).

30-1 Sunderland and Tyneside attacked as part of the Baedeker Raids (C. Goss).

May 1942

Eldorado Mining begins delivering 15 tons of uranium oxide a month to US. Delivery of expedited Lodestar aircraft to Edmonton helps re-open the mine on Great Bear Lake by supplementing flights by smaller local civilian bushplanes.

The Air Cadet program has 135 squadrons active, with 10,000 Cadets registered in this month (Airforce, Spring 1991).

By Order in Council RCAF Nursing Sisters, who had held commissioned rank as a courtesy, were given the authority of their rank in the Air Force (CATP Contact newsletter, Vol. 34, Issue 3, Summer 2016).

During the month the Japanese advance in China in retaliation for the Doolittle Raid overruns Chinese air bases used by General Chennault’s American Volunteer Group, temporarily forcing them back into the interior, before ending their punitive campaign and withdrawing (Oxford). See April, 1944.

Continued re-supply of Leningrad, and evacuation of citizens, continues by boat across Lake Ladoga (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).

Arriving at 41 Sqn. as a Sergeant, George Beurling finds he is treated as a junior pilot on the Squadron. After being separated from his flight in a fight and being badly damaged by Fw 190 aircraft, he shoots one down and manages to return his damaged aircraft to England, where he is taken to task for leaving formation. On a second occasion he purposefully leaves formation to attack and destroy a second Fw 190, and is again disciplined. In this Squadron air discipline is placed above individual skill, and Beurling was seen as a liability when escorting bombers, which he resents (Nolan).

Around this time the Tachikawa A-26 aircraft designed for the non-stop Tokyo to New York flight, are ordered to be completed for possible communication flights to Germany (T. Gywnn-Jones). See June 30, 1943.

402 Sqn. begins to receive Spitfire IX aircraft. 408 Sqn. receives a single Manchester I
aircraft L7401 EQ-N for evaluation as a replacement for the Hampden. It was used for training for two months and on two operations before being returned (RCAF Sqns.). 421 Sqn. received Spitfire Va aircraft for working up, and later in the month Spitfire Vb aircraft for operations (RCAF Sqns.).

unknown date in May, #1 AOS, Malton, Ontario, Anson I #6037 was caught in a severe storm, the civilian pilot J.W. Jenkins ordered a bailout, but was then able to land the aircraft safely. LAC(O) J.W. Gibson and LAC(O) W.H. Boyce were safe but P/O J.R. Bradley RAF is noted as missing or killed in this event, but not found in CWGC (R.W.R. Walker; C. Charland at www.rafcommands.com). In a discussion on the www.rafcommands.com website it was determined that this was not P/O W.R. Bradley RAF, died May 20, 1942, in the crash of a Master aircraft in England, and this is likely F/O J.R. Bradley who survived, but was lost September 16-17, 1943 in the loss of a 138 Sqn. Halifax (mcmillan_p).

Friday
1 Allies evacuate Mandalay (CJCA headline).

The Australian government centre of Tulagi in the Solomon Islands is attacked by long range Japanese Navy H6K flying boats, which damage two RAAF Catalinas, one of which was written off and sunk (D. Newton).

Japanese plan to attack and occupy Midway Island proposed, in response to Doolittle Raid on Tokyo. Diversionary landings and attacks to be made in Aleutian Islands of Alaska and in Australia. To be followed by landings on Samoa and Fiji, and if possible, Hawaii.

#130 (F) Sqn. formed at Mont Joli, Quebec on Kittyhawk I aircraft (RCAF Sqns.).

First commercial airliner arrives at St. John's (RCAF Torbay), a TCA Lodestar aircraft (St. John’s, A History of the Airport).
1 401 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AD134 shot down just off the French coast on an escort for CIRCUS 150, P/O J.R. Patton missing.
1 401 Sqn. Spitfire Vb P8750 damaged by fighters escorting CIRCUS 150 over France, F/L E.L. Neal bailed out wounded over the Channel and rescued.
1 #5 (Coastal) OTU Beaufort I L9838 crashed while landing, pilot P/O R.B. Henry (and crew?) safe (R. McNeill www.rafcommands.com). See July 26, below.

Saturday
2 Australian forces evacuate Tulagi as a Japanese invasion force approaches (D. Newton).
2 124 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BL633 lost on a convoy patrol over the Thames estuary, F/S T.C. MacFarlane missing.
2 #111 (F) Sqn. Kittyhawk I AL218 (RCAF #1093) TM-W damaged at Patricia Bay after it's undercarriage failed (landing?) (440 SH).
2 #19 EFTS, Virden, Manitoba, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4018 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).
2-3 Bomber Command carries out large scale GARDENING off occupied Europe using 96 aircraft, plus 11 NICKEL sorties with the loss of 2 minelayers (BC War Diaries).

2-3 #10 AOS, Chatham, NB, Anson I #6730 force landed out of gas near Barre, Vermont, USA, when taking an injured airman Sgt Gay to hospital in Montreal (R.W.R. Walker). The pilot, C.W.A. Scott, who had flown in the winning DH.88 Grosvenor House in the 1934 MacRobertson Air Race to Australia, was injured, and was no longer able to fly (B. Dunnell, “He was voted a splendid fellow”, Aeroplane Monthly, November 2019).

Sunday
3 Japanese forces occupy civil government centre of Tulagi, in the Solomon Islands, recently fortified by the Australian Army, to set up a seaplane base. Another landing group is planning a similar base in the Louisiades Islands while a third larger convoy is heading to invade Port Moresby in New Guinea, escorted by 1 small Japanese carrier and protected by two more at a distance (Sh kaku and Zuikaku, both veterans of the Pearl Harbour attack), as well as aircraft based at Rabaul (Oxford). With the possession of the airfields at Port Moresby the coast of northern Australia can be neutralized and landings made if required, while shipping and aircraft approaching Australia from the USA can be intercepted from the Solomons.

At Port Moresby, with more RAAF and USAAF aircraft arriving, 75 Squadron RAAF flies it’s last sortie with it’s last surviving Kittyhawk, joining other fighters scrambled to intercept Japanese bombers. The Squadron is evacuated after 44 days of non-stop operations (D. Newton).

From the Shetlands a 210 Sqn. Catalina with overload tanks, F/L D.E. Hawkins RAF pilot and P/O J.G. Wright navigator, took-off on a special flight to evaluate the ice conditions in the Arctic, look for German presence in the area, and if possible land Arctic specialists on Spitsbergen Island to prepare for a landing there of a combined Norwegian/British force, Operation FRITHAM. Part of the operation was to establish a refuelling base for an RAF attempt to overfly the North Pole to determine corrections in variation (R.C. Nesbit).

3 174 Sqn. Hurricane IIb BE680 shot down by German fighters on a RAMROD, P/O G.L. Cooper PoW.

3 418 Sqn. Boston III W8340? (or W8390 H. Welting at www.rafcommands.com) was taking off in England when the starboard undercarriage failed and fell off with the wheel, striking and tearing off part of the tailplane. The aircraft crashed and the bomb load exploded, F/S G.E. Fallis, Sgt R.E. Williams and P/O H.H. Whitfield RAF were killed in the aircraft and F/L H.W. Biggs RAF was killed and medical officer F/O J.A. Elliot (RAF or RCAF) was injured on the ground by flying debris (Alan www.rafcommands.com).

3 #13 OTU RAF Blenheim IV L9206 crashed in England on a training exercise, F/S J.R. Young, Sgt H. Morrison RNZAF and Sgt G.W. Boggess RAF killed.

3 #10 (BR) Sqn. RCAF, Gander, Newfoundland, Digby flown by P/O E.J. Padden RCAF (USA) and P/O S.St. G. Stubbs sights and attacks a U-boat (Hagedorn & Hagedorn). See May 7, below.
RAF Ferry Command, Ventura I AE711 out of Gander, Newfoundland, crashed near the wharf at Bradore Bay, Newfoundland, P/O J. Watson killed, Radio Officer M.M. Paggi (UK) and Captain L. Segal (US) missing. RO Paggi was born in England, but was working in Hollywood as a sound engineer before the war (D. Burke www.rafcommands.com).

#2 ITS, Regina, Saskatchewan, clerk AC1 W.H. White died accidentally at the Arcadia Dance Hall in Regina.

#7 SFTS, Fort MacLeod, Alberta, air frame mechanic Cpl S.C. Wickins died of natural causes in hospital.

3-4 Bomber Command sends a small force of 81 aircraft to Hamburg. Cloud cover was predicted and that is what was found. Only 54 aircraft dropped bombs but the results were unexpected, heavy damage and fires being caused and 59 killed. Other sorties included 9 bombers to St. Nazaire, 4 INTRUDERS, 2 GARDENING and 8 NICKEL sorties, a total of 104 sorties dispatched with 5 lost (BC War Diaries).

Luftwaffe bombers again attack Exeter, sending 90 bombers that set fire to the city causing damage to it’s cathedral (ww2total.com Chronology/1942). This was the last of the first Baedeker Raids on targets of cultural importance (wikipedia). The Luftwaffe in western Europe no longer has the capability to continue a long bombing campaign over England, while Bomber Command attacks continue to grow larger and more effective.

3-4 #1 OADU Wellington Ic HF903 was landing at Malta from Gibraltar when it attempted an overshoot but crashed, F/S W.B. Fulcher and his crew safe.


3-4 76 Sqn. Halifax II R9451 MP-H lost over Germany, Sgt J.B. Williams RAF (Mauritius) killed, Sgt H.E. Owens RAF, Sgt B.B. Jackson RAF and Sgt A.W. Jones RAF missing, Sgt C.R. Fox RAF (Can.) and Sgt N.H. Leaman RAF PoW.


Monday

4 Battle of the Coral Sea begins with carrier based US Naval aircraft attacking the new Japanese base and shipping at Tulagi.

The 210 Sqn. Catalina sent to Spitsbergen landed in Iceland after a flight of 23 hours in poor weather. Due to weather they were unable to land the advance party (R.C. Nesbit). P/O Wright received a DFC for his accurate navigation on this difficult flight. Postwar he continued his work in navigation in the Arctic in the RCAF and retired as a W/C. He won the McKee Trophy for advancements in Canadian Aviation in 1953 and is a member of Canada’s Aviation Hall of Fame (Awards; Peter www.rafcommands.com).
Canadian National Steamships Lines Lady Drake, sister ship of the Lady Hawkins, torpedoned and sunk off Bermuda. It had missed a convoy the day before due to slow loading and was sailing unescorted. All lifeboats were launched and 260 passengers and crew were saved, only 12 lost. The lifeboats were sighted by the RMS Queen Mary after 2 days. She was not allowed to stop or break radio silence but reported them when she arrived in New York May 7, and the survivors were picked up the same day (McKee).

A new base for training for the Royal Norwegian Air Force opened at Muskoka, Ontario, as they had outgrown their original base at Toronto’s Island Airport (G. Beauchamp).

4 129 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BM319 shot down in the sea off the French coast on a RODEO. The pilot F/S H.D. MacPhie RCAF (USA) bailed out but was not found. He has no known grave.


4 #15 AFU Oxford I AT739 crashed in England, Sgt A.B. Goff Jr. RCAF (USA) killed.

4 #44 Group, Ferry Command, Hudson IIIa FH376 landed short of fuel in Eire, was refuelled and allowed to leave, Sgt E.J. Greenhalgh, S/L L.R. Cohen RAF and P/O A. More DFC RAF safe


4 #32 EFTS, Bowden, Alberta, DH.82C Tiger Moth #5043 was practicing forced landings near the airfield when the engine failed to power up, and the aircraft was wrecked in the subsequent crash landing (R.W.R. Walker).

4-5 Stuttgart and the nearby Bosch electrics factory was attacked by a force of 121 bombers that was dispersed by heavy cloud and a decoy. Other operations included 9 bombers to Nantes, 5 Stirlings to Pilsen, 8 GARDENING and 6 NICKEL sorties, 2 bombers lost (BC War Diaries).

German bombers target the Isle of Wight in England (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).

4-5 103 Sqn. Wellington Ic Z8333 PM-L ditched in the sea on an operation to France, F/S G.A. McLean, F/S J.R. St. G. Arrowsmith RAF, Sgt W.G. Harrison RAF and Sgt P.R. Abbas RAF missing, F/S G.W. Gibb and Sgt K.F. Adlam RAF were found in their life raft May 11 and were taken PoW.

4-5 149 Sqn. Stirling I N6124 OJ-R lost over France on an operation to Germany, P/O K.W.B. Moodie, F/S F.D. Jago RAF, F/S J.A. Shaw RAF, F/S V. Carriline RAF, P/O A.F. Cheetham RAF, Sgt F.B. Pomeroy RAF and Sgt B.E. Smith RAF killed. Most of this crew had survived a take-off accident April 22-23, above.

4-5 150 Sqn. Wellington III X3451 JN-(O or Q) was returning from an operational sortie and began to have engine problems that led to it force landing in a field, Sgt F. Sellers RAF and Sgt Edington injured, P/O O.H. Morgan, Sgt G. Empey (RCAF or RAF (Can.)), F/S R.B. Davenport RNZAF and Sgt S. Norris RAF safe (R. Allenby).

4-5 218 Sqn. Stirling I N6070 HA-A lost over Germany on an operation to Pilsen, F/S W.H. Gregg RAF, P/O J.O. Heap RAF, Sgt T.R. Sherwood RAF, Sgt L.A. Mayer RAF, Sgt K. Wheeler DFM RAF, Sgt T. Whyte RAF and F/S R. Lennock RAF killed, Sgt R.L. MacAfee PoW.

4-5 420 Sqn. Hampden I P1187 PT-X was returning from an operation over Germany when it was
damaged by flak over Luxembourg. Soon afterward it was attacked by a German night fighter which killed wireless operator air gunner F/S J.F. Halward and wounded the pilot, Sgt F.S. Hiley. The night fighter continued to attack and is believed to have been shot down by Sgt G.D. Johnson RAF, leaving the bomber heavily damaged. Sgt Hiley managed to reach England where the aircraft was crash landed, he, Sgt Johnson and Sgt G.H. Germain safe. For his actions in this incident Sgt Hiley was awarded an immediate DFM. See June 23-24, below.

Tuesday

5 British and South African forces land on the Vichy French held island of Madagascar (CJCA headline). This was a limited operation to occupy the naval port of Diego Suarez (now Antisiranana) which was seen as a way of preventing this strategic island being used by Japanese forces to threaten RN bases in Africa and interdict the supply line of convoys to Egypt. See May 29, below.


5 144 Sqn. Hampden TB.I AT188 lost on a Coastal Command night operation, F/S J.A. Long and 3 RAF missing. Sgt H.M. Webb RAF, Sgt R.F. Birchnal RAF and Sgt R.H. Lewen are listed as missing from this Squadron on this date (CWGC).

5 407 Sqn. Hudson V AM823 was attacking a convoy at first light when it was damaged by flak that destroyed the instrument panel and seriously wounded the pilot, P/O E.F. Paige and wireless air gunner P/O C.H. McCarthy. Despite his wounds P/O Paige managed to fly the bomber back to base sitting on the unexploded shell that had wounded him which was lodged in his seat, he and his crew P/O McCarthy, P/O S.R. Balden and P/O D.E. De Rivers safe. He was awarded a DFC for this action (407 SH). See May 25, 1943.

5 407 Sqn. Hudson flown by F/L R.M. Christie was also damaged by flak, losing an engine, but completed it’s bomb run to hit a merchant ship then flew back to base (407 SH).


5 #22 OTU Wellington Ic Z1086 DG-Q stalled and crashed in England while practicing night flying landings, killing Sgt L.H. Blake, P/O M.M. Osten and Sgt A.H. Craven RAF, Sgt D.A. Blue and Sgt C.W. Milton were injured. Medical Officer S/L F.G. Mogg RAF was awarded the George Medal for his work to release Sgt Blue from the burning wreckage, but sadly the airman died in hospital of his injuries. Sgt Milton recovered from his injuries, see Nov. 8, below.

5-6 Japanese troops land on the fortress island of Corregidor in the Philippines (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).

Stuttgart again attacked, by 77 bombers, but target obscured by haze and again the nearby decoy attracted many bombers, 33 other operations, 4 losses (BC War Diaries).

5-6 150 Sqn. Wellington III X3407 JN-A believed to have come down in the sea off Holland, Sgt R.S. Bell RAF and Sgt S.H. Heslop RAF killed, F/S E.E. Kirby, Sgt R.W. Stewart RAF, Sgt P.W. Wrighting RAF and Sgt W.G. Kennerley RAF missing.
Wednesday

6 Island fortress of Corregidor in Manila Bay surrenders to Japanese. Japanese refuse to accept surrender unless all remaining US and Filipino forces operating in the Philippines surrender as well.

#14 (F) Sqn. becomes operational at Sea Island, BC (442 SH).

6 880 Sqn., HMS Indomitable, Canadian built Sea Hurricane I AF955 7-E, Lt(A) R.J. 'Dickie' Cork DSC, was one of the fighters attacking Vichy French gun positions at Diego Suarez to cover landing of Allied forces (A. Thomas, C. Davey, Royal Navy Aces of World War 2, Osprey Publishing, 2007). He was also credited with destroying 7 French aircraft on the ground in this campaign (warthunder.com). Lt Cork had flown with 242 (Canadian) Squadron during the Battle of Britain. See August 12, below.


6 411 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BL980 suffered a glycol leak into the cockpit on a convoy patrol forcing F/S G.P. Cushing to bail out at very low altitude over the sea, his parachute did not deploy and he is listed as missing.

6 411 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BM429 force landed in England after combat over France escorting CIRCUS 160, F/S D.R. Morrison safe. See also August 19 and Nov. 8, below.

6 #13 OTU RAF Blenheim IV L8755 lost on a formation navigation exercise, presumed to have crashed in the sea, F/S T.A. Crawford killed, F/S W.N. Ward RAF and Sgt D.J. McKenzie RNZAF missing.

6 #16 OTU Hampden I AD826 crashed in England on a night cross country exercise, Sgt T.L. Brown, F/S J.P. Hancock, F/S A.G. Maxwell, Sgt D.K. O'Brien killed. The crash site was excavated in 1982 or 1983 (Flypast, March 1983).

6 #11 (BR) Sqn. RCAF Torbay, Newfoundland, Hudson I #761 crashed on take-off on a flight to Halifax for maintenance with airmen going on leave as passengers, crew F/S W.F. Colville and F/S H.F. Taylor, and passengers Sgt M.H. Brothers, F/L R.I. Ehrlichman RCAF (USA), armourer LAC S.E. Crymes RCAF (USA), air frame mechanic Cpl C.F. Else, LAC N.C. Fleischman and administration F/L J.H.U. Le Blanc killed. This was F/S Taylor's 3rd crash, see Oct. 3, 1941 and Jan. 27 above. It was also the first fatal accident at Torbay (R.W.R. Walker).

6 #1 TTS, St. Thomas, Ontario, air frame mechanic Cpl T.G. Shand killed in a motorcycle accident when off duty.

6 #15 EFTS, Regina, Saskatchewan, DH.82C Tiger Moth #5801 crashed and after inspection, written off (R.W.R. Walker).

6 unknown unit, LAC R.J. Osborne RAF killed in a car accident in Canada, location unknown.

6-7 A third attack on Stuttgart and the Bosch plant by 97 bombers completely failed. No bombs fall in the city at all, but the decoy site and the town of Heilbronn nearby are bombed by many aircraft, 32 other operations, 6 bombers and 1 INTRUDER lost (BC War Diaries).

6-7 35 Sqn. Halifax II W1050 TL-F shot down by a night fighter over Luxembourg, S/L K.W. Bonnar
RAF, Sgt J.N. Hindle RAF, Sgt N.H. Hood DFM RAF, Sgt J.A.G. Firth RAF and Sgt J.T. Stanworth RAF killed, P/O G.P. Gardiner and Sgt A.H. Fuce RAF PoW.


6-7 460 Sqn. RAAF Wellington IV Z1254 UV-L lost over Germany, F/S K.A. Fogg, Sgt R.H. Murphy RAAF, Sgt J.R. Shearer RAAF, S/L C.L. Gilbert RAF and Sgt C.N. Dixon RAF killed, Sgt J.G. Lake RAAF PoW.

Thursday

7 In the Battle of the Coral Sea Japanese aircraft seeking the US carrier group find, attack and sink a USN oil tanker and it’s destroyer escort, while the US aircraft seeking the Japanese carrier force find the Port Moresby invasion fleet where they sink the escorting light carrier IJNS Sh h . The invasion force reverses course to await the outcome of the battle (Oxford). Late in the day a Japanese strike fails to find the US force, and loses several aircraft trying to return after nightfall. So close are the fleets that several Japanese aircraft trying to find their carriers in the dark attempt to land on US carriers in error (D. Sommerville).

Spitfire Iib P8332 taken on strength with the RCAF in Canada as an instructional airframe (Griffin CMA, R.W.R. Walker). This aircraft had seen brief service in England before being sent to Canada. It has remained in the Air Force inventory and is now part of the National Aeronautical Collection in Ottawa.

7 407 Sqn. led an attack of 22 Hudsons making skip bombing attacks on a convoy of 12 German ships spotted off Holland, hitting 7 for no loss (FF Years).


7 #59 OTU Hurricane P3116 crashed in Scotland, Sgt V.T. Wolfe RCAF (USA) killed.

7 #10 (BR) Sqn. RCAF, Gander, Newfoundland, Digby flown by P/O E.J. Padden RCAF (USA) and P/O S.St. G. Stubbs sets a new patrol endurance record of 13 hours and 10 minutes (Hagedorn & Hagedorn). See June 11, below.

7 #32 EFTS, Bowden, Alberta, DH.82C Tiger Moth #5871 crashed near the airfield and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

7 #35 EFTS, Neepawa, Ontario, DH.82C Tiger Moth #1240 suffered heavy damage in a crash, became Instructional Airframe A 159 (R.W.R. Walker).

7-8 Bomber Command sends 81 aircraft on GARDENING off Germany and Denmark, 5 bombers to St. Nazaire, 1 NICKEL sortie over France, with 2 losses (BC War Diaries).

7-8 420 Sqn. Hampden I AE389 PT-D lost over Germany on a GARDENING sortie, Sgt G.C. Williams RAF, Sgt A.S. Urquhart RAF and Sgt W.A. McDonnell RAF killed, P/O M.F. Carson RAF PoW.

7-8 #22 OTU Wellington Ic Z8861 believed to have been lost over the sea on a night cross country exercise, F/S D.F. Glinz, F/S W.R. Howard, F/S H.R. Williams, Sgt J.G. Woods RAF (Brazil) and Sgt V.G. Carter RAF missing.
Friday

8 Fearing Japanese reprisals against the surrendered Corregidor garrison US General Wainwright accedes to Japanese demands and radios units in southern Philippines to surrender (wikipedia). The campaign in the Philippines had taken much longer than planned by the Japanese Army, leading to lack of resources to advance on other fronts, notably in New Guinea and the Solomons (wikipedia).

In the **Battle of the Coral Sea** Japanese and US carrier aircraft locate each other's ships, and both send aircraft to attack. Japanese carrier Sh kaku, and the US carriers Yorktown and Lexington were damaged, the latter being sunk after onboard explosions of fuel cause heavy damage during attempts to repair the ship. Although the US force was hit the hardest the Japanese seaborne invasion of Port Moresby was called off. This left Tulagi as their forward base but without an airfield, at the extreme edge of fighter range from Rabaul (see July 3, below). The two Japanese carriers returned to Japan, one for repairs and the second to replace lost aircraft, while the Yorktown left for Pearl Harbour, expecting to be sent to the USA for repairs. This is the first time two opposing carrier forces had fought each other in a major battle (not counting the brief encounter with scouting FAA Albacore aircraft off Ceylon).

Off Hong Kong a Japanese liner carrying oil technicians to the Netherlands East Indies to repair and use the wells and refineries captured there is sunk by a US submarine with heavy loss of life (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).

Planned reinforcement of Malta is underway, including another fly-in of Spitfires from aircraft carriers. In order not to have these destroyed on the ground plans are made to arm, re-fuel and relaunch the fighters as soon as they land, and on this date a 'final rehearsal' of the preparations is made on Malta, between air raids (D. Newton).

In Iceland the ships carrying the landing party of Operation FRITHAM left for Spitsbergen (R.C. Nesbit).

**Newfoundland registered ship Kitty's Brook torpedoed off Cape Sable.**

**German offensive begins against Russian forces in the Crimea (Oxford).**

8 53 Sqn. Hudson V AM683 PZ-Y shot down off the Dutch coast, WO2 C.J. Wyllie RCAF (Argentina), Sgt W.R. MacLeod RAF, Sgt W.J. Rowe RAF and possibly F/S A.T. Thompson RAF killed (www.airwar4045.nl). [F/S Thompson was killed on the same date and is buried in Holland with the other 3 aircrew, but CWGC lists him as lost from 55 Squadron, however 55 Squadron served in the Middle East.] TSGNO reports that WO Wylie had been wounded Nov. 28, 1941 in a aerial fight.


8 #21 OTU Wellington Ic Z1161 suffered an engine failure and was partially abandoned before

RAF Station Ossington Oxford I BG211 dived into the ground in England, F/S E.A. Mason and Sgt W. Benson RAF killed (R. McNeill www.rafcommands.com). 8

#5 SFTS, Brantford, Ontario, Anson I #6835 crashed near the airfield on a test flight, Sgt E.A. Coleman RCAF (USA), LAC(P) G.D. Faris RCAF (USA) and LAC(P) J.P. Planche killed. 8

#39 SFTS, Swift Current, Saskatchewan, Harvard II AJ826 crashed near McMahan, Saskatchewan, when low flying, LAC C.H. O'Bryan RAF killed (D.J. Carter). 8

8-9 104 Sqn. Wellington II Z8651 was on an operation to Benghazi but flew into the ground in Libya due to a faulty altimeter, Sgt B.P. Kopp died May 10 (of injuries?), Sgt R.C. Brady RAF, Sgt W.R. Cook RAF, Sgt D.G. Symons RAF and Sgt R. Slimings safe. Sgt Kopp has no known grave.

8-9 Bomber Command sends 193 bombers to Warnemunde and the Heinkel factory nearby using a complicated plan that includes low level and medium level bombers and complex time schedules. This all goes to pieces under the effective searchlight and flak defences, resulting in heavy losses of 19 bombers for moderate result. Three INTRUDERS and 3 GARDENING sorties without loss were also made (BC War Diaries, BCL'42). 8-9

8-9 9 Sqn. Wellington III X3369 believed to have been shot down by flak over Germany, F/L J.L.H. Eliot RCAF (Scotland), F/O H.J. Bullock RAF, Sgt J.D. Cameron RAF, F/O L.M. Blain RAF and Sgt R.R. Waterston RAF killed.

8-9 10 Sqn. Halifax II W1052 ZA-K was attacked and damaged by a night fighter. They diverted to an alternate target, the Island of Sylt, but after bombing were again attacked by a night fighter that damaged an engine and a main undercarriage tire. They returned and landed in England, WO D.J O'Driscoll RCAF (Nfld.), F/S J.M. McLaughlan, P/O J.R.F. Ganderton RNZAF, Sgt V.L. Wiles RAF, Sgt P. Ellison and Sgt S. Oakford safe (R. Allenby). See July 9-10 below.

8-9 12 Sqn. Wellington II W5574 came down in the sea returning from an operation over Germany, F/S F.D. Roddy, Sgt K.E. Byrne RAF (Nfld.), Sgt J.E. Hobgen RAAF and Sgt A. Nicholson RAAF killed, Sgt A.J. Millar RAF and Sgt J.R. Etherington RAF missing.

8-9 15 Sqn. Stirling W7528 LS-G lost over Germany, F/S I.L. Charbonneau, Sgt W.C. Brodie RAF, Sgt K.A. Evans RAF, Sgt V.F. Munt RAF, Sgt A.G. Strickland RAF, Sgt J.E. Baillie RAF, Sgt A.B. Mounteney RAF and Sgt H.C. Knipe RAF killed. Less than a month before F/S Charbonneau had been involved in a Stirling accident at #15 Conversion Flight, April 18, above.


8-9 50 Sqn. Manchester I L7489 "Hoo Flung" lost over Denmark, the pilot, Sgt M. Gruber RAF (S. Rhod.) killed, but his crew, P/O H.F. Avery, Sgt S. Garbutt RAF, Sgt J. Pearce RAF, Sgt D. Broadhead RAF, Sgt R. Solomon RAF and Sgt K.G.R. Johnson were all taken PoW (http://www.lancaster-archive.com).

8-9 158 Sqn. Wellington II W5562 NP-V lost over Germany, Sgt E.G. Seaward RAF, Sgt K.G.
Armstrong RAF, Sgt R. Smith RAF and Sgt H.R. Strain RAF killed, F/S A.H. Hayward PoW.


8-9 420 Sqn. Hampden I AT144 PT-A shot down by flak over Germany, F/S R.B. Petersen and Sgt R.R. Parry RAF killed, S/L G.C. Campbell DFC RAF (Can.) and Sgt G.H. Soper PoW. F/S Peterson had previously had to bail out of a #16 OTU Anson Sept. 28, 1941.

8-9 #10 OTU Whitley V P5057 flew into high ground in Wales during night navigation exercise killing Sgt R.W. Morin, F/S S.T. Paterson, Sgt A.J.B. Kemp RAF, Sgt D.N. Sellars RAF and Sgt D.H. Jones RAF.

Saturday

9 Sixty Spitfires land at Malta from the carriers USS Wasp and HMS Eagle in an attempt to rejuvenate the Island's defences, now nearly exhausted. Using the practiced plan the aircraft are refuelled and armed as soon as they land, then flown off to meet the bombing attacks sent to destroy them.


9 USS Wasp, Spitfire Vc BP965 lost, WO1 C.N. Valiquet (formerly with 41 Sqn.) missing (JohnE and SteveBrew at www.rafcommands.com).

9 USS Wasp, Spitfire Vc was taking off from the carrier to reinforce Malta, but the propeller was in coarse pitch. Unable to gain flying speed it struck the deck, crashed into the sea and was run over by the ship, F/S R.D. Sherrington (formerly with 81 Sqn.) missing.

9 USS Wasp Spitfire Vb BR126 X-3, F/S J.A. Smith, took off but found his fuel was not feeding properly from his external fuel tank. Rather than ditch his Spitfire he successfully landed back on board (even though he had never had any carrier training and was not equipped with a tail-hook) to have it fixed, and took off again. Before he left the USN pilots on board awarded him a set of US Naval Aviator wings for his landing (jigsawblue www.pprune.org).


9 118 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AR365 shot down by German fighters escorting CIRCUS 168, F/S F.W. Hough killed.
501 Sqn. Spitfire Vb W3845 failed to return from escorting CIRCUS 160, P/O E.W. Gillespie RCAF (USA) missing. TSGNO notes that P/O Gillespie had been slightly injured in a car accident while stationed at #9 SFTS, Summerside, PEI, on Oct. 9, 1941.


#3 B&G School, MacDonald, Man., AC1 S. Klein died in hospital of natural causes.

9-10 37 Sqn. Wellington Ic Z8987 "B" failed to return from an operation to Benghazi, F/O L.H. Smith, P/O H.E.A. Scard RAF, P/O E.S. Taylor RAF, Sgt D.A. Douthwaite RAF, Sgt S.S.F. Scott RAF and Sgt A.S. Woodbridge RAF missing.


Sunday


Luftwaffe General Kesselring reports to Hitler that Malta has been neutralized as a military base (Oxford). However an attack that day on Grand Harbour was met by 50 Spitfire and Hurricane fighters which claim a high number of bombers shot down (Canwell & Sutherland). From this day on the RAF would keep air superiority over the Island (T. Spooner).

USS Ranger ferries P-40 fighters across the Atlantic and flies them off to Accra on the Gold Coast to be ferried to North Africa (M.J.H. Taylor).

10 SS Nankin, an Australian liner, is captured by the German raider Thor, Lt Cdr (A) T.C. Brock RNVR (Can.) was one of those taken prisoner and later transferred to the Japanese as a PoW (Allison & Hayward). Mail on the ship included military summaries destined for Ceylon which had information that the Allies were decoding Japanese naval messages. This was the only direct leak of ULTRA material during the war, and embarrassed the British and New Zealand agencies involved, who covered it up and tightened procedures to prevent another loss. The USA was not told of the loss. Fortunately the captured information was not passed to the Japanese until mid-August, after the Battle of Midway, and as the Japanese codes had just been changed, the information on code breaking was disregarded (Oxford). See Nov. 30, below.


10 #56 OTU Hurricane I V7164 crashed, killing Sgt A.N. Laporte.

10 RAF Ferry Command, Ventura AE740 crashed landing at Reykjavik, Iceland, Radio Operator L.B. Long killed, 2 crew injured.

10 #2 Wireless School, Calgary, Alberta, Fort #3586 stalled and crashed 39 miles west of Calgary, killing F/L R.P. Mainguy and F/L A. Strugnell RAF (R.W.R. Walker).

Monday

11 German offensive begins in Caucasia (CJCA headline).
A 210 Sqn. Catalina leaves the Shetland Islands to reconnoitre Spitsbergen Island ahead of the FRITHAM force (R.C. Nesbit).

British 5,000 ton ship SS Nicoya sunk off of Gaspé Peninsula by U-553, beginning of U-Boat offensive in Gulf of St. Lawrence (J.W. Essex).

In Ottawa Parliament passes a bill authorizing conscription for overseas service if needed.

#1 ANS redesignated #1 Central Navigation School at Rivers, Manitoba (http://www.bombercrew.com/BCATP.htm).


11  115 Sqn. Wellington III X3602 was on a local flying exercise and lost in poor visibility when it hit a tall radio mast and crashed, killing Sgt R.T. Batchen RAF (Can.), Sgt K.I. Jones RAF and Sgt J.G. Reynolds RAF.

11  286 Sqn. Oxford I DF253 crashed in England, Sgt D.C. MacGregor, Sgt M. Piwko PAF and 1 RAF killed (www.polishwargraves.nl). F/S A.G. Gouldson RAF is also listed as lost from this squadron on this date (CWGC).

11  #102 Conversion Flight Halifax II V9982 force landed after being unable to restart two engines after practicing flight on two engines, F/S C.C. Harris and S/L P.B. Robinson DFC RAF (NZ) safe, F/O J.F.W. Towse injured, 2 other airmen injured (R. Allenby). See June 25-26 and August 18, below.

11  #11 SFTS Yorkton Saskatchewan Crane I #8087 crashed near Rhein, Saskatchewan, killing LAC(P) B.M. Andrus, F/S J.S. Martin and LAC(P) J.G. McCowan. See #12 SFTS loss July 25, 1942.

Tuesday

12 Russian advance towards Kharkov begins (Oxford), resuming offensive halted in the Spring (D. Sommerville).

210 Sqn. Catalina arrives over Spitsbergen where it discovers a He 111 on skis parked offshore. After strafing the aircraft and crew the Catalina returned to it’s base where it reported the German presence, but due to radio difficulties the FRITHAM force could not be warned (R.C. Nesbit).

U-553 sinks the Dutch freighter SS Leto off Cloridorme, Gaspé (J.W. Essex). #11 (BR) Sqn. RCAF deploys a detachment to Mont Joli, Quebec (RCAF Sqns.).

#36 OTU, Greenwood, NS, begins operations (http://www.bombercrew.com/BCATP.htm).

12  771 Sqn., HMS Tern (RNAS Twatt), Canadian built Sea Hurricane Ib Z7089 crashed off the Orkney Islands, Lt(A) T.N. Bush RNZNVR killed (www.crashsiteorkney.com, CWGC).

12  #111 (F) Sqn. RCAF Patricia Bay, BC, Kittyhawk AK881 (RCAF #1048) was returning to base after suffered engine problems on a practice interception, the engine failed and the aircraft
crashed into Saanichton Bay, killing Sgt R.R.T. Christy.

Wednesday

**13 Operation FRITHAM groups arrive in Spitsbergen where they are spotted by a German aircraft. Both ships were soon sunk by attacking Fw 200 aircraft. The Germans believed the ships and soldiers were Russian (R.C. Nesbit).**

**Two ships sunk in St. Lawrence (CJCA headline).**

**University Air Training Corps established as part of the RCAF.**

13 50 Sqn. Manchester I L7519 crashed in England on a training flight, F/S P.J.W. Blake RAF (Can.), P/O A. Bartlett RAF, F/S R.L. Cunningham RAF, LAC W.S. Stevens RAF and AC1 L. Harrison RAF killed.

13 #17 OTU Blenheim IV V5384 crashed in England on a bombing practice flight, P/O H.G. Zavadowsky, P/O R.E. Corr RAF (Eire) and Sgt J. White RAF killed.

13 #125 (F) Sqn. Hurricane I #1358 was damaged when it ran out of fuel at Sydney, NS, and the pilot made a dead stick wheels up landing. Later rebuilt as a XIIa (R.W.R. Walker).


Thursday


14 #52 OTU Spitfire Ila P8169 was flying in a formation up the Severn River in England when it struck the water’s surface. Unable to gain height the pilot, P/O J.A. Livingston, flew his damaged aircraft under the Severn Bridge, then up a small valley before crash landing safely short of a power line (www.spitfires.ukf.net & Flypast, Dec, 1982; P. Cornwell).

**Mid-May, full convoying of merchant shipping on the US East Coast begins, which drastically reduces losses (english.turkcebilgi.com).** With the strengthening defences U-boat operations off the American coast slipped south to the Caribbean, where losses continued until the new Convoy system was extended there (Oxford), and north to the Gulf of St. Lawrence. As part of the response to the loss of tankers carrying oil to the industrial north west of the USA, a pipeline was planned from Texas to provide an inland route (see Aug. 3, below) (Oxford). However, as US destroyers are pulled from the Atlantic to the Pacific the RCN is required to escort most convoys on the US Eastern seaboard and Caribbean. Increased responsibilities overtook new expansion of the RCN, so that their escorts remained overworked, poorly equipped and lacking in proper training in new anti--submarine methods. As a result the majority of shipping losses in the last half of 1942 would be from Canadian escorted convoys (Oxford). See also the Washington Conference, March 13, 1943.

**Proposals by Sir Alan Cobham’s Flight Refuelling Limited to use converted Whitley and
Stirling bombers as in-flight refuellers for anti-submarine aircraft to extend their range over the mid-Atlantic gap were not taken up by the RAF, but the remaining FRL specialist at Gander, W/C H.C. Johnson RCAF (UK) was seconded to the USAAF with the remaining tanker equipment taken from the Harrow aircraft, plus the receiving equipment and staff from England, for in-flight refuelling experiments in Florida (R.K. Smith). See June, 1943.

14-15 407 Sqn. Hudson, S/L W.B. Cooper MiD, sighted 3 German ships off Holland. He made a skip bombing attack, missed the first but hit and sank the other two before returning to attack the missed vessel with his machine guns (FF Years, Awards).

Friday

15 In the evening 407 Sqn. and 320 (Netherlands) Sqn. RAF made an attack on an enemy convoy which had heavy flak defences, losing 4 Hudsons while 2 more crashed in England, plus an aircraft from 320 Squadron. Six ships were claimed as damaged in this attack (I. Wikene).

15 261 Sqn. Hurricane BM268 crashed in Ceylon after a mid-air collision, P/O A.L.D. St. Aubin killed.


15 407 Sqn. Hudson V AM864 RR-R overshot a landing at a diversion airfield, crashed and burned in England making an emergency landing after being badly shot up over the Frisian Islands killing P/O J.W. "Wally" Creeden DFM, F/S J.A. Easton, F/O R.K. Howson, F/S D.E. Parks and F/S J.H. Powell. P/O Creedan had been awarded his DFM for his attack on the German cruisers in the Channel the previous Feb. 12. F/O Howson was the Squadron signals leader (407 SH). This aircraft had force landed in Ireland July 21, 1941 low on fuel but allowed to depart later the same day (D. Burke, www.ww2irishaviation.com).


15 407 Sqn. Hudson V AM906 RR-O was damaged by flak attacking a German convoy, wounding the pilot P/O F. Kay DFC. On approach to land both engines failed and the aircraft crashed into an anti-aircraft emplacement, injuring observer P/O A.L. Kippen, Sgt T.A. Sadeski and Sgt W.S. Thornloe and injuring one of the airfields anti-aircraft gunners on the ground, AC2 Pilkington RAF (dfuller52 www.rafcommands.com). P/O Kay received a DFC for this sortie (FF Years). See May 16, below.

15 407 Sqn. Hudson V, F/L R.M. Christie, attacking behind P/O Kay, was hit in the cockpit, wings, tail and had damaged instruments and hydraulics, observer P/O V.H. Johnson wounded, but successfully bombed one ship and landed safely. For this he received a DSO (407 SH, FF Years, Awards). For details of this attack see http://www.626-
The Squadron suffered heavy losses on this strike of 11 aircraft, in return 6 German ships were hit and 2 sank (dfuller52 www.rafcommands.com), but this operation really represented the end of 407 as a shipping strike squadron. 320 Sqn. (Neth.) also took part in this attack, losing Hudson III AE525 NO-H, Flt Off. 2nd Class J. Stork Royal Netherlands Naval Air Service, Reserve 2Lt J.M. Mulder RNNAS, Telegraphist A.L. Sens RNNAS and PO1c E. de Weerd KMR (Korps Mariniers, or Dutch Marine Corps) (R. McNeill www.rafcommands.com) and 3 damaged from 6 aircraft. At this period 407 and 320 flew many joint operations, but soon after this 320 converted to Mitchells and became part of 2nd TAF. The aircrew and groundcrew for 320 Sqn were raised from the crews from Dutch merchant ships. My father remembered the cabin boys from various Dutch ships were attached to this Squadron, and they worked ½ day servicing aircraft, then were lined up and marched off for ½ day in school (pers. comm. A.D. Squires).

15  #14 OTU Oxford I AT479 was taxiing away from the landing area when it was struck by Hampden I P1185 which landed off the marked zone, Sgt J.S. Thompson and his crew safe in the Oxford, which was written off, and Sgt R.E. Taylor RCAF (USA) and his crew safe in the Hampden. See May 27-28, 1943.

15  #19 OTU Whitley V AD692 was returning from a night navigation exercise with a failed engine when the other lost power and the aircraft hit a stone wall making a forced landing in Scotland, Sgt A.J. Mulligan, Sgt Woods RAF and three crew injured.

15  #34 SFTS, Medicine Hat, Alberta, Oxford I AS696 crashed, LAC G.W.M. Duncan RAF and LAC A.A. Ford RAF killed.

15-16 Fifty bombers on GARDENING sorties in Baltic, 4 lost (BC War Diaries). These mines were laid to cover routes that might be used to return the badly damaged Prinz Eugen to Germany for repair (C. Petersen www.rafcommands.com).

15-16 9 Sqn. Wellington III Z1615 WS-H was shot down by flak from the cruiser Lützow on a GARDENING sortie off Denmark, wireless operator/air gunner Sgt A. Gruchy RAF (Nfld.) was found dead from wounds in the front turret when the aircraft ditched in shallow water, WO2 P. Gaum, WO S. Richards RAF, WO R. Bell RAF and F/L J. Simpson RAF survived and were taken PoW after being rescued by local fishermen. W.R. Chorley reports that WO2 Gaum was trapped in the rear turret for several hours until he could be cut free (C. Petersen and G. Thorburn at www.rafcommands.com).

15-16 408 Sqn. Hampden I AD803 EQ-L was shot down by a German naval vessel off Denmark on a GARDENING sortie, F/S W.F. Millerd and Sgt N.W. Smith RAF killed, F/S A.A. Smith missing, Sgt H.J. Copeman PoW.


Saturday

16 Conference of Luftwaffe officers to discuss the possibility of bombing the United States from Europe. This resulted in the design and construction of the ME 264 Amerikabomber which flew in December of 1942. Although able to complete a flight
to New York, the principle target, it could only carry a small bomb load of 4,000 kg (8,818.5 lb.). To compensate for this a nuclear "dirty bomb" was proposed, that would explode conventionally and cover a large area with dangerous radioactive isotopes. The bomber development was disrupted by bombing, and the attack on New York never happened (P. Bunch, The Hidden Treasures of Stafford, Aeroplane Monthly June 2006).

16 260 Sqn. Kittyhawk I AK693 was shot down by flak over the desert Sgt J.S.E.M. Bernier safe (Shores, Massimello, Guest, Olynyk and Bock). See June 17, below.
16 43 Sqn. Canadian built Hurricane I P5197 suffered a glycol leak during a formation practice, Sgt J. Lewis RAF bailed out and safe (Saunders, A., No. 43 'Fighting Cocks' Squadron).
16 125 (Newfoundland) Sqn. Beaufighter or Defiant lost, P/O D.B. Lacey RAF (Nfld.) killed, 1 crew missing/killed?
16 407 Sqn. observer P/O A.L. Kippen died of injuries received the day before.
16 #16 OTU Hampden I P2120 spun and crashed in England, F/S K.G. McKee, F/S D.C. McNab and P/O W.H. Parr RAF killed, 1 RAF reported to have bailed out and survived.
16 #58 OTU Spitfire IIA P7675 crashed in Scotland in a practice dogfight, Sgt K. Bushell killed (www.spitfires.ukf.net).
16 #78 Conversion Flight Halifax II L9621 veered on a night landing and lost it's undercarriage, F/S W.E. Lunan and Sgt W. Dench safe. See August 11-12, below.
16 unknown unit, LAC A. Shaver died in Canada, no details.

Sunday
17 62 Sqn. Hudson III AM934 shot down by a Japanese fighter over India, P/O E.C. Corbett, Sgt E. Bates RAF, Sgt C. Brown RAF and Sgt G. Rysdale RAF missing (Shores, Cull & Izawa; COL BRUGGY www.rafcommands.com). [recorded as from 60 Sqn. in CWGC]
17 Attack by 40 bombers and torpedo bombers of Coastal Command with an escort of 8 Beaufighters and 6 Blenheim aircraft (from 404 Sqn. RCAF) on Prinz Eugen in the Skagerrak, Norway. One 404 Blenheim was damaged in a fight with Bf 109 fighters, and S/L E.H. McHardy RAF (NZ) was awarded a DFC for dropping a life raft to the crew of a Beaufighter that had been shot down (404 SH).
17 42 Sqn. Beaufort IIA AW375 AW-Y lost on a shipping strike off the Norwegian coast looking for the Prinz Eugen, WO2 A.H.A. Morris and P/O J.F.V. Saunders RAF killed, F/S J.T. Healey RAF missing, W/C M.F.D. Williams RAF PoW (H. Welting & R. McNeill www.rafcommands.com, R. Hayward). WO2 Morris had been navigator on the crew that torpedoed the Lützow June 12-13, 1941. According to R. Barker he was tour expired and had been asked to fill in as a spare for a week before returning to Canada. He was a member of the first class of Observers to graduate from the BCATP. A. Storr notes that this operation resulted in the award of a joint DFC to 5 RAF and 3 RCAF airmen.
17 59 Sqn. Hudson V AM632 TR-M crashed off the English coast, P/O G. McLean RAF and Sgt T.E. Heron RAF killed, F/S D.C. MacDonald and Sgt E. McDonald RAF missing (www.number59.com).
17 401 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BM298 was returning from RAMROD 33 when it found a ditched pilot in a
life raft. The Spitfire pilot, F/L N.H. Trask, circled the raft for a rescue fix, but spent too much time in this and crash landed at base short of fuel and was injured.

17 401 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BM150 was damaged on RAMROD 33 and the pilot, F/S Innes, bailed out over the Channel. He broke his leg, either in combat or in the bailout, but was rescued. Possibly related to the incident above.

17 #11 AFU, England, Oxford I aircraft X7063 and L4603 collided in mid-air, Sgt O.N. Elwell RCAF (USA) killed in X7063.

17 #7 EFTS, Windsor, Ontario, Finch II #4520 dove into the ground near Essex, Ontario, killing LAC(P) W.R. Poe.

17 #20 EFTS, Oshawa, Ontario, DH.82C Tiger Moth #5125 crashed into Lake Scugog, LAC(P) A. McCauley survived (R.W.R. Walker).


17-18 Sixty bombers on GARDENING over the North Sea, 7 lost to night fighters. Boulogne attacked by 27 bombers and 1 NICKEL sortie with 1 loss (BC War Diaries).

17-18 15 Sqn. Stirling I W7531 LS-F "MacRoberts Reply" shot down by flak in Denmark on a GARDENING sortie, F/O J.P. Ryan RCAF (NZ), F/L N.G.R. Booth RAF, Sgt J.B. Butterworth RAF, Sgt R. Nicholson RAF, Sgt F.L. Sharp RAF, Sgt A. Spriggs RAF and S/L J.C. Hall RAF killed, Sgt R. Maycock RAF missing, and Sgt D.J. Jeffs RAF survived injured and made PoW. F/L Booth RAF had been visiting the Squadron and joined the sortie crew as a guest. Sgt Maycock's grave in Denmark was identified in 1999 (Finn Buch www.rafcommands.com). This was the second aircraft to bear this name, the first having been purchased by Lady Rachel MacRobert and given to the RAF after the deaths of her three sons in aircraft, two of whom were serving officers in the RAF. It had been lost Feb. 7, 1942 when it swung on take-off (wikipedia, etc.).

17-18 57 Sqn. Wellington Ic DV806 ditched just off the shore of England after an engine failure on a operation to France, Sgt D.A. Inman, S/L J.S. Laird RAF, P/O J.P. Leeson RAF, Sgt R.H. Moses RAF and Sgt Blackerrie RAF safe.


17-18 418 Sqn. Boston III W8318 missing from a night INTRUDER sortie over Holland, P/O W.F. Young and F/O S.B. De Mier RAF (Mexico) killed, S/L P.S.Q. Anderson RAF PoW.

17-18 419 Sqn. Wellington III Z1562 VR-N lost without trace on a GARDENING sortie in the Baltic. W.R. Chorley reports it is possible it overflew an Allied convoy off the English coast outbound and was shot down in error by the ships guns. WO2 K.L. McDowell, F/S F. Pikula, Sgt W. Thomson, F/S W.H. Webster RCAF (USA) and Sgt G. Clelland RAF missing.

17-18 #19 OTU Whitley V P5043 "B" flew into high ground attempting to return to it's base with engine problems, P/O B.C. Cosham RAF and Sgt A. Baylis RAF died of their injuries, Sgt C.H. Pratt and Sgt A.S. McLaren RAF injured. See July 7, 1943.

Monday

18 Operation MILLENNIUM After a month of study to see if was feasible, Air Chief Marshall Harris proposed launching a force of over 1,000 bombers on a short series of
attacks, using every front line bomber supplemented by bombers in OTUs, Coastal Command and other sources. See June 20, below.

HMS Eagle flys off 18 Spitfires to Malta, including P/O J.F. Lambert (Canwell & Sutherland; Kevin www.rafcommands.com). See July 20, below.

423 Sqn. RCAF formed as a Coastal unit on flying boats (CCMA, RCAF Sqns.).

18 202 Sqn. Catalina AJ158 “F” shot down and forced to ditch off Algiers by Vichy French D.520 fighters, wounding pilot’s F/L A.J. Bradley RAF (Can.), P/O S.G. Sismey RAAF and their radio operator, who despite his wounds continued to radio for assistance. Despite the attempts of the French to capture the crew they were rescued by the efforts of HMS Isis and a Sunderland flying boat (Shores, Cull and Malizia). S/L Bradley recovered from his wounds and served later in Canada as CO of a flying boat OTU before returning to England and operations on 59 Sqn. Liberators. He left the RAF in 1946 as a Squadron Leader DFC MiD (Allison & Hayward).
18 #20 OTU Wellington Ia P2516 XL-C burst a tire on take-off and swung off the runway, colliding with a mechanical digger and bursting into flames. F/S E.R. Hamilton, F/L J.D. Royal RAF, Sgt G.W. Thornton RAF and Mr. W. Duncan, the civilian operator of the digger, were killed.
18 #2 B&G School, Mossbank, Saskatchewan, Battle I #1649 was practicing forced landings over Lake Johnstone when the pilot dragged the wing tip through the bottom of the nearly dry lake, recovering with slight damage (S. Shail).
18 #12 EFTS, Goderich, Ontario, Finch II #4581 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).
18 #19 EFTS, Virden, Manitoba, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4049 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

Tuesday
19 Monsoon begins in India and Burma, ending ground fighting and giving battered British and Indian forces a chance to re-group (D. Newton).

Soviet forces on the Kerch Peninsula in the Crimea forced to surrender, over 170,000 taken prisoner (Oxford). Sebastopol remains under siege. See July 4, 1942.

German counter attack begins at Kharkov (D. Sommerville).

#162 (BR) Sqn. RCAF formed with Canso A aircraft at Yarmouth, NS (RCAF Sqns.).

Atlas army co-operation aircraft struck off service with the RCAF (Griffin CMA).

19 112 Sqn. F/S J.V. Davey died of his wounds, he has no known grave (http://raf-112-squadron.org/planelosses.html).
19 133 (USA) Sqn. Spitfire lost to enemy action over the Channel on a RODEO, P/O D.R. Florence RCAF (USA) missing. Possibly Spitfire Vb AD502 (www.spitfires.ukf.net).
19  174 Sqn. Hurricane IIe BE506 shot down by flak on a CIRCUS operation, the pilot, P/O Reynolds, bailed out over the sea and was rescued.

19  #9 B&G School, Mount Joli, Quebec, Battle I #2022 caught fire in the air and crashed 5 miles SW of Ste. Luce, Quebec, killing armourer and gunnery instructor Cpl C.J. Rooke, LAC(WAG) I.J. Shaw RAAF and LAC(WAG) K.G. Weal RNZAF. P/O A.F. Halamka RCAF (USA) missing, having fallen into the St. Lawrence River (I.M. Macdonald and E. Martyn at www.rafcommands.com)


19-20 Mannheim attacked by 197 bombers, 155 of which report to have bombed the target but most dropped on open country, only light damage done in city. Other operations include 65 bombers to St. Nazaire with poor results, 9 GARDENING and 13 NICKEL sorties, a total of 284 sorties with 12 losses (BC War Diaries).

19-20 7 Sqn. Stirling I N3716 MG-A lost over Belgium, P/O W. Wiseman, Sgt P.G. Trappett RAAF, Sgt C.R. Hague RAF, Sgt S. Sellers RAF, Sgt E.J. Bliss RAF, Sgt A.C. Bloomfield RAF and Sgt F.W. Whittaker RAF all PoW.

19-20 7 Sqn. Stirling I N6073 MG-Y lost over Germany, pilot Sgt F. Tomkins RAF killed, but his crew, F/S J.H. Watson, Sgt B.V.G. Lewis RAF, Sgt E. Townsend RAF, Sgt F.G. Fueggle RAF, Sgt J. Fisher RAF and Sgt J.R. Brook RAF all survived and were made PoW.


19-20 10 Sqn. Halifax, pilot WO1 H.P. Calvert RAF (Can.) killed, no details.

19-20 35 Sqn. Halifax II W7658 TL-H lost over France when it was hit by flak and then attacked by a night fighter. The pilot ordered a burning engine feathered, but the wrong one was stopped in error and could not be restarted, causing the bomber to go down. F/S G. Kennedy, Sgt W.R. Hunt RAF, Sgt S.R. Stickney RAF and F/O R.W. Valters RAF killed, P/O R.G. Baker RAF PoW, Sgt G. Daft RAF and Sgt D.G. Southwell RAF evaded.


19-20 156 Sqn. Wellington III X3671 lost over the Ardennes near the French-Belgium border, F/S D. Mathieson, P/O D. Hellyer RAF, P/O E.F. Valentine RAF, P/O K.V. Whelan RAF, Sgt C.C.
Stevens RAF and S/L T.C. McGillivray DFC RAF (Aus.) killed.

Wednesday

20 Last British forces withdraw from Burma into India.

Vichy consulates close (CJCA headline).

Churchill approves plan for 1,000 Bomber attacks, Operation MILLENIUM. See May 30-31, below.

20 420 Sqn. Hampden I P2094 and another were hit by a 44 Sqn. Lancaster I L7581 when it suffered a structural failure taking off, no casualties (H. Moyle).
20 #1 PRU Spitfire PR.IV AB129 lost on a sortie to Bordeaux, F/S A.A. Miller missing (www.spitfires.ukf.net).
20 #3 Manning Depot, Edmonton, Alberta, clerk Cpl F.C. Johnston died of unknown cause.
20 #13 EFTS?, Finch II #4731 damaged at St. Eugene, Ontario, and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

Thursday

21 After the sinking of Mexican ships off it's coasts by U-boats, Mexico declares war on Germany (wikipedia).

Continuing demands for Canadian military assistance in Alaska, which was viewed in Ottawa as a low priority, was finally explained when the US revealed that they had known through radio intercepts of an impending attack on the Territory, but had not told Canadian planners despite agreements on intelligence sharing (B. Coyle).

Immediate planning for further squadrons to be sent to Alaska begins,

21 460 Sqn. RAAF Wellington IV Z1344 UV-W was taking off on a night flying test when the pilot's overhead escape hatch came off. The pilot, Sgt S. Levitus RAAF, did a circuit and landed, but with such a short flight the bombers pneumatic brakes had not fully recharged and did not have enough pressure to stop it on the runway, so to avoid a group of workmen Sgt Levitus swung the aircraft off the paved runway, he and his crew, Sgt R.G.D. Read, Sgt A.F. McKinnon RAAF, Sgt H.R. Brodie RAAF and Sgt T.G.P. Townsend RAF safe (R. Allenby). See June 2-3, below.
21 #8 Repair Depot, Winnipeg, Man. F/S C. Parkes, on temporary duty from RCAF Station Trenton, Ontario, died in hospital.
21 #17 EFTS, Stanley, NS, Finch #4763 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).
21 #36 OTU, Greenwood, NS, AC2 I.G. Badham RAF died of natural causes in hospital (#36 OTU
Friday

22 Due to the increasing loss of tankers carrying oil from the Netherlands Carribbean island of Aruba, which were special targets of the U-boats, the RCN began creating convoys of these ships bound to Halifax, with RCN escorts, the first one headed outbound on this date. These convoys sailed right through the battle zone off the US coast where the U-boats were wreaking destruction, without loss, for the period until the US Navy fully adopted the convoy system. But to find escorts for these convoys and a new convoy system up the St. Lawrence to Quebec City groups had to be taken from the mid-Atlantic, stretching the responsibilities of the RN and RCN escorts there, leaving them longer at sea with no margin for break downs or extra forces to use if needed to re-enforce a convoy under sustained attack (M. Milner).

Using a planted message as bait, cryptologists in Pearl Harbour identify Midway as the target of the next Japanese offensive in Pacific (Polsson).

22 760 Sqn. HMS Heron, RNAS Yeovilton, Hurricane V6952 flew into the ground on a ground attack exercise, Sub Lt(A) A.R. Johnson RCNVR killed (www.fleetairarmarchive.net).

22 #3 AOS, England, Anson I N9565 crashed into a hill during a low flying exercise, P/O C.A. Harris, P/O G.W. Ardley RAF, Sgt A.H. Cohen RAF and Sgt S.J. Laws RAF killed (aviation-safety.net).

22-23 38 Sqn. Wellington Ic BB484 "X" was on a mine laying sortie off Benghazi but dropped it's mine from too low an altitude and was damaged. The pilot, F/S D.R. Ward RAF, ordered a bailout over the desert but managed to hold control for several hours before he himself bailed out. He was rescued May 29. Of the rest of the crew Sgt S.R. Mason RAF died in the desert and has no known grave, but the remainder WO G.A. Armstrong, Sgt G.F. Ostram, F/S G.W. Rossen RAF and Sgt J.G. Smith, contacted the Senussi tribesman who returned them to Egypt.

Saturday


23 80 Sqn, Hurricane Ilc aircraft BE707 EY-B F/S W.R. Scott and BM974 WO2 J.J.V. Howard shot down by German fighters in the desert and both killed (Shores, Massimello, Guest, Olnykon and Bock). WO2 Howard has no known grave.

23 402 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BM466 was shot down in error by another Spitfire, F/L D.G. Molloy crash landed in the sea and was rescued.

23 404 Sqn. Blenheim IV Z6181 flew into a hill in Scotland in bad visibility, F/S E.J. Morrow RCAF (USA), P/O L.G. Thomas and Sgt W.O. White RAF killed. This aircraft also participated in the air cover for the Vaagso Raid of Dec. 27, 1941, and was coded EE-B at that time (CZ_RAF www.rafcommands.com).

23 #53 OTU Spitfire Ia X4588 flew into a mountain in Wales, Sgt D.P. Carruthers killed.

23 RAF Ferry Command, Dorval, Quebec, Hudson IIIa FH233 crashed offshore of Eire, F/L J.
Constarbaris killed, Sgt D.E. Engemoen, P/O K.B. Dyer RAF missing. F/L Constarbaris had been injured July 2, 1941 in the loss of #32 SFTS Harvard #2614. Dennis Burke has details of this loss on his www.ww2irishaviation.com website.

Sunday
24 407 Sqn. armourer LAC G.J. Prince accidentally killed while cleaning the guns of an Hudson aircraft.
24 #1 (Coastal) OTU Hudson V AM794 crashed into the sea P/O R.W. Rollason RAAF killed, F/S G.T. King, Sgt R.M. Laurie RAAF and Sgt F.J. Irvine RAAF missing.

24-25 Second attack by German bombers on the Isle of Wight (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).
24-25 207 Sqn. Lancaster I R5617 was on a training flight when it lost contact with the ground in poor visibility. Descending to regain contact it flew into a hill in England, Sgt R.L. Mellish, Sgt A.P Paterson RAF, Sgt C.A. Pankurst RAF and F/S L.M. Smith RAF killed, Sgt T.K. Paul RNZAF and F/S T.A.M. Whiteman RAF survived injured.

Monday
25 210 Sqn. modified long range Catalina IIa VA729 "P for Polar", intended for the flight over the North Pole, took off tasked to find out what had happened to the Operation FRITHAM party on Spitsbergen. On arrival it discovered the FRITHAM survivors and communicated with lamp signals to find out what had occurred (R.C. Nesbit).

25 #18 EFTS, Boundary Bay, BC, closes on this date (http://www.bombercrew.com/BCATP.htm).
25 #22 OTU Wellington Ic DV840 swung on landing in a strong cross wind and collided with Wellington Ic AD625 which was waiting to take off, F/S R.D. Cook, Sgt C.R. Whitworth RAF, F/S J.L. Gibby RAF and Sgt R.E. Herbert RAF were killed and Sgt Noyes RAF injured in DV840, and Sgt J.S. Williams RNZAF, Sgt D. Callaghan RNZAF, Sgt M. Wilkinson RNZAF, Sgt V.R. Pascoe RAAF and Sgt J.E. Hough RAF killed, F/O J.J. Gale and P/O Morris RAF injured on AD625.
25 #132 (F) Sqn. RCAF, Rockcliffe, Ontario, Kittyhawk IA #725 (ET854) crashed at Fournier, Ontario, possibly while enroute to the Pacific coast. Kittyhawk IA #727 (ET856) was also damaged on this date but repaired, possibly related (H.A. Halliday, R.W.R. Walker). See January 14, 1945.

Tuesday
26 German-Italian offensive begins in Libya against the Gazala Line, a line of minefields and fortified strong points. The plan was to drive south along the line, cross it's end, then drive north on the inner side of the minefields destroying Allied defensive positions as they met them. After crossing the end and beginning it's northern drive the Afrika Corps halted, and low on fuel, go into a defensive laager at point "Cauldron", with their backs to Gazala Line minefields, surrounding (unknowingly) a
British fortified position and under fire from Free French (composed of Foreign Legion, colonial soldiers from Africa and the Pacific, and Naval Marines (wikipedia)) in another fortified point at Bir Hakeim at it’s southern tip. Capturing Bir Hakeim was expected to be easy, but the Free French forces instead began a bitter defence that held up the German offensive drive for 2 weeks. See June 10-11, below.

Around this time Soviet drive to Kharkov defeated with loss of 250,000 killed or captured (Oxford).

Soviet-UK pact signed.

26 250 Sqn. Kittyhawk AL130 spun and crashed making a steep turn after taking off from desert airstrip in Libya, WO1 E.A. Russell killed.


26 404 Sqn. Blenheim IV Z6245 EE-L lost off Norway, F/S J.M. Jamieson and S/L P.H. Foster RAF (Can.) killed, F/O A.N. Briggs PoW. S/L Foster, whose family name had been Fenster, had originally joined the RCAF before transferring to the Royal Norwegian Air Force. Later he was transferred to the RAF (B. Barry et al).

26 #59 OTU Master N7884 crashed in Scotland, Sgt H.H. Way and 1 RAF killed.

Wednesday

27 Damaged carrier USS Yorktown arrives at Pearl Harbour for emergency repairs only, so she can be used in the defence of Midway (Polsson).

US Maj Gen Buckner in charge of the defence of the Alaska Territory sends request to RCAF in Ottawa for 1 bomber and 1 fighter squadron to be sent as soon as possible to Yakutat in Alaska. Two squadrons, #8 (BR) and #111 (F) had already been chosen for this deployment (F.J. Hatch). Thus a decision was made to base "Y Wing" of 2 RCAF Squadrons at an RCAF base established at Annette Island, Alaska, under Western Air Command, to protect port of Prince Rupert, BC (RCAF Sqns.) and another, called "X Wing", under USAAF 11th Air Force command, would be stationed further north to provide fighter protection for Anchorage, Alaska (440 SH). RCAF Station Annette Island was the first military base established by a foreign country in the territory of the USA (B. Coyle).

At about this time, and due to the increased Japanese activity in the Northern Pacific, military forces in BC are on alert. #32 OTU at Patricia Bay, BC, again forms #32 TB (Torpedo Bomber) Sqn. using Beaufort torpedo bombers to make anti-submarine and torpedo ROVER patrols over the Pacific. This lasted until after the actions at Midway and in Alaska in mid-June (R. Hayward).

SS General Heydrich shot in Czechoslovakia (CJCA headline). Operation ANTHROPOID, Heydrich was wounded by an anti-tank mine used as a grenade in an ambush and dies of wounds June 4. See June 10, below.
Convoy PQ-16, enroute from Iceland to the Soviet Arctic ports, loses 5 ships to heavy Luftwaffe bomber attack (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).

27 81 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BM467 crashed in England taking off, after a mid-air collision with Spitfire Vb BM158 which was attempting to land, P/O R.M. Woodhead killed (Clare www.rafcommands.com).

27 137 Sqn. Whirlwind I P7122 aircraft crashed in Holland after shooting down a #1401 Meteorological Flight Blenheim IV V5568 in error off the coast of Holland, F/S J.R. Brennan killed (Brian Cull www.rafcommands.com).

27 416 Sqn. scores first victory, a He 111 damaged by F/S J.R. Brennan in Spitfire Vb BL887.

27 #32 EFTS, Bowden, Alberta, DH.82C Tiger Moth #5034 crashed into a street in the town after striking power lines, LAC(P) T. Malam RAF and his instructor slightly injured (C. Simonsen).

27 #33 EFTS, Caron, Saskatchewan, DH.82C Tiger Moth #5955 crashed NW of Archydale, Saskatchewan while performing low flying (R.W.R. Walker).

Thursday

28 Battle of Midway, US Carriers Enterprise and Hornet depart Pearl Harbour to confront Japanese invasion force closing on Midway (Polsson).

210 Sqn. Catalina VA729 "P for Polar" returns to Spitsbergen to drop supplies to the FRITHAM party (R.C. Nesbit).

German forces advance near Tobruk (CJCA headline). Although it was not initially planned to hold the port a second time circumstance leads to the decision to garrison it with men and supplies for a siege (M. Carver). Rommel informed by US Embassy’s broken code.

28 33 Sqn. Hurricane Iib Z5444 shot down in the Desert, F/S G.H. Lyons has no known grave (Shores, Massimello, Guest, Olynyk and Bock).

28 416 Sqn. Spitfire V crashed into the sea, killing Sgt D.G. Allen.

28 #20 OTU Wellington Ic Z8852 "L" overshot an attempted landing in poor weather conditions, flew into trees beyond the runway and crashed, killing pilot F/S B.W. McClennan and injuring Sgt Brin, Sgt Braithwaite RAAF, Sgt Browes RAAF and Sgt Crompton RAF.

28 #1443 (Ferry Training) Flight Wellington Ic HX433 flew into a hill in Wales while off course in clouds on a fuel consumption test prior to being sent overseas, F/S H.L. Davis, F/S W.J.P. Grant, Sgt G.D. Graham RAF, Sgt J.I. McDowell RAF (Eire), Sgt C.J. Thomas RAF and Sgt H.N. Williams RAAF killed.

28 RCAF Station Dartmouth, NS, aero engine mechanic AC2 S. Rabinovitch died of injuries sustained when he fell off a truck while it was towing a Lysander aircraft.

28 #21 EFTS, Chatham, NB, Finch II #4454 crashed at Chatham killing Sgt A.S. Neilly.

28 #33 EFTS, Caron, Saskatchewan, DH.82C Tiger Moth #5955 crashed, Sgt F.H. Bouchard RAF killed.

28 #36 EFTS, Pearce, Alberta, Stearman FD853 taxied into DH.82C Tiger Moth #5866, both aircraft repaired (R.W.R. Walker). See February 16, 1943.

28-29 104 Sqn. Wellington II Z8366 "T" was on an operation bombing airfields in Sicily when it lost an
engine. The crew jettisoned all the bombs and other items to maintain height but crashed on approach to land in Malta, F/S G.R.C. Davis, Sgt A. McColl RAF and Sgt E.K. Roberts RAF were killed, Sgt E. Martin RAF and F/S K.J. Ross RAF died of their injuries and Sgt R.J. Hills RAF survived with minor injuries (Col Bruggy www.rafcommands.com).

Friday
29 413 Sqn. ground crew arrives in Ceylon, squadron again complete. It would remain based in Ceylon, with detachments in the Seychelles, Kenya, Bahrein, South Africa and Aden until early 1945 to patrol the Indian Ocean. See May 3 and October 3-4, 1943.

Off Madagascar a Japanese submarine flotilla arrives. A reconnaissance flight flown by an E14Y floatplane was made over Diego Suarez, and that night the port was attacked by two midget submarines that sank a tanker and damaged the battleship HMS Ramillies. Following this attack the submarines aircraft also overflew harbours in South Africa, and between them the submarines sank 23 merchant ships carrying cargo to Egypt (A. Beevor) before withdrawing. Soon after the decision was made to occupy the rest of Madagascar. See Nov. 6, below.

Hitler issues revised plans for German and Italian forces to invade unoccupied (Vichy) France and/or Spain if necessary (Polsson). See November 10, below.

29  80 Sqn. Hurricane IIc BN354 one of 4 shot down in a fight with German fighters over the desert, F/S D.A. Campbell force landed and safe (Shores, Massimello, Guest, Olynyk and Bock). See June 25, below.
29  72 (USA) Sqn. Spitfire Vb AB150 abandoned and crashed in the sea off France after an engine failure, F/O B.O. Parker RCAF (USA) missing (www.spitfires.ukf.net).
29  400 Sqn. driver LAC H.N. Ford died on service in England, no details.
29  #124 (Ferry) Sqn. RCAF Rockcliffe, Ontario, Canadian built Hampden I P5426 crashed near the airport killing F/O E.S. Parsons RCAF (USA).
29  #4 B&G School, Fingal, Ontario, Battle I #1306 became lost and force landed near Defiance, Ohio, USA (S. Shail). Later salvaged and rebuilt as a turreted Battle I.T (R.W.R. Walker).
29-30 (local date May 30-31) A Japanese submarine launched airplane flew a reconnaissance over Sydney Harbour in Australia to pinpoint targets for an attack by midget
submarines, as part of the diversions planned for the Midway invasion (www.ww2australia.gov.au).

415 Sqn. first victory, 3 Hampden TB.I aircraft (AT229 GX-V, F/S Garfin; AT236 GX-R, P/O Sargent and AT239 GX-T, P/O Lawrence) sighted and attacked a convoy of three ships with torpedoes, claiming damage on a large vessel for the loss of 1 aircraft, below. See also August 10, below.

The Gnome & Rhône aircraft engine factory near Paris attacked by 77 bombers but little damage caused. Minor operations of 31 bombers to Cherbourg, 17 to Dieppe, 21 GARDENING sortie off Denmark and Holland, and 3 NICKEL sorties, 6 aircraft lost (BC War Diaries).

29-30 148 Sqn. Wellington Ic DV654 was on an operation to Libya when it suffered an engine fire and belly landed in the desert, where it was destroyed by the crew. Sgt M.A. Bennetto, F/O J.G. Brown RAF, P/O J.A. Mahood RAF, Sgt R.C. Drake RAF, Sgt C.J. Griffiths RAF and Sgt C.S. Parker RAF. They then walked to the border with Egypt where they managed to signal an aircraft and were rescued by a patrol. See July 16-17, below.


29-30 59 Sqn. Hudson V AM842 TR-S shot down attacking a convoy off Borkum, W/C R.H. Niven DFC RAF (Can.), P/O J.J. Reilly, P/O D.J. Richards RAAF and Sgt J. Howarth RAF missing. W/C Niven had been involved with Sidney Cotton on clandestine Photo Reconnaissance missions over Germany and Middle East in 1939.

29-30 407 Sqn. Hudson V AM650 RR-D was shot down by flak attacking shipping off the Dutch Coast and exploded on impact with the water. F/O C.F. Race and F/O R.M.D. Robinson were lost in the crash and are missing, F/S W.P. McCarthy and WO2 J.F. Clarke were injured and picked up by a German ship, where F/S McCarthy died of his injuries. WO Clarke survived as a PoW. Another Hudson on this same strike flown by P/O L.J. O'Connell lost one of its bomb bay doors on the top of the mast of the ship it was attacking (407 SH, FF Years). In the last month the Squadron had attacked 27 merchant ships with confirmed hits on 14 of them, but at the cost of 6 aircraft and their crews lost, plus many others damaged and crew wounded. After this, to reduce casualties, the Squadron would begin using high altitude attack tactics rather than the low level ones they had previously specialized in (407 SH). See July 26, below.

29-30 415 Sqn. Hampden I AT236 GX-R lost off the German coast on a torpedo attack, F/S A.F. Conway killed, P/O M. Edwards RCAF (UK), F/S J.A. McWilliams and P/O D.H. Sargent missing. F/S McWilliams had been slightly injured July 1, 1941 in the forced landing of #7 B&G School Battle #1862 near Paulson, Manitoba. TSGNO states the wreck of this Hampden was discovered buried in a sand bar in the 1980's, no further details. It was part of the first successful attack by the Squadron, above.

Saturday

30 **Battle of Midway**, after 48 hours of intense repair work the USS Yorkton is made operational and leaves Hawaii to join Enterprise and Hornet in position east of Midway (C.E. Hipperon).

#145 (BR) Sqn. RCAF formed at Torbay, Nfld. from #11 (BR) Sqn. RCAF detachment of Hudson aircraft (RCAF Sqns.).


30 236 Sqn. Beaufighter lost in a torpedo attack off Wilhelmshaven, Germany, F/O D.A. Hamilton RAF (Can.) and his navigator P/O H.S. Keeton RAF killed.

30 421 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AB936 or AB963 hit an obstruction landing in England after an engine failed (www.spitfires.ukf.net).

30 #1451 Air Target Illumination Flight Havoc I AH452 crashed making a 1 engined landing in England, F/S C.M. Chute and 1 RAF killed. This flight operated Turbinlight (search light) equipped Havocs (a version of the Douglas Boston) intended to illuminate bombers at night for Hurricane fighters to shoot down (Henk Welting, rafcommands.com).

30 #22 EFTS, Ancienne Lorette, Quebec, Finch #4720 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

30 #31 OTU, Debert, N.S., Hudson V AM737 was making a single engine landing when another aircraft turned on to the runway. In the attempted overshoot the aircraft lost control and crashed, P/O A. Hoffman RCAF (USA) killed, Sgt. W.D. Earl RAF and Sgt A.C. Norris RAAF safe (31 OTU/7 OTU Roll of Honour).

30-31 (May 31-June 1 local date) Three midget submarines enter Sydney Harbour and attempt to sink the cruiser USS Chicago, but sink the accommodation ship HMS Kuttabel in error, killing 19 RAN and 2 RN sailors. All three submarines are destroyed or lost (www.ww2australia.gov.au).

**Operation MILLENNIUM** - 1,047 bombers attack Cologne, using every available aircraft in Bomber Command including training aircraft (250 Coastal Command aircraft having been withdrawn for political reasons). The total was made up of 602 Wellingtons, 131 Halifaxes, 88 Stirlings, 79 Hampdens, 73 Lancasters, 46 Manchesters and 28 Whitleys from Bomber Command (678 bombers), OTUs (365) and Flying Training Command (4). An additional 56 Blenheims and Havocs (Boston fighters) flew INTRUDER sorties in support, a total of 1,103 sorties with the loss of 41 bombers and 2 INTRUDERS

OTUs used crews made up of screened instructors and students near graduation. This was asking a lot of the students, who would normally be expected to be phased into operations in steps at Squadron level, but they performed well. This would also disrupt the flow of trained crews to operational bomber squadrons as training
aircraft and instructors were diverted to operations, but this was accepted as reasonable given the expected results and the propaganda value of the scale of the attack. Expected losses of training aircraft would be more than made up by new production.

Sixty-eight RCAF aircraft participated in this operation (including the only RCAF Manchester L7401, which had to return early (408 SH)), 56 bombing the target, 1 RCAF aircraft was lost (CCMA). Halifax II aircraft of 405 Sqn. made the RCAF's first 4-engined bombing operation on this night, having only become operational 2 days before (RCAF Sqn., 405 SH).

The most innovative aspect of the operation (aside from the size) was that the bombers were briefed to fly a common course and time (later called a stream), and to bomb the three aiming points in the city over a short 90 minute period. Flying at night in close proximity seems suicidal, but with squadrons assigned different altitudes and time blocks, and all flying the same course, the risks of collision were reduced (R. Barker). GEE equipped aircraft were to illuminate the aiming points with flares, followed by the first bombs whose fires would become targets for following non-GEE equipped bombers.

Bombing was accurate, as were the flak defences, but they were overwhelmed by the size of the attack and the city was heavily damaged. Total of bombs dropped was 1,455 tons (⅔ of which were incendiaries) which caused 1,700 large and 800 small fires. Over 3,000 buildings were destroyed, 2,000 badly damaged and 7,000 lightly damaged. Some 2,500 of these were industrial or commercial buildings. Less than 500 civilians and military on the ground were killed, 5,000 wounded and some 45,000 made homeless. In the next few days some 20% of the population fled the city (BC War Diaries, Barker). The loss of 41 bombers made this the highest nightly loss by Bomber Command of the war so far, but the losses were justified by the effect. Bomber Command believed they had finally found a formula to really damage the German war effort. Propaganda headlines in England and the USA were also a major factor in staging this attack.

In response Hitler orders resumption of the Baedeker Raids on English cities of cultural significance, but without the resources of 1940 these raids, although damaging, seemed pathetic when compared to the size of Operation MILLENNIUM.


Masson RAF killed

30-31 12 Sqn. Wellington II Z8598 PH-B exploded and crashed in England outbound on an operation, Sgt. J. Brett RAF (Nfld.), F/S D.M. Moodie, Sgt G.H. Everatt RAF, Sgt A.S. Draper RAF and Sgt H. Dooley RAF killed. In 1981 parts of this aircraft were recovered from the crash site and are now on display at the Norfolk & Suffolk Aviation Museum.


30-31 101 Sqn. Wellington III Z1612 SR-Z was experiencing engine problems when it was attacked by a night fighter. When taking evasive actions both engines quit and the bomber was abandoned, Sgt R.G. Killwyn, P/O C.H.R. Read RAF, P/O D H. Davidson RAF, Sgt M. Doherty RAF and Sgt R.D. Charles RAF bailed out and were taken PoW, Sgt Killwyn having broken a leg when landing.

30-31 106 Sqn. crew in a borrowed 50 Sqn. Manchester I L7456 ZN-T had engine problems and were unable to climb very high. They were attacked by a night fighter and set on fire, making a forced landing on a German airfield, Sgt A.M. Bee RAF, Sgt D.W. Baird RAF and Sgt E.W. Finch RAF killed, F/S C.H. Tobias, Sgt A.C. Benn RAFAF, Sgt J.B. Wilkie RAF and Sgt J.W. Campbell RAF PoW.


30-31 218 Sqn. Stirling I W7502 HA-N damaged by flak and crashed in Germany, F/S J.L. Borrowdale RAF was unable to retrieve his parachute and he then attempted a double bailout with Sgt H.L. Tate, but lost his hold when the parachute deployed and he was killed, Sgt Tate and Sgt A.J. Smith RAF survived to be PoW, but the rest of the crew, P/O A.W. Davis RAF, Sgt R.J. Guntrip RAF, Sgt T.H. Allen RAF, Sgt K.W.G. England RAF and Sgt E.J. White RAF were killed.

30-31 405 Sqn. Halifax II W7707 LQ-K lost without trace, Sgt W.F. Pickett RCAF (USA), F/S L.A. Wadman, F/S G.A. Welsh, P/O A.F. McLean RNZAF, Sgt N. Acton RAF, Sgt D. Henning RAF and P/O G.E. Sankey RAF missing. F/S Wadman and Sgt McLean may have been seconded from 78 Sqn. This was the first Halifax lost by 405 Squadron.

30-31 405 Sqn. Halifax II was hit by flak that knocked out an engine, F/S R.B. Albright and his crew returned and landed safe on 3 engines (R. Allenby). See July 23-24 below.
30-31 420 Sqn. Hampden I AE399 PT-P swung on landing from operations and collided with a parked Lancaster R5842, F/S W.K. McDermid and F/S L.H. Gardiner were injured, Sgt Waddington (RAF?) and Sgt Wilkinson (RAF?) were safe in the Hampden, two airmen were injured in the Lancaster which was later repaired (H. Moyle).

30-31 Central Gunnery School Wellington Ia N2894 shot down by a night fighter over Holland, F/S J.M. McLean, P/O D.M. Johnson RAF, WO O. Jambor RAF (Czech.), F/L H.A.C. Batten RAF and F/S J.R. Connor RAF killed, F/S G.J. Waddington-Allwright RAF PoW. W.R. Chorley notes that this was probably the last Wellington Ia lost on operations.


30-31 #14 OTU Hampden I L4173 GL-T2 damaged on operations over Germany and crashed into a town in England on approach to land on one engine, F/L W.L. Cameron and Sgt J.E. Sheridan RAAF killed, F/S M.F. Porter RAF and Sgt E.H. East RAF injured (A. Storr). In 1996 a memorial plaque was placed near the crash site.

30-31 #14 OTU Hampden I P2116 GL-L2 shot down over Holland by a night fighter, Sgt F.H. Falk RAF (Nfld.), P/O W.H. Gorton RAF and P/O V.E. Woolnough DFM RAF killed, P/O T.E.P. Ramsey RAF PoW.

30-31 #14 OTU Canadian built Hampden P5321 GL-P3 collided over England in cloudy conditions with 78 Sqn. Halifax II W1013, both returning from operations, F/S C. Holmes RAF, Sgt J.H. Knowling RAF and P/O H.S. Little RAF were killed and S/L D.B. Falconer DFC RAF bailed out and safe from the Hampden, Sgt G. Bolton RAF and Sgt A. Caie RAF killed, Sgt Curtiss RAF safe, and P/O G.C. Foers RAF, Sgt A.H. Warner RAF and F/S A.W.H. Gamble RAF injured in the Halifax.

30-31 #16 OTU Wellington aircraft, F/S D.M. Baird RCAF (Nfld.) missing when the pilot lost control and ordered a bailout; he was the only crewman to do so before control was regained, and the aircraft and remaining crew returned safely.


30-31 #22 OTU Wellington Ic R1714 lost over Germany, F/S R.R. Harrison, F/L A.C. Hamman DFC & Bar RAF (S. Africa), WO E. Neesom MiD RAF and F/S W.S. Hawkins RAF killed, Sgt K.P.E. Monk RAF PoW.


30-31 #26 OTU Wellington Ic DV709 "F" overturned attempting a forced landing in England returning from an operation over Germany, Sgt J.J. Dixon RAF and Sgt B.B. Camlin RAF killed, Sgt Scroggie, Sgt Green RAF and Sgt Broadhurst RAF injured.


30-31 #1502 Beam Approach Training (BAT) Flight Whitley V Z9307 "H" shot down over Belgium by a night fighter on an operation to Germany, F/S J.H. Godbehere, P/O D.G. Box RNZAF and Sgt W.H. Orman RAF killed, S/L J.A.S. Russell DFC RAF and F/O D.W. Foster DFM RAF (Can.) PoW.

Sunday

31 Bomber Command sends 5 Mosquitos to assess the attack on Cologne, the first Bomber Command Mosquito operations of the war. One was hit by flak and lost into the North Sea (BC War Diaries).

31 73 Sqn. Hurricane II lost on patrol in Libya, F/S D.G. Barrie missing.
31 260 Sqn. Kittyhawk I AK943 shot down by an enemy aircraft over Libya and attempted a forced landing, but came down in a minefield and exploded, F/S C.P. Veysey killed.
31 274 Sqn. Hurricane IIc BG970 lost in Libya, P/O W.H. Ismay killed.
31 3 Sqn. Hurricane BD956 flew into high ground in bad weather in England, P/O J.N. Lewis killed.
31 121 (USA) Sqn. Spitfire Vb W3645 crashed off Flushing, Holland, after striking the sea attacking a flank ship, F/L T.W. Allen RCAF (USA) missing (V. Haugland).
31 #6 (Coastal) OTU Hudson missing on a training flight, P/O G.R. Stratford, Sgt E.A. Young and 2 RAF missing.
31 #1 B&G School, Jarvis, Ontario, AC1 J.C. Murphy died in Canada of natural causes.
31 #3 RD, Vancouver, BC, AC2 J.A. Cole died of natural causes while on a train near Rivers, Manitoba.
31 #34 SFTS (?), Oxford crashed near Holsom relief airfield, Alberta, Cpl(P) R. Leprou, Free French Forces, killed (D.J. Carter).

31-1 Second Baedeker Raids, in response to the attack on Cologne Luftwaffe ordered to recommence attacks on English cities of cultural significance, begins with an attack on the city of Canterbury (wikipedia).

June 1942

In June the last of 160 Canadian built Handley-Page Hampden bombers flew. Most of these were used in England, but many were later returned to the RCAF as torpedo training aircraft. A total of 73 served in the RCAF (Canadian Aircraft).

RCAF Hudsons and other maritime patrol aircraft began to be repainted in white under and side surfaces, with temperate (green/grey) upper camouflage (I. Wikene).

400 Sqn. and 414 Sqn. begin to receive Mustang I aircraft and 409 Sqn. begins to upgrade
to Beaufighter VIf aircraft (RCAF Sqns.). "X" Wing RCAF formed in Anchorage, Alaska, to conduct offensive operations in Alaska (RCAF Sqns.).

Unhappy at 41 Sqn., where he is given few opportunities to fly, Sgt G. Beurling RAF (Can.) requests a transfer to the Mediterranean, replacing another pilot (Nolan).

Monday

1 Battle of Midway, Midway Island placed on full alert.

#34 OTU, Pennfield Ridge, NB, began operations on this date to train crews for medium bombers using early production Ventura I and II aircraft (http://www.bombercrew.com/BCATP.htm).

1 145 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AB329, F/L J.J.P. Sabourin and Spitfire Vb AB324, Sgt H.G. James RAF share the first claim by Spitfires in the desert air war, a Ju 88 damaged near Gambut, Libya (Shores, Massimello, Guest, Olynyk and Bock).

1 185 Sqn. Spitfire Vc BP950 shot down into the sea off Malta, P/O A.A. McNaughton killed (www.spitfires.ukf.net).

1 56 Sqn. Typhoon Ib aircraft were intercepted off the English coast by 401 Sqn. Spitfires who mistook their silhouettes for Fw 190s, R7678 and R8199 were shot down, Sgt K.M. Stuart-Turner RAF missing and P/O R.H. Deugo rescued, but badly burned according to TSGNO. See July 20, 1943. This was the first operational deployment of the Typhoon fighter, intended to catch Fw 190 hit-and-run bombing attacks on the south coast of England (P. Cornwell). From certain angles the Typhoon and Fw 190 did appear similar and RAF units carried special markings for a time to aid in identification. The identification problem was worked out with experience in Commonwealth air forces where aircraft identification was part of ongoing training, but continued to cause problems with USAAF pilots and US Army ground anti-aircraft where aircraft identification was not practiced to the same degree, if at all (See quoted comment from Zijlstra, December 24, 1944).

1 65 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BL647 shot down over Belgium escorting CIRCUS 179, Sgt R.E. Parrack RAF (Can.) killed.

1 350 (Belgium) Squadron Spitfire Vb BL936 shot down escorting CIRCUS 179, W/C J.A.G. Gordon RAF (Can.), commander of 350 Sqn. and leader of the Debden Wing, missing (www.spitfires.ukf.net). W/C Gordon had flown with 151 Sqn. in the Battle of Britain and was wounded August 15, 1940, and had been shot down and badly burned on August 18, 1940.

1 403 Sqn. Spitfire Vb damaged in a dogfight while on a CIRCUS escort, P/O L.J. Somers landed safe. See June 2, below.

1 #113 (BR) Sqn., Dartmouth, NS, Hudson III BW631 lost over the Bay of Fundy on an anti-submarine patrol, P/O T.O’N. Johnson, Sgt J.K. McDonald, Sgt J.R. McPherson and Sgt C.L. Scholey missing.

1 #2 SFTS, Uplands, Ont, Harvard II #2512 was on a solo cross country exercise when the pilot, LAC(P) L.D. Wetmore, became lost and made a force landing wheels up on rough ground near Sackett’s Harbour, NY, USA, and was injured. See June 5, below.

1 #3 Wireless School, Winnipeg, Manitoba, DH.82C4 Menasco Moth II #4871 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).
#16 EFTS?, DH.82C Tiger Moth #3891 damaged at Edmonton, Alberta and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

#22 EFTS, Ancienne Lorette, Quebec, Finch II #4405 crashed near St. Augustine, Quebec from an inverted spin, both crew bailed out safely. This was the first Finch II built (R.W.R. Walker).

1-2 German bombers raid Canterbury (CJCA headline).

Operation MILLENNIUM, second 1,000 Bomber Raid, 956 aircraft attack Essen with the same tactics used over Cologne but obtain poor results due to ground mist. Most bombers missed the main target, but destruction in other towns bombed was significant due to the number of bombers involved. The attack was supported by 48 INTRUDER sorties plus others from Fighter and Army Co-operation commands. Losses were 31 bombers and 3 INTRUDERS (BC War Diaries). The sole RCAF Manchester L7401 EQ-N with 408 Sqn. made it's last operation on this night before being returned (408 SH).

1-2 1 Sqn. Hurricane IIc, F/S G.C. English on a night INTRUDER damaged a train and shot down a Do 217 over Holland (P. Caygill). See June 3, below.

1-2 10 Sqn. Halifax II W1098 ZA-W lost over Germany, Sgt A.M. Anderson RAF (Nfld), F/O D.D.P. Joyce RCAF (Argentina), Sgt J.G.B. Garson RAF, Sgt E.W. Perry RAF, Sgt W.J. Laker RAF and Sgt W.J. Edgeley RAF killed, F/S K.R. Kettlewell PoW. Sgt Anderson was believed to have been the first Newfoundlander to join the RAF after the outbreak of the war.


1-2 57 Sqn. Wellington Ic DV816 lost, F/S J. Kormylo, Sgt D. Taylor RAF, Sgt V. Ross RAF, Sgt L. Sibson RAF and Sgt I. Nicholls RAF PoW.

1-2 78 Sqn. Halifax II R9364 went into a flat spin evading German flak on the Dutch coast and fell into the sea, where it broke in two, throwing out F/S T.B. Miller GM and P/O P.J. Jones RAF, both badly injured, who managed to climb into a life raft. The rest of the crew, P/O J.S. Lawson MiD, Sgt R. McGlen RAF, Sgt D.E. West RAF and Sgt W. Thompson RAF missing. F/S Miller and P/O Jones were rescued and made PoW after drifting for 4 days. The early model of Halifax was susceptible to this kind of accident, which was not realized at the time. This was a combination of extra weight being added to the basic design, the drag inducing "lamp-black flat" paint used for camouflage, and the inadequate size of the vertical stabilizers and rudders. See B. Johnson & T. Heffernan for details. For details on F/S Miller's George Medal see Sept. 6-7, 1941.

1-2 78 Sqn. Halifax II W7698 collided in mid-air with a night fighter over Germany and crashed, Sgt J.E.R. Lyons RAF, Sgt W. Brookes RAF and Sgt J. Strang RAF killed, P/O L.G. Geddes, S/L G.D. Leyland RAF and Sgt C.G. Pugsley RAF were taken PoW.


1-2 #12 OTU Wellington Ic X3203 was shot down by flak over the target, F/S H. Crossland RCAF (Scotland) and F/S A.W. Dormand RAF killed, Sgt H.J. Elliot, Sgt H.J. Lafortune and P/O M.N. Aicken RNZAF PoW.

1-2 #16 OTU Wellington Ic DV763 XG-H2 shot down by a night fighter over Belgium, P/O R.J. Robinson DFC RAF and P/O C. O'Brien RAF killed, Sgt E.T. Beal and F/S J.M. Forster RAF were taken PoW, and Sgt H.E. De Mone evaded.

1-2 #20 OTU Wellington Ic X9975 JM-P believed to have come down in the North Sea off the Dutch coast, F/S A. Marvell DFM RAF killed, P/O S.S. Martin DFC, F/S B.J. Daley RNZAF, Sgt T.W. Belton RAF, Sgt T.I. McKenzie RAF and Sgt G.C. Falconer RAF missing.


1-2 #23 OTU Wellington Ic R1266 lost over Holland. The remains of F/S T.L.J. Norrie RCAF (USA) were recovered soon after the loss, but the crash site and the remainder of the crew, F/S F.J.B. Scrimes, P/O G.W. Murray, F/O W.J. Mawdesley RAF and Sgt K.N. Killby RAF, were not located until 1957. They were interred in a communal grave beside F/S Norrie but are also commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial.


1-2 #1652 CU Halifax II R9372 GV-K shot down over Holland returning from an operation over Germany with 1 engine out, Sgt H.J.W. Daly, Sgt J. Williams RAF, Sgt C.R. Read RAF and Sgt H. Jackson RAF (all on detachment from 158 Sqn.), P/O H.A. Williams RAF and Sgt F.E. Gostling RAF were all taken PoW.

Tuesday

2 Battle of Midway, USS Yorktown joins Enterprise and Hornet on station near Midway.
After delays by weather and Russian attempts to break through to the port, the final German assault on Sebastopol begins. Specially made extremely large railway artillery guns were used to destroy Russian defensive fortifications (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).

#8 (BR) Sqn. RCAF begins move from Sea Island BC to Yakutat, Alaska Territory, as part of the defence of Alaska.

The arrival of the second RCAF unit in the US territory again triggered a dispute with US Customs, which again insisted they were required to levy duty on personal belongings of Canadian servicemen brought into the US Territory (R. Steacy). Initially the arriving crews were not allowed by customs to leave their aircraft after they had landed, which lasted for several hours (B. Coyle). See June 17, below.

2 239 Sqn. Beaufighter T4899 crashed while landing in England, P/O J.A. Logan killed.
2 403 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AR389 KH-D was shot down on a morning RODEO, F/L E.V. Darling DFC RAF killed.
2 403 Sqn. Spitfire Vb W3324 KH-E was shot down on a morning RODEO, F/L J.F. Parr PoW.
2 403 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AD208 KH-L was shot down on a morning RODEO, WO D.G. Campbell PoW.
2 403 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BM162 KH-T was shot down on a morning RODEO, P/O D.S. Hurst PoW.
2 403 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BL707 KH-Y was shot down on a morning RODEO, P/O L.J. Somers landed in the Channel with burns and injuries. Although able to see England he was unable to paddle towards shore due to his burned hands. After 2 days in his life raft he was rescued by a German vessel and taken PoW. After treatment in various PoW hospitals, and being in several PoW camps, he received treatment at East Grinstead as a Guinea Pig post war before returning to Canada where he became a veterinarian (R. Donovan).
2 403 Sqn. Spitfire Vb W3564 KH-K was shot down on a morning RODEO, F/S G.D Aitken PoW. See March 13, 1943.
2 403 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AB799 KH-J was shot down on a morning RODEO, Sgt N.E. Hunt PoW.
2 403 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AD114 KH-W was damaged on a morning RODEO and force landed in England, P/O R. Wozniak safe.
2 #4 SFTS, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, LAC F. Mayfield died when he either jumped or fell from a bridge in Saskatoon into the Saskatchewan River.
2 #21 EFTS, Chatham, NB, Finch II #4790 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).
2 USAAF 42nd Fighter Sqn., 54th Fighter Group P-39F 41-7307 crashed near Stoney Point (Stoney Plain?), Alberta, pilot J.W. Rogers killed.

2-3 Second Baedeker Raids, Canterbury again bombed by Luftwaffe bombers (wikipedia).

A follow up attack on Essen made by 195 bombers with the same scattered results. Other operations included 6 bombers to Dieppe, 11 GARDENING sorties and 4 NICKEL
flights, 15 aircraft lost (BC War Diaries).

2-3  7 Sqn. Stirling I W7500 MG-B shot down by a night fighter off the Dutch coast, Sgt R.A. Archer RAF and Sgt R. Armstrong RAF killed, P/O G.F. Sanderson, P/O L.J. Harcus RAF, Sgt S.W. Precious RAF, Sgt W.F. Morgan RAF, Sgt B.S. Brown RAF and F/S S.V. Harding RAF missing.  See W. de Jong's page about the Dutch Island of Vlieland at www.626-squadron.co.uk for some information on the crew.


2-3  102 Sqn. Halifax II R9491 DY-N believed to have gone down at sea off the English coast, Sgt D. Boddy RAF killed, WO2 F.A. Holmes, WO2 G.H.H. Marks, Sgt W.L. Crowther RAF, Sgt S. Arnett RAF, Sgt F. Booth CG (France) RAF and Sgt G.F. Jenkins RAF missing.


2-3  460 Sqn. RAAF Wellington IV Z1249 UV-K lost without trace on an operation to Germany, F/S R.G.D. Read, Sgt S. Levitus RAAF, Sgt H.R. Brodie RAAF, Sgt J.A. Gaiter RAAF and Sgt T.G.P. Townsend RAF missing.

Wednesday

3 Battle of Midway, aircraft operating from Midway Island sight Japanese invasion fleets.

Battle of Midway opens with a diversionary attack by Japanese naval aircraft on the US base at Dutch Harbour in the Aleutians, Alaska Territory, but informed by his code breakers Admiral Nimitz is not fooled.

One of the Japanese A6M fighters attacking Dutch Harbour is damaged, and losing fuel, diverts to a location on another island believed to be level grassland and designated by the Japanese planners for emergency landings.  The area was in fact a muskeg bog, and when trying to land with the undercarriage extended the fighter flipped over on it’s back, killing the pilot, PO1c Koga Tadayoshi (J.B. Lundstrom and others).  Discovered weeks later it is recovered, nearly undamaged, and is put back into flying condition and tested by the US Navy, confirming the outstanding performance of this aircraft, and also it’s lack of armour protection.

#8 (BR) arrives at Yakutat, Alaska (F.J. Hatch).  Their Bolingbroke aircraft had first been modified in Washington State with .50 machine guns in the turrets and adaptors for US bombs (B. Coyle).  #111 (F) Sqn. RCAF redeploy from Patricia Bay BC to
Anchorage, Alaska under command of RCAF "X" Wing, US Alaska Command, for operations (RCAF Sqns.). #132 (F) Sqn. deploys from Rockcliffe, Ontario, to Sea Island, BC (RCAF Sqns.). Both these were actions to re-deploy forces following the transfer of RCAF units to Alaska (B. Coyle). #133 (F) Sqn. formed at Lethbridge, Alberta, on Hurricane XII aircraft for service in western Canada (RCAF Sqns.).

**Malta receives 32 Spitfires of 37 launched from HMS Eagle (Canwell & Sutherland).**

3 Malta, Spitfire Vc (Trop.) BR358 did not arrive at Malta after being launched from *HMS Eagle*, P/O D.F. Rouleau missing.

3 Malta, Spitfire Vc (Trop.) BR308 shot down after taking off from *HMS Eagle* to fly to Malta, F/S H.D.K. MacPherson missing.

3 1 Sqn. Hurricane IIC Z3897 crashed in England, stalling in a turn at low level on a practice flight, F/S G.C. English killed (P. Caygill).

3 408 Sqn. Hampden I AT220 EQ-G was burnt out after catching fire while being refuelled (H. Moyle).

3 #1 PRU Spitfire PR.IV R7037 lost over France, F/S J.C. McPherson killed.

3 #1520 (BAT) Flight Oxford I AT621 made a poor landing, ran into a trench and turned over, Sgt W.C. Herr and Sgt E.A. Hooker RAF safe (R. Allenby).

3-4 Bremen was the target of 170 bombers which reported "indifferent results", but in the port itself there was considerable damage to facilities and a destroyer. Nine INTRUDER sorties were flown as well as 4 bomber, 7 GARDENING and 5 NICKEL sorties over France, 11 bombers lost (BC War Diaries).

**Third attack on the Isle of Wight in the last month (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).**


3-4 61 Sqn. Lancaster I R5627 shot down over Germany by a night fighter, F/O R.E. Archibald RAF (Can.), Sgt I.F. Pratt RAF, F/S D. Lorimer DFM RAF, Sgt J.L. Wallis RAF, F/L G.L.C. Beattie RAF and F/S M.H. Denison RAF killed, Sgt P. Holmes RAF PoW. F/O Archibald was a Biggs' Boy (K. Stofer).

3-4 76 Sqn. Halifax II W1035 MP-U damaged it's undercarriage taking off but completed it's operation over Germany. On return to England the undercarriage collapsed on landing, writing off the aircraft, but the crew, Sgt G. Thom, F/S M.H. Roberts, Sgt J.H.G. Bingham RAF, Sgt M.C. Glover RAF, Sgt J.B.F. Fanning RAF, Sgt R.G. Warkcup RAF and Sgt R.N. Bircher RAF were safe. This was the second time F/S Roberts had survived a crash landing (see Nov. 30-1, 1941). See also June 24, below.

3-4 76 Sqn. Halifax II W1104 MP-F believed to have come down in the North Sea, P/O R.S. Mulhauser RCAF (USA), Sgt J. Battersby RAF, Sgt F.E. Ormerod RAF and Sgt J.H. Harte RAF killed, P/O J.A. Philp RAF and Sgt W. Watson RAF missing. See W. de Jong's page about the Dutch Island of Vlieland at www.626-squadron.co.uk for some information on the crew.

3-4 115 Sqn. Wellington III X3724 KO-T lost in the North Sea, F/S J.L. Hutchison and Sgt T.A. McGrath RAF killed, Sgt J.T. Plant RAF, Sgt T.E. Rowan RAF and Sgt E.R. Harding RAF missing.
3-4  214 Sqn. Stirling I R9317 BU-U returned early due to problems and crashed on approach to land when an engine failed, P/O E.M. Marks, P/O B.P. Cardinal, F/L R.W.A. Turtle RAF, Sgt Underwood RAF, P/O L. Trepass RAF, P/O J.B. Holdsworth RAF and Sgt Bushell RAF safe. See June 6-7 below.


Thursday

4 Battle of Midway, attacks by Midway based aircraft on Japanese carriers suffer heavy casualties but cause no damage. A Japanese attack on the island decimates its fighter defences. After this attack the Japanese aircraft returned to their ships to re-arm. An attack on the Japanese carriers by US carrier torpedo planes was almost completely destroyed by covering fighters, but this action brings the Japanese fighter defence flights to a low level, leaving the carriers vulnerable to US carrier dive bombers that attack at that point (by chance) and sink 3 of the 4 Japanese carriers. The remaining carrier, IJNS Hiryu, launches a strike on the US ships, which severely damages Yorktown, but Hiryu is in turn sunk by a second US dive bomber attack. Yorktown abandoned on fire. The losses this day cripples the IJN's naval aviation capability as 4 of its large carriers were sunk and many of its highly trained pre-war aircrew are killed or missing. At one stroke the Japanese lose the initiative in the Pacific Ocean. That night Admiral Yamamoto ordered his surface fleet to sail at top speed toward the US carrier positions, but US Admiral Spruance withdrew to avoid them, leaving the burning and abandoned Yorktown behind. Realizing his ships could not catch the US carriers, and without air cover, Admiral Yamamoto cancels the invasion of Midway.

417 Sqn. arrives in Egypt. Pending delivery of aircraft the Squadron is used in ferrying airplanes in the region (RCAF Sqns.).

#111 (F) Sqn. RCAF arrives at Yakutat, Alaska, via Prince George and Whitehorse. Some ground crew for the two units arrived by Stranraer flying boats, pending arrival of the rest by boat and train (F.J. Hatch).

4  VT-8, USS Hornet, TBD-1 Devastator torpedo bomber shot down by Japanese fighters, LCdr J.C. Waldron Sr. USN and crew killed. LCdr Waldron had been born in the USA and emigrated as a child with his family to Lashburn, Saskatchewan where they homesteaded. He returned to the USA in 1919 and graduated from the US Naval Academy. He led the Torpedo Squadron from USS Hornet which was completely wiped out attacking the Japanese carriers on this day. Only 1 crewman survived. His nephew, Lt. A.G. Waldron, died June 9, 1944 in Italy with the Canadian Army (B. Barry et al).

4  112 Sqn. Kittyhawk I AL219 shot down by flak in the desert on a ground attack sortie over Bir Hakeim, P/O E. Atkinson missing (http://raf-112-squadron.org/planelosses.html, Shores, Massimello, Guest, Olynyk and Bock).

4  274 Sqn. Hurricane, P/O G.C. Keefer landed in the desert south of Tobruk to rescue 4 Sqn. SAAF Lt J.de la H. Lane SAAF whose Tomahawk had been shot down while attacking a Ju
87 dive bomber over Bir Hakeim (Shores, Massimello, Guest, Olynyk and Bock).

234 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AD245 shot down over the English Channel on RAMROD 21, F/S W.H. Jackson missing.


415 Sqn. Hampden TB.I AT240 GX-D was shot down into the North Sea on a torpedo sortie, F/S W. Peebles was killed in the ditching, F/S J.W. Stirling, F/S E. Thomas and P/O F.H. Mahan managed to get into a dinghy. Please see June 14, below.

501 Sqn. Spitfire Vb W3842 shot down over the English Channel on RAMROD 21, F/S B. Strachan missing.

#14 SFTS, Aylmer, Ontario, Harvard II #2683 crashed from a spin near Tillsonburg, Ontario, while engaged in instrument flying, LAC(P) N. Kendall and LAC(P) W.J. Todd killed.

#14 SFTS, Aylmer, Ontario, Harvard IIb #3235 ditched in Lake Erie east of Port Burwell in poor weather, pilot swam ashore and safe. The aircraft was retrieved and repaired (M.L. McIntyre).

#32 EFTS, Bowden, Alberta, DH.82C Tiger Moth #5845 crashed 18 miles from Bowden, taking off it's undercarriage before landing on it's nose (R.W.R. Walker).

### 4-5 Bomber Command operates only minor operations on this night, 25 aircraft with no losses.

**First successful attack by a radar and Leigh Light equipped Wellington GR.VIII ES986 "F" of 172 Squadron damages the Italian submarine Luigi Torelli (M. Gannon, R. Nesbit).**

**Middlebrook and Everitt in the book The Bomber Command War Diaries point out this night is the mid-point in the war between England and Germany. They also point out that Bomber Command had made only 18% of it's total sorties in the war by this date, and had dropped only 6% of the total bombs it would deliver in the war. Losses to date were 23% of what the total would be (BC War Diaries).**

Friday

**5 Battle of Midway, Midway shelled by Japanese cruisers at night, two of which collide when departing. In morning aircraft from Midway swarm the damaged cruisers. US carriers return towards Midway, but do not regain contact with the Japanese fleet. Burning and damaged the Yorktown is re-boarded and salvage begun.**

**Japanese forces land on Attu Island in the Alaskan Aleutian Island chain (Oxford).**

**RCAF "X Wing" of #8 (BR) and #111 (F) squadrons transferred to Elmendorf Field at Anchorage, Alaska. These units represented 20% of all aircraft available for the defence of Alaska, and the transfer to Anchorage allowed US bomber and fighter units to be moved to locations farther west along the Aleutians (F.J. Hatch). Of note in this move 10 Bolingbrokes took off for Elmendorf with 2 USAAF aircraft as guides, only 3 arrived, the others diverting as the pilots encountered Alaskan...**
weather for the first time (F.J. Hatch). See July 16, below.

BCATP agreement extended to March 31, 1945 and the program enlarged for more schools. This expands it to 67 schools (including 21 double schools) and adds special schools and OTUs in Canada. In addition administration of the 27 existing RAF schools and OTUs in Canada was passed to the RCAF (RCAF Sqns). Direct recruitment of airmen in Newfoundland also passed to RCAF (Halliday). The Agreement includes plans to establish an RCAF Bomber Command Group when enough RCAF Bomber squadrons are formed. There were 5 at this time, plans are made to form 6 more (RCAF Sqns.). See January 1, 1943.

401 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BL849 YO-S shot down over France escorting CIRCUS 188, P/O S.F. Smither killed. His brother, F/O R. Smither, had been lost from the same unit, then numbered #1 (F) Sqn. RCAF, Sept. 15, 1940 during the Battle of Britain.

#1443 (Ferry Training) Flight, Wellington VIII HF907 lost in the Irish Sea on a fuel consumption test and navigation exercise, Sgt N.V. Lloyd RAF, Sgt J.W. Ashby RAF (S. Rhod.) and Sgt J.W.B. Cockburn RAF killed, radio mechanic LAC R.D.J. MacDonald, Sgt L.J. Grove RAF, Sgt E.A. Bailey RAAF and Sgt W. Hurley RAF missing.

#1652 CU Halifax II L9610 "O" lost it's undercarriage when a tire burst on take-off and it swerved off the runway, Sgt T.H. Lane injured. P/O Reynolds RAF and Sgt Gowing RAF safe. See June 21-22, 1943.

#132 (F) Sqn., Rockcliffe, Ontario, Kittyhawk #731 (ET866) crashed, no details (H.A. Halliday).

#2 SFTS, Uplands, Ontario, LAC(P) L.D. Wetmore died of the injuries from his force landing June 1, above.

#4 SFTS, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Crane I #8016 was engaged in unauthorized low flying along the South Saskatchewan River when it struck a ferry cable 7 miles east of Hague, Saskatchewan, and crashed into the river, LAC(P) A.S. Light missing.

5-6 Bomber Command sends 180 bombers to Essen, and again bombing is scattered with only slight damage being done to the target. Other operations include 15 GARDENING and 3 NICKEL sorties to France. Twelve bombers lost (BC War Diaries).


10 Sqn. Halifax II W7659 ZA-F dropped it's bombs and then was coned in searchlights. While maneuvering to escape the beams all 4 engines cut and the bomber lost 4,000 feet before recovering. Later they were attacked by a Bf 110 which the rear gunner shot down in flames, but hits from the fighter wounded the pilot in one eye with a perspex splinter. Over the Dutch coast they were damaged by flak, losing an engine. Damaged, they returned to England and landed, P/O H.V. Peterson DFC wounded, F/S J.G. Leclaire, Sgt A.R. Lapere, F/S G.J. Hayes, Sgt Savor (possibly Sgt J.T. Savor?), P/O Turner and Sgt R.R. Manning safe. For this sortie P/O Peterson received a Bar to his DFC (R. Allenby, Awards). See October 23-24 below.

10 Sqn. Halifax II W1038 ZA-O was slightly damaged by flak over Germany, Sgt F.J. Falkoski, F/L J.V. Watts, F/L T.W.G. Godfrey RAF, F/S A.J. Jones DFM RAF, Sgt J.F. Patterson and

5-6 103 Sqn. Wellington Ic DV699 lost over Germany near the Dutch border after colliding with another aircraft in mid-air, F/S W.L. Traquair RAF (Can.), Sgt E.D. Walters RAF, Sgt R.E.P. Grieve RAF and Sgt J.H. Coxon RAF killed, F/L W.M. Morison RAF PoW. F/L Morison ended up in Colditz prison for his attempts to escape, where he was one of the prisoners who designed and built a glider in the attics.

5-6 103 Sqn. Wellington Ic DV818 PM-F attacked by a night fighter and damaged, P/O G.H. Gosman and crew managed to return to land in England (R. Krumin).

5-6 149 Sqn. Stirling I R9321 OJ-R shot down over Germany by a night fighter, F/S F.D. Lindsay, S/L R.B. Harris RAF, Sgt J. Easting RAF, Sgt J. Parris RAF, Sgt S.D. England RAF, Sgt J.S. Flockhart RAF and Sgt N.H. Kortright RAF killed.


5-6 156 Sqn. Wellington Ic DV812 shot down into the IJsselmeer by a night fighter, Sgt C.A. Marr RAF (Can.), Sgt W. Pereira Jr. and Sgt W. Thompson RAF killed, Sgt T. Whelan RAF and Sgt J.C. Mason RAF missing.

5-6 156 Sqn. Wellington III X3339 lost over Germany, P/O E.A. Smith, Sgt K. Buchanan RAF, Sgt G.H. Chamberlain RAF, P/O D. Ellis RAF, F/O A. Kinniburgh RAF and Sgt R. McCrae RAF killed.


Saturday

6 Battle of Midway ends with the sinking of one damaged Japanese cruiser and another heavily damaged, Japanese invasion fleet retires. The USS Yorktown and a destroyer are sunk during salvage operations, torpedoed by a Japanese submarine.

After one attempt was forced back by weather the 210 Sqn. Catalina VA729 "P for Polar" returns to Spitsbergen with supplies and arms for the stranded FRITHAM party. After dropping the supplies the Catalina managed to land, where they fended off ice floes while embarking 6 wounded soldiers (R.C. Nesbit).

#118 (F) Sqn. RCAF redeployed from Dartmouth, NS, to RCAF "Y" Wing, US Alaskan Command, at RCAF Station Annette Island, Alaska, arriving June 21. This was the first RCAF fighter unit to fly from coast to coast, a 4,000 mile journey (RCAF Sqns.). Support enroute was provided by 2 Harvard and a Hudson aircraft, and lacking drop tanks the stages between airfields were short (A.J. Simpson et al). This deployment was to cover the gap in Air Defence due to the sudden re-deployment of RCAF Squadrons to Alaska, and was believed to be the longest deployment by air of a fighter squadron undertaken at the time (B. Coyle).

6 70 Sqn. Wellington Ic Z9096 "M" was on an operation to Libya and force landed in the desert due to flak damage, P/O D.H. MacAllen, Sgt A.V.W. Rymer RAAF, Sgt F.B. Leach RAF, Sgt J.C. Taylor RAF, Sgt E.R. Bristowe RAF and Sgt R. Marlow RAF all taken PoW.
unknown unit, P/O A.J. Pedden RAF (Can.), P/O C.C. Rowe RAF, Sgt D.N.L. Harwood RAF and Sgt A.E. Johnson RAF missing in the loss of an aircraft enroute to India, no further details (D. Burke www.rafcommands.com).

118 Sqn. Spitfire Vb EN975 shot down over English Channel on a RAMROD, F/S L.H. Jones missing.

400 Sqn. Tomahawk AH818 was on a low level flying exercise when it hit a tree and crashed on a hillside in England, killing P/O W.T. Moyer.


#3 Personnel Reception Centre, Bournemouth, daylight bomb attack by a German fighter/bomber hit the Anglo-Swiss Hotel used as the officers' mess for #3 PRC, wireless operator air gunners P/O R.N. Bailey, P/O J.A. Epp, and P/O J.W. Morgan, as well as civilian Joan Elsie Duggan, 22, were killed and Andrubena Gertrude Isabel Hill, 59, died of injuries. It was thought that the attack was timed to hit the building at tea time to cause heavy casualties, but if so this was thwarted by the fact that Canadians usually did not take tea, it being an English tradition (A. Haylock).


#21 OTU pilot F/S J.H. Forsyth, who bailed out and evaded when his Wellington was shot down June 1-2, was killed by an express train in France attempting to reach the border of unoccupied France.

406th Bomb Sqn., 41st Bomb Group, USAAF, A-29 (Hudson) 41-23468 crashed landing at Edmonton, Alberta (AAIR).

6-7 Japanese land on Alaskan Aleutian Island of Kiska, part of the Midway diversion plan.

Third attack on Canterbury made by German bombers, the last of the Second Baedeker Raids. Due to heavy losses and requirements in other theatres large scale German bombing raids end, but hit and run attacks by single engine fighter bombers on coastal cities continue for many months (wikipedia).

The city of Emden was the target of Bomber Command for the first time since November, with 233 bombers reporting good bombing. There were 6 INTRUDER flights as well. Nine bombers were lost (BC War Diaries).

6-7 3 Sqn. Hurricane IIC BD868 lost on a night INTRUDER sortie over the Holland, F/S C.H. Smith missing.


6-7 156 Sqn. Wellington Ic HF918 lost over Germany, F/S T.M. Terris, Sgt C.S. Harding RAF, Sgt
L.J. Hunter RAF, Sgt J.W. Wooff RAF and Sgt K.N. Drake RAF killed.

6-7 214 Sqn. Stirling N3761 BU-E shot down into the sea off Terschelling by a night fighter, P/O B.P. Cardinal, F/S W. Barham RAF, F/L R.W.A. Turtle DFC, Sgt A.R. Scott RAF and P/O L. Trepass RAF killed, P/O E.M. Marks, F/L N. Harrison RAF, P/O J.B. Holdsworth RAF missing. Most of this crew had survived a crash landing June 3-4, above.

6-7 405 Sqn. Halifax II W1145 LQ-S abandoned over England returning from an operation over Germany when both outer engines failed, F/S W.B. Blizard, Sgt M.D. Rea, Sgt Elt RAF, Sgt Money RAF, Sgt Mitchell RAF, Sgt Nutt RAF, Sgt Butler RAF and Sgt G.A.A. Witherick RAF safe.

Sunday
7 #8 (BR) Sqn. complete move to Anchorage to become part of "X" Wing this date. #125 (F) Sqn. deployed from Sydney, NS to Torbay, Nfld. (RCAF Sqns.). #128 (F) Sqn. RCAF formed on Hurricane I aircraft at Sydney, NS (RCAF Sqns.).

7 73 Sqn. Hurricane shot down over the Desert, F/L C.T. Cantrill killed, he has no known grave.

7 #13 EFTS, St. Eugene, Ontario, Finch II #4539 and #4667 crashed at Rigaud Mountain, Quebec, on a cross country flight to St. Jean, Quebec, LAC(P) G.H. Gibson killed in #4539 and LAC(P) M.A. Slauenwhite killed in #4667.

7 #31 OTU, Debert, NS, Hudson V AM721 was on a photography exercise in bad weather when it flew into a hill at Folly Lake, NS, killing P/O J.T. Creighton, Sgt N.D. King RAAF and Sgt D.H. Lennon RAF (31 OTU/7 OTU Roll of Honour).

7 #41 SFTS, Weyburn, Saskatchewan, AC2 D.J. Sharpe RAF died in a hunting accident while on leave, (B. Barry et al, D. Burke at www.rafcommands.com).

7-8 Forty three GARDENING and 3 NICKEL sorties carried out without loss (BC War Diaries).

Monday
8 #111 (F) Sqn. RCAF completes move to Anchorage this date.

As part of the Midway deception campaign Sydney and Newcastle, Australia, are shelled by Japanese submarines (wikipedia).

8 6 Sqn. Hurricane IId BN861 anti-tank aircraft (armed with 40mm guns and protected by armour plating), on the Squadrions second operation on the type, was hit by ground fire over Bir Hakeim, badly injuring the pilot F/O A.J. 'Hank' Simpson RAF (Can). He managed to return close enough to be picked up by army ambulance after bailing out at low level and was evacuated to Egypt via Tobruk, where he received a DFC (Airforce magazine, Dec., 1978; A. Thomas, Tank-Busters, Flypast, January 2018). F/O Simpson had flown Lysanders in France, and later flew as an exchange officer in Korea (Allison & Hayward).


8 #9 AFU Master W8778 crashed in England killing F/L K.H. Moon and F/L F.G. Pafford.

TSGNO notes that F/L Moon had previous experience as a bush pilot.

8 #10 OTU Whitley V BD378 undershot a landing, stalled and crashed, F/S G.O. Doten, Sgt G. Ryan RAF, P/O J. Hayward RAF and Sgt F.K. Heaton RAF killed, 1 crewman injured. There are references to F/S Doten's training etc. in D.S. Fraser's One Man's Journal-The
no details, [LAC R.L. Aney](#) died on active service (in North America).

#2 SFTS Harvard II #3005 crashed at Indian Island, Papineau Lake, Quebec, on a cross-country exercise, [LAC(P) D.H. Armitage](#) and [LAC(P) A.J. Sinclair](#) killed.

#13 SFTS, St. Hubert, Quebec, Harvard II #3285 (flown by #130 (F) Sqn. crew) crashed near St. Octave, Quebec, on an instrument-flying flight when it flew into the ground, [Sgt E.B. Dionne](#) killed, [Sgt W.D. Peacock](#) injured (I.M. Macdonald www.rafcommnads.com). See May 4, 1944.

#14 SFTS, Aylmer, Ontario, Harvard II #3216 belly landed near Strathburn, Ontario, (M.L. McIntyre).

#38 SFTS, Estevan, Saskatchewan, Anson II #8538 damaged in an accident, no details (CMA).

unknown unit, Kittyhawk I #1030 crashed and written off on a ferry flight to Western Air Command (R.W.R. Walker).

unknown unit, Kittyhawk I #1094 written off after a crash at Sudbury, Ontario (R.W.R. Walker). This and the loss of #1030 may be related.

### 8-9 Essen again attacked, by 170 bombers, and again the target was not accurately identified and damage was slight. Other sorties include 19 bombers to Dieppe, 6 INTRUDER and 1 NICKEL sorties, 19 bombers lost (BC War Diaries).

8-9 35 Sqn. Halifax II W7701 TL-U lost over Belgium, [F/S W.E. Pilborough](#), [F/L R.B. Chadwick](#) RAF, [Sgt W.J. Hopkins](#) RAF, [Sgt J.R. Storey](#) RAF and [Sgt J. McKinsiry](#) RAF killed, [Sgt J.A. Catley](#) RAF PoW and [Sgt J.T. Pack](#) RAF evaded. TSGNO notes that F/S Pilborough had been injured July 1, 1941 in a Battle accident at #7 B&G School, Paulson, Manitoba.


8-9 97 Sqn. Lancaster R5495 OF-N lost over Germany, [F/S H. Lawton](#) RCAF (USA), [P/O M.F. Hughes](#) RAF, [F/S D.J. Platten](#) RAF, [F/S A. Crerar](#) RAF, [Sgt R. Harris](#) RAF, [Sgt D.L. Overton](#) DFM RAF and [Sgt G.H. Mercer](#) RAF killed.

8-9 103 Sqn. Wellington Ic DV773 PM-J shot down over Holland by a night fighter, [Sgt J.A.M. Turner](#), [P/O J.E. Firman](#) RAF, [Sgt J. MacQueen](#) RAF, [Sgt F.W.E. Ball](#) RAF and [Sgt H. Halliwell](#) RAF killed.


8-9 405 Sqn. Halifax II W7708 LQ-H struck by flak over Germany that damaged the controls so the aircraft could only circle. After jettisoning the bombs the crew managed to regain control, but this took an hour, and when trying to return to England it was intercepted and shot down by a night fighter (405 SH), [P/O J.C. Wernham](#) MiD, [Sgt W.C. Kerr](#), [F/S G.B. Porter](#), [WO2 W.L. Platt](#), [Sgt J. Fleming](#) RAF, [Sgt R.D. Holland](#) RAF and [Sgt E.L. Jackman](#) RAF missing.
F/S H. Olson, Sgt W.J. Forbes RAF and Sgt Shields RAF taken PoW, F/L J.A. MacLean evaded. P/O Wernham was one of those involved in the Great Escape and was one of the 50 murdered by the Gestapo on orders of Adolf Hitler (see March 30, 1944). F/L MacLean credited his experiences with civilians risking their lives for him when an evader to his later involvement in public life. He was screened from further operations due to the information on evasion networks he knew, and returned to Canada where he commanded the RCAF Test & Development Establishment from 1943-1945. Post war he remained in the RCAF and returned to Europe where, as a Wing Commander, he commanded #2 Missing Research and Enquiry Unit (MREU) until 1947 (see under May, 1945) seeking those airmen still missing after the war. After leaving the Air Force he ran for Parliament and was the Federal Minister for Fisheries from 1957 to 1963 in the Diefenbaker government, and then served in provincial politics where he was the Premier of Prince Edward Island from 1979 to 1981.


8-9 420 Sqn. Hampden I AT136 PT-N lost without trace on an operation to Germany, F/S H.R. Copeland, F/S I.M. Reid, Sgt A.J. Grabham RAAF and Sgt C.J. Bunn RAF missing.

8-9 460 Sqn. RAAF Wellington IV Z1463 UV-L received slight flak damage after it was coned by searchlights but returned to land at an alternate airfield in England, Sgt J.C. Shuttleworth, Sgt M.D. Frecker RAAF, Sgt J.A. Bryden RAAF, Sgt A.E. Brown RAAF, Sgt K.J. Danks-Brown RAAF and Sgt T.C. Harris RAAF safe (R. Allenby). See November 22-23, below.

9 All remaining islands in the Philippines are brought under Japanese control.

Tuesday

On Spitsbergen Island the final members of the German meteorological party evacuate, leaving behind an automated weather station. Within days it was discovered and deactivated by the advancing British/Norwegian soldiers (R.C. Nesbit).

Operation SALIENT, 32 Spitfires fly off HMS Eagle to Malta, all arrive with 2 damaged after a 4 hour flight. Sgt. G. Beurling RAF (Can.) was part of this flight and arrived in Malta flying Spitfire Vc (Trop.) BR380 (Nolan).


9 #2 Training Command, Winnipeg, Man., administration F/L H.A. McCaghey "died on service" in Canada, no details.

9-10 77 Sqn. Whitley lost over the Atlantic on an anti-submarine patrol, S/L D.D. Pryde DFC RAF (Can.) missing, 6 crew missing/killed. F/S W. Carmichael RAF and Sgt J.W. Cook RAF are also listed as missing from 77 Sqn. on this date (CWGC).

9-10 #9 Air Gunner School RAF, Scotland, Anson I N4983 crashed in the sea off Scotland, P/O T.F. Watt and P/O Snow RAF killed.
Wednesday

10 German troops raze the Czech villages of Lidice and Lezaky in retaliation for assassination of Heydrich (CJCA headline). Lidice was selected as it was believed to have sheltered members of the assassination team. All the men in the village are killed (including those not present at the time, who were traced, arrested and murdered), the women and some of the children were sent to concentration camps and almost 100 young children taken to be raised by German families. All the buildings are burned to the ground and obliterated, the cemetery is dug up, roads re-routed around the site, which is replanted with wheat, and it’s name is removed from German maps, to make it seem as if it never existed (Polsson). An extreme example of Hitler’s “Night and Fog” decree. A park in Joliet, Illinois, was re-named “Lidice” to honour the murdered citizens (ww2total.com Chronology/1942). See June 18, below.

Politician Preston Manning born in Edmonton, Alberta (wikipedia).

10 107 Sqn. Boston III shot down over the sea by fighters on a daylight operation over France, P/O L.D. Bowman, F/S A.A. Margrett RCAF (USA), P/O T.B. Skinner RAF and Sgt A. Prince DFM RAF missing.

10 unknown unit, Flight Instructor Sgt. H.E. Boyce RAF (Can.) killed in Rhodesia.

10 #1 AOS, Malton, Ontario, LAC(N) A.J. Garrity died in hospital of natural causes.

10 #17 EFTS, Stanley, NS, Finch II #4640 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

10 #31 OTU, Debert, NS, AC1 G. Adams RAF accidentally drowned, Folly Lake, NS, possibly while engaged in investigation or recovery of the wreckage of Hudson AM721 (see June 7, above).

10 #32 EFTS, Bowden, Alberta, DH.82C Tiger Moth #5839 was attempting a landing in a sudden dust storm, ground-looped and finished upside down. Later repaired (R.W.R. Walker).

10 #32 OTU, Patricia Bay, BC, Canadian built Hampden TB.I AN143 swung on take off, P/O J.M. Ireland safe. The aircraft was turned into a ground instruction airframe (H. Moyle).

10-11 Out of ammunition, Free French troops besieged in Bir Hakeim at the Southern tip of the Cauldron are ordered to break out after a determined defence (Oxford). They had been under bomber attack, artillery fire and armoured assault since May 27. Supplied by air, they had refused offers to surrender 3 times (ww2total.com Chronology/1942). This was the first time French and German units had fought each other since the Fall of France in 1940. Hitler orders Rommel to execute all the Foreign Legionnaires taken PoW, but he refuses (A. Beevor).

Around this time Italian Army create cleared access lines through the Gazala Line minefields into the Cauldron, resupplying and refuelling the German units. See June 12, below.

10-11 108 Sqn. Wellington Ic BB482 "K" was hit by flak on an operation to Crete. It later signalled that it had an engine failure and is believed to have come in the sea, F/S R.H. McRae, F/S J.W. Brown, Sgt H.G. Baden RAF, Sgt J.R. Irwin RAF, Sgt J. Oliphant RAF and Lt R.B. Strang RA (on this sortie to make observations of enemy anti-aircraft fire) missing.
Thursday

11 German and Italian forces capture Bir Hakeim (CJCA headline). Most of the surviving Free French soldiers managed to break out to British lines (wikipedia).

Canada and the Soviet Union agree to re-open diplomatic relations (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).

#11 (BR) Sqn. RCAF detachment at Mont Joli, Quebec returns to Dartmouth, NS (RCAF Sqns.).
11 402 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BM350 was damaged by a Fw 190 over the Channel but returned to England, Sgt J.R. Harmer safe.
11  #10 (BR) Sqn. RCAF, Gander, Newfoundland, Digby flown by P/O E.J. Padden RCAF (USA) and P/O S.St. G. Stubbs sets another new patrol record of 15 hours airborne (Hagedorn & Hagedorn). See July 10, below.
11  #6 SFTS, Dunnville, Ontario, Yale #3463 written off after an accident at Elmira, Ontario (R.W.R. Walker).
11  #9 SFTS, Summerside, PEI, Harvard II #2893 went out of control and the crew bailed out, but Cpl(P) R.G. McCutcheon's parachute fouled the tail and he went down with the aircraft.
11  #12 SFTS Crane I #7887 crashed at the relief field at Chater, Manitoba, after colliding in the circuit with Crane I #7745, P/O A.B. Polley and LAC G.O. Wilson RAAF killed (H. Welting www.rafcommands.com).

11-12 Bomber Command sent 91 bombers on GARDENING sorties in the North Sea, 4 lost (BC War Diaries).
11-12 9 Sqn. Wellington III X3695 WS-V lost without trace on a GARDENING sortie after being heard requesting a bearing, F/S A. Swiderski, P/O V.W. Saul RAF, Sgt F.C. Evans RAF, Sgt H. Holmes RAF and Sgt J. Rutherford RAF missing. F/S Swiderski, P/O Saul and Sgt Evans had survived the crash landing of a Wellington March 12-13, above.
11-12 #25 OTU Wellington Ic R1375 "N" undershot it's landing returning from a navigation exercise and the was destroyed by fire, Sgt W.B. Barrett and his crew safe (R. Allenby).

Friday

12 Western Desert, Afrika Corps breaks out of the Cauldron looping into 8th Army rear areas, Battle of Knightsbridge, 8th Army loses more than half it's tanks to attacking
German forces.

Thirteen HALPRO (from Halverson Provisional bomb group) B-24 aircraft make the first USAAF bombing attack in Europe, on the oilfield and refineries at Ploesti, Romania, from Egypt. They cause minimal damage but the attack and previous Soviet operations point out how vulnerable the oil refineries are. As Germany’s sole major source of natural oil this resulted in Hitler ordering heavy anti-aircraft defences to be sent there and protection built around vulnerable sections of the refineries. See Aug. 1, 1943.

RN attempts to resupply Malta with 2 convoys sent from Gibraltar (Operation HARPOON) and Egypt (Operation VIGOROUS) (D. Sommerville).

Operation SQUABBLE, a propaganda flight to encourage Parisians. A single Beaufighter Ic T4800 ND-C of 236 Sqn. RAF, flown by F/L A.K. Gatward RAF and Sgt G. Fern RAF, flew under cloud cover at low level to Paris with the intention of attacking a daily parade of German soldiers. They arrived before the parade but draped a French flag over the Arc de Triomphe, and attacked the German Naval Headquarters building and draped another flag on it, making a safe return despite a bird-strike over the city. For this they received a DFC and DFM respectively. F/L Gatward later commanded 404 Sqn. RCAF (wikipedia). See February 6, 1943.

On her 13th birthday Anne Frank makes the first entry in her new diary (wikipedia).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>33 Sqn. Hurricane IIC Z5143 NW-C shot down over the desert near El Adem, F/S W. Cameron missing (Shores, Massimello, Guest, Olynyk and Bock).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>58 Sqn. Whitley V BD210 GE-J lost on a patrol over the Bay of Biscay, F/S A.S. Lorimer, Sgt S. Brimer RAF, Sgt H.K. Bromage RAF, P/O L.C. Froud RAF, Sgt D.A. Harsum RAF and P/O K.B. Willson RAF killed. All are buried in Spain.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>144 Sqn. Hampden I AD973 crashed in England on a training flight after an engine failure, Sgt W.H. Hood and crew safe (H. Moyle).</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>404 Sqn. Blenheim IV Z6173 struck a balloon cable and crashed, pilot Sgt G.S. Brockington and Sgt J.D. Moller RAF killed, Sgt A.C. Sallis RAF safe (404 SH). See July 13, below.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>#56 OTU Hurricane V7468 stalled on a turn attempting a forced landing and crashed, killing Sgt W.N. Hergott.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>ATA Ferry Flight Canadian built Hurricane X AG680 flew into the ground in bad weather in England, 1st Officer A.R. Leslie-Melville ATA killed. Some of the wreckage is still at the crash site (R. Allenby).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>#20 EFTS, Oshawa, Ontario, pilot F/S R.E. Farnham died in hospital in Toronto due to injuries from an automobile accident.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>RCAF Station Sea Island, BC, F/O R. Pyper died of injuries in hospital after falling off a bicycle on duty.</td>
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| 12-13| 104 Sqn. Wellington II Z8592 "Z" was on a bombing operation over Benghazi designed to
mask a naval mine laying operation when it was hit by flak and crashed into the sea, F/S R.E. Fuller, P/O F.H. Shackleton RAF, Sgt A.W. Corby RNZAF, F/S W.R. Cook RAF, Sgt D.G. Symons RAF and Sgt R. Slimings RAF missing.

Saturday

13 German U-boat lands three agents, US born Germans, on a beach on Long Island, New York, on a sabotage mission. They are soon apprehended.

The VIGOROUS convoy to Malta from Egypt comes under air attack from Italy, while the Italian fleet sails to intercept it (D. Sommerville).

13 235 Sqn. Beaufighter Ic T5006 LA-P was doing manoeuvres over Hal Far Airfield, Malta when it stalled and crashed into a car, P/O J.P. Doncaster and his observer Sgt W.W. Webster RAF were killed in the aircraft, and WO F.K.G. Relton RAF of 601 Sqn. was killed in the car.

13 407 Sqn. Hudson V AM711 was engaged in a practise bombing exercise when it struck the mast of the sunken ship being used as a target and crashed, killing F/O W.S. Patterson, Sgt G.J. Pearson, Sgt A.R. Thomas, Sgt A.N. Urquhart and AC1 E.R. 'Ted' Watson. F/L C.W. Grant RAF, 233 Sqn., is also listed as lost in this accident (407 SH). See S. Hadaway for details on how the remains of Sgt Urquhart were identified.

13 #1449 Flight, Canadian built Hurricane X AG239 was escorting a cable laying ship off England when it suffered a glycol leak, F/S Reid bailed out and was picked up by a naval ship (www.rafdavidstowmoor.org).

13 #6 B&G School, Mountain View, Ontario, Nomad #3494 spun and crashed into the Bay of Quinte on an exercise, killing P/O J.A. McGregor, LAC(AG) J.R.D. Young and LAC(AG) D.W.P.G. Showell RAF.

13 #8 SFTS Moncton, NB, Harvard II BW187 crashed near Newcastle, NB on a cross country training exercise, killing LAC(P) C.F. Nash.

Sunday

14 210 Sqn. Catalina VA729 "P for Polar" took off for Spitsbergen where it picked up members of the FRITHAM party and scouted the limits of the ice field, information needed for routing of the latest PQ supply convoy (R.C. Nesbit).

In the Mediterranean the HARPOON convoy comes under air attack from Sardinia (D. Sommerville; R.C. Nesbit). Rommel drives toward the coast, forcing South African and British units to retreat to Egypt. Fighter cover by the Desert Air Force plays a large part in covering the 8th Armies retreat (A. Beevor).

14 801 Sqn., HMS Eagle, Canadian built Hurricane I AE968, Lt(A) H.E. Duthrie RNZNVR was credited with 2 SM.79 damaged and shared in the destruction of one more (Errol Martyn at www.rafcommands.com, www.cieldegloire.com).

14 272 Sqn. Beaufighter Ic T4867 "S" one of several aircraft lost from this squadron, missing on operations south of Crete in support of Operation VIGOROUS, F/S E.F.R. Truby and 1 RAF missing (D. Newton).

14 415 Sqn. survivors of Hampden AT240 F/S J.W. Stirling and F/S E. Thomas died at sea and have no known graves. See June 18 below.
14-15 Italian torpedo boats attack the VIGOROUS convoy, sinking a destroyer and damaging a cruiser (D. Sommerville).
14-15 #19 OTU Whitley V P5005 flew into a hilltop in Scotland on a training flight, F/S E.J. Nelms and Sgt E.L. Williams RAF killed, Sgt R.T. Aspinall RAF, Sgt J.J. Taylor RAF and Sgt A.H. Lawrence RAF injured. (This is the aircraft DY-N "N for Nuts" that was flown Nov. 12-13, 1940 by P/O (later G/C) Leonard Cheshire on the flight for which his DSO was awarded, and his wireless operator Sgt H. Davidson won the DFM, when it was heavily damaged by an exploding photo flare when hit by flak (R. Allenby).)

Monday
15 Facing the Italian fleet, and heavily damaged by air attacks, the remains of the VIGOROUS convoy turn back to Egypt having lost 3 destroyers and a cruiser, and run out of anti-aircraft ammunition. An Italian cruiser is attacked and sunk by a Malta based Beaufort torpedo bomber and an RN submarine, while an Italian battleship was hit by bombs from USAAF HALPRO B-24 and RAF Liberator aircraft from Egypt, then further damaged by torpedo Fishingtons operating from Malta (R.C. Nesbit). The HARPOON convoy is also attacked by an Italian cruiser force and heavy air attacks which damage or sink most of the merchant ships. Two manage to reach Malta, but not the tanker Kentucky (a new high speed tanker built in the USA and transferred to the British Merchant Marine for this operation) whose fuel is critical for continued naval and air operations from the Island (D. Sommerville). Aviation fuel supplies on the island would run out in 7 weeks it was estimated (wikipedia).

First briefing to Prime Minister MacKenzie King by British physicists and British High Commissioner to Canada regarding the possibilities of an atomic bomb, which leaves him aghast. British propose safeguarding Canada’s production of uranium by having the US, British and Canadian governments take over Eldorado Mining, a private company. In this they hope to increase their standing with the US program by having control of the uranium supply. This is rejected by Minister of Munitions and Supply C.D. Howe (www.schudak.de). See June 23, below.

Leningrad, around this time the Russian forces which advanced a pocket 60 km deep in Stalin’s January offensive south of the blockade on Lake Ladoga, and who have been on the offensive since the summer thaws but were forbidden to retreat, are pinched out by German forces (Oxford).

#135 (F) Sqn. RCAF formed at Mossbank, Sask, on Hurricane XII aircraft (RCAF Sqns.).
15 69 Sqn. Baltimore AG699 left Malta on a shipping patrol and was lost, possibly off Africa, F/S A. Greaves RAAF killed, Sgt W.E. Fincham, Sgt F.W.A. Baum RAF and Sgt R. Purslow RAF were taken PoW (A. Storr). Sgt Purslow died in December as a PoW (nomblat ww2talk.com).
15 91 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AR370 lost on a shipping reconnaissance, F/S E.E. Sykes RCAF (USA)
missing.
15  #7 SFTS, Fort MacLeod, Alberta, Anson I AX166 collided with Anson I #6528 on a formation flight, both crashing at Granum, Alberta, killing LAC(P) A.J. McLaren in AX166 and LAC(P) O.E. Olson in #6528.
15  #32 EFTS, Bowden, Alberta, DH.82C Tiger Moth #5087 was in the low practice area west of the airfield when it struck a tree and crashed (R.W.R. Walker).

Tuesday
16  Vega (Lockheed) Ventura enters service with the RCAF as a maritime patrol bomber (Griffin CMA). The Ventura had originally been ordered by the RAF to replace the Blenheim as a daylight and light bomber, but the contract was cancelled in early 1941 in favour of the De Havilland Mosquito. Production might have ended then but the RCAF had ordered the aircraft as a maritime patrol bomber to supplant the Hudson with an aircraft with greater speed, and as the sole remaining customer it was redesigned to the Canadian specification. When the USA entered the war the RCAF design was upgraded to USN specifications for the same purpose, using US equipment, as the GR.V, and it was this version that went into mass production. More Ventura's would serve in the US Navy than any other land based patrol aircraft. It also served the USMC as a night fighter, the first successful US built night fighter.
16  112 Sqn., Kittyhawk I AL127 was damaged by flak over the desert. F/O J.M.S. Crichton safe for the third time in 5 days (http://raf-112-squadron.org/planelosses.html). See June 21, below.
16  121 (USA) Sqn. Spitfire Vb W3841 lost on a RHUBARB over Belgium attacking a train, F/L J.J. Mooney DFC RCAF (USA) killed (V. Haugland).
16  404 Sqn. Blenheim IV Z6175 flew into the ground during target practice killing Sgt D.W. Campbell, Sgt J.I. Mair and AC1 W.F. Dunbar RAF, Sgt Cooper injured (404 SH).
16  #13 SFTS, St. Hubert, Quebec, Harvard II aircraft #2931, #3090, #3092 and #3109 were on a cross country navigation flight to Rockcliffe, Ontario, and all crashed or made forced landings when they ran out of fuel [lost?]. Harvard #3090 crashed at Ragged Lake Mountain near Malone, NY, USA, WO2 V.D. Legacy and LAC(P) J.C.H. Theoret killed (R.W.R. Walker). P/O R.A. Thomson was killed in Harvard #3092 which also crashed in New York State. A photo of a wing from this aircraft was featured in an article in Smithsonian Air & Space Magazine, June 2019 (https://www.airspacemag.com/airspacemag/keepers-of-the-lost-wreck-180972233/).
16  #17 EFTS, Stanley, NS, Finch aircraft force landed after an engine failure, LAC(P) R. Brady safe (Great Little Biplane, Airforce, Summer 1992).
16-17 Essen and the Krupp works again attacked by Bomber Command, 106 bombers sent but only 16 reported to have identified and bombed the target, 8 were lost. Most of the remainder attacked other targets. In the last 16 nights the Krupps works had been targeted by 1,607 bombers, losing 84, for no industrial damage (BC War Diaries).

16-17 10 Sqn. Halifax II W1155 ZA-U diverted to an alternate target due to cloud. After bombing it was attacked and damaged by a night fighter but returned, Sgt J.G. Leclaire, Sgt P.G. Bell RAF, Sgt K.H. Whitmore RAF, Sgt W.A. Yendall RAF, Sgt G.J. Yewlett RAF, Sgt J. Ewen and Sgt J.T. Williams safe (R. Allenby). See June 25, below.


16-17 102 Sqn. Halifax II W7650 DY-J shot down off Holland by a night fighter, P/O C.R. Barr and Sgt J.W. Brown RAF killed, WO2 D. Conter, Sgt D.M. Smith, Sgt J.G.S. Rock RAF and Sgt R.C. Perriam RAF missing. Most of this crew had survived an emergency landing May 19-20, above.


16-17 102 Sqn. Halifax II W7652 DY-P shot down by flak over the target in Germany, P/O E.M. McRae, Sgt H.E. Batchelder DFM RAF, Sgt F. Bell RAF, Sgt G.R.D.B. Hobsbawn RAF (Chile), Sgt F.L. Ringham RAF and Sgt R.H. Rivers RAF PoW (D. Layne www.rafcommands.com).

16-17 150 Sqn. Wellington III Z1608 JN-M shot down over Holland by a night fighter, F/S J.F. Haley killed, P/O J.A. Myall RAF, P/O A.E. Collins RAF, Sgt D.J. Smith RAF and Sgt W. Cartwright RAF PoW.

16-17 419 Sqn. Wellington III X3359 VR-N (N for Nails) suffered an engine failure outbound on a sortie to Essen, Germany, and was forced to jettison it's bomb load (R.W. Walker www.rafcommands.com). Unable to climb higher than 3,000 feet it was shot down by flak near Antwerp, Belgium. The pilot, F/S C.E. Le Blanc, held the aircraft steady until his crew had bailed out, but went down with his aircraft and was killed. Sgt E.A. Winkler and Sgt N.W. Bradley were taken PoW, while P/O J.H. Watson and Sgt J.A.A.A.B. Angers evaded and returned to England. While evading, in Paris, Sgt Angers risked being captured but could not resist going to visit the Renault factory site he had bombed March 3-4, above (419 SH).


16-17 419 Sqn. Wellington III, F/S M.L. Swanson, was hit by flak on the bomb run. Damaged, it completed the bombing and began it's return flight. Near Dusseldorf it was hit twice more by flak. Continuing it's return the bomber was again hit by flak near Antwerp, wounding F/S Eden, the second pilot, and setting the belly fabric of the aircraft on fire. Navigator F/S P.S.O. Brichta and WAG F/S K.E. Crosby fought the fire at the risk of falling through the burning structure while F/S Swanson took evasive action from a German night fighter that attacked and damaged the elevators. The fire was put out and the fighter lost them, and
despite having the bomb doors and undercarriage down due to damage to the hydraulics F/S Swanson managed to return to England where he, F/S Brichta and F/S Crosby were awarded DFM (419 SH, Awards, FF Years). See September 16, below.

Wednesday

17 Afrika Corps begins operations to invest Tobruk by first attacking 8th Army and Desert Air Force airfields at Gambut, Libya, driving them back towards Egyptian border away from the port.

Canadian Army and RCAF units in Alaska (CJCA headline). [Public announcement?]

The issue of paying US Customs for the importation of Canadian servicemen's personal belongings prompted a call from the Department of External Affairs to Washington. Despite support going as high as the White House the Custom Inspectors in Alaska insisted that the duty had to be collected by law, notwithstanding a war, and in spite of the fact that no such levy was applied to US soldiers and airmen based or passing through Canada or other countries (R. Steacy). This was due in part to the fact that the USA, while able to co-ordinate its military with other countries abroad, had never envisioned a situation when it would request foreign assistance to defend its possessions in North America, and its laws needed some changes. It can be argued that this deployment of the RCAF to assist in the defence of the Alaskan Territory was the first real step on the road that would lead to NORAD. It must also have pointed out the difficulties of Canada and the USA not having direct diplomatic relations despite working jointly on military defence. See June 19, below, and November 11, 1943.

At about this time Sgt G. Beurling RAF (Can.), now with 249 Squadron in Malta, had again shown his skills as a pilot, and his unwillingness to adopt formation discipline. He is told if he does not change he will be sent to a non-combat zone. Unwilling to leave Malta, he accepts this, and as time goes on his skills and ability give him leadership roles in the intense fighting around Malta that summer (Nolan).

17 260 Sqn. Kittyhawk I ET585 damaged by a German fighter over the desert and crash landed at its base on return, Sgt J.S.E.M. Bernier safe (Shores, Massimello, Guest, Olynyk and Bock). See September 3, below.

17 274 Sqn. Hurricane II BM967 shot down by a Bf 109 fighter in the desert, F/L W.A.G. Conrad safe (Shores, Massimello, Guest, Olynyk and Bock).

17 125 (Newfoundland) Sqn., pilot P/O P. Gruchy RAF (Nfld.) killed, no details (F. Williston www.rafcommands.co). Sgt F. Whyte RAF of 125 Squadron also killed on this date (CWGC).


17 #4 Wireless Training School, Guelph, Ontario, DH.82C4 Menasco Moth II #4912 spun and crashed on an exercise near Simcoe, Ontario, pilot Sgt A.D. Hammill killed.
Thursday

18 Winston Churchill arrives in US for talks with Roosevelt, flying across the Atlantic. At these talks it is accepted that an invasion of France cannot be made this year, and the first proposals for landings in French North Africa are made by Churchill. As well it is agreed to share the results of all atomic research (D. Sommerville). See December 23, below.

Having driven back 8th Army and RAF air support the Afrika Corps returns to Tobruk. There they find gun positions they had prepared for their planned attack in November still intact and even containing dumps of ammunition they had placed there, no one having had time to remove or destroy them (M. Carver).

In Czechoslovakia the British trained team of Operation ANTHROPOID that assassinated Heydrich is trapped in a church in Prague and killed (Polsson). During the summer SS traced anyone who had helped or sheltered this team, and they and their families were murdered. Reprisals were also made on other members of Czechoslovakia’s leaders, scholars and military, as well as several thousand Jewish civilians held in ghettos (R. Moorhouse).

18 113 Sqn. Blenheim IV Z7892 lost on operations in the Far East (Burma?). The wreckage of the aircraft was found after the war and local villagers confirmed the crew had died but S/L C.W. Harper DFC RAF (Can.), F/S H.J. Kevan RAAF and F/O L.A.L. Beauchamp RAAF have no known graves (A. Storr).

18 12 Sqn. Wellington II W5381 hit a tree and crashed in low cloud attempting to land following an air test, P/O J.G. Power killed, Sgt R.G. Burton RAF seriously injured, Sgt Howard RAF and Sgt Shelley RAF injured.

18 415 Sqn. survivor of Hampden AT240, P/O F.H. Mahan, shot down June 4, was picked up alive after 2 weeks adrift in a dinghy in the North Sea.

18 #14 OTU Hampden I AT223 crashed short of the airfield after an engine failed on approach, P/O R.H.G. Boosey and 3 crew injured.

18 #58 OTU Spitfire Iib P8644 crashed in Scotland after a structural failure of a wing when pulling out from avoiding a mid-air collision, P/O W.M. Butler killed (www.spitfires.ukf.net, #58 OTU Roll of Honour).

18 #34 EFTS (?) DH.82C Tiger Moth #1162 crashed at Assiniboia, Saskatchewan (R.W.R. Walker).


18-19 Bomber Command sends 65 GARDENING sorties to France and Holland, 1 loss (BC War Diaries).


18-19 418 Sqn. Boston III W8340 (or W8390 H. Welting at www.rafcommands.com) lost on a night INTRUDER over France, P/O F.C. Downing RCAF (USA), P/O P.C. Foster RCAF (USA) and F/S H.A. Potter killed.
Friday

19 Talks begin in New York between Canada and US on priorities in nuclear research, and establishing a co-operation agreement.

In an attempt to solve the growing problem of duties levied by US Customs in Alaska, the US Secretary of State declared that Canadian servicemen serving in the Alaska Territory at the request of the War Department be classed as "Distinguished Foreign Visitors" and thus exempt from paying the duty. Legal advisers to the US Treasury found this unacceptable, however, but they did prepare a special bill to permit Canadians to help defend US Territory without having to pay customs duties (R. Steacy). See June 27, below.

19 #124 (Ferry) Sqn. RCAF Anson I #6765 was on a ferry flight between Toronto and Ottawa when it flew into a hill NE of Cobourg, Ontario, killing AC1 P. Miller and Sgt C.F. Schwan.

19 #1 SFTS, Camp Borden, Ontario, Harvard II #2651 crashed near Alliston, Ontario, while on an instrument flying exercise, LAC(P) D.F. Bromley and P/O C. Rozek killed.

19 #22 EFTS, Ancienne Lorette, Quebec, Finch II damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

19 #31 SFTS, Kingston, Ontario, Sgt W.V. Bodington RAF died in an accident involving Harvard II AJ543.

19-20 Emden was targeted by 194 aircraft of which 131 claimed to have bombed, however only a few bombs were recorded in the city, but the city of Osnabrück 80 miles away was marked in error and bombed by nearly 30 bombers. 6 INTRUDER and 5 NICKEL sorties supported this operation, 9 bombers lost (BC War Diaries).

19-20 10 Sqn. Halifax II W1158 ZA-T suffered a complete hydraulic failure just after taking off and was unable to raise it's flaps or undercarriage, or to open it's radiator shutters. As the engines required full power to keep airborne they overheated and one caught fire. The pilot, Sgt P.G. Bell RAF, force landed the bomber and the crew evacuated before the bomb load exploded, damaging several buildings and knocking the flight engineer, Sgt G.J. Yewlett RAF, unconscious. The rest of the crew, Sgt A.H. Pepper, Sgt K.H. Whitmore RAF, Sgt W.A. Yendell RAF, Sgt Taylor and Sgt J.T. Williams, were safe (R. Allenby). See October 12-13, below.


19-20 214 Sqn. Stirling I N3762 BU-C shot down over Holland by a night fighter, S/L P. Nixey DSO RAF, Sgt W.E. Pearson RAF, Sgt D.A. Melville RAF and Sgt A. Buckley RAF killed, F/O R.M. Mitchell, F/O C.D. Noble, WO L.R. Burgin RAF and Sgt J.H. Bailey RAF PoW. See http://www.teunispats.net/fr-wwii.htm for details. W.R. Chorley notes that the pilot, S/L Nixey, was only 22 years old at the time of his death. F/O Noble's efforts to escape (he was one of the members of The Great Escape in 1944) and his activities as a PoW resulted in the award of an MBE and were detailed in The R.C.A.F. Overseas - The Sixth Year.

19-20 420 Sqn. Hampden I attacked by a Ju 88 night fighter that wounded the rear gunner (in the lower gun position) and the wireless operator, Sgt F.J. Moritz. Sgt Moritz manned the upper gun position and directed his pilot to avoid the night fighter, then returned fire. The
night fighter was claimed as probably destroyed. After giving first aid to the wounded gunner Sgt Moritz returned to man the wireless until the aircraft had returned and landed. For this he was awarded a DFM (FF Years, Awards).

Saturday

20 Lighthouse at Estevan Point, Vancouver Island, shelled by Japanese submarine I-20.

Reports that a Japanese task force is heading to Nome, Alaska Territory, results in an emergency airlift by civilian and military aircraft. In a 24 hour period they fly in anti-aircraft guns, supplies, and 2,200 soldiers to Nome. The report turns out to be false, but the build-up continues into July (wikipedia). This included basing RCAF Bolingbroke aircraft in Nome (see July, below).

Afrika Corps begins assault on Tobruk. To do this units are pulled out of contact with 8th Army in Egypt, but being informed daily on 8th Army status by the US Embassy leak Rommel can take this risk.

20 #7 (BR) Sqn. RCAF Shark III #524 crashed into the sea off Digby Island, BC, F/S H. Baum and F/S H.E. Phillips RCAF (USA) missing.
20 #120 (BR) Sqn. RCAF, Coal Harbour, BC, AC1 F.D. Bollert died of natural causes.
20 unknown unit, LAC E.F. Allan died by drowning Lachine, Quebec

20-21 407 Sqn. Hudson flown by P/O B.W. Pritchard on their first sortie attacked a ship and was badly damaged by flak, one of undercarriage legs collapsing on landing (407 SH).
20-21 Bomber Command returns to Emden with 185 bombers, but only part of the force attacked the target, 5 INTRUDER and 3 NICKEL sorties also made, 8 losses (BC War Diaries).

20-21 9 Sqn. Wellington III X3713 shot down by a night fighter over Holland, F/S A.D. Adair, W/C L.V. James DFC RAF, P/O J.D. Baxter DFM RAF, Sgt J. Brown RAF and P/O A.V. Brooke RAF killed. W/C James had just been made the Squadron commanding officer.
20-21 207 Sqn. Lancaster I R5860 EM-Y ditched in the North Sea with 2 engines on fire returning from an operation over Germany, F/S W.J.A. Shapter, F/L G.A. Ings RAF, Sgt R. Bell-Berry RAF, Sgt J.E. Bellamy RAF, Sgt J. Culley RAF, Sgt D.R. Manser RAF and Sgt J.W.E. Holland RAF were later rescued. See August 5-6, below.
21 Germans capture Tobruk using the November attack plan, with co-ordinated artillery, infantry and combat engineer attacks to eliminate defensive fortifications and allow tanks to break into the besieged port (M. Carver). 33,000 British, Indian and South African troops forced to surrender to a force half their size. This capture of a port near the Egyptian border led Hitler to cancel the planned invasion of Malta in favour of advancing into Egypt and capturing the Suez Canal (Oxford). As well the stockpiled oil, huge quantities of supplies and vehicles captured in the port rejuvenate the Afrika Corps logistics (A. Beevor). However, it’s men are close to exhaustion, and the decision by Hitler to ignore Malta turns out to have been a serious mistake.

21 112 Sqn. Kittyhawk I AL225, F/L R.M. Leu DFC RAAF was hit and forced to land behind enemy lines in the desert. P/O W.A.J. Johnson landed his Kittyhawk beside the crashed aircraft in an attempt to rescue the pilot, but F/L Leu was too badly burned, and was left to be taken PoW and receive medical treatment. F/O J.M.S. Crichton in Kittyhawk I AK571 gave cover overhead but was hit by flak. Unable to reach his base he force landed in the desert where he was picked up by Gurkhas in an armoured car (http://raf-112-squadron.org/planelosses.html). See Nov. 6, below.

21 #1 OADU Blenheim V BA446 was on a flight to Egypt from Malta and came down in the sea off Libya. The crew were picked up by an Italian hospital ship where Sgt G.W. Wicks RAF died of injuries. WO2 H.C. Langton and Sgt D.H. Heather were PoW.

21 420 Sqn. wireless operator air gunner F/S R. Davidson died of wounds received June 19-20 when his Hampden I AE401 was damaged by flak.

21 #24 OTU observer F/S H.R.N. McCormack accidentally drowned while off duty in England.

21 #56 OTU Hurricane W9206 crashed after hitting high tension power lines while engaged in unauthorized low flying, killing Sgt E. Eves RCAF (USA).

21 #2 SFTS Uplands Ontario, Harvard II #3111 crashed into Rideau Lake, Ontario, on a cross country exercise, LAC(P) W.C. Oquendo RCAF (USA) killed.

21 #6 SFTS, Dunnville, Ontario, Harvard II #2555 crashed near the airfield at Bell Aircraft, Tonawanda, New York, USA, killing LAC(P) H.E. Connors RCAF (USA).

21 #7 EFTS (?), DH.82C Tiger Moth #3972 damaged beyond repair at Windsor, Ontario (R.W.R. Walker).

21-22 Bomber Command sent 56 GARDENING sorties off France and 2 NICKELS, with 1 loss (BC War Diaries).

Southampton attacked by Luftwaffe bombers (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).

The Japanese submarine l-25 fires shells at Fort Stevens, Oregon, at the mouth of the Columbia River. The Fort returned fire and a USAAF A-29 (Hudson) found and attacked the submarine the next day, without result (wikipedia).

Monday

22 To support a planned Japanese offensive into India from northern Burma construction begins on the Burma-Thailand Railway, using 180,000 local labourers impressed into service and 60,000 PoWs captured in Singapore (D. Sommerville, wikipedia). See Oct. 25, 1943.

#115 (F) Sqn. RCAF, Annette Island, Alaska, flying Bolingbroke I fighter aircraft redesignated Bomber Reconnaissance (RCAF Sqns.).

22 35 Sqn. Halifax II W1159 damaged beyond repair when it swung when landing in a cross wind from a training flight, Sgt H.B. MacDonald and his crew safe. See July 13-14 below.

22 175 Sqn. Hurricane LL723 lost at sea from England, F/S E.E. Rathwell killed. F/S Rathwell had been injured in a car accident August 15, 1941 near his base at #6 SFTS, Dunnville, Ontario.

22 #59 OTU F/S F.A. Pyatt died in hospital in England of natural causes.

22 #118 (F) Sqn., RCAF Station Annette Island, Alaska Territory, USA, Harvard IIb #3338 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

22 #5 SFTS, Brantford, Ontario, Anson II #8488 was struck by another Anson when flying in formation and crashed near St. George, Ontario, Sgt T.B. Wolch killed.

22-23 Emden again attacked by 227 bombers, but most are fooled by decoy fires. Minor operations include 10 INTRUDER and 2 NICKEL sorties, 6 losses (BC War Diaries).

22-23 57 Sqn. Wellington III X3758 believed to have come down in the sea on a operation to Germany, F/S A.B. Harper, Sgt R.H. Stangham RAF and Sgt W.T. Smith RAF killed, Sgt J.B. Larkins RNZAF and Sgt G.S. Standring RAF missing.

22-23 61 Sqn. Lancaster I R5517 lost over Germany, F/O W.D. McCulloch, S/L I.G.A. McNaughton, Sgt C.M. Parker RAF, Sgt S.E. Bradshaw RAF, P/O J.D. McKeown RNZAF and Sgt J.T. Fallon RAF killed, Sgt J.R. Dryden RAF missing. S/L McNaughton was the son of General A.G.L. McNaughton, then the Commander of the 1st Canadian Army in England, later Minister of Defence and UN Ambassador.


Tuesday

23 German forces in North Africa return from capturing Tobruk and cross the border into Egypt.

Decision made in Cabinet to have Canadian Government take over Eldorado Mining if necessary.

In England a JG-2 Fw 190A-3 fighter side markings <+1, Werknummer 313, lost after pursuing RAF (Czech.) fighters across the Channel against orders, landed in the evening at an RAF airfield at Pembrey, Wales, after the pilot, Oblt A. Faber, crossed the Bristol Channel and thought he was back in France. The aircraft was impressed
into the RAF as MP499, and was analyzed by the RAE at Farnborough. As a PoW in Canada Oblt Faber faked the symptoms of epilepsy so well he was later re-patriated to Germany and returned to operations. He survived the war (wikipedia).


23 #2 AFU Oxford V3585 and R6075 crashed after a mid-air collision, Sgt W. Burnside and 2 RAF killed.

23 #23 OTU Wellington Ic X3172 crashed near it’s airfield after a propellor flew off, P/O F.L. Todd, P/O W.L. Farquharson RAF, Sgt H. Mills RAF, Sgt W.A. Williams RAF, Sgt E.A. Periman RAF and Sgt W.G. Teague RAF safe. See Oct. 5-6, below.

23 #11 (BR) Sqn., Dartmouth, NS, Hudson, P/O W. Graham, attacks and damages U-87, forcing it to return to France (I. Wikene). See July 30, below.

23 #111 (F) Sqn. Kittyhawk I AK869 (RCAF #1046) abandoned and crashed near Anchorage, Alaska (440 SH).


23-24 Bomber Command sends 14 bombers to St. Nazaire and 52 GARDENING sorties off Holland and France, 2 minelayers lost (BC War Diaries).


23-24 420 Sqn. Hampden I AD786 PT-L crashed in England carrying a mine on a GARDENING Operation, F/S G.H. Germain, F/S K.C. Little and Sgt G.D. Johnson RAF killed, F/S F.S. Hiley DFM was thrown into a haystack and survived with severe burns and injuries. F/S Germain, F/S Hiley and Sgt Johnson had survived crash landing in a damaged Hampden May 4-5, above. F/S Hiley became a Guinea Pig, and returned to flying in Canada as a test and staff pilot. Postwar he completed his studies in aeronautical engineering, and worked for Avro Canada and Air Canada (R. Donovan).

Wednesday

24 76 Sqn. Halifax II W7661 was on a training flight when it collided with a #1516 Beam Approach Training (BAT) Flight Oxford I V4140, both aircraft crashing. WO2 M.H. Roberts, Sgt J.H.G. Bingham RAF, Sgt M.C. Glover RAF, Sgt J.B.F. Fanning RAF, Sgt R.G. Warkcup RAF and Sgt R.H. Bircher RAF were killed on the Halifax, Sgt F.R. Magson RAF and Sgt J.C.W. Sealey RAF were killed in the Oxford. Many of this crew including WO2 Roberts had survived the loss of a Halifax Nov. 30-1, 1941 and again June 3-4 above.

24 415 Sqn. Hampden I AT242 GX-F shot down on a torpedo sortie to the Frisian Islands, F/S

24 #1652 CU Halifax II R9377 was landing from a night flying test, possibly in preparation for the third MILLENNIUM operation, when it swung off the runway and collapsed it's undercarriage, F/O K.D. Whisken DFC RAF was the pilot and it is believed his crew was P/O W.H. Andrews, P/O D.B. McKenzie, Sgt H.F. Spratt, Sgt R.W. Wagstaff RCAF (UK), Sgt I.R. Watson and Sgt V.A. Martin RAF, all safe (R. Allenby). See June 25-26, below.

24 #1 SFTS Yale #3358 was written off after a mid-air collision over Camp Borden with a #2 SFTS Yale #3428. The latter aircraft was repaired (R.W.R. Walker).

24 #32 EFTS, Bowden, Alberta, DH.82C Tiger Moth #5070 crashed making a steep turn, Sgt F.C. Frigerio killed, LAC(P) R. Raffles RAF injured. (www.rafcommands).

24-25 37 Sqn. Wellington Ic DV643 failed to return from an operation over Benghazi, believed down in the sea, F/O P.C. Jones killed, P/O M.C. De Clifford RNZAF, F/S G.R. Harlock RAAF, F/L C.P.T. Halliwell RAF, F/S R.D. Stevenson RAF and Sgt H.E. Noble RAF have no known grave (A. Storr).

24-25 U-boat base at St. Nazaire attacked by 21 bombers, no losses (BC War Diaries).

Luftwaffe attack on Birmingham fails to locate the city (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).


Thursday

25 425 Sqn. RCAF formed in England as a Bomber unit (RCAF Sqsns.). It was also established as a French speaking unit to encourage support for the war in Quebec.

25 unknown unit, radar mechanic Sgt L.G. Stiff died of exposure in Sumatra as a Prisoner of War. He has no known grave (A.C. Hamilton).

25 80 Sqn. Hurricane II BN119 went into a spin during a steep turn and crashed in North Africa, F/S D.A. Campbell killed.

25 112 Sqn. Kittyhawk I AK770 GA-J crash landed during an evacuation of a landing ground in the desert, P/O W.A.J. Johnson safe (Shores, Massimello, Guest, Olynyk and Bock).


25 #2 (Coastal) OTU Beaufighter If T4789 was landing after a search for a missing aircraft, and on final approach with gear and flaps down an engine failed and the fighter crashed, F/S J.E.L. Downton and Sgt E. Bent RAF killed (R. Allenby).


25 #1652 CU Halifax II W1163 was being prepared for the upcoming MILLENNIUM operation when it landed hard and broke off it's tail wheel, Sgt J.F. Long, Sgt W.E. Mander, Sgt M.L.

25  #12 EFTS, Goderich, Ontario, DH.82C Tiger Moth #1279 hit telephone lines and crashed near Hawkesville, Ontario, while on a low-flying exercise, F/S L.C. Small killed.
25  #36 OTU, Greenwood, NS, Hudson III BW770 spun and crashed from low level on a training flight practicing single engined landings, P/O C.W.A. Blick RAAF and F/S J.N. Hopkinson RAF killed (#36 OTU Roll of Honour, A. Storr).

25-26 70 Sqn. Wellington IC DV564 "L" was attacked by a night fighter, badly damaged and set on fire after attacking enemy ground forces in the desert. Rear gunner F/S G.J. Wagner died in the attack. The fire was put out by the navigator and the aircraft recovered to it's landing ground where it landed wheels up, Sgt W.J. Brown RAF and Sgt K.E. Calvert RAF injured, F/S Stewart RNZAF, P/O T.E.W. Howes RAAF and Sgt Payne RAF safe (F.R. Chappell). The observer, P/O Howes, after extinguishing the fire in the fuselage, assisted the wounded co-pilot and navigator, and got F/S Wagner out of the rear turret to administer first aid, but was unable to save him. His actions probably saved the aircraft and he received a DFC for this (D. Newton).

25-26 104 Sqn. Wellington II Z8572 "N" was waiting to take off on an advanced landing ground in Egypt on it's second sortie of the night attacking enemy ground formations when it was hit by a bomb and exploded, P/O G. Smith-Windsor and F/S G.H. Kirby RAAF were killed, P/O R.G. Tait RNZAF, Sgt P.M. Sharplin RAF, Sgt Y.B. Yule RAF and Sgt J.T. Jones RAF were injured. P/O Smith-Windsor and F/S Kirby were buried at the landing ground, but their graves location was lost, so they are listed as missing.

25-26 Operation MILLENNIUM, third and last 1,000 Bomber Raid, on Bremen, by 960 Bomber Command and 102 Coastal Command Hudson and Wellington aircraft (including Hudson's from 407 Sqn.), for a total of 1,062 bombers. Coastal Command participated as the target was a port. The 'bomber stream' tactic was again used, with time over the target reduced from 90 to 65 minutes, and GEE was used to mark the targets. Forecast winds did not appear and the target was cloud covered, but GEE and the size of the attack made for heavy damage. Industrial targets were also hit but not as heavily as hoped. 572 homes were destroyed and 6,100 damaged, with 85 people killed in the city, nearly 500 injured and 2,300 homeless. Seventy one Blenheim, Boston and Mosquito aircraft from Bomber and Army Co-operation commands made INTRUDER sorties in support of the attack, the first use of the Mosquito aircraft for INTRUDER work. The total sorties for the night were 1,123, and the losses of 55 aircraft were the highest of the war so far, the OTU aircraft being especially hard hit (BC War Diaries). It was ACM Harris's original intention to fly a MILLENNIUM operation at least once every new moon period, but the disruption to training was too great (S. Bond). Bomber Command would continue to make occasional use of OTU and HCU aircraft into the fall as it built up squadrons and introduced new aircraft and tactics.

The increase in accuracy obtained by using GEE aircraft for the initial bombing was noted, and this would lead to the development of a special force of target markers, later
called Pathfinders. See August, below.

25-26 1 Sqn. Hurricane IIC HL589 lost on night INTRUDER over the Holland, WO2 G. Scott missing.
25-26 419 Sqn. Wellington III F/L D.L. Wolfe RAF (Can.) was attacked by a Bf 110, claimed shot down by his rear gunner, Sgt J.R. Morrison (FF Years). See July 14, 1943.
25-26 #10 OTU Whitley V P4944 "A" lost over Germany, F/S G.L. Wilkinson and Sgt E.D. Williams RAAF killed, Sgt G.M. Murphy RAF, Sgt F.C. House RAF and Sgt L.N. Reynolds RAF missing.
25-26 #10 OTU Whitley V P5004 "G" ditched in the North Sea on an operation to Germany, P/O W.W. Colledge, Sgt J.V. Karleff RAF, Sgt A.J. Ennals RAF, Sgt E.A Taylor RAF and Sgt W.E. McCarthy were rescued by an ASR launch.
25-26 #10 OTU Whitley V AD689 "W" lost over Germany, Sgt N.M. Oulster, Sgt G.A. Hunt RAF, Sgt D.I. Parry RAF, Sgt S.J. Webster RAF and Sgt H. Cooke RAF (S. Rhod.) killed.
25-26 #11 OTU Wellington Ic R1078 TX-Q shot down over Germany by a fighter, WO2 F.C. Main RCAF (USA), Sgt F.G. Barbar RNZAF and Sgt I.H. Reeves RNZAF killed, F/O S.G. King and WO W.N. Hollands RNZAF PoW. F/O King was one of the diggers of the tunnels of the Great Escape, and in 2016 was honoured in Edmonton by having some new streets named for him (Edmonton Journal, July 15, 2016).
25-26  #14 OTU Canadian built Hampden I P5312 GL-J3 lost over Germany, F/L Count T.E. Salazar DFC RAF, Sgt T.S. Gaffney RAAF and F/S R.J. Horlock RAF killed, Sgt H.S. Cusden RAF died of his injuries September 18, 1942.

25-26  #16 OTU Wellington Ic X9982 XG-A2 lost without trace on an operation to Germany, WO2 W. Tait, P/O W.C. Samuel DFM RAF, P/O V.P. De Wallens RAF, Sgt J. Hatch RAF, F/S F.G. Fry RAF and Sgt D.J. White RAF killed.

25-26  #19 OTU Whitley V Z6730 UO-Z lost on an operation to Germany, Sgt J.J. Makarewicz RCAF (USA), Sgt L.L. Brown RAF, Sgt R. Hale RAF, Sgt P. Bell RAF and Sgt W. Henderson RAF all PoW.


25-26  #102 Conversion Flight Halifax II V9987 DY-U lost on an operation to Germany, F/S F.F. Duff and Sgt W. Weightman RAF killed, Sgt G.A. Losh RAF, Sgt J.R. Shellard RAF and F/S A. Hartley RAF PoW. Sgt Losh was one of the PoWs killed April 19, 1945 when the column of prisoners being force marched into Germany was strafed in error by Typhoon fighter aircraft.

25-26  #1651 CU Stirling I W7442 "B" shot down by a night fighter over Holland, F/L W.M. Livingston RAF, P/O A.J. Kenny RAF (Eire) and Sgt R. Coates RAF killed, P/O F.L. Flynn, Sgt W. Bennett RAF, P/O L.A. Booth RAF and P/O J. Graham DFM RAF missing.

http://www.teunispats.net/fr-wwii.htm for details. W.R. Chorley state F/S Watson may have been from the USA but TSGNO reports he was from Montreal. See July 30, below.

Friday

26 British 8th Army in retreat from Mersa Matruh, but German and Italian forces unable to pursue, being spent (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).

First flight of the Grumman F6F (Hellcat) naval fighter.

26 #1 OADU Hudson IIIa FH230 crashed in Malta and burned after an engine cut out on approach, Sgt W.J. Culbert RAF and Sgt S. Matthews RAF killed, Sgt E.J. Doherty and Sgt M.E. Redden RAAF injured (COL BRUGGY www.rafcommands.com).

26 #1 OADU Wellington Ic HX447 crashed while landing at Gibraltar from a ferry flight from England and burnt out, Sgt G.L. McDonnell, Sgt S. Blackburn RAF, Sgt C.L. Lamb RAF, Sgt C.J. Wescott RAF, Sgt C.D. Calder RAAF and Sgt G.W. Fleckney RAF safe (COL BRUGGY www.rafcommands.com).


26 #56 OTU Hurricane V6985 crashed at Newburgh, Scotland, Sgt A.C. Baker RCAF (USA) killed.

26 #8 SFTS, Moncton, NB, Harvard II #3808 crashed after colliding with Harvard II #3771 over Cocagne, NB. P/O J.R. Connely and LAC(P) F.F. MacNeil were killed. The crew of #3771 were uninjured. [Note, the records for both these aircraft indicate both were involved in a repairable accident on May 5, 1942. There is no mention of an accident to #3771 on June 26, and it is possible the collision occurred in May, and the details of that accident have been credited in error to the loss of #3808 in June. #3771 served in the post war RCAF and later as a civilian aircraft (R.W.R. Walker).]


Saturday

27 Convoy PQ-17 departs Reykjavik, Iceland for Murmansk, USSR, with 36 cargo ships and 1 tanker.

After passing Congress on June 24, and the Senate on June 26, on this date President Roosevelt signs a special bill to allow Canadian servicemen to be exempt from paying customs duty on their personal belongings if serving in defence of US Territory (R. Steacy).

27 40 Sqn, Egypt, Wellington aircraft was shot down by a night fighter when attacking ground targets, F/S S. Gregory, F/S O.M. Killeen, F/S H.F. Thompson, Sgt S.H. Gunn RNZAF, Sgt P.T. Halstead RAF and Sgt H.J. Morgan RAF killed.


27 416 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BL893 scrambled and believed to have collided with Spitfire Vb BL449 off
the English coast, last seen to be emitting black smoke before descending into the sea, F/S S.S. Glasscock RCAF (USA) missing.

27 416 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BL449 scrambled and is believed to have collided with BL893, as above, F/L W.W. Murray missing.

27 #9 Repair Depot, St. Jean, Quebec, air frame mechanic AC1 M.J. Richer died in hospital of natural causes. [double entry in TSGNO, under Richer, June 21, and Ritcher, June 27, CWGC says Richer, died June 27].

27-28 Bremen attacked again by 144 bombers which cause moderate damage to the port. Fifteen GARDENING and 6 NICKEL sorties also made, 9 bombers lost (BC War Diaries).

Weston-super-Mare attacked by Luftwaffe bombers (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).


27-28 115 Sqn. Wellington damaged on operations, killing air gunner F/S W.A. McCann. The aircraft returned to England.


Sunday

28 Major German summer offensive begins in southern Russia, aimed at surrounding Soviet forces in Stalingrad and capturing Russian oilfields in the Caucasus (Oxford). Hitler again decided not to advance on Moscow, which is what Stalin had expected him to do (Oxford).

An Italian Air Force long range SM.75GA aircraft left Guidonia, Italy on a flight to Tokyo via Russia and China. This was to prove if air communications were feasible between Europe and Japan (H.W. Neulen).

28 415 Sqn. Hampden TB.I AT245 GX-U shot down off the Frisian Islands on a torpedo sortie, F/S

28 #1 OADU Wellington Ic HX478 was landing at Gibraltar from England and was wrecked when it overshot the runway, Sgt L.E. Snaar and his crew safe. Sgt Snaar may be the same person as WO2 L.E. Snarr lost in a 405 Sqn. Halifax Dec. 20, below.

28 #13 SFTS, St. Hubert, Quebec, Harvard II #3000 crashed into Lake Memphremagog, Vermont, USA, killing LAC(P) R.N. Pate.

28-29 The Italian Air Force send 5 of their new 4-engined P.108B heavy bombers to attack Gibraltar. Four reach the target and bomb, but three land in "neutral" Spain, short of fuel (H.W. Neulen).

Second attack on Weston-super-Mare, which suffers damage from fires (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).

Monday

29 Interception of daily reports of British 8th Army in Egypt by Italian Intelligence finally ends when it is realized the US diplomatic Black Code has been compromised (Oxford).

Mersa Matruh captured by German Afrika Corps. Mussolini flies to North Africa with the intention of leading the victory parade through Cairo (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).

The long range Italian SM.75GA lands at Zaporozhye, in German occupied southern Russia (H.W. Neulen).

29 175 Sqn. Hurricane Ile BE484 shot down into the Channel by flak from a minesweeper on a ROADSTEAD off the French coast, F/S W.J.A. McLachlan missing.


29 #22 OTU Wellington Ic R1036 overshot a landing and crashed returning from a night training flight, P/O C.D.H. Archer, F/S J.G.J. Fedigan RCAF (USA), F/S M.W. Fedirchyk and Sgt H. Jones RAF killed, Sgt Blott RAF injured.

29 unknown unit, England, LAC J.E. Morgan died on service.

29 #7 B&G School, Paulson, Manitoba, Battle I #1963 crashed and was damaged, written off soon after (R.W.R. Walker).

29 #31 EFTS, De Winton, Alberta, DH.82C Tiger Moth #5111 crashed demonstrating precautionary landings (R.W.R. Walker).

29 unknown unit, LAC A.H. Abbots RAF accidentally drowned, Victoria, BC.


29-30 Bremen again attacked by 253 bombers causing heavy damage in the port. Eighteen
INTRUDER, 7 GARDENING and 5 NICKEL sorties also made, 11 bombers lost (BC War Diaries).


29-30 78 Sqn. Halifax II W1062 was attacked and badly damaged on an operation over Germany. It returned to England where it crash landed, Sgt E.C. Summerfield RAF died of injuries from the crash, F/S L. Geddes, F/S V. Fulton, Sgt David RAF and P/O LeBeau RAF were injured, F/L Woodroffe RAF safe.

29-30 115 Sqn. Wellington III BJ796 KO-H came down in the North Sea off the English Coast due to an engine failure, F/S W. Linwood drowned and has no known grave but the rest of the crew, F/O K.J. Stanford DFM RNZAF, Sgt L.F.G. Darlington RAF, Sgt F. Cooper RAF, Sgt D. Mclver RAF and Sgt D. Gardiner RAF were picked up by an Air Sea Rescue launch.


29-30 405 Sqn. Halifax II W7714 LQ-K shot down over Holland by a night fighter, F/S C.P. Philp BEM RAF killed, Sgt E.K. Brennan, F/S R.A.A. Gorieu, WO2 L. Sidney, Sgt C.S. Walsh, Sgt T.G. Gunn RAF and Sgt G.A. White RAF were buried near the crash site and are listed as missing (H. Welting www.rafcommands.com). There is a memorial to the crew erected near the crash site in 2003 (Alan, via Linzee at www.rafcommands.com).

Tuesday

30 After refuelling and resting the Italian long range SM.75GA aircraft leaves Zaporozhye bound for China (H.W. Neulen).

A brief news item in the The New York Times reports that Hitler has killed 1 million Jews during the war makes no public impact. It is the first public report of the mass killings to appear in the Allied press (C.E. Hipperson).

30 #22 OTU, Sgt R. Dempsay, Sgt J.G. Cameron, Sgt G.D. Murray, Sgt G.F.J. Phalempin and Sgt
R.W. Davison RAF, who had ditched June 25-26, found by an ASR launch. See Oct. 13-14, below.

30 #4 EFTS, Windsor Mills, Quebec, Finch II #4478 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).
30 #6 SFTS, Dunnville, Ontario, Harvard II aircraft #3335 and #2969 collided in mid-air, killing WO1 A.M. Herron in #3335 and LAC(P) G.E. Postlethwaite in #2969.
30 #14 EFTS, Portage, Manitoba, DH.82C Tiger Moth #5096 crashed at Virden, Manitoba (R.W.R. Walker).

July 1942

401 Sqn. exchanges its Spitfire Vb aircraft for Mark IX fighters (RCAF Sqns.). 422 Sqn. begins to work up on Lerwick I flying boats, later Catalina lb, II and Vb aircraft (RCAF Sqns.). 423 Sqn. begins to receive Sunderland III aircraft (RCAF Sqns.). #111 (F) Sqn. moved to Umnak in the Aleutian Islands for operations against the Japanese. A detachment of 3 #8 (BR) Bolingbrokes are sent to operate from Nome, Alaska, following reports of Japanese submarines operating in the Bering Sea.

The RAF sends an experienced anti-submarine unit, 53 Squadron, with radar equipped Lockheed Hudson aircraft, to the US to assist in anti-submarine patrols off New York and help train US military in anti-submarine warfare (english.turkcebilgi.com).

Under the new agreement for managing the BCATP the RAF elementary training schools in Canada were taken over by civilian operators, freeing 2,000 RAF airmen used to operate these schools for other assignments (C. Simonsen).

As the need for workers in manufacturing increased the number of women involved in the workforce increased as well. In a move to increase the number of women working the first National Day Care program was started in Canada. The Dominion-Provincial Wartime Day Nurseries Agreement took effect this month under the Ministry of Labour, where the Federal government would pay half the cost of any Provincially sponsored day-care. Only Ontario and Quebec took advantage of this program. In Ontario federal-provincial day cares remained in operation until the spring of 1946, while those in Quebec were shut down with the end of the war (CATP Contact newsletter, Vol. 34, Issue 3, Summer 2016; Montreal Gazette, January 28, 1944). Support for a National Day Care program remains a promise of political parties today.

In early July the railway and port of Churchill is taken over for use of the US Army to ship supplies to sites in the eastern Arctic to build airfields intended for shorter ranged aircraft to cross the Atlantic by way of northern Canada, Greenland and Iceland to Scotland. Called the CRIMSON Route, it was not fully used as shipping small aircraft by ship proved to be more practical. CRIMSON route airfields in Canada included Churchill Manitoba, Coral Harbour, Padloping Island and Frobisher Bay (now Iqaluit) in the NWT (Nunavut) and Fort Chimo (now Kuujjuaq) in Quebec.
In Germany the Focke-Anglis plant is destroyed by bombing, destroying the production line of Fa 223 helicopters. Only 2 completed. The plant was moved to another location but again destroyed by bombing in July 1944. Total wartime production of large Fa 223 helicopters limited to 11 aircraft. It was seen as an anti-submarine and rescue aircraft, plus for transportation of equipment for the army in mountain areas, carrying a useful slung load of up to 900 kg (1,984 lbs).

Wednesday

1 In order to make them less conspicuous the underwing and side roundels on Commonwealth aircraft in Europe and the Middle East were modified beginning on this date, the white and yellow bands were shrunk to narrow rings (D. Newton).

The long range Italian SM.75GA lands at Pao Tow Chen, in Japanese occupied China, flying 6,200 km in 21 hours (H.W. Neulen).

British and German forces meet at the El Alamein defensive line. Rommel makes a surprise attack hoping to break through. The Indian 18th Brigade in positions they had occupied for just 2 days with limited defences are in their path and were effectively destroyed but delayed the German armoured attack all day, alerting other defensive positions and enabling them to prepare their defences and hold (S. Raghavan). Heavy attacks by Allied aircraft begin on German and Italian units. This date was termed 'Ash Wednesday' as British civil and military offices and Allied embassies in Cairo and Alexandria burned sensitive documents in anticipation of a German and Italian occupation, while evacuation plans began to be put into effect (J. Lucas). Allied dependents were evacuated to Sudan and the RN fleet in Alexandria left for safer harbours (R.C. Nesbit).

Convoy routing in the Western Atlantic taken over by US Navy based in Washington, DC. Most convoys are escorted by RCN and RN groups, but their experience is ignored as the US Navy campaign is directed by Admiral King, Commander in Chief of the US Navy, who deeply distrusted the British (and hence Commonwealth forces) methods and advice (M. Milner).

Dominion Day in Canada, the 75th anniversary of the founding of the country.

Trans Canada Airlines Lockheed 14 makes the first scheduled airline service to Gander, Newfoundland from Moncton, NB via Sydney, NS (C.F. Warren et al).

First USAAF B-17 arrives in England (Zijlstra).

In Canada sugar rationing starts (CJCA headline).

#127 (F) Sqn. formed at Dartmouth, NS, on Hurricane XIA aircraft (RCAF Sqns.). #147 (BR)
Sqn. formed at Sea Island, BC, on Bolingbroke aircraft (RCAF Sqns.).

#9 SFTS, Summerside, PEI, closed, and re-opened the same day at Centralia, Ontario (http://www.bombercrew.com/BCATP.htm).

Actress Geneviève Bujold born in Montreal, Quebec (wikipedia).

1 258 Sqn., Ceylon, Hurricane struck trees at low level and crashed into a church, killing F/O S.W. Jamieson.

1 #21 OTU Wellington Ic X9637 SJ-V crashed in the sea off England on a navigation exercise, Sgt F.D. Schmeltz and Sgt J.F. Clark RAF killed, P/O R.E.C. Ebsworth RAF, Sgt R.E. Thompson RAF, Sgt G.R. Waters RAF, Sgt R. Cunningham RAF and Sgt G.B. Amery RAF missing.

1 #8 B&G School, Lethbridge, Alberta, aero engine mechanic Cpl W.F. Collings died of natural causes in hospital in Lethbridge.

1 #32 EFTS, Bowden, Alberta, DH.82C Tiger Moth #5847 overran the runway and flipped over (R.W.R. Walker).

1-2 104 Sqn. Wellington II Z8655 "B" lost over the battle area in Egypt, believed after collision with a 162 Sqn. aircraft over the target (see below), F/O G.G. Retallack, Sgt M.A. Brett RAF, Sgt E.W. Bond RAF, Sgt J.S. Kennedy RAF and Sgt N. Todd RAF killed.

1-2 162 Sqn. Wellington Ic X9986 lost over the battle area in Egypt, believed after collision with a 104 Sqn. aircraft over the target (above), F/O A.P. Ouellette, Sgt R.L. Hill RAF, Sgt J.W. Neu RAF, F/S A.W. Doughty RAF, F/S T.G. Wood RAF and P/O J.H. Moss RAAF have no known grave.

1-2 415 Sqn. Hampden TB.I AT239 GX-T suffered engine and hydraulic failure on a torpedo sortie to Holland, and crash landed in England, F/S M. Bloomfield, F/S R.M. Ennis, F/S J.H. Labelle, WO2 B.D.R. McComb safe (H. Moyle). This was one of three aircraft that had made the first successful attack by the Squadron. See July 30-31, below.

1-2 #23 OTU Wellington Ic R1284 crashed taking off while engaged in night circuits, Sgt R.M. Hall, Sgt R.C. Webb and Sgt K.H. Cartland RAF injured.

1-2 #5 AOS, Winnipeg, Man., Anson I #6215 missing on a night navigation exercise. After a search the aircraft was found, crashed, near Marchand, Man., Instructor A.L. Compton, LAC(N) G.I. Everist RAAF and LAC(N) V.E. Jarvis RAAF killed. A. Storr states Sgt C. Williams RCAF was also killed in this loss, not found in TSGNO or CWGC?

Thursday

2 Using Convoy PQ-17 as a mask for it’s movements a force of soldiers is landed on Spitsbergen (R.C. Nesbit).

Canada, Argentina, Australia, the USA and England sign an agreement for the supply of wheat (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).


2 #7 EFTS RAF, England, DH.82 Tiger Moth T7605 crashed, F/S J.E. Ratigan killed.

2 #14 AFU Oxford II ED154 spun and crashed on an exercise, P/O S.R. Horswill, Sgt F.G.
Shears RNZAF and 1 RAF killed.

2 #19 EFTS, Virden, Man., DH.82C Tiger Moth #3878 crashed when engaged in dual night flying, Sgt H.K. Cox killed.

2 #32 EFTS, Bowden, Alberta, DH.82C Tiger Moth #5089 was written off after it was damaged in a forced landing following an engine failure (R.W.R. Walker).

2-3 37 Sqn. Wellington Ic Z8990 was attacking enemy motor transport at low level in Egypt when it was damaged by debris thrown up from the explosion of it's target. One propeller was blown off, an engine caught fire and the aircraft was abandoned. F/S B.H. Martin and F/O S.J. Thorne RAF were killed, Sgt P. Murphy RAF, Sgt A. Bethell RAF, Sgt F. Easterling RAF and Sgt L. Hare RAF safe.

2-3 104 Sqn. Wellington II Z8647 'W' was on a sortie to attack enemy transport and crash landed in enemy territory after losing an engine to a flak hit, Sgt K.I. Austin RAF, P/O R.G. Bennett RAF, F/L D. Ellis RAF, WO R.O.L. Humphrey RAF, Sgt J.G. Laurence RAF and Sgt G. Wilson RNZAF walked for three days in an attempt to evade, but were taken PoW just short of the Allied positions (D. Gunby & P. Temple, _RAF Bomber Losses in the Middle East and Mediterranean, Vol. 1_, 2006). TSGNO notes that WO G. Bennett RAF (Can.), 1063396, was taken PoW, and other sources state this occurred in July 1942 in the Middle East. It is not known if WO Bennett and P/O Bennett are the same person.

2-3 Bremen attacked by 325 bombers in good visibility which cause moderate damage, supported by 24 Blenheim INTRUDERS attacking various airfields, 13 bombers lost (BC War Diaries).


2-3 103 Sqn. Wellington Ic R1617 PM-T shot down over Germany by a night fighter, F/S A.L. Spafford, P/O D.W. Spooner DFM RAAF and Sgt C.V. Webb RAF killed, Sgt A. Szmaites RAF and P/O Mayer RAF PoW.

2-3 103 Sqn. Wellington Ic DV611 lost over Germany, F/S J.V. Chicoine MiD, P/O A.T. Little RAAF, Sgt T.A. Elliott RAF and Sgt J.W. Edwards RAF killed, Sgt D.H. Davidner PoW.


2-3 420 Sqn. Canadian built Hampden I P5332 PT-T shot down by a night fighter over Holland, F/S T.E. Crothers, F/S J.E. Gibbs, F/S C.G. Wilde and Sgt A.D. Bond RAF killed. Wireless operator air gunner Gibbs was only 19 years old and had just returned from his leave after getting married June 17. There is more on this crew at http://www.teunispats.net/fr-wwii.htm.
2-3  420 Sqn. Hampden I AE248 PT-A shot down over Holland by a night fighter, F/S R.W.R. Whytock, Sgt J.N. Waddington RAF and Sgt R.O. Williams RAF killed, F/L K.E. Brown PoW. See http://www.teunispats.net/fr-wwii.htm for details. It was F/L Brown's second sortie, his first had been the 1,000 bomber attack on Bremen (K. Brown Sr.). In the PoW camp F/L Brown, who was a linguist and had been a newspaper reporter, began reading the German newspapers provided to the camp library, where he gleaned information, names and other information that could be used to forge accurate documents and cover stories for escaping prisoners (T. Barris). F/L Brown later wrote a book on his experiences, Bonds of Wire (1989).


Friday

3 Two months after the occupation of Tulagi Japanese Naval Construction troops land on the nearby island of Guadalcanal to begin constructing a forward airfield (wikipedia).

   Germany and Italy promise to respect Egyptian sovereignty and independence once they have defeated Allied forces there (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).

   Five days after leaving Italy the long range SM.75GA lands in Tokyo. After discussions on the possibilities of further long range flights it departs and returns to Italy on the same route (H.W. Neulen). German withdrawals in the fall make further flights impossible.

#1 EFTS, Malton, Ontario, #3 EFTS, London, Ontario, #14 EFTS, Portage la Prairie, Manitoba and #22 EFTS, Ancienne Lorette, Quebec, closed on this date (http://www.bombercrew.com/BCATP.htm).

3  159 Sqn. Liberator II AL542 was wrecked when it's nose wheel collapsed making a heavy landing in Egypt, P/O E.P. Mahoney, F/S F.P. Russell RAF and their crew safe.

3  213 Sqn. Hurricane BN537 shot down over Egypt, WO1 J.D. Ritchie killed.

3  217 Sqn. Beaufort I AW240 (borrowed from 22 Sqn.) from Malta, one of 2 from a formation of 4 shot down by flak off Greece, Sgt G.L. Hodson RAF (Can.), Sgt H. Hole RAF, Sgt R.G. Mercer RAF and Sgt L.A. York RAF missing (H. Welting and Errol Martyn at www.rafcommands.com). [R. Hayward has this aircraft as borrowed from 39 Sqn., side letter 'A'.]

3  #1 SFTS, Camp Borden, Ontario, Harvard II #2648 crashed and burned at Fergusonville, Ontario on an instrument practice flight, killing LAC(P) A.R. Bonner and LAC(P) J.R. Moody RCAF (USA).

3  #9 B&G School, Mont Joli, Quebec, Battle TT.I #1823 ditched into the St. Lawrence after the engine failed while towing a target. No one was hurt, and the aircraft was salvaged but not repaired (S. Shail).

3  #32 OTU, Patricia Bay, BC, Canadian built Hampden TB.I AN109 swung on take-off and collapsed it's undercarriage, P/O Davies and crew safe (H. Moyle).
3-4 Bomber Command had 6 Lancasters on GARDENING operations off Denmark with 2 losses (BC War Diaries).


3-4 61 Sqn. Lancaster I R5663 QR-B hit by flak on a GARDENING sortie over Denmark and crashed in shallow water off Sweden where the pilot F/S G.E. Williams was thrown clear and survived to be interned, but Sgt B. Morgan, Sgt J. Pritchard RAF, Sgt M. Caddy RAAF, Sgt H.V. Turton RAF, Sgt J.M. Raine RAF and Sgt J. Samson RAF were killed.

Saturday
4 After a long and bitter siege the Soviet Black Sea naval base of Sebastopol falls to German attack. In the original planning for the invasion of the USSR this port was expected to fall within weeks, not a year (wikipedia).

German offensive at El Alamein halted, in part due to heavy Allied air attacks (Oxford).

Using borrowed RAF Boston aircraft from 226 Squadron, USAAF personnel celebrate their Independence Day by making the first attack of the 8th Air Force on occupied Europe from England, losing 3 of 6 aircraft to flak (BC War Diaries).

4 #301 MU, India, P/O J.K. McKechnie died of injuries received in the crash of a Blenheim aircraft he was flying, date of crash unknown. P/O McKechnie had crashed a Hurricane in Sumatra Feb. 12, above


4 #44 Group, Ferry Command, Mitchell II FL214 force landed in Ireland, the crew of civilians P.F. Lowman, L.K. Pay, A.C. MacWilliams and F/S R.J. MacGregor were allowed to cross to Northern Ireland the next day (D. Burke, www.ww2irishaviation.com).

4 #1404 Meteorological Flight Hudson I V9111 flew into the ground in England possibly due to ground mist conditions, F/S T.B.G. Finlay, Sgt M.M. Hazell RAF, Sgt L. Wagstaffe RAF and Sgt A.F. Bolton RAF killed (www.rafdavidstowmoor.org; R. McNeill at www.rafcommands.com).

4 #124 (Ferry) Sqn. RCAF Harvard II #2582 crashed into trees near Krugersdorf, Ontario, in bad weather, Sgt H.E. Levine RCAF (USA) and Cpl A.G. McHardy killed.

Sunday
5 US photo reconnaissance aircraft discovers work underway to build an airstrip on Japanese occupied Guadalcanal (wikipedia).

UK-Murmansk Convoy PQ-17 ordered to disperse when German naval units, including the battleships Tirpitz and Lützow with the cruisers Hipper and Admiral Scheer, reported sailing from Norway to intercept it, although the reports turn out to be exaggerated. Over the next few days without convoy protection German U-boats and aircraft sink 26 of 37 scattered merchant ships, resulting in the loss 153 seamen and cargo of 3,800 trucks, over 400 tanks and nearly 300 aircraft (Oxford) and 96,000 tons of other supplies. The 11 surviving ships deliver 900 trucks, over 160 tanks,
nearly 90 aircraft and 57,000 tons of cargo (D. Sommerville). The cost to the
German forces is 5 aircraft (D. Newton). This defeat results in the temporary
suspension of convoys to Russia. The prototype Catalina "Guba", still operational
in the USSR, is one of the aircraft used to search for the scattered merchantmen.

**Operation RUTTER, a planned attack by Canadian troops with British commandos and US Rangers on Dieppe, commences with embarkation of soldiers in England.**

5 70 Sqn. Wellington Ic Z1175 "L" crash landed in Egypt after an engine failed while seeking
targets in the battle zone at El Alamein, Sgt C.A. Clack RAF injured, Sgt J.R. Milligan, P/O
R.F. Watson RNZAF, Sgt R.J. Smart RNZAF, Sgt F.O. Harrison RNZAF and Sgt P.F. Smith
RAF safe. See July 7-8 and Dec. 10, below.

5 RAF Ferry Command, Dorval, Quebec, Hudson IIIa FH395 crashed and sank in Lac St. Louis
on a training flight, W/C B.G. Carr-Harris, S/L G.P. Christie DFC & Bar RAF (Can.) and
radio operator LAC C.S. Llewellyn RAF killed. S/L Christie was a veteran of the Battle of
Britain with 242 (Canadian) Sqn.

5 #1 Works Construction Unit, RCAF Station Ucluelet, BC, LAC W.A.O. Scott accidentally
drowned.

5 #15 SFTS, Claresholm, Alberta, LAC J. Lockhart drowned in Willow Creek near Claresholm.

Monday

6 City of Voronezh falls to German forces in Russia (Polsson). Having expected a major
attack towards Moscow, and with his reserves in the wrong location, Stalin orders a
strategic retreat, the only time this was done by Russian forces in the war, thus
preventing an encirclement (Oxford).

In India the Congress Party met for 8 days to discuss their response to the failed Cripps
Mission with regard to Japanese advance through Burma. They recommended a
resolution to demand that England end its rule of India, and if this was not met then
a campaign of civil disobedience would take place (S. Raghavan). See August 7,
below.

Sgt Beurling RAF (Can.) shoots down 3 fighters and damages a bomber over Malta, which
is cited in the award of a DFM in mid-July (Nolan).

Off Cap Chat, Gaspé, U-132 sinks three freighters, SS Dinaric, SS Hainaut and SS
Anastasios (J.W. Essex). Detachment of 5 Hudsons of #113 (BR) Sqn. sent to Mont
Joli, Quebec, to search for U-boats (RCAF Sqns.) (see below).

#1 General Reconnaissance School opened at Summerside, PEI on Anson I aircraft (Chris
www.rafcommands.com).

**Otto Frank and his family go into hiding in occupied Amsterdam (wikipedia).**

6 14 Sqn. Blenheim IV Z7712 shot down bombing motor transport in Egypt, Sgt W.J.
Bartholomew RAF killed, Sgt J.E. Beckett and S/L A.N. Pirie RAF safe. WO2 J.E. Beckett
is listed as a PoW in TSGNO, no details.
185 Sqn. Spitfire Vc BP979 shot down near Malta, F/S E.D. Moye RCAF (USA) missing.


421 Sqn. scores its first victories, by F/L G.D. Robertson, who damaged a Bf 109 on one patrol and later damaged a Ju 88 on a second patrol in Spitfire Vb BL722 AU-S.

#22 OTU Wellington Ic R1465 LT-Y flew into a mountain in Wales just below the summit in low cloud, Sgt H.C. Beatty, Sgt J.P. Hayes, F/S J.B. Kemp, F/S E.E. Mittell, Sgt K.F. Yuill killed.

According to an article on this loss in the June 1985 Flypast magazine the wreckage of this aircraft is still at this remote location, and the site is marked by a cairn built by local school children.

#55 OTU, Canadian built Hurricane I Z7077 collided in mid-air with Canadian built Hurricane X AG125 and both crashed, Sgt. Te Roki Robieson RAF (NZ) killed in Z7077 and Sgt A.L. Gane RAAF killed in AG125 (A. Storr, ww2talk.com).

#1654 HCU Manchester Ia L7496 crash landed when an engine cut on an overshoot, F/S G. Lancey and crew safe.

#113 (BR) Sqn. RCAF, I. Wikene credits this Squadron with damaging U-132 in July using Hudson aircraft. The web site uboat.net notes the U-132 was driven out of control and damaged on this date after sinking the SS Dinaric (above), but implies this was done by the escort HMCS Drummondville. The exact details need research.

#130 (F) Sqn. RCAF, Mont-Joli, Quebec, four Kittyhawk aircraft and two Battles (of #9 B&G School) armed with depth charges were dispatched on an anti-submarine patrol after a freighter was torpedoed and sunk off Ste. Anne-des-Monts in the Gulf of St. Lawrence (S. Shail). Two lifeboats were spotted. On return squadron commander S/L J.A.J. Chevrier in Kittyhawk I #1055 ran out of fuel and ditched 1½ miles from shore, S/L Chevrier missing. These might have been the last operational sorties made by Battle aircraft. The missing Kittyhawk may still have been carrying its RAF serial, AK915 (R.W.R. Walker). S/L Chevrier had flown in the RAF in the Battle of Britain (http://battleofbritain1940.net).

#1 Central Navigation School, Rivers, Man., LAC S.F. Moore drowned at the bombing range at Lac du Bonnet.

#13 (OTS), Patricia Bay, BC, Hudson I #765 crashed at Bellingham, Washington State, USA, when practicing take-off and landings, P/O R.B. MacLachlan and Sgt V.A. Utting killed, P/O E.R. Brooks injured.

unknown unit, LAC S.D. Thurston RAF died in a car accident, Barrifield, Ontario.

USAAF 5th Fighter Sqn., 3rd Fighter Group, P-40E 41-5563 damaged in a landing accident at Whitehorse, Yukon, pilot W.E. Gregg safe (AAIR).

6-7 Forty two aircraft sent on GARDENING sorties off France, 3 lost (BC War Diaries).

Luftwaffe bombing attack on Middlesbrough (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).

172 Squadron Leigh Light Wellington GR.VIII "H", P/O W.B. Howell RAF (USA) attacks and sinks U-502 in the Bay of Biscay, the first U-boat sunk by a Leigh Light attack.


Tuesday
7 Operation RUTTER canceled due to bad weather, soldiers returned to base with no instructions to not discuss the cancelled operation.

A daylight attack on Gibraltar by a single Italian P.108 bomber was made, but the aircraft was lost (H.W. Neulen).

#115 (BR) Sqn., RCAF Station Annette Island, Alaska, Bolingbroke IV (F/S W.E. Thomas and P/O L.H.J. Shebeski) attacks the Japanese submarine RO-32, and then directs US Navy ships to the scene which were believed to have sunk the submarine, but the RO-32 was found intact in Japan after the war (RCAF Sqns., Oughton). F/S Thomas was recommended for a DFM, but received an MiD for this attack (Awards).


7 #124 (Ferry) Sqn. RCAF Harvard IIb FE321 was being ferried from Moncton to Winnipeg when it crashed near Sioux Lookout, Ontario, Sgt J.R. Dougall was killed.

7 #147 (BR) Sqn. RCAF, Sea Island, BC, Crane I #8671 crashed and burned east of the airfield on a training flight, AC1 E.J. Delaney, Sgt H.M. Miners, and P/O D.J. Sterling killed. See #12 SFTS loss July 25, 1942.

7 #13 (OTS), Patricia Bay, BC, P/O E.R. Brooks died of injuries from the Hudson crash in Bellingham the previous day.

7-8 70 Sqn. Wellington Ic Z8986 "T" crash landed in Egypt from low level while seeking targets in the battle zone, Sgt C.A. Clack RAF [not found in CWGC], P/O R.F. Watson RNZAF, Sgt R.J. Smart RNZAF, Sgt F.O. Harrison RNZAF and Sgt L.T.B. Phillips RAF killed, Sgt J.R. Milligan safe. All this crew except Sgt Phillips had come through the crash landing of a Wellington July 5, above. See Dec. 10, below.

7-8 148 Sqn. Wellington Ic T2985 failed to return from an operation to Tobruk and was later found
Crashed in Egypt, **P/O J.P. Michael**, **F/O F. Tribe RAF**, **Sgt S.G. Rimmer RAF**, **Sgt L.G.I. Owen RAF**, **Sgt N.A. Burr RAF** and **Sgt B.J. Worsfold RAF** killed.

**7-8 Bomber Command sends 102 GARDENING sorties to the Frisian Islands, no losses (BC War Diaries).**

**Wednesday**

8 33 Sqn. Hurricane BP181 shot down over North Africa, **P/O R.E. Wigle** killed.

8 32 Sqn. **P/O C.W. Gomm** died of shock and exposure after being rescued the previous day when his Hurricane crashed into the English Channel.

8 #17 OTU Blenheim I L1197, **Sgt R.M. Overns**, collided on landing with Blenheim IV L9328, Sgt L.J. Hopkins RAF pilot. There were no casualties and the second aircraft was repaired.

8 #12 SFTS, Brandon, Man., Crane I #7789 was practicing night circuits at the Chater relief field when it was observed to go into a steep spiral spin before striking the ground, **LAC(P) G.W. Gibson** killed. See #12 SFTS loss July 25, 1942.

8 #15 SFTS, Claresholm, Alberta, Crane I #8743 and #8669 collided in mid air on a formation training exercise and crashed east of Carmangay, Alberta, **LAC(P) E.E. Gutteridge**, **LAC(P) R.G. Johnston**, **LAC(P) W.C. MacDonald** and **LAC(P) C.M. Stearns** were killed.

8-9 148 Sqn. Wellington Ic DV540 “G” became lost returning from an operation over Tobruk and crashed landed in shallow water in the Nile delta when the engines failed on an attempted landing, **WO W.D.F. Ross** and his crew safe.

**8-9 Wilhelmshaven attacked by 285 bombers but most bombs fall in open land, light damage done. Five NICKEL flights also over France. Five bombers lost (BC War Diaries).**

8-9 101 Sqn. Wellington III X3634 lost without trace on an operation to Germany, **Sgt A.A. Brace RAF (Nfld.)**, **Sgt C.H. Stewart RAF (Nfld.)**, **P/O J.R. Tregea RAF (Argentina)**, **Sgt H.C. Craig RAF** and **Sgt L.J. Symonds RAF** missing.

8-9 102 Sqn. Halifax II W1107 DY-D was attacked and set on fire by a night fighter that also killed the rear gunner, **Sgt A.G. Parrott RAF**. The crew attempted to extinguish the flames but were unsuccessful and the aircraft was abandoned over Holland to crash in an estuary, now a man made lake. **Sgt Parrott** has no known grave, but **F/S D.B. Patterson**, **F/S B.J. Treloar RAAF**, **Sgt J. Powell RAF**, **Sgt L. Williams RAF** and **Sgt A.G. Frampton RAF** were taken PoW.

8-9 106 Sqn. Lancaster I R5861 believed shot down by a night fighter off the Dutch coast, **F/S R.W. Woolner** and **Sgt W.H. Curtis RAF** killed, **Sgt K.E. Dare RAAF**, **P/O K.J. Broderick RAF**, **Sgt O.F. Lodge RAF**, **Sgt W.L.S. Rees RAF** and **Sgt S.A. Roberts RAF** missing.

**Thursday**

**9 Fairchild Cornell basic trainer, built by Fleet Aircraft Canada, enters service with the RCAF (Griffin CMA).**

9 62 Sqn. Hudson III AE523 shot down at Akyab, Burma, **F/S A.A. Margolis**, **P/O G.O. Maughan RAF** and **Sgt N. McNeil RAF** missing.

9 250 Sqn. Kittyhawk DV932 spun and crashed on take-off in the desert, killing **P/O D.A. McMaster**.

9 126 Sqn. Spitfire lost from Malta, **F/O G.A. Levy-Despas**, Legion of Honour (Fr.) and Croix de
Guerre (Fr.), serving under the name "Guy Carlet", missing. TSGNO states he was from Montreal, but C. Shores, B. Cull & N. Malizia's book Malta: The Spitfire Years states he was Free French serving in the RCAF, thus the nom de guerre.

9 #15 OTU Wellington Ic DV932 landed too long and attempted to overshoot, but stalled avoiding trees and crashed, aero engine mechanic LAC G.S. Miller, radar mechanic Cpl. D. Vail, P/O H.E.J. Giles RAF, Sgt J.S.D.S. Haley RAF and Sgt D. Bradshaw RAF killed, Sgt N. Wade RAF injured.


9 unknown unit, LAC R.H. Wong RAF accidentally drowned in Canada, location unknown.

9-10 #1 OADU (detachment from 10 Sqn.) Halifax II W7695 "D" enroute from Gibraltar to Egypt became lost and came down off shore east of Alexandria, LAC R.H. Saunders RAF and two unidentified injured from the crew of WO D.J. O'Driscoll MiD, F/S J.M. McLaughlan, Sgt Spaven, Sgt V.L. Wiles, Sgt Garrett-Ree, Sgt S. Oakford and F/S Dew (RAF or other air forces?), all of whom waded ashore (R. Allenby). This was the second ditching for WO O'Driscoll, F/S McLaughlan, Sgt Wiles and Sgt Oakford. See August 3-4, below.

9-10 Fifty-nine GARDENING sorties carried out over the North Sea, 1 lost (BC War Diaries).


Friday

10 First North American Mitchell bomber (B-25) enters service with the RCAF (Griffin CMA). During the war these aircraft were mostly used in Canada as conversion trainers to introduce Commonwealth pilots to flying nose wheeled equipped aircraft prior to flying Liberators, although many RCAF aircrew flew Mitchells in combat with RAF squadrons. Post war, surplus USAF aircraft were purchased and used for reserve units and a variety of training and photography tasks into the early 1960s.


10 126 Sqn. Spitfire Vc (Trop.) BR244 lost near Malta, F/S B.W. Reynolds missing.

10 58 Sqn. Whitley missing from operations over the Bay of Biscay, F/S P.W.B. Box, P/O P.D. Mosher and 4 RAF missing (A. Storr). Sgt S.A. Curtis RAF, F/L J.T.C. Long RAF, F/L A. Fleming RAF, Sgt L.E. Webster RAF, Sgt A.S. Hoad RAF, F/S W. Stone RAADF, F/O C.W. Harris RAF, F/S D. Hatton RAF, Sgt D.C. Johnson RAF, P/O W. Ross RAF were missing from 58 Squadron on this date (possibly 2 aircraft lost) (CWGC).


10 #61 OTU Spitfire stalled & crashed near the aerodrome, Sgt C.S. Barber killed. Either Spitfire IIA P8181 or Ia X4644 (www.spitfires.ukf.net).
10 #10 (BR) Sqn. RCAF Digby #739 missing from a convoy patrol in the Strait of Belle Isle. In 1955 the wreckage was discovered in the Long Mountain Range of Newfoundland east of Point Saunders and the bodies of the crew, P/O D.E. Corey, P/O G.T. Crerar, Sgt T.H. Few, F/S C.H. Finniss, P/O E.J. Padden RCAF (USA) and P/O S.St.G. Stubbs, were recovered in 1956 (R.W.R. Walker). It is believed that the wreckage had been discovered by hunters several years before but the report was discounted by the authorities as it was close to a known wreck of an aircraft lost on a Ferry flight. The hunters had to convince an RCMP officer to hike to the site with them before they were believed (R. Schamper).

10 #31 ANS, Port Albert, Ontario, LAC E. Byers RAF and LAC W.J. Chilvers RAF were killed in a car accident (date from CWGC, TSGNO says killed in January)

10 #32 OTU Canadian built Hampden I AJ989 ditched off Sidney, BC, after an engine fire, Sgt E. Williamson RAF, Sgt A.F. Vaughan RAF, Sgt A. McKinnon RNZAF and Sgt C. Johnson RNZAF rescued by a fishing boat, injured (BC Times Colonist Patricia Bay Aircrash List 2009, H. Moyle).

10 USAAF AAFFC P-40F damaged at River Canard, Ontario, pilot John P. Sellas safe (AAIR).

Saturday

11 Decision to re-stage Operation RUTTER to seize the port of Dieppe as Operation JUBILEE. Due to the cancellation of RUTTER, JUBILEE was to be mounted by the previously trained soldiers at very short notice, with the landing troops informed once they had boarded their vessels. This required them to be matched with their weapons and other equipment on their ships, a difficult logistic task that was largely successful but meant soldiers had to clean and prepare the weapons, then go into combat without testing them. At higher levels discussion was limited and security was tight to prevent any security breaches (M. Zuehlke).

In an experiment 44 Lancaster bombers are sent at low level across the Baltic to attack the shipyards at Danzig. Diversion attacks are made by 13 Hampden and Mosquito aircraft. Part of the flight went over neutral Sweden. Arriving at dusk the Lancasters were late on target and only 24 bombed in a thunderstorm. Due to weather no fighters intercepted them but flak shot down 2 bombers (BC War Diaries; J. Bushby). For a detailed account of this operation see J. Bushby, Daylight to Danzig, Aeroplane Monthly, February 1981.

11 249 Sqn. Spitfire Vc (Trop.) BR111 shot down off Malta, P/O C.B. Ramsay missing (Peter Benn ww2aircraft.net, www.spitfires.ukf.net). Shores, Cull & Malizia note that P/O Ramsay had been injured previously when his aircraft struck a radio mast when landing.


11 105 Sqn. Mosquito IV DK299 lost on a daylight attack to Flensburg, Germany, a diversion for the attack on Danzig, F/L G.P. Hughes MiD RCAF (Argentina) and F/O T.A. Gabe RAF killed.


11 #1 (Coastal) OTU Hudson I T9353 crashed off of Scotland just after taking off, F/S T.C.
Robinson, P/O F.W. Walker RAF, Air Cadet C. Andrews (1247 ATC Sqn.) and Air Cadet F. Percival (1247 ATC Sqn.) missing (COL BRUGGY and Henk Welting, www.rafcommands.com)

11 #102 Conversion Flight Halifax II R9419 crashed attempting a forced landing while practicing 3 engined landings, Sgt J.G. Castle and Sgt R. Mathews RAF injured, F/O W.J.J. Welch RAF, Sgt J. Burdon RAF and AC2 Johnson RAF safe. One person was injured on the ground and several houses were damaged (R. Allenby). See Aug. 23-24, 1943.

11 #3 B&G School, MacDonald, Manitoba, Battle TT.I #1755 stalled in a turn while towing a target and crashed, drogue operators AC2 J.P. Buzik and LAC C. Off as well as pilot Sgt N. Moss RAF killed.

11-12 108 Sqn. Egypt Wellington Ic DV674 "E" returned from an operation over Tobruk but was unable to locate it's landing ground. The aircraft proceeded to it's base at Cairo but collided with Wellington AD601 attempting an overshoot, F/S R.A.A. Chalmers RCAF (UK) and Sgt T.L. Roberts RAF killed, Sgt I.M. Thomas RAF injured, Sgt H.J. Wigley RAAF, Sgt R.W. Luck RAF and Sgt M.D. Richards RAF safe.

11-12 148 Sqn. Wellington Ic T2749 was damaged by flak over Tobruk. An engine caught fire due to this damage and the aircraft was force landed on the beach behind enemy lines, Sgt A.L. Hall RAF being injured. The pilot, P/O P.W. Hoad RAF, elected to stay with the injured gunner while the rest of the crew attempted to walk back to Allied held areas, and they were both taken PoW. The other crewmen, P/O D.A. Newman RCAF (USA), F/O R.W. McNichol, Sgt T. Gregg RAF and Sgt L.L. Horsman were captured 4 days later when they tried to steal a truck. P/O Newman managed to escape Italy in September, 1943 (www.conscript-heroes.com MI-9 files).

11-12 Bomber Command sends 49 GARDENING sorties over Denmark and the North Sea, 2 were lost (BC War Diaries).


11-12 #22 OTU Wellington Ic AD631 LT-V landed at the wrong airfield by mistake on a night navigation exercise, overrunning the landing area into a fence, Sgt H.J. Murray injured.

Sunday

12 #111 (F) Sqn. RCAF detachment of 12 aircraft arrive at Umnak Island, Alaska (RCAF Sqns.).

An OUTWARD balloon shorts out power lines near Leipzig, causing a fire that destroyed a power station, the operations greatest single success.

#16 EFTS, Edmonton, Alberta, closed due to congestion at Blatchford Field, where a new USAAF base is being built to support the air route to Alaska, as well as the RCAF base (#2 AOS) and Aircraft Repair Ltd. (busy overhauling and repairing Oxford trainers), and other aircraft supporting activities in the NWT (http://www.bombercrew.com/BCATP.htm). See July 20 below and September 23, 1943.

12 405 Sqn. Halifax II W1097 was written off when it over ran it's landing area in England, F/S
H.M. Slezak and his crew safe. See July 26-27, below


12 #23 OTU Wellington Ic R1414 was written off when it landed with the wheels retracted, Sgt J.P. Duval slightly injured, Sgt R.R. Foltz, Sgt J.L. Lymburner and Sgt R.N.V. Burke safe. See Nov. 9-10 below.

12 #132 (F) Sqn. Sea Island, BC, Kittyhawk Ia #730 crashed, Sgt C.L. O'Hara killed.

12 #13 SFTS, St. Hubert, Quebec, Harvard II #3838 was practicing circuits when it stalled on take-off and crashed, LAC(P) W.C. James killed.

12 #45 Group, RAF Ferry Command, Hudson VI FK413 lost, Sgt R.E Wylie, F/L R.D. Crofton RAF and Sgt E.D. Brabender RAAF missing.

12-13 104 Sqn. Wellington II Z8588 "V" was returning from a sortie over Tobruk when it crash landed in the desert, WO2 J.O. Waltenbury was killed in the crash. The rest of the crew, P/O J.E. Harlton, P/O R.S. Spear RAAF, Sgt E. Burford RAAF, F/S R.C. Andrews RAF and Sgt K. Graley RAF were taken PoW on July 19th.

12-13 Fifty-five GARDENING sorties and 1 NICKEL sortie undertaken, 2 minelayers lost (BC War Diaries).


Monday

13 Three ships sunk in the St. Lawrence (CJCA headline). #130 (F) Sqn. redeployes from Mont Joli to Saguenay (Bagotville), Quebec (RCAF Sqs.).

13 38 Sqn. Wellington crashed after running out of fuel near Landing Ground 224, Egypt. F/S W.W. Burns RCAF (USA), P/O F.B. Morgan and F/S W.G. Fissenden RAF killed. P/O Morgan had been slightly injured Jan. 16, 1941 in an overshot landing at #11 OTU. At this time 38 Squadron, formerly a bombing unit, was engaged in night torpedo attacks of ships illuminated by flares by radar equipped Wellingtons (wikipedia).


13 #2 AFU Sgt H.J. Ralston died in hospital in England of injuries sustained when his Oxford I BF948 crashed after a mid air collision with another Oxford V3510 on July 11. Sgt J.A. Smith RNZAF also died in this incident.


Williams RAF, Sgt W.A.G. Atkins RAF and electrician Sgt E. Dolphin RAF killed.

13  #111 (F) Sqn. Kittyhawk I AK989 (RCAF #1069) was part of a flight moving to Umnak in Alaska when it caught fire in the air and was abandoned (440 SH).

13  #14 SFTS, Aylmer, Ontario, Harvard II #3269 spun, recovered, and then dove into the ground near the airfield, killing P/O B.D. Hughes RCAF (Brazil) and LAC(P) J.W. Littlejohn RAAF.

13  RCAF Recruiting Centre, Quebec, AC2(WAG) J.A.J.B. Genois drowned while on leave before reporting for training.


13-14 104 Sqn. Wellington II Z8650 "Q" was returning from an operation to Tobruk and flew into high ground while descending for a navigation fix as they were unaware of a change in the barometric pressure which resulted in an inaccurate altimeter setting, Sgt J.F. Crozier RAAF killed, Sgt W.D.M. Embree, Sgt G.T. Cairns RAF, Sgt S.J. Berry RAF, Sgt J.C. Dickenson RAF and Sgt T.A. Clarke safe. Sgt Crozier was buried at the crash site but his grave could not be located after the war (A. Storr). See Oct. 29-30, below.

13-14 Bomber Command attack on Duisberg by 194 bombers broken up by bad weather, causes only slight damage. Ten INTRUDER and 6 NICKEL sorties also made, 6 bombers and 1 INTRUDER were lost over Europe and 4 more aircraft crashed in England (BC War Diaries).

13-14 12 Sqn. Wellington II W5397 crashed off the Danish coast on an operation to Germany, Sgt R.F. Shorthouse RAF killed, F/S H.H. Harrison, P/O D.A. Welch RAF, Sgt J.G. Reid RAF and Sgt J.G. Stachan RAF missing.

13-14 35 Sqn. Halifax II W1154 TL-A managed to return to England after losing an engine over Germany but was going out of control. The pilot WO2 R.F. Casey ordered a bail out but he and flight engineer Sgt J.C. Williams RAF were killed when the aircraft crashed. The rest of the crew, Sgt Elliot RAF, Sgt Jackson RAF, Sgt Janes RAF, Sgt MacDonald RAF and P/O Alexander RAF, safe.

13-14 35 Sqn. Halifax II W7761 TL-N flew to it's target in Germany where the crew discovered the bomb release mechanism had failed. It returned to England where attempts were made to jettison the bomb load. These all failed, so the aircraft was abandoned, the bombs coming out just before it crashed! All the crew, Sgt H.B. MacDonald, P/O Baker RAF, Sgt Whitter RAF, Sgt Ely RAF, P/O Freedman RAF and Sgt Jones RAF, were safe.

13-14 97 Sqn. Lancaster I R5558 OF-T came down in the sea off the English coast. The local lifeboat rescued Sgt L. Robinson RAF who later died of his injuries, but F/S A.J. McPhee, P/O J.T. Blease RNZAF, F/O L.A. Davies RAAF and F/S J. Tales RAF were killed, and Sgt C.G. Leitch RAF and Sgt B. Earnshaw RAF were missing.

13-14 115 Sqn. Wellington III X3560 KO-K damaged by flak over Germany, and abandoned over Holland, F/S H.D. Mooney, Sgt D. Bruce RAF, P/O W.H.A. Hancock RAF, Sgt W.W.M. Marginson RAF and Sgt R.J.E. Esling RAF PoW.

13-14 142 Sqn. Wellington IV Z1341 QT-L crashed in England due to engine problems in poor weather about 45 minutes after taking off, F/S J.P. Richardson, P/O T.V. Maunders RAF, Sgt J.C. Hazelgrove RAF and Sgt E.S. Hunt RAF killed, Sgt J. Sparks RAF injured.

13-14 150 Sqn. Wellington III X3797 JN-A crashed in England due to icing on return from an operational sortie, Sgt J.D.W. Sykes RAF (Can.), Sgt J.W. Calvert RAF and Sgt L.F. Perry
RAF killed, Sgt F. Mellis RAF, Sgt J. Moffat RAF and P/O Hayes RAF injured.


13-14  419 Sqn. Wellington III X3416 VR-J lost without trace, F/S W.L. Maxim, F/S B.V. Pearce, WO1 W.L. Sargant, Sgt F.M. Van Geun and Sgt J. Grant RAF missing. Sgt Van Geun had survived the overshoot landing of a Wellington March 10-11 above.

Tuesday
14 Air Vice-Marshal K.R. Park MC & Bar, DFC, CG (Fr) RAF (NZ) is flown into Malta by flying boat to take over as Air Officer Commanding on this important outpost (D. Newton). As AOC of #11 Group in the Battle of Britain he had been the principal lieutenant of that victory under ACM H. Dowding, but in the political infighting after the battle had been sidelined to Training Command.
14 USAAF 7th Material Squadron, 5th Air Base Group, Philippines, Pvt E.A. Beaver USAAF (Can.) died as a PoW.
14 #8 SFTS, Moncton, NB, Harvard II #3762 crashed flying circuits, LAC(P) G.E. Pitcher killed.
14 unknown unit, LAC J.W. Usherwood RAF accidentally drowned in Canada, unknown location.

14-15 104 Sqn. Wellington II Z8657 "J" was returning from an operation over Tobruk when it flew into the ground in poor visibility, Sgt J.W.R. Atkinson RAF, Sgt A.J.M. Leete RAF and Sgt I. Reid RAF killed, Sgt J. Greenshields, Sgt D.C. Davies RAF and Sgt R. Sissons RAF injured.

14-15 Bomber Command sent 52 GARDENING aircraft from France to Germany and 4 NICKEL sorties over France without loss (BC War Diaries).
14-15 #23 OTU Wellington Ic DV700 force landed in England on a night flying exercise following an engine failure, F/S C.W. Auld RCAF (USA) and Sgt R.F. Shirley RAF killed, Sgt C.L. Morton, Sgt J.R. Martin and Sgt C.S. Coburn injured.

mid-July Formation of the 1st Special Service Force, a combined US and Canadian combat unit planned to parachute and operate in Norway, approved. Later known as "The Devil’s Brigade" (Polsson).

mid-July, 417 Sqn. ground crews in Egypt are used to service newly arrived USAAF B-25 aircraft (12th Medium Bomber Group?) until their own ground crews arrive (417 SH).

Wednesday
15 First Allied supply flights flown across the Himalayas from north eastern India (now Bangladesh) to China, a route later known as "The Hump".

15 8 Sqn. Blenheim IV Z7920 shot down by anti-aircraft fire near Djibouti, French Somaliland, killing P/O L.R. Maguire RCAF (USA), F/S F.E. Channon RAAF, Sgt V.P.C. Sennet RAF, Cpl H. Wray RAF and AC1 H.L. Sneath RAF (A. Storr).


15 81 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BM461 hit by flak and damaged on a RHUBARB, returned to England, F/L J.E. Walker safe. See April 25, 1944.

15 91 Sqn., two Spitfire Vb were searching for survivors from a missing aircraft over the English Channel when they were intercepted by German fighters and shot down. WO2 F.Y. Campbell missing in Vb BL662 (possibly DL-A), the other pilot, Sgt A.J. Clayton RAAF, bailed out and was rescued.


15 402 Sqn. Spitfire Vb aircraft were on an ASR search when they were intercepted by German fighters, F/S J.C. Hughes in BM296 was shot down, wounded, into the Channel where he was later rescued, while P/O W.Q. Dewar, also wounded, returned to England where he crash landed his aircraft BM262. This operation was referenced in The R.C.A.F. Overseas - The First Four Years, published during the war.

15 #3 (Coastal) OTU Wellington missing from a training exercise, F/S M.T. Hammell, F/S W. Kravac, F/S J.A. McMahon missing and 3 RAF missing/killed.

15 RAF Ferry Command, Dorval, Quebec, Hudson IIa FH386 crashed near Dorval on a training flight, F/L H.H. Gilchrist, Sgt J.M. Sales, Sgt T.I. D'Hondt RAF, Sgt R.E. Mole RAAF and P/O B.J.M. Bryson RAF killed.

15 #4 SFTS, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Crane I #7944 broke up in a thunderstorm while engaged in dual instrument instruction, and crashed 7 miles NW of Wakaw, Saskatchewan, killing Cpl(P) J.A.A. Langevin and P/O W.R.C. McDonald.

15 #35 EFTS Neepawa, Man., DH.82C Tiger Moth #1242 crashed near Eden, Manitoba, Sgt C. Moyer RAF killed, LAC E. Crowter RAF injured (broadhurst www.rafcommands.com).

Thursday

16 US OSRD places an order for 350 tons of uranium dioxide with Eldorado Mining.

Daylight low level attack by 21 Stirlings on Lübeck attempted. Only 8 report bombing the target, 2 were lost. Six diversionary sorties in support (BC War Diaries).

In Paris French Police acting under the orders of the German occupation forces with the support of Vichy France began a 2 day round-up of Jews in the city, over 13,000 (including about 4,000 children) were handed over to the German occupation forces. They were transported to Auschwitz. Fewer than 100 survived the war (wikipedia).

16 33 Sqn. Hurricane crashed in Egypt, P/O E.W. Ollen-Bittle killed.

16 601 Sqn. Spitfire Vc (Trop.) BR459 was in a mid-air collision on take-off with a Hurricane at a landing ground in North Africa, killing F/S Q. Di Persio.

16 149 Sqn. Stirling I BF312 OJ-A was shot down over Germany by flak at very low level on an evening operation, Sgt H.L. Duckworth RAF and Sgt C.T. Shepherd RAF killed, Sgt J.B. Locke, P/O A.W. Mace RAAF, P/O J.M.P. Forward RAF, P/O F.J. Austin RAF and Sgt G.S. Burnett RAF PoW.
16  #1 OADU Blenheim V BA542 missing between Malta and Egypt, shot down by a fighter into the sea, Sgt G.E. Price killed, Sgt G.A. Russell RAF (Nfld.) and F/S P.P. Adams RAAF missing (H. Welting www.rafcommands.com).

16  #158 Conversion Flight Halifax II BB203 NP-Z was approaching to land on a training exercise in England when the pilot overshot the final turn to the runway and attempted to correct with a steep bank. The aircraft rudder stalled in the bank and crashed, WO1 H.W. Williamson, P/O J.W. Craig RAF, P/O J.F. Withy RAF, Sgt E. Place RAF and Sgt A. Dunn RAF killed. Two civilians, brothers G. Pearson and A. Pearson, were commended for their attempts to rescue the crew (R. Allenby).

16  #111 (F) Sqn RCAF flight of seven Kittyhawk I aircraft on a ferry flight from Cold Bay to Umnak, Alaska, flew into sudden fog in the Aleutians. Two aircraft pulled out quickly (W/C G.R. McGregor and P/O O.J. Eskil) but five were lost, all flying into the sea, ground or mountains in the area. F/S G.D.R. Baird missing in AL166 (RCAF #1083) LZ-O, S/L J.W. Kerwin was killed in AN954 LZ-F (RCAF #1061), F/S F.R. Lennon RCAF (USA) was killed in AL138 (RCAF #1079) LZ-S(?), Sgt S.R. Maxmen was killed in AK996 (RCAF #1070) LZ-S(?), and P/O D.E. Whiteside RCAF (USA) was killed in AL201 (RCAF #1088) LZ-H. S/L Kerwin was a veteran of the Battle of Britain with #1 (F) Sqn. RCAF, as was W/C McGregor. See also August 1, 1944. Two transports carrying 27 pilots and ground crew for the detachment climbed out of the fog safely (F.J. Hatch).

16  #121 (K) Sqn. RCAF, Dartmouth, NS, Lysander II #466 crashed into the sea off Wedgeport, NS, Sgt L.W. Kerr killed, LAC C.E. Wright missing.

16  #38 SFTS, Estevan, Saskatchewan, Anson II #8502 written off after a crash (CMA).

16  unknown unit, possibly #128 (F) Sqn. Hurricane I #1354 suffered an engine failure and crashed near East Bay, Bras’Dor Lake, NS, after pilot D.S. Washburn had bailed out (R.W.R. Walker).

16  unknown unit, LAC(P) J.A. Redner died in Canada, no details.

16  unknown unit, AC2 A. Gordon RAF died in Canada, no details.

16-17 148 Sqn. Wellington Ic HX400 failed to return from an operation to Tobruk, P/O M.A. Bennetto, F/S Ford RAF, Sgt R.C. Drake RAF and Sgt C.J. Griffiths RAF killed, F/L J.G. Brown RAF and Sgt C.S. Parker RAF missing. Sgt Bennetto, Sgt Drake, Sgt Griffiths and Sgt Parker had walked out from a crash landed Wellington May 29-30 above.

Friday

17  #123 (F) Sqn. RCAF deploys from Sea Island to Patricia Bay, BC (RCAF Sqns.).

17  Staff Pilot’s Training Unit, RAF, Anson I R9640 flew into a hill in England in bad weather, killing F/S A.C. Gibson, Sgt P.A. Dorman RAF and Sgt S.J. Parsons RAF (highgroundsman www.rafcommands.com).


17  #14 SFTS, Aylmer, Ontario, Yale #3379 struck and heavily damaged on ground by Harvard #3067 and written off (M.L. McIntyre).

Saturday

18 First flight of the Me 262 using it’s jet engines (wikipedia). This flight followed many
failures to reach flying speed attributed to the fighter's original tail wheeled undercarriage. It was found necessary to re-design the Me 262 with a nose-wheel, similar to the discarded He 280 design.

18 416 Sqn. F/L P.L.I. Archer credited with the first aircraft destroyed by the Squadron, a Do 217, while on a convoy patrol in Spitfire Vb EP113. This was his 5th victory.
18 #126 (F) Sqn. RCAF, Dartmouth, NS, armorer AC2 E.F. Broderick was killed accidentally while re-arming a Hurricane aircraft.
18 #32 SFTS, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Harvard II #2727 crashed, P/O F. Biver RAF killed.
18 unknown unit, LAC W.J. Grant died, no details.

Sunday

19 German Army units reach the Don River in Russia. Russians abandon Voroshilovgrad (CJCA headline).

With convoys in place on the US coast the last 2 U-boats on patrol there, having had no success, are ordered to other areas (D. Sommerville). The U-boat operations in the St. Lawrence and Caribbean continue, however.

19 126 Sqn. Spitfire shot down over Malta, F/S J.E. Otis RCAF (USA) killed.
19 408 Sqn. Hampden I AT227 EQ-L collided with a German night fighter off the coast of Holland on a daylight sortie seeking targets of opportunity and came down in the sea, P/O E.W. Swatton RAF killed, Sgt R.H. Burley RAF, Sgt E. Haville RAF and P/O H. Pearce RAF missing.
19 412 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BL825 lost on a cross channel sweep (FCL says a Special Operation), F/O L.O.G. Warner missing.
19 #11 Advanced Flying Unit Oxford P1928 stalled and crashed making an overshoot from a landing at night, Sgt. A.M. Begg and P/O F.D. Alston killed (tomthorne83, A. Smith and H. Welting at www.rafcommands.com).
19 #5 GTS Beaufort crashed in England, F/S J.G. Fruchtl among those killed. A Torpedo Training Unit (TTU) Beaufort I L9803 is recorded as flying into high ground in Scotland on this date by R. Hayward.
19 #22 OTU Wellington Ic DV934 LT-C crashed making a night landing, ending up on fire in the River Dene, P/O J.W.M. Harley, Sgt C.P. Ralph killed, Sgt. Caddell (RAF or RCAF?) injured. Once again doctor S/L F.G. Mogg GM RAF risked his life in the burning wreck attempting to rescue trapped aircrew, without success. See May 5, above. Sgt Caddell may be Sgt L. Caddell who was a Guinea Pig and whose recovery is detailed in R. Donovan's book As For The Canadians. (Note Ms. Donovan states Sgt Caddell was injured in April, 1943, but the details of the crash and crew indicate this earlier incident may be correct).
19 #3 Bombing & Gunnery School, MacDonald, Man., LAC(WAG) W.L.B. Walsh died of injuries from falling out of a window in Winnipeg, Man.
19 #135 (F) Sqn., Mossbank, Saskatchewan, Harvard IIb FE311 crashed near Dunkirk, Saskatchewan, Sgt G.P.E. Schoeler and aero engine mechanic Cpl W.B. Wintonick killed.
19 RCAF Station Rockcliffe, Ontario, pilot F/S J.B. Sorley drowned while swimming at Britannia Park, Ontario.
19-20 Vegesack attacked by 99 Halifax, Stirling and Lancaster bombers with instructions to bomb the U-boat yards if possible or the town using GEE if cloud covered. The target was obscured, and GEE was used, missing the town completely but destroying military warehouses in nearby Bremen. GARDENING was also undertaken by 19 Wellingtons off France, 4 aircraft lost (BC War Diaries).


19-20 76 Sqn. Halifax II W7670 MP-B returned to England early from an operation due to technical problems. One engine burst into flames and the bomber overflew it's base, then 5 crew bailed out safely before it crashed attempting a force landing, F/S W.L. Belous and Sgt F. Hebron RAF killed, P/O W.G.M. Rothschild RAF, Sgt J.P. Van Lelyveld RAF (S. Rhod.), Sgt W.C. Bacon RAF, P/O Atkinson and Sgt Davey safe (R. Allenby).


Monday

20 SS Frederika Lensen torpedoed off Anticosti Island, Quebec, by U-132, killing 4 crew. The ship does not sink and is towed to shore by HMCS Weyburn and beached, but was too badly damaged to be repaired (http://www.uboat.net).

Operation of #32 EFTS (RAF), Bowden, Alberta taken over by the Edmonton Flying Club (C. Simonsen). (The Edmonton Flying Club had operated #16 EFTS at Blachford Field in Edmonton until increasing use by USAAF in support of operations in Alaska forced the school's closure).

20 33 Sqn. Hurricane II BE228 shot down in the Desert, WO2 L.H. Moher killed.
20 185 Sqn. Spitfire Vc (Trop.) BR117 shot down off Malta, P/O H.R. Russel missing.
20 185 Sqn. Spitfire Vc (Trop.) BR460 shot down off Malta, P/O J.F. Lambert bailed out and was picked up by some soldiers who went out in a row-boat (Kevin www.rafcommands.com). See December 20, 1943. He he may have been wounded in this incident.
20 #132 (F) Sqn. RCAF Harvard IIb #3292 ditched off Saltspring Island and written off, 2 crew survived (BC Times Colonist Patricia Bay Aircrash List 2009, R.W.R. Walker).
20 unknown unit, Canadian built Hampden TB.I AN150 crashed near Kirkland Lake, Ontario, on a ferry flight. It was recovered and turned into an instructional airframe (H. Moyle).
20 #1 OTU RCAF, Bagotville, Quebec, opened (http://www.bombercrew.com/BCATP.htm).

Tuesday

21 Prevented from landing at Port Moresby, Japanese forces invade Buna, on New Guinea's north coast, beginning an overland advance across the Owen Stanley mountains using the 100 mile long Kokoda Trail that leads to Port Moresby on the south coast. Planners of this offensive expected a road, and did not realize how primitive this
"track" was, being no more than a path through jungle covered mountains at some points.

Thirty Spitfires of 31 launched from HMS Eagle land in Malta, as well as 82 Sqn. of torpedo Beauforts flying direct as the islands defensive and offensive forces are built up again (D. Newton).

In the evening a planned bombing practice at Donna Nook airfield by 407 Squadron was interrupted by a German bombing operation. The practice target was blacked out but the 407 aircraft, seeing what they thought was illumination of the target, used their flares to illuminate their own airfield, which was then accurately bombed by a German aircraft, causing damage to buildings and destroying an Anson and Tiger Moth aircraft but without any casualties (407 SH). A song was later composed about this event and the lyrics were published in the Squadrons chapter in The R.C.A.F. Overseas - The Sixth Year, published in 1949, which claimed a spurious award of an Iron Cross to the Squadron. See also April 1, 1941 and August 24, 1944.

21 607 Sqn., WO1 W.H. James died as a Prisoner of War in Indonesia. He had been shot down in a Hurricane and was taken prisoner April 9, 1942 (see above).


21 400 Sqn. Mustang I AG540 was flying a low level navigation exercise when it flew into a field in England in low visibility, F/L J.F. McGrath killed (www.raf davidstowmoor.org).

21 #4 AOS, RAF, Scotland, Botha I L6355 hit a hangar on an attempted overshoot and crashed into the River Humber, P/O J.F. Haley killed, the only casualty (R. Allenby).

21 #122 (K) (Composite) Squadron RCAF, Patricia Bay, BC, Goose III #917 crashed between Yakutat and Cordova, Alaska, aero engine mechanic Cpl T.B. Donald and armourer AC1 J. McIntosh killed (1000aircraftphotos.com). Passenger Disciplinary Sgt F.M. Baily pulled all the surviving crew and passengers to safety despite the risk of fire. He then tended to the injured and made them as safe as possible before leaving the crash site on a hike of several days to seek help. Contacting authorities he then led a rescue party back to the crash site. For this Sgt Baily was awarded the George Medal. Post war he remained in the RCAF and was commissioned (Awards).

21 unknown unit, LAC G.A. Gray RAF accidentally drowned in Canada, location unknown.

21-22 Duisberg attacked by 291 bombers which drop on GEE but cause only light damage, 23 other sorties, 12 bombers and 1 INTRUDER lost (BC War Diaries).

21-22 12 Sqn. Wellington II Z8420 PH-G shot down by a night fighter over Holland, F/S H.R.
Hamilton, F/L J.C.D. Langley RAF, F/S L. West RAF, Sgt K.S. Revell RAF and Sgt L.D. Harris RAF killed.


21-22 115 Sqn. Wellington III X3561 KO-X shot down over Germany by a night fighter, Sgt G.V.C. Booth RCAF (USA), Sgt W.F.V. Pink RAF and Sgt J.S. Munro RAF killed, P/O M.L. Freegard RAF and Sgt W.G. Rogers RAF PoW.


Wednesday

22 Deportation of Jews from the Warsaw Ghetto begins (wikipedia).

22 HMT Orduna, Cpl A.J. Doherty RAF (Can.) killed in the Mediterranean, no details, buried at sea (D. Burke www.rafcommands.com).

22 73 Sqn. Hurricane shot down over the desert, F/S A.A. Carcary killed, he has no known grave.

22 153 Sqn. Spitfire Vc (Trop.) BR203 "X" shot down near Malta, P/O D.G. "Shorty" Reid DFM missing. In seven weeks of combat on Malta P/O Reid had been credited with shooting down 5 enemy aircraft.


22 #126 (F) Sqn. RCAF, Dartmouth, NS, Sea Hurricane Ia BW871 stalled and crashed into the sea at Pendant Harbour, NS, F/L C.F. Turner RAF (Can.) missing (R.W.R. Walker). F/L Turner was a veteran of the Battle of Britain.

22 Ferry Command, Dorval, Quebec, Hudson IIIa FH317 crashed on a training flight, Sgt B.J.A. Burdon-Murphy, P/O F.G. McInnes, Sgt J.L. Anderson RAFAF, Sgt R.E. Richards RAFAF and F/L J.K. Rhodes RAF killed.

22 #1 Central Navigation School, Rivers, Man., Anson I #6189 crashed on a navigation exercise near Emerson, Man., killing Sgt H.C.H. Hosford, Sgt I.G. Taylor RAF, LAC H. Dutton RAF and LAC W.H. Symons RAF.

22 #31 OTU Debert, NS, Hudson V AM766 flew into trees and crashed on a practice fight near Wentworth, NS, P/O P. Platson killed, Sgt R.G. Hopkinson, P/O S.H. Brown RAFAF and P/O B.S Walker RAFAF survived (31 OTU/7 OTU Roll of Honour).

22 RNor.AF, Piper Cub collided with a Tiger Moth at Barker Field, Toronto, Ontario, killing S. More (wikipedia).

Thursday

23 Japanese forces pushing up the Kokoda Trail encounter Australian units blocking this route to Port Moresby, and in heavy fighting push them back, the beginning of a long fight in one of the most inhospitable places on earth (D. Newton).
In Russia, the city of Rostov again falls to German forces (Polsson). Encouraged by the success of the offensive Hitler cancels its next phase and splits his forces, sending one army to seize the oilfields in the Caucasus and orders the second to capture the city of Stalingrad on the Volga River. Following their scorched earth policy the oil wells are destroyed by Soviets ahead of advancing Germans, and railways and pipelines sabotaged. Capturing the oil rich region was Hitler's main reason for this offensive, but lack of foresight in having the means of holding the region or putting the oil fields into production for Germany, combined with no way to transport the oil, nullified their value, rendering the campaign meaningless (Oxford). To slow down the German advance Soviet bombers dropped incendiary bombs ahead of them at night in an attempt to set the Steppes on fire. Following the suspension of Arctic convoys the Volga River and railways along it were the main source of distributing Lend-Lease material to the USSR via Iran, so the capture of Stalingrad was more than symbolic (A. Beevor).

On Spitsbergen a Ju 88 aircraft investigating the invasion force crashed under fire from the Allied forces, effectively ending German activities there (R.C. Nesbit).

In a radio broadcast US Secretary of State Cordell Hull proposes an international peace keeping force be established by a group of united nations after the war has ended (D. Sommerville).

First group of 6,500 Jews from the Warsaw Ghetto arrive in Treblinka, and are murdered in the newly built gas chambers there (wikipedia).


23 51 Sqn. Whitley V Z9215 ditched in the English channel on a Coastal Command sortie (R. McNeill & dfuller52 at www.rafcommands.com). The crew was picked up but wireless operator air gunner F/S J.M. McDonald died in hospital of exposure.

23 #54 OTU Beaufighter flew into high ground in England, F/L W.D.W. Hilton killed.

23 #10 (BR) Sqn. RCAF, Gander, Newfoundland, Digby #747 attacked a suspected U-boat in the Straits of Belle Isle, but this may have been a diving whale (Hagedorn & Hagedorn).

23 #1 B&G School, Jarvis, Ontario Birlingbroke IV #9113 crashed into Lake Erie off Peacocks Point, New York, USA, while on a routine gunnery exercise, aero engine mechanic LAC H.P. Burnep, LAC(AG) S.S. Schwartz RCAF (USA), P/O K. Slater RAF and LAC J.S. Williams RAF killed.

23 #5 B&G School Dafoe, Saskatchewan, two Battle I aircraft #2066 and #1925 collided near the runway and crashed, Sgt E.H. Dunn and LAC(WAG) O.V. Nickerson were killed and LAC(AG) R.C. Parker injured in the former aircraft and LAC(AG) J.P.A. Bail killed and LAC(AG) R.A. Ward and Sgt J.E. Parker badly injured in the latter (S. Shail).

23 #34 OTU, Pennfield Ridge, NB, Ventura II AE950 lost over the Bay of Fundy, Sgt J.S. Yurkowski and Sgt H.J. Austin RAF missing (#34 OTU Roll of Honour).

23-24 Bomber Command sends 215 bombers back to Duisberg, but again thick cloud scatters
the attack and light damage only done. Eight INTRUDERS and 13 GARDENING sorties also made, 9 aircraft lost (BC War Diaries).


23-24 405 Sqn. Halifax II W7769 LQ-K was making a circuit to land from an operation when an engine caught fire and failed on an overshoot. The aircraft lost control and fell into the village of Pocklington, Yorkshire, hitting trees and a house chimney before crashing into a school. There were no casualties on the ground, but P/O R.B. Albright, F/S R.W. Hexter, F/S T.R. Owens, F/O G.F. Strong, F/S W.C. Thurlow, Sgt M.W. Apperson RAF, Sgt W. Colloton RAF and Sgt A.J. Western RAF were killed (R. Allenby, P. Allam). Another Squadron Halifax landing was distracted by the flames and the pilot landed with the undercarriage retracted (R. Allenby).

23-24 409 Sqn. Beaufighter VI X8153, F/L E.L. McMillan and Sgt Shepherd destroyed a Do 217 over England and damaged another that crash landed in Holland (Flypast, Dec. 2000 has a description of this incident).

Friday

24 Deciding that the planned Allied invasion of France is not possible at this time, Allies plan an invasion of French North Africa, Operation TORCH, for the fall (Polsson).

24 86 Sqn. Beaufort Ila AW355 ‘G’ was one of three lost making a torpedo attack on a convoy off Greece, P/O W.A. Lowing RAAF, S/L J.R. Hyde DFC RAF and Sgt R.C. West RAF killed, Sgt J.G. Green RAF missing (A. Storr, D. Newton). P/O Lowing was the husband of Rita K. Lowing of Edmonton, Alberta and had been injured Aug. 18, 1941, in the crash of 86 Sqn. Beaufort I W6471 (A. Storr). An Italian cargo ship carrying fuel in drums was damaged in this attack and beached, later catching fire and became a complete loss (R.C. Nesbit).

24 unknown unit, F/S J.M. McKerroll killed delivering a Spitfire (?) aircraft which crashed near Ibadon, Nigeria. Possibly Spitfire Vc (Trop.) BR524 lost on this date at that location.

24 33 Sqn. Hurricane BP120 shot down at El Dahaba, North Africa, F/S F.G. Davison RCAF (USA) killed.


OADU Wellington VIII HX489 was enroute from Gibraltar to Malta when it transmitted an SOS. Nothing further was heard from the aircraft. F/S J.R. Kennedy, Sgt S.A.G. Priestley RAAF, P/O P.S. Champion-Jones RAF, P/O E.W. Grundy RAF, Sgt R.G.H. Dolan RAF and Sgt P.E. Thomas RAF missing (A. Storr, Chris Pointen at www.rafcommands.com).

236 Sqn. Beaufighter (possibly X8088?) lost from Scotland, P/O P.O. Webster missing and 1 RAF missing or killed. Sgt G.R. Lewis RAF is also listed as missing from 236 Sqn. on this date (CWGC). P/O Webster, as a Sergeant, had been interned in Ireland Oct. 23, 1941, but had escaped in April, 1942 (D. Burke, www ww2irishaviation.com).

#5 (Coastal) OTU Canadian built Hampden I P5313 swung taking off on a training flight and written off, Sgt K. Coates and his crew safe (H. Moyle).

#6 AFU Oxford DF293 crashed in England, Sgt D.G. Henderson killed.

#128 (F) Sqn. Canadian built Hurricane #1351 landed wheels up at Sydney, NS and was damaged. Later converted to Xilla (R.W.R. Walker).

#10 SFTS Dauphin, Manitoba, Crane I #8008 crashed in bad weather killing P/O J.S. Bladon and LAC(P) G.H. Cabush.

#17 EFTS Stanley, NS, Finch II #4445 crashed near Otterson Lake, NS, killing WO2 L.L. Burks RCAF (USA) and LAC W.E. Barker RAF (R.W.R. Walker).

unknown unit, Trenton, Ontario, Battle I #1994 crashed and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

Saturday

25 Prototype Catalina "Guba" (flown in Canada on the search for the missing Levanevsky aircraft in 1937) was destroyed by shellfire from a U-boat when at anchor in a bay in Novaya Zemlya in the Russian Arctic (M. Commandeur).

#243 Wing Hurricane aircraft lost in transit to 213 Sqn., western desert, Sgt W.P. Begley killed.

111 Sqn. Spitfire Vb W3603 hit attacking buildings in France, F/L C.W.J. Fernie bailed out and was last seen in his dinghy. He was not found and has no known grave.

277 Sqn. Defiant I V1117 was shot down into the sea on an ASR sortie, F/S J.S.G. Arundel and Sgt W.G. Bunn RAF missing (aircrewrememered.com).

416 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BM142 shot down over the English Channel as part of an escort for a Defiant on an ASR sortie, P/O J.F. Stokes missing. The Defiant was also shot down, possibly V1117, above.


#1449 Flight Canadian built Hurricane X AG190 undershot a landing and collapsed it's undercarriage on the Scilly Islands (www RAF david stowmoor org, H. Welting).

#12 EFTS Goderich, Ontario, DH.82C Tiger Moth #3933 caught fire in the air and crashed near Port Albert, Ontario, killing LAC(P) W.M. Morrison.

#12 SFTS Brandon, Man., Crane I #7776 dove into the ground six miles north of Justice, Man. after possible structural failure while on an instrument flight, killing aero engine mechanic Cpl G. McIntosh, LAC(P) R.E. Willis and LAC L.R. Priday RNZAF. It was found that the
leading edge of the wooden wings on Cranes could fail and collapse in flight, causing sudden asymmetric lift, leading to a spin and or a dive. When discovered it is believed this structural weakness may have caused several fatal crashes of Crane trainers, but there was no way to confirm this.

25 #32 SFTS Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Harvard II AJ755 collided in mid-air with Harvard II AJ732, pilots under training LAC G.L. Bryant was killed in the former, and LAC M.R.E.A. Rhys Wingfield RAF in the latter.

25-26 Duisburg again targeted by 313 bombers, and again thick clouds covered the target and damage caused was negligible. Minor operations of 21 INTRUDERS, 8 GARDENING sorties off France and 7 NICKEL sorties made, a total of 349 sorties with the loss of 16 aircraft (BC War Diaries).

25-26 12 Sqn. Wellington II W5437 took off on an operation but was forced to return with overheating engines. It crash landed in England, Sgt C.A. Manchur, Sgt W. Foster RAF, Sgt J.W.E. Ross RAF, Sgt A. Crawford RAF and Sgt E.W. Green RAF safe.

25-26 12 Sqn. Wellington II Z8591 PH-O was hit by flak over Germany. Unable to stay in the air, it was abandoned over Holland, Sgt J.W. Naden RAF killed, F/L N. Thom, W/C R.C. Collard RAF, Sgt G.D. Pepper RAF and Sgt J.C. Sedgley RAF PoW.


25-26 158 Sqn. Halifax II W1211 NP-J came down in Holland after radioing it was under fighter attack, Sgt B.O. Collins RAF killed, Sgt D.A. Hall, Sgt J.R. Patterson, Sgt F.N. Linklater, F/L G.H. Porter RAF, Sgt C. Gissing RAF and Sgt K.E. Wilman RAF (Rhodesia) PoW (Hans Ooms at www.rafcommands.com; O. Clutton-Brock).

Sunday

26 Six US pilots of the 31st Fighter Group make the first USAAF fighter sorties in Europe as part of a 412 RCAF Squadron operation, losing 1 aircraft (Zijlstra). See below.

26 401 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BM429 was damaged over France in combat on a RODEO and was lost in the English Channel attempting to return to England, P/O J.R. Tucker missing. TSGNO
states this was the last Mark V Spitfire lost from 401 Sqn.  

412 Sqn. Spitfire Vb EN784 shot down over France on a RODEO, Lt Col A.P. Clark USAAF, on exchange for experience, PoW. Lt Col Clark was the first USAAF airman taken PoW in Europe. He assisted in escape plans in Stalag Luft III before the Commonwealth and USAAF air crews were separated into their own camps (T. Barris). Postwar he remained in the USAAF/USAF, finishing as a Lt General, and at one time was commanding officer of the USAF Academy (www.americanairmuseum.com).

#5 (Coastal) OTU Beaufort I W6480 'N' hit the sea off Scotland practicing low level bombing, P/O K.S. Norton RAF killed, P/O R.B. Henry, P/O R.H. Pike RAF and P/O T. Dean RAF missing (alclark www.rafcommands.com).

#19 OTU Whitley V BD349 crashed into the North Sea on a training exercise after an engine failure, F/S T.B. McGee, Sgt G.G. Scott RAF (Can.), P/O R.T. Meek RAF, Sgt C.E. Hayes RAF and Sgt G.G. Scott RAF crew missing.

26-27 The German held airfield at Fuka, Egypt, is attacked by a Jeep mounted force of the Special Air Service (SAS) that destroys 37 aircraft, mostly Ju 52/3m transports, a serious blow to the Afrika Corps (A. Beevor).

Hamburg attacked by 403 bombers which fly through bad weather but find clear skies over the target, and inflict severe damage on the city, 337 people killed on the ground (BC War Diaries). Other operations of 22 INTRUDER sorties made (BC War Diaries). Twenty nine bombers and 1 INTRUDER were lost. See July 27-28, 1943.

407 Sqn. made it's first successful high (4,000') altitude bombing attack on a German convoy (407 SH).

26-27 7 Sqn. Stirling I R9328 MG-A was hit by flak and came down in the River Elbe where it sank in sand offshore, Sgt W.C.P. Harfoot RAF, F/O D.P. Leigo RAAF and Sgt J.H. Caldwell RAAF missing, F/L J.N. Harris, Sgt A.J. Roberts RAF, Sgt R.C. Stewart-Moore RAAF and Sgt E.E. Blythe RAF PoW.


26-27 102 Sqn. Halifax II W1142 DY-A shot down just off the coast of Germany, P/O W.H. Barber RAF and Sgt G.M. Jones RAF killed, Sgt W.G. Wilcox, Sgt J.B. Downes, Sgt J.M.M. Wilson RAF, Sgt J.S. Higgin RAF and Sgt J.W. Vine RAF were found clinging to a wing and were taken PoW. Sgt Wilcox was later repatriated.

26-27 102 Sqn. Halifax II W1153 DY-H damaged by flak and forced to a very low altitude, then hit by
light flak crossing the coast and forced to ditch off the coast of Germany where the survivors managed to wade ashore, F/S J.K. Baker, F/S W.E. Mander, Sgt N.A. Penston RAF killed, P/O B.V. Hunter RAF, Sgt R.W. Kinsey RAF, Sgt W.H. Golding RAF and Sgt J. Fryett RAF PoW.


26-27 115 Sqn. Wellington III BJ615 KO-G believed to have been lost over the sea, P/O G. Whittaker DFM RAF killed, F/O W.M. Kostyshyn, W/C F.W. Dixon-Wright DFC RAF, Sgt F. Newbound RAF, P/O A.J.S. Ollar DFM RAF and F/O J.F. Stock RAF missing.


26-27 158 Sqn. Halifax II W1164 NP-B flew into a barrage balloon defence belt just after bombing the target. Damaged, it was attacked and heavily damaged by a night fighter. The bomber was forced down just off the German coast, Sgt F.W. Holmes RAF (Can.), P/O F.S. White MiD RAF, Sgt F.N. Wright RAF and Sgt D.G. Mogg RAF missing, Sgt C.B. Bridgewater, F/S D.M. Blott and P/O E. Johnstone RNZAF PoW.


26-27 405 Sqn. Halifax II W1230 LQ-L lost over Germany, F/S J.V. Potter, Sgt R.B. Prentice, F/S T.A. Withers Jr. RCAF (USA), Sgt C. Wood RAF, Sgt W. Smith RAF and Sgt J.A. Knox RAF killed, Sgt R.A. Myers was taken PoW. W.R Chorley notes this aircraft had only arrived at the squadron two days before it's loss. (See as well N. Budanovic.)

26-27 408 Sqn. Canadian built Hampden I P5334 shot up by an enemy night fighter, killing wireless operator air gunner WO2 L.F. Kelly. He was the only casualty. See August 25, 1943.


Monday

27 Soviet forces leave Rostov (CJCA headline).

On Malta Sgt G. Beurling DFM RAF (Can.) shoots down 4 enemy fighters and damages another, bringing his total to 15 destroyed (Nolan).

Bomber Command sends 8 Wellingtons on roving attacks over Germany using cloud cover
HMCS St. Croix attacks and sinks U-90 south of Greenland. See March 4, 1943.

27 156 Sqn. Wellington III Z1659 was on a daylight sortie to Germany using cloud cover when one of it's engines exploded, the second was damaged, and despite jettisoning it's bomb load the aircraft was forced to ditch, Sgt G.R. Saville RAF missing, Sgt E.W. Earl, F/S R.B. Munday RAF, P/O P.M. Sheppard RAF and Sgt T. Tither RAF PoW.

27 421 Sqn. Sgt C.D. Myers and Sgt J.A. Ormond share the squadrons first aircraft destroyed, a Ju 88 off Wales, in Spitfire Vb aircraft (RCAF Sqns.).

27 #36 SFTS, Penhold, Alberta, Oxford II BG304 crashed, LAC E.R. Delamere RAF killed.


27-28 Birmingham and several other targets attacked by 30 Luftwaffe bombers (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).

Tuesday

28 86 Sqn. Beaufort II AW296 BX-B lost in Mediterranean, shot down attacking a convoy off Greece, F/S E.P. Sutherland missing, P/O R.J. Dawson RAF, Sgt A. Still RAF and P/O Head RAF PoW (sm www.rafcommands.com; R. Hayward; R.C. Nesbit). The merchant ship targeted in this attack was hit and damaged (R.C. Nesbit).

28 203 Sqn. Maryland aircraft lost in the Middle East, F/O L. Harvey RAF (Can.), Sgt G.W. Jewell and P/O C.R. Underwood RAF missing.


28 #9 EFTS (?), DH.82C Tiger Moth #3986 damaged at St. Catharines, Ontario and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

28-29 Hamburg again attacked by 256 bombers, but the force is scattered by very bad weather. Only 68 bombers attacked the target and caused slight damage except a bomb which hit a hospital, killing 12 patients and staff. There were 33 INTRUDER sorties made as well, 30 bombers and 3 INTRUDERS were lost (BC War Diaries).

28-29 7 Sqn. Stirling I W7565 MG-B was damaged by flak and then shot down by a night fighter, Sgt J. Boyle RAAF, Sgt A.H.C. Bates RAAF, Sgt F.L. McIntyre RAAF and F/L D.W. Whiteman RAF killed, WO W.F. Carter RAF (Can.), Sgt A.L. Crockford RAF and P/O L.R. Sidwell RAF PoW.


28-29 9 Sqn. Wellington III X3456 believed to have come down in the sea, Sgt W.S. Warren RAF killed, F/S J.A. Elmslie RCAF (USA), Sgt H.J. Hannaford RAF, Sgt E.J. King RAF and Sgt G.L. Ferry RAF missing.

28-29 9 Sqn. Wellington IV Z7344 lost over the North Sea while engaged in an INTRUDER sortie, P/O S.O. Hill, WO2 D.R. McKinnon and Sgt D.B. Williams RAF killed. On Dec. 9, 1941 P/O Hill, then a Sergeant, was injured in the crash of an #17 OTU Blenheim. WO McKinnon may have been the airman injured Dec. 26, 1941 in the loss of an OADU Blenheim at Gibraltar.

28-29 18 Sqn. Blenheim IV Z7344 shot up but returned to England, air gunner F/S C.A. Eastwood, however, had been killed in the attack.

28-29 51 Sqn. Whitley V Z9164 shot up but returned to England, air gunner F/S C.A. Eastwood, however, had been killed in the attack.


28-29 419 Sqn. Wellington III X3488 believed shot down into the North Sea by a night fighter, P/O N.G. Arthur, F/S E.F. Monroe RCAF (USA) and P/O W.G. Campbell DFC RAF killed, F/S H. Bryden, P/O H.J. Dell and W/C J. 'Moose' Fulton DSO DFC AFC RAF (Can.) missing. W/C Fulton was on his second tour of operations and was the first commanding officer of 419 Squadron. His character and dedication to the Service was widely recognized, and his loss was keenly felt. In recognition of his influence the Squadron was adopted by his hometown of Kamloops, BC, and the request of the Squadron to use the Moose as it's crest was approved by the College of Heralds in August 1943.

28-29 #16 OTU Wellington Ic R1450 "Y1" shot down over Germany by a night fighter, Sgt T.H. Cray


28-29 #22 OTU Wellington Ic X3201 "O Bar" lost over Germany, F/S R.T. Gammon, F/S P.C. Noel RCAF (USA) were killed, Sgt E.W. Bell, Sgt W.C. Warren and Sgt J. Pierce taken PoW.

28-29 #22 OTU Wellington Ic X9696 "Z", attached to 102 Sqn., lost over Germany, Sgt R.B. Ayers RCAF (USA), F/S J.S. Evans, F/S F.E. Johnson, F/S E.L. Wagner RCAF (USA) and F/S E.G. White killed. According to B. Barry et al the remains of F/S Johnson were not found (identified?) until 1949.

28-29 #1651 Conversion Unit Stirling I N3655 "T" crashed in Bremen, Sgt G. Alder RAF (Can.), P/O G.C. Bayley DFC RAF, F/S E.C. Glenwright DFM RAF, Sgt K.S. Spencer RNZAF, Sgt N.R. Kilpatrick RNZAF and Sgt C.E. Wells RNZAF killed, Sgt G.W.J. Lovell RAF died of injuries August 23. Sgt Alder is identified as Canadian by W.R. Chorley.

28-29 #1651 Conversion Unit Stirling I N6069 "G" lost without trace on an operation to Germany, F/S H.R. Kedwell, F/O C.S. Ratcliffe, P/O J.D. McGregor RNZAF, P/O G.F. Love RAF, Sgt C.W. Miles RAF, Sgt A.W. Cushway RAF, Sgt E.M. Innes RAF and Sgt A. Rooney RAF missing.

28-29 #1651 CU Stirling I W7509 "Q" shot down over Holland by a night fighter, P/O V.M. Smith RAF and Sgt A. Aldridge RAF killed, F/S H.V. Dufour RCAF (USA), Sgt J.L. Warren RAF, P/O D.E. Breed RAF, Sgt R. Morrow RAF and Sgt L. Cox RAF PoW. See C. Morgan for details of F/S Dufour's experiences as a PoW.

Wednesday

29 81 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BM227 shot down in Belgium on a RHUBARB sortie, P/O P.B.L. Evans killed.

29 81 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BL809 damaged over Belgium on a RHUBARB sortie, P/O W.S. Large managed to return to England. This Squadron had 2 Spitfires lost and 2 damaged with 2 pilots killed in this operation. See Aug. 19, below.

29 257 Sqn. Typhoon Ib R8633 suffered a structural failure and lost it's tail in flight, F/O W.R. McDunnough killed. This was the first recorded loss of this type (C. Thomas). These failures plagued the Typhoon on it's introduction to service, and they seemed to happen very suddenly and randomly, with no warning. The pilot's were often killed when it occurred at low or medium level. This led to pilot's being afraid of the new fighter, and unwilling to trust it in combat. The problem was analyzed, operations were curtailed, frequent inspections for cracks were ordered, and the rear of the fighter strengthened with fishplates applied outside the fuselage. Finally in 1943 a test pilot managed to land an aircraft with a damaged rear fuselage where analysis showed a lead counterweight attached by a single rivet on the end of a rod from the elevators torque bar (axle) had come off when the rivet failed. The purpose of the counterweight was to place the centre of mass of the elevators ahead of their axis of rotation to prevent "flutter", or aerodynamic vibration. If poorly riveted the weight could come off at any moment in flight allowing sudden destructive vibration to start and it was this that led to the catastrophic failure of the tail within seconds. The weight had already been replaced on the production line with a stronger mount as part of the redesign process but all older aircraft were modified with better attached counter weights, solving the problem. The extra fishplates were left on the
aircraft to reassure the pilots. This is an example of how a simple failure, in this case a single rivet, could lead to the loss of an aircraft, an indication of the complexity of the application of aerodynamics (Johnson & Haffernan). See Jan. 17, May 4 and July 15, 1943.

29 408 Sqn. Hampden I AT113 EQ-A crashed in England on an air test, S/L L.B.B. Price DFC, Sgt L. Hughes RAF and two Air Training Corps Cadets, K.R. Cousin Wood and G. Hughes, both 16 years old, killed (H. Moyle).


29 #8 OTU Master III W8786 flew into ground when flying low killing F/S W.L. McGinn and F/S H.J. Miller (T. Kearns www.rafcommands.com).

29 #24 OTU Whitley V BD205 was taking off with a heavy load of fuel and bombs but failed to get airborne and crashed beyond the airfield into a gas station. There was no fire, and Sgt Demone and Sgt Williams RAF were slightly injured, while the pilot Sgt A.C. Combe was uninjured.


29 #36 SFTS, Penhold, Alberta, LAC D.M. Gross RAF killed in a flying accident.

29 #38 SFTS, Estevan, Saskatchewan, DH.82C4 Menasco Moth II #4873 crashed, F/S J.R. Boiston RAF and AC1 W. Cant RAF killed (B. Barry et al).

29 #38 SFTS, Estevan, Saskatchewan, Anson II #8528 crashed making a single engined landing, LAC J. Stewart RAF killed and F/O R. Moon (RAF?) injured (http://gent-family.com/Estevan/estevantigermothaccidentjuly29,1942.html).

29-30 Night bombing of Tulagi and supply dumps on Guadalcanal by RAAF Catalinas begins, harassing attacks intended to support the planned landings there (D. Newton).

29-30 37 Sqn. Wellington Ic HF833 with a crew from 458 Sqn. RAAF had an engine fail over the target of Tobruk. After bombing they headed for base but the second engine failed and they crash landed in the desert. After walking for 9 days the crew split up, and F/O C.E.L. Hare and F/L C.D.R. Chappell went on their own. They were taken PoW on Aug. 18. The remainder of the crew, Sgt A.E.O. Barras RAAC, F/S C.R. Warwick RAAF, Sgt J. Shirra RAF and Sgt A.I. Jones RAF were found by a British Army patrol on Aug. 21. F/O Hare and F/L Chappell later escaped from an Italian PoW camp in September 1943 with F/L E.R. Derrick (see Dec. 14, below) and Sgt S.G. Brook (see Nov. 28, 29 or 30, below) (airforce.ca/awards).

29-30 Saarbrucken attacked by 291 aircraft which inflict severe damage for the loss of 9 bombers (BC War Diaries).

Second German attack on Birmingham (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).


29-30 50 Sqn. Lancaster I R5728 VN-L shot down by a night fighter over Belgium, P/O L. Foster, Sgt C.A. Bowes RAF, Sgt D.J. Ware RAF, Sgt C.J. Stallard RAF, Sgt A. Wyles RAAF, P/O
R.H. Curran RAF and F/S C.D. Kennedy RAAF killed. A book about this night's operations, *Le Dernier Raid*, by Willy Felix, is cited by W.R. Chorley, which also states that an engine from this aircraft fell into a school being used to quarter German soldiers, killing 7 and injuring 1.


29-30 102 Sqn. Halifax II R9442 DY-R was shot down by a night fighter over Belgium, F/S B. Carroll, F/S J. Kirkwood RAF, F/S R.F. Stone RNZAF, Sgt M.A. Barrett RAF, Sgt V.H. Twinning RAF and Sgt E.H. Williams RAF killed. The night fighter was also shot down in this engagement, killing the pilot Oblt. R. Eckardt.


Thursday

**30 Conscription for home defence begins in Canada.**

*On Malta the situation is becoming critical as available supplies of food and fuel are estimated to be able to last no more than 3 weeks (D. Newton).*

30 #1 OADU Wellington Ic HX580 was enroute from Gibraltar to Malta when it was intercepted by two enemy fighters and shot down into the sea, Sgt G.W.S. Crompton RAAF missing, Sgt A. Greene, Sgt L.W. Mears RAF, P/O H.S.W. Fordyce RAAF and Sgt C. Maxwell RAF rescued and PoW (A. Storr, COL BRUGGY www.rafcommands.com).


30 122 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BM266 shot down over France on a RAMROD, S/L L.O. Prevot RCAF (Belgium?) evaded (www.conscript-heroes.com MI-9 files).

30 122 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BM352 shot down into the sea by enemy fighters on a RAMROD, P/O J.G. Durkin RCAF (USA) missing.


30 502 Sqn. Whitley GR.VII Z9192 crashed when landing in England on a transit flight after

30 #14 OTU Canadian built Hampden I P5397 collided in mid-air with Hampden I AE192, Sgt A.R. Gruber and crew bailed out of P5397 safely, and P/O C.E. MacIntosh received a commendation for landing his damaged AE192 safely. See Sept. 14-15, 1943.

30 #11 (BR) Sqn., Dartmouth, NS, Hudson, P/O W. Graham, attacks and damages a U-boat, his second attack (I. Wikene).

30 #145 (BR) Sqn., Dartmouth, NS, Hudson #785 overshot it's landing and was burned out (R.W.R. Walker). Eight crew on board survived, some injured (dfuller52 www.rafcommands.com).

30 #19 EFTS Tiger Moth #5096 crashed near Rivers, Man., Sgt A. Wareham and LAC(P) J.L.W. Pearson RAF killed (R.W.R. Walker).

30 #41 SFTS, Weyburn, Saskatchewan, Harvard Iib FE305 crashed, LAC B.T. Bowden RAF and P/O A.S. Hall RAF killed.

30 unknown unit, F/L H.E.P. Barnes died in Canada.


Friday

31 HMCS Skeena and HMCS Wetaskiwin sink U-558 in the Atlantic (M. Milner).

Oxford Committee of Famine Relief (OXFAM) founded (wikipedia).


31 133 (USA) Sqn. Spitfire Vb BM646 shot down on a cross channel sweep as part of escort for CIRCUS 201, P/O G.E. Eichar RCAF (USA) missing.

31 133 (USA) Sqn. Spitfire Vb BL982 shot down on a cross channel sweep as part of escort for CIRCUS 201, P/O C.W. Harp RCAF (USA) killed.

31 133 (USA) Sqn. Spitfire Vb BL938 shot down on a cross channel sweep as part of escort for CIRCUS 201, F/L C.C. King RAF (USA) killed. F/L King had served as an instructor in the RCAF before transferring to the RAF (V. Haugland; www.spitfires.ukf.net).

31 416 Sqn. Spitfire crashed into trees taking off and wrecked, Sgt J.M. Maffre safe. Sgt Maffre


31 4 #4 Group Communications Flight Tiger Moth II T7685 was caught in poor visibility and was written off making a forced landing, S/L D.A. Willis DFC RAF (Can.) and his passenger shaken but safe (R. Allenby). S/L Willis was then on staff with #4 Group having served at #31 ANS Port Albert, Ontario, before helping ferry a Mitchell to England earlier in this month. He later served as a liaison officer to the USAAF 8th Air Force in England before being sent to India as a staff officer for USAAF bomber operations there. Postwar he transferred to the RCAF, commanded RCAF Summerside and Winnipeg and served in the headquarters for NATO before retiring in 1965 as G/C D.A. Willis DFC Bronze Star (US) Legion of Merit (US) RCAF (R. Allenby, Awards). His wife, B.H. Willis, published a biography of him (Left Hand Salute, Carlton Press, 1976).

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31 1 #113 (BR) Sqn. Hudson III BW625 flown by S/L N.E. Small AFC attacks and sinks U-754 SE of Cape Sable (CCMA), first sub kill for Eastern Air Command. See Aug. 2, below.

31 4 #4 SFTS, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Crane I #7719 dived into the ground near Warman, Saskatchewan, killing P/O A.A. Currie, LAC(P) E.A. Seeds and LAC G. Gray RAF. See #12 SFTS loss July 25, 1942.

31-1 Bomber Command sends 630 bombers, including OTU aircraft, supported by 6 INTRUDERS, to attack Dusseldorf, causing heavy damage and killing 279 people on the ground. Twenty nine bombers and 1 INTRUDER were lost (BC War Diaries).

31-1 9 Sqn. Wellington III BJ876 shot down by a night fighter over Belgium, P/O W.V. Clarke, F/S A.B. Martin, Sgt W.T.G. Hall RAF and Sgt R.G. Miller RAF killed, Sgt A. Levy RAF evaded but was betrayed to the Germans and made PoW. Sgt Levy later wrote a book, The Dark Side of the Sky, on his experience (W.R. Chorley).


31-1 76 Sqn. Halifax II BB195 MP-B was attacked and seriously damaged over Holland by a night fighter. The mid-upper gunner Sgt J.A. McAuley RAF was killed, but the Ju 88 was shot down, killing it’s crew, Hptm H. Boensch, Fw O. Botcher and Fw A. Willie. The bomber then managed to return to England where the survivors bailed out, Sgt G.R. Poole and Sgt J.F. Miller were slightly injured, P/O W.R. Waite RAF, Sgt H.S. Greenwood RAF, Sgt W.N. Geddie RAF and P/O S.N. Glasgow RAF safe.

31-1  156 Sqn. Wellington III Z1622 believed lost at sea off Holland, P/O R. Woof, Sgt L.H. Chessun RAF, F/S A.M. Illingworth RAF and F/S P.W. Rawcliffe RAF killed, Sgt S. Coulsen RAF missing.


31-1  405 Sqn. Halifax II W1109 LQ-S lost over Germany, Sgt E.A. Anderson, Sgt J.W. Irish, Sgt J. Hunter RAF, Sgt J.F. O'Brien RAF, Sgt W.A.B. Laughlin RAF, Sgt S. Woodman RAF and Sgt F.C. Bond RAF killed.


31-1  408 Sqn. Hampden I AE244 EQ-P shot down by a night fighter over Belgium, F/S C.F. Lloyd, Sgt H. Price RAF, Sgt H.C.A. Warr RAF killed, Sgt O.M. Nelson PoW.


31-1  #14 OTU Hampden I L4117 GL-N was damaged by flak and night fighter attacks on an operation to Germany, but managed to make it back to crash land in England, P/O H.G. Clarke RAF killed of his injuries, P/O S.J. Walker and Sgt R. Hawkes survived with injuries, and P/O D.J. Curtin RCAF (USA) safe. (W.R. Chorley does not list any RCAF members on this aircraft, but they were identified by Col Bruggy and Amrit, members of the www.rafcommands.com website). Pilot P/O Curtin was awarded a DFC for his actions on this sortie (David Wallace, www.rafcommands.com). See February 25-26, 1943.

31-1  #14 OTU Hampden I P1185 GL-B2 believed shot down by a night fighter over Belgium, F/S G.T. Bloomer, P/O D.G. McLean and Sgt S.A. Shailer RAF killed, WO2 N.E. McGowan PoW.


31-1  #14 OTU Canadian built Hampden I P5344 was on an operation to Germany when it went out of control off the Dutch coast. The pilot ordered a bailout, but recovered the aircraft and returned to England, however F/S W.E.W. Holmes had already bailed out. He has no known grave. Of note the bomber made an emergency landing in a field and was not flown out until the crop was harvested in the fall. Such was the importance of food production in England during the war!


31-1  #16 OTU Wellington Ic HF852 "C2", attached to 405 Sqn., lost over Holland on an operation to Germany, F/S L.G. Harvie, F/S E.F. Hueston, F/S D. Kurtz, F/S E.G. Robertson RCAF (USA) and Sgt H.L. Cox RAF (Nfld.) killed.

31-1  #24 OTU Whitley V Z9512, attached to 405 Sqn., lost over Germany, F/S W.V. Donahue, Sgt
E.J. Jones, P/O C.L. Szumlinski and F/S E.L. Styles RAF killed, F/L A.W. Thompson RAF PoW. F/L Thompson, whose real name was W.A. Bispham, was later shot by a firing squad in captivity in Poland, July 5, 1944. According to his grandson Dominic Bispham, F/L Thompson/Bispham was given punishment in solitary at various times as a PoW for insulting the Reich, assaulting an NCO and disobeying orders. He was shot after being recaptured after an escape (H. Welting at www.rafcommands.com). This was after "The Great Escape" of March, 1944, when some German forces considered execution for escape to be sanctioned by orders.


31-1  #25 OTU Wellington Ic DV439 PP-D or H shot down over Holland by a night fighter, F/S W.F. Penney killed, WO2 S. Valensky, WO2 D.J. Veasey, F/L P.P.L.E. Welch RAF and F/L J. Hamilton RAF PoW. Photographs of the wreck have appeared in Wellington at War and Flypast magazine, Jan. 1986. A persistent escaper, F/L Welch ended up in the prison of Colditz where he was one of the officers who designed and built a glider in the castle attic.


At around this time Hitler states that Leningrad must be taken or destroyed by the end of September to free Finnish units to begin an offensive on Murmansk, and planning begins an attack to do this (Oxford).

Also at around this time Sgt G. Beurling DFM RAF (Can.), now the leading high scoring Commonwealth pilot on Malta, received a second DFM and is promoted to Pilot Officer by an order from London (Shores, Cull & Malizia; Nolan).

unknown date, 108 Sqn. WO G. Bennet RAF (Can.) taken prisoner in Italy.

August 1942

Aware of the existence of the New York stockpile of Belgian uranium oxide Eldorado Mining seeks to obtain this to meet it’s new contract with the US OSRD. This is prevented by US Customs, who inform the US Government, who expropriate the ore. Ironically it is then sent for priority processing to Eldorado’s Port Hope, Ontario, refinery, due to it’s higher uranium content. The difference in the grade and chemistry of the ore requires the re-working of the refinery to handle it, thus holding up processing of Canadian Port Radium product. This has also the effect of making the Port Hope refinery the most important Canadian part of the Manhattan Project, over the actual mine whose further input of ore is thus limited when the US gained access to more ore from the Congo mine later in the war, also sent for refining at Port Hope.

In England RCAF Bomber Squadrons begin to relocate to bases in Yorkshire in preparation
for the formation of the all Canadian Bomber Group (RCAF Sqns.). 420 Sqn. and 425 Sqn. begin to re-equip with Wellington B.III aircraft (RCAF Sqns.).

After much debate between G/C S.O. Bufton, RAF Director of Bomber Operations, who had supported it, and the new Commander of Bomber Command, ACM Harris, who opposed special units in general, it was decided by the Chief of the Air Staff, Marshall of the RAF Sir Charles Portal, to establish a dedicated Target Finding Force of bombers to mark targets accurately. See Aug. 15, below.

In the early part of the month #10 OTU would detach Whitley aircraft equipped with long range fuel tanks to southern England bases, which would fly anti-submarine patrols over the Atlantic and Bay of Biscay armed with depth charges, to assist Coastal Command while still training new aircrew. This would also expose them to attacks by German long range fighters over the Bay, and U-boats which had strong anti-aircraft defences, but given the recent losses of merchant ships this was a necessary risk. This deployment would continue for a year (W.R. Chorley).

The use of the Visual Link Trainer authorized for general use in pilot selection for aircrew training in Canada (A.D. English).

#1 Flying Instructors School established at Trenton, Ontario, to train new twin engined flight instructors (not to be confused with the Central Flying School, formerly Flying Instructors School, which gave advanced training to all instructors) (E.A. Johnson et al).

#3 Flying Instructors School began operations at Arnprior, Ontario during August (http://www.bombercrew.com/BCATP.htm).

Saturday
1 Bomber Command sends 6 Boston bombers to Flushing, and 5 Mosquitos to targets in Germany (BC War Diaries).

#116 (BR) Sqn. RCAF, flying Canso aircraft, transferred from Dartmouth, NS to Botwood, Nfld. (RCAF Sqns.).

#10 EFTS moves from Mount Hope to Pendleton, Ontario (http://www.bombercrew.com/BCATP.htm).

The 53 Sqn. RAF Hudson aircraft sent to the USA to help defend against U-boat attacks are transferred to Trinidad on this date as the U-boat attacks move into the Caribbean (D. Newton).

1 112 Sqn. Kittyhawk I AK744 force landed in the desert, Sgt R.C.C. Smith RCAF (USA) safe. See Nov. 6, below.

1 105 Sqn. Mosquito FB.IV DK308 GB-J lost over Germany, navigator P/O P.W. Kerry RAF (Can.) killed, F/O L.G. Collins PoW.
1. #10 OTU Whitley V Z6562 hit an obstruction on take-off and was written off crash landing beyond the airfield, Sgt E. Bradley, Sgt F.J.H. Heathfield RAF, Sgt J.P. Roberts RAF, Sgt P.A. Taylor RAF, Sgt D.A. Goodman RAF and F/L J. Tunstall RAF injured.


Sunday
2. #2 MEFC [Middle East Ferry Control? Fighter Command?] Blenheim lost [on operations?] F/S J.P. Speakman missing. (not in BCL‘ME Vol. 1. Fighter a/c?)


2. unknown unit, Cpl W.H. Grubham RAF died in an accidental drowning in Canada, location unknown.

Monday
3. #113 (BR) Sqn. RCAF detachment in Mont Joli, Quebec returns to Yarmouth, NS (RCAF Sqns.).

In the USA construction begins on 'The Big Inch', a 24" pipeline to carry crude oil from Texas to New Jersey, avoiding the use of vulnerable tanker ships. It was completed in just over a year and is still in use today (wikipedia).


3. 405 Sqn. P/O L.J.O. Nadeau died in hospital in Belgium of the injuries he received July 30-Aug. 1, above.

#10 SFTS, Dauphin, Man., Crane I #8401 crashed at Good Spirit Lake, Saskatchewan, on a solo cross country exercise, LAC(P) R.G. Sprott killed. See #12 SFTS loss July 25, 1942.

#11 SFTS, Yorkton, Saskatchewan, Crane I #7943 crashed near Ottom, Saskatchewan, killing LAC(P) N.A. McBrien and P/O K.W. Richardson. See #12 SFTS loss July 25, 1942.


#39 SFTS, Swift Current, Saskatchewan, Harvard II AJ979 crashed SW of the airfield, LAC J.P. Clark RAF killed (D.J. Carter).

#41 SFTS, Weyburn, Saskatchewan, LAC T. Benham RAF died in a car accident (B. Barry et al).

unknown unit, LAC C.G.T. Mann RAF died in a car accident in Canada, possibly related to above, no details.

10/227 Sqn. Halifax II W7776 was damaged by flak which badly injured the rear gunner, Sgt V.L. Wiles RAF. The pilot WO D.J. O’Driscoll MiD RCAF (Nfld.) flew back to a safe landing in Egypt but Sgt Wiles died of his wounds (R. Allenby). See September 29-30, below.

Tuesday

4 In eastern New Guinea a flight of Japanese fighters and a dive bomber are intercepted over Milne Bay by RAAF Kittyhawks, the first engagement as Japanese forces move to occupy the area (D. Newton).

Gandhi proposes talks with Japanese (CJCA headline). This headline distorts Gandhi’s statements. Although pro-Allied in his views Gandhi believed that if England would not grant India independence many Indians would welcome a Japanese invasion. His proposal was meant to prevent this. He believed Japan would not invade an independent India if England would declare it, but that if Japan did so it should be opposed by the same non-violent means he had used in his dealings with England for Indian Independence (Oxford & ww2total.com Chronology/1942).

In Canada tea and coffee rationing starts (CJCA headline).

4 252 Sqn. Beaufighter Ic T5033 BT-J shot down by MC-200 fighters off Egypt, F/S E. Babiak PoW, Sgt A. Lancaster (RAF?) also believed to be PoW (R. McNeill www.rafcommands.com).

4 236 Sqn. Beaufighter spun and crashed in England after an engine failure, P/O W.B. Sherry and Sgt R.A. Shaw RAF killed.

4 #5 (Coastal) OTU Beaufort I L4496 ‘Y2’ flew into the ground on approach to land, Sgt D.B.St.J. Malcolm and Sgt F.J.H. Highmoor killed (R. Hayward). [R. Hayward states the crash followed an engine failure].

4 #20 OTU Wellington Ic R1272 JM-W flew into the side of a hill in Scotland Sgt G. Navey, Sgt G.H. Wynne RAF and Sgt H.S. Dunbar RAF killed, Sgt G.H. Churchley RAF died of his
injuries later, and Sgt D.C. Jackson RAF survived with injuries.

#3 Communication & Ferry Flight, St. Hubert, Quebec, Harvard II #3284 crashed near Perrot, Quebec while on an instrument practise flight, killing P/O L.V. Longley.

unknown unit, LAC J.J.B. Berube accidentally drowned in Canada.

4-5 **Essen and the Krupp works attacked by 38 bombers, but only 18 bomb the target due to severe icing. Some 45 GARDENING sorties off France also made, 1 bomber and 2 minelayers were lost (BC War Diaries).**

4-5 44 Sqn. Lancaster I R5603 KM-D lost without trace on an operation to Germany, F/S G.A. Firman RCAF (USA), P/O I.A.J. MacQueen RCAF (USA), F/O P.A. Ball DFM RAF, P/O G.P. Marshall RAF, Sgt W.D. Scott RAF, F/S J.H. Bentley DFM RAF and F/S A.E. Williams RAF missing.


4-5 #20 OTU Wellington Ic T2966 "C" suffered an engine failure, overshot it's landing from a night exercise and came to rest in a wood where it caught fire, F/S B.D. Crane, Sgt N. Wood, Sgt J.F. Heyman RAF, Sgt W.D. Crawford RAF and Sgt S.E. Monger-Godfrey were injured. Sgt Heyman died of his injuries. See Sept. 29, below.

Wednesday

5 **Battleship Musashi, second of the Yamato class, commissioned into the Japanese Navy (wikipedia).**

*In the Atlantic U-boats return to attacking convoys heading to England. On this date a series of attacks begin against convoy SC-94 by wolfpacks, but although losing 11 ships 2 U-boats are sunk and 4 more damaged (D. Sommerville).*


5 43 Sqn. Hurricane IIC BN229 FT-V lost on a night INTRUDER over France, F/S A.G. Lynds killed.

5 412 Sqn. two Spitfire Vb aircraft collided in mid-air and crashed, killing P/O G.T. Koellhoffer RCAF (USA) in AA868 and F/S J.D. Luxton in BL859 (www.spitfires.ukf.net).

5 #26 OTU Wellington Ic X9675 was abandoned over England due to an engine fire on a night navigation exercise, Sgt G.R. Phipps killed, P/O G.F. Pentony RAF injured, the rest of the crew safe.

5 #1653 CU Liberator II AL588 suffered an elevator failure in a steep turn in a gunnery exercise with a Spitfire and crashed in England, F/S B. Williams RAF (Can.), Sgt A.F. Bell RAF, Sgt W.A. Kup RAF, Sgt S. Sampson RAF, Sgt E. Thorley RAF, P/O T.H. Jones RAF, Sgt E.A. Smith RAF, Sgt W.H.C. Booth RAF, Sgt K. Caselton RAF and Sgt D.A. Wood RAF killed. On the ground civilians G. Gingell and G. Hewick were awarded British Empire Medals, and A. Snowden a commendation for their efforts to rescue the crew. W.R. Chorley notes that F/S Williams was from Britain, but TSGNO lists him from Canada.

5 #5 B&G School (?), Dafoe, Saskatchewan, Battle I #1882 written off after a crash (R.W.R. Walker).
5 #34 EFTS, Assiniboia, Saskatchewan, DH.82C Tiger Moth #1147 written off in an accident (R.W.R. Walker).
5 #35 SFTS, North Battleford, Saskatchewan, Oxford I AS350 crashed, LAC J.G. Riley RAF killed.

5-6 In an experiment Bomber Command sends a small force of 25 bombers to navigate to targets in the Ruhr (Essen and Bochum) using GEE navigation and then bombing visually. Only 4 aircraft bomb the targets, 5 were lost and 1 crashed in England. Other operations are 57 GARDENING and 14 NICKEL sorties, 1 minelayer lost (BC War Diaries).

5-6 78 Sqn. Halifax II W1180 lost over Holland, Sgt J.R. Gilbert RCAF (USA), Sgt H.M. Gall RAAF and Sgt J.W. Clarke RAF killed, Sgt J.C. Stevens RAF, Sgt A. Greenacre RAF, P/O R. Shipley RAF and Sgt D. Willoughby RAF PoW.


5-6 158 Sqn. Halifax II W1215 NP-C was attacked and crippled over Holland, badly wounding the rear gunner P/O J.E. Marshall RAF. The crew was ordered to bail out, but P/O Marshall was unable to due to his wounds. It is believed the pilot, P/O C.H. Phillips RAAF, attempted a crash landing to save his gunners life, but the aircraft suffered a structural failure at low level and crashed, killing them both. Sgt D.H. Furness RAF, P/O L.V. Harvey RAAF, Sgt W.A. Thompson RAF and Sgt J.A. Byrne RAF were taken PoW, but Sgt E.G. Price evaded. See http://www.teunispats.net/fr-wwii.htm for details.

5-6 207 Sqn. Lancaster I R5761 EM-T shot down over Holland by a night fighter, WO2 W.J.A. Shapter, Sgt R. Bell-Berry RAF, Sgt J. Vulley RAF, Sgt J.W. Holland RAF, Sgt D.R. Manser RAF, F/S G.C Everitt RAF and F/L G.A. Ings RAF killed. Many of this crew had survived a ditching June 20-21, above.


Thursday

6 Airborne Radio Counter Measures (RCM) war begins as RAF Defiant Flight (later 515 Sqn., the first air unit formed for electronic warfare) uses transponder equipped Defiant aircraft, codenamed MOONSHINE, to simulate on radar a large formation making a daylight attack on Brest. German fighters are scrambled and other defence countermeasures were taken (A. Price). See August 17, below.

HMCS Assiniboine intercepted and rammed U-210 in fog on the Grand Banks escorting
eastbound convoy SC-94, sinking the U-boat but was damaged and had to return to St. Johns for repairs, leaving the escort group without any modern radar just as they entered the mid-Atlantic air gap (M. Milner).


9 Sqn. wireless operator air gunner Sgt A.F.C. Ratcliff died as a PoW of the injuries received in the loss of a 9 Sqn. Wellington Z1577 July 23-24 above.


#20 OTU Wellington Ic R1097 JM-R attempted an overshoot but crashed when an engine broke into flames, Sgt Churchill and 2 crew injured, one of whom may have died later.

#4 Manning Depot, Quebec City, Quebec, AC2 J.A.R. Langlois died in hospital of natural causes.

#6 SFTS, Dunnville, Ontario, AC2 L.W. Scharf died in hospital of natural causes.

#14 SFTS, Aylmer, Ontario, Yale #3383 force landed near Calton (Carlton?), Ontario (M.L. McIntyre).

#36 EFTS, Pearce, Alberta, Sgt J.G. Polson RNZAF died in Canada after an operation at the University of Alberta Hospital to remove a brain tumour (Errol Martyn at www.rafcommands.com).

6-7 Duisberg attacked by 216 bombers, causing moderate damage even though most bombs fall outside the city. Nine other sorties were flown, 5 bombers were lost (BC War Diaries).


218 Sqn. Stirling I N6072 HA-P shot down by a night fighter over Holland, Sgt A.L. Bachelder, Sgt H.P. Gardiner RAF, Sgt G.C. Cavanagh RAF and Sgt L.W.A. Barnard RAF killed, Sgt W.J. Laidlaw RAF, Sgt J.V. Green RAF and F/S D.W. Moffett RAF PoW.

408 Sqn. Hampden I AE366 EQ-U was attacked and severely damaged by a night fighter just short of the target, hit in the elevators, one fin, aileron, tail boom and upper fuselage, left wing spar, fuel tanks and engine. The upper gun position was hit, knocking off the ammunition drums and breaking up the perspex which wounded the gunner, Sgt J.S. Murray, in the face and hand. The pilot, Sgt R.G. Bell, put the bomber into a dive and evaded the night fighter. They then returned to the bomb run and bombed. On the return flight near the coast the left engine suddenly failed, and the aircraft spun 5,000 feet before Sgt Bell managed to regain control. Returning over the sea with the damaged controls the pilot had to keep the rudders hard over to fly straight, and when his legs began to give out
the navigator, Sgt J.K. Bell, had to assist him by pulling the rudder pedal with his hands. They managed to return to England where they crash landed at an airfield, the wounded Sgt Murray, Sgt R.G. Bell, Sgt J.K. Bell and Sgt A. Norman RAF safe. Despite all the damage the aircraft was rebuilt as a torpedo bomber. For his actions on this difficult operation Sgt R.G. Bell was awarded an immediate DFM. The debriefing report from this sortie was published during the war in *The R.C.A.F. Overseas - The First Four Years* (1944) and H. Moyle has an account of this flight in his work *The Hampden File*.

**Friday**

7 Escorted by USN and RAN ships US Marines land at Japanese occupied Tulagi and Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands. The landing was out of range of most Allied aircraft, so air support is provided by 3 US carriers, Enterprise, Saratoga and Wasp. The Japanese seaplane base and harbour at Tulagi is taken after a severe fight, but the partially completed airstrip on Guadalcanal falls with hardly a shot, it's armed protective force having been withdrawn to Rabaul a few days before and the construction crew fleeing into the surrounding jungle. Within hours the invasion fleet is attacked by Japanese naval bombers with fighter escort from Rabaul (620 miles away, eight hours total return flight time, a new record for single engined fighters, J.B. Lundstrom).

*In India the leadership of the Congress Party met to discuss the recommendations of its working committee* (S. Raghavan).

Near Alexandria a flight of Bf 109 aircraft intercept a Bombay I L5814 carrying wounded soldiers and newly appointed 8th Army commander Lt Gen W.H.E. Gott CB CBE DSO MC, shooting it down. The aircraft caught fire and Gen Gott, 2 RAF and 14 Army were passengers killed, 3 RAF and 1 Army survived. General B.L. Montgomery was appointed from England to replace Gen. Gott (discussion page www.rafcommands.com).

- 7 274 Sqn. Hurricane shot down into the sea off Alamein, Egypt. F/S P.G. Hemmer RCAF (USA) was seen to bail out, but was found dead.
- 7 809 Sqn. Fulmar lost, HMS Victorious, Leading Airman J.F. Elson RN (Can.) and Sub Lt C.G. Taylor RNR killed, no details (www.naval-history.net).
- 7 #2 (Coastal) OTU Blenheim IV V6255 crashed into the sea off England, Sgt A.W. Lefurgey and 2 crew missing (Eddie Fell www.rafcommands.com).
- 7 #7 SFTS, Fort MacLeod, Alberta, Anson III #6958 collided in mid-air on landing approach with Anson III R9688. Both crashed, LAC(P) P.S. Kotelmach and LAC(P) J.E. Todd were killed in #6958, and P/O W.G. Rannie in R9688.
- 7 #31 GRS, Charlottetown, PEI, Anson I R3404 crashed on take-off killing P/O D.G. Cowie, LAC W. McLean RAF and Sgt O. Parker RAF.
- 7 #1 GRS, Summerside, PEI, LAC C.J. Harris RAF killed accidentally when he was hit by a propellor.

- 7-8 40 Sqn. Wellington Ic DV663 “U” was attacking Tobruk when it collided in mid air with Wellington Ic HX431 (below), Sgt D. Wolstenholme, Sgt F.R. Smith RAAF, Sgt R. St.C.

7-8 40 Sqn. Wellington Ic HX431 "O" collided in mid-air near Tobruk with Wellington Ic DV663 (above), 2 crew bailed out but one, P/O A.E. Hull RAF, was too low for his parachute to deploy and he was killed, the other, F/S C.E. Dauphin, was seriously injured and taken PoW. The aircraft then force landed where F/S J. Ware DFM RAF was also seriously injured and lost his leg while a PoW, the other members of the crew, F/L J. Grant RAF, Sgt G. Whyte RAF and F/S A.W. Dunn RAF, survived as PoW.

Saturday

8 German forces reach oilfields in Soviet Caucasus to find the wellheads and facilities destroyed (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).

Walt Disney animated film Bambi makes it’s world premiere in England (wikipedia).

8 249 Sqn. Spitfire Vb (Trop.) EN973 "T" damaged in combat off Malta and force landed, P/O G. Beurling DFM and Bar RAF (Can.) safe (Shores, Cull & Malizia; Nolan).

8 162 Sqn. Blenheim "BA5445" belly landed attempting an overshoot when landing from a calibration flight, Sgt F. Trovillo, Sgt B. Watts RAF and Sgt J.K. Pridmore RAF safe.

8 274 Sqn. Hurricane shot down over the desert in flames, WO1 T.B. Hamilton killed.

8 409 Sqn. Beaufighter VI was flying an defensive patrol in low cloud when it was shot down into the sea in error by a patrolling Mosquito, F/S A.J. Matches and his navigator P/O B.A. Thornley missing.

8 #135 (F) Sqn., Mossbank, Saskatchewan, Hurricane XII #5419 ran short of fuel and crash landed at Eyebrow, Saskatchewan, later repaired (R.W.R. Walker).

8 #5 EFTS?, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4246 damaged at High River, Alberta and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

8 #7 B&G School (?), Paulson, Manitoba, Battle I #2042 written off after a crash (R.W.R. Walker).

8-9 Japanese Navy reacts quickly to landings at Tulagi and Guadalcanal, sending a group of warships from Rabaul which enter the waters off Guadalcanal at night. Three USN and one RAN cruisers were sunk and another damaged in the First Battle of Savo Island. The Japanese commander did not attack the transport ships, however, as he feared air attack in daylight from carrier aircraft and broke off to retreat out of range. This is the beginning of a long fight for Guadalcanal which focused Japanese efforts away from a possible link up with Germany and Italy in Egypt (Oxford), and took resources from the overland attack on Port Moresby.

Sunday

9 Gandhi arrested (CJCA headline). The Congress Leadership on this day endorsed the recommendations of it’s committee to ask Britain to leave India, and if not begin a campaign of non-co-operation using the slogan "Quit India". British authorities had already decided this was unacceptable and on the same day arrested the entire Congress Party leadership (S. Raghavan). The arrest of the Mahatma engendered widespread violent protests in India (see Aug. 18, below), which were blamed on
Gandhi by the authorities (Oxford).

It should be noted that despite the unrest in India, covert or overt, the Indian Army remained a volunteer army, the largest volunteer army in the world (J. Masters).

From Leningrad a world wide radio broadcast of Shostakovich’s new Leningrad (7th) Symphony was preceded by a Soviet artillery barrage on German guns to prevent them interrupting the performance (wikipedia).

122 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BM349 hit by flak on a RODEO, the pilot, F/S J.J. Matthews RCAF (USA), bailed out over the coast of France but is missing.


#15 OTU Wellington landed after a cross-country flight and found rear gunner Sgt R.D. Bijur RCAF (USA) missing.

#20 OTU Wellington Ic L7845 ZT-Z flew into a hilltop in Scotland, apparently after a cowling had detached and struck it's propeller, Sgt O.K.L. Jensen, F/S A.G.W. Keene, Sgt A. Kirby, Sgt J. Weatherson RAF killed, Sgt T.W. Holman RAF injured. A Defiant aircraft on an ATA ferry flight noticed the plume of smoke from the crash and diverted to the site. There he found a local shepherd had also arrived at the scene. The shepherd indicated that there were no survivors and set off to report the crash, but the Defiant lingered. A few minutes later Sgt. Holman, who had been knocked unconscious, emerged from his rear turret. The Defiant pilot then indicated to him the direction of the nearest road before resuming his flight. In Aeroplane Monthly magazine August 1977 is a description of the incident and photos of the wreckage which due to it's remote location was not salvaged.

#20 OTU Wellington Ic DV712 was taking off for a night training exercise when an engine failed and the aircraft crash landed, P/O H.J. Patteson and Sgt F.P.D. Quinn safe. See Dec. 8-9, below.

#56 OTU Canadian built Hurricane X AG164 was part of a formation climb when it broke formation and crashed into a hillside, F/O W. Mofflin RAF (Australia) killed (ww2talk.com).

MSFU CAM Hurricane I P3385 flew into a hill in Wales in cloud killing P/O R.B. McIntyre. (www.south-lancs-aviation.bravepages.com/P5188-2.htm). P/O McIntyre had been injured July 24, 1941 when he force landed a #52 OTU aircraft due to a coolant leak.

#9 RC [Recruitment Centre?] AW2 Grace Audrey Moulson died of natural causes while at home on leave.

#8 B&G School, Lethbridge, Alberta, LAC(AG) G.M. Hume accidentally drowned in the South Saskatchewan River near Bow Island.

9-10 Unaware of the decimation of it's battle fleet the night before the US Navy carriers supporting the landings in the Solomons leave the area as scheduled (J.B. Lundstrom). Unprotected, the cargo ships off Guadalcanal are forced to depart before fully unloading, leaving US Marines on shore undersupplied and isolated. They use captured Japanese food to survive and Japanese construction equipment to complete the airstrip and make it useable. See August 12, below.

40 Sqn. Wellington Ic HX560 "S" was returning from an operation over Tobruk when an engine
failed, losing a propellor. The second engine overheated and when it failed and burst into
flames the bomber was abandoned over Allied territory, F/S G.P.A. Yates, Sgt G.A.
Westthorp RAF, F/O G.A. Waterman RAF, Sgt J. Dickenson RAF, Sgt R. Gardiner RAF and
Sgt J. Egan RAF safe.

9-10 Osnabruck attacked by 192 bombers. GEE navigation signals were jammed for the first
time by German radio counter measures. Marking scattered, and moderate damage
caused to industrial targets, barges and housing. Le Havre attacked by 18
bombers. Thirteen INTRUDERS and 3 GARDENING sorties also flown, six bombers
were lost (BC War Diaries).

9-10 76 Sqn. Halifax II W1016 MP-B (borrowed from 78 Sqn.) missing on operations, believed
to have crashed into the sea, F/S A.C. Porter, Sgt C.M. Howard RAF and F/S E.J.
Ironmonger RAF killed, F/S D.J. Navin, Sgt W.A. Wilson RAF, Sgt G.A. Palmer RAF and
Sgt G.D.L. Humphreys RAF missing.

9-10 102 Sqn. Halifax II BB211 DY-A shot down by flak over Germany, P/O M.L. McCarthy and Sgt
R.V. Willshire RAF killed, Sgt J.F. Long, Sgt H.C. Jones, P/O D.B. McLeod RAAF, Sgt D.B.
Richards RAAF and P/O A.D.L. Lamont RNZAF PoW.

9-10 150 Sqn. Wellington III BJ608 believed to have been shot down by a night fighter over Holland,
F/S W.G. Webb, P/O P.W. Carr RAF, Sgt S. Glover RAF and Sgt J.D.D. Swinnard RAF
killed, F/O S.D. Read RAF PoW.

9-10 150 Sqn. Wellington III BJ608 believed to have been shot down by a night fighter over Holland,
F/S W.G. Webb, P/O P.W. Carr RAF, Sgt S. Glover RAF and Sgt J.D.D. Swinnard RAF
killed, F/O S.D. Read RAF PoW.

Monday

10 PEDESTAL Convoy intended to bring supplies to Malta leaves Gibraltar. Composed of 14
large fast merchant ships with a direct and indirect escort totalling 2 battleships, 4
aircraft carriers, 7 cruisers and 32 destroyers. Failure to resupply Malta would lead
to it's surrender. One of the merchant ships is the fast tanker Ohio, sister ship to
the Kentucky lost in June, and again, specifically selected for this operation.

10 76 Sqn. SAAF Kittyhawk lost in North Africa, P/O J.K. McIvor RAF (Can.) has no known grave.

10 80 Sqn. SAAF Kittyhawk lost in North Africa, P/O J.K. McIvor RAF (Can.) has no known grave.

10 80 Sqn. F/S M.P. Reece died in Egypt in hospital from wounds sustained August 1 when his
Hurricane IIc was shot down over the desert (C. Shores; H. Welting
www.rafcommands.com).

10 126 Sqn. Spitfire shot down over Malta, P/O J.A. Smith bailed out but was not found and is
listed as missing. P/O Smith was acting as wingman for his brother, F/O R. Smith. P/O
J.A. Smith had flown to Malta off the USS Wasp May 9, above, and was known for having
re-landed on the carrier to have a fuel problem fixed. In 2005 the ashes of R. Smith were
scattered by a Spitfire aircraft over the sea where his brother had disappeared (K.
Kjarsgaard www.rafcommands.com).

10 48 Sqn. Hudson Illa FH427 lost on a patrol off Norway, P/O G.R. Watts RAAF killed, F/S G.R.

10 415 Sqn. Hampden TB.I AT229 GX-V overshot a landing after an engine failure from a night
torpedo sortie to Norway, P/O C.D. Cross, P/O W.H. Main, Sgt G.K. Summers RAF and
Sgt R. Zumar RAF safe. This aircraft was part of the first successful attack of the
Squadron May 29, above.
#22 OTU Wellington Ic R1505 lost a propellor on a night cross country exercise and after it was unable to land was ordered abandoned by it's pilot, Sgt J.P. Jolley Jr. Wireless air gunner F/S C. Toronczuk, however, did not leave the aircraft and was killed when the aircraft crashed. See Oct. 15-16, below. B. Berry et al notes that Sgt Jolley and his father S/L J.P. Jolley Sr. are probably the only father and son in the RCAF to win wings in the Second World War. His father, born in England, was a veteran of the Royal Engineers in the First World War, and an amateur radio operator. He enlisted in the RCAF when they had an urgent need for wireless operators and flew operationally in Iceland before re-mustering as a chaplain in 1943.

#1 B&G School, Jarvis, Ontario, LAC(OB) O.W. Johnson RCAF (USA) died by drowning while on special leave in Seattle, Washington, USA.

#37 SFTS, Calgary, Alberta, Oxford I AS610 crashed, LAC W.J. Stonebridge RAF killed.

10-11 Bomber Command sent 52 bombers on GARDENING sorties off Germany and Denmark with 2 losses (BC War Diaries).

**German bombers active over southeast England (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).**


10-11 415 Sqn. Canadian built Hampden TB.I AN124 GX-M ditched off Scotland after an engine failure on a torpedo sortie to Norway, Squadron commanding officer W/C R. Dennis, P/O N. Altstedter, P/O P. Houlsworth and Sgt D.A. Stallard (RCAF or RAF) rescued (H. Moyle). (W/C Dennis injured?)

10-11 #31 OTU Debert, NS, Hudson III BW401 was on a cross country navigation exercise when the weather unexpectedly closed in at Debert. They were contacted by radio to divert to Charlottetown, PEI and acknowledged the message but later hit high ground at Dalhousie Mountain near Scotsburn, NS, Sgt A.W. Cooke, P/O J.K. Hobson, P/O P.A. Rogers MiD, Sgt H.J. Vincent and P/O J.A. Bursill RAAF killed (31 OTU/7 OTU Roll of Honour). A Memorial Service was held at the crash site Aug. 10, 2008 (R.W.R. Walker). Navigator P/O Rogers had been awarded his MiD with Sgt R.A. Schoales (later S/L) when the 404 Squadron Blenheim IVF they were flying off of the coast of Norway lost a propellor, yet they managed to return on only one engine, date unknown (FF Years). See April 27, 1943.

**Tuesday**

11 A heavy attack on the Australian base at Milne Bay in eastern New Guinea by Japanese A6M fighters is met by RAAF Kittyhawks and anti-aircraft fire (D. Newton).

**German army advances into the Caucasus (CJCA headline).**

**Attacks on PEDESTAL Convoy begin, aircraft carrier HMS Eagle sunk by a U-boat.** HMS Furious flies off 38 Spitfires to Malta (37 landed) to increase the defence of the
Island prior to the convoy's arrival. Aircraft based on the island are making night attacks on airfields in Sardinia to disrupt Italian torpedo attacks (D. Newton; R.C. Nesbit).

The US Atomic Bomb project is given the cover name of the "Manhattan Engineering District", commonly called the Manhattan Project (C.E. Hipperson).

11 #1 GR School, Summerside, PEI, Anson I AX168 missing on a navigation exercise over the Gulf of St. Lawrence, P/O L.E. Burley, P/O J.V. Nutter, AC1 E.C.R. Senior RAF and Sgt J.B. Llewellyn-Roberts RAF missing.
11 #20 EFTS, Oshawa, Ontario, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4342 crashed into Lake Scugog near Lakeside Beach, Ontario, while engaged in flight practice, LAC(P) T. De W. Peale RCAF (USA) killed.
11 #34 EFTS, Assiniboia, Saskatchewan, DH.82C Tiger Moth #1130 written off in a crash (R.W.R. Walker).
11 #38 SFTS, Estevan, Saskatchewan, Anson II #8425 written off after a crash (CMA).
11 unknown unit, LAW Elizabeth Genevieve Woodman RCAF WD (Nfld.) died of natural causes.


11-12 Mainz attacked by 154 bombers which seriously damage the centre of the city, killing about 150 people on the ground. Sixteen bombers go to Le Havre, 9 INTRUDERS, 9 GARDENING in the Elbe River, and 3 NICKEL sorties also made, a total of 8 bombers were lost (BC War Diaries).

11-12 15 Sqn. Stirling I N3756 LS-C was damaged by attacks by two night fighters, and crashed in England attempting to land, F/S W.A.D. McCausland, F/S F.W. Nixon, Sgt T.A. Miles RAF, Sgt R.D. Tree RAF, Sgt P. Busby RAF and Sgt J.B. Hammond RAF killed, rear gunner F/S W.E. Egri was saved by Jim, John and Stan Arbons, local civilians who chopped their way into the burning wreckage and pulled him out. There is a memorial at the crash site to the crew. See August 3, 1944.

11-12 35 Sqn. Halifax II W1242 TL-G was abandoned over France after being hit by flak and put out of control, Sgt J.T. Arnold, P/O K.F. Saunders RNZAF, Sgt M. Goff RAF, P/O L. Parsell RAF, Sgt E.C. Herwin RAF, Sgt W.J. Reynolds RAF and Sgt H.T. Smith RAF PoW.

11-12 75 (New Zealand) Sqn. Wellington III X3646 was hit by flak which seriously wounded the pilot, P/O G.E.F. Bradey RNZAF. The aircraft came down in the sea, F/O T.H.W. Baker RAF

11-12 78 Sqn. Halifax II W1061 was hit by flak over Germany and damaged, before being shot down by a night fighter, WO1 W.E. Lunan and Sgt F.A. Scotland RAF killed, F/S J.C. Jupp, Sgt J.K. Howes, Sgt J.R. Dickinson RAF and Sgt J.H. Wyatt RAF PoW, F/S A.E. Fay evaded. WO Lunan had come through a Halifax crash landing May 16, above.

11-12 78 Sqn. Halifax II W1115 lost over Germany, Sgt J.A. Mitchell killed and Sgt J. Peart RAF missing, Sgt H. Corbishley, Sgt E.G.S. Monk RAF, Sgt D.F.J. Lemon RAF, P/O E.H. Bodman RAF and Sgt D. Kimber RAF PoW.

11-12 78 Sqn. Halifax II W1233 believed to have been lost at sea near Denmark, P/O J.F. Myrick killed, F/S G.H.D. Higgins RAAF, F/S J. Fleetwood-May RAF, F/S F.N. Thomasson RAF, Sgt L. Kelly RAF, Sgt M.J. Hisley RAF and Sgt J.O. Harrison RAF missing.


11-12 405 Sqn. Halifax II W7748 LQ-D lost over Germany, Sgt A.W. Hyson, F/S G. Langford-Pudney RAF (Can.), Sgt R.G. Kendall and Sgt J.D.M. Mercer RAF PoW.

Wednesday

12 First airplane (PBY-5a Catalina amphibian) lands at hastily completed airfield on Guadalcanal (named Henderson Field) (www.pacificwrecks.com), departs with wounded (J.B. Lundstrom), giving the Marine force limited airborne logistic support. See August 20, below.

Churchill visits Moscow (CJCA headline).

Air attacks on the PEDESTAL convoy sink 3 merchant ships and damage two more, including the tanker Ohio. As well a cruiser and a destroyer of the escort are sunk, the carrier HMS Indomitable and 2 cruisers are damaged (D. Sommerville).

12 800 Sqn., HMS Indomitable, Sea Hurricane I V7516, Lt (A) W.H. Martyn DSC MiD RN (Can.), and Z4056, Sub Lt (A) J.L. Hastings shoot down a Ju 88 while escorting the PEDESTAL convoy (H.A. Halliday www.rafcommands.com). See March 22, 1943.

12 800 Sqn., HMS Indomitable, Canadian built Sea Hurricane Ib P5206 7-C, Sub Lt A.J. Thompson destroyed a Ju 87 and a Bf 109 (A. Thomas, C. Davey, Royal Navy Aces of World War 2, Osprey Publishing, 2007). This aircraft was originally built as a Hurricane I and had fought in the Battle of Britain.

12 880 Sqn., HMS Indomitable, Canadian built Sea Hurricane I Z7088 was shot down from low level attacking a He 111 bomber, Lt Cdr(A) F.E.C. Judd RN (South Africa), the Squadron commanding officer, missing (briancrabbmaritimebooks.com).

12 880 Sqn., HMS Indomitable, Lt(A) R.J. ‘Dickie’ Cork DSC, and ex-member of 242 (Canadian) Squadron during the Battle of Britain, claimed 5 enemy aircraft destroyed on this day flying
Sea Hurricane I Z4642 and Canadian built Sea Hurricane I Z7093 (www.britmodeller.com). This was the only time an RN pilot claimed 5 victories in 1 day, which was cited in the award of a DSO (wikipedia).

12 880 Sq., *HMS Indomitable*, Canadian built Sea Hurricane I AF974 7-D flown by Sub Lt(A) Brownlee credited with 1 Ju-88 probably destroyed (A. Thomas & C. Davey).

12 800 Sq./880 Sq., *HMS Indomitable*, Canadian built Sea Hurricane Ib AE966 also took part in the defence of the PEDESTAL convoy and is frequently illustrated as aircraft 7-F "AE966" in error. Prior to the PEDESTAL convoy many of the Canadian built Sea Hurricanes and pilots mentioned above had taken part in the invasion of Madagascar (various sources).

12 #1 OADU Beaufort la DD953 was on a ferry flight from England to Gibraltar when engine problems caused a force landing in Portugal, P/O A.B. Brenner, Sgt P.W.M. Wright RAF, Sgt E.A. Vautier RAF and Sgt F.B. Newmarch were briefly interned (Kevin, www.rafcommands.com). See February 18-19, 1943.


12 #24 OTU Whitley V Z9470 was on a night navigation exercise when it lost an engine. The pilot sighted an airfield flare path and began an emergency approach only to realize it was a dummy [fake] airfield. Attempting a single engine overshoot it flew into rising ground and crashed, Sgt W.P. James killed, Sgt H.F. Maughan, Sgt J.A. McIntosh RNZAF, Sgt Wagner RAF and Sgt Perry RAF injured. See Aug. 27-28, 1943. Dummy airfields were lights set out as an airfield and lit to attract enemy bombers.

12 #1651 CU Stirling I N6127 "V" and Stirling I N6099 "P" collided when taking off on intersecting runways, Sgt A.S. Milton RAF and Sgt P.S. Jones RAF were killed, Sgt J.E. Ryan and Sgt W.M. Jones RAF were injured and Sgt D.E. Seeley safe on N6127, and Sgt E.W.E. Jones RAF died of injuries, P/O A. Austin RAF injured, Sgt K. Pudsey RAF, Sgt H.J. Hudson RAF, Sgt R.J. Wicks RAF, Sgt G.A. Pidgen RAF and Sgt K.W. Strange RAF safe on N6099. See Oct. 8-9, 1943.

12 #124 (Ferry) Sqn. RCAF, Winnipeg, Man., two Anson I aircraft #6717 and #6267 collided just after take-off from Armstrong, Ontario, P/O F.P. Boswell RCAF (USA) and aero engine mechanic LAC J.C. MacIntyre were killed in #6717, and LAC P. Holmes RCAF (USA), Sgt J.H. Kirby, P/O A.J. Labella RCAF (USA) and air frame mechanic AC1 D.H. Rushton were killed in #6247.

12 #10 SFTS, Dauphin, Man., Crane I #7890 dove into the ground near the airfield killing LAC(P) F.H. Plate RCAF (USA). LAC Plate was a co-student and friend of LAC(P) Murray Peden whose classic book "A Thousand Shall Fall" includes a section on this incident and the funeral. In 1991 there was a ceremony for LAC Plate at his home town in Iowa which included a display by the Snowbirds Air Demonstration Team, arranged by Mr. Peden. See #12 SFTS loss July 25, 1942.

12-13 Mainz again attacked by 138 bombers, causing more damage to the city centre and industrial areas. Six INTRUDERS, 9 GARDENING and 2 NICKEL sorties also flown, 5 losses (BC War Diaries).

12-13 15 Sqn. Stirling I BF329 LS-A was shot down over Belgium by a night fighter, Sgt L.J.
Blackmore RAF (Nfld.), Sgt O.T. Jeans RAF (Nfld.), Sgt J.L. Sturgess, Sgt R. Helyar RAF, Sgt T. Shoesmith RAF and F/S K. McAusland RAF killed, Sgt P.D. Goodbourne RAF PoW. There is a memorial at the crash site.


Thursday

13 In India the "Quit India" resolution is passed by the All India Congress Committee, calling for Britain to declare India independent and neutral, and withdraw its military forces from the subcontinent. If not then civil disobedience was to be conducted against the rule of England, which with the arrest of the Leadership of the party, especially Gandhi, had already turned violent (wikipedia). In northern India, where the Congress Party was strongest, police stations, post offices, railway stations, trains and telephone lines were attacked and destroyed in the greatest uprising in India since the Rebellion of 1857. But the Indian Army remained loyal to England, and was allowed to use extreme measures to stop violent groups, including lethal force (S. Raghavan). See 353 Squadron item below and August 18.

PEDESTAL Convoy, the first 4 surviving cargo ships to reach Malta begin to arrive. Four more are sunk short of the island by air attack as well as an escorting cruiser (D. Sommerville). Of note in these attacks was the use of a radio controlled SM.79 bomber as a flying bomb which was unsuccessful, but was the first attempt to use remote controlled aircraft in combat (J.W. Thompson). The arriving ships are swiftly unloaded to prevent the loss of supplies if the ships are sunk in the harbour. Food supplies on the Island were within a week of running out.

13 353 Sqn. pilot P/O J.H. Smith was among those killed in India when a train was attacked by a hostile crowd.


13 248 Sqn. Beaufighter T5101 "W" shot down by enemy fire into the Mediterranean, P/O D.J. Jay RCAF (USA) bailed out but was not found. His navigator F/S R. MacFarlane, was rescued and made a PoW.

13 77 Sqn. Whitley V Z9461 attached to Coastal Command, missing on an antisubmarine patrol off France, reported it was under attack by German floatplanes, P/O C.E. Smith, F/S J.M. Mantell RAAF, F/L I. Ralston RAF, F/S R.G. Martin RAF, P/O G. Dawkins RAF and Sgt S.T. White RAF missing (A. Storr).

13 120 Sqn. Liberator III LV341 "Z" was returning from a patrol where they had attacked a U-Boat, when it ditched in the sea off the coast of Eire after all 4 engines stopped at low level, F/S A.B. Craig, P/O V.D. James RNZAF, Sgt S. Clare RAF and F/S K.H. Watson RAF missing, Sgt H.V.F. Archer RAF, Sgt P.F. George RAF, Sgt W.C. Gordon RAF and Sgt F.N. Hollies RAF rescued (discussion page www.rafcommands.com and D. Burke, www.ww2irishaviation.com).

13 #1 SFTS Camp Borden, Ontario, Yale #3370 dove into Georgian Bay near Midland Ontario,
killing LAC(P) D.B. Parkhill RCAF (USA).

13 #3 B&G School (?), MacDonald, Manitoba, Battle I #1818 crashed and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

13 #7 AOS, Portage la Prairie, Man., Anson I #6077 crashed returning from a night navigation exercise, Service Pilot J.L. Kosloff, LAC C.K. Bowrey RAF, LAC R. Jones RAF and Sgt C.E. Raison RAAF killed (A. Storr).

13 #14 SFTS, Aylmer, Ontario, Anson II #8412 was on a sight seeing flight along Lake Erie when it struck a range observation tower of #4 B&G School, Fingal, Ontario, located on a cliff overlooking the Lake. With one engine hanging down the RNZAF pilot managed a circle to force land on the top of the cliff, but one passenger, service policeman Sgt B. Gazel, jumped from the plane at low level, his parachute opening as he struck the water. Sgt Gazel, later a noted marathon swimmer, was unhurt, and swam ashore dragging the parachute behind him, having forgotten to release it (M.L. McIntyre).

Friday
14 #21 EFTS, Chatham, NB, closed (http://www.bombercrew.com/BCATP.htm).

#36 EFTS, Pearce, Alberta, which had opened the previous March, closed due to accidents caused by the high winds endemic to its location (C. Simonsen).

14 #124 (Ferry) Sqn. RCAF, Rockcliffe, Ontario, Anson II JS173 was flying below the clouds in instrument conditions when it flew into a mountain near Brownville Junction, Maine, USA, killing aero engine mechanic LAC A.C. Duffield, Sgt E.H. Hollenbach, and AC2 P.L. Paterson. AC2 E. Machan survived with burns (http://www.mewreckchasers.com/Spruce.html).

14 #31 Bombing & Gunnery School, Picton, Ontario, Battle I L5427 crashed into Lake Ontario, possibly near Kingston, Ont, LAC D.N. Jones RAF, LAC H.C. Pigerham RAF and Sgt B. Kempton-Werohia RNZAF killed (S. Shail).

14 #34 EFTS, Assiniboia, Saskatchewan, DH.82C Tiger Moth #1208 crashed (R.W.R. Walker).

14 #37 SFTS, Calgary, Alberta, Oxford I AS666 crashed, LAC L.R. Nimmo RAF killed.

14 #37 SFTS, Calgary, Alberta, Oxford I BM810 crashed, LAC W.E. Webb RAF killed. This and the incident above may be related.

14 RAF Ferry Command, Catalina Ib FP151 crashed at Cape Charles, Virginia, USA, enroute to Montreal, Quartermaster J.A.K. Veiersted RNor.AF, Pilot F.O. Anderson (Sweden), Radio Officer H.T. Moores (Nfld.) and Flight Engineer J.H.K. Parker (UK) killed.

14 USAAF ACFC, 3 Ferry Group, P-40K 42-45947 landing accident at Whitehorse, Yukon, pilot M.H. Rowe safe (AAIR).

14-15 In London, England, a massive burst of cosmic rays is detected, source unknown (wikipedia).

Saturday
15 The new Target Finding Force is formed in England with an initial four squadrons, 7 Squadron (equipped with Stirlings, from #3 Group), 35 Squadron (Halifax, #4 Group), 83 Squadron (Lancaster, #5 Group) and 156 Squadron (Wellingtons, #1 Group), under G/C D.C.T. Bennett RAF (Aus.), who had recently returned from Sweden after
being shot down in Norway attacking the Tirpitz April 27-28, above. This was to be another major step in improving the accuracy of Bomber Command operations.

Two more merchant ships of the Pedestal convoy were sunk short of Malta. The severely damaged and burning tanker Ohio is towed into Valetta Harbour, Malta where it sinks, but the cargo is salvageable (wikipedia). The fuel and food delivered by this convoy enables Malta to withstand bombing attacks and to fight back against Italian and German shipping. The PEDESTAL convoy lost 9 cargo ships, and the escort lost 1 aircraft carrier, 2 cruisers and 1 destroyer sunk, but Malta was now able to again go on the offensive against convoys supplying German and Italian armies in North Africa, countering to some extent the loss of Tobruk. If Malta had been invaded or forced to surrender the Afrika Korps seeking to invade Egypt would have had access to far more supplies than it did.

15 112 Sqn. Kittyhawk I aircraft spun and crashed near it's landing ground in Egypt after taking off, F/S H.V. Schofield killed. The flight was bounced by another section of Kittyhawks, and F/S Schofield turned into the "attackers" with insufficient airspeed. Aircraft possibly EV340 (http://raf-112-squadron.org/planelosses.html).

15 Ferry Command Wellington Ic HX603 was taking off in Sierra Leone for Lagos when the undercarriage was retracted too early. The aircraft skidded into trees and caught fire, F/S G.B. Simpson killed, Sgt J.W. Cullen, Sgt G.H. Lawrence RAF and Sgt J.D.M. Nelson RAF injured, Sgt F. Browning safe. See Aug. 16, below.

15 #6 EFTS Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, LAC(P) P.G. Cameron was killed when he attempted a forced landing near Melfort, Saskatchewan in DH.82C Tiger Moth #3887 after getting lost on a night flying exercise.

15 RCAF Detachment, Western University, London, Ontario, clerk Sgt J. Jordan drowned.

15-16 Dusseldorf attacked by 131 bombers but results scattered by poor visibility, 9 GARDENING sorties also flown, 4 bombers and 1 minelayer were lost (BC War Diaries).


Sunday
16 In one of the mysteries of the war the US Navy blimp L-8 (which had been used in April to deliver urgent parts to the USS Hornet and the Doolittle Raiders), drifted ashore in San Francisco from a morning anti-submarine patrol without it’s two man crew (wikipedia). No trace of the missing men was ever found. Put back in service, postwar the airship was rebuilt as the Goodyear advertising blimp America (1969 - 1982).
Off Bahia, Brazil, the German submarine U-507 sinks 5 neutral Brazilian ships in two days (D. Sommerville). See August 22, below.


16 Ferry Command, F/S J.W. Cullen, Sgt G.H. Lawrence RAF and Sgt J.D.M. Nelson RAAF died in Sierra Leone of injuries from the crash of a Wellington the previous day.


16 #57 OTU Spitfire Ila crashed after a mid-air collision, killing Sgt J.L.D. Brophy.


16 #132 (F) Sqn. (?) Kittyhawk Ia #724 ditched north of Active Pass, BC, Sgt Diodato rescued (BC Times Colonist Patricia Bay Aircrash List 2009).


16-17 Bomber Command sends 56 aircraft on GARDENING sorties in the North Sea, 2 lost (BC War Diaries).


16-17 418 Sqn. Boston III W8350 lost on an INTRUDER to France, F/S J.W. Hutchison and Sgt H. Firth RAF killed, Sgt V.W. McCabe PoW.

Monday

17 A heavy Japanese bombing attack on Port Moresby, the first in weeks, catches the defences off guard and inflicts heavy damage. This disrupts air supply drops to the Australian forces trying to stop the Japanese Army attacks on the Kokoda Trail for nearly a week, a serious problem where the only supply alternative is carrying supplies into the mountains using bearers (D. Newton).

As an attempt to create a diversion from the landings at Tulagi and Guadalcanal a force of US Marines is landed by submarine on Makin Island in the Gilbert Islands, where they attack a Japanese seaplane base before being withdrawn (D. Sommerville). This leads to basing a larger force of Japanese to defend the islands. See Nov. 20, 1943.

From Malta six 86 Sqn. torpedo Beauforts led by F/L D.C. "Hank" Sharman RAF (Can.), with two bomb carrying Beaufighters of 235 Sqn., attack an escorted Italian merchant ship near the Island of Lampedusa carrying fuel and ammunition to North Africa and
leave it disabled, without loss, as Malta again goes on the offensive. The ship was later sunk by an RN submarine (R.C. Nesbit). See September 6, below.

HMS Furious delivers 28 Spitfires to Malta (Canwell & Sutherland).

First USAAF 8th Air Force B-17 mission in Occupied Europe, 18 B-17 (Fortress) aircraft escorted by RAF fighters attack Rouen, France, with no losses (Polsson). The Defiant Flight of RCM aircraft was used to simulate a larger attack using MOONSHINE and succeeded in drawing the German fighters to them instead of the actual attackers (A. Price). The bombers were flying at high altitude in formations of 3 groups of 6 bombers each, intended to provide mutually defensive fire against attacking fighters (Oxford) (a strategy the RAF was unable to use when operating earlier versions of this aircraft, due to small numbers and serviceability, depending instead only on the bombers altitude performance). Over the next three months until improvements to German radar nullified it’s use MOONSHINE spoofs were used with great success to protect USAAF missions (A. Price). See Nov. 22, below.

The four Squadrons making up the new Target Finding Force move to new bases to form a new #8 Group and are told they would be on operations that night. However, the operation is cancelled (BC War Diaries).

#127 (F) Sqn. RCAF deploys from Dartmouth, NS to Gander, Nfld. (RCAF Sqns.).
17 204 Sqn. Sunderland I L2158 KM-G (?) force landed off the coast of Gambia, Africa, F/S E.H. Connell, Sgt W.D. Macconnell, Sgt W.A. Davis RAF and F/S E.C.G. Jackman RAF missing (Chris Charland www.rafcommands.com). P/O J. Quinn RAF, P/O H. Horner RAF, Sgt J. James RAF, Sgt K. O'Meara RAF and Sgt D. Stevens RAF survived (CWGC, R. McNeill www.rafcommands.com). This was the first production Sunderland built. On September 3, 1939, it had landed in Neutral Eire due to weather just after the declaration of war with Germany, but was allowed to leave with a Lerwick that had also landed, when the crews declared they didn’t know war had been declared (D. Burke, www.ww2irishaviation.com; T. Kearns at http://forum.irishmilitaryonline.com).
17 401 Sqn. Spitfire IX BS159 shot down in the Channel while escorting a USAAF Fortress evening CIRCUS, P/O J.K. Ferguson missing.
17 401 Sqn. Spitfire IX BS120 damaged escorting a CIRCUS to France, returned to England, S/L K.L.B. Hodson safe.
17 402 Sqn. Spitfire IX BR634 shot down over France escorting a CIRCUS, F/L N.H. Trask PoW.
17 RAF Ferry Command Marauder I FK119 lost on a trans-Atlantic Ferry flight from Natal, Brazil, P/O J.J.P.H. Doran, Radio Officer G.H. Randle, S/L G. Robinson RAF and Sgt G.F. Lyman-Dixon RAF missing (H. Welting forum.12oclockhigh.net).
17-18 Osnabruck attacked by 139 bombers, 111 of which report bombing accurately, but damage on the ground moderate, 5 bombers lost. As well as 4 GARDENING sorties 8 Blenheim INTRUDERS flew the last sorties of this aircraft type in Bomber Command on this night, (BC War Diaries).


17-18 101 Sqn. Wellington III BJ844 ditched in the North Sea returning from an operation over Germany with an all RCAF crew, wireless operator air gunner F/S C.H. Cobbett missing, Sgt C. Foderingham, F/S W.C. Gordon, Sgt A.W. Stewart and Sgt D.N. McFayden were rescued, the latter three injured. See September 3, 1943.


Tuesday

18 113 Sqn. Blenheim IV T2245 was on an "internal security" flight in India when it crash landed near the Ganges River. According to R.S. Sansome’s account the crew were then attacked and murdered by a mob of locals which also tore apart the aircraft. F/S S.A. Goss RCAF (USA), F/S C.A. Whiteside RAF and Sgt A. Murray RAF killed. According to S. Raghavan aircraft had been used to attack crowds of people supporting the "Quit India" campaign with machine-guns.


18 #20 OTU Anson I DJ178 "J" flew into high ground in Scotland while on a night navigation exercise, P/O A.E. MacGregor, P/O W. Miller and F/S A.J. Linden RAF killed, F/S H.I. Smith and an unidentified crewman injured. It is possible that F/S Smith is the same as P/O H.I. Smith, who was lost May 12-13, 1944.

18 #102 Conversion Flight Halifax II BB197 ground looped and lost it's undercarriage making a night landing, F/S J.F.W. Towse safe. See January 4, 1943.

18 #1 B&G School, Toronto, Ontario, Anson II #8207 and Battle I #1604 collided in mid-air over the target range at Evans Point on Lake Erie and crashed, LAC(AG) G.C. Burke, LAC(AG) J.A. Lefurgey and F/O M.B. Poole were killed in the Anson and LAC(WAG) W.M. Kirkby, LAC(WAG) A.C. Reed and Sgt J.W. Whitehead RNZAF were killed in the Battle aircraft. (This was the second mid-air collision for #1604, see Dec. 9, 1941 (S. Shail))

18-19 70 Sqn. Wellington Ic DV513 "J" ran out of fuel returning from an operation over Tobruk and force landed in a lake (believing it was desert), Sgt J.R. Milligan, Sgt E. Benning RAF, Sgt H.P. Dyson RAF, Sgt T.A. Hughes RAF, Sgt A.H. Page RAF and Sgt R. Evans swam ashore and safe.

18-19 The Target Finding Force makes its operational debut with 31 aircraft leading 87 bombers to Flensburg. They use flares to illuminate the target. Forecast winds were wrong and the target was not hit at all, bombs being dropped in Denmark up to 25 miles away. This was an inauspicious beginning. It should be noted that despite the intentions of being a special force the original Target Finding squadrons were made up of ordinary crews, and they had no special navigation or marking devices to do their task, initially depending only on dropping extra flares for target identification. Nine GARDENING sorties also made this night, 4 bombers were lost (BC War Diaries).


18-19 218 Sqn. Stirling I W7618 HA-V shot down into the sea off Denmark by a night fighter, P/O J.R.F. Soutar and Sgt P.G.H. Strudwick RAF killed, Sgt J.A. MacPherson MiD RNZAF and Sgt E.N. Galloway RAF missing, Sgt C.A. Powell RNZAF, P/O I.G. McDaniel RAF (USA) and Sgt W.N. Wilkinson RAF drifted for three days in their life raft before being picked up by a fishing vessel and made PoW (discussion page on P/O McDaniel www.rafcommands.com).

18-19 407 Sqn. Hudson V was on an anti-shipping patrol off Holland when it was intercepted by a German night fighter and badly damaged, F/O L.H. Jenner, Sgt H.H.G. Woodside, Sgt J.H. Irwin and Sgt T.M. O'Neill safe (407 SH).

18-19 418 Sqn. Boston, S/L G.L. Caldwell, attacks and shoots down a Ju 88 as it was landing at its base, then patrols overhead and made attacks on several more bombers to prevent them landing (FF Years).

18-19 #21 OTU Wellington Ic R1345 lost without trace off the Scilly Islands on a night cross country exercise, Sgt M.R. Derrick, Sgt C.A. Williams RAAF, Sgt H.E. Drake RAF, Sgt A. Pogrel RAF and P/O R.A. Castell RAF missing (Rob Philips www.rafcommands.com).

Wednesday

19 Operation JUBILEE, landings at Dieppe by 2nd Canadian Division with support by British Commandos and a unit of US Rangers. Purpose of landing to take and occupy for 24 hours a port on the French coast and seize the Luftwaffe airfield behind the town, while testing landing ships, military equipment, air and naval support as well as tactics for future invasions, and to force Germany to keep extra forces in France.

The attack’s planning was flawed and lacked heavy support by Naval ships or heavy bombers. These had been held back as being too valuable to risk. The first planning had included landing tanks on flanking beaches and encircling the port from behind, but this had been changed by Maj Gen B.L. Montgomery, then commander of South-Eastern England, to a landing of all the tanks in a frontal assault on the Dieppe beaches. Allied Intelligence had been fooled by German counter-intelligence to believe that the units defending Dieppe were weak and
resting from battles in Russia, while in fact the area was defended by a strong force dedicated to coastal defence and ably led which had been in place for two years. The Canadian troops had trained hard for the landing but this could not compensate for a poor plan against a well laid out defence (M. Zuehlke).

On the actual run in to the attack the landing craft ran into a German convoy heading for Dieppe which alerted some of the defenders. The attack continued in the face of a prepared enemy in defensive positions. The landing beach at Dieppe, composed of large pebbles of hard chert (again, unforeseen by the planners), proved to be very difficult for tracked armoured vehicles, most of the Churchill tanks and other vehicles landed bogged down soon after landing. The tanks and soldiers were also effectively attacked by German dive-bombers in the early stages of the landing. As plans to eliminate or destroy German artillery positions overlooking the landing areas failed, and without support by large cruisers or heavy bombers to counter these batteries, attempts to withdraw the soldiers resulted in heavy casualties. Some 656 Canadian soldiers were killed or missing, and 1,946 taken PoW in 9 hours of combat. Three Victoria Crosses were awarded on this day, two to Canadians, Chaplin Captain Rev. J.W. Foote, Royal Hamilton Light Infantry, and Lt Col C.C.I. Merritt, South Saskatchewan Regiment (both taken PoW), and to Maj P.A. Porteous RA, 4th Commando. Landing operations also came under heavy German bomber attack, which was opposed by RAF and RCAF fighters over the invasion area (FF Years, M. Zuehlke).

Intense Allied air support fought with heavy German fighter defences. USAAF Eighth Air Force B-17 bombers from England provided support to the withdrawal phase by attacking the airfield at Abbeville on their second mission of the war. RCAF 400 and 414 Army Co-operation squadrons flew sorties in pairs covering roads leading to Dieppe during daylight hours until the final withdrawal (FF Years). RAF, RCAF, RAF (USA) and USAAF squadrons lost 105 aircraft during the day for the loss of 46 German aircraft. This was the first time the 3 RAF (USA) Eagle Squadrons had flown together as a wing (V. Haugland). The Royal Navy lost a destroyer and 33 landing craft, over 500 RN, RCN, RAN, and Free French seamen killed, wounded, missing or PoW (http://homepage.ntlworld.com).

Lessons learned or reinforced from this operation include avoiding direct attacks on fortified ports, the need for the creation of special equipment for landings including armed landing ships to give close inshore rocket and gun support to troops ashore, amphibious tanks able to "swim" to shore and go directly into action, armoured engineering vehicles equipped to clear or cross obstacles such as sea walls, ditches and streams, and lay mats to cross pebble beaches, further development of dedicated headquarters ships to co-ordinate sea, land and air actions on the spot, creation of artificial ports which could be emplaced to give cargo transfer capabilities on open beaches (and thus avoid need to seize heavily defended ports in the initial buildup, which the German defence of Europe counted on), security, reconnaissance of landing zones, beach clearing, logistics, etc.
M. Zuehlke notes most of these lessons had already been known and solutions applied or in development before the Dieppe attack took place and these would be used in the landings in Sicily, July 10 1943. He notes the main purpose of the attack was to escalate the size of operations against German forces in the west to support the Soviets, and it did have the effect of forcing the move of a top SS armoured division to France from Russia. But there would be no more "heavy raids" against France or Norway after Dieppe.

Of note was the landing of radar technician F/S J. Nissethall RAF with a body guard of men from the South Saskatchewan Regiment who had orders to protect him from harm or kill him if he was to be captured, as he had knowledge of secret British radar developments. It was hoped to capture or access a German radar site near Pourville, and give F/S Nissethall a chance to examine the equipment. See the book "Green Beach" by J. Leasor for details of this group's survival and achievements.

193 Sqn. Hurricane IIc BD867 QO-Y shot down into the sea by flak, F/S S.D. Banks killed.
193 Sqn. Canadian built Hurricane IIb AM286 shot down by a Fw 190, Squadron commanding officer S/L A.E. Berry DFC RAF (NZ) killed (www.cieldegloire.com, CWGC). S/L Berry was leading his 4th flight of the day over the invasion area (nzetc.victoria.ac.nz).
66 Sqn. Spitfire Vc AB517 shot down into the sea near Dieppe, F/S R.H. Loyns missing.
88 Sqn. Boston III AL692 missing supporting the Dieppe operation, WO2 C.A. Beach RCAF (USA), Sgt D.F.J. Hinde RAF and F/S P.S. Woolston RAF missing, Sgt. Senior rescued.
400 Sqn. Mustang Ia AM151 shot down over Dieppe, P/O D.G. Burlingam killed.
400 Sqn. Mustang I, F/O M.B. Pepper on his first operational sortie was injured in an eye but completed the flight and returned safe (FF Years).
401 Sqn. Spitfire IX BS120 hit and damaged attacking a Do 217 aircraft, F/S B.M. Zobell wounded. A photograph of this pilot standing beside his damaged aircraft was included in the book The R.C.A.F. Overseas - The First Four Years, published during the war.
401 Sqn. Spitfire IX BS119 was damaged by parts of a Fw 190 it shot down, P/O D.R. Morrison DFM bailed out at low altitude and rescued (ref. Airforce, Summer 1992). Onboard the rescue launch he witnessed a lot of the activities of the day and his combat report makes compelling reading and was published during the war in The R.C.A.F. Overseas - The First Four Years, which also notes P/O Morrison at one point jumped into the sea to rescue a wounded crewman from another ASR launch which was attacked by enemy fighters. See Nov. 8, below.
401 Sqn. Spitfire IX BS157 shot down off Dieppe by German fighters, F/S M.H. Buckley missing.
401 Sqn. Spitfire IX BS107 shot down near Dieppe by German fighters, Sgt L.J. Armstrong RCAF (USA) PoW.
401 Sqn. WO2 W.L.E. Rowthorn died of injuries received Aug. 17.

403 Sqn. two Spitfire Vb aircraft collided in combat near Dieppe and crashed, killing P/O J.E. (Ed) Gardiner in AR439 and P/O N. Monchier in AR334. P/O Gardiner was the son of the then Minister of Agriculture and former Premier of Saskatchewan, J.G. Gardiner (pers. comm. G.D. Aitken, one of the pilot's involved, Aug. 10, 2005).

403 Sqn. Spitfire Vb EN850 shot down off Dieppe, P/O L.A. Walker three times MiD killed.

411 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BM406 shot down off Dieppe, P/O P.R. Eakins killed.

411 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AD263 damaged in combat over Dieppe, F/S S.A. Mills injured.

411 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BL542 missing on a sweep over Dieppe, P/O D. Linton RCAF (USA) PoW. (Note, P/O Linton is listed in several sources as killed, but this is an error).

411 Sqn. Spitfire Vb returned to England with a bent propellor after hitting the sea, Sgt Dawson safe (411 SH).

412 Sqn. Spitfire Vb EN831 VZ-J went down off Dieppe, shot down by flak, P/O J.N. Brookhouse missing.

412 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BL857 shot down at Dieppe by flak, F/S W.F. Aldcorn baled out and rescued.

414 Sqn. flew 18 sorties of tactical reconnaissance over Dieppe losing 2 aircraft, Mustang Ia AG375 which was shot up by an enemy fighter and ditched, F/L F.E. Clarke rescued, wounded. His wingman F/O H.H. Hills RCAF (USA) in Mustang I AG470 RU-M was attacked by 3 Fw 190s and destroyed one for the Squadron's first victory, also the first victory for a Mustang pilot (RCAF Sqs.; I. Wikene; FF Years). See June 23, 1944.

414 Sqn. Mustang Ia AG601 that hit a telephone pole avoiding an enemy fighter and belly landed in England with 3' of his right wing missing, P/O C.H. Stover safe (FF Years).

416 Sqn. Spitfire Vb aircraft were engaged on several patrols during the day and finished with claims of 3 enemy aircraft destroyed, 1 probable and seven damaged for no loss (416 SH).

418 Sqn. Boston III W8298 shot up by a fighter off Dieppe and ditched, crew picked up by high speed launch, P/O P.C. McGillicuddy injured, Sgt W.L. Buchanan and Sgt C.G. Scott safe. Sgt Scott was later awarded a DFM for his efforts to save the lives of his fellow crew (418 SH). See Aug. 21 and Nov. 7-8, below.

#2 AFU Anson flew into a hill, killing F/S R. Jones and 4 RAF crew.

#51 OTU Blenheim I L6623 hit a tree after taking off and crashed, F/S R.M. Gilmour and Sgt W.I. McQuatters RAF killed (H. Welting & Dick www.rafcommands.com).

#5 EFTS?, DH.82C Tiger Moth #5808 crashed at High River, Alberta and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

#8 B&G School, Lethbridge, Alberta, Battle I R4000 stalled and spun into the ground near McGrath, Alberta, killing Sgt L.R. Low, LAC (WAG) J.G. Morin and LAC (WAG) R.B. Sandman (S. Shail).

#11 SFTS Yorkton, Saskatchewan Crane I #7935 crashed, LAC(P) D.C. Brown killed. See #12 SFTS loss July 25, 1942.

#34 OTU, Pennfield Ridge, NB, Ventura II AE872 was on a cross country training exercise and was taking off from Dorval, Quebec, when it was noticed fuel was streaming from a tank that had no fuel cap. An attempt was made to abort the take off but the aircraft overran the runway and collapsed it's undercarriage, Sgt M.L. Jones, Sgt P.G.T. Loubert, Sgt A. Settle RAF and passenger LAC Fraser RAF safe (www.rootsweb.ancestry.com #34 OTU Accident and Mishap Reports).
19-20 61 Sqn. flying Lancasters was seconded to Coastal Command in August. On the 19th one of their Lancasters reported sighting a tanker off the coast of Spain. It did not return. The Squadron sent 7 more Lancasters to attack the vessel and 4 more Lancasters were lost, believed shot down by long range fighters (Wayne www.rafcommands.com).


Thursday

20 Marine fighters and dive bombers arrive at Henderson Field, Guadalcanal (J.B. Lundstrom). With an airfield on shore US aircraft are now able to scout and attack approaching Japanese ships, reducing their ability to reinforce the island and thus re-gain the airfield. Early warning of air attack was vital to the survival of this airfield and its small fighter force made up of USAAF and Marine pilots with additions of USN aircraft and pilots from carriers sunk or damaged in the naval battles. The warnings of air attacks were often provided by the RAN Coast Watcher Service of mostly local Europeans supported by loyal indigenous groups and equipped with radios, stationed in the Japanese occupied islands (Oxford et al). They also worked with RAAF Hudson aircraft patrolling the seas near Rabaul to provide warning of naval reinforcement convoys and attacks.

While the airfield at Guadalcanal did not immediately change the supply situation it could provide cover during daylight for unloading Allied vessels (which had to retreat to Tulagi at night) while preventing Japanese ships from supplying or reinforcing their forces during the day as the number of aircraft based there increased. The neutralization or destruction of the airfield at Guadalcanal thus became the prime target for the Japanese wishing to reinforce their troops there and re-capture the island.

As a result of the deliveries in the PEDESTAL Convoy, fighters based in Malta were able to resume offensive operations over Sicily on this date (Shores, Cull & Malizia), as Beaufighters and torpedo Beauforts begin attacking Italian shipping leaving ports in southern Italy (D. Newton).

20 37 Sqn., Egypt, P/O J.R. Dudley DFC RAF (Can.) killed accidentally, no details (paulmcmillan www.rafcommands.com).
20 86 Sqn. Beaufort IIA BX-F from Malta shot down attacking an enemy convoy, F/O P.K. Roper and his crew PoW (Shores, Cull & Malizia, R. Hayward, Chris Charland at www.rafcommands.com).

20 Unknown unit, pilot P/O E.F. Bent and P/O P.H. Wyman were among those killed when an aircraft crashed at Wadi Sedina, Sudan. Possibly a USAAF aircraft, or possibly a US built RAF aircraft on a ferry flight, details unknown (various discussion pages, www.rafcommands.com and forum.12oclock.net).

20 91 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BM558 lost, shot down by an enemy fighter near Dieppe on an ASR sortie, P/O E. Tonge RAF (Can.) missing.


20 #5 (Coastal) OTU Beaufort L4480 'G2' exploded and crashed just after taking off on a night training exercise in Scotland, Sgt D.G. Taylor, Sgt W.M. Vacheresse, F/O E.V. Roy RAAF and P/O D.H. Battrick RAF killed (A. Storr).

20 #19 OTU Whitley V BD291 came down at sea after a double engine failure, Sgt K.A. Peters and his crew were quickly rescued by a fishing boat. See Oct. 5-6, below.

20 #25 OTU Wellington Ic T2715 "E" became lost on a night navigation exercise. Descending through cloud to establish its position it flew into high ground, Sgt B.G. Crew and his crew safe.

20 Unknown unit, LAC A. McKay died in Canada of natural causes (D. Burke www.rafcommands.com).

20-21 37 Sqn. Wellington Ic Z8761 lost attacking Tobruk, Sgt E.H. Farrow, Sgt I.F.L. Bristow RAF, Sgt G. Bonnar RAF, Sgt F.C. Easterling RAF and Sgt N. Crutchley RAF all PoW. Sgt Easterley was later killed when the German aircraft taking him to Germany crashed in Greece.

20-21 Bomber Command sends 57 bombers on GARDENING sorties from France to Poland, plus 5 NICKEL sorties over France. Six minelayers were lost (BC War Diaries).


20-21 218 Sqn. Stirling I BF338 HA-Q lost over Germany on a GARDENING operation, P/O I.C. Newell RAF (Nfld.), F/S L. Hartley RAF, Sgt J.A. Sharpe RAF, Sgt N. Podmore RAF, F/S C.H. Barrow RAF and Sgt G.E.S. Wren RAF were killed, Sgt J.K. Young RAF PoW.

Friday

21 A strong force of Japanese soldiers landed on Guadalcanal tries to attack the Marine
beachhead, but is nearly wiped out trying to force a crossing of a flanking river (ww2total.com Chronology/1942). The Japanese planners had greatly underestimated the size of the US forces on Guadalcanal.

21 418 Sqn. P/O P.C. McGillicuddy died of wounds received in the loss of Boston W8298 Aug. 19, above.

21 #9 AFU Anson I DJ117 crashed in England on a night navigation flight, F/S R.H. Bradley, Sgt J. Murphy and 3 RAF killed.

21 #19 OTU Anson I DJ106 was on a navigation exercise when it crashed into Ben Macdui, the second highest mountain in Scotland, P/O W. Gilmour, F/S G. Fillingham RAF, Sgt J.B. Robertson RAF, Sgt J. Llewellyn RAF and F/S K.E. Carruthers RAF killed. The website http://warmemscot.s4.bizhat.com states there is a memorial at the top of the mountain to the crew.

21 #3 AOS, Regina, Saskatchewan, Anson I #6877 crashed in Chapleau Lake, Saskatchewan, LAC(OB) L.H. Davidson, LAC(OB) W.W. Douglas, Sgt L.A. Insall RNZAF, and civilian pilot P. Bowman killed.

Saturday

22 After attacks on it's shipping by German U-boats Brazil declares war on Germany (wikipedia).

A German unit lands on Sabine Island on the East coast of Greenland to set up a secret manned weather station (wikipedia.de). See March 13, 1943.

In the Caribbean a USAAF B-18A sights and sinks U-654 150 miles north of Colon, the Atlantic port of the Panama Canal. There was no news release about this sinking until after the war, perhaps due to the high military importance of the Canal, and the need to keep secret how close the submarine had approached (Hagedorn & Hagedorn).


22 102 Sqn. Halifax II W1238 crashed in Wales following an engine failure while on a GEE training flight, WO2 C.E. Sorsdahl, Sgt J.L. Berry RAF, Sgt W.E. Pattison RAF, Sgt F.S. Cooper RAF, P/O J.M. Colquhoun RAF, Sgt D. Hubbard RAF, Sgt R.J. Horton RAF and P/O Lace RAF safe.

22 #10 OTU Whitley Z9294 lost without trace over the Atlantic on an anti-submarine patrol, F/S F.B. Croke, P/O C. Neve RAF, P/O J.H. Burgess RAF, P/O A.R. Cook RAF, Sgt R.H. Lucas RAF and Sgt C. Dodds RAF missing.

22 unknown unit, Cpl F. Davies RAF drowned in Canada, no details.
Sunday

23 German army crosses the Don river and reach the outskirts of Stalingrad that afternoon (A. Beevor)

23 & 24 Heavy bombing of Stalingrad causes a firestorm, and razes most of the city (wikipedia). 600 bombers, many making repeat sorties, start fires that kill thousands of Russian soldiers and civilians, survivors flee across the Volga but most remain trapped in the city (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).

Having been disrupted on it’s earlier attempt to fly to the North Pole from Spitsbergen, the modified 210 Sqn. Catalina Ilia VA729 "P for Polar" leaves from Akureyri in Iceland to complete this operation. Accurate navigation requires a visible sun above 85º N, however, and the sky was obscured, forcing them to turn back. They landed safe in Iceland the next day despite one engine failing on the return trip (R.C. Nesbit). See May 10, 1945.


23 58 Sqn., wireless operator/air gunner F/S J.W.C. Cowan accidentally drowned in Cornwall.

23 108 Sqn. WO2 J.L. Roach and Sgt A.S. Graeme-Cook RAF, taken PoW Aug. 11-12 in the loss of Wellington Ic HX484, missing when the Luftwaffe aircraft taking them to Greece crashed into the sea.

23 421 Sqn. Spitfire Vb crashed in England, killing P/O D.M. Iverach. P/O Iverach had flown 52 operational sorties including patrols over Dieppe the previous week.

23 423 Sqn. first operational sortie, 13 hour anti-submarine search by Sunderland III W6053 AB-E, F/L J. Musgrave and crew (RCAF Sqns.).

23 #120 (BR) Sqn. RCAF Stranraer #951 took off from Coal Harbour, BC, on an anti-submarine patrol, but was forced to land on the sea after an engine failed. Other Stranraers from Coal Harbour were sent out and #952 found the aircraft that evening in a heavy sea and was guiding the high speed RCAF launch M-231 Malecite to the scene, but began to experience engine problems as well. Before a third Stranraer #950 could arrive and relieve them the crew of #952 lost sight of #951, and a search by aircraft and the launch did not sight them again that night. Another Stranraer, #909, was also forced to turn back just short of the search area and reported seeing a submarine heading towards the position of the downed aircraft. In the morning nothing was found of the aircraft or it's crew, Sgt A.W. Anderson, P/O E.T. Cox, F/S M. Cram, F/S L.A.B. Horn, F/S R.B. Stuart, aero engine mechanic Sgt C.F. Beeching, Sgt L. Oldford and air frame mechanic Sgt K.E. Hope missing (Ex-Air Gunners Short Bursts magazine, August 2002, http://www.airmuseum.ca/mag/exag0208.html). A Memorial at Royal Oak Burial Park states this aircraft was lost in action against a Japanese submarine (BC Times Colonist Other BC Crashes and Losses). There are other memorials to this loss at Coal Harbour and Comox, BC (A.T. Jarvis).

23 #33 EFTS, Caron, Saskatchewan, DH.82C Tiger Moth #5990 crashed and written off (R.W.R. Walker).
Monday

24 A US and Japanese carrier force (protecting Japanese cargo ships attempting to reinforce their troops on Guadalcanal) exchange attacks, the Battle of the Eastern Solomons. The Japanese lose 1 light carrier while the USS Enterprise is damaged by bomb attacks (J.B. Lundstrom).

A strafing attack by Japanese A6M fighters is made against the airfields at Milne Bay (D. Newton). This is a prelude to a planned landing to take the harbour and it's airfields.

From France two pressurized Ju 86R aircraft, modified from Ju 86P high altitude reconnaissance aircraft to carry single 250 kg (550 lb.) bomb, flew over England and dropped bombs that killed 1 person on the ground. Capable of flying above 40,000' they were well above the altitude of operational Spitfires and thus virtually immune to interception. These were nuisance attacks, but the bombers would fly various courses over southern England before releasing their bombs, causing as much disruption as possible. Their targets were built up areas of cities and towns, accurate aiming was not possible, and sometimes even the wrong town was attacked (C. Goss). See August 28, below.

24 276 Sqn. ASR Lysander missing, possibly due to enemy action P/O J.D. Ernst and 1 RAF missing.

24 402 Sqn. on a sweep over France attacked 8 Fw 190 aircraft only to be jumped in turn by over 40 Fw 190s. Spitfire IX BS122 shot down, P/O G.P. MacKay killed; Spitfire IX BS136 shot down, F/S V.H. Miller RCAF (USA) killed. F/L E.A. Bland and F/L I.G. Keltie wounded but managed to return to England in Spitfires BS198 & BS202, the former aircraft was a write off, but F/L Bland was credited with a Fw 190 destroyed (FF Years). See April 13, 1944.

24 #10 SFTS, Dauphin, Manitoba, Crane I #7953 crashed into trees taking off at Wawanesa, Man., P/O R.T. Hemmons, P/O H.J. MacDonell and P/O J.O. Thorne killed. They had landed there to pick up P/O Hemmons, who lived at Wawanesa.

24-25 Frankfurt was the target of the second Target Finding Force led operation of 226 bombers, but again the target was not located and bombing was scattered. Three Lancaster aircraft were tasked with bombing diversionary targets along the route, and 6 GARDENING sorties also flown, 16 bombers lost (BC War Diaries).

24-25 7 Sqn. Stirling I W7616 MG-G lost over Belgium due to flak damage and an attack by a night fighter, WO2 W.N. Shumsky, P/O J. Antoine RAF, Sgt C.G.E. Dearlove RAF, Sgt J.S. Sparks RAF and F/S A.O. Graham RAF killed, F/S E.A. Walker RAF and Sgt P.D. Kinsella RAF PoW.


24-25 7 Sqn. Stirling I BF336 MG-Z lost, WO2 J.A. Krause, P/O W.E. Pickup RAF, W/C J.M. Shewell RAF and P/O C. Warner RAF killed, Sgt D.M. Smith, Sgt H.C.B. Park RAF and Sgt J.C. Cooley RAF PoW. Both WO2 Krause and Sgt Smith were from Winnipeg. WO2 Krause had also been involved in the loss of a #15 OTU aircraft June 21, 1941, and was interned
in Spain for nearly a year.

24-25 35 Sqn. Halifax II W7765 TL-T believed to have been shot down by a night fighter over France, P/O F.E. Gardiner RAF and F/S W.P. Ryan RAF killed, P/O R.J. Teillet, Sgt P.M. Nerland, Sgt F.E.A. Makin RAF, Sgt F.W. Ryan RAF and Sgt E.L. Whillock RAF PoW.


24-25 101 Sqn. Wellington III Z1594 shot down by a night fighter over Belgium, F/S C.S. Elkington and Sgt J.H. Garland RAF killed, Sgt A.E. Young, Sgt L.T. Goat and Sgt A. Keir RAF PoW.


24-25 418 Sqn Boston III claimed a Do 217 destroyed over occupied France on this night. It is possible it attacked in error a 138 Sqn. Whitley V Z9232 NF-L, which reported it was attacked by a Bf 110 and came down just over the border in Vichy France where the 5 RAF crew evaded back to England via Gibraltar (A. Charpentier www.rafcommands.com).

Tuesday

**25 Attempting to land reinforcements and supplies on Guadalcanal without air cover the Japanese convoy, originally escorted by the carriers that had been driven off in the previous days fighting, is attacked and forced to retire by bombers flying from Henderson Field (J.B. Lundstrom).**

*A detachment of Japanese troops is sent from the main force sailing to attack Milne Bay to take Goodenough Island as a rear base. Alerted by the islands Coast Watchers, RAAF Kittyhawks attack the landing force and sink all its landing barges, stranding the force on the island and preventing them from re-joining the main force as planned. The main force is also sighted and comes under attack by RAAF Hudson and Kittyhawk aircraft (D. Newton).*

**Duke of Kent killed in Sunderland crash (CJCA headline). See below.**


25 249 Sqn. Spitfire lost off Sicily, P/O B. Butler missing. Possibly Spitfire Vc (Trop.) EN976 T-C
lost from 249 Squadron on this date (www.spitfires.ukf.net).

25 228 Sqn. Sunderland III W4026 1-M took off from England on a flight to Iceland and flew into high ground off course and in bad visibility, Inspector General of the RAF Air Commodore G.E.A.E. Windsor HRH Prince George Duke of Kent RAF, P/O The Hon. C.V.M. Strutt RCAF (UK), P/O G. Saunders RAF (seconded from 423 Sqn. RCAF), Lt. J. Crowther RNVR, LAC J.W. Holes RAF, F/L F.M. Goyen RAF, W/C T.M. Mosley RAF (Aus.), P/O S.W. Smith RAF, F/S W. Jones RAF, F/S C. Lewis RAF, F/S E. Hewardine RAF, Sgt E. Blacklock RNZAF, Sgt A.R. Catt RAF and Sgt L. Sweett RAF killed. All those on board were believed to have been accounted for when the rear gunner, Sgt A.S.W. Jack RAF, crawled out of the wreckage, badly burned, 22 hours after the crash. He recovered from his injuries. The city of Prince George, BC, was named in honour of Prince George in 1915 (www.the canadiantencyclopedia.com).


25-26 Japanese land at Milne Bay at the far eastern end of New Guinea to capture the newly built airfields there, but forewarned by decoded messages Australian soldiers and fighter aircraft had been sent to reinforce the garrison (wikipedia). See Sept. 5, below.

Wednesday

26 With daylight RAAF Hudson and Kittyhawk aircraft begin attacks on the Japanese landing at Milne Bay only 6 miles from their airfields, destroying the landed supplies and landing barges of the attacking force (D. Newton).

26 413 Sqn., Indian Ocean, Catalina, F/O O.G. Roberts, sights and attacks a submarine, but the depth charges fail to release (I. Wikene). At the time the Squadron was also involved in a rescue operation having spotted 3 lifeboats from a sunken ship. They dropped supplies and maintained a patrol over the survivors for 3 days until they were rescued (FF Years).

26 152 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BM638 and Spitfire Vb EP164 are believed to have collided in clouds after being scrambled from RAF Angle in Wales, F/S E.M. Shaw killed in the former and P/O G.D. Woolrich RCAF (USA) missing from the latter aircraft.

26 #7 (Coastal) OTU Wellington was engaged in low flying practice when it flew into the sea in the Firth of Clyde, F/S H.W. Gregory among the missing.


26 #3 SFTS, Calgary, Alberta, air frame mechanic Cpl H.J. Manson killed in a car accident in Calgary while off duty.

26 #12 EFTS, Goderich, Ontario, DH.82C Tiger Moth #8909 collided in mid-air with a #14 SFTS Yale #3391 and crashed near Stratford, Ontario, killing WO2 R.B. Reid and LAC(P) D. York.

26 #14 SFTS, Aylmer, Ontario, Yale #3391 was engaged in a dual instruction flight when it
collided in mid-air with a #12 EFTS DH.82C Tiger Moth #8909 as outlined above, F/O J.E. Mosher and LAC J. McVicar RAF were killed.


Night INTRUDER operations from Malta over Italian airbases in Sicily begin (D. Newton).

Thursday

27 RAAF fighters and bombers continue attacks on the Japanese landing force at Milne Bay, breaking off only to defend their airfields from an attack by Japanese D3A dive bombers escorted by A6M fighters (D. Newton).

Japanese forces on Attu Island, Alaska, begin transferring to Kiska, eventually leaving the island deserted (see Oct., below) (Oxford).

Leningrad, Soviet army attacks German blockade on the shores of Lake Ladoga, which is held by German defences (Oxford). Finally convinced there will be no major German offensive toward Moscow, Stalin begins supporting a campaign in the south (Oxford).

US freighter SS Chatham sunk off Belle Island by U-517, the first of 11 ships sunk off Canada by this U-boat (J.W. Essex). The Chatham was a troop ship with 562 crew and passengers heading to Greenland as part of the development of the CRIMSON Route of airfields. Fortunately only 13 were killed, 549 survivors were rescued by the destroyer USS Bernadou and the corvette HMCS Trail (http://homepage.ntlworld.com). This loss and that of the freighter SS Arlyn the next day seriously hampered the construction of the high Arctic airfields before the Arctic shipping season closed, ending completion of construction until the next summer (wikipedia).

27 #1 OADU Wellington Ic HD967 left England for Gibraltar, but was unable to land due to bad weather and force landed on an island off Portugal where the crew, P/O A.M. Leigh, P/O K.A.W. Morris RAF, P/O L.R. Smith RAF, P/O E.J. Scott RAF, Sgt T.R.W. Smith RAF and P/O E.E. Wright RAF were interned.

27 #71 (US) Sqn. Spitfire Vb AD196 lost escorting CIRCUS 208, believed shot down, F/S J.E. Evans RCAF (USA) missing.


27 #501 Sqn. scrambled in England, flew through a thunderstorm, losing two Spitfire Vb to lightning or turbulence. F/S A.R. McDonald was killed in EN958 SD-N and F/S E.W. Shadbolt RAF killed in EN956 SD-L (Gus www.rafcommands.com).

27 #10 OTU Whitley V N1443 ditched after an engine failure on an anti-submarine patrol, F/L
F.L.E. Dupre, Sgt R.A. Weese, Sgt J.R.A. Hodgson RAF, F/S R.S. Farley RAF and Sgt D. Keenan RAF took to their life raft and were rescued later that day. See March 29-30, 1943.

27 #125 (F) Sqn. RCAF, Torbay, Nfld., Hurricane I #1360 stalled in a turn at low level and crashed near Hopeall, Nfld., killing Sgt D.B. Ruggles.

27-28 Kassel was attacked by 306 bombers with Target Finders able to mark a target which had little cloud cover. Widespread damage was done to the city including housing, military and industrial targets, and part of a hospital. Twenty eight soldiers and 15 civilians were killed on the ground. The German aircraft carrier Graf Zeppelin at Gdynia, reported being ready to sail, was the target of 9 Lancasters equipped with special bombs, but they failed to find the ship and bombed the harbour instead. The Graf Zeppelin was not damaged but was never completed during the war. Four NICKEL sorties also flown, total sorties for the night were 319 with 31 lost (BC War Diaries).


27-28 142 Sqn. Wellington IV Z1338 QT-D lost over Germany, P/O F.R.S. Pye, F/O A.H. Paget RAF, Sgt E. Topholme RAF and Sgt J. Bellinger RAF killed, Sgt F.C. Weighill PoW.


27-28 150 Sqn. Wellington III X3418 shot down over Holland by a night fighter, Sgt N.S. Ball, Sgt


27-28 408 Sqn. Hampden I P1166 EQ-K attacked and damaged by a Ju 88 night fighter which was outmaneuvered and shot down by the combined fire of the gunners and the pilot, F/L D.J. Williams (using the forward firing wing gun), before they continued to the target and bombed. On the return flight they were attacked by a Bf 109 which they drove off. Crew F/S N.C. Turnour, Sgt L.S. Leech and Sgt M.P. Hall (RAF or RCAF?) safe. F/L Williams was awarded a DFC for this flight (Awards). This was reported in detail in The R.C.A.F. Overseas - The First Four Years, published during the war. See April 29-30, 1944.

27-28 460 Sqn. RAAF Wellington IV Z1482 UV-Q was attacked by a Ju 88 night fighter just after bombing. The attack inflicted heavy damage before the tail gunner drove it off, possibly shot down. Sgt E.E. Wertzler, Sgt P.S. Isaacson RAAF, Sgt R.S.M. Nielsen RAAF, Sgt E.M. Copley RAAF and Sgt J. Grose RAAF safe (R. Allenby). See December 21-22, 1943.

27-28 RAF Ferry Command, Ventura II AE917 lost over the Atlantic out of Gander, P/O J. McCubbin RAF and Sgt F.A. Weaver RNZAF killed, P/O C. De C. Findlay RAF and Sgt R.M. Alexander RAF missing (Errol Martyn and Tony Kearns at www.rafcommands.com).

Friday

28 A pressurized high altitude Ju 86R bomber dropped a single bomb over Bristol. The bomb landed on a car and exploding gasoline and the blast set nearby two buses on fire, killing 45 people, the heaviest loss of life from one of these attacks (C. Goss). See September 6, below.

#129 (F) Sqn. RCAF formed at Dartmouth, NS, on Hurricane XIXA aircraft (RCAF Sqns.).

In the Windward passage between Cuba and Haiti the corvette HMCS Oakville rams and sinks U-94, damaged by a USN PBY attack (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).

In the Gulf of St. Lawrence a second wave of U-boat attacks begin. U-517 sinks US freighter Arlyn and U-165 damages the US freighter Laramie off Belle Island (J.W. Essex).

28 112 Sqn. Kittyhawk I AK746 shot down over the desert, Sgt L.D.P. Barlow RCAF (USA) PoW (possibly repatriated?) (http://raf-112-squadron.org/planelosses.html).

28 #1 OADU Wellington Ic T2545 was in transit between Gibraltar and Malta when it was attacked and shot down off Morocco by Vichy French fighters, Sgt D.M. Leitch, P/O G.S. Bishop RAF and F/L J.D. Willis RAF (42 Sqn.) missing, F/L G.H.M. Riddell RAF injured, P/O R.C. Spooner RAF and armourer Sgt W.J. Killick RAF survived.

28 #1 OADU Wellington Ic HX566 flew into a hill Spain in mist enroute from England to Gibraltar, F/S C.W. Buchner, Sgt M.H. Riddell RAF, Sgt L. Sutherland RAF, Sgt G.P. Taylor RAF and P/O E. Whitaker RAF were killed, Sgt R. Webber RCAF (USA) was injured and rescued by Spanish soldiers. He spent 6 weeks in hospital and was then interned in Spain until Dec. 25, 1942. See April 3-4, 1943.

28 401 Sqn. Spitfire IX BR628 lost over France escorting USAAF B-17 aircraft, F/L J. Whitham DFC killed.

28 401 Sqn. Spitfire IX BS180 damaged over France escorting USAAF B-17 aircraft, F/S A.L. Sinclair safe, claiming an enemy fighter damaged (FF Years).

28 402 Sqn. Spitfire IX BS151 crashed on take-off due to engine trouble, F/S J.L.O. Primeau killed.


28 #24 OTU Whitley V BD380 abandoned over England after an engine over speeded, Sgt A.C. Combe RAF injured, Sgt Millar, P/O Taffs, P/O Graham RAF, Sgt Lancashire RAF, Sgt Curtis RAF and Sgt Fear RAF safe

28 #29 OTU Wellington Ic DV834 swung on take-off, corrected several times and became airborne in a bad attitude, stalled and crashed, F/S L.L. Jones killed, Sgt R.G. Walters, Sgt G.H. Dood RAF and Sgt G.W. Hall RAF injured. See Aug. 29, below.

28 #133 (F) Sqn. Lethbridge, Alberta, Hurricane XII #5380 crashed (R.W.R. Walker).

28 unknown unit, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, LAC C.M. Edwards died after being accidentally run over by a towed aircraft.

28-29 Nuremberg attacked by 159 bombers with Target Finders using 250 lb. bomb casings modified as "super incendiaries", and which use chemicals to produce bright and easily identifiable colours on the ground. These were the first of what would be called "Target Indicators", or TIs, which would become the basic marking tool of the Target Finding Force, marking aiming points identified by flare illumination. Saarbrucken was also attacked by 113 bombers without Target Finding support, bombing scattered. Three NICKEL sorties also made, making a total of 275 sorties with 30 lost (BC War Diaries).

Soviet bombing attack on Berlin, using Pe-8 4-engined bombers (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).


H.S. McCartney RAF killed.


28-29 61 Sqn. Lancaster I R5742 lost over Germany, F/S L.M. Cowan, F/S F. Janiszewski, P/O W.S. Pattinson, P/O J.A. Wright, Sgt K. Norgate RAF, F/S J.E. Richards RAF (USA) and Sgt W. Toole RAF killed.


28-29 103 Sqn. Halifax II BB204 attacked and set on fire over Belgium by a night fighter before crashing, WO1 R.L. Telfer, P/O R.A. Bingham RAF, Sgt J. Patch RAF and Sgt S.A. Webster RAF killed, P/O R.L. Andre RAAF, Sgt H. O'Neil RAAF and Sgt N.T. Lewthwaite RAF PoW.

28-29 103 Sqn. Halifax II BB214 shot down by a night fighter over Germany, P/O V.M.M. Morrison and Sgt J.L. MacLachlan RAF killed, F/S J.J. Carey and Sgt J.W. Platt RAF missing, Sgt A.A. Roberts RAAF, Sgt B.F. Hughes RNZAF and Sgt H.G. Dryhurst RAF PoW. In 2008 German explosives disposal experts dove on the wreck of the Halifax, located in a lake, the Laacher See, near Bonn, and recovered remains that were identified in 2013 as those of F/S Carey. His remains were interred July 9, 2014 (ottawacitizen.com).


28-29 406 Sqn. Beaufighter was returning to base on one engine after shooting down an enemy aircraft when it overshot it's landing in fog and hit a house, F/L J.R.B. Firth RAF (Can.) and P/O H.G. Harding RAF killed.

28-29 408 Sqn. Hampden I AD829 EQ-E lost over France, Sgt E.J. Stansfield RAF (Can.), Sgt S.F. Clark RAF and Sgt H. Gregson RAF killed, Sgt P.L. Kemp RAF PoW.

28-29 408 Sqn Hampden I AE197 shot down over Belgium by a night fighter, W/C J.D. Twigg (Squadron commanding officer) and F/L I. Maitland DFC RAF killed, F/L G.C. Fisher and F/O R. Van Den Bok DFC RAF evaded. On his return to England F/L Van Den Bok was awarded a Bar to his DFC.

28-29 408 Sqn. Hampden I AE227 EQ-D believed shot down by a night fighter over Germany, P/O

28-29 408 Sqn. Hampden I AT143 overshot its landing returning from an operation to Germany and was damaged, F/S J.T. Craig, F/S H. Treherne, Sgt J. Galloway and Sgt K. Godfrey (RCAF or RAF?) safe (H. Moyle).

28-29 408 Sqn Hampden I AT228 EQ-U lost over France, F/S C.N. Chalken, P/O K.T. Pellett, Sgt M.S. Brighouse RAAF and F/O L.G. Lyons RAAF killed. These were the last Hampden aircraft lost on operations by 408 Sqn. before converting to Halifax aircraft. See September 12 and 14-15, below. F/O Lyons had bailed out of a #14 OTU Hampden July 12, above.


Saturday


Soviet forces west of the Volga River pull back to Stalingrad (Polsson). Hitler reinforces the attack there while the southern drive in the Caucasus stalls (Oxford).

Germany annexes Luxembourg (wikipedia).

29 45 Sqn. Blenheim lost in India on an operational flight, W/C R.B. Harvey RAF (Can.) and 2 crew killed. F/O J.H. Rowe RAAF was also killed on this date and is buried beside W/C Harvey.

29 45 Sqn. Blenheim IV Z6156 was returning to Iraq after taking (escorting?) members of an Allied group to the Soviet Union for a meeting when an engine caught fire over Iran and the aircraft crash landed, Sgt J.A.H. Kirkpatrick and Sgt G. George RAF injured, F/L L.F. Penny safe.


29 402 Sqn. Spitfire IX BS195 shot down into the sea off England, F/S W.A. Hayes was recovered but had died (www.spitfires.ukf.net).


29 #29 OTU wireless air gunner Sgt R.G. Walters died of injuries sustained the previous day in the crash of Wellington DV834.


Sunday

30 422 Sqn. dispatches 3 Catalina Ib aircraft, FP103 DG-A, FP105 DG-B and FP106 DG-C flown
by S/L R.E. Hunter, F/O J.W. Bellis and WO L.W.C. Linpert respectively, from England to Murmansk, USSR, where they helped escort Convoys PQ-18 and QP-14 as well as moving men and equipment between Murmansk and Archangel for RAF operations there (RCAF Sqns.).

30 #5 (Coastal) OTU Beaufort I L4479 'R2' crashed in Scotland, F/S L.O. Glay, F/S J.W. Leyland, F/S J.O. MacLean killed (R. Hayward).

30 #26 OTU Wellington Ic DV825 "U" landed poorly practicing circuits, bounced into the air, stalled and crashed, Sgt R.V. McDougall and Sgt A.P. Hendriksen RAF injured. Sgt Hendriksen died of his injuries Sept. 5, 1942. See also April 22-23, 1944.

30 #11 SFTS, Yorkton, Saskatchewan, Crane I #8079 was in a mid air collision and crashed at Horseshoe Lake, Saskatchewan, LAC(P) J.P. Devries killed.

30-31 Japanese marines reach the edges of one of the airfields at Milne Bay, but are driven back (D. Newton).

Monday

31 Aircraft carrier USS Saratoga is torpedoed by a Japanese submarine in the Solomon Islands. This is the second time the Saratoga has been torpedoed, and again the damage forces it's withdrawal for repairs (ww2total.com Chronology/1942). This leaves only 2 US carriers operational in the Pacific, Wasp and Hornet (J.B. Lundstrom).

Rommel attacks in Egypt (CJCA headline). Battle of Alam Halfya, Rommel attempts to outflank El Alamein positions, British forces hold. RAF sorties attack German forces day and night. In the previous month 33% of supplies enroute to Italian and German forces in North Africa had been lost to Allied submarine and air attacks (H.W. Neulen).

Plan to attack British and US soldiers in Northern Ireland foiled when caches of arms, including machine guns, are seized by police (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).

Around this time German U-boats were first equipped with METOX detectors, able to detect metric wavelengths of radar. This combined with deployment of long range Ju 88 fighters to patrol the Bay of Biscay during the day, vastly reduced losses to Coastal Command patrols as they were forced from the area by day, and detected and avoided by night. As well, although most RN ships are now using centimetric radar RCN ships are still equipped with earlier metric wave radars, which can now be used by METOX equipped U-boats to detect and locate convoys at sea. Thus as well as escorting slow convoys which mean more time at sea, the RCN was unknowingly attracting the U-boats to their convoys, raising losses further (M. Milner).


31 #14 OTU Hampden I P1205 "D1" crashed on the bombing range practising low level bombing
in England when it was caught in an updraft on what was a warm day and struck the ground with a wing, P/O D.F. Foy badly injured, pilot Sgt K.R. Fisher burned. Sgt Fisher was later a Guinea Pig (R. Donovan). See Sept. 1 below.

31 #21 OTU Wellington Ic R1232 was undertaking night flying practice when it struck a tree on an overshoot and crashed, F/S B.A. Smith RAF, P/O M. Dunn RAF and Sgt A. Sgt A. Perrett RAF killed, Sgt J.F. Boyer injured.

31 #24 OTU Whitley V P5100 overshot a night landing in England, and collided with trees, F/S W.H. Terwilliger RCAF (USA) and Sgt G. West RAF killed, Sgt Bowman RAF injured.

31 Heavy Glider Conversion Unit Whitley V BD438 struck a tree on take-off and crashed, wireless operator air gunner F/S R.W.J. Hisson and 1 RAF killed.

31 #33 EFTS?, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4283 damaged at Caron, Saskatchewan and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

September 1942

408 Sqn. receives Halifax V aircraft for training (RCAF Sqns.). 417 Sqn. in Egypt regrouped and begins to receive Hurricane IIb and later IIc aircraft for defence of the Suez Canal and Nile delta (RCAF Sqns., 417 SH).

The main origination point for convoys leaving North America is switched from Halifax and Sydney, NS, to New York, USA, to simplify convoy routing (D. Sommerville). Both Halifax and Sydney continue as the main ports for Canadian supplies, their ships joining the main convoys at sea. For security the fast and slow convoys from New York continue the HX and SC identifiers.

W/C Chant, advising on aircrew selection, is able to form a new Directorate of Personnel Selection and Testing in Ottawa. One of his most important programs is to combine the use of the VLT with the RAF's "flight grading" process of evaluation of pilot candidates by instructors, in the selection of pilot candidates for aircrew training, adopted as standard by the RCAF in August 1944. Other experiments and research give a basis for accepting the best candidates for pilot training that eliminated some of the biases in the system (such as race or religion for example) that had prevented many otherwise qualified candidates from proceeding using the old pre-war selection process (English).

During the month WO G.S. Cumming RAF (Can.) was taken PoW. He had served in 39 Squadron in Malta. Possibly lost on #1 OADU Beaufort Ia DW823 lost Sept. 30, 42.


The 1942 corn and wheat crop in the USA and Canada broke all existing records this year (S. Moore). See September 15, 1943.
In September #2 Flying Instructor School moved from Claresholm, Alberta, re-opening in October at Vulcan, Alberta (http://www.bombercrew.com/BCATP.htm).

Tuesday

1 Canadian Army 4th Division lands in England (CJCA headline).

404 Sqn. begins to gradually re-equip with Beaufighter IIc aircraft (RCAF Sqns.). #111 (F) Sqn. RCAF detachment on Umnak Island begins to receive P-40K aircraft purchased from the USAAF for operations against Japanese forces on Kiska Island, to replace some of those lost August 16 above (RCAF Sqns.). #130 (F) Sqn., Saguenay (Bagotville), Quebec begins to re-equip with Hurricane XII aircraft (RCAF Sqns.). #39 (Army Co-operation) Wing RCAF formed in England, attached to First Canadian Army, with 400 and 414 Sqns., to provide Photo Reconnaissance.

125 (Newfoundland) Sqn. begins to receive Beaufighter VI night fighters (www.historyofwar.org).

#3 AOS closed at Regina, Saskatchewan and re-opened at Pearce, Alberta on this date (http://www.bombercrew.com/BCATP.htm).
1 #1 MET Squadron [Flight?] RAF Tomahawk AM454? crashed in Egypt, Sgt A.M. Rowe killed. (This aircraft is also recorded as lost with #2 Sqn. SAAF April 25, 1942.)
1 252 Sqn. Beaufighter Ic T4881 shot down by fighters while attacking motor transport on the Tobruk to Bardia highway in Libya, P/O E.D. Vanier RCAF (St. Kitts) and Sgt H. Asquith RAF have no known grave.
1 #5 (Coastal) OTU Hampden TB.I P1199 collided in mid-air with a Beaufort I L9932 during a landing approach in Scotland and both crashed, F/S J.G. Newman and WO J.E. Jones RNZAF were killed in the Hampden, LAC F.D. Young RAF killed, F/S W.H. Drury RAF died of injuries, F/S Goodson RAF injured and crewman Cray RAF survived on the Beaufort (errol.martyn www.rafcommands.com).
1 #14 OTU P/O D.F. Foy died of injuries sustained in the loss of a Hampden the day before.
1 #22 OTU Wellington Ic W5625 crashed on the airfield on a night landing, Sgt J.M. Broughton injured with burns, Sgt R.A. Nickless RAF safe. Air gunner Sgt Broughton was a Guinea Pig (R. Donovan).
1 #24 OTU Whitley V BD375 crashed in England due to an engine failure on a night cross country flight, Sgt L.S. Tait RAF (Can.) killed, Sgt S.W. Templar RAF and the rest of his crew safe.
1 #1404 (Meteorological) Flight, Spitfire PR.IV AB131 landed in Belgium, lost, on a practice flight, P/O C.E. Heggtveit parking between two fighters and shutting down before realizing they were German. He was taken PoW and the aircraft became a test aircraft for the Luftwaffe (www.britmodeller.com and discussion page, www.rafcommands.com). P/O Heggtveit was later repatriated to Canada.
1 #4 RD Anson II JS181 force landed near Maces Bay, NB, on a ferry flight after an engine
failed, Sgt C.T. Burrows RAF safe (www.rootsweb.ancestry.com #34 OTU Accident and Mishap Reports).

1 #8 SFTS, Moncton, NB, Harvard II #3228 crashed near Turtle Creek, NB, while practising flying, LAC(P) J.R. Vogt RCAF (USA) killed.

1 #34 OTU, Pennfield Ridge, NB, Ventura II AE936 overran the runway and had its undercarriage collapse on a training flight, Sgt T.C. Dubose, Sgt E.A. Norman, Sgt K.E. Price, Sgt N.E. Blundell RAF and P/O J.A. Bloom RAF safe (www.rootsweb.ancestry.com #34 OTU Accident and Mishap Reports).

1-2 Saarbrucken was the target for 231 bombers with Target Finding support, but they illuminated the town of Saarlouis located on a similar river bend 13 miles from Saarbrucken. No bombs fell on the target at all but the town of Saarlouis and area was heavily damaged. Fifty two citizens were killed in the town. Four bombers were lost (BC War Diaries).


1-2 405 Sqn. Halifax II BB216 LQ-D crashed in England after taking off when an engine caught fire over the coast. The crew was ordered to bail out but some fell in the sea, F/S C.G. Eagles, WO2 N.A. MacKenzie and Sgt H. Stones RAF killed, F/S L.D. Dawdy missing, Sgt J.R. Alexander RAF, P/O L.B. Mason RAF and Sgt Kaucharik RAF injured. (This is referred to in The R.C.A.F. Overseas - The First Four Years which states that P/O L.A. Mason had swum two hours to reach the shore).

Wednesday

2 In the fighting at Alam Halfa one German Panzer division is immobilized due to lack of fuel (D. Newton). See September 5, below.

First flight of the Hawker Tempest fighter, developed from the Hawker Typhoon with a thinner laminar flow, elliptical wing (Flypast, September 1986). The Tempest would be developed into the Allies most potent propellor driven fighter of the war.

2 408 Sqn. aero engine mechanic LAC A.L. McConnell was struck by a propeller and killed.
2 #10 OTU Whitley V N1391 partially abandoned over England, then hit trees and crashed making an emergency landing, Sgt P. Gammon and F/O H.J. Walters RAF injured.
2 #55 OTU Canadian built Hurricane X AG242 crashed taking off in Scotland (H. Welting www.rafcommands.com).
2 #7 B&G School, Paulson, Manitoba, Battle I #1962 and Lysander TT.Ila #2389 were on a scheduled gunnery and drogue exercise when they collided in mid-air over Dauphin Lake and crashed, killing LAC(AG) D.W. Duncan, LAC(AG?) K.A. Lambert and Sgt C.P. Lowe RAF in the Battle and Sgt A. Ogden RAF in the Lysander.

2-3 With Target Finding support an accurate attack was made on Karlsruhe by 200 bombers. Three other GARDENING sorties were made. Eight bombers were lost (BC War Diaries).
2-3 142 Sqn. Wellington IV Z1466 QT-L shot down over Holland by a night fighter, Sgt C.C.D. Fraser, Sgt H.E. Heath, Sgt D. Alford RAF, Sgt H.B. Hill RAF and Sgt C.E. Hagan RAF killed. F. Williston points out on www.rafcommands.com that air gunner Fraser was the oldest of the crew (22) while the pilot Sgt Heath was the youngest (19).

Thursday
3 In the lower Strait of Belle Isle U-517 finds and sinks the Canadian freighter SS Donald Stewart (J.W. Essex).
3 260 Sqn. Kittyhawk IIa FL226 shot down in desert, P/O J.S.E.M. Bernier killed.
3 281 Sqn. Defiant I N1804 lost on ASR operations, F/S J.A.J.G. Pelletier and his pilot missing. F/S Pelletier had been slightly injured March 26, 1942 bailing out of Defiant N3364.
3 #19 OTU Whitley V Z6760 ZV-S crashed taking off on a night exercise, F/S R.J. Pollock, P/O L.I. Alter RAF, Sgt A.F. Rooke RAF, Sgt T.V. Robinson and Sgt J.D. Frost RAF killed. B.
Barry et al notes that F/S Pollock had lied about his age to enlist in the Royal Canadian Artillery, but had been found out and discharged. He enlisted in the RCAF later and was 20 at the time of his death.

3 #10 (BR) Sqn. RCAF, Gander, Newfoundland, Digby flown by F/O Sanderson (possibly F/O J.H. Sanderson) on a convoy patrol sighted and attacked a U-boat. The location was searched by a second Digby and a convoy escort but no further contact was made (Hagedorn & Hagedorn, Awards).

3 #2 EFTS, Fort William, Ontario, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4020 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

3-4 New Zealand forces counter attack stalled German units at Alam Halfa, driving them back (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).

Emden was attacked by 11 bombers who found the target cloud covered and bombed on dead reckoning, 2 lost (BC War Diaries).

3-4 75 (New Zealand) Sqn. Wellington III X3794 believed lost over the sea, Sgt W. Anderson RAF killed, F/S G. McArter, F/S E.R. Hunting RAF, Sgt E.H. Beyer RAF and Sgt H.E. Goldie RAF missing. The book Wellington at War has a photograph of this aircraft, then serving with 9 Sqn., and carrying the name "Barbara-Mary".

Friday

4 Leningrad, German counter offensive begins against Soviet forces, which are soon trapped in a small area. The fighting, however, leads Hitler to cancel the planned attack on the city (Oxford).

Stalingrad, German forces reach the banks of Volga River south of the cities outskirts (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).

4 #1 OADU Wellington Ic AD647 lost between Gibraltar and Bathurst, Gambia, F/O W.R. Foxlee RAF (Can.), Sgt B. Palmer RAF, Sgt F.E. Watkins RAF, Sgt L.G. Rees RAF, P/O W.G. Storrior RAF and Sgt E. Barr missing.


4 #6 (Coastal) OTU Hudson V AE627 crashed in England, F/S J.A. Montgomery RCAF (USA), F/S H.B. Shaver, F/S F.H. Wright and Sgt E.S. Studholme RAF killed (R. Allenby).


4 #25 OTU Wellington III X3940 "N Bar" caught fire in the air and was partially abandoned before crashing, F/S F.E. Meers and F/S D.A. Green RAF (S. Africa) killed, Sgt K.M. Perkins, Sgt W.P. Suter and Sgt E. Perran RAF (Nfld.) survived (R. Allenby). See Feb. 7-8, 1943.

4 #26 OTU Wellington Ic X9933 crash landed, P/O M. Holub and his crew safe and the aircraft was repaired. This was P/O Holub's second crash landing in 10 days. See Sept. 13-14 below.
4-5 Japanese troops, unable to defeat Australian forces at Milne Bay in New Guinea, begin to re-embark in their ships (Oxford).

Bremen was attacked by 251 bombers supported by the Target Finding Force. The Target Finding Force used a new tactic on this operation, dividing themselves into "visual markers" (whose purpose was to make the initial marking of the target with Target Indicators), "backers up" (whose purpose was to hit the Ts with incendiaries and drop more Ts), and "illuminators" (to drop flares for other bombers). The result was a successful attack at the cost of 12 bombers. Three GARDENING sorties were also made (BC War Diaries).

U-513 attacks and sink the iron ore carriers Saganaga and Lord Strathcona berthed at Belle Island, Newfoundland. Local Newfoundland Militia gun positions and other ships open fire and drive the U-boat away. Twenty nine sailors died from the Saganaga (www.rupprecht-thomas.de, www.heritage.nf.ca).

A force of 32 Hampden TB.I torpedo bombers from 144 RAF Squadron and 455 RAAF Squadron was sent from England to airfields in Northern Russia to provide additional protection to convoys supplying the Soviet Union. Flying at extreme range without long range tanks 26 of these aircraft arrived in Russia (R.C. Nesbit, others).

4-5 12 Sqn. Wellington II Z8595 forced to return early on an operation due to engine problems, jettisoned it's bomb load, but still ditched off the English coast, F/S R.W.L. Mills, P/O A.S. Needham RAF, Sgt F. Smith RAF and Sgt S. Bland RAF missing, Sgt T.C. Smith RAF survived, injured.

4-5 61 Sqn. Lancaster R5682 QR-R lost over Holland due to a combination of flak damage and night fighter attacks, F/S J.F. Cooper, F/S P.C.V. Joslin RAF and F/S E.J May RAF killed, P/O N.D. Mullins, WO P.J. Bridgeman, Sgt E.V. Booth and F/S B.A. Farmer RAF PoW.


4-5 115 Sqn. Wellington III BJ771 KO-L lost on an operation to Germany, Sgt G.A. Keith, Sgt A.G. Winton, F/S A. Stevenson, Sgt J.W. Strickland RAF and Sgt R. Spalton RAF PoW.


4-5 144 Sqn. Hampden TB.I AE436 PL-J suffered an overheated engine and flew into high ground on a remote mountain in far Northern Sweden en route to the USSR. F/O W.H. Bowler missing, F/S J.P. Campbell and F/S J.S. Jewett killed. P/O D. Evans RAF and Cpl B.J. Sowerby RAF survived the crash and fire, then managed to walk 20 miles through the mountains to safety in extreme conditions, taking 3 days (R.C. Nesbit). 144 Sqn. was being re-deployed to Russia to provide protection to convoys after the losses of convoy PQ-17 and ran into bad weather. To disguise the violation of Swedish neutrality P/O Evans
and Cpl Sowerby claimed to be evaders from an aircraft shot down in Norway. The wreckage of the aircraft and the remains of the crew remained undiscovered until found by hikers in August 1976. The wreckage has since been recovered and is being restored for display in a museum in England. See www.forcedlandingcollection.se/RAFe/RAF024-AE436.html for the story of its discovery.

4-5 144 Sqn. Hampden TB.I AE356 transiting to Murmansk and strayed out of the safe "approach corridor" for the Afrikanda airfield (R.C. Nesbit). It was attacked by a Soviet fighter (possibly a Hurricane) in error, which killed F/S W.T. Tabor. The aircraft was forced to ditch just off shore of the Kola Inlet near the Russian village of Severmorosk, pilot Sgt W.H. Hood, 2 RCAF (possibly Sgt Turnbull and Sgt O'Neil) and 1 RAF (possibly Cpl Baker) safe (H. Moyle). F/S Tabor was buried at Severmorosk by a party from 144 Sqn. In 1993 Russian sailors presented his family in Thunder Bay with a .50 cal. shell filled with earth from the grave. This loss was also the subject of an article in the June/July 1994 Legion magazine.

4-5 144 Sqn. Hampden TB.I P1344 PL-K (K for "Kitty") shot down over Northern Finland by German fighters after getting lost on a transit flight to Russia, F/S G.E. Miller, Sgt J.M. Robertson RAF and Sgt D.C. Garrity RAF killed, P/O E.H.E. Perry RAF and Cpl C. Shepherd RAF PoW. F/S Miller, Sgt Robertson and Sgt Garrity have no known grave and are commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial. The aircraft was recovered from the crash site and in 1992 became part of the collection of the RAF Museum where it is being restored. See http://www.aircraftconservation.org/handley-page-hampden-restoration for details, and Aeroplane Monthly magazine January, 1992 for photographs of the recovered aircraft.

4-5 144 Sqn. Hampden TB.I P1273 PL-Q shot down by German fighters enroute to Russia and came down in a swamp on the Kola Peninsula, Sgt K.C. Smith, Sgt K.S. Piper, Sgt E.D. Bind, Sgt H.L. Bertrand RAF (Can.) and Cpl G.R. Desforges bailed out and were taken PoW. The remains of this aircraft were recovered and are on display at the Wings Museum in England. Sgt Bertrand was a Biggs' Boy (K. Stofer). He recalled that this was his first operational flight, and as he stood on the wing of the aircraft controlling it before dropping off he was bitter that all the training he had taken to become a pilot was wasted (pers. comm, Hank Bertrand, 1974; www.jncohen.net). Postwar he became a civil engineer and worked in Yellowknife.

4-5 158 Sqn. Halifax II W1214 NP-D crash landed in England returning from an operation over Germany, Sgt G.S. Hughes RAF slightly injured, Sgt S.M. Bedford, Sgt T.J. Martin, Sgt A. Anderson RAF, Sgt A.E. Surridge RAF, Sgt C. MacLennon RAF, P/O O.L. Browne RAF and Sgt J.D.-L.-W. Anstruther RAF safe.

4-5 214 Sqn. Stirling I BF337 BU-B attacked by a night fighter and later blew up over Holland, Sgt E. Meredith RAF, Sgt I.M.R. Stewart RAF and P/O A. McCarthy RNZAF killed, F/L J.G. Smith DFC RCAF (Guatemala), P/O D.N. Osborne RAF, Sgt W.B. Watt RAF and Sgt G. Davison RAF PoW (D. Burke www.rafcommands.com, http://www.teunispats.net/fr-wwii.htm).

4-5 407 Sqn. Hudson found a German tanker off the coast of France, but was driven off by night fighters. The pilot, Sgt R.C. Dalgleish, kept returning until on his fourth attempt he dropped his bombs and near missed an escort (FF Years).

W.H. Ridder RCAF (USA), F/S A.C.S. Robertson, F/S J.A. Royle missing.


4-5 455 Sqn. RAAF Canadian built Hampden TB.I P5323 UB-L ran out of fuel and crashed short of Kandalashka Airfield in Arctic Russia, P/O Patrick, Sgt Mclver, Sgt Darnell, Sgt Clokessy and LAC Bryans all safe (H. Moyle).

Saturday

5 Short of fuel, under constant air attack and unable to defeat the Commonwealth forces at Alam Halfa, Rommel orders the attack ended and retreats. Promised supplies of fuel needed for the battle had been sunk at sea (A. Beevor).


5 142 Sqn. Wellington IV Z1221, air gunner F/S W.J. North killed, buried in England, possibly killed by fighter attack on operations?

5 #116 (BR) Sqn. RCAF, Botwood, Nfld., Catalina I Z2140 was carrying civilian staff of the McNamara Construction Co. with a payroll for workers building a Navy wireless station at Battle Harbour, Labrador, and was taxiing across the Harbour after landing when it hit a mine and exploded. Both pilots F/L A.R. Schlacks RCAF (USA) and F/S G.A. Soeder were killed and have no known grave, P/O R.C. McAdam, F/S D.G. Selby, Sgt T.L. Whettell, Cpl F.J. Kontzie, AC1 W.L. Mullins, McNamara Superintendent Bill Gurrell, McNamara Accountant Gill Reid, McNamara employee Mr. Snelling and DoT Accountant Jack Cosgrove were safe with some injuries.

5 #4 EFTS, Windsor Mills, Quebec, two DH.82C Tiger Moth aircraft collided in the circuit and crashed, killing LAC(P) J.R. Davie in #8926 and LAC(P) T.B. Fetherston in #8936.

5 #9 EFTS (?), DH.82C Tiger Moth #3963 damaged beyond repair at St. Catharines, Ontario (R.W.R. Walker).

5 #33 EFTS?, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4296 damaged at Caron, Saskatchewan and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

5 USAF 423rd Bomb Sqn., 306th Bomb Group, B-17F 41-24463 lost at sea from Gander, Newfoundland, 1Lt J.T. Leahy and 9 crew missing (AAIR).

5-6 Japanese landings at Milne Bay on the eastern tip of New Guinea were driven back and defeated by Australian forces, the first time a Japanese invasion has been stopped
Only 1,200 Japanese of 2,600 who landed escaped, the last re-embarking on this night (Oxford). Again Japanese forces had failed to capture an existing forward airfield in New Guinea which would allow expanded operations in the region.

5-6 70 Sqn. Wellington Ic Z8976 "T" force landed in the Quattra Depression of the Sahara Desert on a sortie to Tobruk, F/S G.T.B. Croisiau RCAF (Belgium) (possibly serving as WO G.T.B. Croslan) was taken PoW, wounded, when the crew attempted to steal an Italian truck, but the rest of the crew, P/O B.E. Johnston RAF (Can.), Sgt R.S. Carter RAF, Sgt A.D. Bebbington RAF, Sgt I. Davies RAF and Sgt J.C. Haldon walked back to safety, with much help from local Arabs, returning to the Squadron after 1 month, having walked over 300 miles through enemy territory. F/S Coisiau, who had fought in the Spanish Civil War and served in the Finnish Air Force, was later awarded an MiD. P/O Johnston received the DFC for his leadership in the evasion and other actions (airforce.ca/awards, H. Halliday at www.rafcommands.com).

Sunday
6 German Afrika Corps attack halted in front of El Alamein. The plan and timing of their attack had been revealed by ULTRA intercepts, which confirmed Montgomery's assessment of the German options (Oxford).

First USAAF bomber losses in combat in Europe (Zijlstra).

Over England Spitfires and Typhoons are again unable to climb to intercept a German Ju 88R bomber, but a USAAF P-38 (on the types first operation in Europe) was able to get to 38,000' over the Isle of Wight, where the pilot attempted to hit the bomber above him by pulling up and firing. No hits were made. Specially lightened Spitfires were being prepared to try to stop these attacks (C. Goss). See September 9, below.

Off the Gaspé Peninsula U-517 sank the Greek freighter SS Aeas (J.W. Essex).
6 39 Sqn. sent 9 Beauforts with an escort of 10 Beaufighters to intercept a large Italian convoy off the coast of Corfu, losing 2 of each. One of these was Beaufort II AW305 'Q' flown by the flight leader, F/L D.C. "Hank" Sharman RAF (Can.), missing. The two Beaufort crews included Lt. R.C.B. Evans SAAF, Sgt A. Calvert RAF, Sgt E.R. Cox RAF, Sgt K.J.P. Duncan RAF, Sgt M.F.N. Wadham RAF, P/O R.M. Watson RAF and one other crewman. F/L Sharman was a very experienced torpedo pilot and had flown on the first Beaufort operation of the war, June 21, 1940.

6 127 Sqn. Hurricane IIB lost over the desert, F/L R.J. Crot RCAF (USA) was taken PoW (www.127squadron.co.uk).
6 #132 Meteorological Unit, Egypt, Hurricane BP470 crashed, Sgt R.J. Bowes killed.
6 402 Sqn. Spitfire IX BS429 lost on a CIRCUS over France, Sgt J.G. Roan RCAF (USA) bailed out and PoW.
6 #20 OTU Wellington Ic N2822 JM-F crashed into the sea off the coast of Scotland, F/S J.W.

6  #21 OTU Wellington Ic X9942 lost control in a low level turn and crashed in England, F/S D.M. Gilmour, Sgt C.A. O’Halloran RNZAF, Sgt E.D. Sale RNZAF, Sgt W.F. Carey RAF and Sgt G.H. Bennett RAF killed.

6  #147 (BR) Sqn. RCAF, Sea Island, BC, Bolingbroke IV #9114 lost on a cross-country flight, P/O C.G. Child, F/S J. Duffy and Sgt D.W. Moore missing. BC Times Colonist Other BC Crashes and Losses reports the wreckage of this aircraft was found in 1966.

6  #2 EFTS, Fort William, Ontario, two DH.82C Tiger Moth aircraft were practicing forced landings when they collided in mid-air, #5820 crashed near Fort William, LAC(P) J.M. Turner killed. The pilot of the other Tiger Moth (possibly #5914 which was written off in a crash on this date from this unit) was safe (R.W.R. Walker).

6  #4 AOS, London, Ontario, Sgt R.R. Wood RAAF died while on leave when the car he was driving hit a truck head on at night between Chatham and Tilbury, Ontario. One civilian was killed and another injured, and two airmen were uninjured in the car (A. Storr).

6  #11 SFTS, Yorkton, Saskatchewan, LAC R.G. Mitchell RAF died (B. Barry et al).

6-7 Duisberg was attacked by 207 bombers who reported scattered bombing in hazy conditions, but the city reported it’s heaviest attack to date. Nine GARDENING and 5 NICKEL operations were also made, 8 bombers lost (BC War Diaries).


6-7 49 Sqn. Lancaster I R5752 EA-D was hit by flak on an operation to Germany, but managed to return to England on two engines. There part of the crew, Sgt W.L. Vander Dasson, Sgt J.C.H. Morgan RAF, Sgt O.D. Blaha RAF and Sgt J. Harrison RAF, bailed out and were safe. The bomber then attempted to land but crashed after it flew into trees, Sgt W.P.J. Gregory-Coleman RAAF killed, P/O G.S. Jefferys RAF and Sgt P. Maloney RAF injured. See May 11-12, 1944.


6-7 405 Sqn.(?) Halifax II (LQ)-H, F/S R.G. Fernyhough (RCAF?) was hit by flak that knocked out an outer engine and flipped it into a dive. It recovered at very low altitude and was light up by searchlights, which it’s nose gunner engaged as they left the area, returning safely (FF Years).

6-7 407 Hudson V AM701 RR-V shot down in the North Sea while on an anti-submarine patrol off the coast of Belgium, F/S B.L. Kohn and P/O J.E. Wilkes killed, F/S B.A.W. Coutts and P/O C.R. Foskett missing.

6-7 410 Sqn. Beaufighter IIf, P/O R.R. Ferguson and P/O D. Creed were on a ground controlled intercept exercise when they were vectored to a target and damaged a Ju 88 aircraft over England, the squadrons first air victory (RCAF Sqns.).
6-7 #10 OTU Whitley V AD669 was on a night navigation exercise when it had engine problems. Attempting a landing it undershot and was wrecked, P/O W.E. Hinchcliffe was injured but his crew was safe. See August 23-24, 1943.

Monday

7 Japanese attacking Port Moresby overland (CJCA headline) [this refers to the force landed on the north shore of Papua-New Guinea in July and attacking over the Owen Stanley Mountains along the Kokoda Trail].

HMC Armed Yacht Raccoon was torpedoed by U-165 and lost with all hands in the St. Lawrence on convoy escort. The freighters SS Mount Pinus, SS Mount Taygetus and SS Oakton were also torpedoed off Gaspé, Quebec, by U-517, on this day (J.W. Essex).


7 #7 AFU Master DL838 was in a mid-air collision and crashed, killing Sgt F.M. Andrew and P/O N.G. Bailey RNZAF (H. Welting www.rafcommands.com)


7-8 Bomber Command sent 16 bombers to attack the Heinkel factory at Warnmunde but they were recalled, 43 GARDENING sorties made, 1 loss (BC War Diaries).

7-8 407 Sqn. Hudsons flown by P/O E.L. Howey DFC and P/O W.B. Anderson make attacks on a German convoy off Holland using flares, 1 ship near missed (FF Years).

7-8 418 Sqn. Boston I W8284 lost on a night INTRUDER over France, Sgt A.J.R. Millman RAF, P/O J.A.H. McClafferty RAF and Sgt S.R. Williams RAF killed on their first operation (418 SH).

Tuesday
8  209 Sqn. Catalina IIA VA713 "L" was making a night take off at an RAF base in the Mayotte Islands north of Madagascar when it crashed, Sgt A.S. White RAF, Sgt D.P. Broomfield RAF, Sgt L.S. Davies RAF, F/O K.J. Rich RAF and P/O E.L. Hall RAF were killed, P/O F.W. Henderson, Sgt D. Abberley RAF, Sgt H. Shepherd RAF, Sgt R.N. Lamond RAF, F/L J.R. Wyllie RNZAF missing (LittleVera www.ww2talk.com).
8  115 Sqn. F/S C.H. Lanceley died of injuries received Sept. 6-7, above.
8  422 Sqn. Catalina Ib FP103 DG-A returning from Murmansk was forced down off the Isle of Whalsay, where the pilot, P/O H.N. Honey (S. Africa), ran the aircraft ashore and saved the crew, but the aircraft was a write off (ktsorens.tihde.org; Highgroundsman and R. McNeill at www.rafcommands.com).
8  #16 OTU Wellington Ic DV830 hit a tree and crashed making an emergency landing after an engine caught fire on a bombing and navigation exercise, Sgt J.H. Hall RAF killed, Sgt E.F. Stammers, P/O H.A. Larkin RAF and one other injured. See Dec. 6, below.
8  #33 EFTS, Caron, Saskatchewan, DH.82C Tiger #4294 crashed near Lake Valley, Saskatchewan, while practicing aerobatics, P/O D.G. Davies RAF killed (B. Barry et al, Dakota via W. Welting, www.rafcommands.com).

8-9 **Frankfurt was the target of 249 bombers, but Target Finders did not locate the target. Most bombs fell on the town of Russelsheim where a factory making tanks and another producing tires were damaged. Seven bombers lost (BC War Diaries).**
8-9 23 Sqn. Mosquito NF.II DD684 YP-U lost on a night INTRUDER over Holland, F/S G.R. Wright and Sgt A.M.F. Cook RAF missing. This was one of 3 aircraft lost by the Squadron on this night.
8-9 142 Sqn. Wellington IV Z1342 QT-T ditched in the English Channel due to engine problems returning from operations over Germany. The fuselage broke in two and rear gunner Sgt T.B. Treble RAF (S. Africa) went down with it and is missing. The rest of the crew Sgt R.S. Taylor RAF (Nfld.), F/S J.C. Heddon RAF, Sgt J.C. Holmes RAF and Sgt M.P. Noble RAF (Rhod.) got into their dinghy and were rescued that morning (http://www.flensted.eu.com). See Oct 13-14, below.
8-9 150 Sqn. Wellington III X3304 ran out of oxygen on an operation to Germany and was forced to a lower level where it was hit by flak which damaged both engines. A successful forced landing was made and the aircraft destroyed by the crew setting it on fire, Sgt R. Denver, Sgt J.E. Shouter, Sgt G.A. Sherratt RAF, Sgt R. Taylor RAF and Sgt H. Alexander RAF.
were taken PoW.

8-9 150 Sqn. Wellington III BJ591 returned to England badly damaged and ran out of fuel attempting to land, crashing into a tree and catching fire, Sgt G.T. Lapping RAF killed, Sgt T. Bryan RAF dying of injuries soon after, P/O J.C. Lovelace, Sgt D.C. Bowker RAF, Sgt Stanley RAF and Sgt Carlon RAF injured (J.C. Lovelace).

8-9 214 Sqn. Stirling I R9355 BU-O was hit by flak on an operation to Germany. One engine was blown off and another damaged, which later failed. The aircraft managed to return to England where it was destroyed in a crash landing, but the crew, Sgt W.J. Dempster, P/O C.D. Ince RAF, P/O C.J. Whittingham RAF, Sgt F.C. Fray RAF, P/O R.S. Pearch RAF, P/O A.F. Arnold and Sgt W. Johnson-Biggs, were safe. See Feb. 2-3, 1943.

8-9 405 Sqn. wireless air gunner F/S J.R. Baillie bailed out of his Halifax aircraft with no explanation, missing. Aircraft returned safely.

8-9 407 Sqn. Hudson flown by F/O J.L. Ellam, part of an attack by 407 and 320 Squadrons on a German convoy off the Frisian Islands, made a direct hit on a merchant ship, three other near misses were reported (FF Years).


Wednesday

9 Spitfires of 421 Squadron lightened by field modifications for higher performance were scrambled to intercept a high altitude Ju 88R bomber but were unsuccessful (C. Goss). See September 12, below.

In response to U-boat attacks the Gulf of St. Lawrence was closed to ocean going ships, meaning goods for overseas had to be shipped by rail to Halifax and Sydney, and increased the burden of loading ships there while docking facilities at Montreal and Quebec City were cut off from war use. This remained in effect for most of the remainder of the war (Oxford) and was arguably the greatest success of the U-boat campaign in the Gulf of St Lawrence.

This was forced on the RCN due to its increased commitments on the American coasts, with the withdrawal of US Navy units and the opening of the port of New York as the main departure point for eastbound fast convoys. RCN escort groups were now covering all convoys on the Atlantic coasts from Aruba in the Caribbean to St. John’s Newfoundland, but still under operational control by the US Navy. With a further commitment of escorts for Operation TORCH in November this left RCN escorts in the mid-Atlantic over worked and without reserves for breakdowns or reinforcement of convoys under attack (M. Milner).

#113 (BR) Sqn. RCAF detachment of 5 Hudsons sent to Chatham, NB (RCAF Sqn’s).

A Japanese submarine launched float plane bombs forests in Oregon in attempt to start forest fires. Although spotted and identified as Japanese by many observers their
reports are discounted until long after the aircraft had returned to it's submarine (B. Coyle).


9 #10 OTU Whitley V Z6638 ditched in the Bristol Channel after an engine caught fire on an anti-submarine patrol, F/S R.O.O. Warren RCAF (USA) and his crew safe. See Sept. 21, below.

9 #20 OTU air gunner F/S H. Paul RAF (Can.) died of injuries received Sept. 7-8 above.

9 #1 B&G School, Jarvis, Ontario, Bolingbroke IV #9098 crashed near Nelles Corner, Ontario, killing Sgt F.J. Hawke, LAC(BA) R.W.G. Killick and Sgt R.N. McCrank.

9 #2 Wireless School, Calgary, Alberta, F/L J. Rolph died in hospital of natural causes.

9 #3 SFTS, Calgary, Alberta, Crane I #8142 crashed and burned NW of High River, Alberta, LAC(P) W.S. Lucas RCAF (USA), LAC(P) G.S. Miracle Jr. RCAF (USA), and LAC(P) R.J. Wicklem RCAF (USA) killed. See #12 SFTS loss July 25, 1942.

9 #3 Wireless School, Winnipeg, Man. Fort #3630 caught fire after taking off and crashed, Sgt R.E. Beihartz and LAC(WAG) A.L. Nicholson were killed.

9 #34 EFTS?, Assiniboia, Saskatchewan, DH.82C Tiger Moth #5879 written off after a crash (R.W.R. Walker).

9 #34 OTU, Pennfield Ridge, NB, Ventura II AJ194 had it's undercarriage collapse practicing circuits, Sgt D.E. Midgley, Sgt R.K. McDonald and Sgt F. Matthews RNZAF safe (www.rootsweb.ancestry.com #34 OTU Accident and Mishap Reports).

9-10 Bomber Command has 34 GARDENING sorties from Denmark to the Bay of Biscay with 1 loss (BC War Diaries).

9-10 15 Sqn. Stirling I BF352 LS-U was forced to return to England from a GARDENING sortie due to technical problems where the crew, P/O A. Birchall, Sgt J.M. Pye RAF, F/S Wharam RAF, Sgt G.W.A.H. Vasi RAF, F/S P.J. Apps RAF and F/S I.J.A. Henderson RAF bailed out safely. The pilot, Sgt C.R. Russell-Collins RAF, then attempted a landing but was injured when the aircraft crashed. See Sept. 19-20 below.


Thursday

10 202 Sqn. Catalina I AJ162 "F" was on a patrol from Gibraltar when it was shot down by a
German blockade runner *Weserland*, F/S R.S. Rice, Sgt R. Ainsworth RAF, Sgt T. Kirkham RAF, Sgt W. Law RAF, Sgt J.M. Sloan RAF, F/S J.W. Pilling RAF (Argentina) and P/O J.G. Pope missing, Sgt A.D. Smith RAF and LAC H.W. Long RAF were rescued, injured, and made PoW, where they survived due to the efforts of the ship's doctor, who amputated one of Sgt Smith's legs and treated LAC Long's burns (Arculus www.rafcommands.com). When the ship arrived in Java they were turned over to the Japanese. At the end of the war they were found alive in Japan (LAC Long) and Java (Sgt Smith) (R. McNeill forum.keypublishing.com and C. Meunier www.rafcommands.com). In a post war interview Sgt Smith noted that when transferred in Java the bandages on his amputated leg, applied on the *Weserland*, were more than the entire stock of bandages held by the PoW hospital (R. McNeill www.rafcommands.com).

10 422 Sqn. Lerwick I L7267, P/O Hoare, crashed at Lough Erne, N. Ireland, no fatalities. This was the last Lerwick lost before the type was withdrawn from service (J. O'Loughlin, wikipedia).

10 #10 OTU Whitley V BD279 was abandoned over England after suffering an engine failure on a night navigation exercise and being unable to land at a nearby airfield because it would not turn on it's approach lighting, Sgt Adams RAF was injured, Sgt D.V. Childers and the rest of his crew safe.

10 #1 OTU, Bagotville, Quebec, Harvard IIb FE389 spun out of a formation flight and crashed near St. Honore, Quebec, killing LAC(P) J.A. McKay and P/O S. Soomsky RCAF (USA).

10 #2 B&G School, Mossbank, Saskatchewan, Sgt Hazel Winnifred Seymour died on active service.

10 #6 SFTS, Dunnville, Ontario, Harvard II #3193 crashed near Dunnville after a mid-air collision with another Harvard, P/O W.F. Roy killed.

10 #32 EFTS, Bowden, Alberta, two DH.82C Tiger Moth collided, LAC McLaughlin (RAF) made a forced landing and survived, but LAC(P) N.A.W. Presland RAF bailed out too low and was killed (C. Simonsen, http://www.bombercommandmuseum.ca/bcatpbowden.html).

10-11 Dusseldorf attacked by 479 bombers, including OTU aircraft, with Target Finding support. This operation saw the first use a purposely designed Target Indicator, a 2,800 lb. device (modified from a 4,000 lb. Blockbuster casing) that burned with a distinct pink colour (hence it's name, "Pink Pansy"). Very heavy damage caused for the loss of 33 bombers (BC War Diaries).


10-11 61 Sqn. Lancaster I W4111 lost over Germany, F/S J.L. Blair, F/S F.W. Kidson, F/S A.B.


10-11 158 Sqn. Halifax II W1251 NP-T was hit by flak that wounded the flight engineer, Sgt R. Edlington RAF, but the aircraft returned to England, Sgt R.F. Watson, Sgt A.D. Lewis, P/O C.L. Sparke RAF, P/O J.B. Aris RAF, Sgt H. Middleton RAF and Sgt C.G. Dawson RAF killed (R. Allenby). See October 13-14 and December 10-11 below and November 6, 1943.


10-11 405 Sqn. Halifax II BB212 LQ-P damaged over the target and lost height. A bailout was ordered and Sgt J.C. Scotten and Sgt V.R. French RAF (Nfld.) bailed out but were killed. The pilot regained control and returned to England where he crashed attempting to land without flaps, swinging off the runway and colliding with a parked 419 Sqn. Wellington III BJ887 VR-H, which killed his wireless operator air gunner F/S A.T. Drennan. The rest of the crew, Sgt W.M. Webb, Sgt E.E. Gervais, Sgt J.M. Rankin and Sgt G.E. Mitchell RAF were injured. The aircraft was later repaired and returned to operations where it was lost March 11-12, 1943, but the 419 Sqn. aircraft was written off. See Sept. 23-24, below.

10-11 407 Sqn. Hudson was on an anti-shipping patrol when it was hit by an anti-aircraft shell that exploded in the fuselage, F/O J.R. Watson and his crew were unhurt but he made his second force landing on return (407 SH).


10-11 #16 OTU Wellington Ic R1346 JS-F lost an engine off the coast of Holland on an operation to Germany and ditched short of the English coast, Sgt B.A. Rodgers killed, Sgt A.E. Sedin RAF missing, Sgt K.J. Johnston RAF, Sgt I.F. Leng RAF and Sgt A. Boswell RAF rescued.

10-11 #16 OTU Wellington Ic DV775 KG-O lost over the North Sea on an operation to Germany, F/S D.R. Smith and P/O A.H. Childs RAF killed, F/S R.C. Daoust missing, Sgt K.C. Bonter and Sgt R.J. Harvey were rescued from their life raft Sept. 16 and PoW.

10-11 #16 OTU Wellington Ic HX365 XG-N lost without trace on an operation to Germany, F/S J.F. Irvine, Sgt W.D. Carrick RAF, Sgt J.F. Deaton RAF, Sgt H. Wright RAF and Sgt T.J.
Harboard RAF missing.

10-11 #20 OTU Wellington Ic T2561 lost over Holland, F/S F.W. Gennette RCAF (USA), Sgt C.A. Sherman, Sgt E. Hilton RAF, Sgt A. Nicholas RAF and Sgt E.T. Briggs RAF killed.


10-11 #25 OTU Wellington III BJ987 "L" believed to have been lost over the sea off Belgium, F/S R.E. Bertram, F/S C.J. Eggleton and P/O J.R. Agar RAF killed, F/S F.J. Gallagher and F/S R.M. George missing.

10-11 #26 OTU Wellington Ic DV703 "C" shot down by a night fighter over Germany, F/S J.B. Higginson, Sgt C.C. Ogilvie RAAF, P/O J. M'Illveen RAF and Sgt J.W. Gardner RAF killed, Sgt L. Hedley RAF PoW.

10-11 #26 OTU Wellington Ic DV867 "E" shot down over Holland by a night fighter, Sgt T.P. Allenby RCAF (USA), Sgt A.I.L. Downs RAAF, Sgt J.J. Kearns RAF, Sgt R.H. Kirkpatrick RAF and Sgt J.W. Rowling RAF killed.

Friday

11 Corvette HMCS Charlottetown torpedoed and sunk in the St. Lawrence off Cap Chat by U-517 with the loss of 9 RCN.

An airplane crash at the Curtiss-Wright aircraft factory at Buffalo, NY, kills 12 workers and leaves 35 injured (ww2total.com Chronology/1942). A P-40 on a test flight burst into flames and crashed into the plant despite the efforts of the test pilot, who was badly burned. In the plant 14 workers were killed or died of wounds and 33 were injured, most burned from the gasoline in the fighter plane (J.M. Malloy http://www.buffalohistorygazette.net/2010/09/september-11-1942-tragedy-at-curtiss.html).

#32 ANS, Charlottetown, PEI, closed on this date (http://www.bombercrew.com/BCATP.htm).

11 #17 OTU Blenheim IV L4891 swung on take off and collided with a tractor, Sgt B.M. Harvey RCAF (USA) safe. See Dec. 6, below.

11 #52 OTU Spitfire Ila P7676 was seen to dive into a river in England, F/S K.M. Grant killed (www.spitfires.ukf.net).

Saturday

12 Laconia Incident. Off the coast of West Africa the submarine U-156 torpedoed the British liner RMS Laconia, believing it to be a freighter. It was in fact carrying 2,444 people to England, including crew, passengers, military personnel and Italian PoWs. When the Captain of the U-156 surfaced to gather intelligence he was appalled at the number of people in the water, and began rescue operations, under rules set out by the International Committee of the Red Cross. Broadcasting for assistance in clear
language he was joined by the U-506, U-507 and the Italian submarine Cappelini. Taking survivors on board and towing lifeboats with more, the 4 submarines, under Red Cross flags, proceeded to a rendezvous with Vichy French warships sailing from Senegal and Dahomey. See Sept. 15, below.

German army units enter Stalingrad (Oxford). Although food supplies from this important river port had been taken across the Volga, the civil population of the city remained (wikipedia).

Over England a Special Service Flight modified Spitfire IX BS273 flown by F/O Prince Emanuel Galitzine RAF (Russia), intercepted a Luftwaffe high altitude Ju 86R bomber aircraft at 41,000', chasing it to 43,000' and damaging it. After this the use of the Ju 86R as a bomber was ended, although it was still used for high altitude photo reconnaissance. This combat was the highest recorded interception of the war (http://spitfiresite.com/2010/04/the-very-high-flying-prince.html). Again 421 Squadron scrambled one of its modified lightened Spitfires but were unable to match the performance of the Special Service Flight aircraft. These attacks had killed at least 65 people (C. Goss).

12 408 Sqn. Hampden I AE385 stalled and crashed practising circuits, killing F/S G.M. Frame and F/S W.G. Keogh. This was the last Hampden lost by an operational squadron in Bomber Command. See September 13-14 below.


12 #1 OTU, Bagotville, Quebec, Cpl G.R. Ebbs died of natural causes in Chicoutimi, Quebec.

12-13 Battle of Bloody Ridge, Japanese forces on Guadalcanal, heavily reinforced by units landed in the previous weeks, stage a major assault on the beachhead and airstrip, but are held, barely, by Marines, while Japanese ships shelled the airstrip (J.B. Lundstrom).

Sunday

13 Convoy PQ-18 being attacked by Luftwaffe Ju 88 dive bombers was defended by Sea Hurricanes from HMS Archer. While the fighters were engaged, 40 He 111 torpedo bombers attacked at low level and sank 8 merchantmen without loss although all the torpedo bombers were damaged by anti-aircraft fire, 6 beyond repair (A. Price). The most successful Luftwaffe torpedo attack of the war, possibly the most effective aerial torpedo attack in history, sinking 45,000 tons of shipping and cargo in one attack.

Destroyer HMCS Ottawa torpedoed and sunk in the North Atlantic with a large loss of life escorting convoy ONS-127.

At about this time Operational Research into convoy losses showed that a larger convoy provided better protection, as the perimeter to patrol increased at a smaller ratio
than the area it covered. This led to a steady increase in convoy size, and better coverage by sea and air escorts (Oxford).

13  #61 OTU Master DL611 crashed in England, killing F/S J.M. Kasseneff RCAF (USA).
13  #31 OTU, Debert, NS, Hudson V AM765 lost at sea on a night cross-country exercise, P/O J.A. Hackett, Sgt J.M. Johnson, Sgt D.R. Lagimodiere and P/O R.A. Clarke RAF missing.
13  RCAF Station, Rockcliffe, Ontario, Harvard II #3106 (#13 SFTS?) collided in mid air with (unit? (CF Sqn.)) Oxford II BG297, both aircraft crashing near Richmond, Ontario, LAC(P) W.K. Dean Jr. RCAF (USA) was killed in the Harvard, electrician Sgt S.V. Patterson, LAC(P) F.L. Rash RCAF (USA), and P/O J.R. Shanks were killed in the Oxford (J.A. Griffin). P/O C.E. Cuisson bailed out and survived (from which aircraft?) (www.sarniahistoricalociety.com).

13-14 **Battle of Bloody Ridge**, again Japanese soldiers make an assault on the US area, while Japanese ships shell the beachhead, and again Marines hold them off.

*British Commando attack on Tobruk fails with heavy losses, 1 cruiser, 1 destroyer and 3 MTBs sunk, 1 MTB captured, 1 destroyer damaged by German and Italian forces, almost 600 taken PoW (ww2total.com Chronology/1942). This combined operation was intended to land commandos from ships at Tobruk and Benghazi under cover of bombing attacks (below), to destroy supplies there (D. Newton).*

13-14 81st Bomb, Sqn., 12th Medium Bomber Group, USAAF, B-25C 41-13849 shot down over Tobruk, F/S C.J.H. Fry, 1Lt H.F. Belobraidich USAF, 2Lt O.B. Reeves USAF and Sgt L.J. Shore USAF missing, 1Lt L.B. Hicks USAF and 2Lt E.F. Jobb USAF PoW. F/S Fry was the wireless operator air gunner on the crew, part of a group of RCAF WAGs seconded to this group to allow them to integrate into RAF radio procedures used in the theatre. Canadians were used for this job as they were trained in RAF radio procedures and could "speak" American.

13-14 81st Bomb. Sqn., 12th Medium Bomber Group, USAAF, B-25D 41-29681 was shot down over Tobruk, 1Lt K.H. Young USAF killed, Sgt J.E. Venink USAF unknown, Sgt H. Reid, Col C.G. Goodrich USAF, 2Lt R.G. Ries USAF and Maj H.B. Houston USAF PoW. BCL'ME 1939-42 notes that Col Goodrich had protested the orders to bomb at night as the B-25 aircraft were not fitted with exhaust flame dampers but was overruled as the Commando attack was the priority. Major Houston was the Group intelligence officer flying as an observer.

13-14 81st Bomb. Sqn., 12th Medium Bomber Group, USAAF, B-25C 41-12858 was shot down by flak over Tobruk, F/S E.W. Haglund RCAF (USA), 2Lt W.J. Thomas USAF, 2Lt C.A. Horr USAF and Sgt E.L. Delaney USAF killed, 1Lt L.P. Redburn USAF died of injuries. References to both F/S Fry and F/S Haglund with photos can be found in D.S. Fraser's *One Man's Journal-The War Years*. According to Trevor Anderson, Mr. Fraser's friend and companion in the desert, this was the first operation for the combined USAAF/RCAF crews (ref pers. comm. Oct. 8, 2004). Three of the 5 RCAF WAGs involved in the nights operation were lost.

13-14 **Bremen attacked by 446 bombers including OTU aircraft. Heavy damage was caused to the target including to the Focke-Wulf aircraft factory, 21 bombers lost (BC War Diaries).**

13-14 12 Sqn. Wellington II Z8523 PH-Y lost over Germany, F/S G.H. Waters Jr. RCAF (USA), Sgt
H.R. Feast RAF, Sgt F. Logan RAF, Sgt W.A. Thompson RAF and Sgt J. Bishop RAF killed. It was the crews first operation. Sgt Feast is referenced by D. Hodgson.


13-14 405 Sqn. Halifax II, W/C L.D.G. Fraser, had a glycol leak and an overheating engine which they could not feather, and an electrical failure that disabled his rear turret, but flew to the target and bombed, then as ordered orbited the target for an hour to assess bomb damage before leaving. They were intercepted by a night fighter, but managed to evade it and landed safely in England. This was cited in the award of a DFC to W/C Fraser (FF Years, Awards).

13-14 405 Sqn.(?) Halifax II, F/S N.D. Daggett, was attacked by three night fighters equipped with nose mounted searchlights, but damaged two and escaped (FF Years).

13-14 419 Sqn. Wellington III X3308 VR-O was hit by flak over Germany and ditched, out of fuel, short of the English coast, Sgt E.A. Donlin RAF was unable to reach the life raft and drowned, the rest of the crew (RAF or RCAF?), F/S A.J.G. Cameron, F/S E.B. Hutchings or Hutchinson, Sgt D.A. McTavish, F/S A. or R. Harling and F/S F. Hubbard (injured), rescued (419 SH).

13-14 #14 OTU Hampden I L4109 GL-S lost over Holland on an operation to Germany, Sgt G.E.C. Coldron, F/S R. Grabek killed, Sgt R. Carleson and Sgt T.F. Needham PoW.

13-14 #14 OTU Hampden I AD845 GL-B Bar crash landed short of it's runway when it ran out of fuel returning from an operation over Germany, Sgt H.D. Beames, Sgt D. McKay RAF, Sgt M.B. Anderson RAF and Sgt W.R. Jordan RAF safe. This and the previous entry were the last Hampdens lost on bomber operations to Germany. See September 14-15, below.

13-14 #16 OTU Wellington Ic X9660 believed to have been lost over the sea, Sgt R.A. Salchenberger, P/O P.S. Duff DFC RNZAF, P/O D.M. Wilson RAF, Sgt R.G. Nicholls RAF and Sgt T.H. Freestone RAF missing.

13-14 #19 OTU Whitley V BD256 was on a night cross country exercise when it's wireless failed. Lost and running out of fuel Sgt E.I. Johnston and his crew bailed out safely. See Dec. 20-21, below.

13-14 #21 OTU Wellington Ic HE116 SJ-B believed lost over the North Sea, F/S W.C. Pederson, Sgt R.S.C. Plowright RAF and Sgt R.F. Stay RAF killed, P/O M. Holub, Sgt B.L. Hancock and Sgt S. Davies RAF missing. P/O Holub had come through 2 crash landings in the last 20 days.

13-14 #22 OTU Wellington Ic R1588 believed lost over the North Sea, F/S R.H. Galipeau RCAF
(USA) killed, P/O F.H. de Nevers, P/O R.G. Hill, Sgt H.F. MacArthur RCAF (USA) and F/S P. Sutherland missing.


13-14 #26 OTU Wellington Ic X9786 "F" shot down into the IJsselmeer off Holland by a night fighter, P/O R.L. Hage RAF (USA), Sgt K.D. Jones RAF, Sgt A.K. Smith RAF and Sgt D. Fisher RAF killed, Sgt J.A. Gartlan PoW.

13-14 #29 OTU Wellington Ic X9786 "F" shot down into the IJsselmeer off Holland by a night fighter, P/O R.L. Hage RAF (USA), Sgt K.D. Jones RAF, Sgt A.K. Smith RAF and Sgt D. Fisher RAF killed, Sgt J.A. Gartlan PoW.


Monday

14 Australian forces have been pushed back to within 30 miles of Port Moresby by Japanese Army units attacking along the Kokoda trail (D. Newton). The Japanese soldiers can see the town from their positions in the mountains, but are too exhausted to continue without re-supply and fresh troops. All their supplies and food, landed by ships at Lae and other locations at the Trail’s northern end, had to be carried by bearers across the mountains over the Trail to their combat troops.

A second torpedo attack of 22 He 111 aircraft was mounted on PQ-18 targeting it’s aircraft carrier, HMS Archer, but this time its Sea Hurricanes intercepted the low level torpedo bombers, destroying 5 and leaving 9 more heavily damaged. No ships were sunk in this engagement (A. Price).

From bases around Murmansk all available torpedo Hampdens of 144 and 455 Squadrons make a mass flight to intercept a reported German naval force threatening Convoy PQ-18. Returning after 7 ½ hours, the bombers are refuelled and readied for another operation despite bombing attacks on their airfield (D. Newton).

14 #11 AFU Oxford aircraft flown under instruction of Sgt S.R. Bolick RCAF (USA) struck flares taking off, and was damaged on landing when the undercarriage collapsed (tomthorne and rafter at www.rafcommands.com). See November 24, below.

14 #19 OTU Whitley BD267 UO-K crashed into the sea on a navigation exercise, Sgt R. Clarke and Sgt J.E. Holmes RAF killed, Sgt R.A. Lockhart, Sgt R.E. McRitchie, and P/O A.G. Grant RAF missing (http://www.griffon.clara.net/19/19otu_roll_honour_master.htm).
#6 SFTS, Dunnville, Ontario, Harvard II #3170 crashed on a night training exercise, LAC(P) J.F. Tennian RAF (Can.) killed. LAC Tennian had re-mustered to aircrew after several years in England in ground crew trades (Allison & Hayward).

#14 EFTS, Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4118 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

14-15 BOAC S.30 Flying Boat G-AFCZ "Clare" came down at sea due to engine problems (fire?) on a flight to England from Bathurst, Gambia, via Lisbon. The aircraft broke up and sank. Six crew, F/O G.B. Musson RAF, P/O A.D.C. Jenkins RAF, Sgt E.E. Lace RAF, First Officer A.O. Cundey BOAC, Radio Officer E.F.G. Brent BOAC and Radio Officer J.A. Wycherley BOAC were missing, as well as passengers F/S A.C. Allberry RAF, F/S G.B. Hardman RAF (both ex-37 Sqn.) and LtCol M. Mabilotte, Free French Army, were killed, F/L J.F. Maguire, P/O T.A. Dixon RNZAF, Sgt J.V. Glansfield RAF, W/C R.O.M. Graham DFC RAF, F/S W. Kelly RAF, S/L J.A.H. Parker RAF and WO A.E. Turley DFM RAF missing (all ex-37 Sqn.), Capt. C.L. Palmer Br. Army SOE (Can.), Brigadier R.V.M. Garry RA and a civilian, R.E. Beard also missing or no known grave (D. Burke & COL BRUGGY www.rafcommands.com).

14-15 Wilhelmshaven was targeted by 202 bombers with accurate marking by Target Finding Force, making a very heavy attack with only 2 bombers lost (BC War Diaries).

408 Sqn. flies the last Hampden sorties in Bomber Command on this night (RCAF Sqns.).

Tuesday

15 USS Wasp sunk (CJCA headline), torpedoed by a Japanese submarine while escorting reinforcements to Guadalcanal, battleship and destroyer also damaged. Surviving aircraft from the carrier become absorbed into the air operations on Guadalcanal, referred to as the Cactus Air Force (CACTUS is the code name for the island). This leaves only one operational US carrier in the Pacific, USS Hornet (J.B. Lundstrom).

Stalingrad. Soviet forces in the city begin offensive operations, beginning of see-saw battle for the cities strong points (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).

Laconia Incident. Off the West African coast the flotilla of 4 Axis submarines with survivors of the liner RMS Laconia flying Red Cross flags were spotted by a USAAF B-24 from Ascension Island, whose pilot respected the flags and continued his patrol, but reported the sighting. The aircraft was ordered to return and attack the submarines, which it did, despite the survivors on deck, the lifeboats and the Red Cross flags.

This was a war crime, vessels operating under the Red Cross flag and engaged in life saving are supposed to be protected from attack. The submarines were forced to abandon the survivors and dive. Although some 1,500 survivors were picked up by the Vichy warships later in the day it is believed that several hundred died due to the submarines being attacked. No one was held responsible for this action, however.
This incident led U-Boat Commander Admiral Dönitz to send the "Laconia Order" that U-boats were no longer to provide assistance to survivors of torpedoed ships. For this he was tried at the Nuremberg Trials, and despite testimony of witnesses such as US Admiral Nimitz that submarines under his command in the Pacific operated under similar rules, he was found guilty and sentenced to 11½ years in prison.

Off Cape des Rosiers, Quebec, the freighters SS Saturnus and SS Inger Elizabeth were torpedoed and sunk by U-517 (J.W. Essex).

15 229 Sqn. Spitfire Vc (Trop.) BR486 lost near Malta, P/O J.R. Scott missing.
15 419 Sqn. Wellington III X3796 VR-C crashed on a test flight, WO1 J.A. Clark, F/S E.M. Harney, P/O J.A. Hay, air frame mechanic LAC W.R.A. Jahnke, F/S R.A. Kinnee, LAC E.D. Lawley, aero engine mechanic LAC L.O. Luten, F/S W.H. Pickering, F/S G.W. Wilson killed. Although recorded in TSGNO as a pilot, Chorley notes F/S Wilson as ground crew on board to monitor the oil consumption test; this was confirmed April 13, 2003 when I met his nephew, who stated his Uncle George was a mechanic. Two of the LAC's were on leave at the time of the crash and may have been flying as passengers to another location.

15 #14 OTU Hampden I AD740 stalled and crashed on landing after clipping a hedge on the previous circuit, F/S A.D. Cooper, F/S P.C. Neuls, F/S J.A.M. St. Pierre killed, Sgt Rushford (RAF or RCAF?) injured.
15 #9 AOS, St. Jean, Quebec, Anson I #6554 crashed into Lake St. Francis, Ontario, Sgt V.G. de Havilland, Sgt T.P. Fraser RAF and LAC(N) W.H.F. Smale RAF killed, LAC(N) S.D.R. Cook RAFA injured (A. Storr).
15 #12 SFTS, Brandon, Man., Crane IA FJ261 flew into a haystack near Newstead, Manitoba, when low flying, LAC(P) G.M. Steventon and P/O C.H. Thompson RNZAF were both killed.

15-16 407 Sqn. Coastal Command makes it's second and final bombing operation, bombing the port of Cherbourg, following up a Bomber Command attack on a large passenger ship spotted in the harbour, but without success (407 SH).

Wednesday

German troops break through Stalingrad defence lines (CJCA headline). [ref. to Sept. 12, above?]

The U-517 sank the SS Joannis and damaged the SS Essex Lance off Lachine, Quebec, the last attacks in Canadian waters by this U-boat (J.W. Essex). #113 (BR) Sqn. RCAF detachment returns to Mont Joli, Que (RCAF Sqns.). See below and September 24, below.

16 unknown unit, Cpl N.P. Wilson was accidentally electrocuted in a workshop accident in India.
16 145 Sqn. Spitfire shot down over North Africa, F/L J.J.P. Sabourin DFC missing. F/L Sabourin had 7 victories to his credit. He had survived after bailing out from an aircraft Nov. 22, 1941.
16 200 Sqn. Hudson IIfa FH288 forced down in Portuguese Guinea due to severe weather


16 #12 OTU Wellington III BJ728 was making a precautionary landing after an engine failure on a night navigation exercise when the second engine failed and the aircraft crashed. Sgt R.G. McCarthy RNZAF, Sgt W.J. Ferguson RAF (NZ), Sgt D.G.W. Arnold RAF and Sgt J.F.S. Ritchie RAF were killed, rear gunner Sgt A. Lyon was injured but attempted to rescue his fellow crew members from the burning wreck, but was overcome. He was found and pulled to safety by a civilian, Mr. Roberts, who had been working nearby when the bomber crashed.

16 #22 OTU Wellington Ic X9671 was on an air test prior to an operation when it suddenly dived and suffered structural failure of the port wing and tail before crashing, killing P/O H. Casimiri, P/O A.H.J. Fawcett, F/S D.H. Halstead, F/S F.A.C. Macauley RCAF (Bermuda), WO2 J.W. O’Brien, AC1 L. Holloway RAF and AC2 D. McMillan RAF.

16 #113 (BR) Sqn. RCAF, Hudson, P/O R.S. Keatley, sights and attacks U-517, placing one of four depth charges right on the boats deck, but it was successfully removed and dropped over the side by the crew (http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/history/secondwar/battlegulf/closegulf).

16 #5 SFTS, Brantford, Ontario, Anson II #7070 crashed near Lynedoch, Ontario, killing P/O J.G. Heath RCAF (USA) and LAC D.J. Johnson RAF. This was the second Anson II built and the first to fly.

16 #13 SFTS, St. Hubert, Quebec, Harvard II #3761 crashed at St. Mathieu de la Prairie, Quebec, LAC(P) J.M.J. Derome killed.

16-17 Essen bombed by 369 aircraft including OTU and Target Finding Force. Bombing was scattered but damage was heavy, the Krupp works were hit by bombs and by a bomber that crashed into the factory area with a full load of incendiaries. Other communities in the area were also bombed in error. Thirty nine bombers lost (BC War Diaries).

This was the last time training units were tasked with supporting Bomber Command operations directly.


16-17 9 Sqn. Lancaster I W4186 WS-S lost without trace, F/S M.E. Buechler RCAF (USA), F/S W.O. Snow, P/O L.J. Musselwhite RAF, Sgt J. Hall RAF, Sgt W. Hunt RAF, Sgt R.S. Morton RAF and Sgt S.V. Miles RAF missing.


I.D. Ferguson RAF, Sgt S.H. Atkinson RAF, P/O B.L. Walker RAF, Sgt A.W. Kendall RAF and Sgt J.C. Kent RAF missing.


16-17 16-17 49 Sqn. Lancaster I R5890 lost over Germany, Sgt A.L. Caron, P/O D.B. Moody RAF (Can.), S/L H.W. Barnard MiD RAF, F/O O.D. Thomas RAF, Sgt K.A. Bouffer RAF, F/S A.B. Brooks DFM RAF and Sgt W.J. Hoban RAAF killed. P/O Moody was a Biggs’ Boy (K. Stofer).


16-17 106 Sqn. Lancaster I W4178 lost off the coast of Holland, Sgt A. Williams RAF killed, P/O O.D. Thomas RAF, Sgt L.A. Crossley RAF, Sgt F.A. Digby RAF and Sgt R. Bell RAF missing.

16-17 106 Sqn. Lancaster I W4179 lost over Germany, P/O J.D. MacLeod, P/O M.J. O’Sullivan, F/S T.G. Clark RNZAF, S/L C.M. Howell RAF, Sgt L. Tate RAF, P/O H.W. Long RAF and Sgt J.S. Balfour RAF killed.


16-17 #10 OTU Whitley V P4931 "J" came down in the North Sea after transmitting an SOS, Sgt C.C. Simonson, Sgt A. Restivo, F/L W.L. Kell, WO L.A. Death RNZAF and P/O W.L. Merryfield RAF PoW.


16-17 #12 OTU Wellington III BJ730 lost over Germany, Sgt G.M. Caldwell, WO1 C.W. Hall, P/O F.J. Adams RAF, Sgt D.C. Marsh RAF and Sgt N. Whitfield RAF killed.


16-17 #22 OTU Wellington Ic Z1084 shot down over Germany, WO1 P.S.O. Brichta DFM, P/O G.C. Goold, WO1 L.J. Lemoiné, F/L J. Dawson DFC RAF and F/S W.K. Hughes RAF killed. WO Brichta had won his DFM June 16-17 as part of a crew that managed to return in a badly damaged 419 Sqn. Wellington. W.R. Chorley notes that WO Brichta’s father, Lt. G.J.O. Brichta, had been killed in the Royal Flying Corps in the First World War. He was
lost over France March 6, 1917 in a 16 Sqn. BE.2e A2785 with his pilot 2Lt G.M. Gossett-Bibby RFC (C. Hobson).

16-17 #23 OTU Wellington III X3799 "E" lost over Germany, Sgt T. Baillie, F/S J.C. Carswell, F/S W.C. McBean killed, Sgt A.E. Parr and Sgt M.O. Edwards PoW.


16-17 #23 OTU Wellington III BJ720 "U" lost over Germany, F/S D.R. Philp RCAF (USA), F/L T.F. Tyrrell RAF, Sgt A. Skinner RAF, P/O T.W. Sutton RAF and F/S P. Stewart RAF killed.

16-17 #23 OTU Wellington III BJ969 "B" shot down over Germany by a night fighter, Sgt J.F. Oakley RAF (Can.), Sgt E.A. Hall RAF, Sgt H.W. Crock RAF and Sgt R.H. Fuller RAF killed, Sgt A.F. Rees RAAF PoW.

16-17 #26 OTU Wellington Ic DV941 "G" came down in the sea off Holland, F/S H.E. Johnson RCAF (USA) and Sgt L.W. Streeter RNZAF killed, F/S D.A. White, Sgt W.G. Archer RAF and Sgt A.M. Bartlett RAF missing.


Thursday 17


9 AFU Anson I R9645 (recorded as lost on this date in 1941 in some sources) crashed in England, P/O H.L. Spangler RCAF (USA) and Sgt K.G. Patrick RAF killed, 3 RAF (Sgt Whittall, Sgt Dunker and Sgt Cross?) injured (COL BRUGGY www.rafcommands.com).

119 (BR) Sqn. Hudson III BW652 swung landing in deteriorating weather at Sydney, NS, lost it's undercarriage and caught on fire. The crew managed to evacuate safely, and when the fire was too large to control the crash crew and others also left the scene. A few minutes later the depth charges exploded, causing damage to the runway, hangars and the station's power system (424 SH).

39 SFTS, Swift Current, Saskatchewan, Sgt N.L. Streeter RAF killed, no details (B. Barry et al).

17-18 104 Sqn. Wellington II Z8582 "F" force landed in Egypt when an engine failed returning from an operation over Tobruk, F/O B.G. Johnston and his crew safe.

Friday

18 Decision in Tokyo to withdraw Japanese forces attacking towards Port Moresby to defensive positions and concentrate on eliminating the US forces and airfield on Guadalcanal before renewing the Port Moresby campaign (www.empireworldwide.com/kokoda70/Chronology_of_Kokoda_Campaign. pdf).
18  46 Sqn. Beaufighter X7707 crashed in Egypt after an engine failure, F/O B.D. Holme-Sumner RAF and his Navigator/WOP Sgt G. Naylor RAF, as well as their passengers, F/L The Hon. G.W. Rodney RAF (Can.), P/O C.A. Fraser RAAF and Chaplain S/L Rev. J.F. Sutcliffe (HQ Middle East) killed (A. Storr).
18  #2 SFTS, Uplands, Ontario, Harvard II #3828 crashed at Calabogie Lake, Ontario, LAC(P) A.W. Ault and Sgt R.M. Cross RCAF (USA) killed.
18  #2 Training Command, AC2 T.E. Smith died on service in Canada, no details.
18  #5 Manning Depot AC2(WAG) M. Magonet accidentally drowned at Lachine, Quebec
18  #7 B&G School, Paulson, Manitoba, Battle I #1877 spun in after an engine failure at low altitude caused by a glycol leak, LAC(AG) W. Gilmour, LAC(AG) F.W.A. Musto RAF and Sgt J.H.M. McNeill RAF killed.

18-19 37 Sqn. Wellington Ic HD963 "Q" was on an operation to Tobruk when an engine caught fire. The pilot, F/L T.R. Nelson RAF, ordered the crew, F/S Gordon (possibly J.A. Gordon, later commissioned), Sgt Brown RAF, Sgt Goldsworthy RAF, Sgt A.V. Rimes RAF and Sgt Barber RAF, to bail out before he crash landed the bomber. All were taken PoW. J. Larder at www.rafcommands.com quotes F/L Nelson’s obituary that he walked out from the desert and was within a mile of friendly positions when he was captured October 7. He was later involved in the Great Escape.

18-19 GARDENING sorties were made by 115 bombers from Poland to the Biscay ports plus 1 NICKEL sortie, with the loss of 5 minelayers (BC War Diaries).
18-19 106 Sqn. Lancaster I R5899 hit by flak and came down in the sea on a GARDENING sortie off Poland, Sgt A.E. Hiscock RAF and Sgt R. Payne RAF killed, Sgt G.S. Habkirk, Sgt E.H. Stamp RAF, Sgt H.J. Campbell RAF, P/O F.S. McWhirter RAF and Sgt F.M. McGregor RAF PoW.
18-19 407 Sqn. Hudson, WO M.A. Tisdale, bombed a ship illuminated by flame floats. Another Hudson flown by F/O C.W. Taylor, unable to locate the convoy, bombed the Dutch naval
Saturday

19 **Bomber Command medium bomber operations extend to Berlin when 6 Mosquitos make a daylight attack, 1 lost (BC War Diaries).**

**Convoy PQ-18 arrives in Murmansk, having lost 10 of 40 merchant ships to German aircraft and 3 to U-boats. The increased convoy escort sank 3 attacking U-boats and inflicted heavy losses on attacking aircraft (R.C. Nesbit).**


19 409 Sqn. Beaufighter VIf X8106 crashed after overshooting a one engined landing following an engine failure, and hit a stores building, pilot F/O W.D. Gibson MiD killed, Sgt B.A. Leahy was rescued by LAC H.R. Carter who climbed into the burning aircraft and pulled the unconscious observer to where LAC D.A. Cox and LAC J.A.C. Corbeill were able to pull him out. For this action LAC Carter was awarded a BEM and LAC Corbiell an MiD (FF Years, Awards). In 1943 AC1 Corbiell received a second MiD (Awards, FF Years).

19 #32 EFTS, Bowden, Alberta, PT-27 Stearman FJ923 crashed, P/O G.H. Williams RAF (Can.) and LAC O.W. Wynne RAF killed.

19-20 **Saarbrucken attacked by 118 bombers, the Target Finding Force being tasked with marking 2 targets there, but ground haze interfered and bombing was scattered. Munich was also attacked by 89 heavy bombers, making a total of 207 sorties with 11 losses (BC War Diaries).**

19-20 9 Sqn. Lancaster I W4184 WS-A lost over Germany P/O H.H. Burton RCAF (USA), WO2 J.C. MacDonald, F/S H.J. Thurston, P/O L.B. Haward RAF, Sgt F. Hamer RAF and Sgt E. Wright RAF killed, Sgt M.L. Douglas RAF poW.

19-20 10 Sqn. Halifax II R9383 ZA-A struck a tree in England when attempting land on return from an operation to Germany. With a damaged aileron the aircraft was not controllable, constantly turning in circles, and after climbing was abandoned. All the crew were injured, Sgt S. Benditski, Sgt E.J. Willmott RAF, Sgt D.A.D. Soggee RAF, Sgt H.C. McDougall RAF, Sgt A. Brewer RAF, F/S W. Preston RAF and Sgt H.W. Leigh RAF (injured when he fell onto high ground before his parachute fully developed) (R. Allenby). Sgt McDougall later died of his injuries.


19-20 101 Sqn. Wellington III BJ689 lost over France, Sgt C. Drury RAF, Sgt R.A. Haskins RAF and Sgt J.E. Bailey RAF killed, F/S P.F. Brawley RCAF (USA), P/O E.A. de Bartok DFC and Sgt J.L. Dyhouse RAF have no known grave.

19-20 102 Sqn. Halifax was damaged when a photo flash exploded in the aircraft, which returned to


19-20 156 Sqn. Wellington III BJ883 lost on an operation to Germany, Sgt V.J. Bastable, Sgt E.W. Cunning, Sgt W. Milligan, Sgt E.J. Scott and Sgt W.F. Waterworth PoW (O. Clutton-Brock; rafcommands PoW list). O. Clutton-Brock notes Sgt Scott was captured by SS troops when they attacked a partisan group he was with. Sgt Bastable made many escape attempts which are detailed in The R.C.A.F. Overseas - The Sixth Year, before succeeding in October 1944, after which he joined the Czechoslovak resistance and fought with them until liberated by Russian forces, for which he received the MC (6th Year).


Sunday

20 First advances in what would become First Arakan Offensive, as Indian and British forces attempted to re-enter Burma along the coast from what is now Bangladesh to recapture the port of Akyab (W. Fowler; S. Raghavan).


20 #1 OTU, Bagotville, Quebec, Harvard IIb FE387 crashed near St. Felix, Dot Island, Quebec while practising formation flight, Sgt M. Klimenko RCAF (USA) and LAC(P) W.E. Meier killed.

20 #32 SFTS, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Harvard II #2721 crashed, Cpl C. Dorman RAF and LAC V.H. Shute RAF killed.

Monday

21 On Georgian Bay, Lake Huron, Ontario, the excursion ship Wa-Wi-Net suddenly sinks, killing 25 members of the Midland Foundry & Machine Co. celebrating the completion of a war contract (www3.gendisasters.com).

First flight of the Boeing XB-29 Superfortress prototype (M.J.H. Taylor). One of the great bombers of the war the B-29 is pressurized to fly at very high altitudes and speeds, has two large bomb bays that can accommodate all types of bombs in the US arsenal, and uses remote controlled turrets and gun barbettes operated by gun aimers that can hand off targets to each other to provide a continuous zone of defensive fire around the bomber. However, these are cutting edge technologies at the time, liable to malfunctions and making their systems work in combat took time and experience.

21 236 Sqn. Beaufighter lost, WO2 J.A.A.L. Bourassa and his observer F/S W.L. Williams RAF
21 #53 RSU, Egypt, Kittyhawk crashed on a low flying exercise, F/S J.A.E. Vincent killed.
21 #1 (Coastal) OTU RAF, Hudson flew into a hill on the Isle of Man, F/S J.T.L.P. Gilbert, F/S C.W. Kelner, F/S R.E. Wells and 1 crew killed.
21 #10 OTU Whitley V Z9472 lost on an anti-submarine patrol, possibly due to a change in the weather, which may have also affected the aircraft above, WO2 R.O.O. Warren RCAF (USA), P/O B.B. Cooper RAF, Sgt J.R. Stott RAF, Sgt I.J. Sims RAF and Sgt J.H. Southwell RAF missing. WO Warren had survived the ditching of a #10 OTU Whitley Sept. 9, above.
21 #115 (BR) Sqn. RCAF, Annette Island, Alaska, Bolingbroke IV #9118 (BK-V?) had an engine fail on take-off with a full load of depth charges. These were jettisoned, but the aircraft stalled into trees and was destroyed by fire. ___ W.N. Gray seriously injured, F/S J.W. Huggin, WO2 J.M. Wallace badly injured, ___ C.W. Day injured. The pilot, WO Wallace, was pinned under the burning aircraft but refused assistance until the other crewmen had been rescued, for this act he received an MiD and a US Air Medal. All except ___ Gray returned to active service (R.W.R. Walker; Airforce, Vol. 12, #3, 1988 letter from W.N. Gray). WO Wallace was later commissioned and served in Europe, see January 14-15, 1945. Post war F/L Wallace DFC MiD AM (US) graduated from university before rejoining the RCAF (Awards).
21 #2 Flying Instructor School, Vulcan, Alberta, Crane IA FJ283 crashed near Vulcan, Alberta after fabric on a wing stripped off in flight, P/O J.R. Lippi RCAF (USA) and F/O A.M. Vandre RCAF (USA) killed. See #12 SFTS loss July 25, 1942.

21-22 **GARDENING by 17 bombers off Germany and Denmark, 3 lost (BC War Diaries).**

**Tuesday**

**22 First Canadian built Mosquito, B.VII KB300, flies at Downsview, Ontario (T. Judge).**
22 70 Sqn. Wellington lost on operations from Egypt, WO M.W. Gilding RAF killed, Sgt P.G. Burrell RAF (Can.) and Sgt C. Owens RAF missing. (not found in BCL’ME, confirmed by CWGC)


22 602 Sq. Spitfire, possibly VI BR979, swung on take off and damaged it’s landing gear, which collapsed on landing, Sgt A.J. Tysowski safe (VoyTech, www.rafcommands.com). See Nov. 4, below.

22 #103 Conversion Flight Halifax II W1243 PM-B was practicing 3 engine circuits when it stalled and crashed, killing WO2 N. Hrehorak, Sgt. R.L. McCulloch, WO R.J. Fulbrook DFC RAF, F/S F.W. Hill RAF and Sgt D.R. Evans RAF.

22 #1 (Coastal) OTU Hudson crashed in Scotland, F/S W.R. Wynnychuk killed, Sgt H. Pincock injured. See Sept. 12, 1943.


22 #5 EFTS, High River, Alberta, DH.82C Tiger Moth #3906 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

22 unknown unit (#124 (Ferry) Sqn.?), Hurricane XII #5471 crashed at Duluth, Minnesota, USA, while on a ferry flight from CCF Fort William, Ontario to #1 OTU, Bagotville, Quebec. Originally considered a write off it was shipped back to the CCF factory and rebuilt (R.W.R. Walker).

Wednesday

23 Rommel leaves Africa on sick leave (Oxford).

Beginning of several days of attacks by U-boat wolfpacks on Convoy RB-1 off Newfoundland, which results in the loss of 3 ships and 1 escort (ww2total.com Chronology/1942). This convoy was made up of obsolete ships made to resemble passenger liners. It sailed as a decoy to attract U-boats to it, while an actual convoy of passenger ships sailed behind and to the south, carrying US troops to Europe for Operation TORCH, the invasion of North Africa (www.worldnavalships.com).

23 126 Sqn. Spitfire shot down north of the island of Malta, P/O I.F. Preston RCAF (USA) missing. Possibly Spitfire Vc (Trop.) BR383 lost off Malta on this date (www.spitfires.ukf.net).

23 Patrol of 417 Sqn., Hurricanes, sights a Ju 88 while patrolling over the Suez Canal, but it
escaped (FF Years).
23
23
423 Sqn. Sunderland II W6001, P/O I.R.A. Mills, was returning from a convoy escort when both engines on one side failed, forcing a landing in the open sea in heavy (30 foot) waves. The landing was made safely, and after jettisoning their depth charges, the failed engines were restarted and the flying boat crew attempted to taxi to an island, but the waves were too big and the aircraft was in danger of sinking. P/O Mills decided to attempt a take-off, and after a wild ride the flying boat staggered back into the air, heavily damaged, and returned to base (http://www.shearwateraviationmuseum.ns.ca/squadrons/423chapter1.htm).
23
425 Sqn., Wellington III BJ700 was on a navigation exercise and ran into icing, Sgt G.E. Cronk RCAF (USA) made a forced landing into a field in Wales, he and crew safe and the bomber was repaired (R. Allenby; T.R. Hill, Final Descent: Air Crashes in Wales and the Borders, Leo Cooper, 1999). See October 13-14, below.
23
#6 SFTS, Dunnville, Ontario, Harvard II #3180 crashed on take-off on an instrument take-off training flight killing WO2 N.E. Kirk and P/O J.I. McIntyre.

23-24 Bomber Command uses bad weather to stage operations to 3 targets, the Dornier factory at Wismar with 83 Lancasters, Flensburg with 28 Halifax and Vegesack with 24 Stirling bombers, plus 23 Wellions and Stirlings making GARDENING sorties, a total of 168 sorties with 12 lost (BC War Diaries).

23-24
102 Sqn. Halifax II W1055 DY-F crashed into the sea off the German coast, F/S W.D. Reynolds, Sgt R.J. Gould RNZAF, P/O R.C.E. Bassom RAF, Sgt A.G. Sherrard-Smith RAF and Sgt C. Stainton RAF killed, Sgt J. Bennett RAF and Sgt S. Cooper RAF missing.

23-24

23-24
149 Sqn. Stirling I, F/L L.R.B. Loving found his targets at Vegesack obscured by cloud and dove below them, where his aircraft was damaged by flak. He was forced to very low level over the city, where his gunners engaged searchlights while his bomb aimer released his bombs. This information came from his citation for a DFC (B. Barry) and H. Halliday's Awards site. See Nov. 5, 1944.

23-24

Thursday

24 Orders to withdraw reach Japanese soldiers on the far side of Owen Stanley Mountains within sight of their target at Port Moresby. They begin to retreat back down the Kokoda Trail (www.empireworldwide.com).

US Army Corps of Engineers work crews on the Alaska Highway meet at Contact Creek on the BC-Yukon Border (wikipedia). See October 28, below.
Gibraltar attacked in daylight by 2 Italian P.108B heavy bombers which cause no damage (H.W. Neulen).

422 Sqn. detachment of Catalina flying boats returns to England from the USSR (RCAF Sqns.).


24 107 Sqn. Boston III AL756 flown by F/O W.N. Hale lost it's nose wheel and written off on a landing, all safe.


24 #22 OTU Wellington crashed making a night landing, Sgt M.R. Foran killed, Sgt J.W. Dunford RAF safe.


24 #2 Wireless School, Calgary, Alberta, Fort #3596 crashed, Sgt A.H. Coalbran RAF killed.

24 #5 Manning Depot, Lachine, Quebec, AC2 J.H. Davis died in hospital of natural causes.

24 #12 Air Inspection Department F/L E.A. Moore RCAF (USA) killed on leave in an air accident at Selfridge Field, Detroit, Michigan, USA (his home town).


24 USAAF AAFFC, 3rd Ferry Group, P-40K 42-9769 force landed with an engine failure at River Canard, Ontario (AAIR).

24-25 Bomber Command sends 51 bombers on GARDENING sorties over the North Sea, 1 lost (BC War Diaries).


Friday

25 Reinforced Australian Army units begin operations to outflank the forward positions held by the Japanese on the Kokoda Trail (D. Newton).

After protesting USAAF policy restricting RCAF operations to non-combat roles in Alaska, #111 (F) Sqn. makes it's first operational sortie from the advanced airfield at Adak, providing 4 Kittyhawk aircraft (flown by S/L K.A. Boomer, F/O R. Lynch, F/O J.G. Gohl and P/O H.O. Gooding) as part of an escort of 26 fighters escorting 9 B-24 bombers attacking Japanese occupied Kiska. The RCAF section was part of those tasked with attacking anti-aircraft guns. After the bombing #111 (F) Sqn. aircraft strafed naval targets (including a submarine) and S/L K.A. Boomer, who had served
a successful tour on Spitfires over NW Europe, shot down a Japanese A6M2N 'Rufe' floatplane fighter over Kiska. This is the RCAF's first and only air combat over North America. S/L Boomer was later awarded a US Air Medal (see also June 12, 1944 and Oct. 22, 1944).

It was understandable that the US Command would wish to have US units in combat in Alaska, but they had overlooked the fact that many of the RCAF units had experienced combat veterans from Europe as squadron and flight leaders, whose knowledge and skills could have been passed on to US squadrons (440 SH).

In Europe a new type of pin point attack is made by 4 Mosquitos on the Gestapo headquarters in Oslo, Norway, planned to coincide with a pro-German rally in the city. Intercepted by German fighters one is shot down, the bombs from the other aircraft are dropped on target but fail to explode (BC War Diaries).

25 417 Sqn. Hurricanes intercept a Ju 88 reconnaissance aircraft over the Suez Canal, but their cannons failed to fire (FF Years).

25 119 Sqn. Catalina Ib FP119 was caught in a storm and came down in the sea off Spain, F/O T.L. Wright, Sgt E.E. Roberts RAF, Lt J.H. Turner RN killed, P/O F.E. Vale, F/S A.S. Watt, Sgt H. Nuttall RAF, F/S L.E. Marjoram and P/O M.R. Jeffery RNZAF missing (www.landinportugal.org). Major S.V. Greig RASC and a civilian, Mr. G.D. Marcil, may also have been killed in this incident. Lt Turner was a courier carrying plans for the upcoming invasion of Africa, Operation TORCH. His body with the papers later washed up on shore in Spain. This was the inspiration for Operation MINCEMEAT, April 30, 1943 (Errol Martyn, www.rafcommands.com).


25 #12 EFTS (?), DH.82C Tiger Moth #3950 damaged beyond repair at Goderich, Ontario (R.W.R. Walker).

25 unknown unit (#124 (Ferry) Sqn.?), Hurricane #5474 was on a ferry flight from the factory when it ran into bad weather, and running short of fuel, made a precautionary landing at Clinton, Iowa, USA, where it was damaged. It was shipped back to the factory, repaired, and later served with #128 (F) Sqn. at Sydney, NS (R.W.R. Walker).

25-26 #24 OTU Whitley V BD232 missing on a night navigation exercise. After a search wreckage was found 2 days later on a mountain in Wales, Sgt. J.P. Hookey RAF (Nfld.), Sgt C.A. Stuart RNZAF, Sgt V.R. Smith RAF, Sgt W.R. Hughes RAF and Sgt J. Hassall RAF killed (CWGC confirms Sgt Hookey from Newfoundland, but not in TSGNO).

Saturday

26 Stalingrad, German forces reach the Volga River in the cities centre (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).

An escort for a CIRCUS operation over France went badly wrong when unforecast winds blew some of the fighter escort over the Bay of Biscay. Fourteen Spitfires were lost,
most running out of fuel. Controllers in England were unable to contact the fighters
of 133 (USA) Squadron (now operating as part of the USAAF 4th Fighter Group) and
they lost 11 Spitfires and one that crashed in England on taking off. A total of 5
pilots were lost, 6 were taken PoW, 2 were injured in England and 1 evaded (FCL'42-
43). Several of these losses are profiled by G. Saouzanet.

26 417 Sqn., Egypt, off Alexandria, Hurricane IIc HL981 AN-N, F/S J.H.G. Leguerrier intercepts
and shoots down into the sea a German reconnaissance Ju 88, the squadrons first victory
(417 SH, RCAF Sqns.).

26 401 Sqn. Spitfire IX BR981 crashed into the Channel after running out of fuel returning from a
CIRCUS escort over France, F/O J.L.E. Hokan missing. F/O Hokan had submitted
designs for an improved position indicator for air navigators that had shown enough
promise that steps were being made to transfer him to research work at the time of his loss
(W.B. Begy).

26 401 Sqn. Spitfire IX BS311 crashed in England after running out of fuel returning from a
CIRCUS escort over France, Sgt D.A. Wright injured.

26 406 Sqn. Beaufighter, Sgt E.S.P. Fox, claimed a Ju 88 shot down off Cornwall
(www.rafavidstowmoor.org).

26 406 Sqn Beaufighter If X8226, S/L D.C. Furse RAF and P/O J.H. Downes RAF shoot down a
Do 217 over Cornwall (www.rafavidstowmoor.org).

26 504 Sqn. Spitfire crashed in Ireland due to a jammed aileron, F/S W.B. Fry RCAF (USA) killed.
Possibly Spitfire Vb AD135 (www.spitfires.ukf.net).

26 610 Sqn. Spitfire Vc AR508 crashed in England, F/S E.C. Plachner killed
(www.spitfires.ukf.net).

26 #10 AFU observer Sgt L.J. MacDonald died in England of natural causes.

26? #10 OTU Whitley V AD708 swung on landing from an anti-submarine patrol, WO2 D.H.
Thompson, Sgt C.N. Ellis RAF, Sgt A.T. Wall RAF, P/O H.S. Smith RAF, Sgt D. Thomas
RAF and Sgt E. Campbell RAF safe. WO Thompson had been involved in another Whitley
accident July 17, above. (in BCL'OTU this is listed as Sept. 27, but this may be a typo).

26 #26 OTU Wellington Ic DV821 'V' was on a cross country exercise when a propellor came off
an engine and struck the aircraft, killing Sgt J.C. Keightley RAF. The aircraft crash landed,
Sgt L.F. Bertrand, Sgt H. Beazley, Sgt S. Langley RAF and Sgt S. Hitchen RAF were
injured. A Police Constable F. Graham and three soldiers received commendations for
rescuing the badly injured crewmen from the wreck which had caught fire. See June 8,
1944.

26 #130 (F) Sqn., Bagotville, Quebec, Hurricane XII #5466 AE-Z and #5467 AE-G were practicing
line astern flight when they collided in flight, but both landed safely (R.W.R. Walker). See
August 30, 1943.

26-27 Bomber Command sent 28 Halifax aircraft to attack Flensburg, but they were recalled.
One continued on and bombed the target. Seventy one bombers were on
GARDENING sorties in the North Sea and Denmark areas, 2 losses (BC War Diaries).

26-27 78 Sqn. Halifax II W7822 lost at sea after reporting low on fuel and an engine out after an
attack by a night fighter, F/S L.S. Ernst, F/S S.G. Gray RCAF (USA), Sgt C.E.J. O'Keefe
RAAF, F/O R.E. Atkinson RAF, Sgt C.C.W. Crofton RAF, Sgt A.E. Thomas RAF, Sgt P.H.
Bath RAF and Sgt F. Lister RAF missing.
26-27 158 Sqn. Halifax II W1246 NP-C was attacked and damaged by a night fighter returning from an operation to Germany, Sgt J.S. Anderson, Sgt G.S. Hughes RAF, Sgt L.D. Clark RNZAF, Sgt A. Anderson RAF, Sgt H. Falls-Hand RAF and Sgt J.D. Anstruther RAF safe (R. Allenby). See October 13-14, below.

Sunday

27 Australian attack on forward Japanese positions on the Kokoda Trail finds the positions empty (D. Newton).

German Commerce Raider Stier encounters US Liberty Ship Stephen Hopkins in the South Atlantic and demands it’s surrender. The Hopkins refuses and Stier opens fire with it’s main guns. The Hopkins returns fire with it’s smaller defensive gun but is sunk after a 2 hour battle. The Stier is so badly damaged, however, it is scuttled the same day (wikipedia).


27 #29 OTU Wellington III X3705 crash landed making a night single engined landing, Sgt W.E. McCrae, Sgt E.E.P. Coxall RAF and Sgt J. Sutherland RAF slightly injured, F/S H. Hyde RAF, Sgt Gibson, Sgt Adams and Sgt Clark safe.

27 #125 (F) Sqn., Torbay, Newfoundland, Hurricane I #1364 suffered a glycol leak which forced the pilot to bail out. The fighter crashed into Bauline Bay (R.W.R. Walker).

27-28 148 Sqn. Wellington Ic DV520 "O" lost without trace on an operation to Tobruk, WO2 R.J. Williams, F/S T.N. Thomas RAAF, Sgt N.G. Beadle RAF, Sgt J. Weir RAF, Sgt J. Noble RAF and Sgt J.M.S. Moir RAF (NZ) missing (E. Martyn ar rafcommands.com).

Monday

28 Australian forces begin to advance back up the Kokoda Trail, following Japanese ordered to retreat (www.empireworldwide.com).

Bomber Command uses cloud cover to attack targets on the Dortmund-Ems Canal in daylight, 1 bomber lost (BC War Diaries).

28 #1 OADU Wellington Ic HX676 ran out of fuel over Chad and crash landed on a delivery flight across Africa, Sgt F.A. McClellan RCAF (USA) injured, Sgt W.R. Burton, Sgt M. Beneteau, Sgt S. Jerram RNZAF, Sgt J. Huggler RAF and Sgt C. Baynton RAF safe. They all walked to the French base at Fort Lamy. Sgt McClellan later transferred to the USAAF (RobJ www.rafcommands.com).

28 37 Sqn. Wellington lost over North Africa, F/S A.G. Hamlyn RAF (Nfld.) missing. (Information from TSGNO, not found in BCL'ME 39-42.)

28 #53 RSU, Egypt, Kittyhawk crashed in a severe sandstorm, Sgt J.W.M. Gilbert killed.

28 115 Sqn. Wellington III Z1663 KO-J shot down by a fighter over Holland on a daylight operation to Germany using cloud cover, Sgt J.A. Parker, S/L R.J. Parsons RAF and F/S W. Clough RAF killed, Sgt J.M. Gilmour and Sgt E.H. Stansell PoW.

28 401 Sqn. Spitfire IX BS311 force landed in England after running out of fuel, and was written off (www.spitfires.ukf.net).


28 #3 EFTS (?), London, Ontario, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4102 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).


28 unknown unit, F/S J. Holland RAF (Can.) killed in Canada, no details. TSGNO states he was acting as an instructor at the time of his death. CWGC notes that F/S Holland’s parents were English, but his wife was Canadian.


Tuesday
29 Second and final bombing by submarine launched Japanese float plane in Oregon to set forest fires (Polsson). Both attempts failed to start any fires.

Bombing raids on Malta intercepted and turned back before reaching the Island, marking a major turning point in this long battle (Canwell & Sutherland).

71 (USA), 121 (USA) and 133 (USA) RAF squadrons, known collectively as the "Eagle Squadrons", formally transferred to USAAF in England with their Spitfire aircraft as the 334th, 335th and 336th Fighter Squadrons of the 4th Fighter Group (Zijlstra). Many of the pilots were ex-RCAF (USA), now USAAF. See July 2, 1944.

422 Sqn. personnel, flown from England, receive the first of 11 new Catalina aircraft at Gander, Newfoundland, which they ferry back across the Atlantic to England finishing Nov. 15 (RCAF Sqns.).

29 21 Sqn.(?) "Beaufort" (Blenheim? Ventura? or possibly wrong Sqn. number?) lost, reportedly after losing an engine between Malta and Gibraltar, [but crew recorded on Runnymede, not found in BCL'42], F/S J.H. Charlesworth, F/S O.J. McEvoy, F/S W.G. Ward and 1 RAF missing. A #1 OADU Beaufort Ia DW833 was recorded by R. Hayward as missing between Gibraltar and Malta on this date.

29 208 Sqn. Hurricane aircraft crashed making a steep turn at low altitude at Landing Ground #202 in Egypt, killing P/O E.V. Garman.

29 421 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BM575 flew into a mountain in Wales in bad weather, F/S N.H. MacKay RCAF (USA) killed.

29 #1 RFTS (or 152 Sqn.) Master III W8960 crashed into trees taking off at night, killing P/O
T.R.C. Adams (152 Sqn.) (H. Welting and AL90 www.rafcommands.com).

29 #20 OTU Wellington Ic N2758 ZT-J flew into a hill in Scotland on a night exercise, F/S B.D. Crane, F/L W.R.I. Walmsley RAF, Sgt W.D. Crawford RAF and Sgt S.E. Monger-Godfrey RAF killed, Sgt W.G. Banham RAF injured. F/S Crane, Sgt Crawford and Sgt Monger-Godfrey had survived the loss of a #20 OTU Wellington Aug. 4-5, above.

29 #113 (BR) Sqn. Hudson, F/O M.J. Belanger, sights and attacks a U-boat in the gulf of St. Lawrence, without result (http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/history/secondwar/battlegulf/closegulf). This and previous attacks were cited in the award of a DFC to F/O Belanger (Awards).

29 #35 SFTS, North Battleford, Saskatchewan, LAC E.J. Thomas RAF died (B. Barry et al).

29 #41 SFTS, Weyburn, Saskatchewan, Harvard IIb FE439 crashed, LAC J. Burke RAF killed.

29-30 462 Sqn. RAAF Halifax II W7672 "E" took off for an air test in Egypt but crash landed due to an engine problem, WO D.W. O'Driscoll MiD RCAF (Nfld.) injured, Sgt J. Ellyatt RAF and their passengers, 2Lt Ferguson, Cpl A. Gardiner and AC2 H. Byrne RAF, safe.

29-30 **Fourteen bombers on GARDENING sorties in the Baltic, 1 lost (BC War Diaries).**


**Wednesday**

**30 Allied attacks on Axis shipping to North Africa had sunk ships carrying 20% of cargos dispatched to North Africa in September (H.W. Neulen).**

30 148 Sqn. Wellington Ic HF848 lost on an operation to Tobruk. The aircraft was later found burnt out in Libya, F/S L.J. Labarge, F/S T.H. Billingham RAF, F/S S.A. Conibear RAF, Sgt P.H. Wood RAF, F/S G.J. Matheson RAAF and Sgt A. MacLean RAAF killed (A. Storr).

30 230 Sqn Sunderland I T9050 took off from Aboukir Bay in Egypt on a patrol, but crashed into the sea shortly after attempting a precautionary landing with a suspected engine fire, Sgt K.J. Carlsson RAAF and Sgt J. Adam RAF killed, Sgt G.A. Lindsay RAF missing, Sgt J. Groeleau, P/O R.C. Scott RAF, P/O A.H. Matthews RAAF and Sgt D. Hall RAF seriously injured, F/O R.J. Murphy RAAF, F/O T.W. Sanderson RAF, F/S J. Harkins RAF and rigger LAC N. Kelly RAF slightly injured, fitter LAC D. McLean RAF safe (A. Storr).

30 51 Sqn. Whitley V lost on a Coastal Command operation, F/S P.W. Davis, F/S S.A.W. Lea and 4 crew missing. Sgt B.F. Bushell RAF, Sgt J.C. Caldwell RAF, F/S F. Oliver DFM RAF, Sgt W. Green RAF, Sgt F. Taylor RAF and Sgt J.D. Quilter RAF were listed as missing from 51 Squadron on this date (CWGC), and F/O H.E. Sullivan and WO2 H.F. Tice DFM are listed as PoW from 51 Sqn. Whitley V BD258 on this date in www.rafcommands PoW listing. There may have been 2 aircraft lost on this date.

30 257 Sqn. Hurricane hit a building in England during a low flying exercise, F/S A. Stilin killed.

30 #14 OTU Wellington Ic T2747 hit the ground in England flying under low cloud, Sgt W.H. Backs, P/O E.P. Howarth and Sgt W.H. Ellwood RAF killed.

30 RCAF Station Patricia Bay, BC, LAC L.J. Caverly died after being struck by a car.

30 #6 EFTS?, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4268 damaged at Prince Rupert, Saskatchewan and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

30 #13 SFTS, St. Hubert, Quebec, Harvard II #3243 spun and crashed shortly after takeoff, killing
Cpl(P) J.J.R. Denis.

30-1 104 Sqn. Wellington II Z8514 returning from an operation over Tobruk with one engine out and crashed on approach when the second engine cut, WO2 R. Sillis, F/S H.C. Hunt RAAF, F/S T.L.F. Bailey RAAF, P/O W.N. Ramage RAF, Sgt J.J. Bowles RAF and Sgt J.W. Flint RAF killed. They have no known grave.

30-1 Bomber Command sends 25 bombers on GARDENING sorties in the North Sea with 2 losses (BC War Diaries).


30-1 #9 SFTS, Centralia, Ontario, Anson II #7573 flew into the ground on a night solo flight. Local farmers Murray Dixon (or Dickson) and John Hotson pulled the pilot from the burning aircraft, but LAC(P) J.J. Birky RCAF (USA) died of his injuries in the Station hospital. Dixon and Hotson were awarded the BEM for trying to save LAC Birky (http://rcafcentralia.blogspot.ca).

October 1942

#127 (F) Sqn., Gander, Nfld, re-equip with Hurricane XII aircraft (RCAF Sqns.). 417 Sqn. in Egypt begins to receive Spitfire Vb and Vc aircraft which they would operate with their Hurricane IIs (RCAF Sqns.). 422 Sqn. begins to re-equip with Sunderland III aircraft (RCAF Sqns.).

In the Western Atlantic operational control of the RCN escorts and RCAF anti-submarine forces remain under US Navy command, despite the fact that the unprecedented and unforeseen emergency in the Pacific had resulted in virtually all USN escorts and most aircraft squadrons being transferred there. At this time the US task force based in Argentia had more RCAF than USN squadrons under its command, and the RCN made up 96% of its escort ships, the remainder being from the US Coast Guard (Douglas and Greenhaus). See March 12-13, 1943.

During the month Japanese forces re-occupy Attu Island in the Aleutians, their absence having been undetected by US forces (Oxford).

Thursday

1 Japanese ship Lisbon Maru, taking British PoWs from Hong Kong to Japan, is torpedoed off
Shanghai by a US submarine. A force of 700 Japanese soldiers on board are rescued as the ship slowly sinks, but they closed the hatches on 1,800 PoWs who were trapped below decks on the sinking ship for over a day. They finally broke out only to be shot at before rescue operations finally began, but 825 prisoners died (ww2total.com Chronology/1942, http://www.lisbonmaru.com). This and other losses might have been averted if the ships had been marked as carrying PoWs, as allowed by the Geneva Conventions, but this Japan never did. Germany was also negligent in this matter, see October 19-20 and May 3, 1945.

First flight of the Bell YP-59A Airacomet jet fighter in the USA, powered by US built versions of Whittle WIX engines, just one year after a working example and drawings of the engine had arrived in the USA in a Ferry Command Liberator (F. Whittle). This was the first US jet fighter, and the third jet fighter in the world, but like the He 280 never went into operational service, provided experience in operating jets only.

407 Sqn. was transferred to St. Eval to be retrained for anti-submarine patrols (407 SH).

1 #4 AOS RAF, UK, Anson crashed in Scotland, WO2 F.O. Cadham and 4 crew killed.
1 #5 (Coastal) OTU Hampden I AD974 crashed into the sea on a training flight, Sgt J.N. Reigate and 2 crew injured (H. Moyle). See March 11, 1943.
1 #6 (Coastal) OTU Hudson V AM619 crashed in England just after taking off, F/S A.R. Sanger and WO B. Higginbotham RAF killed (R. Allenby).
1 #14 SFTS, Aylmer, Ontario, Yale #3429 crashed 5 miles SE of Aylmer, LAC(P) J. McKinnon and P/O D. Smith killed.
1 Ferry Command Hudson VI FK499 from Ascension Island to Accra lost it’s way on approaching African Coast, and landed at Cotonou in Vichy controlled French West Africa. The aircraft was damaged in the landing and the three crewmen, F/L G. Phillips, F/O W. Campbell and Sgt. G.A. Seward RAAF, were taken prisoner. They were held in dreadful conditions at Bamako, Mali, until French West Africa joined the Free French after the invasion of North Africa. This crew was returned to Accra in late January, 1943. F/L Phillips was 50 years old at the time, a veteran of Vimy Ridge and one of Canada’s first bush pilots. As a pilot with the OPAS he had flown urgently needed rescue equipment from Toronto to the Moose River Mine during the rescue operation in 1936. He noted that the Vichy French did not report that they had been interned, and all were believed to have died. In fact, the first letter he had written to his wife soon after being interned was not delivered until two weeks after he had returned home (J.C. Dillon). The aircraft was later repaired and returned to RAF service (C.A. Christie).
1 RNor.AF, Little Norway, Toronto Island Airport, Ontario, Curtiss 75-A8 (Mohawk) crashed, C. Mohr killed (wikipedia).

1-2 Bomber Command attempted to attack three targets in bad weather, sending 78 Lancasters to Wismar, 25 Stirlings to Lübeck and 27 Halifax bombers to Flensburg for a total of 130 sorties, 17 lost (BC War Diaries). There were no further attacks on Lübeck as this was the port used by the Swiss Red Cross for shipping food parcels
and re-patriated prisoners to and from Germany, and they negotiated that the port become a safe area for this purpose (CWY).


1-2 10 Sqn. Halifax II DT520 ZA-J lost off Denmark, F/S R.F. Gourlay, Sgt D.A. Ivers RCAF (USA), Sgt G.W. Spowart RAF, Sgt D. Campbell RAF, Sgt L. Smythson RAF, Sgt H.E Sullivan RAF and Sgt H.S. Moore RAF killed.


1-2 61 Sqn. Stirling I R5703 QR-D crashed on take-off after the emergency dinghy deployed and fouled the tail, P/O L.G. Gallaway, S/L G.E. Weston DFC RAF, Sgt F.G. Dare RAAF, Sgt R.W. Cadman RAF, Sgt R.S. Cole RAF and Sgt H. Hewitt RAF killed.


1-2 76 Sqn. Halifax II W7812 MP-B shot down over the target by flak, F/O M.W. Atkinson, Sgt T.W. Peacock RNZAF, Sgt H.S. Greenwood RAF, Sgt E. Topping RAF, Sgt P.D. Skerman RAF, Sgt P. van Lelyveld RAF and Sgt L.H. Lavis RAF killed.


1-2 218 Sqn. Stirling I W7613 HA-N crashed on the shore in Denmark, W/C M.F.B. Read RAF (Can.), F/L J.C.F. du Toit RAF and Sgt A.I. Parkinson RNZAF killed, F/S J.D.R. Menard, Sgt J.W. Dawson RAF, F/O J.R. Drake RAF, Sgt K.J. Cooper RAF and Sgt J. Speed RAF missing. For unknown reasons F/S Menard's name appears on the Malta Memorial while his 4 RAF crew mates are commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial. F/S Menard is possibly the same as Sgt J.D. Menard who survived the loss of an OADU Wellington
Z7822 June 20, 1941 and was interned in Spain for nearly a year, which may have something to do with his commemoration. W/C Read was the Squadron commanding officer, and was one of the few Canadians to attend and graduate from RAF Cranwell before the war (Chris, www.rafcommands.com).


1-2 405 Sqn. Halifax II P/O C.W. Palmer bombed the target of Flensburg where he encountered a heavy concentration of searchlights. After releasing his bombs he dove down over the target so his gunners could shoot at the searchlights, and continued his return flight at low level, engaging targets of opportunity. This sortie was mentioned in the citation for a DFC the following month (FF Years, Awards). See September 26, 1944.


Friday

2 #135 (F) Sqn. RCAF deploys from Mossbank, Saskatchewan to Patricia Bay, BC (RCAF Sqsns.).

2 401 Sqn. Spitfire IX BS177 crashed off the French coast while escorting USAAF Fortresses of CIRCUS 221, P/O R.D. Reesor missing.

2 #56 OTU, Canadian built Hurricane I Z7157 crashed while night flying killing Sgt W.H. Gull RAF (H. Welting and alclark at www.rafcommands.com).

2 #7 (BR) Sqn. RCAF, Prince Rupert, BC, wireless operator air gunner F/S A.R. Evans died on service, no details.

2 #14 (F) Sqn. RCAF Kittyhawk #1060 crashed into the side of a hill at Lynn Creek, North Vancouver, in bad weather while engaged in local flying, P/O A. Ridgway killed.

2 #1 SFTS, Camp Borden, Ontario, Harvard II #3187 crashed, Cpl R.O. Roberts RAF and LAC F.W. Ling RAF killed.

2-3 Krefeld was the target of 188 bombers with Target Finding support, but the marking was late and with thick haze the bombing was scattered, 3 GARDENING sorties also undertaken, 7 bombers lost (BC War Diaries).


2-3 78 Sqn. Halifax II W1275 lost over Germany, F/S T.A. Stephenson, F/L G.C. Foers RAF, Sgt L. Millband RAF, F/S F. Christie RAF, Sgt H.M. Clark RAF and P/O V.H. Parry RAF killed, Sgt
T.L. Kidd and F/O G.M. Hobbs RAF PoW.


2-3  158 Sqn. Halifax II W7751 was lit by searchlights over the target and hit by flak that damaged the tailplane and mid-upper turret as well as taking off the pilots escape hatch. The bomber returned to England, Sgt W.E.E.B. Priddin, Sgt L.D. Clark RNZAF, Sgt G.S. Hughes RAF, P/O G.B. Herbert RAF, Sgt A. Anderson RAF, Sgt J.D. Anstruther RAF, Sgt H. Falls-Hand RAF and Sgt L.J. North RAF safe (R. Allenby). See January 9-10 and April 28-29, 1943.

2-3  158 Sqn. Halifax II W1221 NP-B was hit in an engine by flak over the target area. The bomb load was jettisoned but some bombs hung-up. Nevertheless a safe landing was made on 3 engines, Sgt A.T. Smith, Sgt S.H.J. White RAF, Sgt N. Pringle RAF, (Sgt?) K.C. Hammond RAF, P/O R.G. Woods RAF, Sgt T.L. Gray RAF and Sgt H.B. Moorshead RAF safe (R. Allenby).

2-3  405 Sqn. Halifax II DG228 LQ-H shot down over Holland by flak, Sgt M. Ben-Hertz, Sgt D.G. Hackett, Sgt E.W. Murphy RCAF (USA), Sgt C.J. Neubert RCAF (USA), Sgt L.H. Williams, Sgt G.H. Shannon RAAF and Sgt S. Messham RAF killed. The bomber crashed into a farmhouse, killing Alida Hogervorst and injuring her mother Adriana Hogervorst and her brother Wim Hogervorst, who later died of his injuries (www.basher82.nl).

2-3  405 Sqn. Halifax II LQ-L, P/O J.H.M. McIntosh (RCAF?), was hit in one wing by flak over the target while at the same time losing an engine on the other. This resulted in an out of control dive, but he regained control and pulled out at 100’ before returning home at low level (FF Years).


Saturday

3 Eleven killed in Botwood crash (CJCA headline). [Incident not identified, possibly loss of US flying boat]

First successful long range launch of A-4 (later V-2) Rocket at Peenemunde, lands 4 km from target after flight of nearly 200 km, reaching an altitude of 84.5 km (over 270,000 ft.), the first man made object to enter space. Flight time from launch to impact just under 5 minutes (wikipedia).

3  1 Sqn. IAF Hudson IIIa FH289 crashed in India after a mid-air collision with Canadian built Hurricane X AG137, P/O L.V.O. Smith RCAF (USA), F/L H. Runganadhan IAF, Sgt J.R. Butler RAF, LAC L.T. Moore RAF, F/O B.R.K. Petter RAF and Lt Col J.R.H. Glover, 3rd Anti Aircraft Battery, RA killed. The Hurricane, flown by F/O H.S. Ratnagar IAF, landed safely (P. McMillan www.rafcommands.com). According to the Squadron entry in wikipedia F/L Runganadhan, a graduate of Cranwell who had flown bombing sorties in Burma with Lysanders, was to have taken over command of the Squadron. See April 29, 1944.
3  #1 OADU Wellington II W5377 left Gibraltar for Gambia but ditched off French Morocco. Sgt A.S.H. Powell RAF and Sgt R.H. Maclntyre RAF missing, Sgt W.S. Shewell, Sgt D.H. Struthers RAF, Sgt L. Cooper RAF and Sgt W.E. Morton RAF were picked up by a Spanish fishing boat which was then intercepted by a Vichy French patrol boat which took them into internment in French Morocco. They were released in Mid December.

3  #19 EFTS?, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4210 damaged at Virden, Manitoba and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

3  #35 SFTS, North Battleford, Saskatchewan, Oxford I AS263 crashed, LAC O. Firmin RAF killed.

3-4 Small Commando raid on the Channel Island of Sark to capture prisoners. During this several German prisoners, whose hands had been bound, attempted to alert others or attempted to escape, and were killed (wikipedia). See Oct. 9 and 18, below.

Sunday

4 #133 (F) Sqn. deploys from Lethbridge, Alberta to Boundary Bay, BC (RCAF Sqns.).

4  238 Sqn. pilot F/O J.D. Phelan died in Egypt of injuries from a truck accident.

4  227 Sqn. Beaufighter X8039 was one of three carrying bombs from Malta when it lost power and dived into the sea, pilot F/S G.P. Fargher missing, observer P/O J.P. Bristefut RAF rescued safe after spending the night in a dinghy.

4  249 Sqn. Spitfire Vc (Trop.) BR379 “V” was damaged in action and crashed attempting to land at Malta, F/S G.A. Hogarth killed.


4  #5 AFU Master III aircraft W8773 and DL570 were descending through cloud when they flew into a hill, Sgt T.F. Hyndman and P/O J. Chinnery RAF killed in W8773, Sgt R.H. Casburn RAF (USA) and Sgt H.B. Hubbard RAF unhurt after DL570 came to rest upside down nearby (phill jones www.rafcommands.com).

4  #56 OTU Canadian built Hurricane X AF978 flew into high ground in Scotland, P/O A.J.E. Leclezio RAF (Mauritius) killed (discussion page www.rafcommands.com).

4  #32 OTU, Patricia Bay, BC, Canadian built Hampden TB.I AN105 crashed on Mount Tuam, Saltspring Island, BC, P/O N. Thomas RAF killed (Times Colonist Patricia Bay Aircrash List 2009).

4  USAAF Emergency Landing Field, Mingan, Quebec, a USAAF OA-10 43-3266 (Catalina) based at Presque Isle, Maine, was making a water take off and capsized, 4 crew rescued but Pvt E.C. Austin USAAF, Pvt P.P. Couizine USAAF, Capt. C.L. Dowlen USAAF, Sgt C.O. Richardson USAAF and Lt Col. H.J. Zimmerman USAAF missing. In 2009 Parks Canada reported that an underwater archeology team had located what they believe to be the wreck of this aircraft (from Paul McMillan and Dakota on www.rafcommands.com website). In 2012 a US military team was sent to the site to search for the remains of the missing aircrew.

4  USAAF HQ Sqn. 6th Ferry Group, OA-10 (Catalina) 43-3264 crashed landing at Edmonton, Alberta (AAIR).
Monday
5  #31 EFTS, De Winton, Alberta, PT-27 Stearman FJ809 crashed, LAC M.R. Woozley RAF killed. A friend of LAC Woozley, Ethel Woods, who did flight line maintenance at #31 EFTS, notes that they had no Stearman aircraft, only Cornells (pers. comm.).
5  #37 SFTS, Calgary, Alberta, LAC J.C. Darling RAF died after being accidentally hit by propellor.

5-6 Bomber Command sent 257 bombers to Aachen, but most of the Target Finding marking and bombing hits the Dutch town of Lutterade, 17 miles away. Heavy damage was done to the town, 83 Dutch civilians were killed in this error, and 3,000 made homeless. Ten bombers were lost (BC War Diaries).
5-6 102 Sqn. Halifax II W7824 lost over Germany, WO K.F. Edwards RAF killed, F/O G.R. Harsh RCAF (USA) (wounded), Sgt L.H. Cailes, F/S G. McGowan RAF, Sgt T. Metcalfe RAF, Sgt R. Levente RAF, Sgt P.T. Regester and Sgt D.K. Meagher RAF PoW. F/O Harsh had a unique background, having been imprisoned in Georgia as a college student for killing the clerk of a liquor store in a robbery that he had been dared to do. He had survived the chain gangs, and had become a hospital trustee when he saved the life of another inmate with an emergency operation, for which he had then received a pardon. He then traveled to Montreal and enlisted in the RCAF. He was the Squadron Gunnery Leader at the time of his capture, and with his experience would be in charge of security for the Great Escape (T. Barris). Compared to conditions in the Georgia prison system he found the German security to be lax. See March 25, 1944.
5-6 149 Sqn. Stirling I N3755 OJ-S abandoned over England out of fuel when returning from an operation, pilot P/O R. Lonsdale RNZAF (Can.) killed, Sgt C. Hill RAF, Sgt P.A. Radomski RAF, Sgt G.S. Reynolds RAF, Sgt V.W. Tulley RAF, Sgt J. Brigden RAF and Sgt W.A. Summerson RAF safe.
5-6 156 Sqn., air gunner F/S C.W. Austin killed in a Wellington aircraft, no details.
5-6 156 Sqn. Wellington III X3811 encountered icing and was abandoned over England when a fire started, F/S T.E. Case and F/S H.W. Welch slightly injured, F/S P.Y.C. Tremblay, Sgt H.A. McLennan RAF and Sgt E. Cuthbert RNZAF safe. The aircraft crashed into the village of Somersham in England, where it destroyed several houses and killed 11 people on the ground. Pauline Margaret Cattanach, Vera Cattanach, Juliana Davies, Annie Maria Holdich, Alice Lamb, William Francis Lamb, Violet Ewing Moule, Eliza Nightingale, Elizabeth Richardson, Ena Joyce Stroud and Elsie May Taylor (www.156squadron.com,
5-6 218 Sqn. Stirling I BF322 HA-F crashed in England, possibly due to severe thunderstorms in the area, Sgt J.G. Beauregard, Sgt M.W. Watterworth, F/S P.L. Hall RAF, Sgt A. Green RAF, Sgt L.H. Hawkins RAF, P/O R. Whyte RAF and Sgt H.A.D. Pocock RAF killed. W.R. Chorley notes that in 1943 two young boys exploring the crash site found an incendiary bomb which exploded while they were examining it, resulting in severe injuries. One of the boys died 18 years later as a result of these injuries.


Tuesday

6 German Army attempts to force Soviet troops out of Stalingrad were stopped by huge reinforcements, acting on Stalin's order that a part of the city that was named in his honour must be held (Oxford).

6 136 Sqn., F/S L. Banikin RAF (Nfld.) killed, possibly in the loss of a Hurricane. The squadron lost Hurricane IIb BG684 on this date (H. Welting www.rafcommands.com).

6 115 Sqn. Wellington III BJ879 was attacked by an enemy fighter but returned to base, however the rear gunner F/S J.J.E. Cote was found dead in his turret. This aircraft was later lost with an OTU, see April 11, 1943.


6 #22 OTU navigator-bomb aimer Sgt W.J.B. Bennett lost his life in a non-flying accident when he fell from a moving train and sustained fatal injuries (D. Burke www.rafcommands.com).

#37 SFTS, Calgary, Alberta, Harvard II AJ836 crashed, LAC C.C. Buckley RAF killed.
6-7 Osnabruck attacked by 237 bombers with Target Finding support, making a concentrated attack on the city with the loss of 6 bombers (BC War Diaries).

6-7 75 (New Zealand) Sqn. Wellington III DF639 lost over Holland, F/S J. Forman, Sgt J. Forbes RAF, Sgt W.J. Howes RAF, Sgt G.W. Rhodes RAF and Sgt G. Slater RAF killed.

6-7 103 Sqn. Halifax II W1189 PM-E believed shot down into the North Sea by a night fighter, F/S B.J. Hardesty and Sgt R. Carson RAF killed, Sgt J. Porter RAF, Sgt P.B.J. Butcher RAF, P/O R. Whitelock RAF, P/O A.G. Richards RAF and P/O B.C.H. King RAF missing. As noted F/S Hardesty’s brother, Sgt G.P.M. Hardesty, was also killed in a 103 Squadron aircraft, Jan. 15-16, above.


6-7 405 Sqn. Halifax II W7763 LQ-C shot down over Holland by a night fighter, Sgt F.A. McCluskey RAF killed, P/O T.W. Stewart RCAF (UK), Sgt J.C. Mackie, Sgt G.B. Anderson, P/O E. Eggerston, Sgt N.E. Brown and Sgt A.M.E. Moodie RAF PoW.

Wednesday

7 112 Sqn. Kittyhawk Ia ET919 damaged and made a wheels up landing in Egypt, F/L G.W. Wiley broke a leg. See March 10, 1943.

7 #5 (Coastal) OTU Canadian built Hampden TB.I AN125 crashed off the coast of Scotland, F/O C.H. Lacerte killed and 3 crew rescued (H. Moyle).

7 Technical Flying Unit (TFU), Defford, Hurricane flew into a hill in England, P/O N.H.G. Snelgrove killed (R.H. Milne).

7 RCAF Recruiting Office, Regina, Saskatchewan, clerk Sgt G.P.F. Merle died of natural causes.

7 #11 SFTS, Yorkton, Saskatchewan, Crane I #8013 crashed near the airfield after a mid-air collision during night flying training, killing LAC(P) P.E. Maguire.

7-8 40 Sqn. Wellington Ic DV504 "G" was returning from an operation over Tobruk when an engine failed and the crew bailed out into the desert. They set off for Allied lines, but Sgt C.C. Hill, Sgt K. Bowhill RAF, Sgt E.A. Linforth and Sgt A.W. Butteriss had to drop out over the days and were taken PoW. Only 2 crew, F/S R.L. Spencer and Sgt J.K. Wood RAAF, managed to evade, taking 20 days to return.

Thursday

8 On the Egyptian frontier heavy rains render the German and Italian airfields at Daba and Fuka unusable, which is noted by Allied reconnaissance aircraft (http://www.century-of-flight.net).

#123 (ACT) Sqn. sends a detachment of 3 Lysander aircraft to Sydney, NS, for harbour entrance patrols (RCAF Sqns.).

8 #14 AFU Oxford R5945 crashed after hitting power lines attempting a forced landing due to running out of fuel, Sgt J.E. Coombs killed (A. Smith www.rafcommands.com; CWGC).

8 #36 OTU Greenwood, NS, Hudson III BW700 crashed 4 miles off Point George, NS. Sgt D.W. Armstrong, Sgt R.O. Barrett, Sgt B. Desmarais, P/O G.W. Knowles, F/O J.C. McFarlane,
P/O H.R. Woodman and F/S D. Shackell RAF missing.

RAF Ferry Command, Dorval, Quebec, Ventura II AJ450 lost from Gander, Newfoundland. Sgt J.R.W. Grant, Sgt D.F.J. Jupp RAF, Sgt T.G. Knowles RAF and Sgt D. Wallsh RAF missing.

USAAF 420th Bomb Sqn. DB-7B (Boston III) AL864 force landed at Argentia, Newfoundland (AAIR).

8-9 GARDENING sorties by 57 bombers from Holland to the Bay of Biscay, 2 lost (BC War Diaries).


8-9 #10 OTU Whitley V AD671 shot down over the Bay of Biscay by a Ju 88 on an anti-submarine patrol, WO2 W.A. Gammon, WO2 W.C. Roach, WO C.N. Ellis RAF, WO L.H. Dean RAF, WO F.D. Garrett RAF and F/O D.H. Cochran RAF all taken PoW. F/O Cochran RAF participated in the Great Escape, and was one of the recaptured prisoners who were executed by the Gestapo.

Friday

9 In what became known as the "Daba Prang" some 500 Commonwealth sorties are launched in an attempt to destroy as many German and Italian aircraft grounded by the rain as possible (D. Newton), however the ground had dried overnight and heavy fighting took place, the Desert Air Force losing 38 aircraft to claims of 20 destroyed and 20 damaged (http://www.century-of-flight.net).

In response to the attack on the island of Sark and the orders to Canadian soldiers to handcuff prisoners to control them at Dieppe, Prisoners of War taken at Dieppe (almost all Canadian) are ordered shackled, which is publicized (D.G. Dancocks). In response 100 German prisoners in Canada were ordered to be similarly shackled. See Oct. 10, below. This situation was eventually resolved by mediations of the Swiss government (wikipedia).

First USAAF B-24 operations in Europe [ie, from England] (Zijlstra).

Shipping in the Gulf of St. Lawrence comes under attack again when the SS Carolus is sunk off Metis Point, near Mont Joli Quebec, just 190 miles from Quebec City, by U-69, the furthest attack inland in the St. Lawrence by a U-boat (J.W. Essex, http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/history/secondwar/battlegulf/closegulf).

9 33 Sqn. Hurricane lost over the Desert, WO2 N.R. Learmouth missing.

9 33 Sqn. Hurricane (possibly HL631) "U" shot down attacking a German airfield, the aircraft sliding into a dispersal and destroying a Bf 109 fighter there, F/L D.W. McLarty RCAF (Argentina) taken PoW. He was in a PoW camp in Italy when Italy surrendered, and walked out with another prisoner on September 12, 1943, evading for 6 weeks until they met Canadian soldiers (D. McLarty T. Dubé, CAHS, on www.rafcommands.com).

9 213 Sqn. Hurricane shot down over Desert, F/O C.F.A. Cantin killed, he has no known grave.
#1 OADU Wellington Ic HX680 flying from England to Gibraltar became lost in poor visibility with the radio unserviceable and force landed on a beach in Spanish Morocco, where the crew and passengers, F/O C.C. Maple, Sgt C.G. Phinney, P/O E.H. Whitehouse RAF, F/O W. Graham RAF, Sgt F. Dykes RAF, Cpl S.A. Wheeler RAF and AC1 R. Gardner RAF, were interned until February. A Spanish Air Force pilot later tried to fly the Wellington off the beach but was injured when it crashed. See March 26-27, 1944.

#7 AOS Portage la Prairie, Man., Anson I #6523 crashed on a navigation exercise near Darlingford, Manitoba, Sgt T.A. Botterill, Sgt D.A. Cameron, LAC E. Hartland RAF and LAC C. White RAF killed.

#13 SFTS, St. Hubert, Quebec, Harvard II #3144 crashed near L’Acadie, Quebec, LAC(P) R.J. Little killed.

Saturday

10 Bowmanville, Ontario, PoW Camp, 100 German PoWs are requested to volunteer to be shackled following orders from Ottawa in response to the shackling of Canadian PoWs in Germany. Prisoners refuse, refuse to respond to a roll call and barricade themselves in the mess hall, sparking "The Battle of Bowmanville". Canadian guards (mostly First War Veterans) with baseball bats, and later with rifles and bayonets (but no ammunition), attempt to regain control of the mess hall but are unable to get in until water hoses were used against the prisoners (uboot.net).

10 92 Sqn. Spitfire Vc Trop. BR491 "P" shot down and ditched just off shore in Egypt, WO2 L.G. Edwards killed. Portions of this aircraft are on display at the Alamein Military Museum in Egypt (John E. & H. Welting www.rafcommands.com).

10 92 Sqn. Spitfire shot down in Egypt, F/O E.H. Hill killed.


10 419 Sqn. Wellington II BK335 VR-Y was landing from a training flight but overshot the landing, and took off again. Soon after an engine failed and the aircraft crashed, F/S R.J.T. Colvin and F/S H.E. Hicks killed, Sgt L.W. Scobie, P/O P. Campbell, Sgt H. d’Aperng and Sgt G.A. Lloyd RAF injured (R. Allenby). See also Oct. 11 below and March 31, 1943.


10 #16 OTU Wellington III BK257 hit a tree and crashed in England on a night cross country exercise. It is believed the crew were looking for a landmark at the time. F/S D.R. Robertson, Sgt B.H. Sparrow, Sgt J. Ferguson RAF, Sgt R.G. MacDonald RAF and Sgt J.A. Fox RAF killed (R. Allenby).

10 #1654 Conversion Unit, wireless air gunner Sgt S.D. McPhee died of injuries from a vehicle accident.

10 #2 Manning Depot, Brandon, Manitoba, AC2 G.M. Milton died in Canada of natural causes after being released from the air force in September (H.A. Halliday & D. Burke www.rafcommands.com).

10 #5 EFTS, High River, Alberta, DH.82C Tiger Moth #5963 crashed, LAC R.E. Redwood RAF killed.
#36 OTU Greenwood, NS, Hudson III BW703 missing on a navigation exercise, Sgt E.P. Badminton RCAF (UK), Sgt M.W. Finn, Sgt D. Edmond RAF and Sgt J. Elder RAF missing.

Sunday

11 The Battle of Bowmanville, Bowmanville POW Camp, declared "calm" with prisoners in their barracks (uboat.net).

In the Cabot Strait off Newfoundland the freighter SS Waterton is sunk by U-106 (J.W. Essex). The radio centre at Gander was plotting transmissions from 5 U-boats operating off Newfoundland and in the mouth of the Gulf of St. Lawrence at this time (C.F. Warren et al). See Oct. 14, below.

11 113 Sqn. Blenheim IV Z9598 struck a tree and crashed in India while engaged in an airfield defence practise flight killing WO1 H.E. Peters, WO B.F. Pearce RAAF and Sgt D. Davies RAF. While previously serving in the Western Desert WO Peters had been injured in an enemy attack on an airfield Nov. 15, 1941. WO Peters had the nickname "Joseph" because he liked to wear a brightly coloured dressing gown when off duty (113squadron.com).

11 419 Sqn. Sgt L.W. Scobie died of his injuries from the crash the previous day.

11 #56 OTU Hurricane P2799 collided in mid-air with Canadian built Hurricane X AG124, the former managed to land and WO L. Zadrobilek RAF (Czech.) bailed out safely from AG124 (CZ_RAF www.rafcommands.com).

11 #2 B&G School (?), Battle I #1955 crashed at Mossbank, Saskatchewan and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

11 #3 Flying Instructor School, Arnprior, Ontario, Cornell II #10505 crashed NW of Watertown, NY, USA, on a navigation training flight, Sgt E.P. Misener killed.


11 #31 OTU, Debert, NS, Sgt J.F. Ryan RAF accidentally drowned (#31 OTU/#7 OTU Roll of Honour).

11 #36 OTU, Greenwood, NS, Cpl H. Bentley RAF killed in a car accident (#36 OTU Roll of Honour).

11-12 Off Guadalcanal a US naval force using a new type of radar engages and defeats a Japanese force. They are unable, however, to prevent Japanese reinforcements from landing with artillery, so the land battle for the airfield continues (Oxford).

Bomber Command sent 80 bombers on GARDENING sorties on this night with 3 losses (BC War Diaries).

11-12 75 (New Zealand) Sqn. Wellington III BK341 lost off Denmark on a GARDENING sortie, Sgt R.H. Scott, Sgt A. Parsons RAF and Sgt H. Wolfenden RAF killed, Sgt C.J. Shalfoon RNZAF and Sgt S. Posner RAF missing.

Monday

12 120 Sqn. Liberator "H", S/L T.M. Bulloch RAF DSO DFC, sinks U-597 in the middle of the
Atlantic, the first success for the VLR Liberators (D. Somerville).

In New York US Manhattan Project rebuffs the offer of co-operation by the TUBE ALLOYS mission from Europe, but tries to obtain services of selected European scientists. In response London decided to move the TUBE ALLOYS team to Canada where they can be more useful. This reflected a growing reluctance by the US military to co-operate in atomic research (D. Somerville). See December 23, below.

#111 (F) Sqn. Detachment on Umnak Island ends (RCAF Sqns.).

The Battle of Bowmanville, at Bowmanville PoW Camp in the early morning two prisoners attempt an escape and are recaptured. Prisoners again refuse to turn out for morning roll call. A Guard Lieutenant who was disliked by the prisoners and had abused them in the mess hall battle, was surprised and seized by prisoners. Rifle fire was used to enable him to escape, wounding one of the prisoners. That afternoon 400 regular army troops were used to clear the barracks after a bitter fight, again armed with bayonets, rifles, baseball bats and fire hoses but no ammunition. Most injuries were light but one prisoner lost an eye and another was bayonetted. Finally 100 prisoners were shackled. The actual confinement in shackles, which continued until Dec. 11, was a charade, much as the German treatment of the Canadians became over time (uboot.net, D.G. Dancocks).

Two Fleet 50K biplane twin engined freighters enter service with the RCAF (Griffin CMA).

91 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AD548 DL-X was shot down off England by German fighters, Sgt K. Hawkins was seriously injured when he bailed out at low level, but was rescued (www.spitfires.ukf.net).

144 Sqn. Canadian built Hampden TB.I AN126 was handed over to the Soviet Navy for operations in the Arctic on this date (H. Moyle).

455 Sqn. Canadian built Hampden TB.I P5315 was handed over to the Soviet Navy for operations in the Arctic on this date (H. Moyle).


#1 Torpedo Training Unit, England, Canadian built Hampden TB.I AN151 crashed into the sea on a torpedo training flight, two crewman killed, Sgt G. Howell RAF and Sgt E.W. Evans RNZAF missing (J. Martyn www.rafcommands.com; H. Moyle)

#118 (F) Sqn. RCAF Kittyhawk #1089, Annette Island, Alaska, was flying in formation when P/O G.A.G. Baxter's seat dinghy inflated, causing the aircraft to crash into the sea, P/O Baxter missing.

#37 SFTS, Calgary, Alberta, Harvard II AJ854 and Harvard II AJ898 collided near Airdrie, Alberta and both crashed, LAC H.C. Cromack RAF was killed in AJ854, F/O A.I. Phelps RAF and F/L R.J. Warner RAF were killed in AJ898 (R.W.R. Walker).

462 Sqn. RAAF Halifax II W7717 was badly hit by flak over Tobruk but managed to return to land in Egypt on 3 engines, Sgt A.H. Pepper and Sgt K.H. Whitmore RAF were part of the

12-13 Wismar attacked in poor weather by 59 Lancasters, 2 are lost (BC War Diaries).

12-13 12 Sqn. Wellington II Z8532 PH-P crashed in England returning from a GARDENING sortie, F/S J.P. Standfast and Sgt T.W. Yapp killed, Sgt G.W. Fisher, Sgt K.R.W. Simmonds RAF and Sgt K. Bowes RAF injured. (This is recorded as lost on these dates in BCL’42, but possibly lost Oct. 11-12 by the records in Bomber Command War Diaries).

Tuesday
13 185 Sqn. Spitfire lost north of Malta, Sgt A.O. MacLeod missing.
13 414 Sqn Mustang I aircraft flown by F/O H.H. Hills RCAF (USA) and P/O F.J. Champlin RCAF (USA) on a RHUBARB near Le Havre attacked and damaged a locomotive pulling a freight train and some gasometers. Both these officers later transferred to the US Navy (FF Years).
13 #10 OTU Whitley V BD290 "L" came down at sea in the Bay of Biscay on an anti-submarine patrol, Sgt J.W.M. Merry RAF killed, WO2 P.F.B. Creech, WO2 J.D. Carmichal, WO2 M.H. Treanor RCAF (USA) and WO J.T. Johnston RAF taken PoW, W.R. Chorley states that two of the crew were wounded (F. Williston and Pierre Renier at www.rafcommands.com).
13 #15 AFU Oxford I BG666 overshot a landing in fog and crashed, Sgt S.H. McBryde RCAF (USA), F/O A. Murray RAF, Sgt J.D. Lennon RAF and AC2 H. Traverse RAF killed (details from member Albion, www.rafcommands.com, serial from R. Allenby same site).
13 unknown unit LAC A.J. Brown drowned at RCAF Station Annette Island, Alaska Territory, USA.

13-14 Japanese battleships bombard Henderson Field at Guadalcanal, severely damaging the aircraft and facilities there (J.B. Lundstrom).

Kiel was attacked by 288 bombers, at least half of which bombed a decoy nearby, and some bombed Hamburg. (In The R.C.A.F. Overseas-The First Four Years, published in 1944, this attack was noted as overwhelming the defence, leaving flak silent and no searchlights operating, which might indicate they had attacked the decoy site and it had exhausted it’s pyrotechnics). Eight bombers were lost (BC War Diaries).

13-14 10 Sqn. Halifax II DT546 ZA-R was hit by flak that badly wounded the flight engineer, Sgt A.J. Wilkinson RAF. The bomber returned and landed to get him to hospital, P/O J.W. Murphy, P/O P.S. Warren, Sgt K.J.P. Holmes RAAF, S/L A.I.S. Debenham RAF, P/O N.H. Walker RAF, Sgt R.B. Carpenter RAF and Sgt V. Gardner RAF safe (R. Allenby). See October 15-16 below, October 4-5, 1943 and August 29, 1944.
13-14 142 Sqn. Wellington III BJ653 PH-R, borrowed from 12 Sqn., lost over Denmark, Sgt A.M.
Paton, Sgt R.S. Taylor RAF (Nfld), WO J.C. Heddon RNZAF, Sgt R. Webster RAF and Sgt L.H.H. Stift RAF PoW. There is a very detailed account of this loss at http://www.flensted.eu.com/194269.shtml.

13-14 61 Sqn. Lancaster I W4233, damaged by flak over Germany and lost in bad weather, crashed into high ground in England returning from an operation over Germany, P/O L.C.R. Leach and Sgt R. Court RAF killed, Sgt H.E. Game RAF died of injuries, Sgt H. Scattergood RAF, Sgt R. Court RAF, Sgt E.C. Hawkins RAF and Sgt E.T. Lund RAF survived. Richard Allenby on his http://www.yorkshire-aircraft.co.uk website says P/O Leach volunteered to go on this sortie after the crews regular navigator fell ill.


13-14 156 Sqn. Wellington III BJ775 crashed in the sea off Germany, F/S D.W. Congdon and Sgt W.W. Lott killed, F/S J. Taylor RAF missing, Sgt E.E. MacDonald and Sgt G.A. Kidder PoW, the latter wounded. Later promoted to F/L, Sgt Kidder took part in The Great Escape, see March 29, 1944.


13-14 405 Sqn. Halifax II was hit on the bomb run, pilot Sgt G.T. Chretien was badly wounded in the neck. He kept the bomber under control and with the help of the navigator, Sgt T.E. Carlen, jettisoned the bombs and managed to return to land safely in England. In the landing, with damaged trim controls, Sgt Chretien was in control but was weak, so the throttles were operated by the flight engineer on his orders, and the navigator had to help pull back the control yoke (FF Years). Both Sgt Chretien and Sgt Carlen were later awarded the DFM for this (405 SH).

13-14 419 Sqn. Wellington III DF664 VR-E lost over the sea off Germany, F/O C.E. Bell, F/S E.S. Green, F/S J.F. Streeting, F/S W.A. Wakeman and Sgt R.V. Hall RAAF killed. W.R. Chorley notes F/O Bell had won the Top Student at Calgary Central Collegiate, 1938.

13-14 420 Sqn. Wellington III DF636 PT-S crashed on return to England from an operation after losing engine power attempting a go around from a bad approach, striking 3 houses in the process, WO2 W.B. Croft, Sgt H.J.T. Gray, P/O W.J. Jones, P/O A.M. Wardrop and P/O R.E.E. Gurd RAF killed. Sadly a 5-year old girl, Barbara Joan Huggins, was killed in one of the houses and one other woman was slightly injured (R. Allenby).

13-14 420 Sqn. Wellington III BK295 PT-H, P/O G.S. Hynam RCAF (USA), collided over Germany with a German night fighter but managed to return to England despite missing it's rudder (Chris Charland www.rafcommands.com). See May 29, 1943. The bomb aimer was D. Ramsay, see April 27, 1944 (TSGNO).


13-14 425 Sqn. Wellington III X3763 KW-E was damaged by flak over Germany but returned, Sgt G.E. Cronk RCAF (USA), Sgt F.W. Frudd RCAF (USA), Sgt J.I. Anderson, Sgt J. Rankin Jr. RCAF (USA), Sgt R. Bagnall Smith RAF and Sgt R.M. Anderson (RAF?) safe (R. Allenby). See December 6-7 below, April 14-15 and July 3-4 1943.

Wednesday

14 Aircraft reinforcements and supplies are rushed to Guadalcanal as Japanese naval ships close in to cut the supply line to the island. A large group of Japanese transports is spotted heading toward the island, believed capable of making an amphibious landing right in the US held area (J.B. Lundstrom).

In Stalingrad German units launch another attack to clear Soviet forces in the city west of the Volga, but although capturing many strong points they are unable to take others, and the fighting continues (ww2total.com Chronology/1942). These attacks were supported by over 2,000 bomber and dive bomber sorties (http://ww2db.com). Hitler orders all other offensive operations against Russia to halt temporarily to concentrate his forces on the battle (D. Somerville).

218 Sqn., P/O H.D. Wardle RAF (Can.), shot down April 20, 1940, escapes from Colditz prison with 3 others and manages to return to England via Switzerland.

Newfoundland passenger ferry SS Caribou torpedoed in the Cabot Strait, 137 of 238 crew and passengers lost as the ship sinks in 4 minutes (see below). This is the final action in the 1942 Battle of the Gulf of St. Lawrence which ended with 23 ships sunk and 700 killed, but no U-boat losses. See Nov. 24, 1944.

14 249 Sqn. Spitfire Vc (Trop.) BR173 "D" shot down in flames over Malta, P/O G. Beurling DFC DFM and Bar RAF (Can.) bailed out, wounded. On this flight he had shot down a bomber and two fighters before being hit himself, bringing his total victories to 27½ (Shores, Cull & Malizia; Nolan).


SS Caribou torpedoed and sunk off Newfoundland, with the loss of 137, 31 crew, 49 civilians (including DND official W.N. Hathway (B. Barry et al)), eleven Canadian soldiers, twenty RCN seamen, eight US military and eighteen RCAF airmen: air frame mechanic Cpl H.H. Elkin, AC2 T.H. Cummings, AC2 L.W. Truesdale killed, pilot P/O J.H. Barrett, air frame mechanic AC2 R. Chatson, AC1 F.G. Coulson, AC2 D.C. Glover, air frame mechanic AC2 W.B. Wilson, airmen Cpl W.P. Howse RCAF (Nfld.), P/O L.E. Legge RCAF (Nfld.), LAC C.M. McCarron, LAC D.L. Mitchell, LAC M.N. Oiring, AC2 G.W. Parker, AC2 E.A. Thistle, LAC A.W. Jones, LAC E.G.C. Walker, AC2 R. Watson missing. 15 crew, 23 RCN, 10 Army, 22 RCAF, 6 US military and 25 civilians rescued. B. Barry notes that LAC Jones was a veteran of the First World War and had been at the battle of Vimy Ridge. [TSGNO counts Sgt A.A. Sullivan as one of the RCAF airmen lost, but has no biographical entry for him. According to CWGC he was an Army passenger]

#11 (BR) Sqn. RCAF, Mount Joli, Quebec, Hudson III BW685 was on an anti-submarine patrol and crashed making forced landing at night due to an engine fire, in a heavily wooded area 20 miles NW of Chandler, Quebec, P/O F.E. Davies, F/S R.A. Martin and F/O J.C. Tate killed, P/O E.R. Hodge missing. The wreckage was found October 25 (C. Charland www.rafcommands.com). F/O Tate is reported to have flown 43 Operations with 407 Squadron (F. williston www.rafcommands.com) in the period they won the name of "Demons" for the number of attacks on shipping they had made

#113 (BR) Sqn. RCAF, Mont Joli, Quebec, Hudson III BW622 ran off the runway after an engine cut taking off on a test flight and took off it's landing gear, F/S T.R. Futer, Sgt J.J.E. Mahoney, F/S R.J. Nixon and F/S F.W. Smith safe (Dakota www.rafcommands.com).

#3 B&G School, MacDonald, Man., Battle I #1601 was engaged in unauthorized low flying when it struck a power line near Portage la Prairie, which resulted in the deaths of 2 women on the ground, Pearl and Alice Gibbs. The pilot, Sgt K.R. Goodhew RAF, was reduced to the ranks and sentenced to 6 months of hard labour, 2 airmen crew safe (S. Shail, H.A. Halliday, Unnecessary Accidents).


Airstrip at Guadalcanal again shelled by Japanese ships as two Japanese military forces are landed on the island, one with 6 large transports only 15 miles away (within sight of the airfield). Believing that the airfield has been neutralized, the transports stay to unload their supplies and heavy weapons (J.B. Lundstrom).


Thursday

Australian soldiers on the Kokoda Trail in New Guinea, having been held in place for three days by the defending Japanese rear-guard, find again the Japanese have disengaged and retreated during the night (D. Vincent).

Every available aircraft on Guadalcanal that can fly is used to attack the unloading
Japanese transport ships, which are being protected by very long range Japanese fighter patrols. Gasoline and supplies are flown in to support the attacks, while heavy bombers from both sides fly in to make attacks on the transports or the airfield. One transport unloads and leaves, but 2 others are forced away before completing their unloading, while the remaining three are destroyed (J.B. Lundstrom).

On the Island of Betio in the Tarawa atoll, in retaliation for an air raid, a group of European civilians and New Zealand soldiers held prisoner were executed by the Japanese military (tighar.org, wikipedia). The CWGC site lists 11 New Zealand soldiers, 7 New Zealand Coastwatchers and 5 civilians who have no known grave killed on this date. One of the civilians was Rev. A.L. Sadd, a missionary who had volunteered to stay behind when the Gilbert and Ellice Islands were evacuated. He is remembered for his courage as a prisoner, and for his actions on this day, standing in front of the prisoners and facing them, giving words of encouragement before they were killed (various).

**Stalingrad.** In support of the continued German offensive Ju 87 dive bombers fly 900 attack sorties in the city (http://ww2db.com).

424 Sqn. and 426 Sqn. RCAF formed as Bomber units on Wellington III aircraft (RCAF Sqns.). #132 (F) Sqn. moves from Patricia Bay to Tofino, BC (RCAF Sqns.).

Northwest Staging Route from US to Alaska via Alberta and the Yukon constituted as a unit under #4 Training Command.

15 122 Sqn. Spitfire IX BS285 lost over the sea during a fight while escorting CIRCUS 227, F/S E.E.J. Regis missing.


15 unknown unit, F/L C.M.B. Symons RAF (Can.) killed flight testing a Mosquito. F/L Symons had flown in the Battle of Britain and was a Biggs' Boy (K. Stofer). Possibly Mosquito NF.II DD785, #19 Maintenance Unit, lost on this date when it lost it’s tail in a dive (www.dehavilland.ukf.net).

15 #15 MU, England, F/S D.H. Stewart and 1 RAF killed when a Horsa glider crashed.

15 #21 OTU Wellington Ic R1667 crashed in England on a night cross country exercise, Sgt A.M. Foster, P/O C.C. Shadle RCAF (USA), Sgt G.S. Calder RAF, P/O J. Herrington RAF and F/O R. Franks RAF killed.

15 #1 OTU, Bagotville, Quebec, Harvard IIb FE386 and FE383 collided in mid-air over St. Fulgence, Quebec. Both pilots bailed out, Sgt R.M. Housden RAF safe, but P/O T. Adamson RAF fell into the Saguenay River and is missing (C. Charland at www.rafcommands.com).

15 #31 EFTS, De Winton, Alberta, DH.82C Tiger Moth #5928 crashed and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

15 RAF Ferry Command, Mitchell II FR369 lost out of Gander, F/L R.L. Moss RAF, P/O F.J. Pook
RAF, Sgt M.J. Gardner RAF and Radio Officer L.R.J. Vine (UK) missing.

unknown unit, LAC C.W. Anders RAF accidentally drowned in North America, no details.

15-16 *The airfield at Guadalcanal was again shelled by Japanese naval ships (J.B. Lundstrom).*

*Cologne was the target for 289 bombers but again a decoy site nearby distracted most of the force, despite Target Finding Force marking in difficult wind conditions. Eighteen bombers were lost (BC War Diaries).*


15-16 142 Sqn. Wellington III DF642 QT-J was hit by flak over Germany, and was written off landing in England when it collided with a parked 320 Sqn. RNeth.AF Hudson VI EW918, Sgt G.T. Reyburn, Sgt B.P. Shadick RAAC, Sgt E. Watcham RAF, Sgt E.C. Woollard RAF and Sgt F.B. Hough RAF safe.


Friday

**16 Over 40,000 are killed by a tropical storm and flooding in Bombay, India** (wikipedia).

16 413 Sqn. Catalina, F/L R. Fursman, located a lifeboat and survivors in the Indian Ocean (FF Years). See October 19, below.

16 #2 PRU Spitfire aircraft failed to return in the desert, F/O J.S. Bird missing. (possibly Spitfire PR.IV AB312 reported missing on Oct. 19, www.spitfires.ukf.net).


16 249 Sqn. Spitfire shot down into the sea off Malta, WO2 P. Carter missing.

16 #19 OTU Whitley V BD212 lost without trace on a searchlight co-operation exercise, possibly shot down in error by a friendly night fighter. F/S M.H. Hargreaves, P/O J.R. MacKinnon, P/O J.L.G. Campbell RAF, Sgt D.A.A. Saunders RAF and Sgt T.G. Sinnett RAF missing.

16 #1 SFTS Camp Borden Ontario, Anson #7550 rolled and crashed at Fox Island, Ontario, after hitting another aircraft in a formation flight, Sgt R.I. Davies RAF, Sgt E.L. Eaves RAF and administration F/O W.A. Nugent killed.

16 #125 (F) Sqn. Hurricane I #1359 crashed near Bay Bulls, Newfoundland after an engine failure, F/S J.W. Gilmartin bailed out safe (R.W.R. Walker, Dr. L. Daly http://www.planeemcrashgirl.ca/2016/02/page/2/).

**16-17 Bomber Command had 34 GARDENING sorties off France and 5 OTU sorties with the loss of 4 minelayers (BC War Diaries).**


16-17 115 Sqn. Wellington III BK312 shot down by flak into the North Sea on a GARDENING sortie, F/S W.J. Mollard reported buried in Germany and is also listed on the Runnymede Memorial, P/O D.F. Fitzgerald RAF, Sgt E. Wilde RAF, and S/L L.C. Wright RAF killed, P/O E.T. Daintith RAF missing.

Saturday

17 The Schneider Armament works at Le Creusot, France, is attacked in daylight by a force of 88 Lancasters flying at low level plus 6 more attacking a nearby electric transformer station. Conditions were clear and defences minimal, but bombing was not as effective as hoped. Despite precautions workers housing near the factory complex were hit, as well as a hospital (Marc www.rafcommands.com). Eleven Boston aircraft attacked Le Havre earlier, and later 6 more staged a diversion for the Schneider attack. One bomber was lost (BC War Diaries).

17 #103 MU Egypt Hurricane aircraft lost on delivery flight, F/O J.E. Avise RCAF (USA) missing.

17 61 Sqn. Lancaster I W4774 flew into buildings making a very low daylight attack on the Schneider Armament Works, the only aircraft lost. F/S J.R. Moore, S/L W.D. Corr RAF, Sgt R.J. Delve RAF, Sgt O.G. Edwards RAF, F/S G.J.A. Willis RAF and P/O J.C. Webster RNZAF killed, Sgt R. Turtle RAF PoW. In 2002 a memorial was created near the crash site commemorating this crew (Marc www.rafcommands.com).


17 207 Sqn. Lancaster, P/O A.V.R.S. Wilson pilot, forced to turn back to England. Over the coast of France and at low level it was intercepted by 3 Ar 196 float planes. In a fight over the sea the bomber claimed one of these heavily armed aircraft shot down with another damaged, with the loss of flight engineer Sgt K.S. Chalmers RAF killed. This resulted in the award of 5 DFM’s to the surviving crew including the rear gunner, F/S C.W.W. Peck (Marc & Tom_ALlett at www.rafcommands.com). See Nov. 7-8, below.

17 418 Sqn. Boston crashed in Wales on a cross country exercise, F/O H.F.L. Longworth and Sgt R. Walker RAF killed, Sgt H. Sims badly injured (Alan www.rafcommands.com, C. Adams 418 Assoc.). The crash site was not located for two days, but Sgt Sims managed to survive trapped in the wreckage, and later returned to operations on Mosquitos (Richard_Goring www.rafcommands.com).

17 #23 OTU Wellington III BJ911 undershot a landing and crashed attempting to go around when an engine failed. The aircraft broke in half on impact, air gunner Sgt J.E. Desjardins killed, Sgt J.N. Wright RAF and Sgt F.K. Brown RAF injured. W.R. Chorley notes that Sgt Wright would serve with 432 Sqn. RCAF, where he was decorated with a DFM.

Sunday

18 Angered by the death of the bound soldiers in the Sark attack of Oct. 3-4, and the order to Canadian soldiers in the Dieppe attack to control prisoners by handcuffing them, Adolf Hitler issues his secret Commando Order, that all Allied commandos should be executed when captured by German forces (wikipedia).

18 126 Sqn. Spitfire Vb (Trop.) AB332 lost over Malta, F/O J.D. Stevenson killed.

18 USAAF 16th Photo Sqn., 1 Mapping Group, F-3 (Boston PR aircraft) 39-745 crashed at an unspecified location in Quebec, pilot L.D. Kerr killed, crew? (AAIR).

Monday

19 Specially trained Norwegian commandos dropped into remote Norway by parachute as an advance party to sabotage heavy water production (wikipedia).

Large scale air attacks begin on German and Italian positions and airfields in front of El
Alamein by RAF and USAAF aircraft (H.W. Neulen, A. Beevor).

19 413 Sqn. Catalina, WO D.S. Martin, located a second lifeboat of survivors in the Indian Ocean from the same ship. 413 Squadron was later involved with other units in rescuing these survivors (FF Years).


19 unknown unit Wellington enroute to the Middle East from UK crashed in Gambia (see October 14, above), wireless operator air gunner F/S C.G. Crombie died of injuries. F/S Crombie had survived the crash of a #20 OTU Wellington July 30, 1941.


19 RCAF Station Trenton, Ontario, pilot F/L G.K. Preston died in hospital of natural causes.

19 #33 SFTS, Carberry, Man., Anson II #8446 crashed, LAC P.E. Sayer RAF, LAC D.M. Watson RAF and LAC J.A. Woods RAF killed.

19 #35 SFTS, North Battleford, Saskatchewan, Cpl J.T. Hayes RAF died, no details (B. Barry et al).

19-20 108 Sqn. Wellington Ic DV873 "E" was returning from an operation over Tobruk and crash landed in Libya following an engine failure. The crew, P/O E.R. Patrick, F/S J.A. Hutchinson, Sgt W.N. Simpson RAF, Sgt A.T. Williamson RAF, P/O J. Mills RAF and Sgt H.A. Martin RAAF were taken PoW by Italian troops a week later. P/O Patrick managed to escape Italy in September, 1943 (www.conscript-heroes.com MI-9 list).

Tuesday

20 Gibraltar attacked in daylight by 4 Italian P.108B heavy bombers, one is lost on return in a crash landing (H.W. Neulen).

20 413 Sqn., Ceylon, air frame mechanic Cpl. G.A. Harper died in hospital due to injuries suffered in a vehicle accident.

20 94 Sqn. pilot F/L K.L. Johnston was traveling back to England from the Mediterranean when his ship, SS Laconia, was sunk (see Sept. 12, above). F/L Johnston died in one of the lifeboats and has no known grave. (Possibly on another ship not the liner Laconia which was sunk 5 weeks before in the Atlantic (above), and F/L Johnston is recorded as lost in the Mediterranean. Needs clarification).


20 USAAF AAFFC, 7th Ferry Group A-20B 41-3314 crashed when landing at Fort St. John, BC (AAIR).

20-21 #21 OTU Wellington Ic HD984 lost without trace on a cross country training exercise, F/S E.W. Chessor, P/O T. Proctor RAF, P/O E.J. Dando RAF and Sgt C.S. George RAF missing.

Wednesday

21 First long range bomb attack by USAAF B-24 aircraft in China (M.J.H. Taylor).
Italian P.108B bombers again attack Gibraltar, one of the three is lost in a crash landing (H.W. Neulen).

21 1 Sqn. Typhoon Ib R7861 lost on an air firing exercise over the sea, F/O P.N. Dobie RAF (Can.) missing. Believed to have collided with his wingman, a Typhoon Ib R7867 flown by Gloster Chief Test Pilot P.E.G. Sayer, who was also missing (P. Caygill). Mr. Sayer had flown the first British jet, the Gloster E.28/39 on its first flight May 15, 1941.


21 #1657 CU WO2 R.M. Lount died in hospital of natural causes.

21 8 SFTS, Moncton, NB. Anson II #8381 collided in mid-air with a Harvard aircraft and crashed, killing P/O E.C. Grierson, LAC(P) R.E. Langdon RCAF (USA) and air frame mechanic Cpl. W. Schultz. There were no casualties from the Harvard.

21 #35 EFTS, Neepawa, Manitoba, DH.82C Tiger Moth #1251 written off after a crash (R.W.R. Walker).

21-22 Fourteen GARDENING sorties off the North Sea coast with 1 loss (BC War Diaries).

21-22 7 Sqn. Stirling I BF390 MG-A shot down in error by British anti-aircraft fire after straying off course and apparently firing off the wrong coloured ID flares returning from a GARDENING sortie, Sgt J.D. Cooper, F/S R.E. Flavelle, F/O R.G. Winder, F/O N.S. Brady RAF, Sgt J. Watkins RAF, F/O A.A. Harvey RAF and Sgt K.A. Wilkins RAF missing.

Thursday

22 Australian advance down Kokoda Trail again blocked by Japanese units in strong defensive positions (D. Vincent).

Japanese air operations resume in Burma following the end of the monsoon with a surprise attack on Chittagong in India (now in Bangladesh) which is undetected by radar (D. Vincent).


22 400 Sqn. sent 12 Mustang I aircraft on a RHUBARB over northern France, 4 of these led by S/L W.B. Woods attacked the rail yards at Amiens (FF Years).

22 115 Sqn. Wellington III Z1657 damaged on a operation over Germany, wireless air gunner F/S A.E. Prendergast killed.

22 #1 B&G School, Jarvis, Ontario, Cpl Doris Helen Scott died on service (A. Storr).

22 #2 Training Command, Winnipeg, Man., S/L J.J. White died in hospital of natural causes.

22 #35 EFTS, Neepawa, Manitoba, DH.82C Tiger Moth #5161 crashed (R.W.R. Walker).

22-23 RAF Bomber Command sends 112 Lancasters to attack Genoa, Italy, the first operations in support the coming offensive in Egypt and the TORCH landings in North Africa,
one bomber crash landed back in England with no casualties, the only loss (BCL). Damage to the city was heavy, casualties on the ground fairly light, and the effect on moral in Italy was significant. Twelve GARDENING sorties off France were also flown without loss (BC War Diaries).

Friday

23 Beginning of 4 days of attacks by Japanese ground forces on the US beachhead on Guadalcanal. Poor co-ordination caused by the jungle terrain enables the defending Marines to fight off separate attacks (ww2total.com Chronology/1942). Expecting to support landings on the Island following the capture of the airfield, a large force of Japanese carriers is at sea. The delays in the attacks cause them to sail in and out of range of Guadalcanal, exposing them to detection by patrol aircraft (J.B. Lundstrom).


23 #1 OADU Wellington Ic HX775 was flying from Gibraltar to Gambia but force landed in the Canary Islands. Sgt J.W. Chester, Sgt W.G. Forsberg, Sgt H.E.M. Howell RAAF, Sgt D.D. Gardner RAF, Sgt J.W. Wilkinson RAAF and Sgt M.N. Walker RNZAF were interned. Sgt Forsberg stowed away on a Spanish tanker and reached the Dutch Caribbean island of Curacao, but the remainder were released in March, 1943. See Sept. 3, 1943.

23 416 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BL575 was hit by flak over France on a RHUBARB, P/O J. Moul bailed out over the sea but was taken PoW (416 SH).

23 416 Sqn. Spitfire Vb EP489 was damaged by flak over France on a RHUBARB, P/O R.B. Buckham safe.

23 #1 Central Flying School, Trenton, Ontario, aero engine mechanic LAC F.J. Bearisto was killed when he was hit by a propeller.

23-24 462 Sqn. RAAF Halifax II W7659 "F" was on an operation to Crete when it ditched in the Mediterranean due to icing and engine problems in a snowstorm. The life raft did not inflate, and only Sgt G.F. Simpson RAF survived clinging to a fuel tank. He was picked up by the Italian Navy and made PoW. Sgt A.H. Pepper, F/S A.G. De Clerck RAAF, F/S K.H. Whitmore RAF, Sgt L.W. Giles RAF and F/S J.W. Tyson RAF missing (A. Storr).

23-24 In the evening Eighth Army begins heavy shelling of German and Italian forces at El Alamein. British and Australian offensive begins at El Alamein following behind the barrage (Oxford).

23-24 Genoa again targeted by 122 aircraft, but the target was cloud covered and all the bombing fell on the town of Savona 30 miles away. Gardening off France and Denmark done by 17 Wellingtons. Three bombers and 1 minelaying aircraft were lost (BC War Diaries).


23-24 102 Sqn. Halifax II DT512 DY-O was unable to clear the runway on landing due to a burst tire.
Another 102 Sqn. aircraft, Halifax II W1181 DY-D landed and ran into the aircraft, wrecking both. Among the crew of DT512 F/O A.J. Graham and W/C S.B. Bintley DSO AFC RAF were killed, F/S J.A.T. Simpson and Sgt K. White RAF injured, and G/C E.J. Corbally RAF, F/O V.B. Davies RAF, Sgt R.P. Long RAF and F/S G. Richmond RAF unhurt. On W1181 F/S J.L. Berry RAF, WO Cranwell RAF, P/O E.W. Hargreaves RAF, Sgt D. Hubbard RAF, Sgt J.W. Crouch RAF, Sgt R.J. Horton RAF, Sgt W.E. Pattison RAF and F/S J.B. Bell RAF all safe. A graphic photograph of the two wrecked bombers taken the morning after the accident can be found on R. Allenby’s Aircraft accidents in Yorkshire website.


23-24 150 Sqn. Wellington III BK309 JN-N crashed in Norway on a GARDENING sortie, F/S D.T. Taylor and Sgt H.A. Dalzell RAF killed, F/O G. Martin, F/O H.K. Reese RAF and F/S J.E. Whaley RAF PoW. The tail and one of the engines of this aircraft are on display at the Flyhistoric Museum in Stavanger, Norway (ktsorens.tihlde.org). It is possible F/S D.T. Taylor was wounded in Malta Dec. 29, 1941.


23-24 158 Sqn. Halifax II DT521 NP-O was damaged by two night fighter attacks but returned to England, Sgt A.M. Daubon RAF wounded, Sgt J.R. Laws, Sgt M.M. Caplan RAF, Sgt S.H.J. White RAF, Sgt A.A. Frederick RAF, Sgt A.G. Fleet RAF, Sgt J.C. Stait RAF and Sgt A. Corpe RAF safe (R. Allenby). See November 15-16, below. Bomb aimer Sgt Laws was later commissioned, and in 1944 attacking Münster in daylight his Halifax was hit in the bomb aimers position by flak on the run-in, but he continued to the drop point and bombed successfully, which was cited in the award of a Bar to his DFC (R. Allenby, Awards).

Saturday

24 A second large daylight Lancaster attack was made by 88 bombers on Milan, flying at low level over France and crossing the Alps in formation. Caught unaware the city had heavy damage, including to the Caproni aircraft factory. Three bombers were lost and 1 more crashed in England (BC War Diaries).

405 Sqn. (seconded from Bomber Command to Coastal Command), and 407 Squadron, were transferred to Cornwall to fly anti-submarine patrols over the Bay of Biscay (RCAF Sqns., 405 SH, 407 SH). For 405 this was part of a program to rest Halifax squadrons due to growing high losses of the early versions of the type (BC War Diaries) while also providing extra protection for troop convoys for Operation TORCH, the invasion of North Africa (405 SH). Later versions of the Halifax were redesigned to be lighter and were cleaned up aerodynamically, which with more powerful engines allowed the aircraft to return in large numbers to front line operations.

24 57 Sqn. Lancaster I W4251 lost on a daylight operation to Milan, Italy, F/O W.C. Hamilton RCAF (USA), Sgt H.B. Smith RAF (Nfld.), Sgt G.G. Fraser RAAF, P/O J.T.N. Miles RAF,
Sgt J.G. Taylor RAF, Sgt A.F. Heffernan RAF and Sgt W.J. Wakelin RAF killed.

24 131 Sqn., two Spitfire Vb aircraft were intercepted by enemy fighters off England on a Calibration flight [for ground radar?] and shot down into the sea, P/O J.L. Davidson missing in aircraft AB850, and Sgt J. Gray RAF missing in BM472.


24 414 Sqn. Mustang I, F/O H.H. Hills RCAF (USA), attacked a locomotive near Le Havre, France, but was hit and damaged by flak. He returned safely back to England (FF Years).

24 407 Sqn. Hudson on an anti-submarine patrol located a tanker off the French coast and attacked it with it's depth charges, results unknown (FF Years).


24 #54 OTU Beaufighter crashed during a heavy rainstorm killing F/O J. Morris.

24 #4 RD, Moncton, NB, air frame mechanic Cpl D.M. Pyne died in hospital of natural causes.

24 USAAF 366th BS, 305th BG, B-17E 41-24530 crashed taking off at Gander, Nfld (AAIR).

24-25 In heavy rain Japanese soldiers on Guadalcanal make their main effort to destroy the US forces there, attacking from inland in an attempt to overrun the airfields. They are held, but a report that they had succeeded triggered a series of Japanese naval and air attacks in support (J.B. Lundstrom).

Bomber Command sent 71 bombers to Milan again, the second attack of the day, but most were scattered by storms over France. Only 39 claim to have bombed the target, but little more damage reported. Other operations include 25 GARDENING and 11 OTU sorties. Six bombers and 2 minelayers were lost (BC War Diaries).


24-25 142 Sqn. Wellington III X3455 QT-D crashed into the North Sea off Holland returning from an operation over Italy, believed shot down by a nightfighter, Sgt F.B. Hough RAF (Can.), Sgt G.T. Reyburn, Sgt B.P. Shaddick DFM RAF, Sgt E. Watcham RAF and Sgt E.C. Woollard RAF killed (http://www.aviationarchaeology.org.uk).

24-25 218 Sqn. Stirling I R9241 HA-L was seen on fire and out of control before it broke up in the air over England after taking off for an operation to Italy, F/O W.M. Thompson, F/S F.R. Higgott RNZAF, Sgt B.S.W. Grieve RAF, Sgt A. Mahoney RAF, Sgt H.H. Simms RAF, Sgt L. Nockels RAF and Sgt W.J. Ferris RAF killed, Sgt G.A Hinshelwood RAF survived, injured.

Sunday

25 The airfields at Guadalcanal are attacked by several flights of escorted land and carrier
based Japanese bombers, but these fail to inflict any significant damage and lose several aircraft to defending fighters and anti-aircraft fire. This was the last day of large Japanese daytime attacks on the airfields. At sea a US carrier aircraft attack failed to locate the Japanese carriers, who had retired when discovered by patrol aircraft (J.B. Lundstrom).

The remaining Japanese of the Milne Bay attack force stranded on Goodenough Island are cleared out by a landing of Australian soldiers (D. Vincent).

USAAF B-24 aircraft in China bomb Hong Kong (M.J.H. Taylor). Ten B-24 aircraft from bases in China attacked the oil storage facilities in Hong Kong, greatly encouraging Canadian PoWs who witnessed it (B. Greenhous).

Rommel returns to Africa (Oxford).

25 unknown unit, Beaufort aircraft shot down between Luqa, Malta and Egypt, F/O R.A. Bendwig RCAF (USA), F/O M.M. Liebeck, F/O F.E. Wickstrom and Sgt G.A. Bushnell RAF missing.

25 272 Sqn. Beaufighter Ic T5078 "B" lost in the Mediterranean while attacking a group of 35 Ju 52/3m transports with Bf 110 escorts off Crete, while part of a flight of 8 Beaufighters escorting Beaufort and Blenheim V aircraft attacking a convoy, F/S R.A. Francis RAF (Can.) and W/C J.M. White RAF missing (Litcham Lad and R. McNeill at www.rafcommands.com; D. Vincent).

25 #1 Depot, RAF, F/O H.D. Milne missing after a bomb made a direct hit on the RAF Officers Hospital in Torquay, England. F/O Milne was recovering from a spine injury suffered May 25, 1942, in a 238 Sqn. Hurricane that overturned in the desert landing from a night sortie (H.A. Halliday, quoted on www.rafcommands.com). This may be the attack described by V. Haugland that killed over 100 staff and patients.

25 RAF Ferry Command Boston IIIA BZ200 attempted an emergency landing in Ireland (Eire) after crossing the Atlantic, but mistook a bog for a field. The wheels caught in the soft ground and the aircraft flipped on it's back. The pilot, Quartermaster N.B. Rasmussen RNor.AF, was trapped in the cockpit and drowned, F/S F.M. Fuller and Sgt P.F. Craske RAF injured (D. Burke, www ww2 irishaviation.com).

25 #2 Training Command, DH.82C Tiger Moth #5081 crashed at Prince Albert, Saskatchewan (R.W.R. Walker).

25 #6 EFTS, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4963 crashed after a mid-air collision during an authorized formation flight, killing LAC(P) L.R.A. Burns.


25 #41 SFTS, Weyburn, Saskatchewan, Harvard IIb FE444 crashed, Sgt H. Whittaker RAF and F/L H. Williams RAF killed.

25 Western Air Command, Vancouver, BC, G/C W.D. Van Vliet, Air Officer Commanding, died in hospital of natural causes.

25 unknown unit, F/O A.R. Frost RAF (Can.) died in Canada, no details.

25 unknown unit, LAC J.J. Allan died of natural causes in Canada.
25-26 Japanese Army forces again attack the Guadalcanal beachhead and airfields, and again are held off (J.B. Lundstrom).

Monday
26 Believing that Henderson Field on Guadalcanal has been captured or neutralized, a force of Japanese carriers re-enters the area to support landings intended to fortify the re-captured island. Detected, a battle begins between the carrier force and US carriers (Battle of Santa Cruz). An air strike by 4 Japanese carriers sinks the USS Hornet and badly damages the newly repaired Enterprise, while two of the Japanese carriers are badly damaged in return. Advancing Japanese surface ships then force the US ships to retreat, but the cost of experienced pilot’s and aircrew was heavy. Although victorious, this was the last time Japanese carrier aircraft were able to meet the US forces on equal terms. After this the advantage of better training, equipment, tactics and numbers would be in the Allies favour (J.B. Lundstrom). At this time, however, the battle left only one US carrier in the Pacific, Enterprise, damaged but still capable of flight operations.

26 killed in Dorval crash (CJCA headline). [see below].

Tanker Proserpina, "Rommel's Last Tanker", sunk off Tobruk by torpedo Beauforts from Malta (see below), ending the last opportunity for large scale fuel delivery to the Afrika Corps in Egypt. Without this ship which Rommel had counted on the German and Italian forces engaged in front of El Alamein, already very short of fuel, were unable to mount an effective defence to the attacks of the 8th Army (A. Beevor).

#149 (TB) Torpedo Bomber Sqn. RCAF formed at Patricia Bay, BC on Beaufort I aircraft as a counter to the threat of Japanese naval units in the Aleutian Islands of Alaska (RCAF Sqns.). These aircraft were from #32 OTU, which was re-equipping with Hampden TB.I aircraft, and were not in the best condition (R. Hayward).


26 221 Sqn. Wellington lost attacking an enemy convoy off Tobruk, F/O J.F. Osborne and 4 crew missing.

26 #22 OTU Wellington Ic DV785 was practicing night circuits and coming in to land when it tried to go around again. It crashed when an engine failed, Sgt A.T.E. McCormack, Sgt K.A. Reed, Sgt A.H. Whitted RAF, Sgt W.A.H. Hamilton RAF and Sgt D.F. Heybourne RAF injured. W.R. Chorley notes that Sgt Whitted was a resident in Canada when he joined the RAF.

26 Ferry Command, Detachment F, Goose Bay, Labrador, Ventura I AE729 crashed near Dorval, Quebec just after taking off for Goose Bay, Labrador, LAC D.A. Abbot, LAC K.D. Campbell,

26  #1 Y Depot, Halifax, NS, Sgt S.K. Loveday RAAF died in Canada of natural causes while waiting to embark for overseas (A. Storr; COL BRUGGY at www.rafcommands.com).

26  #31 EFTS, De Winton, Alberta, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4072 crashed, P/O A.R. Frost RAF killed.

26  #32 OTU, Patricia Bay, BC, Canadian built Hampden TB.I AN128 collapses it's undercarriage in a landing and was written off, Sgt Jones and crew safe (H. Moyle).

26  USAAF 366th Bomb Sqn., 305th Bomb Group B-17F 42-5059 ditched off Baldy Point, NS (AAIR).

Tuesday

27  At Guadalcanal the Japanese land attacks diminish. The inability to capture or neutralize the airfields cancels out the success of the carrier battle. Area commander Admiral Halsey requests that the US Navy request backup from an RN carrier. This would lead to refitting and training HMS Victorious in US procedures in 1943, followed by a brief deployment to the South Pacific (J.B. Lundstrom), but little use was made of the ship and it was returned to RN control very quickly.

In the largest Axis air attack at El Alamein, 20 German Ju 87 dive bombers and 43 Italian CR.42 ground attack fighters with a strong escort of fighters, are sent to attack advancing Commonwealth forces. They are met by Kittyhawks and Spitfires which prevent all but a few from attacking (H.W. Neulen).


27  #22 OTU Wellington III HF628, Sgt T.H. Maxwell, was damaged when it was struck by another Wellington. There were no injuries reported.

27  #3 Wireless School, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Fort #3625 was damaged in an accident but not repaired (R.W.R. Walker).


Wednesday

28  Japanese defensive block on the Kokoda Trail finally broken by Australian attacks (D. Vincent).
Formations of armoured vehicles attempting to counterattack Allied positions at El Alamein are attacked and stopped by aircraft (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).

Entire pioneer road for the Alaska Highway connected at Mile 1202, Yukon Territory (wikipedia). This 1,600 mile track had been completed in 7 months. Expansion and development would now continue on to complete this as a finished gravel road.


28 2 Manning Depot, Brandon, Manitoba, AC2 W.A. Cameron died in an accidental shooting at his home town of Rainy River, Ontario.


Thursday

29 Bomber Command sends 7 Mosquitos and 6 Wellingtons to seek targets of opportunity over Holland and the Ruhr in cloudy weather, losing 3 Wellingtons and 2 Mosquitos (BC War Diaries).

HMS Furious sends 29 Spitfires to Malta, the last time the Island is reinforced using carriers (Canwell & Sutherland).

29 MV Abosso sunk by U-575 in mid-Atlantic enroute to Liverpool from Cape Town, South Africa with the loss of 362 passengers and crew, P/O F.H. Bangs RAF (Can.) one of 31 survivors (Lucas Bruyn at www.rafcommands.com).

29 15 Sqn. Stirling I BF386 LS-Q crashed in England on an air test. Passengers were onboard for air experience, including the Station Padre. Killed were F/S E.A. Recchia, Sgt W.H. Hood RNZAF, F/L H.B. Salter RAF, Sgt A.R. McIntosh RAF, Sgt J. Ling RAF, Sgt P.D. Head RAF, Sgt A. Beswick RAF, Sgt C.S. Barrie, padre S/L C.G. Fisher, Sgt R.G. Ponting RAF and Cpl D.S. Cleaver RAF.

29 115 Sqn. Wellington III Z1738 KO-M lost without trace on a daylight operation to Germany, F/S W.M. Murphy, F/S D.S. Rathe RCAF (USA), Sgt J. Coltman RAF, Sgt H.A. Merrony RAF and F/O R. Rawlings DFC RAF missing.

29 224 Sqn. Liberator III FK230 hit a house and crashed in Scotland approaching to land, Sgt. J.E. Armstrong one of those killed. Sgt L.C. Race RAF, Sgt S. Burr RAF and Sgt F.T.G. Hamlyn RAF were also killed with 224 Squadron on this date (www.joebaugher.com, CWGC).

29 #5 (Coastal) OTU Hampden TB.I P1284 crash landed in Eire, Sgt D. Montgomery, Sgt J.D. Scott and P/O J.C. McGhee RAF slightly injured, returned to Northern Ireland. See April 3, 1043.

29 #10 OTU Whitley V Z6579 missing on an anti-submarine patrol, crashing near or in France,
F/S J.D. Maxwell, Sgt E. Cheetham RAF, Sgt G.C.J. Heywood RAF, Sgt E. Marsden RAF, F/O M.G. Grant RAF and P/O W.F. Raffan RAF killed.

29  #124 (Ferry) Sqn. RCAF Kittyhawk #1077 flew into the ground at Elk Water Lake SE of Medicine Hat, Alberta, killing P/O A.G. Carless.

29  #1 General Reconnaissance School, Summerside, PEI, Anson I N9688 crashed into trees near Conway, PEI, on a navigation exercise, Sgt. C.H. Bennett, Sgt G.P. Harris, P/O C.H. Rudge RAF and P/O R.W. Reeves RAF killed.

29  #13 EFTS?, Finch II damaged at St. Eugene, Ontario and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

29  #36 SFTS, Penhold, Alberta, Oxford I BM767 crashed, LAC C.W. Thorp RAF killed.

29-30 104 Sqn. Wellington II W5478 "P" was part of a team searching for targets of opportunity in the El Alamein battle area when it collided with it's flare dropping 821 Sqn. FAA Albacore T9136 and crashed, F/S W.D.M. Embree, Sgt B.A. Beeney RAF, Sgt V.R. Spear RAF, F/O J.S. Martin RAF, Sgt A.R.G. Hart RAF, and Sgt D.H. Lee RAF missing from the Wellington, Acting Leading Airman A. McBride RN and Sub Lt(A) W.W. Taber RNVR missing, Lt P. Manders RN PoW from the Albacore (www.fleetairarmarchive.net/RollofHonour via forum.keypublishing.co.uk). F/S Embree had survived the crash of a 104 Sqn. Wellington July 13-14, above.

29-30 138 Sqn. Halifax II W7774 NF-T was damaged by night fighters on a SOE drop to Poland and ditched just off the British coast where all the crew, including WO S. Klosowski PAF, F/L S. Krol PAF, F/S Wasilewski PAF and F/L(?) Kazimierz (Paddy) Szrajer PAF stayed on the one surviving dinghy until rescued by a life boat several hours later (Szrajer obituary, Globe and Mail Nov. 10, 2012). See July 25-26, 1944

Friday

30 Eastern Air Command sinks two U-Boats in one day, U-658 sunk 320 miles east of St. John's Nfld. by Hudson I #784 of #145 (BR), flown by F/L E.L. Robinson, and U-520 sunk in Atlantic by Digby #747 PB-X of #10 (BR) while returning from escorting convoy ON-140, F/O D.F. Raymes (http://www.canadianwings.com). The latter success was not confirmed until after the war ended (Hagedorn & Hagedorn). See Oct. 2, 1943.

Decision to locate TUBE ALLOYS lab for atomic research at the well equipped Universite de Montreal laboratories to study heavy water moderated atomic piles, under the administration of the National Research Council, using the French supply of heavy water smuggled out of Norway in 1940.

Off Egypt RN destroyers forced U-559 to surface where her Enigma codes were captured before she sank, taking two RN sailors with her (wikipedia). See December, below.

In Alaska #111 (F) Sqn. was transferred to Kodiak to serve as fighter defence for the US Naval base there (440 SH).

30  33 Sqn. Hurricane hit by flak in the Western Desert, killing F/O L.H. Peterson.

30 #10 OTU Whitley V BD293 ditched in the Atlantic on an anti-submarine patrol, F/O R.J.L. Fournier and Sgt A.J.N. Edwards RAF missing, but the remainder of the crew Sgt H. MacEwan, F/S W. Wright RAF and Sgt G.C. Wright RAF were rescued after three days in their life raft.

30 #53 OTU Spitfire crashed in fog, killing P/O B.W. Andrews RCAF (USA) (Possibly a veteran of Malta).

30 #5 EFTS (?), DH.82C Tiger Moth #1154 crashed at High River, Alberta (R.W.R. Walker).

30 #5 EFTS, High River, Alberta, DH.82C Tiger Moth #5858 crashed and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

30 #32 OTU, Patricia Bay, BC, Anson I #7056 lost during training exercise to Port San Juan, Washington State, Sgt W. Baird, P/O C. Cox RAF, P/O A.W. Lawrence RAF and Sgt R.E. Lucock RAF missing. The crash site was located by loggers on a mountainside near Port Renfrew, Vancouver Island, in October 2013. In May of 2014 the remains of the 4 crew were recovered (http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/ww-ii-aircraft-and-remains-recovered-from-vancouver-island-mountainside-1.2659691).

Saturday

31 Bomber Command used low cloud over Europe to send 17 Bostons to power stations in France, 8 Wellingtons to Emden and 6 more to Essen with the loss of 1 Boston and 1 [sic] Wellington (BC War Diaries).

Over 100 German fighters and fighter bombers attack Canterbury, England, in the same low cloud, but are unable to bomb effectively due to the balloon barrage, 3 lost (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).

In October 44.2% of supplies sent to Italian and German forces in North Africa had been lost, most due to submarine and air attacks from Malta (H.W. Neulen).


31 150 Sqn. Wellington III BK360 shot down over Holland on a daylight operation to Germany,


31 #30 OTU Wellington Ic Z1083 overshot a landing returning from a practice bombing exercise, stalled and crashed in the circuit making a second approach, Sgt D.C. Hawk RCAF (USA), Sgt R.H. Woolliams, WO W.L. Primrose RAF, Sgt D.M. Belgrove RAF, P/O D.S. Hegan RAF and Sgt A.P. Cunningham RAF killed.


31 #3 RD, Vancouver, BC, air frame mechanic LAC R.N. Jeffs died in hospital.

31 unknown unit, LAC M.R. Bridgeman killed in a bus accident south of Calgary, Alberta.

31 unknown unit, F/L C.G. Coburn died in Canada, no details.

31 unknown unit, LAC H.N. McRae died in Canada, no details.

31-1 German bombers return to attack Canterbury, 7 bombers shot down (ww2total.com Chronology/1942). Three of those lost were destroyed by F/O G. Pepper DFC & Bar RAF (Can.) and P/O J.H. Toone DFC DFM RAF of 29 Sqn. in two separate sorties (discussion page, www.rafcommands.com). See October 17, below.


November 1942

410 Sqn. begins to exchange it’s Beaufighters for Mosquito NF.II aircraft (RCAF Sqns.). 419 Sqn begins to re-equip with Halifax B.II aircraft (RCAF Sqns.). #125 (F) Sqn., Torbay, Nfld. begins to receive Hurricane XII aircraft (RCAF Sqns.). In Egypt 417 Sqn. has a brief detachment at the Kufra Oasis in Libya (417 SH).

In the Zamosc region of Poland Germany begins it’s plan to Germanify parts of the country. Most of the population was forced to other Polish regions, sent to Germany as forced labour, or to concentration camps, and their farms and villages taken over by approved German and Ukrainian settlers. Attacks on these newcomers by the remaining population ended the program (Oxford).

Sunday

1 In Canada liquor production curtailed (CJCA headline).

US offensive begins in Guadalcanal to expand the beachhead (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).

#5 (BR) Sqn. RCAF re-deployed from Dartmouth, NS to Gander, Newfoundland (RCAF Sqns.).
In the last 11 months production of aircraft in the Soviet Union totalled 18,000, plus the supply of 4,000 more by Lend-Lease from the USA and Britain (including Canadian built Hurricane and Hampden aircraft). But the intensity and scale of the air war had caused such losses that the actual size of the Russian air forces fighting the German invasion increased from 2,500 to only 3,000 in this period. Without Lend-Lease, the Soviet Air Forces might well have been overwhelmed (Oxford). The suspension of supplies by Convoy to Arctic Russia had been a setback, but supplies arriving through Iran and through it’s Pacific ports from Alaska helped. Supplies from Alaska were shipped to the fighting zones by the Trans-Siberian Railway, and this route carried the bulk of Lend-Lease material to the Soviet Army (P. Adair).

Politician Ralph Klein born in Calgary, Alberta (wikipedia).
1 233 Sqn. Wellington lost in the Mediterranean, F/S C.A. Powles, F/L P.G. Attenborough RAF, P/O A.V.J. Bettridge RAF, F/S C.A. Smith RAF, and W/C H.M. Styles DSO RAF missing (TSGNO). All are commemorated on the Malta Memorial along with Sgt D.H. Jenkins lost from the Squadron on the same date. 233 Sqn. was based at this time in Gibraltar flying Hudson aircraft, and these airmen (minus F/S Powles) may have been lost on a Hudson on this date. TSGNO also states this aircraft was lost on a ferry flight between Gibraltar and Bathurst, England, and #1 OADU did lose Wellington II Z8418 (which had previously served with 405 Squadron) on a delivery flight from Gibraltar to Bathurst, Gambia on this date. BCL'ME 1939-42 notes this crew on Z8418 included a F/S C.A. Rowles RCAF, who is not listed in TSGNO or CWGC. It is possible that F/S Rowles is actually F/S Powles, incorrectly attributed to the 233 Squadron crew. (The rest of the OADU crew, Sgt J. Ogden RAF, Sgt D.H. de Gruchy RAF, Sgt P.J. Davis (as F.J. Davis in BCL’ME) RAF, Sgt B. (G. in BCL’ME) Arthur RAF and Sgt R. Montgomery RAF all missing and commemorated on the El Alamein Memorial). This needs research.
1 233 Sqn. Hudson spun into the Atlantic Ocean off Portugal, F/S W. Thirde and three crew missing. F/S Thirde is commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial. This may be part of the same incident above.
1 250 Sqn. F/S W.K. Martin killed in the Western Desert when he belly landed his Kittyhawk aircraft behind enemy lines, he has no known grave.
1 415 Sqn. Hampden TB.I AT193 GX-R crashed on landing in England, collided with a truck, F/O J.N. Godfrey killed, F/S D.M. Coates, P/O R.G. Frederick and Sgt R.A. Clarke (RCAF or RAF?) injured (H. Moyle). F/S Coates rescued one trapped crewman from the burning aircraft, and attempted to rescue the trapped pilot, but was forced to leave the wreck after sustaining severe burns. For his actions he was later awarded a George Medal (Awards, FF Years).
1-2 Second major push, by New Zealand troops, begins at El Alamein (Oxford).

Monday

2 Kokoda in New Guinea is re-captured by advancing Australian forces, along with its small airstrip, allowing supplies to be flown in, and sick and injured men to be flown out to Port Moresby (D. Newton). As the advance continues down the Owen Stanley Mountains more sites for airstrips are developed to supply the troops.

Second attack on the harbour of Bell Island, Newfoundland, U-518 sinks the ore carriers Rose Castle and Free French PLM 27, and badly damages the iron ore loading facility, 40 sailors killed from the ships (www.rupprecht-thomas.de).

In Egypt Rommel, now short of fuel and supplies, orders withdrawal of his forces. Orders countermanded by Hitler, but withdrawal already underway (Oxford).

2 52 Sqn. Blenheim crashed in Iraq after a fuel mismanagement problem, WO2 W.E. Whittingham and Sgt N.G. Beal RAF killed.


2 #12 SFTS, Brandon, Manitoba, Crane I #7856 overran the landing area practicing night flying and damaged, LAC(P) A.C. Clements RNZAF safe (C. Charland www.rafcommands.com).

2 #34 SFTS, Medicine Hat, Alberta, DH.82C Tiger Moth #1124 crashed, P/O W.W. Martindale RAF killed.

2 USAAF ATC OA-10 (Catalina) 43-3266 crashed at Mingan, Quebec (AAIR).

Tuesday

3 First operational use of Ventura bombers in the RAF (Polsson).

3 127 Sqn. Hurricane BN406 shot down in the desert, F/L R.C. Lawrence missing (Andy_Ingham).

3 127 Sqn. Hurricane HL629 shot down in the desert in Egypt, P/O A.L. Rebman killed (Andy_Ingham).

3 127 Sqn. Hurricane HM130 shot down in Egypt, killing F/O A.D. Melville. These were 3 of 6 Hurricanes lost from 127 Sqn. on this date (Andy_Ingham at www.rafcommands.com).

3 #70 OTU, Gambia, wireless air gunner WO2 B.R. Yorke was killed when he accidentally walked into a moving propellor.

3 407 Sqn. Hudson V AM648 was testing a new type of anti-submarine bomb when it crashed into the sea. It may be the aircraft dropped the new bomb too low and was caught in the explosion, station armament officer F/O R.O. Worthington, F/L J.M. Kellas RAF, Squadron commanding officer W/C C.F. King RAF and F/S H.W. Ward RAF killed, F/S C.C. Shook and aero engine mechanic Sgt M.B. Vallette missing (407 SH).
3 407 Sqn. Hudson V AM646 RR-J flew into a hill in Wales, Sgt G.G. Belec and F/S L.E.L. Huddelstone killed, F/S D.F. Page died of injuries, Sgt A. Maier (RCAF or RAF?) badly injured, was rescued by civilians William and John Abrahams (407 SH, davew at www.rafcommands.com).


3 #53 OTU, Spitfire IIb P8692 was part of a formation that flew into a cloud. This Spitfire was last seen flying unsteadily and losing height, Sgt B.O.K. McRoberts RAAF (Can.) (from Vancouver) missing, presumed to come down in the sea (A. Storr).

3 #10 (BR) Sqn. RCAF, Gander, Newfoundland, Digby #747, F/O Sanderson (possibly F/O J.H. Sanderson) sighted and attacked a U-boat (Hagedorn & Hagedorn, Awards).

3 #4 AOS, London, Ontario, Anson I #6341 crashed near Dorchester, Ontario, while on a navigation exercise, civilian Service Pilot G.H. Rockett, LAC(N) S. Acker and P/O F.A. Griffin were killed, LAC(N) J.W. Quinlan injured. See Nov. 7.

3 #6 SFTS, Dunsville, Ontario, LAC M.D. Fleming and P/O R.B. Klintworth RCAF (USA) were standing by the flare path on runway duty and were both killed when a Harvard taking off for night circuits swerved off the runway and struck them.

3-4 Further Japanese reinforcements landed on either end of US beachhead at Guadalcanal (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).

3-4 108 Sqn. Wellington Ic Z1180 "T" crash landed in the desert due to an engine failure after having taken off to attack targets of opportunity in the El Alamein battle area, Sgt A.D. Cooper and his crew safe. See June 16, 1944.

3-4 162 Sqn. Wellington Ic DV944 "G" was taking off from LG-86 in Egypt for it's second sortie of the night when it lost height, crashed and the bomb load exploded. P/O J.J. Silcox and F/O P.J. Farren RNZAF were killed in the crash, P/O W.L. Wallis RAAF, P/O N.C. Beck RAAF and Sgt A.M. Nott RAF died of injuries, and Sgt H.R. Harrison RAF survived, injured (A. Storr).

3-4 272 Sqn. Beaufighter crashed in Egypt, F/O G.G. Cann and 1 crew, possibly Sgt L. Cousins RAF, killed.

Wednesday

4 German forces abandon El Alamein positions, in full retreat to Libya (Oxford). Mass attacks by Allied bombers and fighter bombers destroy many enemy vehicles along the coastal highway (D. Newton).

After problems in management at National Steel Car the Federal Government formed a Crown Corporation, Victory Aircraft, on this date to take over National Steel Car's assets and their plant at Malton, Ontario, engaged in tooling up for planned Lancaster production.

4 38 Sqn. Wellington lost in Mediterranean, Sgt E.J. Haid, P/O P.B. Nanton RAF and Sgt D.F. Wolf RAF missing. Sgt D.G. Gage RAF was also missing from 38 Sqn. on this date and may be part of this incident (CWGC).
4 216 Sqn. Hudson VI EW900 crashed on take off in Egypt on a training flight, Sgt M.O. Brown RAF (Can.), F/L R.T. Bradshaw RAF, F/O F.V. Browne RAAF and Sgt D.A. MacDonald RAF killed, F/O L.C. Pyke MiD RAAF and LAC C.W.F. Ironmonger RAF died of their injuries, and LAC G.M. Paulger RAF injured (A. Storr; COL BRUGGY at www.rafcommands.com).
4 238 Sqn. Hurricane missing on a flight in North Africa, F/S F.E. Wise missing.
4 Special Erection Party, Gibraltar, Spitfire Vb (Trop.) EP724 was taking off on a test flight after being reassembled at Gibraltar when it swerved and collided with a gun position, damaging it's landing gear. There was no space at the airfield for an emergency landing due to the build up for Operation TORCH, so the pilot, Sgt A.J. Tysowski, bailed out safely over the harbour and was rescued (VoyTech, www.rafcommands.com). See July 15, 1943.
4 210 Sqn. Catalina crashed in Gibraltar Bay, Sgt J.L.R. Keough, F/O H. Bardsley RAF, F/S G. Green RAF, Sgt E.T. Jones RAF, Sgt T.M. Millar RAF, Sgt E.J. Sleigh RAF and Sgt J.B. Ritchie RAF missing, and 3 other crewmen may be involved (TSGNO).
4 539 Sqn. Canadian built Hurricane IIB AM282 stalled and crashed making an approach to land at night in England, Sgt D.C. Bryant RAF killed (CZ RAF at www.rafcommands.com). 539 was a mixed Hurricane/Boston/Havoc Turbinlite night fighter squadron (wikipedia).
4 #1518 Beam Approach Training Flight Oxford I AT663 flew into trees returning from a weather test, F/O R.S. Shaw and F/L C.H. Butt MiD RNZAF killed.
4 #1 OTU, Bagotville, Quebec, Harvard IIB FE397 crashed in a spin near Jonquiere, Quebec, P/O D.C. Sutherland and F/O W.E. Copp RAF killed.

Thursday
5 Rommel forms a new defensive line at Fuka, but they are unable to stop the advancing Commonwealth forces. Allied air units are moving behind the advance, often changing their operating bases daily while continuing their attacks on vehicles and positions (D. Newton). Axis forces continue withdrawing to Libya.

In Canada, tired of being called "The Voice of Doom", CBC News Announcer Lorne Green began his report on the victory at El Alamein with the statement "...and now some good news for a change!". It earned him a rebuke from CBC management for breaking the code on expression of personal opinions, and nearly cost him his job (W. Twatio).
5 112 Sqn. Kittyhawk III FR245 GA-B damaged over the desert by Bf 109 aircraft while escorting a formation of B-25 bombers, Sgt J.I.S. MacAuley (RCAF or RAF (Can.)?) safe (http://raf-112-squadron.org/planelosses.html).
5 223 Sqn. Baltimore III AG941 and AG966 collided and crashed attacking German and Italian units retreating from El Alamein, WO2 R.C. Mutch, Sgt H.P.S. Annells RAAF and Sgt R.H. Stevens RAF were killed with F/S A.J. Newman RAAF surviving as a PoW from AG941, while F/O D.F. Rowe RAAF, F/O B.A. Kirkham RAF and Sgt J.P. Canavan RAF were killed in AG966 with Sgt E.B. Skuce surviving as a PoW (A. Storr).
5 260 Sqn. Kittyhawk shot down in the Western Desert, WO2 G.W. Harttung has no known grave.
5 609 Sqn. Typhoon IIB one of two scrambled to intercept a German bomber using heavy cloud to attack ports in southern England, struck a balloon cable over Dover Harbour and
crashed, WO2 S.H. Spallin missing (P. Cornwell).

5-6 RAAF Catalinas equipped with Australian built radar begin operating nightly long range patrols from Cairns in Queensland to the Japanese occupied ports in northern New Guinea, to attack any ships attempting to re-supply that force (D. Newton).

5-6 78 Sqn. Halifax II DT525 returned from a GARDENING sortie and was descending through cloud when it flew into trees and crashed in England, F/O H.L. Humphries, Sgt C.F. Clark RAF and F/L G.T. Turner RAF killed, Sgt J.G. Mills RCAF (USA?), Sgt L.G. Masterson, Sgt R. Grey RAF and Sgt C.M. Edgehill RAF survived, injured (R. Allenby). This was Sgt Masterson's first operational flight since he came through a crash landing October 15-16, above. R. Allenby on his http://www.yorkshire-aircraft.co.uk website says his injuries ended his flying career and he returned to Canada.

Friday

6 The last Vichy French forces defending Madagascar surrender (C. Shores).

In North Africa heavy rains in the desert slow the Allied advance (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).

Bomber Command sends 14 Wellingtons, 5 Lancasters, 12 Bostons and 10 Venturas on various operations over Europe (BC War Diaries).


6 407 Sqn., three Hudson aircraft flown by P/O L.H. Jenner, F/S R.C. Dalgleish and F/S J.D. Ferguson on an anti-submarine patrol over the Bay of Biscay were intercepted by three Ar 196 floatplanes which they fought off, claiming 2 shot down, one by P/O Jenner's rear (tunnel?) gunner Sgt T.M. O'Neill, and the second claimed by F/S Dalgleish's rear (tunnel?) gunner Sgt J.H. Clancy, while F/S Ferguson damaged the third with his Hudson's front guns (407 SH, FF Years). See August 20, 1943.

6 425 Sqn. Wellington III, P/O J.A.T. Doucette, was on a daylight sortie to Wilhelmshaven in cloudy conditions when it was intercepted by 3 German fighters. Wireless operator Sgt G.J.R. Bruyere was wounded in the chest, arm, hand, face and suffered a broken leg. One of the crew going to assist him fell through the damaged escape hatch, but was caught and saved by Sgt Bruyere. After losing the fighters P/O Doucette continued to the target and bombed. On the return flight Sgt Bruyere gave advice to the crewman operating the wireless equipment. P/O Doucette received a DFC and Sgt Bruyere a DFM for this sortie (FF Years, Awards). See April 14-15, 1943.

6 #59 OTU Master T8431 stalled and crashed in England, F/S G.H. Neate was killed in the crash, the RAF instructor F/L P.A. Mortimer died the next day of his injuries (www.rafcommands.com).

6 #5 EFTS, High River, Alberta, DH.82C Tiger Moth #5926 crashed and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

6-7 Genoa attacked by 72 Lancasters with Target Finding support, the bombing was concentrated but fell in residential areas, missing the industrial targets. Sixty five GARDENING and 4 OTU sorties also flown, 2 bombers and 3 minelayers lost (BC War Diaries).

6-7 7 Sqn. Stirling I W7620 MG-L lost on a GARDENING operation, believed to have been shot down by naval flak off Holland, F/O G. Cherniuk, F/S W.M. Martin, F/S E.R. Springham, P/O D.J. Tottman RNZAF, F/O P.C. Whitewell DFM RNZAF, Sgt W.J. Salter RAF and Sgt R.E. Bates RAF missing.


6-7 83 Sqn. Lancaster I R5670 OL-R returned from a sortie, overshot the runway while trying to land, stalled from a steep turn while going around again and crashed, Sgt E.W. MacDonald, Sgt F.T. Sabourin, P/O D.B. Todd RAF, Sgt J. Richardson RAF, Sgt F.G. Beale RAF, F/S C.R. Speakman RAF and F/S W.M. Tansley RAF killed.


Saturday

7 3rd Victory Loan brings in $991,389,050 (CJCA headline).

US bomber discovers Japanese force occupying Attu Island in the Aleutians, 5 months after the landings there (wikipedia).

427 Sqn., 428 Sqn. and 429 Sqn. RCAF formed in England as Bomber units, all on Wellington III aircraft (RCAF Sqns.).

In the Atlantic off French Africa German and Italian submarines attack convoys of Operation TORCH, sinking 7 ships and 2 escorts (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).

Bomber Command sent 6 Mosquitos, 9 Bostons, 6 Venturas and 5 Wellingtons to various targets, 3 bombers lost (BC War Diaries). Brest targeted by 68 USAAF bombers, but
only 34 drop bombs, no losses (Zijlstra).

7 250 Sqn. Kittyhawk shot down near Tobruk, Libya, P/O N.R. Chap RCAF (USA) killed, he has no known grave.

7 21 Sqn. Ventura I AE734 YH-P shot down off Holland by naval flak, WO2 V.R. Henry and Sgt P. Whelan RAF were found dead in a life raft the next day, Sgt G.C. Blacket RAAF and Sgt S. Edwards RAF PoW.


7 263 Sqn. Whirlwind I P7043 was shot down over France on a RHUBARB sortie, F/O D.R. Gill killed.

7 400 Sqn. first air victory, Bf 109 probably destroyed by Mustang I AG660 SP-W, F/O H.E. Hanton, returning from a RHUBARB sortie over France after getting separated from his leader, F/O S.M. Knight, in fog (RCAF Sqns, FF Years).

7 unknown unit, LAC T.E. Clarke RAF (Nfld.) died in England, no details.

7 Service Policeman LAC P. Allan died in Canada, no details.

7 #4 AOS, LAC(N) J.W. Quinlan died in hospital of injuries sustained in the loss of Anson #6341, Nov. 3.

7 #9 Repair Depot, St. Jean, Quebec, air frame mechanics LAC G.M. Dolphin, LAC T.W. Englefield and aero engine mechanic AC1 P.H. Farrell were killed in a truck accident near St. Damas, Quebec, returning from a hockey game.

7 #9 SFTS, Centralia, Ontario, Anson II #7235 was changing positions in a formation flight when it struck another aircraft and crashed near Zurich, Ontario, destroying a barn on the ground, LAC(P) W.R. Kell killed (http://rcafcentralia.blogspot.ca).

7-8 Believing they have sunk all the US carriers in the South Pacific, the Japanese plan to renew their offensive on Guadalcanal. On this night destroyers elude US aircraft and land 1,300 fresh troops on the Island, while a heavily escorted supply convoy is underway to reinforce them. At the same time US convoys are scheduled to reinforce their own beachhead (J.B. Lundstrom).

Genoa attacked by 175 bombers which made a successful attack. Thirty six GARDENING sorties also carried out, 6 bombers and 1 minelayer lost (BC War Diaries).

7-8 9 Sqn. Lancaster I R5916 WS-R collided on approach to land with 9 Sqn. Lancaster I W4265 WS-L (see below), both returning from an operation to Italy, F/O K.A. MacKenzie DFC, Sgt J.J. Taaffe RAF, Sgt A.R. Billington RAF, Sgt K.T.J. Adams RAF, Sgt R.E. Werren RAF, Sgt D.J. Wicks RAF and Sgt H.R. Willacy RAF killed.

7-8 9 Sqn. Lancaster I W4265 WS-L collided on approach to land with 9 Sqn. Lancaster I R5916 WS-R (as above) both returning from an operation to Italy, F/S D.L. Grimes, WO2 D.D. Low, F/S A.J. McDonald, Sgt J.W. Bowes RAF, Sgt N. Curd RAF, Sgt R.G.G. Anthony RAF and Sgt R.C. Perchard RAF were killed.
7-8 76 Sqn. Halifax II DT515 MP-T was hit by flak and was abandoned over France on an operation to Italy, Sgt N. Gorfunke RAF died of injuries, F/S G. Thom, Sgt H.R. White, Sgt D.J.P. McBride RNZAF, Sgt H.W. Owen RAF and Sgt D.L. Reed RAF PoW, Sgt L.W. Horne RAF evaded.


7-8 233 Sqn. Hudson III V8985 crashed in Spanish Morocco supporting Operation TORCH, Sgt E.M. Bowery, WO2 T.H. Currie, F/O A.C. McCrady and F/S K.D. Rawson killed (R. McNeill www.rafcommands.com). This and 2 other Hudson aircraft were assigned to escort a US convoy approaching Casablanca, and all three are believed to have been shot down in error by USN F4F (Wildcat) fighters (rossm www.britmodeller.com).

7-8 418 Sqn. Boston III W8358 lost on an night INTRUDER over France, P/O W.L. Buchanan and F/O R.H. Foote killed, P/O A.C. Bist wounded and PoW. P/O Buchanan had been rescued after ditching Aug. 19, above, in the early stages of the fight over the Dieppe landings.

7-8 #14 OTU Hampden I L4100 undershot its landing and crashed short of the runway returning from a high level night cross country, Sgt M.G.K. East, Sgt H.A. Webb, Sgt J.L. Warren and Sgt G.C. Gale all injured. This was the last Hampden lost by a Bomber Command unit. See also April 8-9 and May 25-26, 1943.

Sunday

In support of TORCH over 600 fighters, bombers, reconnaissance and anti-submarine aircraft are based on the crowded airstrip of Gibraltar (Oxford), which had been extended into the sea using rubble from the extensive excavations carried out within the Rock (Canadian military engineers were part of this tunnelling work). Other aircraft are launched from aircraft carriers off shore to captured airfields. A total of 6 RN and 5 USN carriers and escort carriers support the landings (wikipedia). In a move to avoid angering the French by reminding them of the destruction of their fleet by the British Royal Navy in 1940 US forces take the lead in the invasion, and FAA aircraft used to support the initial landings (including Canadian built Sea Hurricanes) are marked with US markings.

As part of Operation TORCH an attempt by two RN cutters (formerly USGC cutters) to seize the boom defences at Oran fails with very heavy loss of life, the leader of the attack Cdr F.T. Peters DSO DSC and Bar, RN (Can.) survived with serious wounds and was awarded the Victoria Cross and US DSC (http://www.rcnvr.com). See Nov. 13, below.
Fighter pilots of the Fleet Air Arm first used the Frank G-Suit in combat during this operation. USAAF fighter pilots would begin using the suit over Europe in 1944, while the USN would introduce the suit into the Pacific at about the same time.

Advancing Commonwealth units from El Alamein re-take Mersa Matruh.

Vichy France accepts the offer of German air support in North Africa (Oxford). Within hours advance German staff units are landed by aircraft in Tunisia (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).

At the annual Burgerbraukellar meeting in Munich Hitler announces the fall of Stalingrad, "except for some very small parts". Those "small parts" enable Soviet forces to continue to reinforce the western side of the City across the Volga even under heavy artillery fire (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).

CIRCUS 235, escort to USAAF B-17 bombers, intercepted by Fw 190s near the French coast with the loss of 7 Spitfire aircraft. No bombers were lost (Zijlstra).

8 450 Sqn. RAAF Kittyhawk III FR273 OK-N shot down by anti-aircraft fire over the desert, Sgt A.G. Markle PoW (COL BRUGGY www.rafcommands.com)
8 891 Sqn. FAA, HMS Dasher, Canadian built Sea Hurricane IIb AM277 in US markings belly landed near Oran in Algeria following combat over the port (www.network54.com).
8 122 Sqn. Spitfire IX BS349 shot down over France escorting USAAF B-17s on CIRCUS 235, WO2 G.J. Foreman killed.
8 401 Sqn. Spitfire IX BS391 and BS202 were part of the escort of B-17s in CIRCUS 235 and were chasing two Fw 190 aircraft when they were jumped by four more Fw 190s. F/L D.R. Morrison DFC DFM was shot down in BS202 and made PoW, but P/O D.R. Manley's aircraft BS391 was damaged. Attempting to cross the coast with his wheels down he was shot down by flak and killed. F/L Morrison was burned and lost a leg in this incident and he was re-patriated in late 1943 (FF Years).
8 415 Sqn. Hampden TB.I AT241 GX-F was damaged on a torpedo sortie in the Bay of Biscay and was last seen heading to France with an engine on fire, P/O R.F. McBride, P/O A. [A.M.H.?] Robertson, P/O P.R. Ramage and Sgt G.W. Clubb PoW (H. Moyle, FF Years). See T. Barris for details of P/O McBride's life as a PoW.
8 421 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BL896 shot down into the sea escorting CIRCUS 235, F/S C.A. Davis missing.
8 421 Sqn. Spitfire Vb EN779 shot down into the sea escorting CIRCUS 235, S/L F.C. Willis RAF (Can.), the Squadron commanding officer, missing.
8 #20 OTU Wellington Ic DV726 crashed in England after an engine failed on a night training flight, F/S I.D. MacLean DFM RAF (Can.), Sgt J. Holderness RAF, Sgt A.E. Davies RAF,
Sgt G. Jones RAF and F/S B.H. Batten Wilkins RAF killed, Sgt J.R. Rogers RAF, Sgt McWhirter RAF and Sgt A.W.F. Welfare injured.


8 #52 OTU Spitfire Ia N3026 dived into the ground in England killing Sgt G.E. Booth (www.spitfires.ukf.net).


8 #10 Repair Depot Calgary, Alberta, Cpl A. Short and his wife both drowned when their car plunged into a river at Calgary.

8 #13 EFTS, St. Eugene, Ontario, Finch II #4722 on an instrument instruction flight with another aircraft crashed near St. Benoit, Quebec after it struck a cow, Sgt L.L. Taylor killed, LAC J.M. Yost badly injured. It appears Sgt Taylor and the other pilot, Sgt H.J. Burke, were engaged in unauthorized low formation flying at the time (Halliday, H.A., Unnecessary Accidents).

8-9 Bomber Command sends out 70 GARDENING sorties, plus 26 special NICKEL sorties over France to inform the country of the invasion of North Africa, 4 minelayers were lost (BC War Diaries).


8-9 179 Sqn. Wellington HX732 "E" ditched off the Shetland Islands, WO2 J.P. McGrath killed, Sgt F.V. Smith missing. P/O D. Fraser, Sgt Thompson RAF, F/S Davies RAF and Sgt Hutchinson RAF came ashore in their life raft. The wreckage of this Wellington was found by divers in the 1980's (R. McNeill www.rafcommands.com).

Monday

9 Afrika Corps retreats into Libya (CJCA headline).

Hitler summons Vichy French Prime Minister Laval to Munich and demands he show his support for Germany by declaring war on the USA for the invasion of North Africa, which he does not do (A. Beevor). French airfields in Tunisia are occupied by Luftwaffe units from Sicily, as part of support for Vichy French fighting in North Africa (Oxford).

Canada breaks diplomatic relations with the Vichy French government, closing the French embassy in Ottawa and expelling the Vichy ambassador. Diplomatic relations with de Gaulle's Free French council in London opened with the appointment of Major General George Vanier DSO MC & Bar as a delegate (www.schudak.de).
In an attempt to improve its bombing accuracy a daylight attack on the U-boat base at St. Nazaire is made at low altitude (10,000') by USAAF B-17s, losing 3 shot down and 22 damaged to flak. The experiment is not repeated (Zijlstra). See Nov. 14, below.

A USAAF B-17 searching for a missing aircraft in Greenland, hits the ground in a turn in a white-out and crashes, injuring 3 of Lt A.L. Monteverde's 9 man crew (Wade & Simmons, M. Zuckoff). See Nov. 29, below.

U-518, after making its attack on Bell Island, proceeds up the St. Lawrence to the Baie des Chaleurs where it landed an Abwehr agent Lt zur See Werner von Janowski. Within 24 hours he had raised suspicions by the diesel smell of his clothes and his statement that he had just arrived in New Carlisle on a bus that didn't run on that day. He also purchased cigarettes with an outdated dollar bill, and threw away some matches from Belgium. He was reported to the Sûreté du Québec who apprehended him before he could leave town. He was "turned" as a double agent (www.history.navy.mil; www.heritage.nf.ca; Gaspésie.quebecheritageweb.com).

#13 (OTS) Sqn. RCAF, Patricia Bay, BC disbanded.

#23 EFTS, Davidson, Saskatchewan, opens with Cornell trainers (http://www.bombercrew.com/BCATP.htm).


9 #1 B&G School, Jarvis, Ontario, Lysander IIIA #2325 crashed near the airfield at Hagersville, Ontario, aero engine mechanic LAC G.N. Winfield and Sgt N. Wade RAF killed (C. Charland www.rafcommands.com).

9-10 70 Sqn. Wellington Ic BB499 "N" was returning from an operation over Bardia when an engine
failed and it was abandoned over the desert, F/S V.C. Ardis, F/S L.J. Carter RNZAF, Sgt R.B. Wynynard RNZAF, Sgt R. Lees RAF, F/S R.T. Hodgson RAF and Sgt H. Hansell RAF safe.

9-10 Hamburg was the target of 213 bombers, but they ran into unforecast winds and icing. Over half of the bombers believed they had bombed in the target area and some damage was done in the city, but most of the attack was scattered. Fifteen NICKEL sorties were made to France, and 15 bombers were lost (BC War Diaries).


9-10 125 (Newfoundland) Sqn. Beaufighter VI shot down a Ju 88 but was damaged by return fire, F/L J.R.A. Bailey RAF wounded, P/O B.H.K. Dear RAF safe.


9-10 150 Sqn. Wellington III X3310 JN-A shot down over Holland by a night fighter, F/O D.J. MacPherson, F/S D.V. Prosser, F/S H.V. Thompson, Sgt G.G. Golding RAF, Sgt W. Hurrell RAF and Sgt I. McLachlan RAF killed. The wreckage was not located until November, 1951, at which time the bodies were recovered.


9-10 425 Sqn. Wellington III BJ764 was hit by flak over Germany, where Sgt J.R. Pambrun and Sgt J.A. Delorme bailed out and became PoW. The aircraft returned to England, however, but stalled and crashed attempting to land, F/S R.N.V. Burke, F/O G.S. Cartwright and F/S R.R. Foltz RCAF (USA) killed, F/S J.E.R. Laporte injured. F/S Burke and F/S Foltz had been in an accident involving a #23 OTU Wellington July 12, above. See Nov. 12, below.

Tuesday

10 Following the Allied Invasion of North Africa and the refusal of Vichy France to declare war
on the USA, Hitler orders Case ANTON, the occupation of Vichy France. German Army units begin the operation on this date (wikipedia). German military units begin landing on German occupied Tunisian airfields to take over the area with assistance of the local French Naval commander (Oxford).

Allies occupy Oran (CJCA headline).

#10 (BR) Sqn. RCAF moved from Gander, Nfld. to Dartmouth, NS (RCAF Sqns.).
10 113 Sqn Blenheim IV V6491 "F" shot down over Akyab, Burma, on a bombing operation, WO2 C.T. Allen, Sgt S.C. Minter RAF and F/S J.D.L. Williams RAF killed (C. Shores).
10 601 Sqn. Spitfire shot down over Egypt, F/O C.R. Scollan missing.
10 #5 (Coastal) OTU (TSGNO says #50 OTU) Hampden I AE379 crashed in Scotland, Sgt D.G. Barnie, F/S G.K. Shaw, Sgt A.C. Smart RNZAF and P/O E. Greaves RAF killed (H. Moyle).
10 #126 (F) Sqn. RCAF, Dartmouth, NS, Sea Hurricane Ia BW876 crashed into McDonald Lake, NS, soon after take-off from Dartmouth after suffering engine trouble, Sgt G.H. Fawcett killed.
10 #135 (F) Sqn., Patricia Bay, BC, Hurricane XII #5415 written off after a crash on this date (R.W.R. Walker).
10 #3 Training Command Headquarters, service policeman Sgt W.H. Langley died of natural causes in Canada.
10 #4 EFTS, Windsor Mills, Quebec, Finch II #4465 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

10-11 37 Sqn. Wellington Ic DV619 was returning from a sortie attacking enemy motor transport in Libya when it had to crash land following an engine failure, Sgt F.J. Cunliffe, Sgt F. Glover RNZAF, Sgt R.N. Carter RAF, Sgt C. Robertson RAF, Sgt R.H. Smith RAF and Sgt F.W. Westoby RAF safe.
10-11 462 Sqn. RAAF Halifax II DT498 "C" was tasked with attacking retreating enemy motor transport in Libya when it was hit and set on fire by flank over Tobruk and went down off
shore, F/S R. Spencer RAF killed, S/L J.R. Goldston RAF and Sgt J.F.H. Steer RAF missing, F/S W.N. Guertin and F/S W.G. Plummer RAF were taken PoW and F/L J.V. Watts managed to swim ashore and hide for 4 days until he was found by the advancing 8th Army (R. Allenby). D. Newton pointed out that at this time 462 Squadron, although nominally an Article XV RAAF squadron, had no Australians on staff, although they began to arrive early in the new year.

10-11 53 Sqn. Hudson III V9253 "L", Trinidad, missing from an anti-submarine patrol, Sgt R. Millar RAF, F/S R.R. Sillcock RAAF, Sgt W. Skinner RAF, Sgt P.G. Nelson RNZAF and Seaman 1st Class H.L. Drew USN missing (A. Storr). They discovered and attacked U-505. One of the depth charges landed on the deck of the submarine and exploded, causing the aircraft to crash. Two sailors were injured and the U-boat was severely damaged, but after two weeks of repair was able to begin the journey back to France, the most heavily damaged U-boat to return during the war. The Hudson was one of the veteran anti-submarine squadron transferred to the USA from England to teach their skills to US forces. The commonwealth airmen are commemorated on the Ottawa Memorial, Seaman Drew is on the Tablets of the Missing, East Coast Memorial, New York City. See June 4, 1944 (uboat.net, http://www.raafdb.com).

Wednesday

11 Allies occupy Casablanca (CJCA headline).

In the Indian Ocean two Japanese armed merchant cruisers, the Hokoku Maru and the Aikoku Maru, attack the Dutch tanker Ondina escorted by the RIN minesweeper Bengal. Despite being outgunned, the Ondina and the Bengal return fire, hitting the Hokoku Maru's torpedo launcher and causing an explosion that sinks that ship before the crew of the tanker was forced to abandon their damaged vessel. The Aikoku Maru tried to torpedo the tanker but missed, so after rescuing the survivors of the Hokoku Maru they retired, allowing the crew of the Ondina to re-board their ship and repair it (D. Somerville, wikipedia).

Warned by code breaking, the partially repaired USS Enterprise sails to engage the Japanese naval force approaching Guadalcanal, while the US reinforcement convoys arrived and are unloaded (J.B. Lundstrom).

The last German offensive to take Stalingrad begins, to force Soviet forces out of the "small parts", but the reinforced Russian Army holds, and within two days the attack has been stopped, with high casualties on both sides (D. Newton).

Allied forces capture the Halfaya Pass, enter Libya and capture Bardia on this date (D. Newton).

German forces invade and occupy Vichy controlled France (H.W. Neulen). Italian forces land in Corsica (Oxford). Spain mobilizes its army on the French border (Polsson). Hitler assures Franco Germany will respect Spain's neutrality, but a secret plan for the invasion of Spain had been prepared if needed (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).
Following the complete occupation of metropolitan France by the German Army, Vichy French forces fighting US and British troops in French North Africa are ordered to cease resistance by Admiral Darlan, Commander of the Vichy French Navy, who was in North Africa on an inspection tour when the invasion began (H.W. Neulen). Darlan then tries to become the political leader who would work with the Allies to free France, but his motives and past actions make the Allies wary of him. Allied forces, released from the anticipated battle with the French, begin to move quickly to try to occupy Tunis before German forces can be built up, but are hampered by lack of vehicles and supplies which was due to the lack of shipping space available for the TORCH landings (Pareham & Belfield).

431 Sqn. formed in England as a bomber unit on Wellington X aircraft (RCAF Sqns.). #116 (BR) Sqn. RCAF transferred from Botwood, Nfld. to Shelburne, NS (RCAF Sqns.).

#6 AOS, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, closed (http://www.bombercrew.com/BCATP.htm).

11 112 Sqn. Kittyhawk III FR266 GA-H was taking off at LG-96 in the desert when it collided with Kittyhawk III FR211 GA-E and was burnt out, P/O J.M.S. Crichton safe in FR266, but P/O H.L. Philips RCAF (USA) was badly injured and burned in FR211. P/O Philips was sent to England where he received treatment as a Guinea Pig, and later returned to operations with 412 Sqn. (http://raf-112-squadron.org/planelosses.html, R. Donovan). See Jan. 11, 1943.


11 #55 OTU Canadian built Hurricane X AG195 collided in mid air with Hurricane I W9151 and both crashed, Sgt Fisher RAF survived from AG195 but Sgt G.V. Reeves RAF was killed in W9151 (H. Welting, davew and R. McNeill at www.rafcommands.com).

11 #56 OTU Canadian built Hurricane I T9521 collided with Hurricane I V7080 and both crashed in Scotland on a formation flight (http://www.yorkshire-aircraft.co.uk/aircraft/yorkshire/york41/v7080.html). F/O R.W. James RAF was killed in T9521 and Sgt N.J.H. Carter RAF killed in V7080 (alclark www.rafcommands.com).

11 #1 Training Command Yale #3356 crashed at Dunnville, Ontario and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

11-12 70 Sqn. Wellington Ic DV639 stalled and crashed in Egypt overshooting a bad landing, F/S F.B.P. Reynolds, Sgt J.L. Swift and their crew safe.

11-12 GARDENING sorties by 31 bombers carried out without loss (BC War Diaries).

Thursday

12 Beginning of 4 days of naval and air battles off Guadalcanal as Japanese attempt to reinforce their ground units. A Japanese air attack on the unloading US transports suffers very high losses without causing any significant damage (J.B. Lundstrom).

Occupation of Vichy France by German Army completed (wikipedia).
US transport aircraft drop British paratroops on the airfield at Bone in Algeria, capturing it just before a planned landing by German airborne forces (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).

First men and aircraft (crated Taylorcraft Auster I) of 651 (AOP) Squadron, the first RAF unit to take the theory of light aircraft artillery spotting into a war zone to see if it worked, land in Algiers (Pareham & Belfield).

12 425 Sqn. F/S J.E.R. Laporte died of injuries sustained Nov. 9-10 above.
12 Ferry Command Catalina Ib FP209 on a flight from Dorval, Quebec, crashed in the Straits of Canso, off Nova Scotia, P/O S.F. Fairbairn, Ferry Pilot R.H.M. Sandeman (UK), Sgt N.J. Cheney RNZAF and Radio Officer D.L.D. DeGretigny missing.
12 #19 EFTS, Virden, Manitoba DH.82C Tiger Moth #5822 crashed and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

12-13 Off Guadalcanal planned bombardment of Henderson field by battleships in support of another Japanese landing is turned back by a US cruiser force with heavy losses to the Allied force. This delays the planned Japanese landings. The next morning US aircraft from the undamaged airfield swarm and sink a crippled Japanese battleship (J.B. Lundstrom). This marks a major turning point in the campaign.

Friday
13 Eighth Army re-captures Tobruk.

Operation CHOCOLATE, In the early morning 213 and 238 Squadrons dispatched 14 Hurricanes each with supplies and ground support in Hudson bombers across the southern region of the battle area to a deserted landing ground, LG 125, in the deep desert behind German and Italian lines where Hudsons and Bombay aircraft had pre-positioned fuel and ammunition for them. That afternoon after re-fuelling, sections of Hurricanes flew north to the coast highway were they took retreating German and Italian vehicles by surprise and inflicted heavy damage (F/O A.U. Houle's account in A.J. Simpson et al, https://rcaf403squadron.wordpress.com/category/raf-no-238-squadron/).

Heavy German bomber attack on Bone airfield in Algeria (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).

Bomber Command had 6 Wellingtons out in cloudy weather to Emden, and 2 Mosquitos attacking a blockade running ship. Both of the Mosquitos failed to return and 2 Mosquitos and 6 Bostons were sent to search for them (BC War Diaries).

13 79 Sqn. Hurricane crashed in India, WO1 T.T. Young RCAF (USA) injured. See Nov. 15, below.
13 10 Sqn. RAAF Sunderland II W6054 RB-D crashed near Plymouth, England, trying to land in fog and short of fuel on a flight from Gibraltar, Captain F.T. Peters VC DSO DSC and Bar


13 #31 OTU Debert, NS, Hudson V AM892 returned from a cross country exercise, flew over the airfield and crashed beyond it, killing Sgt J. Barber, Sgt H.E.J. Lafrance, Sgt C.W. Stratton RAF and P/O H.F. Willis RNZAF (31 OTU/7 OTU Roll of Honour).

13-14 Off Guadalcanal US forces were unable to interfere with a Japanese cruiser flotilla that shelled the airfields in support of the planned landings, but damage is light (J.B. Lundstrom).

Genoa was the target of 76 Bombers with Target Finding support for a successful attack, 12 GARDENING sorties off France without loss (BC War Diaries).

Ferry Command, after many tries F/S Weaver in the downed Boston BZ215 in Greenland makes contact with a radio operator in Gander, and managed to pass the location of their aircraft before the planes batteries died (M. Zuckoff, http://bobsganderhistory.com/KneeAbner.pdf). See November 15, below.


Saturday
14 US aircraft from Guadalcanal and USS Enterprise make heavy attacks on a Japanese convoy attempting to reinforce the island, sinking 7 of 11 transports, as well as a cruiser from the group that shelled the island the previous night (J.B. Lundstrom). See Nov. 15, below.

Harbour of Bone in Algeria occupied by British units (ww2total.com Chronology/1942). Escort carrier HMS Avenger torpedoed and sunk off Gibraltar by U-155 with heavy losses (wikipedia).

Operation CHOCOLATE, The Hurricanes of 213/238 Squadrons made an attack on the
airfield at Agedabia from their secret base in the morning, but some Hurricanes land in the desert, lost. Other Hurricanes attacked the retreating vehicles on the coast road again (A. Price, The Desert Hornets Nest, Flying Review International, December 1964). Vehicles of the Long Range Desert Group arrived in the evening to provide security and radio facilities to the landing ground, and after one of the lost aircraft lands with information on their location, LRDG vehicles drove through the night with fuel for the stranded fighters (A.J. Simpson et al).

USAAF sends 34 B-17’s to St. Nazaire at over 20,000’ without loss (Zijlstra).

In Canada training with Lend Lease Stearman (PT-27) aircraft suspended due to cold weather (C. Simonsen). These aircraft had been accepted by the RAF under the understanding that modification kits to give them enclosed cockpits with heat and modified engines to operate in winter would be provided, but the only fully modified aircraft wasn’t delivered for testing until late October. See Nov. 28, below.

14 126 Sqn. Spitfire shot down over Malta, F/O G.G. Davidson missing.
14 227 Sqn. Beaufighter one of two lost from a flight of four that attacked the airfield and seaplane base at Bizerta, Tunisia, F/L D.M. Witherspoon and P/O R.B. Pearson RAF missing.
14 114 Sqn. Blenheim V BA750 was on a ferry flight from England and force landed out of fuel at Tangier, Morocco, P/O W.E. Walker, P/O D.K. Young RAF and Sgt N.N. Welch RAF interned.
14 245 (N. Rhodesia) Sqn. Hurricane crashed in England, P/O D.A. Dawson killed. P/O Dawson was testing a type of anti-G suit at the time (R.H. Milne).
14 405 Sqn. wireless operator air gunner F/S H.G. Gillespie died of wounds received Nov. 6 when the mid-upper gunner of his aircraft accidentally fired some rounds into the fuselage.
14 #7 SFTS, Fort MacLeod, Alberta, motor mechanic LAC F.J. Joyce RCAF (UK) died of natural causes in the base hospital.

14-15 US and Japanese battleships engage off Guadalcanal, Japanese forced back with 1 battleship sunk, unable to shell and neutralize the Henderson Field complex (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).

Sunday
15 Remaining 4 Japanese transports reach Guadalcanal, but have no time to properly unload. To counter this they run themselves aground, and unload men and supplies directly onto the beach. At dawn US aircraft from the undamaged Henderson Field discover them. They are shelled by artillery and bombed all day by shuttles of US fighters and bombers, their cargo of heavy weapons, ammunition and (most important), medicine and food, is destroyed (J.B. Lundstrom). Without these supplies the Japanese Army was unable to resume an offensive to re-take the island. See February 1, 1943.

Operation CHOCOLATE, A morning attack on airfields at the Gailo Oasis encountered Italian armoured cars and artillery 60 miles from their base. Fearing a ground attack every available aircraft made multiple attacks on these vehicles. Meanwhile the
attack on Gailo was made by a smaller flight under F/O A.U. Houle that claimed 6 enemy aircraft destroyed and 1 damaged as well as 5 vehicles they attacked on the return flight (A.J. Simpson et al; A. Price).

In celebration of the victory at El Alamein church bells across England are rung, for the first time since September, 1940 (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).

Ferry Command, in Greenland, after waiting for two days, the crew of Boston BZ215 leave their aircraft to attempt to hike 15 miles to the coast where a the US Coast Guard ship Northland is ordered to meet them. They are using home-made snowshoes and dragging their life raft as a sled (M. Zuckoff, http://bobsganderhistory.com/KneeAbner.pdf). See Nov. 18, below.

#124 (Ferry) Sqn. RCAF reorganized into an Eastern Division at Rockcliffe, Ontario, with detachments at Malton, North Bay and Kapuskasing Ontario, Montreal and Megantic Quebec, and Moncton NB, plus a Western Division headquartered in Winnipeg, Man. with detachments at Armstrong Station Ontario, Lethbridge Alberta, Regina Saskatchewan, Cranbrook and Penticton BC (RCAF Sqns.).

15 79 Sqn. pilot WO1 T.T. Young RCAF (USA) died in hospital in India of injuries sustained in the crash of a Hurricane, Nov. 13, above.
15 69 Sqn. Spitfire PR.IV (Trop.) attached to #2 PRU lost in the Mediterranean, F/O F.C.M. Jemmett missing.
15 427 Sqn. Wellington III BK276 ZL-O was practicing night circuits when it veered off the runway, hit some trees and crashed into a field, Sgt L.G. Southwood RAF and his crew safe with slight injuries (R. Allenby).
15 #32 OTU, Patricia Bay, Canadian built Hampden TB.I P5436 ditched in Saanich Bay after going out of control after a torpedo launch, Sgt J. Fink injured, Sgt K.E. Blood RAAF, Sgt L.H. Robinson (RCAF?) and Sgt D.W. Smith (RCAF?) safe (H. Moyle). The crew was rescued by a Stranraer which saw the crash and landed. In 1986 this aircraft was located at a depth of 600' and was raised. It formed the basis of a restoration by the The Canadian Museum of Flight and is on display at Langley, BC.
15 #34 SFTS, Medicine Hat, Alberta, Harvard IIb FE455 crashed, LAC D.C. Stacey RAF killed.

15-16 Again Genoa was attacked by Bomber Command, 78 bombers making an accurate attack without loss, 22 Wellingtons on GARDENING sorties off France, 1 lost (BC War Diaries).
15-16 158 Sqn. Halifax II W7859 NP-T crashed attempting to land from an operation over Italy, Sgt S.W. Cains RNZAF, P/O D. Beveridge RAF, Sgt A.B. Langeland RAF and Sgt R. McNeil RAF injured, Sgt D.G. Culver, Sgt A.E.F. Wheeler RAF and Sgt W.J. Hanks RAF safe. This was the second crash landing in a week for Sgt Culver, Sgt Wheeler and P/O Beveridge. See also March 5-6, 1943.
Monday

16 **Operation CHOCOLATE.** In the morning after a second attack on the Gailo airfields and another strafing of retreating vehicles the 213/238 Hurricane force with the groundcrew in 8 Hudson aircraft was withdrawn back to Allied lines. In three days they had destroyed over 300 vehicles and 14 aircraft, for the loss of three Hurricanes shot down (two pilots PoW) and 4 damaged that were destroyed before evacuating (A.J. Simpson et al; A. Price). This operation may have been the inspiration for the similar deployment described in Derek Robinson’s novel *A Good Clean Fight* (*Harvill Press, 1993*), the sequel to his novel *Piece of Cake*.

First snow falls in the Stalingrad area (G.K. Koschorrek).


16 #19 OTU Whitley V P1505 hit a suspension bridge attempting to ditch in the River Dee after both engines failed on a night cross country exercise, Sgt R. Stone RAF and Sgt R.L. Pett RAF killed, Sgt H.S. Fraser and P/O D.L.C. Thomas RAF injured and Sgt Williams RAF safe.

16 #29 OTU Wellington III X4001 was taking off when it struck a fuel truck that was crossing the runway by mistake, Sgt J.H. Black, P/O E. Lambert RAF, P/O F.W. Bartlett RAF, Sgt R.G. Moore RAF, Sgt P.G. Rothera RAF and Sgt A. Napier injured (R. Allenby). See December 21, below, and March 2-3, 1943.

16 #3 Flying Instructor School, Arnprior, Ontario, Service Policeman LAC T.N. Kolesar died of a gunshot wound, no details.

16-17 **Bomber Command sent 65 GARDENING and 5 NICKEL sorties out on this night, 3 losses (BC War Diaries).**


16-17 142 Sqn. Wellington III BK278 QT-C lost on a GARDENING sortie, WO1 F. Renkiewicz, Sgt H.E.J. Wilkinson, P/O J.G. Stower RAF, Sgt H.E. Peake RAF and Sgt W.P.S. Rae RAF PoW. P/O Stower was part of the Great Escape, and was one of those executed by the Gestapo.


16-17 #25 OTU Wellington III BK193 "A" crashed in England on a BULLSEYE sortie due to a fuel management error. Some of the crew bailed out before the crash and F/S E.R. Newson RAF was killed, but the rest of Sgt F.C. Allcroft's crew were safe (R. Allenby). See Jan. 2-
3, 1944.

Tuesday
17 #1 OADU Blenheim V BA807 force landed in Spain on a ferry flight from England to Gibraltar, F/O D.G. Fraser, Sgt W.D. Lloyd RAF and Sgt H.S. Machan RAF interned. They were released Jan. 15, 1943. See May 12-13, 1943.
17 29 Sqn. Beaufighter IIf V8380 crashed in England on a night flying test flight killing F/O G. Pepper DFC & Bar RAF (Can.), P/O J.H. Toone DFC DFM RAF and passenger Cpl J.H.C. Embury (COL BRUGGY and peter at www.rafcommands.com). Cpl Embury and F/O Pepper were best friends growing up, and Embury was visiting and invited on the flight. Unusually F/O Pepper's ashes were returned to Canada for burial.
17 219 Sqn. Beaufighter VIf X8202 crashed in Yorkshire landing with one engine out following a night GCI training flight, radio technician F/O T.R. Brownfield, F/S H.J. Beswick RAF and P/O E.C.S. Wilson-Steele RAF killed (R. Allenby). F/O Brownfield had trained in radio before enlisting and was possibly one of the Canadians requested for radar work by the RAF.
17 #44 Group, Ferry Command, Catalina Ib FP273 landed short of fuel in Eire, but was re-fueled and allowed to continue, Sgt W.G. Cantlay, Capt. G.A. Hersam Jr, P/O A.S. Buchanan RAF, T.J. Howard (USA), C. Push or Fuchs (USA) and Sgt P. Darter or Barter RAF(? ) safe (D. Burke, www.ww2irishaviation.com). See June 3, 1944.
17 #10 (BR) Sqn. RCAF, Dartmouth, NS, Digby #751 was escorting a convoy when it sighted and attacked a U-boat. Hazy conditions hampered the attack until after the U-boat had dived (Hagedorn & Hagedorn).

17-18 Bomber Command sent 43 GARDENING and 14 NICKEL flights out on this night with the loss of 1 leaflet aircraft (BC War Diaries)

Wednesday
18 Ferry Command, the crew of Boston BZ215 down in Greenland are spotted by a rescue aircraft, which drops clothing, food and proper snowshoes to them, as well as the information that a ship was to meet them at the coast (M. Zuckoff, http://bobsganderhistory.com/KneeAbner.pdf). See November 23, below.
18 47 Sqn. Beaufort la DE118 ’S’ flew into high ground in North Africa and crashed, three crew managed to clear the wreck before the torpedo exploded, W/C R.A. Sprague RAF and Sgt A.L. Augustinus RAAF killed, LAC F.D. Isbell RAF injured, Sgt J.C.M. Lake and F/O C.A.H. Collier RAF safe (A. Storr).


128 Sqn. Hurricane crashed after an engine failure near Gabbai, Freetown, Sierra Leone, killing F/S J.N. Cabeldu.

405 Sqn. Halifax II, P/O Atkinson, sights, attacks and damages an enemy motor vessel in the Bay of Biscay (405 SH).


#1 SFTS, Camp Borden, Ontario, Harvard II #3159 crashed near Listowel, Ontario, on a navigation exercise, LAC(P) G.H. Litchfield RAAF and LAC(P) P. Madden RAAF killed (A. Storr). R.W.R. Walker notes that this was the aircrafts 9th recorded accident since taken on strength in June, 1941.

#35 EFTS, Neepawa, Manitoba, DH.82C Tiger Moth #1246 written off after a crash (R.W.R. Walker).

RAF Ferry Command Ventura II AJ471 crash landed at Soulis Pond, near Gander, Newfoundland (http://www.plane-crash-girl.ca/2016/05/page/2/)

**18-19 Bomber Command sent 77 bombers to Turin, home of the Fiat factory. Five further OTU sorties made without loss, but one bomber managed to return to England with only the pilot on board (see below).**

18-19 15 Sqn. Stirling I BF384 LS-R crashed attempting to take off in a strong cross wind for an operation over Italy, Sgt F.S. Millen RCAF (USA), F/S E.H. Kieswetter RCAF (USA), Sgt H.E. Hill, Sgt R.N. Holmes, Sgt J.J. Blignaut RAF, Sgt K. Dougan RAF and Sgt J.F. Perring RAF safe. The wreck blocked the runway and prevented 4 other aircraft from taking off. See Dec. 16-17, below.

18-19 35 Sqn. Halifax II DT488 TL-S was over the Alps when a fire broke out in the bomb bay. W/C B.V. Robinson DSO DFC RAF ordered his crew to bail out, F/S E.F. Butler, F/S N.M. Halliday, F/L J.C. Middlemass RAF, F/S F.E. Solway RAAF, F/S T.M. Bruce RAF and F/S W. Potter RAF did so and became PoW (O. Clutton-Brock). On his way to the escape hatch W/C Robinson found the fire had gone out due to the draught from the open escape hatches and returned to the cockpit, where he managed to fly the aircraft back to a safe landing in England. F/S Halliday and F/S Butler later escaped from Italy in September 1943 (O. Clutton-Brock). The aircraft was repaired, but was lost May 23-24, 1943. See also August 23-24, 1943.

18-19 158 Sqn. Halifax II BB209 NP-G was damaged by flak over France homebound from an operation over Italy, and abandoned over England, Sgt S.M. Benford RCAF (USA), Sgt M. Smith, Sgt E. Heweston RAF, Sgt R.V. Ledger RAF, Sgt M. Rees RAF, Sgt F.C. Howe RAF and Sgt J.R. Griffen RAF safe. Pilot Sgt Benford transferred to the USAAF soon after this incident.

18-19 161 Sqn. Whitley V Z9160 forced down by engine problems in Portugal when in transit from
Gibraltar to England, Sgt R.A.W. Sharpe, P/O O.A. Cussen RAF, F/O J.A. Broadley RAF (injured) and F/S Stephens RAF interned. They were returned to England in early 1943. See March 12-13, 1943.

Thursday

19 Soviet Army launches counter attack (Operation URANUS) to encircle German army in Stalingrad, quickly breaking through Romanian armies north and south of the city (Oxford). Bad weather over the battle zone grounds Romanian air support (H.W. Neulen).

In Tunisia advancing British airborne units first encounter German Army forces (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).

19 126 Sqn, Malta, P/O G.H. Kelly RCAF (USA) missing after his Spitfire went down 90 miles from Malta.
19 213 Sqn. WO2 J.R. Rebstock died in Libya of wounds received the previous day (H. Welting www.rafcommands.com).
19 400 Sqn. Mustang I aircraft flown by F/L H.P. Peters and F/O M.B. Pepper on a RHUBARB over France that lasted two hours attacked and damaged 4 locomotives with F/O Peppers aircraft sustaining 2 light flak hits (FF Years). See April 17, 1943.
19 #302 FTU, Catalina Ib FP202 landed in Eire with engine and radio problems, but was allowed to leave the same day, the crew Sgt W.E. Bitz, F/S N.E. Carter, F/S M. Mehr, F/S J.R. Woodcock, F/L C.G. Moore RAF, F/O J.D. Henderson RAF, F/S A. Blackwell RAF, F/S M. Hewen RAF and Cpl D.V. Sweeting RAF safe (D. Burke, www.ww2irishaviation.com).
19 #32 FTU, Catalina Ib FP202 landed in Eire with engine and radio problems, but was allowed to leave the same day, the crew Sgt W.E. Bitz, F/S N.E. Carter, F/S M. Mehr, F/S J.R. Woodcock, F/L C.G. Moore RAF, F/O J.D. Henderson RAF, F/S A. Blackwell RAF, F/S M. Hewen RAF and Cpl D.V. Sweeting RAF safe (D. Burke, www.ww2irishaviation.com).
19 #15 EFTS, Regina, Saskatchewan, DH.82C Tiger Moth #5032 crashed (R.W.R. Walker).
19 #33 EFTS?, DH.82C Tiger Moth #5931 crashed and written off at Caron, Saskatchewan (R.W.R. Walker).


19-20 Operation FRESHMAN, two Halifax aircraft each towing a Horsa glider with Royal Engineer commandos fly to Norway where they are supposed to rendezvous with the Norwegian commando party dropped a month before. Due to communication and weather problems one Halifax crashed into a mountain and both gliders crash landed nearby. The survivors are captured by German forces. All are interrogated and tortured before being executed by soldiers acting under Hitlers Commando Order. This also alerts German security to plans to destroy or disrupt heavy water production (wikipedia).

19-20 #38 Wing Halifax II W7801 "B" lost over Norway towing Horsa glider HS114 flown by 2 RAAF pilots and carrying 15 Commandos, F/L A.R. Parkinson, F/S A. Buckton RAF, F/S G.M. Edwards RAF, Sgt J. Falconer RAF, F/O A.T.H. Haward RAF, P/O G.W. Sewell de Gency RAF and F/L A.E. Thomas RAF were killed in the Halifax. The wreckage was found in the spring of 1943 (http://www.ww2talk.com, ref in S. Hadaway).
Friday
20 Eighth Army takes Benghazi. With the capture of the airfields in Libya air cover enables convoys to sail from Egypt to Malta, where food and fuel were again becoming critical. With air support these ships reach Malta intact, enabling air and naval forces there to increase their operations against the Axis air and sea supply line to Tunisia via Sicily.

Opening Ceremony of the Alaska Highway held at Soldiers Summit, Yukon Territory. Temperature recorded of -35º F (-37º C) (www.schudak.de).


20 RAF Ferry Command Baltimore Illa FA179 crashed taking off in Egypt, Pilot J.A. Morrison (USA) killed, 2 crew injured.

20 411 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AD392 lost on a RHUBARB sortie after making a ground attack in Holland, F/L V.F. Patterson missing.

20 #34 OTU, Pennfield Ridge, NB (Yarmouth, NS, Detachment), Ventura II AE932 crashed at North Brookfield, NS, possibly due to engine problems, F/O S.E. Sutherland, flight mechanic AC1 T.F. Sargeant RAF and Sgt H.O. Male RAF killed. It may be significant that F/O Sutherland was from Brookfield, NS (#34 OTU Roll of Honour).

20 #41 SFTS, Weyburn, Saskatchewan, F/O P. Greenhalgh RAF died in an accident, hit by an aircraft.

20 unknown unit, AC1 N.W. Thomas RAF died in Canada, no details (TSGNO). Not found in CWGC.

20 USAAF 7th Ferry Sqn., 7th Ferry Group, B-25D (Mitchell) 41-29793 crash landed at Grande Prairie, Alberta (AAIR).

20-21 Turin again attacked by 232 bombers, making a successful attack although some bombs fell in the city killing 117 citizens. Other operations include 4 GARDENING and 4 OTU sorties. Three bombers were lost (BC War Diaries).

20-21 15 Sqn. Stirling I BK595 LS-A suffered an engine failure over the Alps on their way to their target in Italy. They completed the bombing, and then diverted to Spain where they force landed, Sgt E.F. Henry, S/L M. Wyatt DFC RAF, P/O W.R. Crich RAF, Sgt A.J.H. Ames RAF, P/O H.S.F. Daborn RAF, Sgt G.A.F. Clary RAF, Sgt J.F. Heal RAF and Sgt T.R. Kemp RAF interned. They returned to England via Gibraltar in late January, 1943. See also July 30-31, 1943.


20-21 415 Sqn. Hampden TB.I N9106 GX-N lost on a shipping attack off the coast of Holland, believed ditched out of fuel, P/O J.J. Lynn RAF, Sgt W.L.G. Miller RAF and Sgt R.R.T.
Sleep RNZAF killed, Sgt A.J. Tippett RAAF missing (H. Moyle, A. Storr).

Saturday
21 In the battles in the Solomon Islands and Milne Bay the Japanese command had been so concentrated on the Guadalcanal campaign that they had neglected building airfields in the region that would have allowed them to give better air support to their troops. To correct this on this date they began building an airfield at Munda Point on the island of New Georgia. As it was only 150 miles from Henderson Field on Guadalcanal great secrecy and skill was used to build most of the runway and support taxiways and dispersals under the cover of existing palm trees, which were only cut down for the final work (E. Hammel). See December 17, below.

Weather clears over the Don, enabling air support on both sides to assist as Soviet forces continue to advance on the flanks of Stalingrad. After 24 hours the weather again closes down aerial support, and remained poor for most of the campaign, restricting air activity (H.W. Neulen).

21 Temporary Wellington Flight (made up of aircraft on ferry flights), Waterloo airfield, Sierra Leone, Wellington III HX578 was on a convoy patrol off Africa when it suffered an engine failure and unable to jettison the depth charges, ditched into the Atlantic, F/O F. Bartkiewicz, WO2 J.J. de Marco, F/S D.C. Henderson RNZAF and F/S L.C. Webster RNZAF missing, P/O C.J. Radford and P/O P.V. Lyon injured, P/O A.E. Abraham RAF and passenger P/O R.C. Gillin safe (H.A. Halliday www.rafcommands.com).


21 #21 OTU Wellington Ic R1211 crashed into trees on approach to land due to an incorrectly set altimeter, Sgt T.B. McAneney, Sgt D. Jackson RAF, P/O L.W. Gill RAF, Sgt A.L. Eastwick RAF and Sgt A. Johnson RAF injured. For his efforts to save the aircrew Sgt Eastwick was awarded the George Medal (COL BRUGGY at www.rafcommands.com). See June 26, 1944.

Sunday
22 German commanders at Stalingrad meet with the local Luftwaffe commander and request re-supply by air so their army can attempt a break-out to the south, are told there are not enough aircraft to supply them (wikipedia).


22 Headquarter Sqn., 8th Fighter Command, USAAF, Spitfire Vb EN952 suffered an in-flight engine fire over Walthamstow, England. Rather than abandon the aircraft over a built-up area the pilot, 1Lt H.D. Johnson USAAF, attempted a force landing in the only cleared space, a playing field. Sadly the aircraft crashed and he was killed. Lt Johnson was ex-RCAF, and had transferred to the USAAF just the month before. His actions to prevent loss of life were mentioned in the British Parliament, and he received a posthumous US
22-23 99 Sqn., India, a group of 7 Wellingtons attacked Meiktila, Burma. One aircraft flown by Sgt Stanley was intercepted by a Japanese fighter and badly shot up, the rear gunner was killed (possibly AC1 A.W. South RAF?). Landing back in India the bomber overran it's landing and was burned out, observer P/O R.D. MacDonald was injured with burns (C. Shores). See Nov. 24, below.

**22-23 Stuttgart was attacked by 222 bombers with Target Finding Force support, but ground haze prevented accurate marking. At least two bombers dropped from extreme low level, badly damaging the train station, 1 OTU Nickel sortie over France as well, 10 bombers were lost. (BC War Diaries).**


22-23 10 Sqn. Halifax II DG226 ZA-H was attacked and damaged by a Ju 88 night fighter after bombing. Soon after several Fw 190 fighters also attacked but were evaded by diving. The aircraft returned at low level, returning with twigs and branches clipped from tree tops in the airframe, Sgt D.W. Dufton, Sgt E.F. Schmidt, P/O R.H. Brookbanks RNZAF, F/O A.G. Taylor RAF, Sgt E.R. Porter RAF, Sgt C.R. Farrar RAF and Sgt H. Scrivener RAF safe (R. Allenby). See August 12-13, 1943 and August 24, 1944. Sgt Schmidt received a DFM for his service and this flight was referred to in his citation (Awards).


22-23 83 Sqn. Lancaster I ED311 OL-K was hit by flak crossing the French coast returning to England and was forced to ditch in the Channel, F/S T.R. Armstrong RAF missing, P/O G.M. Bishop, P/O R.N. Williams DFM RAF, F/S G.L. Davies RAF, F/S C.H. Crawley RAF, F/O J. Bushby RAF and P/O O.C.Y. Lambert RAF taken PoW. W.R. Chorley notes that an account of this loss is in the book "Gunners Moon" by F/O Bushby.

22-23 102 Sqn. Halifax W7914 DY-A lost over France, reported in BCL as hitting an earth bank.

22-23 115 Sqn. Wellington III BJ842 KO-W shot down by a night fighter over France, F/S E.G. Payie and F/O G.E. Wallace killed, Sgt R. Watson RAF and Sgt J. Devenish-Meares RAAF PoW, Sgt F.S. Wager RAF and Sgt E.A. Coates RAAF evaded, but Sgt Wager was later betrayed to the Germans and made PoW (Decobeck at www.rafcommands.com).


22-23 460 Sqn. RAAF Lancaster I W4273 UV-A hit by flak and force landed in France, F/L F.G. Given RAAF, P/O G.R. Berry RAAF, WO C.E. Austin RAAF and F/L F.W. Hayman RAAF were taken PoW, Sgt J.C. Shuttleworth, P/O D.T. Galt RAF and Sgt T.H. Hanstock RAF evaded (R. Allenby). This was the first Lancaster lost by 460 Squadron.

Monday

23 Soviet armies advancing on flanks of Stalingrad meet, trapping the German forces in Stalingrad and two Romanian divisions on its flanks (Oxford, H.W. Neulen).

SS Ben Lomond sunk by a U-boat off the coast of Brazil. See April 5, 1943.

Ferry Command, the three crew of Boston BZ215 reach the edge of the glacier on the coast of Greenland and can see the USCG ship but are unable to attract their attention. As dusk falls the ship begins to leave due to the ice threat. On shore the airmen tore one of their parkas into strips and manage to light a small fire which is seen by a crewman on the ship before it goes out. A motorboat is sent ashore in the darkness led by the ships floatplane pilot, Lt J.A. Pritchard Jr. The Coastguard party finds a way ashore and scaled the glacier where it rescued P/O Goodlet, P/O Nash and F/S Weaver. Lt Pritchard was decorated for leading this rescue (M. Zuckoff, http://bobsganderhistory.com/KneeAbner.pdf). See November 30, below.

Final MOONSHINE sortie by 515 Sqn. Defiants, which now began to re-equip with MANDREL to jam German radars (A. Price). See Dec. 6-7, below.

23 14 Sqn. Marauder I FK122 "P" crashed in Egypt on a low level bomb practise when the tailplane broke off, F/O W.R. Bower, WO2 D.L. Rawson, F/O P.M. Willis RAF, Sgt H.G. Williams RAF and Sgt E. Cookson RAF killed. WO Rawson had been injured April 5, above, in a Spitfire accident.

23 #59 OTU, England, Canadian built Hurricane I Z7156 crashed on taking off at night, no further details (H. Welting www.rafcommands.com).

23 #4 B&G School, Fingal, Ontario, target towing Lysander IIIa #2332 lost over Lake Erie offshore of Eagle, Ontario, LAC R.H. Hilchie and Sgt R.O. Gray RAF missing (www.harvards.com).

23 #17 EFTS, Stanley, NS, LAC T.J. Blundell RAF killed when Finch #4451 stalled in a turn from a missed approach and crashed (C. Charland www.rafcommands.com).

Tuesday

24 Soviet Army captures bridge over Don River and completes encirclement of German army in Stalingrad. Hitler orders Stalingrad to be held despite advice from the commander there, who wishes to break out back to German lines (Oxford). This absolute refusal to allow his military to make strategic withdrawals would become a characteristic of Hitler, who believed that willpower and racial superiority would win such battles (Oxford).

24 99 Sqn. India, P/O R.D. MacDonald died in hospital of burns received in a Wellington crash Nov. 22-23, above.

24 405 Sqn. Halifax II, F/S Stovel, sights and attacks a U-boat in the Bay of Biscay (405 SH).

24 #1521 (BAT) Flight Oxford I AT788 was caught by deteriorating weather on a training exercise. Following an attempt to land the aircraft was abandoned, Sgt S.R. Bolick RCAF (USA), Sgt S.J. Knox RAF and Sgt G.A. Kirkham RAF bailed out, safe. Sgt Bolick later transferred to the USAAF (raffer [S.R. Bolick] at www.rafcommands.com).

24 #124 (Ferry) Sqn. RCAF Canadian built Hampden I P5337 crashed near Dugald, Manitoba (H. Moyle).

24 USAAF 1st Anti-Sub Sqn., B-24D 41-11650 missing from Newfoundland on a flight to England, Capt. A.H. Tuttle and 9 crew missing (AAIR).

Wednesday

25 Bomber Command sends 11 bombers on daylight sorties in cloud cover, losing 2 (BC War Diaries).

Hitler reinforces order to hold Stalingrad on advice from Göring that the Luftwaffe can supply the army's needs there by airlift, promising 300 tons of supplies a day. German airlift into encircled German army in Stalingrad begins with 300 transport aircraft (soon supported with obsolete bombers from flight schools and Fw 200 patrol aircraft (Larry_Daley www.rafcommands.com)), the Luftwaffe airlift grew to number over 800 aircraft by December (ww2total.com Chronology/1942), but only an average of 90 tons a day is delivered.

25 207 Lancaster I R5695 EM-G lost without trace on a daylight operation to Germany, F/S J.M. Allan, P/O E.E. Chouiniere RCAF (USA), WO2 J.L. Guichard RCAF (USA), P/O A.J. Parkyn RCAF (USA), WO2 W.J. Vandervoort, Sgt J.J. Gallimore RAF, Sgt J. Slater RAF and Sgt W.F.R. Webb RAF missing.

25 412 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BL820 shot down by flak attacking a train on a RHUBARB over France, F/S W.D. Pagan killed.

25 #32 OTU, Patricia Bay, BC, Canadian built Hampden TB.I AN144 was written off after it swung on take-off and collapsed it's undercarriage, Sgt F. Guss safe (H. Moyle).

Thursday

26 The movie Casablanca premiers in Hollywood (wikipedia). A film based on refugees fleeing
German occupation in Europe it has an international cast, many actors who had indeed been forced to escape from Nazis.


26 3 Sqn. Hurricane Z5449 collided in mid-air with Canadian built Hurricane IIb AM280 during a practice dog fight, Sgt A. Rankin RAF bailed out of Z5449, but F/L J. Lonsdale RAF was killed when AM280 crashed (http://www.aviationmuseum.co.uk/am280.htm). The wreck site was excavated in 1999 and parts are on display at the Thameside Aviation Museum.


26 157 Sqn., LAC(N) F.T. Penney RAF (Nfld.) died, no details.


26 268 Sqn. Mustang lost over Holland, F/L W.M. Griffin DFC MiD RAF (Can.) killed.

26 405 Sqn. Halifax II W1094 LQ-B 'Admiral Bill', Sgt R.A. Symes RAF, sighted 2 U-boats in the Bay of Biscay but was unable to attack due to engine problems. On return to base it crashed when landing, Sgt Symes and flight engineer Sgt A.W. Nichols re-entered the burning wreckage to free trapped wireless operator Sgt Farnum just before the aircraft was destroyed by fire, for which they were both awarded the BEM (405 SH, www.rafcommands.com). See March 11-12 and June 19-20, 1943.

26 405 Sqn. Halifax II, Sgt Weber, sighted a German convoy of merchant ships escorted by destroyers which it attacked but was driven off by heavy flak (405 SH).

26 RCAF Station Gander, Nfld., WO1 R.G.E. Knightley was killed when he was struck by a truck carrying flares.

26 #12 (Comm.) Sqn. RCAF, Rockcliffe, Ontario, Airacobra I AH621 crashed landed near the airfield and wrecked due to a fuel problem, F/L R.B. Middleton slightly injured. This information comes from a letter, Canadian 'Cobras', by J. Vernon, published in Air Enthusiast #82, July/August 1999, which describes the efforts of the RCAF to obtain the Airacobra (P-39) aircraft, even planning construction in Canada of the Airacobra and Marauder (B-26) bomber. In the event Tomahawk (P-40) aircraft were received instead, and the Airacobra never officially served in the RCAF, although some (including AH621) may have been tested here and several thousand were flown to the Soviet Union from Montana via Western Canada and Alaska, built at the Bell plant at Buffalo, New York, just across the Niagara River from Canada.

26 #2 SFTS Harvard II #3778 missing on an instructional flight. A large search was carried out over the next two days, but the wreckage was not discovered until the next year near Low, Quebec. LAC(P) S.M. Morrison and his instructor P/O W. Tuhkanen were both killed.

Friday

27 German Army occupies French Naval Base of Toulon, French Admiral Jean Laborde orders French warships in the harbour scuttled to prevent them being used by German forces, honouring France’s promise to keep her navy from being used against England. The scuttled ships include 3 battleships, 7 cruisers, 15 destroyers, 12 submarines, 28 small vessels, 20 auxiliary ships and other tugs and floating cranes. Four submarines and one ship managed to escape, but 3 destroyers, 4 submarines and a number of small ships were captured by the Germans (wikipedia).

27 223 Sqn. Baltimore III AG886 crashed in Egypt landing from a training flight, Sgt J.A. McLeod injured, P/O S. Cotter RAF, Sgt L.H. Wyatt RAF and Sgt K.S. Fish RAF safe.

27 405 Sqn. Halifax II, F/L Palmer, attacked a U-boat being escorted by armed ships (405 SH). [Possibly F/L C.W. Palmer DFC (Awards)]

27 #1 OADU Wellington Ic HE122 left Gibraltar on a ferry flight to Egypt but crashed in Algeria, Sgt J.C. Webb RAF, Sgt A.P. Scott RAF, Sgt K.V. Mayle RAF and Sgt W.C. Martin RAF killed, Sgt Cooper safe. [Sgt Cooper may be Sgt C. Cooper noted as a Guinea Pig in R. Donovan’s book As For The Canadians].

27 400 Sqn. 3 locomotives, destroyed in France by Mustang I AP173 SP-M, F/O D.M. Grant (RCAF Sqn.). See April 13, 1943.

27 #20 OTU Wellington ditched off the coast of Scotland on a night training flight, F/S J.C. Binge RAF, Sgt P.S. Sutton RAF, Sgt B. Lowery RAF, P/O J. Bluck RAF and Sgt L.E. Harrison RAF killed, Sgt H.C. Ballinger RCAF (USA) and Sgt T.F. Blythe RAF missing.

27 #7 B&G School, Paulson, Manitoba, LAC(AG) E.W. Lanegraff died in Vancouver of natural causes.

Saturday

28 USAAF B-24 bombers attack Bangkok, Thailand from India (M.J.H. Taylor).

Allied forces advancing to Tunis meet German units at Tebouba, Tunisia (Pareham & Belfield).

Vichy French forces remaining in France demobilized (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).

Cocoanut Grove Night Club fire in Boston kills 491 people (wikipedia).

RAF decides to exchange the surviving Stearman trainers in Canada for winterized Fairchild Cornells built in Canada by Fleet Aircraft (C. Simonsen). It took until Spring 1943 to turn over the last of these trainers to the USAAF, as many were frozen-up at their airfields in Alberta. See April 24, 1943.

28 249 Sqn. Spitfire lost when the pilot flew in the wrong direction after being given homing instructions to Malta, F/S G.S. Edwards missing.


28 75 (New Zealand) Sqn. Stirling I BF399 AA-O pulled up to avoid another Stirling aircraft and stalled into the ground, F/S R.J. McWilliam, Sgt R.H.J. Broady RNZAF, Sgt A. McIsaac RNZAF, Sgt G.T. Jobson RAF and Sgt R.O. Dibben RAF killed, Sgt C.T. Rogers RAF was injured and died Nov. 30.

28 400 Sqn Mustang I flown by F/O E.E. Tummon on a long range RHUBARB struck a tree when attacking trains in France, both he and his wingman F/O R.W. Clarke flew back and landed safe in England (FF Years).

28 412 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AD411 shot down attacking a train in France on a RHUBARB, P/O W.H.D. Spence missing.

28 #9 AFU Anson DJ635 crashed in Wales, F/S D.E. Johnson RCAF (USA), Sgt C.R. Morgan RNZAF, LAC G. Ross RAF and LAC J.R. Knowles RAF killed, Sgt C. Knight RAF died of injuries Nov. 29 (oldduffer Errol Martyn www.rafcommands.com)


28 #1651 HCU Stirling I BF374 "K" force landed in England after an engine failure, P/O J.S. Brydon and crew safe. See Feb. 16-17, 1943.


28 #132 (F) Sqn RCAF, Tofino, BC, Kittyhawk #722 collided in mid air over the airfield with Harvard II #3117 while giving a demonstration for the press. F/L M.W. Hees was killed in the Kittyhawk, while P/O R.W. Rogers and a civilian L. Roy were killed in the Harvard.


28-29 Turin attacked by 228 bombers with Target Finding support which made an accurate attack, even bombing before the Target Finders had marked the aiming point. Other operations included 19 GARDENING and 5 OTU sorties, 3 bombers lost (BC War Diaries).

28-29 214 Sqn. Stirling I R9194 BU-N shot down by flak over France on a operation to Italy, Sgt A.G. Short MiD RAF and Sgt J. Stammers RAF killed, F/S H.A. Harris injured, F/S F.E. Gatland DFM RNZAF, P/O P.M.W. Butler RAF and Sgt G. Booth RAF PoW, Sgt C. Penna RAF evaded. See Dec. 3, below. According to C. Goss, this aircraft was shot down by a night
fighter which collided with the tail but managed to land safely.

28-29 218 Sqn. Stirling I BK607 HA-X made an early return from an operation to Italy due to engine failure. Attempting to land it overshot the runway and was wrecked, but the crew, Sgt H. Beckwith, Sgt B.H. Moroney, Sgt D.M. De Silva RCAF (Br. Guiana), S/L W.H.B. Hiles RAF, P/O G.F. Berridge RAF, Sgt R. Farmer RAF, Sgt J.D. Crombie RAF and Sgt G. Heath RAF were safe. See August 23-24, 1943.

28, 29 or 30 213 Sqn. Hurricane IIB shot down into the sea by German fighters, F/S S.G. Brook PoW. He escaped from an Italian PoW camp in September, 1943 (airforce.ca/awards).

Sunday

29 German forces hold Allies at Tebouba, Tunisia (Pareham & Belfield).

A USCG J2F-4 amphibian from the USGC Northland flown by Lt Pritchard lands at the crash site in Greenland of the B-17 lost Nov. 9, above, and evacuates 2 crewman to a ship offshore (Wade & Simmons). See Nov. 30, below.

29 39 Sqn. Beaufort DW817 ‘H’ was making a night GARDENING attack on Palermo Harbour in Sicily when it was shot down and ditched, the crew F/S E. Walker, Sgt R.J. McCallough RAF, Sgt G.R.A. Duffield RAF and Sgt G.D. Stevens RAAF, took to their life raft and were taken PoW (Kevin at www.rafcommands.com).


29 402 Sqn. Spitfire IX BS316 spun in off a turn while in the landing circuit, F/S D.S. Hill killed (www.spitfires.ukf.net).


29 405 Sqn. Halifax II, F/S Stovel, shadowed a German troopship escorted by heavy naval forces in the Bay of Biscay (405 SH).

29 #1446 (Ferry Training) Flight Wellington Ic LB120 stalled and crashed at very low altitude approaching to land from a fuel consumption test flight, F/O E. Martin, F/O D.Y. McIntosh, Sgt C.R. Kippen RAF and F/O A. Thompson RAF killed, Sgt W. Fowler RAF safe.

29 #1 Recruiting Centre, Vancouver, BC, AC2 J.H. Penketh died of injuries from a rugby game while on leave.

29-30 Turin again attacked by 36 bombers, but only half dropped on the target in poor weather. Six Mosquitos were sent out to find targets of opportunity, the first Bomber Command night sorties for this versatile aircraft. Two bombers were lost from the Italian operation (BC War Diaries).

29-30 7 Sqn. Stirling I R9150 MG-O shot down over France by a night fighter on an operation to Italy, F/S W.G. Kirby, Sgt W.L. Jones RAF, Sgt A.H.L. Searle RAF, Sgt J.W. Wheeldon RAF and

29-30 13 Sqn. Blenheim V BA755 was attacked and damaged by German fighters returning from a sortie in Algeria, and crash landed, Sgt A.B. Murdoch, F/O W.M. Parsons RAF and F/L D.C. Sandeman RAF safe.

29-30 249 Sqn. Spitfire shot down by flak over Sicily, Sgt (?) W.D. Wendt RCAF (USA) PoW. See Nov. 18, 1943 and June 7, 1944. Possibly Spitfire Vc (Trop.) BR293 (www.spitfires.ukf.net).

30 13 Sqn. Blenheim V BA755 was attacked and damaged by German fighters returning from a sortie in Algeria, and crash landed, Sgt A.B. Murdoch, F/O W.M. Parsons RAF and F/L D.C. Sandeman RAF safe.

30 #1 OADU Wellington II Z8405 swung on taking off from Gibraltar, struck taxiing Wellington HX746 before running into parked #1 OADU Wellington Ic HE125, demolishing both, Sgt J.B. Kennedy RAF injured, Sgt W.R. Rich, P/O C.W. Price RNZAF, Sgt J.A. Jones RAF and Sgt G.A. Clowes RAF safe.

30 98 Sqn. Mitchell II FL708 was on a training flight in England when it struck high tension lines and crashed in a field where it exploded, F/S G.T. Coubrough, Sgt H.R. Smith RAF, Sgt R.A. Duffield RAF and LAC G. Imber killed in the crash and a local farmer, J.F.R. George, who was ploughing in the adjoining field, was killed by debris from the explosion.

30 419 Sqn. Halifax II DT540 VR-C crash landed following a training flight, the crew (RCAF or RAF or both) F/S M.O. Frederick, F/S D.L. Moher, Sgt E. Connolly, Sgt G. Sayers and Sgt J. Rock, safe. This was the first Halifax lost by 419 Squadron after conversion from Wellington bombers.

30 #2 AACU, WO1 R.G. Brookes died of wounds received when his Defiant aircraft was attacked and damaged by Fw 190 fighters, F/O S. Rowland RAF survived with wounds (discussion page at www.rafcommands.com).

30 #22 OTU Wellington III HF633 was attempting to land from a night navigation exercise when it flew into trees in bad visibility and crashed P/O E.I.R. Davidson, F/O R.F. Mallett, F/S V. Meanwell, Sgt A. Watson RAF, Sgt W.C. Seed RAF and Sgt S.E. Strydom RAF killed.

Monday

30 In Yokohama the German raider support ship and tanker Altmark (now renamed Uckermark) is sunk in an accidental explosion that also damages and sinks the commerce raider Thor and the captured Australian ship Nankin (ww2total.com Chronology/1942). The Altmark is the ship that was boarded in neutral Norwegian waters in 1940 by RN seamen to rescue Allied prisoners, an event which in part triggered the German invasion of Norway.

Making another evacuation flight from the crashed B-17 in Greenland the USCG J2F-4 flew into a cliff in fog, killing pilot Lt J.A. Pritchard, radioman RM1C B.A. Bottoms and Cpl L. Howarth USAF from the B-17 (Wade & Simmons, M. Zuckoff). Lt Pritchard had been decorated for leading a party to save 3 RCAF airmen (who were still aboard the ship) a week before. In 2013 a US military party re-located the crash site in preparation for an attempt to retrieve the remains of the crew (various news reports, M. Zuckoff), but further investigation showed the site was not a crash site and the J2F and its crew remains missing. See Dec. 17, below.
30  #3 Wireless School, DH.82C4 Menasco Moth II #4890 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).
30  #9 B&G School, Mt. Joli, Quebec, Nomad #3506 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).
30  #32 OTU, Patricia Bay, BC, Canadian built Hampden TB.I AN140 was written off when it collided with an emergency vehicle, Sgt Clasper and his crew safe (H. Moyle).
30  #132 (F) Kittyhawk Ia #722 ZR-P written off at Tofino, BC when it made a wheels up landing (R.W.R. Walker).

30-1 **Battle of Tassafaronga.** US cruiser force attempting to stop Japanese destroyers delivering food to Guadalcanal is driven off, 1 cruiser sunk and 3 damaged by torpedos, 1 Japanese destroyer sunk (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).


unknown date in November, 272 Sqn. Beaufighter came down in Tunisia, F/O A.J. Smith and P/O J.P. Diaper RAF were taken prisoner but escaped and evaded until they met Allied troops in May 1943 (www.conscript-heroes.com MI-9 files).

**December 1942**

#4 (BR) Sqn. RCAF on the West Coast begins to receive Canso A flying boats to supplant it's Stranraer flying boats (RCAF Sqns.). 401 Sqn. reverts to Spitfire Vb aircraft (RCAF Sqns.). 408 Sqn. begins to re-equip with Halifax II aircraft for operational use (RCAF Sqns.). 417 Sqn. has detachments at Benghazi, and Cyprus (417 SH).

In this period 407 Squadron was prepared for transfer by Coastal Command to Gibraltar for anti-submarine work in the Mediterranean, but the transfer was cancelled when RCAF Headquarters objected to a Canadian Squadron being transferred without informing Canadian authorities. Some of the personnel of the advance party were actually on the dock preparing to board the ship when the movement was cancelled. An RAF Squadron was sent to Gibraltar in their place, and 407 resumed patrols from Cornwall (407 SH and A.D. Squires pers. comm.).

During the month 400 Squadron sent a detachment of Mustang I aircraft to a southern base in England that staged fighter patrols over the Bay of Biscay to counter attacks by Ar 196 floatplane fighters, which was cited in the award of a DFC to the detachment leader S/L W.B. Woods (FF Years).

During the month the USAAF heavy bombers operating in Europe began changing their formations in the face of increasing losses to fighter attacks (Oxford).

MANDREL, a ground based (later airborne) radar jamming system, and TINSEL, a simple airborne radio jamming system, went into service to assist Bomber Command operations (BC War Diaries).
With the help of codes captured from U-559 (Oct. 30, above), the German Navy ENIGMA code for U-boats was again broken, enabling ULTRA intercepts to assist planning convoy routings (Oxford). Shipping losses begin to decline while U-boat losses begin to increase (Oxford).

During the month Sea Hurricane I AE977, converted from a Canadian built Hurricane X, was written off after a mid-air collision and stored. Post war it was recovered and rebuilt to flying condition as Hurricane I G-TWTD in 2000. It has since been owned and flown in the USA and England (various).

Tuesday
1 #117 (BR) Sqn. deploys from North Sydney to Dartmouth, NS (RCAF Sqns.). #126 (F) Sqn. and #128 (F) Sqn. re-equip with Hurricane XII aircraft (RCAF Sqns.).

In an effort to supply China from India a plan to build a road using a route into northern Burma surveyed in the 1800s as a possible railroad is initiated. The road would cross through mountains and Japanese controlled regions, and link up with the Burma Road, bypassing the portion occupied by the Japanese. The operation was turned over to the US military on this date, taking it's name from it's starting point, the rail terminus at Ledo, in Assam, India (wikipedia). See December 27, 1943.

Publication of Beveridge Report in England, which leads to post war social security and public health services (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).
1 152 Sqn. Spitfire missing after a patrol over Tunis, WO2 K.V. Linquist killed.
1 132 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BL713 was on convoy reconnaissance when it was attacked and shot down into the sea off England by Fw 190s, P/O R.A. Carr missing.
1 401 Sqn. Spitfire Vc AB460 was in a mid-air collision with Spitfire IX BR630 and crashed at the Swanage Bank Hospital in England (www.spitfires.ukf.net).
1 #12 OTU Wellington III BK250 swung out of control taking off in a strong cross wind. It was heading towards the emergency vehicles parking area but the pilot, Sgt B.F. McMurchy, managed to avoid it and a group of civilian workers, but hit the control tower before running over a car and ending up hitting a hangar. Sgt H. Walters RAF and Sgt E.T.J. O'Donaghe RAF died of injuries the next day, F/S D.J. Phillips and Sgt G.A. Hutchinson RAF were injured on the Wellington. Two civilians, W.F. Fitzgibbon and W. Wooton, were killed in the hangar and 24 people were recorded as injured (including the crew?). Sgt McMurchy was safe. (www.aircrewremembered.com).
1 RCAF Station Gander, Newfoundland, Sgt R.J.M. Attridge hit by a truck and killed.
1 unknown unit, LAC J.A. Connah MM died of natural causes during a storm aboard the SS Lady Rodney off the coast of Newfoundland. LAC Connah's Military Medal was awarded in the First World War.
1 #1 OTU, Bagotville, Quebec, two Hurricane XII aircraft collided over the airfield at St. Honore Quebec and crashed, P/O D.R. Lorimer was killed in #5433 but the pilot of #5626 bailed
out and survived. B. Barry et al notes that prior to his transfer to #1 OTU P/O Lorimer had been a transport pilot at Ottawa.

1-2 Battle of the Skerki Bank, a RN force of 3 cruisers and 2 destroyers intercept and annihilate a German/Italian troop and supply convoy between Sicily and Tunisia, sinking all 4 transports and 1 escorting Italian destroyer, and leaving the remaining 3 destroyers damaged. One British destroyer was sunk by bombers in the withdrawal (wikipedia). Three other Italian convoys at sea are recalled (D. Sommerville).

Wednesday
2 Enrico Fermi’s graphite moderated Chicago Pile 1 (CP-1) reactor first attained criticality at 15:25 local time with a power of ½ watt. This is the world’s first man-made nuclear reactor.

Six Boeing 247D aircraft are sold by the RCAF to Canadian Pacific Airline, ending it’s air force service (Griffin CMA, R.W.R. Walker).

2 234 Sqn. Spitfire Vc EE689 crashed in sea off France after an engine failure, F/S H.T. Cunningham killed.


2 #5 (Coastal) OTU Beaufighter lost over the sea on a navigation exercise, F/O J.J. Earls missing.

2-3 Bomber Command sends 112 bombers to Frankfurt with Target Finding support, but ground haze masked the target and the bombing missed the city. Four OTU sorties were also made, 6 bombers lost (BC War Diaries).


2-3 #1474 Special Duties (Wireless Interception) Flight Wellington Ic DV819 was tasked with
seeking sensor information on radar frequencies being used by German night fighters, an operation known as a FERRET. To do this the Flights aircraft would fly outside the bomber stream and try to lure night fighters into attacking them. On this night this bomber succeeded and was badly shot up and damaged over Germany, but managed to return with the sensor information. Wireless air gunners P/O H.G. Jordan RAF and F/S W.W. Bigoray were wounded, but P/O Jordan still managed to identify the night fighters radar frequency. The aircraft was too damaged to land safely. On return F/S Bigoray, who was badly wounded and partially paralyzed, decided to drop by parachute over England before the crew ditched the bomber off shore. Sgt E. Paulton, F/S W.A.R. Barry, F/S F.P. Grant, F/S E.T. Vachon and radio observer P/O Jordan RAF survived, as did Sgt Bigoray who recovered and returned to operations. For completing this hazardous operation successfully P/O Jordan was awarded the DSO, P/O Paulton and the promoted P/O Barry the DFC, rear gunner F/S Vachon (who successfully fought off the Ju 88 night fighter that nearly shot them down) the DFM, as was F/S Bigoray, and F/S Grant received a Mention in Dispatches (pers. comm. with crew navigator Bill Barry in Edmonton June 24, 2002, and airforce.ca/awards). A description of this loss can also be found in Down in the Drink: True Stories of the Goldfish Club (1955) by Ralph Barker, and Well Done, No. 1474 Flight: Investigation Flight Over Frankfurt by R. McNeill on the WW2 People’s War BBC website. W.R. Chorley notes in his errata to BCL'HCU that the Chief of the Air Staff ACM Charles Portal RAF sent a personal telegram of congratulations to the crew for their success. See also April 27-28, 1944.

Thursday

(Date of the opening of the first book of the St. Cyr and Kohler mystery novels, set in occupied France.)

3 214 Sqn. air gunner F/S H.A. Harris died in hospital in France of injuries sustained when his Stirling was shot down Nov. 28.

3 #11 AFU Oxford BG649 crashed in England after flying into a tree on a night training flight, F/S B.H.H. Hanan and Sgt G.W. Harris RAF killed (tomthorne83 www.rafcommands.com).

3 #1659 HCU Halifax II W1052 crashed on a training flight, Sgt P.K. Chambers and Sgt Bell safe. See July 3-4, 1943.

3 RAF Ferry Command (?), RCAF Hudson IIIa BW384 crashed into Halifax Harbour, F/L J.H. Prentice, and civilians Jean Curran, Mary McQueen, Mr. Chail and M.R. MacCaulay killed (TSGNO). R.W.R. Walker’s Canadian Military Aircraft Serial Numbers website states this aircraft was damaged Category B (severe, but not destroyed in the RCAF system), March 15, 1942 with #31 OTU, Debert, NS, and sent to #4 RD Scou douc, March 27, 1942, then sent to Clark Ruse Aircraft, May 20, 1942, and finally assigned to Eastern Air Command Nov. 10, 1942, possibly as an instructional airframe, and struck off charge April 7, 1943 without ever returning to service. Perhaps this aircraft was on a test flight at the time of its loss.

Friday

4 Daylight bombing of Italian naval ships in Naples by USAAF B-24 bombers sinks 1 cruiser and damages several other cruisers and destroyers. Battleships in the harbour redeploy to northern Italian ports (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).
2 Sqn. RAAF Hudson IV A16-232 was one of three Hudsons on a patrol off Timor when it was attacked by a Japanese fighter that knocked out it's turret and an engine before the others could come to their rescue. The bomber returned to Australia where a wheels up landing was made. Gunner Sgt G.J. Thame RAAF was killed in the attack, but radar specialist F/L J.M. Barnes, F/O A. Cambridge RAAF, Sgt(?) T. Gunn RAAF and 1 more RAAF were safe (D. Vincent). See October 1, 1943.


614 Sqn., Tunisia, Blenheim V (Bisley) BA800 "D" was part of a formation of 614 and 18 squadron aircraft that responded to an urgent request to attack an enemy airfield, which was successful, but they were intercepted over the target by German fighters which shot down 9 of the aircraft. F/L A. Breakey RAF (Can.), F/S A.W. Simpson RAF and F/S S.H. Greene were killed in BA800. For this and other daylight attacks 18 Squadron commanding officer W/C H.G. Malcolm MiD RAF was awarded a posthumous Victoria Cross.


70 OTU, Kenya, Baltimore crashed, WO2 C. Brown killed. F/O D.E. Bernstein RAF, Sgt A.W. Knott RAF and F/S J.H. Glass RAF were also killed in Kenya on this date and may have been in the same accident (CWGC).

401 Sqn. Spitfire IX BS277 shot down in English Channel by German fighters on a RODEO, Sgt H.M. Batters killed.

401 Sqn. Spitfire IX BS317 crashed in France on a RODEO, possibly due to oxygen starvation, F/S B.H. Nickel missing.

401 Sqn. Spitfire IX BS536 shot down over the Channel on a RODEO, P/O J.W. Fiander was wounded and bailed out, and later rescued. See Sept. 18, 1943.

402 Sqn. Spitfire IX BS132 missing from combat with German fighters on a RODEO over France, F/S R.B. Honeycombe RCAF (USA) killed.

402 Sqn. Spitfire IX BS450 missing from combat with German fighters on a RODEO over France, P/O H.E. McGraw killed.

402 Sqn. Spitfire IX BS309 crash landed in England after it's engine seized returning damaged from a fight on a RODEO over France, F/O H.A. Simpson safe, having claimed two enemy fighters damaged (FF Years).


14 OTU Wellington Ic DV929 climbed too steeply, stalled and crashed after taking off on a night training flight, F/O W.F. Rielly RAF (USA), Sgt G. Groves RAF, Sgt J.W. Hyde RAF and Sgt M. Knapton RAF killed, Sgt D.R. Gladish RCAF (USA) injured.

19 OTU Whitley V EB387 was recalled from a cross country training flight but flew into trees and crashed attempting to land, Sgt B.D. Gregory, Sgt J.D. Bradley RAF, Sgt F.J. Fowler RAF, Sgt H. Bell RAF and Sgt T. Collingwood RAF killed.

#8 B&G School, Lethbridge, Alberta, Battle I #2070 caught fire in the air and crashed, Sgt E.T. Aitkens killed, Sgt E.L. Williams RAF and LAC E.W. Armstrong (RAF or RCAF?) badly injured (S. Shail). See Dec. 6, below.

Northwest Airlines ATC C-64A (Norseman) 43-5107 crashed landing at Edmonton, Alberta (possibly at Cooking Lake?) (AAIR).


Saturday

5 In Tunisia a withdrawal of Allied forces is ordered from Tebourba to more defensible positions based on Medjez-al-Bab (Pareham & Belfield).

With the war professional football was largely suspended, but the gap is filled by teams from the military, partially for propaganda purposes. On this date the RCAF Hurricanes from Toronto beat the Winnipeg RCAF Bombers to win the Grey Cup (www.schudak.de).

5 114 Sqn. Blenheim abandoned over Algeria after an engine failed on an operation to Bizerta, F/S R.G. Baikie was killed when his parachute failed to open, Sgt G.R. Acheson and Sgt J. Cummings RAF safe. See June 25, 1943.

5 132 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AB369 suffered radiator damage from flak on a RHUBARB and went down at sea off Dunkirk, France, P/O A.D. Chiddenton bailed out but his parachute failed to open, missing.


5 409 Sqn. Beaufighter crashed in England after an engine failure, P/O K.E. Warner RCAF (USA) and 1 RAF, probably Sgt H. Pendleton RAF, killed (CWGC).

5 #1658 HCU Halifax II R9531 was on a cross country exercise when it spun and crashed from low altitude, possibly from icing. F/S D.C. Cameron, Sgt J.A. Barrett-Lennard RAF, Sgt R.J. Marshall RAF, F/S J.C. Macaulay RAF, Sgt C.F. Bonorino RAF and Sgt H.G. Jenkins RAF killed, Sgt R.F. Pretty RAF and several people on the ground were injured.

5 #14 SFTS, Aylmer, Ontario, Harvard II #2952 crashed just after taking off for a night flying exercise, LAC(P) J.C. Smith RAAF killed (A. Storr).

5 RAF Ferry Command Hudson VI FK687 crashed landing at Houlton, Maine, USA, killing Sgt A.L. Beckwell, Sgt. H. Bordewick, F/S A.G.B. Gibson and P/O G.N. Harrison RNZAF.

5 #127 (F) Sqn. RCAF, Gander, Newfoundland, Hurricane XII #5496, Sgt P. Vickers RCAF (USA) became lost in weather on a gunnery practice flight and forced landed on a frozen lake 70 miles from Gander. That night Sgt Vickers was able to make radio contact with a station in Quebec and an approximate fix on his location was made (P. Vickers). See Dec. 10, below.

5 Unknown unit USAAF, AT-9 41-12044 flew into the ground in the USA, F/O D.A. Crowther RAF killed (H. Welting and Amrit, www.rafcommands.com).
Sunday

6 Battle of Medjez-el-Bab, Heavy German counter attack in Tunisia is halted (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).

6 252 Sqn. Beaufighter ditched 3 miles off the African coast near Sirte, one of 4 Beaufighters strafing enemy transports in the area. Pilot W/C P.H. Bragg RAF PoW, but his navigator F/L E.G. Nichols RAF (Can.) missing (Armed Rovers).

6 Operation OYSTER, daylight mass strike on the Phillips plant at Eindhoven, Holland, by 93 #2 Group Boston, Ventura and Mosquito aircraft flying at very low level, with a diversion by USAAF B-17 bombers along the coast of Holland and 500 RAF and USAAF fighter sorties flying as escorts.

This attack had been planned and practiced several times in England before being carried out.

Usually in an attack with different aircraft types the fastest aircraft would bomb last as this was when all air defences would be manned and fighting, but in this strike the sequence of the aircraft was arranged so that the Ventura's (half the attacking force), which could carry the largest load of incendiaries, would bomb last, despite being the slowest (in relative terms), while the fast Mosquitos bombed first with demolition bombs. The Ventura's suffered the greatest losses as a result (9 lost).

The bombing was planned on a Sunday to reduce civilian casualties but some bombs and crashing aircraft fell in residential areas, killing nearly 150 Dutch civilians. The Phillips plant was producing important electrical devices for the German forces, including radars, and was severely damaged. Fourteen bombers were lost over Holland, 3 crashed in England and 23 were damaged by bird strikes (BC War Diaries & Bowyer, M.J.F.).


6 107 Sqn. Boston III AL737 OM-U shot down into the sea off Holland, WO1 H.E. Wilson, Sgt C.A. Maw RAF and Sgt R.A. Barnes RAF missing.

6 139 (Jamaica) Sqn. Mosquito IV DZ371 XD-A hit by flak and crashed off the Dutch coast, F/O J.E. O'Grady and his navigator Sgt G.W. Lewis RAF missing.


6 464 Sqn. RAAF Ventura II AE945 SB-E shot down by flak over the target, F/S B.M. Harvey RCAF (USA), F/S B. Marrows RAF, Sgt J.B.A. MacPherson RAF and Sgt Proctor RAAF killed. F/S Harvey had crashed a #17 OTU Blenheim Sept. 11, above.


6 487 Sqn. RNZAF Ventura II AJ196 EG-C hit by flak and crashed in Holland, F/S F.E. King, F/O
J.A.W. Withers, W/C F.C. Seavill RAF (NZ) and Sgt T.M. Richings RAF killed.

#1 OADU Hudson VI FK522 flew into a cliff in England after taking off, passenger Craftsman G. Atkinson REME killed, F/O R.J. Gunn, Sgt J.W.C. Kidd RAF, Sgt P.H. Moulton RAF and F/S R.J. Haire RAAF missing (A. Storr). The units Engineering Officer, F/L J.C. Hardman RAF, was killed climbing down the cliff to look for survivors (www.rafdavidstowmoor.org). Another aircraft, #2 OADU Beaufort la DD980, had crashed into the cliff just 5 minutes before after taking off on the same runway (R. Hayward). Both crashes were attributed to "downdrafts" off the runway which ended in a cliff on the edge of the sea (Alan www.rafcommands.com).

#14 OTU Wellington Ic R1522 "Q" crashed on take off for a night flying exercise when the flaps were accidentally retracted instead of the undercarriage, Sgt L.R. Arps, Sgt W.J. Collins RNZAF, Sgt B.C. Beard RAF and Sgt C.W. Furlong RAF killed, 1 unidentified crewman injured.

#8 Bombing & Gunnery School, Lethbridge, Alberta, Sgt E.L. Williams RAF died of injuries from a Battle accident December 4, above.

#34 OTU, Pennfield Ridge, NB, Ventura II AE936 suffered an engine failure on a training flight and crash landed attempting to land at Presque Isle, Maine, USA. The aircraft caught fire and was burnt out, P/O T.C. Good, Sgt A.H. Simpson, Sgt G. Kororiz and pilot Sgt G.C. Suttie RAAF safe (www.rootsweb.ancestry.com #34 OTU Accident and Mishap Reports).


USAAF ATC C-48B (DC-3) 42-38324, operated by American Airlines, crashed taking off at CRYSTAL 1 Meteorological station, Fort Chimo, Quebec, pilot B. Miller killed, crew? (AAIR).

Mannheim was targeted by 272 bombers which found the city completely cloud covered. The Target Finders did not mark the target and 220 bombers dropped on dead reckoning, but the city was not harmed. GARDENING operations were also made by 14 bombers off the Frisian Islands. Ten bombers were lost in the bomb attack and 4 more crashed in England (BC War Diaries).

On this night 515 Sqn. Defiants flew their first MANDREL operation. MANDREL aircraft could produce a radio barrier or screen which blocked radar signals, so that approaching aircraft could not be detected behind the screen, lowering the distance of detection and thus the reaction time to launch and direct defending fighters. At first used tactically, as the war progressed the size and power of the screens increased, until bomber streams could remain undetected until they emerged nearly at the coast of occupied Europe (A. Price, M. Peden). See 16-17, 1944.


61 Sqn. Lancaster I R5859 QR-G crash landed in England after flying through trees returning from an operation over Germany, P/O H.S. Glinz, F/S W. MacFarland RAF, Sgt P.J. Keay RAF, P/O C.F. Williams RAF, Sgt W.W. Dawson RAF, Sgt J.F. Edwards RAF and Sgt J.V.
Rees RAF safe (Greg Harrison www.rafcommands.com). Mid-upper gunner P/O Glinz would later be transferred to 617 Sqn. for the Dams raid, see also Dec. 21-22 below and May 16-17, 1943.


6-7 102 Sqn. Halifax II W7924 believed to have gone down in the sea, Sgt D.M. Sannholm RAF killed, Sgt W.E. Hawke, Sgt F.D. Buchwalter RAF, Sgt H. Jones RAF, F/S C. Carr RAF, Sgt C.R. Pendelpho RAF and Sgt J.T. Pinkney RAF missing.

6-7 115 Sqn. Wellington III BK513 KO-V lost over France, F/S J.D. Rae, F/O M.W. Dixon RNZAF, Sgt M.C. Colwill RAF, Sgt A.G. Dunn RAF and Sgt C. Riches RAF killed.


6-7 425 Sqn. Wellington III BJ657 KW-G lost without trace on an operation to Germany, WO2 J. Cachia, P/O G.E. Cronk RCAF (USA), P/O R. Hayes RCAF (USA), P/O J.D.J. Rodger, F/S D.S. Urquhart missing.

Monday 7
148 Sqn. Wellington was landing in Malta on a ferry flight from Libya when it swung and crashed into a dispersal pen, Sgt C.R. Grandfield RAF, Sgt G. Bunnett RAF, F/S J.I. Kitchen RAF and LAC E. Ford RAF killed, Sgt H. Barrie RAF, P/O G.B. Hunter RAF, P/O R.A. Mackness RAF, Sgt Smith RAF, LAC Haywood RAF, LAC Wilson RAF and AC Brown RAF seriously injured, Sgt G.E. Geeves safe. See Chappell for details. See Dec. 25-26 below and Jan 2-3, 1945.

7 263 Sqn. Whirlwind I P6987 was hit by flak on a ROADSTEAD operation and dove into the sea off the Island of Jersey, WO2 D.B. McPhail missing. A second Squadron Whirlwind was also shot down in this attack, S/L R.S. Woodward RAF missing.


7 Fleet Aircraft Ltd. plant, Fort Erie, Ontario, Cornell II #10524 was on test flight when it collided in mid air with P-39N 42-4944, also being test flown from the Bell Aircraft plant at Buffalo, New York, just across the border, both aircraft crashing near Fort Erie. Fleet test pilot Rudolph Milani and Bell pilot N.W. Swenson both killed.
Tuesday
8  47 Sqn. Wellesley I K8531 was on an anti-submarine convoy patrol off Egypt when fabric began to separate from the wing. The aircraft abandoned the patrol and flew down the shore to their base, making a crash landing that collapsed the undercarriage. F/S E.D.R. Botten, F/S R.B. Worthington RAF and Sgt C.M. Thompson RAF safe. See April 26, 1943.
8  unknown unit, Beaufort crashed at Takoradi, Ghana, killing F/S D.W. Gordon, Sgt S.J. Holmes RAF and LAC A.C. Sharp RAF. Possibly ADUME (Aircraft Delivery Unit Middle East) Beaufort Ia DW856 recorded by R. Hayward as stalling and destroyed by fire at Takoradi on Dec. 4, 1942.
8  Ferry Command Boston IIIa BZ247 lost from Gander enroute overseas, Radio Officer L.R. Abernethy, Pilot Arnold Cowitz and P/O R.R. Hustwaite RAF missing.
8  #5 EFTS (?), DH.82C Tiger Moth #4199 damaged at High River, Alberta and written off (R.W.R. Walker).
8  #31 EFTS, De Winton, Alberta, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4200 crashed after colliding with another Tiger Moth while dogfighting, LAC K.W.M.N. Perera RAF (Czech.) killed (C. Simonsen).
8  #31 EFTS, De Winton, Alberta, DH.82C Tiger Moth #5826 crashed, LAC A.H.W. White RAF killed (R.W.R. Walker). These two incidents may be related.

8-9 Turin was attacked by 133 bombers with Target Finding support making a successful attack. GARDENING was undertaken off Germany and Denmark by 80 bombers, 1 bomber and 5 minelayers were lost (BC War Diaries). The Fiat plant was heavily damaged in this and later attacks on Turin, which seriously delayed production of the new G.55 fighter. Powered by license and/or German built DB.605 engines, it was on order for the Italian Air Force and the Luftwaffe (H.W. Neulen).
8-9  15 Sqn. Stirling I W7635 LS-V believed lost off Denmark on a GARDENING sortie, F/S A.T. Kelley RCAF (USA) and Sgt H.C. Adkins RAF killed, Sgt J.J. Bignaut RAF, Sgt E. Bance RAF, Sgt F.G. Crapp RAF, Sgt R.G. Oliver RAF and Sgt R. Skelton RAF missing.
8-9  207 Sqn. Lancaster I R5570 EM-R lost over Italy, Sgt W.H. Ellis RAF (Can.), Sgt W.E. Lodge RAF, Sgt F.G.L. Bain RAF, Sgt C.M. Hurley RAF, F/L D.A. Nicoll DFC RAF, Sgt W. Hingley RAF and Sgt R. Boardman RAF killed.
8-9  Ferry Command Boston IIIa BZ294 was enroute overseas when it ran into bad weather approaching Gander and crashed near Benton, Newfoundland, killing F/L D.G.C. Chown and P/O K.H. Wells. The radio operator survived.
Wednesday

9 Australian forces take Gona [on the northern end of the Kokoda Trail in New Guinea] (CJCA headline).

9 405 Sqn. Halifax II LQ-N, Sgt Burton, was shadowing an enemy convoy in the Bay of Biscay when it was attacked by 2 Ju 88 aircraft, which were claimed shot down by his gunners Sgt A.E. Herne and P/O K.R. Pay (405 SH, FF Years).

9 #130 (F) Sqn. RCAF Station Sagenay (later Bagotville), Quebec, two Harvard II aircraft #3036 and #3294 collided in mid-air and crashed near St. Fulgence, Quebec, F/S J.G. Bertrand and Sgt C.J. Vallee killed in #3036, the crew of #3294 bailed out and were safe.

9 #116 (BR) Sqn. RCAF, Dartmouth, NS, Catalina I Z2136 crashed on take-off at Dartmouth, P/O E.S. Corbett AFM, Sgt F.C. Dayton, F/O J.G. MacMaster, Sgt J. Richardson, F/O R.A. Sharman and air frame mechanic Cpl E.W. Werry killed.

9 #2 Flying Instructor School, Vulcan, Alberta, Cornell I FH748 struck a tree and crashed between Vulcan and Pincher Creek, Alberta on a low-flying exercise, killing Sgt E.J. Harris and Sgt R.A. Clark RAF.

9 #5 Bombing and Gunnery School, Dafoe, Saskatchewan, Bolingbroke IV.T #9924 crashed into a lake in bad weather killing F/S J.W. Phillips, LAC R.I. Morgan RAF and LAC F.W. Selfe RAF.

9 71st AB Sqn. USAAF YC-64 (Norseman) 42-5045 accident at St. John's, Nfld. (AAIR).

9-10 Turin again attacked by 227 bombers with Target Finding support, but smoke from the previous operation partially masked the target, disrupting the bombing. Two GARDENING and 12 NICKEL sorties also made, 3 bombers and a NICKEL aircraft lost (BC War Diaries).


Thursday

10 Stalingrad, Railway yards and depots in Soviet back areas east of the Volga attacked by German, Italian and Hungarian bombers to support planned German offensive to regain access to the city (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).

The first launch of a Fiesler Fi 103 (V-1) pilotless bomb took place, air dropped from a Fw 200 (Oxford, wikipedia).
440 BS, 319 BG, USAAF B-26 41-17862 'Times Awastin' force landed, lost, at Cape Saglek, near Hebron, Labrador, crew 1Lt G.C. Hodge Jr., 2Lt P. Jansen, 2Lt E.J. Josephson, TSgt C.F. Nolan, Sgt. R. Reyrauch, Cpl. J.J. Mangini and Cpl. F.J. Golm safe. Jamming of Allied radio frequencies by German clandestine stations set up in Greenland believed to have led to this loss and several others over Greenland or the ocean in this period. The crew set up a camp in the wrecked bomber. See Dec. 17, below.

10 110 Sqn. Vengeance crashed in India, WO1 B. Carmichael killed, he has no known grave. Sgt T.H. Lawton RAF is also missing from 110 Sqn. on this date (CWGC).

10 138 Sqn. Halifax II L9618 NF-W was on a return positioning flight to England from special operations in the Middle East, and was flying to Gibraltar from Malta when it's engines began to cause problems over Algeria. The pilot ordered a bail out but only 2 passengers did so, after which the bomber was crash landed with no casualties. Sgt F.J. Reardon, F/L J.C.K. Sutton RAF, P/O G.S. Petrie RAF, P/O L. Fish RAF, F/S T.A. Meikle and their passengers, Sgt R.F. Evans RAF, LAC L. Hilton RAF, Cpl W.V. Lucas RAF, LAC C.E. Elliott RAF, F/O R.T. Fleming RNZAF, F/O H. Goddard RNZAF, F/O Gray RNZAF, Sgt F.C. McCrea RAADF, Sgt G.A. Nunn RAF, F/O F.O.J. Pearce RAF and Lt Col K. Tantle, safe.

10 138 Sqn. Halifax II W1002 NF-Y was returning to England from the Middle East similar to the aircraft above. It went missing over the sea after leaving Egypt for Malta, possibly shot down by an enemy night fighter. F/O L. Anderle RAF (Czech.), F/L V. Krcha RAF (Czech.), P/O M. Rozprym RAF (Czech.), P/O F. Vanicek RAF (Czech.), P/O J. Tesir RAF (Czech.), WO V. Pinek RAF (Czech.), F/S B. Hajek RAF (Czech.) and their passengers WO2 J.R. Milligan, P/O W.T.C. Chambers RAF, F/S C. Bentley RAF, F/S E.B. Davies RAF, Cpl R.E. Chandler RAF, AC1 H. Hutchinson RAF, F/S G.G. Organ RNZAF and Sgt J.A. Tovey RNZAF, missing. WO Milligan had flown with 70 Sqn. in the fighting around El Alamein in July and had come through crashes July 5 and 7-8, above.

10 21 Sqn. Ventura I AE759 YH-H crashed in England on a ferry flight, F/S G.H. Turcotte RCAF (USA), Sgt R.W. Dickson RAADF, Sgt J.R.D. Jones RAF, Sgt G.W. Hatton RAF, Sgt O.W. Woodhead RAF and LAC T. Rutherford RAF killed. Parts of this aircraft are now on display at the Norfolk and Suffolk Aviation Museum.

10 414 Sqn. aero engine mechanic LAC P.D. Colbourne was killed when the guns of a Mustang aircraft accidentally discharged during a daily inspection.


10 RAF Ferry Command Boston struck a fuel drum landing at Reykjavik, Iceland, and crashed, F/S O.R. Ballantyne and Lt. S.T. Wessel RNor.AF killed, 1 crew safe. (Larsson).

10 #127 (F) Sqn. RCAF, Gander, Newfoundland, Hurricane XII #5496, Sgt P. Vickers RCAF (USA), after surviving for 5 days, was spotted by a searching Harvard aircraft. Soon after a Canso dropped supplies, but before he could enjoy them all it came back guiding an L-4 aircraft flown by Maj Treher USAF who evacuated him to Gander. The Hurricane was later repaired and flown out Dec. 14 (P. Vickers, R.W.R. Walker). See October 27, 1943.

10 #37 SFTS, Calgary, Alberta, Harvard II AJ759 spun and crashed after the engine failed on take-off due to an incorrectly set fuel selector, F/L E.G. Ford RAF (Can.) and LAC H.N. Hall
RAF killed (C. Charland www.rafcommands.com). F/L Ford had flown with 3 Sqn. in France and with 232 Sqn. in the Battle of Britain.

unknown unit in Canada, aero engine mechanic AC2 R.A. Urie died in hospital of natural causes.

Friday

11 Russian gains at Velikie Luki (CJCA headline).
11 272 Sqn. Beaufighter crashed into a hill near Tiberias, Palestine, killing WO2 J.K. Conn and Sgt K. Brighton RAF.
11 108 Sqn. air gunner F/S J.R.V. Pettigrew died in Egypt of injuries from a road accident.
11 50 Sqn. Lancaster I W4117 crash landed in England returning from a navigation exercise, Sgt Murray and his crew safe.
11 #12 OTU Wellington III BK243 crashed in the circuit returning from a night flight, F/S D.H. Fryer RAF and Sgt R.B. Lapsley died of injuries, Sgt G.A. Furste RCAF (USA), Sgt M.H. Pierson RAF, Sgt P.H. Sharpe RAF and Sgt J.R. Nash RAF were injured. Four members of the rescue crew, LAC Chapman RAF, LAC Hansford RAF, LAC B.V. Icke RAF and LAC D.L. Jenkins RAF were commended for their actions to quickly remove the trapped crew from the wreckage.
11 #26 OTU Wellington Ic X9622 crashed making a night landing returning from a cross country exercise, Sgt E.C. Jones RAF, Sgt S.R. Appi RAF, Sgt W.B. Barclay RAF and Sgt D. Bell RAF killed, F/S D.J. Clarke RCAF (USA) injured. See Dec. 12, below.
11 #2 Training Command, DH.82C Tiger Moth #3876 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).
11 #36 OTU, Greenwood, NS, Hudson III BW410 crashed at Scoudouc, NB, F/L E.O. Richards RAF (Can.) and Sgt H.L. Wilkins RAF killed, LAC M.J. Morrison RAF injured (#36 OTU Roll of Honour)

11-12 Operation FRANKTON, Royal Marine Commando attack on German blockade running vessels (ships running cargos to and from Japan) by kayak at Bordeaux, France. The group left a submarine Dec. 7-8 and paddled to their targets for a planned attack Dec. 10-11, but were delayed by weather. Of the 10 man force deployed 2 died of exposure, 6 were captured and executed and 2 evaded to Spain. Seven ships were damaged, but most soon returned to service (wikipedia). Event basis of novel and film “Cockleshell Heros”.

An attack on Turin by 82 bombers ran into heavy icing over the Alps and most were forced to turn back, only 28 bombers reached the target and bombed, without result, 4 were lost. There were 26 GARDENING and 4 NICKEL sorties as well without loss (BC War Diaries).
11-12 7 Sqn. Stirling I BF379 MG-D was hit by anti-aircraft artillery over the target in Italy and set on fire. The pilot, F/L W.T. Christie DSO DFM RAF, ordered a bail out and held the aircraft steady, but was unable to escape and was killed. The rest of the crew, S/L V.C. McAuley DFC, Sgt R.W. McGraw, Sgt W.R. Jagger RNZAF, F/S J.G. Jeffery RAF, F/S O. Falkingham DFM RAF, F/S I. MacDonald RAF and Sgt F.K. Nightingale RAF PoW. S/L McAuley and Sgt Nightingale later escaped (www.conscript-heroes.com MI-9).
11-12 10 Sqn. Halifax II DG222 ZA-Q lost over France on an operation to Italy, F/S J.L. Dunlop, WO2


11-12 199 Sqn. Wellington III BK414 EX-T hit by flak, set on fire and abandoned over France outbound on an operation to Italy, Sgt J.G. Dawson RAF killed, Sgt A. Fijal, W/C C.R. Hattersley DFC RAF, Sgt J.A. Prescott RAF, Sgt A.N. Jarman RAF and Sgt J.G. Lindsay RAF PoW. This was 199 Squadrons first loss.

11-12 #20 OTU Wellington Ic DV551 had an engine fail on a training flight. Returning to base it was approaching to land when the second engine failed and the aircraft crashed, P/O G.W. Cox RAF killed, Sgt D.R. Tarbuck RAF died the next day of his injuries, Sgt P. Colgan RAF and Sgt H.O. McNeice RAF were injured and Sgt F.A. Ingram RCAF (USA) was unharmed.

Saturday

12 Germans driven from El Aghelia (CJCA headline).

Attempt by German Army to break through to besieged forces in Stalingrad begins. Hitler refuses plans to have the forces trapped in the city break out to the west to meet the attacking force, which might have succeeded (P. Adair).


12 57 Sqn. F/S T.N. MacLeod died of injuries received in the crash of a Lancaster Dec. 9-10.


12 412 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BL765 lost in the English Channel on a CIRCUS escort for a USAAF operation, F/O S.W. Pearce missing.

12 #5 (Coastal) OTU Beaufighter lost over the sea on a navigation exercise, F/O J. Ash and 2 crew [sic] missing.

12 #26 OTU F/S D.J. Clark RCAF (USA) died of injuries sustained the previous day.

12 #28 OTU Wellington Ic T2896 crashed into trees practicing night circuits, P/O E.C. Loughead killed, Sgt C.G. Foster RNZAF, Sgt Godfrey RAF and F/S Crickmore RAF injured.

12 #1432 Army Co-operation Flight, Hurricane crashed after striking a tree on an exercise, killing WO2 T.A. Johnston.

12 Fire at the Knights of Columbus Hostel in St. John’s, Newfoundland. The building was packed for a Christmas dance and a radio broadcast as well as people using it's sleeping facilities.
The windows had been boarded over to black out lights for air raid precautions and U-boats. There were estimated to be 500 people in the building, and the flames spread, partially due to hung Christmas decorations. The opening moments of the fire were actually broadcast across the Dominion on radio. There were 99 dead and 107 were injured. Among the dead were LAC G.C. Bellerive, AC1 F.E. Burton, AC2 V. Gallery, AC2 R.B. Chapman, Cpl R.H. Corner, AC2 J.E. Cusak, LAC L.E. Hoggard, Sgt W.L. Ibbotson, AC1 F.A. Langley, LAC J.A. Lawrence, LAC J.A.I.R. Legris, AC1 J.G. Lepine, AC2 S.C. Murray, LAC J.F.R.A. Ouellet, AC1 F.J. Sawada and AC2 J.G. Sturgeon. AC1 Burton had survived the sinking of the SS Caribou the previous October. LAC G.F.W. Lyon, RCAF Torbay, was later awarded a George Medal for his attempts to save lives in this event. This was one of a series of mysterious fires affecting military barracks and civilian centres where off duty Newfoundland, US, Canadian and UK military would gather. The fire was determined to be a case of arson, but sabotage, although suspected, was not proven.

- #39 SFTS, Swift Current, Saskatchewan, Oxford I AS790 crashed, LAC T.N. Wood RAF killed.

12

Sunday

13 #113 (BR) Sqn. RCAF detachment leaves Chatham, NB for Yarmouth, NS (RCAF Sqns.).
13 144 Sqn. Hampden TB.I P4373 PL-R shot down off the coast of Norway by flak when making a torpedo attack, P/O J.W. Sproule, P/O J.H. Stilborn, Sgt H.F. Dell RAF and Sgt G.H. Foster RAF missing (H. Moyle). P/O Stilborn, then a Sgt, had been involved in an accident with a #16 OTU Hampden Feb. 28, above.
13 144 Sqn. Hampden TB.I P1250 PL-M shot down by flak making a torpedo attack off Norway, Sgt J. Vosper RAF missing, F/O L.J. Mennill, F/L H.J.W. Bowden RAF and Sgt C.D. Elsmore RAF PoW.
13 unknown unit, Wellington lost in transit from England to Gibraltar on the way to the Middle East, F/S G.M. Dunn, F/S W.E. Foster, F/S L.V. Johnston and F/S S.M. Thomas missing, no details (incident not found in BCL’42 or BCL’OTU or BLME V.1).
13 RAF Middle East, Chief of Administration, AVM A.C. Maund CB CBE DSO Croix de Guerre avec Palm (Fr.) MiD RAF (Can.) died in England. AVM Maund had served in the RFC and the RAF in WWI and in Russia in 1918 and 1919, then stayed in the RAF between the wars (B. Barry et al, Allison & Hayward)).
13 #11 Recruiting Depot AC2 G.H. Taylor died on leave of natural causes after re-mustering to aircrew training.
13 #34 EFTS, Assiniboia, Saskatchewan DH.82C Tiger Moth #1194 crashed near Lillestrom, Man., while on a solo cross-country, LAC(P) T.G. Kvapilik killed. The wreckage was not found for nearly two weeks (B. Barry et al). Barry also notes that LAC Kvapilik had re-mustered from the Artillery where he had served as an anti-aircraft gunner in London during the Blitz. His training base was very close to his families farm which he frequently 'buzzed', annoying his mother.
Monday

14 US & Australian forces retake Buna, having driven the Japanese attack on Port Moresby back over the mountains of New Guinea. This was the first major defeat of the Japanese on land by Allied forces.

14 203 Sqn. Baltimore lost on operations in the Middle East, Sgt K. Rushby, Sgt C.E.Le M. Small RNZAF, F/O F.E. Ayers RAF and F/O M.J. Cowan RAF missing.

14 252 Sqn. Beaufighter lost in North Africa returning from an escort for Beauforts. Short of fuel it was one of two shot down by German fighters, F/L E.R. Derick and Sgt Cameron (RAF?) PoW. They managed to escape in September 1943 from an Italian PoW camp (airforce.ca/awards).

14 #22 OTU Wellington III HF632 spun and crashed on approach from a navigation exercise, Sgt R.G. Causier, F/S R.F. James, P/O L.E. Lasby, P/O R.H. Miller RAF and Sgt S.E. Swallow RAF killed. Sgt Causier and F/S James were friends and schoolmates from Regina, Saskatchewan (B. Barry et al, also states P/O Lasby from Regina but TSGNO lists him from Toronto).

14 #2 B&G School, Mossbank, Saskatchewan Bolingbroke IV.T #9984 flew into a hill in the Qu’Appelle Valley near Lumsden, Saskatchewan, on an air test, LAC J. Campbell, WO2 E.B. North, aero engine mechanics LAC R.E. Habkirk, LAC H.A. Lightle, LAC R.H. Shults, and AC1 H.V. Pratt killed (B. Barry et al).

14 unknown unit, AC2 J.R. Berglund killed in an car crash near Claresholm, Alberta (paulmcmillan www.rafcommands.com).

14 #5 BFTS (British Flying Training School), Florida, USA, AT-6A (Harvard) 41-211 crashed killing LAC(P) R.A. Purrett. He is buried in Florida (H. Welting, paulmcmillan and D. Burke at www.rafcommands.com).

Tuesday

15 Married men on call-up status (CJCA headline).

15 353 Sqn. Hudson crashed near Tezur, India, on a supply dropping sortie, F/S W.C. Cameron (194 Sqn.), WO2 G.J.D. Kerswill, F/S R. MacLean RCAF (USA) (194 Sqn.) and P/O W.E. Foot RAF missing or no known grave (C. Shores).


Wednesday

16 Soldiers pay increased; Liquor sales reduced (CJCA headlines).

Operation LITTLE SATURN, Soviet counter offensive to deflect Stalingrad relief force
begins, breaking through Italian Army and forcing attacking German units away from Stalingrad (Oxford).

**Using low cloud German fighter bombers attack 20 towns in England, losing 2** *(ww2total.com Chronology/1942)*.

16 18 Sqn. Blenheim V BA814 crash landed at Canrobert Airfield in Algeria after an engine fire, F/S B. Yanover safe.

16 #32 OTU, Patricia Bay, BC, Anson I N9560 crashed seven miles inland from Nanaimo, BC, on a navigation exercise, killing P/O P.F. Biggs, P/O W.W. Harris RCAF (USA), P/O D.J. Robertson, P/O J.R. Vosburgh and Sgt A.J. Doherty RNZAF.

16 #34 OTU, Pennfield Ridge, NS, armourer Sgt T.R. Hutchings RAF was hanged for the murder of Bernice Connors, of Black Harbour, NS, June 5, 1942 (C.G. Larsen, Pennfield Ridge Air Station website).

16-17 **Bomber Command sent 8 Wellingtons to bomb a German aircraft depot in France without result, as well as 18 GARDENING sorties off France, 1 bomber and 1 minelayer lost** *(BC War Diaries)*.


16-17 57 Sqn. Lancaster I W4359 was on a training flight when it caught fire in the air over England, possibly due to a lightning strike, and exploded, F/S E.C. McPhee, Sgt T.I. Manson RNZAF, Sgt H.M. Sims RAAC, Sgt R.S. Doore RAF, Sgt J.O. Irving RAF, Sgt W.H. Taylor RAF and F/O F.G. Shell RAF killed.

16-17 75 (New Zealand) Sqn. Stirling I R9245 AA-N hit an obstruction on take-off for a GARDENING sortie off France and crashed, Sgt W.J. Lawrence, Sgt B.A. Franklin RNZAF, Sgt W.H. Whitcombe RNZAF, Sgt E.W. Harvey RNZAF, Sgt H.R. Welch RNZAF, Sgt E.J. Burbridge RAF and Sgt T. Pascoe RAF killed. The wreck blocked the runway and prevented 5 other aircraft from taking off that night, however on the 75 Squadron webpage *(https://75nzsqaudron.wordpress.com)* it notes that the wind had veered so the laid out flare path was across the wind direction. Three Stirlings took off, each swinging off the flare path. This was the fourth to take-off, and it swung as well, apparently damaging the undercarriage so that it took off the oil tank of one engine (when retracting or torn off?), which it is believed caused that engine to fail and the aircraft to crash a mile from the airfield, where its mines exploded. Take offs were suspended after the crash.

16-17 #14 OTU Wellington Ic R1603 crashed while on night flying exercise due to a engine attachment breaking, Sgt G.H. Weeden and crew safe. See Dec. 10-11, 1943.


**Thursday**

17 **In the Solomon Islands the new secret Japanese airfield at Munda Point was ready for**
fighter operations less than 3 weeks after construction began, although it had been
detected and bombed before this. Work continued to lengthen the airstrip to take
bombers, while a second fighter airfield was begun nearby (E. Hammel). See June
30, 1943.

Saglek Bay, Labrador, crew of downed B-26 have been trying to contact help by radio, but
on this day their auxiliary generator dies, leaving them unable to charge the
batteries. See Dec. 23, below.

In England a "Joint Declaration by Members of the United Nations" making public and
condemning the murder of Jews and the use of slave labour by Nazi Germany was
issued (wikipedia).

In the effort to try to retrieve the remaining 5 crew of the B-17 that crashed in Greenland
Nov. 9, above, assistance was sought from civil (bushplane) operator's in Canada
(on the advice of Col. Bernt Balchen USAAF, a noted Arctic aviation pilot). On this
day a Barkley-Grow T8P-1 CF-BMV (ex RCAF #758) of Maritime Central Airways,
flown by MCA Captain J. Wade, landed at Goose Bay after being modified with extra
fuel tanks. There it switched from wheels to skis, was equipped with survival gear,
and stood by waiting for a break in the weather (Wade & Simmons). See Dec. 23,
below. The T8P was a small all metal 8 passenger airliner with fixed gear, able to
operate from wheels, skis or floats, and designed for operation in remote areas.
Production was limited by the Depression, of the 11 built 7 saw service in Canada
into the 1960s.

17 #3 Training Command, Finch II #4415 crashed near Ste. Anne de Prescott, Ontario (R.W.R.
Walker).

17 #32 OTU Patricia Bay, BC, Anson I R3431 crashed, Sgt A.M. Belloti RCAF (USA), Sgt N.A.
Bastick RAF and Sgt K.J. Bowler RAF killed, Sgt R.A. Maun RAF and Sgt S.J. Conlon
missing.

17-18 104 Sqn. Wellington II Z8469 "F" shot down by a night fighter on an operation to Tunis, Sgt
Lines RAF missing, F/O C.W.M. Dallas PoW.

17-18 Eight small towns in Germany were targeted by 27 Lancasters, and 22 bombers were
sent to attack the Opel truck works at Fallersleben, as well as 50 GARDENING and 5
NICKEL sorties, for a total of 104 sorties with the loss of 18 (BC War Diaries).

Last large bombing of Malta, 40 Luftwaffe bombers destroyed 9 Wellingtons, a Baltimore
and 4 Spitfires attacking the airfields (sm www.rafcommands.com).

17-18 9 Sqn. Lancaster I ED349 WS-S lost over Germany, F/S W.H. Penn RCAF (USA) killed, Sgt J.
Wilson, Sgt E.R. Aldridge RAAF, Sgt A. Willis RAF, Sgt J.R. Lord RAF, Sgt A.S. McKinley
RAF and Sgt L.B. Holmes RAF PoW.

17-18 44 Sqn. Lancaster I R5666 KM-F lost over Germany, F/S J. Kingshorn RAF and Sgt W.G.
RAF and Sgt J.K. Alger RAF PoW.


17-18 75 (New Zealand) Sqn. Stirling I R9247 AA-W lost over Germany, F/S J. Fellows, P/O M.O. Clark RNZAF, Sgt C.J. Kendall RNZAF, Sgt H.W. Pullar RNZAF, F/S H.E. Rousseau RAF, Sgt W.W. Morton RAF and Sgt R.C. Mocock RAF killed. H.A. Halliday notes on the www.rafcommands.com website that according to his RCAF files F/S Fellows was very keen on serving in aircrew, becoming a gunner after having been washed out as a pilot, observer (navigation and bomb aiming) and wireless operator training.

17-18 75 (New Zealand) Sqn. Stirling I BK620 AA-A shot down over Holland by flak and night fighters, Sgt A.L. Magnus, Sgt K.D. Glen, Sgt K.J. Atwell, Sgt W.J.S. Voice RNZAF, F/S K.J. Dunmall RAF, P/O E.E. Williams RAF and Sgt J. Ritchie RAF all PoW. These were part of 4 of the 5 Stirlings sent to Fallersleben lost by 75 Squadron on this operation. P/O Williams was later part of The Wooden Horse escape, October 29, 1943 (https://75nzsquadron.wordpress.com).


17-18 101 Sqn. Lancaster I W4319 SR-N was returning from a GARDENING sortie and off course in heavy cloud flew into an area being bombed by a German air raid. For some reason the bombers IFF was not operating and it was identified as a hostile and shot down from low altitude in error by anti-aircraft fire, Sgt G.M. Georges RCAF (USA), Sgt M.A. Fussell RAF, Sgt S.S. McLean RNZAF, Sgt M.A.G. McIntyre RNZAF, Sgt M.J. O'Malley RNZAF, Sgt J. Worsnop RAF and Sgt G.J. Warren RAF killed (R. Allenby).


17-18 115 Sqn. Wellington III BK336 KO-D lost over Germany, Sgt A.D. Rowsell RAF (Nfld.), Sgt C.D. Lamont RNZAF, Sgt R.P. Crisp RAF, Sgt W.O.H. Williams RAF and Sgt J.C. Wood
RAF killed.

Friday
18 13 Sqn. Blenheim V BA785 lost on a sortie to Bizerta, Sgt J.V. Welsh, F/S H.M. Martin and F/O A. Jickling MID RAF missing.
18 #20 OTU Wellington Ic X9911 JM-B crashed attempting an overshoot returning from a practice bombing flight, Sgt H.C. Dixon and his crew safe. See Oct. 15, 1943.
18 #34 EFTS, Assiniboia, Saskatchewan, Sgt J.R. Holmes RAF died of illness after surgery (B. Barry et al; D. Burke www.rafcommands.com).

Saturday
19 German relief force halted short of Stalingrad. Airlift of supplies peaks at 120 tons a day, besieged forces becoming short of fuel, food and munitions (Oxford).
19 260 Sqn. Kittyhawk III FR113 shot down by flak attacking enemy transport on the coast road in the desert, P/O J. Takvor bailed out at low altitude offshore and was seen to climb in his dinghy, but his fate is unknown and he has no known grave (Buz, www.rafcommands.com). This incident is described in the biography of S/L J.F. Edwards "Kittyhawk Pilot", who was leading the flight that day.
19 422 Sqn. Sunderland III W6029 2-D was landing at Oban in Scotland when it ran into a large wave, broke in two and sank, crew LAC W.A. Allan, P/O H.F. Burt-Gerrans and F/L J.K. Potter missing or killed, P/O H.A. Goggin, Sgt C.E. Channey, Sgt B.B. Currie, F/L J.T. Reed, Sgt J.H.R. Tait RAF, Sgt R.J. Webster RAF and Sgt J. Luke RAF survived, passengers Sgt A.G. Rees RAAF and 1 other missing or killed, 8 others rescued (A. Storr).
19 #31 B&G School, Picton, Ontario, Lysander TT.III #1546 crashed, LAC J.S. Holt RAF and Sgt N.E. Spenceley RAF killed.

19-20 #3 (Coastal) OTU Wellington Z8708 lost at sea off Scotland, Sgt S.R. Barling RAAF and Sgt S.C. Reardon RAAF killed, P/O R.H. Bedell RCAF (USA), Sgt F.C. Kearney RAAF, Sgt A.M. Giles RAF and F/O F.H. Angell RNZAF missing (A. Storr).

Sunday
20 German forces routed on the middle Don (CJCA headline).

First USAAF attack of over 100 bombers, targeting the Luftwaffe base at Romilly-sur-Seine in France. Escort by 12 Fighter Command squadrons to the limit of their range and 7 more on withdrawal. Seventy two bombers drop on the target, 6 are lost and 29
damaged by heavy fighter attacks (Zijlstra).

20 260 Sqn., 12 Kittyhawk aircraft were strafing enemy vehicles in North Africa when they were jumped by 4 Bf 109s. Three were shot down, including F/S L.P. McClive RCAF (USA) missing in Kittyhawk III FR134, F/L V.J. Thagard missing and 1 RAF missing/killed. The other 9 aircraft returned but 2 were badly shot up.

20 248 Sqn. Beaufighter lost from England, WO1 H.A. Sharpe missing and 1 crew missing/killed. One of several lost by 248 Sqn. on this date.

20 405 Sqn. Halifax II W7768 took off for an anti-submarine patrol and crashed on the Isle of Wight after an engine failure, Sgt M.W. Fugere, WO2 L.E. Snarr, F/O E. Stollery, F/S N.A. Van Brunt, F/S G.E. Wagner, Sgt M.W. Croft RAF and P/O R. Washer RAF killed (www.islandeye.co.uk). WO2 Snarr may be the pilot of an OADU Wellington Ic HX478 (listed as Sgt L.E. Snaar RCAF) that was damaged beyond repair when it overran the end of the runway at Gibraltar on a delivery flight, June 28, above.

20 425 Sqn. Wellington III BK332 KW-O landed long and was damaged from a ferry flight, F/S A.H. Jackson and his crew safe (R. Allenby).

20 #8 B&G School, Lethbridge, Alberta, Bolingbroke IV.T #9898 crashed on an air to ground gunnery exercise killing LAC E. Bohush, P/O G.H. Brazier, F/S N.J. Dalgleish and LAC S.L. Palmer RAAF.

20-21 Japanese bombers from Burma attack Calcutta in India (M.J.H. Taylor), first of 5 attacks. Over a million citizens fled the city by the end of the month (S. Raghavan)

413 Sqn. Catalina, W/C J.C. Scott, carried out a reconnaissance on the coast of Sumatra and bombs the harbour at Koetradja, Indonesia, a flight of 2,000 miles taking 17 ½ hours (I. Wikene, RCAF Sqns., FF Years).

Duisburg attacked in clear weather by 232 bombers, which reported good results.

This night also saw the introduction of another bombing aid, OBOE. This was a system that used a pulsed radio beam to the bombing aircraft, which then re-transmitted the pulse back to the ground station, who were able to guide it on an arc of constant distance from the transmitter and passing across it's target. By measuring the time difference in the pulses the exact location of the aircraft on the arc could be determined and the bombs dropped on a signal from a second ground station whose beam crossed the arc over the target. Accuracy was a remarkable 300 yards, or 275 m, meaning even large individual buildings could be (and were) targeted and hit, even on moonless nights. However the bomber had to fly a commanded course at a constant speed on it's bomb run, making it vulnerable to flak. Each station could only handle 1 bomber every 10 minutes. The co-ordinates of the beams had to be extremely accurate or the bombs would miss (see below). And finally this was line-of-sight only, which restricted it's range due to curvature of the Earth. To offset this it was realized that the Mosquito aircraft could fly bombing runs at 30,000', maximizing the range of the system, and with it's high speed reducing it's vulnerability to anti-aircraft fire. The small numbers that could use the system remained, but they could be used to initially mark targets for the Target Finding
Force, who would then use TIs to mark them for what was now being termed the Main Force of Bomber Command.

Six OBOE Mosquitos initiated the system on this night at a power station at Lutterade, Holland, where reports from the ground indicate that all the bombs fell in a very close grouping, in an open field!

A final 4 NICKEL sorties brought the nights total to 242 with the loss of 12 bombers (BC War Diaries).


20-21 44 Sqn. Lancaster I W4259 KM-P collided after take-off with 9 Sqn. Lancaster I W4182 WS-B, both aircraft crashing. WO2 G.D. McCready, F/S A.C. Elger RAF, Po V.N. Giri RAF, Sgt A.J. Easton RAF, Sgt R.I. Gunter RAF, Sgt C. Harmston RAF and Sgt E. Jackson RAF were killed in W4259, and Sgt L.C. Hazell RAF, Sgt E.A. Gardiner RAF, Sgt W.T. Miller RAF, Sgt H.T. Tatley RAF, Sgt C.H.S. Brooks RAF, Sgt E.F. Sharples RAF and Sgt E.W. Walker RAF were killed on W4182.


20-21 97 Sqn. Lancaster I R5512 OF-C shot down by flak over Amsterdam, where it crashed into a park, Po M.A. Harper, Sgt A. Mortimer, Po W.N. Eales RAF, Sgt J. Donald RAF, Sgt S.V. Deed RAF, Sgt R.H. Bambury RAF and Sgt G. Henderson RAF killed. Three bodies of the crew were recovered at the time of the crash, the remaining crew were found in September 1962 when the crash was excavated by the RNLAF (RNeth.AF).

20-21 103 Sqn. Lancaster I W4334 PM-R crashed into a polder in the Netherlands, WO2 J.H. Love, WO2 L.E. Moriarty, Sgt E. Airey RAF, F/S P.E. Poulson RAF, Sgt R.O. Eynon RAF, F/S T. Bennett RAF and Sgt A.E. Brown RAF killed. The aircraft wreck was not found until the polder was drained in 1952, at which time the bodies of the crew were recovered. In September 1990 engines and other parts of the wreck were also recovered.


20-21 156 Sqn. Wellington III BJ589 shot down over Holland by a night fighter, P/O J.C. Jackes, Sgt M.R. Wallis RAF and Sgt C. Calvert RAF killed, F/S G.A. Proudfoot RAF and Sgt J.E. Madden RAF PoW.


Monday

21 In Canada butter rationing starts (CJCA headline). Note that the manufacture and sale of margarine was illegal in Canada at this time (but not in Newfoundland, where the continued manufacture of margarine was one of the legal points in the negotiations that brought Newfoundland and Canada together).

21 147 Sqn. AC1 R.E. Parsons RAF (Can.) died in Egypt, no details.

21 152 Sqn. Spitfire missing from a patrol in Tunisia, possibly shot down by flak, WO2 W.A. Dobson killed.

21 429 Sqn. Wellington III DF624 was abandoned over England on a training flight when both propellers overspeeded, Sgt R.G. Moore RAF injured, Sgt J.H. Black, Sgt A. Napier (RAF?), Sgt P.G. Rothera RAF, P/O P.S. Bastian RAF and Sgt J.H. West RAF safe (R. Allenby). See also March 2-3, 1943.

21 #7 AOS, Portage la Prairie, Man., Anson I #6234 crashed near the airfield after an in-flight fire on a navigation exercise, killing the civilian Service Pilot C.B. Barber, F/S P.D. McIntyre RCAF (USA), LAC W.S. Croft RAF and LAC W.E. Weatherley RAF.

21-22 Munich was the target of 137 bombers which reported good results but appear to have been duped by a decoy site, 12 bombers lost (BC War Diaries).


21-22 44 Sqn. Lancaster I W4125 KM-Q lost over Germany, F/S K.N. Read, F/O D.F.H. Biggane DFC RAF, Sgt W. Imrie RAF, Sgt R. Cook RAF and Sgt H.C. Pont RAF killed, F/S H.R. Sanders DFM RAF and Sgt J.B. Goulette RAF PoW.

21-22 61 Sqn. Lancaster I R5699 returned early from an operation to Germany with a failed intercom. Approaching to land it was caught in a down draft and crashed, P/O W.J. Dierkes, P/O H.S. Glinz, Sgt L. Pettigrew RAF, P/O W. Apps RAF, Sgt R. Inglis RAF, Sgt R. Andrews RAF and Sgt J.A. Fairley RAF safe. This was the second time in December that P/O Glinz had survived an accident. See May 16-17, 1943.
21-22 156 Sqn. Wellington III BK386 lost over France, P/O H.T. Boyes, F/L W.S. Crawford, F/L S.J. Cybulski DFC, F/O L.R. Mann DFC and F/O J.P. Sullivan killed. TSGNO states F/L Crawford was on his second tour while F/O Sullivan had completed 2 tours.

21-22 460 Sqn. Lancaster I W4329 UV-T was attacked and damaged by a Ju 88 night fighter, which the mid-upper and tail gunners claimed strikes on before it disappeared into cloud, Sgt E.E. Wertzler, F/S P.S. Isaacson DFM RAAF, F/S L.M.J. Evans RAAF, Sgt J.K. Swain RAAF, Sgt E.M. Copley RAAF, Sgt J.G. RAAF and Sgt C. Askham RAF returned safe (R. Allenby). See January 4-5, 1943.

Tuesday

22 Hitler orders production of the A-4, later V-2, missile (Polsson).

The high ground later known as Longstop is taken by British units in Tunisia, advancing as part of a planned attack on Tunis, later cancelled by extreme weather and lack of supplies (Pareham & Belfield).

Bomber Command sends 6 Wellington bombers to Emden and 6 INTRUDER Mosquitos over Europe in cloud cover with the loss of 1 Mosquito (BC War Diaries).

Twenty six people including steel workers killed in an avalanche in Pennsylvania (wikipedia).

The US Congress adopts the Flag Code, which among other things, eliminates the flag salute developed by the author of the Pledge of Allegiance in 1892 because of it’s similarity to the German Nazi Party salute, substituting instead a hand over the heart gesture, still used today (E. Dee, wikipedia)


22 89 Sqn. Beaufighter stalled and crashed in Algeria when the dinghy in the wing deployed and wrapped around the aircraft’s tail when it was landing, F/L H.E. Mitchell and P/O J.G. Trebell DFM killed.

22 272 Sqn. Beaufighter crashed at Ta Kali (Ta’ Qali), Malta, ___ J.E. Fisher injured. See Sept. 16-17, 1943.

22 105 Sqn. Mosquito IV DZ360 GB-A believed shot down by flak over Holland, F/S J.E. Clouthier and Sgt A.C. Foxley RAF killed.

22 466 Sqn. RAAF Wellington X HE391 HD-Y lost without trace on a training flight, believed over the sea, F/S D.L. Hogben, Sgt R. Egerton RAF, F/O G.L. Sellars RAF, Sgt D. Dorn RAF and Sgt J.S. Davison RAF missing. This was the first loss for 466 Sqn., an Article 15 RAAF Squadron. It was also the first Wellington X lost in Bomber Command.

22 #5 (Coastal) OTU Hampden TB.I P2091 dove into the sea while on a bombing practice, F/S J.G. Dukick RCAF (USA), F/S D.L. Erickson and F/S L. Hoskins missing, Sgt Maul survived (H. Moyle).

22-23 Four OBOE Mosquito and 4 NICKEL sorties sent out (BC War Diaries).

22-23 138 Sqn. Halifax II W7775 NF-R lost over Holland on a Special Operation MARROW 12, F/O
G.F.B. Newport-Tinley DFC RAF, Sgt B.M. Pick RAF, Sgt B.S. Nixon RAF, WO C.A. Howard DFC RAF, F/S H.C. Taylor RAF and Sgt C.C. Hayes RAF killed, Sgt F.O. Tierney and Sgt C.A. Bloxham RAF PoW, the latter injured and repatriated in 1944. He wrote a book about his experiences, The Long Haul (2006) (http://www.teunispats.net/fr-wwii.htm). Sgt Tierney's brother, P/O T.B. Tierney, was also a rear gunner and was killed October 4, 1944. Halifax W7775 reported shot down over the drop site by a flak unit that was there "on manoeuvres", part of the NORDPOL counter espionage operation (R. Tebbutt, harringtonmuseum.org.uk).


22-23 415 Sqn. Hampden TB.I GX-F was hit by flak making a torpedo attack off the coast of Holland, which destroyed most of the pilots instruments and badly damaged the elevator controls and trim, making the aircraft nearly uncontrollable in pitch. Pilot Sgt G.O. Ellersgodt found he could not control the aircraft pitching using his arms, so braced his back on his seat back, put one foot on the control column, and his second foot through the control yoke like a stirrup, and by pushing and pulling with his legs managed to fly 3 hours back to England and make a safe landing (M.W. Bowman, Bombs Away!: Dramatic First-hand Accounts of British and Commonwealth Bomber Aircrew in WWII, Casemate Publishers, 2010). This was cited in the award of an MiD (FF Years). His crew on this sortie may have been F/S S.E. Grossman, Sgt E.H. Johnson and Sgt A. Glass (http://www.415sqn.com/hampdon-crews.html).

Wednesday

23 President Roosevelt orders control of the Manhattan Project to be handed over from the civilian OSRD to the US Army, and that British access to US work is to be limited. The US Army places a third order for uranium oxide from Eldorado Mining for 500 tons. This order, kept secret from the Canadian Government, combined with the priority for processing the Congolese ore at Port Hope, effectively ties up all Canadian sources for these materials. This will eventually trigger the take-over of Eldorado Mining by the Canadian Government.

Saglek Bay, Labrador, three of the B-26 crew down at this location, 2Lt P. Jansen, 2Lt E.J. Josephson and TSgt C.F. Nolan, leave the site in the bombers life raft to seek help. They are not seen again. See Feb. 3, 1943.

Just before noon the Barkley-Grow ski plane CF-BMV took off from Goose Bay with Captain J. Wade and survival specialist Capt. J.G. Moe Jr. USAAF to reposition to Bluie East 2, Greenland. Lost in bad weather, and attempting to land, the aircraft flew onto the sea ice in a whiteout, broke through and began to sink. The crew were able to abandon the aircraft in a rubber dinghy with some survival supplies. When the aircraft sank it left them stranded in thin ice about 400 yds. (366 m) offshore of Greenland (Wade & Simmons). See Dec. 24, below.

#113 (BR) Sqn. RCAF Detachment at Mont Joli, Quebec returns to Yarmouth, NS.
23 101 Sqn. Lancaster I W4312 overshot it's landing from an air test in poor visibility and was written off, Sgt J.H. Gillmeere and his crew safe.

23 #13 SFTS, St. Hubert, Quebec, Harvard IIb #3112 crashed and was written off (R.W.R. Walker).

23-24 Five OBOE sorties over 4 targets in Germany with uncertain results as it is not possible to distinguish any new bomb craters from those of previous attacks, but the Krupp works at Essen were hit with great accuracy on this night (BC War Diaries).

Thursday

24 French Admiral Darlan assassinated (CJCA headline) [in North Africa].

24 Soviet tank forces drive through a snow storm 120 miles behind German front lines to seize the main Luftwaffe base for supply flights into Stalingrad at Tatsinskaya. Surprised, Ju 52/3m transports attempt to take-off in the blizzard conditions while under gun and machine gun fire and ramming attacks by tanks, which destroyed 72 of the aircraft, about 10% of the Luftwaffe's total transport fleet then engaged in supplying German armies in Stalingrad. Surrounded, the Soviet force then comes under heavy attack, but was able to break out to advancing Soviet units with heavy losses of men and losing all its tanks 4 days later (wikipedia). The effect on the air re-supply of Stalingrad is severe, as fewer aircraft now have to fly from airfields farther back, reducing their payloads.

The crew of Barkley-Grow CF-BMV worked to break ice and get to the nearby shore, but made only about 45' (14 m) in the short Arctic day (Wade & Simmons). See Dec. 25, below.

24 #3 Personnel Reception Centre, Bournemouth, England observer P/O R.D. Charters died "on service", no details.

24 #10 OTU Whitley V AD711 "R" crashed in mist attempting to land after an anti-submarine patrol, Sgt H.E. Williams, Sgt D. McMillan, Sgt F.P. O'Malley RAF, Sgt R.E. Pigney RAF, Sgt H.T. Brown RAF and LAC S. Hughes RAF injured.

24 #10 OTU Whitley V BD261 ditched near Land's End after an engine failure, Sgt R.A. Brant RAF and Sgt J.F. Bootle RAF killed, Sgt A.B.P. Rumsey RAF missing, Sgt R.J. Simmons and Sgt J.B. Woods RAF safe.

24 #15 SFTS, Claresholm, Alberta, Crane IA #8762 hit a cable and crashed west of Monarch, Alberta, while practising low flying, LAC(P) S.T. Monroe RCAF (USA) killed.

24 unknown unit, AT-6 (Harvard) aircraft crashed in the USA, LAC W.J. Watters RAF killed. He is buried in Arizona (H. Welting).

24-25 Three OBOE attacks on 2 targets, again hitting the Krupp complex in Essen (BC War Diaries).

Friday

25 Fighting at Longstop in Tunisia, which has been seized, lost, and regained several times by German, US and British forces in the last 3 days, ends with the lower portions in Allied hands and a German position on the heights. Failure to hold this strongpoint ends the chance of a breakthrough into Tunis, and the offensive in North Africa halts until the spring (Oxford).


In Greenland the crew of CF-BMV attempted to lighten their rubber boat by taking gear ashore, but this was thwarted after 1 trip when Capt. Wade broke through the ice (Wade & Simmons). See Dec. 26, below.


25-26 40 Sqn. Wellington Ic "X" was returning to Malta from an operation over Tunisia and became lost. The bomber finally ditched and the crew, Sgt G.E. Geeves, F/L L. McLachlan RNZAF, P/O J.D. Kitchen RAF, Sgt F. Hughes RAF and F/S A. Challand RAF, were rescued by High Speed Launch #107 from Malta. Sgt Geeves had been the only person uninjured in the loss of a Wellington Dec. 7, above. See also Jan. 2-3, 1945.

Saturday

26 The weather turned colder and the crew of CF-BMV, finding their rubber boat frozen into the ice and believing it had firmed up (and noting polar bear tracks in the newly fallen snow nearby), freed the boat and attempted to drag it to shore, but Capt. Moe soon fell through the ice, forcing them to stop. A B-17 was seen flying nearby (Wade & Simmons). See Dec. 27, below.

26 unknown unit, Wellington LA970 missing on a flight from Gibraltar to the Middle East, F/S F.A. de Gruchy, WO2 C.B. Hodges, F/S J.O. Lebel, F/S J. Richards and F/S W.A. Rollings missing. Sgt J.G. Wyatt RAF also listed as missing on this date, possibly related (CWGC)?

26 #34 EFTS, Assiniboia, Saskatchewan, DH.82C Tiger Moth #1194 destroyed by fire (R.W.R. Walker).

Sunday

27 Twenty six [sic] killed in Almonte train crash (CJCA headline). A troop train ran into the rear of a local CPR passenger train loading passengers at Almonte, Ontario. There was no siding at the location and the troop train crew could not see the standing train until it was too late to stop, owing to heavy snowfall which had also delayed the local for over 2 hours. Icing on the track may have contributed. Thirty six people were killed including tractor operator AC2 K.G. Moorhouse who was on leave. Over 200 were injured (wikipedia, The Ottawa Evening Journal via www.rootsweb.ancestry.com).
After 4 days adrift and with firming ice the crew of Barley-Grow CF-BMV finally reached shore in Greenland. Several sightings were made of B-17 aircraft searching for them but without the flares lost in the sunken aircraft they were not seen (Wade & Simmons). See Dec. 29, below.


27 233 Sqn. Hudson IIIa FH426 lost in the Mediterranean on an anti-submarine patrol from Gibraltar, possibly forced to ditch after attacking U-73 (uboot.net), Sgt E.V. Evans RAF killed, Sgt J.J. Griffin RAF (Nfld.), Sgt J.S. Greaves RAF, Sgt E. Brown RAF missing (R. McNeill www.rafcommands.com). The wreckage of FH426 was found and identified in July, 1990, off Cartagena, Spain (uboot.net), and an engine and propeller from the aircraft, with a plaque remembering the crew, are on display at the Spanish Air Museum (Museo del Aire) near Madrid (Sigurjon forum.planetalk.net). In previous service with 59 Sqn. this Hudson had returned with heavy damage to a wing after attacking a convoy off the Dutch coast (www.number59.com).

27 #1 Flying Instructor School, Trenton, Ontario, Harvard II #2916 hit a power line and crashed while flying at low level near Thurlow, Ontario killing P/O T. Marshall and injuring aero engine mechanic AC1 F.J. Lee (see Dec. 31).

27 #1 OTU, Bagotville, Quebec, Hurricane XII #5441 was flying in a low level flight when it skidded and crash landed near St. Ambroise, Quebec when making a steep turn (R.W.R. Walker).

Monday

28 German relief force to Stalingrad forced to retreat, eventually being forced back to where they had begun the summer offensive in June (Oxford).

#116 (BR) Sqn. RCAF deployed back to Dartmouth from Shelburne, NS (RCAF Sqns.).


28 152 Sqn. Spitfire shot down in Tunisia, P/O W.H. Tape twice MiD killed.


28 #55 OTU Canadian built Hurricane X AG150 and Hurricane W9233 collided in mid-air and crashed, killing Sgt G.H. Walsh RAF (N. Ireland) in AG150 and Sgt A.V. Marshall RAF in W9233 (malcolm_raf and H. Welting at www.rafcommands.com).

28 #135 (F) Sqn. RCAF Hurricane XII #5402 crashed into the sea north of Active Pass, BC, Sgt J.L. Cornell missing.

28 #4 SFTS, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, LAC A.L. Saunders died in Hospital of natural causes.

28 #35 SFTS, North Battleford, Saskatchewan, Oxford I X6686 crashed at the Hamlin relief airfield, landed downwind and overturned, instructors Sgt L.G. Firmage RAF and P/O R.
Herries RAF killed (R.W.R. Walker).


Tuesday
29 The crew of CF-BMV were found by local Inuit and taken to the Greenland village of Tederitik just ahead of a storm. On Jan. 2, 1943, after waiting out bad weather MCA Captain J. Wade and USAAF Captain J.G. Moe Jr., were taken to the Bluie airfield by dogteam. The survivors of the B-17 on the icecap were kept supplied with food and survival gear by air through the winter and were rescued after a long effort, the last one returning in March, 1943 (Wade & Simmons). The original missing aircraft with 5 men on board was never found, despite being in radio contact for several days after it crash landed (M. Zuckoff).

29 #9 AFU Master I T8602 aircraft crashed in Scotland after a mid-air collision, Sgt W.E. Woodington bailed out but was killed when his parachute failed (Keith Bryers www.rafcommands.com).

29 unknown unit, Sgt R.J. Swingler RNZAF died in Canada, no details.

29 #36 SFTS, Penhold, Alberta, hosted 2 P-39 and a C-47 transport in Soviet markings forced to land there by bad weather enroute to Edmonton (www.penholdbase.ca).

29 #38 SFTS, Estevan, Saskatchewan, Anson II #8555 and #8584 written off after crashes on unknown dates (CMA).

29-30 Bomber Command sent 3 OBOE Mosquitos to Essen that missed the Krupps works, and 14 GARDENING sorties, without loss (BC War Diaries).

Wednesday


30 415 Sqn. Hampden TB.I AE370 was written off after a ground collision with Fortress Ila FK188, Sgt Donald safe (H. Moyle).

30 429 Sqn. Wellington III BK430 AL-P was being worked on at East Moor airfield when a portable heater set it on fire. Four ground crew, LAC L. McLachlan, AC J. Ward, AC E. Phillips and AC A. Accomb were later officially commended for their quick actions in saving the aircraft (R. Allenby).


30 #1443 (Ferry Training) Flight Wellington VIII HX745 was on a cross country flight when an engine failed and the pilot, P/O A. Waters, made a forced landing but struck a tree, P/O C.G. Prest RAF died of injuries, Sgt G.A. Duffy and Sgt J.P. Hicks were injured, P/O...
Waters and P/O Bullock RAF safe.


30 USAAF 14th Ferry Sqn. 6th Ferry Group P-39M 42-4725 crashed near Wetaskiwin, Alberta after an engine fire, pilot Lt. H.E. Williams USAF bailed out (AAIR). The aircraft was salvaged but most of the wreckage was left in Wetaskiwin. Today a P-39 recovered in New Guinea is being restored using some of the parts from 42-4725 for eventual display in the Reynolds-Alberta Museum/Canadian Aviation Hall of Fame (B. Reynolds). This was the first Lend-Lease P-39 to the USSR that was lost on the North-West Staging Route.

30-31 Battle of the Barents Sea, 6 RN destroyers escorting Murmansk convoy JW-51B were intercepted by the German cruisers Admiral Hipper and Lützow. The convoy escort held off the attacks until support from their own cruiser force arrived, and they managed to inflict major damage on the German force and drive them away. Two British destroyers were sunk but the convoy escaped without loss. This infuriates Hitler and spells the effective end of the German surface fleet as he orders resources re-allocated from the Navy to the German Army and Air Forces. See Jan. 1, 1943.

31 40 Sqn. Wellington Ic HD955 lost on an operation to Sfax, Tunisia from Malta, F/S S.Q. Schrump (attached from 37 Sqn.), WO D.L. Iremonger RAF, Sgt T.J. Pritchard RAF, Sgt E.H. Wright RAF, Sgt J. Bell RAF and Sgt A. Campbell RAF missing (see discussion page for WO Iremonger at www.rafcommands.com).

31 409 Sqn. two Beaufighter VI aircraft collided, WO2 B.H. Barber and WO1 H. Hare were killed in EL184, F/O H. Brooks and F/O W. Mosley lost in X8192.

31 428 Sqn. Wellington X burst a tire landing and was damaged, Sgt P.W. Manning RAF and his crew safe (R. Allenby). See Aug. 16-17, 1943.

31 #70 OTU Kenya F/O L.G. Burke killed in a car accident in Nairobi.

31 #1 Flying Instructor School, Trenton, Ontario, aero engine mechanic AC1 F.J. Lee died of injuries received Dec. 27.

31 #12 Flying Instructor School, Vulcan, Alberta, F/S H.E. Walker was injured when he fell from a moving train near Champion, Alberta. See Jan. 6, 1943.

31 Air Force Recruiting Centre, Regina, Saskatchewan, aero engine mechanic AC2 O.E. Wenaus died in an off duty car accident near Crestwynd, Saskatchewan

Late December, SS Empire Kingsley, enroute from England to Africa with a deck load of aircraft, diverts to St. John's, Newfoundland, due to weather in the Atlantic. There three crated Spitfire Vb aircraft ER824, ER881 and ES117, damaged in the storms, were off loaded and taken to RCAF Torbay for salvage (St. John's, A History of the Airport, www.spitfires.ukf.net). See March, 1943.
Thursday


During 1942 the BCATP in Canada graduated 14,135 pilots, 7,404 navigators, 1,742 bomb aimers and 6,896 wireless operator air gunners (Oxford).

31-1 Experimental attack on Duisburg by 8 Lancasters using 2 OBOE Mosquitos to mark the target. Only 1 OBOE drop was made but most of the force's bombs fell in the industrial premises targeted (although they caused no real damage). 3 more OBOE sorties attacked an airfield in Belgium, 29 GARDENING and 8 NICKEL sorties also made, 1 bomber and 1 minelaying aircraft lost (BC War Diaries).


31-1 460 Sqn. RAAF Wellington X HE149 HD-J was on a training flight at night when it had propeller problems. The propeller acting up was feathered, but the aircraft could not maintain height and flew into buildings on a farm, rear gunner F/S J.R. Norton and pilot Sgt C.F. Tozer RAAF were injured. With the rest of the crew (believed to be Sgt G.K. Young, Sgt H.E. Jones RAF and Sgt R. Treacher RNZAF) they evacuated the aircraft before it was destroyed by fire. Another Wellington from the same squadron suffered a similar problem which resulted in a forced landing on the same night, which resulted in a temporary grounding of the new Wellington X aircraft until their propeller control circuits could be checked (R. Allenby). See April 16-17, 1943.