CANADA'S AIR WAR 1942

updated 26/06/23

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. See S.K. Edwards for details. A good balanced description of the situation from the New Zealand perspective can also be found in Palmer & Neeven.

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

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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 white painted 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).

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Explosion in a coal mine in England kills 58 miners (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).

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 #22 OTU pilot Sgt K.W. Reilly was killed when he was struck by a car in England.

1 #60 OTU Defiant I N3432 flew into a hillside in the Lake District of England on a ferry flight, Sgt J.V. Greenberg RCAF (USA), 96 Squadron, killed. Sgt Greenberg served under the name of Wolf in the RCAF, after having been rejected for the USAAC in 1940 for not meeting their education requirements of a college education to become an officer, which all USAAC pilots were at that time (R. Allenby; CVWM). He is buried and remembered under the name of Wolf in most sources.

Friday

2 Manila and the bombed out Cavite Naval Base are captured by advancing Japanese forces in the Philippines (wikipedia).

Eighth Army storms Bardia in Libya.

415 Sqn., due to shortages of Beaufort torpedo bombers the Squadron returns it's Beaufort I aircraft and begins to receive Blenheim IV briefly before being issued Hampden I aircraft configured as torpedo bombers (415 SH; 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 it's new base at Boundary Bay, BC (http://www.bombercrew.com/BCATP.htm).

2 39 Sqn. Beaufort I W6520 'Y' shot down on an operation to Tobruk, P/O F.J.W. Saunders injured, Sgt T.G. Cresswell RAF(?) and P/O H. Earl RAF PoW (R. Hayward; www.rafcommands.com). See Jan. 4, below.

2 402 Sqn. bomber Hurricane IIb BE483 shot down over the English Channel near

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Cherbourg on a shipping reconnaissance, F/S B.P. O'Neill killed.

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

2 #10 (BR) Sqn. RCAF Digby #738 PB-N, F/O D.G.J. Maltby, was unable to maintain altitude due to an engine that exploded and burst into flames after taking off from Gander, and ditched in Lockyer Bay, Newfoundland, where it was damaged beyond repair by a fire from an electrical short, two crew injured (Dakota www.rafcommands.com; C. Vincent). 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 Z6656 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.

2-3 455 Sqn. RAAF Canadian built Hampden I P5328 UB-Q crashed in England returning from a GARDENING operation to France, P/O J.L.S. Willcox RAAF, P/O R.G. Christie RAAF, P/O C. Ludwig RAF and Sgt J.R. Stansfield RAF killed (H. Moyle).

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 missing presumed drowned when Stranraer #949 collided with the dinghy he was in (www.rafcommands.com). AC2 MacDonald is referenced at the bac-lac.gc.ca site for paperwork used for the Canadian Virtual War Memorial.

3 #10 SFTS Dauphin, Manitoba, Crane I #7931 landed wheels up and damaged after the undercarriage failed to extend, LAC W. Burnside safe (bac-lac.gc.ca; heritage.canadiana.ca). See June 23, below.

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

3-4 99 Sqn. Wellington Ic R1519 LN-Q landed in the sea off the English coast returning from an operation, Sgt A.J. Copping RAF killed, F/S J.W. Colpitts, F/S B. Froude RAF (Nfld.), P/O R.B. Thomas RAF, Sgt A.R.W. Smith RAF and Sgt A.H. Shattock RAF missing.

3-4 106 Sqn. Hampden I AT123 ZN-R shot down by flak on a GARDENING sortie off Holland, F/O A.J. Fraser, P/O D.A. Howard DFM RAF, Sgt A.H. Gardner RAF and F/S K. McKenzie DFM RAF missing (asn.flightsafety.org). F/O Fraser was lost on his first operation, having arrived at 106 Squadron only the day before (wartimes.ca).

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.

Temperatures in central Russia suddenly drop, immobilizing most Luftwaffe aircraft flying in support of retreating Army units (Bergström & Mikhailov V.2).

4 30 Sqn. Hurricane I Z4418 shot down off Egypt, P/O F.A. Scott missing. Believed buried at sea off Tobruk (CVWM).

4 39 Sqn. P/O F.J.W. Saunders died in captivity in Libya of injuries sustained Jan. 2 in the loss of Beaufort W6520.

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 approaching Malta, F/S D.W. Beirnes, Sgt J.J.H. Robbins RAF and Sgt P. Chaning-Pearce RAF missing (www.baaa-acro.com).

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

4 607 Sqn. Hurricane IIb BE422 lost on a bombing training sortie sortie from England, Sgt V.E. Reynolds missing (www.rafcommands.com).

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, Sgt H.T. Collins parachuted out and survived (www.findagrave.com). The other Shark landed safely. Both aircraft met returning from a patrol and engaged in the practice returning to their base.

4 #9 AOS St. Jean, Quebec, LAC(OB) J.E.G. Nadon and his brother, RCAF Station

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Trenton based Sgt J.Y.J. Nadon, with Sgt Nadon's wife Genevie Nadon, and three others, R. Champagne, S. Boyer, and Miss C. Bazinet, were killed when their car stalled on ice on a level crossing in a snowstorm and was struck by a passenger train at Westboro, Ontario. Three others survived, LAC and Sgt Nadon's brother Const. M. Nadon RCMP with cut to his hand, and two young girls who were badly injured (churcher.crcml.org).

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.

4-5 40 Sqn. Wellington Ic Z9036 from Malta, shot down by flak over Sicily, F/S W.R. Pick, F/S J.F. Lewthwaite RNZAF, Sgt P.F. Lill RAF, Sgt W. Chalmers RAF, Sgt M. Bryan RAF and Sgt S.H. James RAF killed.

Monday

5 Russians recapture Belev (CJCA headline). Soviet sea-borne forces are landed at the port of Yevpatoria, on the western Crimea north of Sevastopol, where the local population rose in support, catching the German army in the Crimea off guard. Aircraft attacking supply ships and bad weather prevented re-supply and the landing was soon contained with many civilians executed for supporting it. The landing also resulted in heavy support by Luftwaffe aircraft being sent to the region on the personal command of Göring (Bergström & Mikhailov V.2).

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 I V6734 crashed in a heavy snowstorm, Sgt J.B.R. Lalonde killed (malcolm_raf and H. Welting at www.rafcommands.com; www.findagrave.com). The wreck of his Hurricane was found and excavated in 2009 (kyt at www.miltarian.com).

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5 #11 (BR) Sqn. RCAF, Dartmouth, NS, pilot S/L W.H.E. Drury died of natural causes in hospital, bronchopneumonia which developed after a long flight (Alex Smart at www.rafcommands.com).

5 #3 Manning Depot, Edmonton, Alberta, F/O H.O. Nicholl died of natural causes in hospital in Edmonton, of complications after surgery (Alex Smart at www.rafcommands.com).

5 #34 SFTS, Medicine Hat, Alberta, Oxford I AR813 crashed on the base perimeter road due to an engine failure when overshooting a landing, Cpl Clark RAF and Cpl Cross RAF safe (heritage.canadiana.ca).

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 the *MV Cornelia Maersk* and damage ship another in the North Sea (I. Wikene; A. Thomas).

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 over the sea 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 #36 SFTS, Penhold, Alberta, LAC P.E. Bushell RAF died of injuries from the loss of Oxford I AS523, December 24, 1941.

6-7 148 Sqn. Wellington II Z8363 FS-F returned from an operation over Tripoli to it's 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

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War Diaries).

6-7 12 Sqn. Wellington II W5514 PH-S was engaged in evasive manoeuvres under attack from a night fighter over Brest, France when the bail out order was given (losses.internationalbcc.co.uk). 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). See January 26-27 and September 23-24, below.

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).

US and Philippine forces isolated by Japanese troops in the Bataan Peninsula (wikipedia).

7 33 Sqn. Hurricane I V7649, P/O D.L. Edy, damaged a S.79 bomber over Benghazi (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1). See January 23, below.

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

7 504 Sqn. Spitfire IIa P7823 TM-F *'Down'* crashed in Northern Ireland on a ferry flight

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with damaged flaps, cause unknown, P/O W.B.B. McManus killed (CVWM). A non-flying replica of this aircraft was produced for The Ulster Aviation Society in 2015 (aircrewremembered.com).

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).

In Ottawa BC politicians met with Government, police and military officials regarding Japanese and Japanese Canadians, some 22,000, over half of which were born in Canada. The Army, Navy and the RCMP had no misgivings about their presence on the West Coast, but it was agreed to evacuate all Japanese male citizens from the Coast, about 1,700 (Douglas & Greenhous). See February 24, below.

Physicist Stephen Hawking born in Oxford, England (wikipedia).

8 404 Sqn. AC2 S.L. Gregory RAF killed at Sumburgh in the Shetland Islands when he was hit by a propellor (COL BRUGGY www.rafcommands.com).

8 #1 AOS, Malton, Ontario, Anson I #6831 lost over Lake Ontario on a night navigation flight from St. Jean, Quebec, LAC(OB) A.M. Morgan, LAC(OB) B.B. Sutton RAAF, AC2 J. Witts(OB) RAAF and Staff Pilot Mr. C.B. Rutherford missing. Wreckage from the aircraft was found in April in ice that came ashore at Three Mile Bay, New York, USA (Ken MacLean www.rafcommands.com; CVWM).

8 #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).

Four members of the Irish Air Corps who wanted to serve in the Luftwaffe attempted to defect to France in a Walrus aircraft, but were intercepted by RAF fighters

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and forced to land at St. Eval in England. The aircraft and the defectors were later returned to Eire (wikipedia).

9 92 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BL298 crashed in England on a training flight, Sgt H.V. Payne killed (www.spitfires.ukf.net; www.rafcommands.com; allspitfirepilots.org). The wreck was not found for two days.

9 104 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.

9 #19 OTU Whitley IV K9017 hit trees near it's airfield and crashed, Sgt W.J. Robertshaw, Sgt J.M. Wilson, F/S L. Clarke RAF, Sgt R. Potten RAF and Sgt R.L.J. Edmonds RAF killed. W.R. Chorley notes the airfield, a satellite of the main airfield, had only been made operational 2 days before.

9 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.)

9 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).

9 #1 Manning Depot, Toronto, Ontario, AC2 E. de Lorme died in hospital of natural causes of cancer (www.rafcommands.com).

9 USAAF 96th Bomb Sqn., 2 Bomb Group, B-17E 41-2393 crashed landing at Argentia, Newfoundland (AAIR; www.americanairmuseum.com).

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

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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.

10 407 Sqn. Hudson V hit by flak, Sgt J.L. Gaucher wounded (407 SH). See Dec. 23, 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).

10-11 205 Squadron Catalina flying boats from Seletar in Malaysia attacked the rail yards at Singora in Thailand, no losses (Shores, Cull and Izawa).

108 Squadron Liberator B.II AL566 flew from Fayid, Egypt, to bomb ships in Tripoli, Libya, the first bombing operation by a Liberator (Oughton et al).

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 12 Sqn. Wellington II W5611 crashed in England returning from operations over Germany after an engine failed, F/S E.A. Parsons, F/S C.F. O'Connell RNZAF, Sgt D.A. Laing RAF and Sgt T.A. Delaney RAF killed, P/O H.A. Stickings RAF and Sgt C.C. McAllister RAF badly injured.

10-11 103 Sqn. Wellington Ic Z1142 PM-N was hit by an explosion which set a flare on fire in the fuselage and the second pilot Sgt D.W. Spooner RAAF went and tried to extinguish the fire. Coned by searchlights and being hit by flak the pilot, Sgt C.L. Bray, then ordered the crew to bail out. On his way back to check the crew had left he found Sgt Spooner still fighting the fire, so he returned to the controls and flew the aircraft out of range. The flare burned though the bottom of the aircraft, and together the pilots flew back to England where they were both awarded the DFM (O. Clutton-Brock; aircrewremembered.com). F/L G.E. McGill, Sgt R.M. Coghlan RAF, Sgt E.B. Frais RAF and Sgt H.D. Whiting RAAF were taken PoW. F/L McGill later 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 April 25-26, 1942 and March 31, 1944.

10-11 104 Sqn. Wellington II W5531 EP-S suffered an engine failure and returned to England where it was slightly damaged in an overshoot landing, Sgt J.F. Tait, Sgt I.W Davies RNZAF, Sgt D. Willoughby RAF, Sgt G.F. Dunks RAF, Sgt L.J. Caldwell RAF and Sgt L.G. Burden RAF safe (R. Allenby). See January 21-22, below.

10-11 408 Sqn. Hampden I AE286 EQ-T shot down by flak crossing the coast and lost without

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trace when it came down in the sea on an operation to Germany, F/S D.L. Henderson, F/L T.F. Priest RAF (Can.), Sgt L.A. Churcher RAF and Sgt G.A. Glanville RAF missing (www.baaa-acro.com).

Sunday

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

11 416 Sqn. Spitfire IIa P8379 flipped on landing, Sgt Marshall safe (416 SH).

11 416 Sqn. Spitfire damaged when it landed wheels up, Sgt Marshall safe for the *second* time this day (416 SH).

11 #32 OTU, Patricia Bay, BC, LAC F.G. Bradley RAF died in hospital of natural causes (www.rafcommands.com; CWGC).

11-12 For the second night Catalina flying boats of 205 Squadron attacked rail-yards at Singora in Thailand, one of three shot down (Shores, Cull & Izawa).

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.

11-12 205 Sqn. Catalina I W8406 'T', F/L H. Garnell RAF, attacked rail yards at Singora, Thailand, with bombs and incendiaries, the latter thrown out of the side gunners bubbles by hand by the crew including navigator Sgt R.D. Bonnar (Shores, Cull and Izawa; T.W. Melnyk).

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 it's 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. With a lack of escorts US authorities concluded that convoys would just concentrate ships as targets so it was better to disburse ships over a wider area (M. Milner). Thus the US Navy created lanes or corridors between ports that merchant ships would sail along at regular, spaced, intervals, to be protected by regular

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anti-submarine patrols by ships and aircraft along the lanes, but these were not effective as the U-boats learned the schedules of the patrols and choose to avoid them, and instead of the effect of disbursement the lanes became regular sources of targets (D. Sommerville; M. Gannon; M. Milner). 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 US Navy's traditional mistrust of England, and its aggressive tradition of seeking the enemy out, misled them into dismissing the advice from the Royal Navy 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 and a desire to introduce their own methods. Certainly the RCN under British tutelage 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 choose 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 while intoxicated (R. King).

12 148 Sqn. Wellington II Z8347 FS-L shot down into the Mediterranean by a flak ship off Libya, P/O T.L. Bennett, F/S W.I. Fairley, P/O A.L. Fraser, Sgt J. Cardwell RAF, Sgt E. Hudspeth RAF and P/O T.F.B. Geary RAF missing.

12 138 Sqn. F/S A.W. Reimer died of the injuries he sustained Dec. 27, 1941 in the loss of Whitley Z9385. F/S Reimer had survived the ditching of a 51 Sqn. Whitley June 22-23, 1941.

12 Swedish merchant ship *SS Yngaren* was in convoy HX-168 from Halifax to England when it was torpedoed by U-43 in mid-Atlantic, 31 crew and six passengers, P/O M.M. Stewart, P/O S.H.A. Wright, P/O M.P. Angland RNZAF, P/O M.M. Campbell RNZAF, P/O W.U. Hewett RNZAF and P/O F.R. O'Neill RAAF were missing, two crew were spotted by aircraft on February 10 and picked up the next day (uboat.net).

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 U-130 east of Sydney, NS, and attacked with no results (424 SH; uboat.net).

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

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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).

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 30 Sqn. Hurricane, F/L R.T.P. Davidson, on a dawn flight intercepted a Ju 52/3m dropping supplies to German units in Halfaya Pass and damaged it (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1). See April 5, below.

13 #1 Air Observer and Navigation School Anson AW850 crashed in a spin in Scotland killing LAC(WAG) E.C. Carley, Sgt I.C. Ross, F/S A. Buchanan RAF, LAC R.E. Henson RAF and LAC W. Jones RAF (alclark www.rafcommands.com).

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,

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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 citizens from the coast (Douglas & Greenhous).

14 94 Sqn. Canadian built Hurricane IIa DG632 (formerly P5199) missing in North Africa, Sgt D.L.S. Wood RAF force-landed and safe (R. Allenby; www.rafcommands.com). This was one of 7 Hurricanes lost by the Squadron on this day, all shot down by 2 Bf 109s (Shores, Massimello V.1).

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 Sgt J.H. Lowry RAF missing (aviation-safety.net; www.rafcommands.com).

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 the General Hospital in Kingston of diphtheria, pneumonia and other contributory causes (Jon Heyworth at www.rafcommands.com).

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).

14-15 114 Sqn. Blenheim IV V6391 RT-V shot down by naval flak off Holland on an INTRUDER operation over the airport at Schipol, F/O F.W.O. Street-Porter RAF (Can.), F/L B.J. Adam RAAF and Sgt J.A. Willis RAF missing (losses.international.co.uk; asn.flightsafety.org).

14-15 207 Sqn. Manchester I L7309 EM-O lost over Germany, Sgt J.W. Cadman RAF killed,

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Sgt E.G.R. Bestel, Sgt G.E. Allan RNZAF, F/O G.B. Dawkins DFM RAF, F/L P.J. Edwards RAF and Sgt J. Mercer RAF PoW.

14-15 #17 OTU Blenheim I L1303 crashed in a night flying exercise, F/S S.S. Lang RCAF (USA) and Sgt A.J. Sistron RAF killed. F/S Lang was born in Ottawa and had previously served in the RCMP (www.rcmpgraves.com).

- - 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.).

15 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.

15 115 Sqn. Wellington III Z1563 KO-G crashed in England attempting to land due to sudden and severe icing on a training flight, F/S D.J. Maskill RCAF (USA), Sgt D.H. Faith RAF, Sgt R.M. Shaw RAF, Sgt S.A. Orford RAF, F/S S.C. Lester RAF and Sgt R.F. Bishop RAF killed (www.baaa-acro.com).

15 #8 SFTS, RAF, Scotland, Master I T8880 dove into the sea off Scotland, P/O R.N. Wycherley killed, Sgt C. Dunn RAF missing (www.rafcommands.com).

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).

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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 51 Sqn. Whitley V Z9424 MH-R shot down over Holland by a night fighter, F/S S.C. Camp, Sgt E.J. Richards RAF and Sgt R.J. White RAF killed, Sgt H.C. Needham RAF, Sgt G.S. Booth RAF and Sgt W.D. Muirhead RAF PoW.

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 BU-L believed to have crashed in the sea off England on operations to Germany, F/S E.E. Hale Jr. RCAF (USA), Sgt G.J. Peck Jr. 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 (www.214squadron.org.uk).

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

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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 loss of a 218 Squadron Wellington August 3-4, 1941. P/O Lomas as a Sergeant had been a member of #112 (AC) Squadron RCAF on it's deployment to England in 1940, then served in #110 (AC) Squadron RCAF in England which became 400 Squadron, and after that unit transitioned from Lysander to Tomahawk aircraft was a gunnery instructor in the RAF before being commissioned and moving to 419 Squadron (CVWM). 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 DC-3 NC1946 crashes into high ground near Las Vegas killing 22 people including actress Carole Lombard and her mother returning from a War Bond tour (wikipedia).

16 145 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AB190, Sgt T.D. Forestell, made a heavy landing and collapsed the undercarriage when it struck a bump in the landing ground at Catterick, Yorkshire (R. Allenby). See Jan. 17, below.

16 Troopship *MV Llangibby Castle* with over 1,400 troops and cargo heading to the Far East was torpedoed by U-402 in a convoy north of the Azores, blowing off her rudder and the rear gun. Twenty six of the passengers and crew 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).

16 #1 Air Navigation School, Rivers, Manitoba, LAC J. Hardyment RNZAF died in hospital

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at Rivers, Manitoba, of a cerebral hemorrhage (www.rafcommands.com; heritage.canadiana.ca).

16 #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.

16 #20 EFTS, Oshawa, Ontario, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4976 destroyed by fire (R.W.R. Walker).

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

16 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).

16 USAAF 77th Bomb Sqn. B-26 40-1464 force landed out of fuel in northern BC, crew safe.

16 USAAF 41st R (restricted use? rescue?) 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).

17 145 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BL425, Sgt T.D. Forestell, landed long from a formation exercise at Catterick, Yorkshire, struck an obstruction and lost it's undercarriage. This was Sgt Forestell's second bad landing in two days and he was posted to another unit (R. Allenby). See March 31, below.

17 403 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AD258 crashed in England when it stalled attempting sharp manoeuvres to try to get it's undercarriage to come down when returning from a training flight, F/S A.J. Monserez killed (www.spitfires.ukf.net; allspitfirepilots.org).

17 404 Sqn. Blenheim IVF shoots down a Bf 109 in a dogfight off the coast of Norway (404 SH).

17 #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. Levett 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).

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17-18 142 Sqn. Wellington IV Z1330 QT-B believed to have crashed in the sea off England on an operation to Germany, F/S R.B. Glover, F/S J.B.H. Hill, P/O D.J. Clifford RNZAF, Sgt R.C. Mellings RAF, Sgt R.J. Kennedy RAF and P/O Pickett RAF missing.

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). S/L Keddy had joined the RAF in 1936 at the age of 19, and had been awarded his DFC for his actions in the daylight attack of German warships July 24, 1941 (CVWM; www.rafcommands.com). Pilot F/S Masse had previously served in the US Army as a Sgt, and had taken civilian pilot training the USA and applied to the USAAC for pilot training, but been turned down as he did not meet the threshold of 2 years of college to be an officer, which meant he could not be a pilot in their service, a cause of many US citizens applying to the RCAF (www.findagrave.com).

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

17-18 408 Sqn. Hampden was unable to open it's bomb bay doors over the target. Leaving, the doors suddenly opened, so the pilot P/O W.B. Brown, returned and dropped his bombs, but soon after an engine failed. He managed to return safely to his base [CVWM]. See March 27-28, below.

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 by glider 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). There with cavalry units they interdicted German supply routes until breaking out to Soviet lines in early June (Bergström & Mikhailov V.2). See September 24, 1943.

On the same date Soviet forces in the south made an attack strongly supported by aircraft, catching German forces off guard, but with small numbers of aircraft were soon held by better German fighters until bad weather brought all activities to a standstill (Bergström & Mikhailov V.2).

18 #12 OTU Wellington Ic X9931 crashed in the circuit on a night training exercise, Sgt

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B.O. Gates, Sgt R.M. Lawrence, P/O R.B. Halliday, Sgt D.H.M. Jacques, Sgt E. Mason RAF and Sgt S. Cox RAF injured. See April 14-15, below.

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. P/O W.G. Dodd and LAC D.A. Catrano force landed safely in #7875 (CVWM).

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* RMS Lady Hawkins *enroute to Bermuda from Halifax and Boston torpedoed off Cape Hatteras by U-66 and sinks in 20 minutes. Despite operating under war conditions, the darkened and zig-zagging ship was outlined to the U-boat by shore lights from the New Jersey coast which allowed her to be easily tracked and attacked (M. Milner). Only one lifeboat survived the sinking and 71 survivors of 321 passengers and crew were rescued, 5 days later (J. Boileau). 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). See March 10 and May 4, below.

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 'X' flew into icing and lost an engine outbound on a search for the German battleship *Tirpitz* off Norway. They jettisoned their bomb-load and attempted to reach Scotland, but confusion in signals led to a delay and, losing height, they flew into a hill on the Island of Yell, in the Shetland Islands, attempting to land, 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, F/O A. Helme RAF, F/S D.E.C. Lockyer RAF and AC(AG) R.L. Richmond RAF survived, injured.

19 409 Sqn. Beaufighter IIf R2475 stalled and crashed in England making a mock attack on a flight of Spitfires on a night-flying test flight killing F/S A.I. Murray and Sgt L.H. Svendsen RAF (www.findagrave.com).

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 RAAF, Sgt R.A. Milliken RAAF, Sgt M.H.J. Kilburn RAF and Sgt W.M. Greenbank RAF had all been killed (Linzee

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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). This crew and their loss is detailed by Linzee Druce in K.C. Ogilvie et al.

19 #59 OTU Hurricane I 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).

19 #10 (BR) Sqn. RCAF, Gander, Newfoundland, Digby aircraft flown by F/L J.M. Young made an attack through snow flurries that damaged U-86 which had sunk one merchant ship and damaged another (Hagedorn & Hagedorn; RCAF Official History quoted by C. Vincent). See September 4, 1943.

19 #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).

19 #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.

19 #18 EFTS, Westminster, BC, DH.82C Tiger Moths #4327 and #4372 collided in mid-air on approach to land in hazy conditions and crashed, F/S S.J. Muckle and LAC(P) G.D. Waltham were killed in #4327 and LAC(P) J.H.R. Willett was killed in #4372 (*Proceedings of Court of Enquiry*, CVWM). F/S Muckle had been slightly injured May 3, 1941 at #18 EFTS Patricia Bay in a crash of Tiger Moth #4278.

19 #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 FS-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 H.R. Merry RAF (serving under the name J.B. Scard), Sgt I.T. James RAF and Sgt J.A. Sellars RAF missing (http://aviationarchaeology.gr; wartimememoriesproject.com). (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

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(Shores, Massimello V.1).

<u>Wannasee Conference</u> 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"*. See also April 25, 1945.

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 #1 Manning Depot, Toronto, Ontario, AC2 D.S. Psaila RCAF (Br. Guiana) died in hospital of natural causes.

20 #13 EFTS, St. Eugene, Ontario, Finch II #4646 crashed near Dalkeith, Ontario, LAC(P) R.W.A. Wilson killed.

20 #14 SFTS, Aylmer, Ontario, Harvard IIb #3234 stalled and crashed practicing forced landings, possibly due to icing, P/O I.G. Matheson and F/O D.C. Palmer killed (heritage.canadiana.ca).

20 RNor.AF, Douglas A8-5 (Nomad) crashed at Oakville, Ontario, P.C. Call killed (wikipedia).

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 V.1).

Edward Hopper completes his most famous painting "*Nighthawks*".

20-21 12 Sqn. Wellington II Z8370 shot down over the Frisian Islands, Sgt E.J.R. Fowler RAF and Sgt W. Rutherford RAF killed, F/S G.H. Groves RAF (Can.) (wounded), F/L W.H. Thallon RAF, P/O P.R. Ross RNZAF and F/S F.W. Walker RAF bailed out and PoW.

20-21 142 Sqn. Wellington IV Z1207 QT-U believed to have been shot down by a night fighter off the Dutch coast, Sgt E.S. Swingler RAF and P/O K.A. Parslow RAF killed, P/O J.G. Scott, F/S A.W. Kerrisk RNZAF, F/S G.J. Sharp RAF and F/S M.T. O'Brien RAF missing.

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Wednesday

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

With moderating weather and adapting to the extreme cold Luftwaffe aircraft begin to fly more missions as Soviet attacks were threatening to surround German army units in Central Russia (Bergström & Mikhailov V.2).

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 V.1).

21 202 Sqn. Catalina I AJ157 flew into high ground in Spain after taking off from Gibraltar, F/L P.B. Alexander RAF (Can.), Sgt J. Johnstone RAF, F/S J. Turnbull DFM RAF, Sgt W. Godderidge RAF, F/L S.C. Romer RAF, Sgt T.I. Roberts RAF, Sgt G.T. Darville RAF, F/O R.C. Derrick RAF, Sgt G.G. Taylor RAF and Sgt F.A. Westkelsey RAF killed (202 Sqn. Association Newsletter "*Mucky Duck*", Autumn 2009, www.202-sqn-assoc.co.uk; www.baaa-acro.com).

21 #116 (BR) Canso, F/L N.E. Small, attacks and damaged a U-boat (I. Wikene).

21 #119 (BR) Sqn. Bolingbroke IV #9065 crashed on a runway at Sydney, NS, and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

21 Central Flying School, Trenton, Ontario, Harvard IIb #3102 crashed near Mountain View, Ontario, P/O G.H. Armstrong and P/O H.K. Robertson killed (R.W.R. Walker). P/O Robertson had two twin brothers in the RCAF, F/O D.R. Robertson who was killed in a Mitchell crash in 1953, and F/L R.D. Robertson Silver Star (US), who served as a WAG with the USAAF in North Africa, and served as an MLA in Manitoba postwar (www.findagrave.com).

21 #31 PD, RAF, Moncton, NB, Cpl. H. Passage RAF died in hospital of natural causes at Halifax NS (K. MacLean, Marks and malcolm_raf at www.rafcommands.com).

21-22 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).

21-22 104 Sqn. Wellington II W5531 EP-S was attacked by Bf 110 night fighters over Bremen and damaged but returned to land in England, P/O W.R. Suggitt, Sgt Bruning RAF, P/O L.J. Fairbairn RNZAF, Sgt E.H. Parker RAF, Sgt E.L. Lister RAF and Sgt A.

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Harkness RAF safe (R. Allenby). See April 12-13, below, and February 13 and 15, 1944.

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 EQ-Y 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 DFMs (H. Moyle; 408 SH; FF Years; Awards; CVWM).

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 V.1).

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,

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Sgt R.V. Harvey safe (Shores, Cull and Malizia). See March 1, below.

22 407 Sqn. Hudson V AM602 RR-M crashed at Donna Nook airfield on return from an anti-shipping patrol, striking the watch office. The rescue and fire crews rushed to the scene, but the bomb load exploded just after they arrived, killing many. Total lost were pilot P/O R.E. Dann, observer Sgt J.C. Gaudet, wireless operator air gunner Sgt J.E. Duval RAF, wireless operator air gunner Sgt G.E.A. Romain RAF killed and F/S H.A. Wilkins missing from the Hudson, AC2 M.P. Belcher RAF, AC1 W.H. Bell RAF, LAC W.E. Cooper RAF, AC1 A. Cruddas RAF, LAC J. Elliott RAF, LAC S.W. Friend RAF, Sgt J.C. Gaudet RAF, AC1 T. Heath RAF, LAC W.C.L. Pink RAF, LAC J. Render RAF, AC1 G. Shorrock RAF, LAC G.D. Thomas RAF and AC2 S.A.H. Thurlow RAF and two soldiers, Lance Serjeant G.A. Denham and Serjeant V.D. Mellor, both of the 78 LAA Battery, Royal Artillery were killed and many others injured (R. McNeill at www.rafcommands.com; www.findagrave.com). Casualties were heavy 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 U-84 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; RCAF Official History quoted by C. Vincent).

22 #111 (F) Sqn., Kittyhawk I AL180 (RCAF #1085) caught fire just after taking off and crashed near Patricia Bay, BC, Sgt L. Orthman bailed out safely (*BC Times Colonist, Remembering Patricia Bay*; www.rcaf111fsquadron.com).

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 was making an instrument take-off with the student pilot under the hood when it swung and struck Harvard AJ828, which had just pulled off another runway after landing, P/O J.G. Hoar and LAC E.T. Markham RAF were killed in AJ828, and P/O R.G. Blamires RCAF (NZ) and LAC(P) W.R. Fring RAF were slightly injured in AJ761 (heritage.canadiana.ca). See August 1-2, below.

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

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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 RAF (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 Souffan www.rafcommands.com; Shores, Massimello V.1). See January 12, 1944.

23 216 Sqn. Bombay L5811 forced down in Libya, crew Sgt A.E. Carter RAF killed, F/O J.N.G. Bateman RAF, Sgt J.R. Bell RAAF, AC1 W. Hutchison RAF, LAC L.D. Llewellyn RAF and F/O F.E. Wilcox RAF PoW, and their passengers Sgt J.H. Price and F/S R.M. Wilson RAF also PoW (vrajm at www.rafcommands.com).

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, Sgt I. Gagne RCAF (USA) killed, Instructor Chambers seriously injured (heritage.canadiana.ca).

Saturday

24 USAAF fighters arrive in Java. Rangoon bombed (Shores, Cull & Izawa).

Sugar rationed in Canada to ¾ of a lb. (340 grams) per person per week. At this time most sugar was imported into Canada from areas now involved in the conflict with Japan (*On This Date*, Legion Magazine*, January - February 2025; A. Bower).

24 66 Sqn. Spitfire IIa P8430 was returning from operations over France and 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 (www.rafdavidstowmoor.org).

24 407 Sqn. Hudson V AM838 was damaged making a landing in poor weather and had to land long to avoid a Spitfire that had tipped on it's nose due to the poor condition of the runway. The aircraf skidded when the breakes were applied, then went into a ditch and was damaged, F/O L. Cowperthwaite and crew safe (bac-lac.gc.ca). See February 12, below.

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24 #2 Training Command, photographer AC2 M.J.M. Badre died of a sinus thrombosis in Canada (www.rafcommands.com; allspitfirepilots.org).
24 #2 Wireless School, Calgary, Alberta, LAC(WAG) R.A.J. McCrea 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 scarlet fever in St. Thomas, Ontario (www.rafcommands.com; www.findagrave.com).
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 H75A-8 (Mohawk) 467 lost over Lake Ontario, 2Lt T.J. Nalki missing (wikipedia; D. Hagedorn & A. Tincopa).

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 and Malizia).
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.

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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).

25-26 408 Sqn. Hampden I AD782 EQ-A stalled and crashed in England after taking off on an operation, F/S V.C. Dadson, Sgt H. Davies RAF, Sgt L.A. Jarland RAF and Sgt A.B. Wright RAF killed.

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).

26 232 Sqn. Hurricane II BG828, Sgt J.P.F. Fleming, engaged three Ki-27 while attempting to escort Vildebeest torpedo bombers over Endau, scattering them and claiming one possibly shot down, before he was shot down in turn by Ki-44 fighters, Sgt Fleming evaded and returned Singapore (Shores, Cull and Izawa; T.W. Melnyk). See March 3, 1942.

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

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(#8 RD, Winnipeg), Sgt J.C. Clark RAF, Sgt H.W. Holland RAF and Sgt A.R. Lane RAF were killed, AC2 E.F. Thompson RAF injured. 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). See January 29, below.

26 #2 SFTS Uplands, Ontario, Harvard IIb #3237 crashed at Kingston, Ontario, killing LAC(P) G.F.J. Clark and LAC(P) A.C. Cornell. This aircraft was last seen engaged in low flying near LAC Clark's home (Halliday, H.A., *Unnecessary Accidents*). Both had received their Pilot's Wings just days before their deaths (CVWM; heritage.canadiana.ca).

26 #2 SFTS Uplands, Ontario, Harvard II #2887 crashed near Hainsville, Ontario, killing LAC(P) J.H.A. Johnston and LAC(P) D.E. McCool RCAF (USA). This aircraft was also lost in low flying near a relations home (Halliday, H.A., *Unnecessary Accidents*). Both pilots had received their Pilot's Wings just days before their deaths (heritage.canadiana.ca).

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

26-27 51 Sqn. Whitley V Z9315 MH-V lost over Germany on a NICKEL sortie, Sgt H.J. Grut RNZAF, Sgt R.A. Hamilton RNZAF, Sgt C.H. Stockwell RAF and Sgt A. Waterbeach RAF killed, Sgt V.S. Mancini PoW.

26-27 51 Sqn. Whitley V Z9423 MH-S lost without trace on an operation to Germany, shot down by a night-fighter over the sea, F/S H. Grey-Noble, Sgt H.S. Brown RNZAF, P/O J.F. Wright RAF, Sgt N. Stead RAF and Sgt W.J. Atwell RAF missing (asn.flightsafety.org).

26-27 102 Sqn. Whitley V Z9283 lost without trace on an operation to Germany, F/S R.K. Craig, Sgt J.D. White RAF, Sgt J.T.C. Hazeldine RAF, Sgt P. May RAF and Sgt J.G. Wilson RAF missing. Sgt Hazeltine had survived the crash that took the life of F/S A.G. Buchanan Jan. 6, above.

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.

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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). Several of these pilots were sent to Singapore once their aircraft were made combat ready (V. Johnson). See Feb. 5, below.

27 #1 Section, Aircraft Delivery Unit F, Egypt, Hurricane I P3725 aircraft went into a spin and crashed on attempting to land, due to running out of fuel, F/S J.S. Blaikie killed. This was part of a conversion and training course for newly arrived pilots (bac-lac.gc.ca).

.27 #32 SFTS, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Harvard II #2807 flew into the ground near Pense, Saskatchewan, while practicing aerobatics, LAC(P) T.F. Hastings RCAF (USA) badly injuried (heritage.canadiana.ca). See January 28, below.

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).

28 229 Sqn. Hurricane IIc shot down by flak attacking ground targets, P/O T.G. Foley made it back to the Squadron (Shores, Massimello & Guest V.1). P/O Foley was hit by an enemy fighter at low level and force landed wheels up. He then took his parachute and ran to a hiding place. Within minutes a party of German soldiers showed up and after examining the airplane set it on fire. He later met with a group of local Arabs who took him back to Allied lines (CVWM). See April 28, below.

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. He was number 2 to his Wing Leader, W/C R.S. Stanford Tuck DSO DFC and two bars RAF, in Spitfire Vb BL336 “RST”, which was hit by flak and crashed, W/C Stanford Tuck PoW (D. McIntosh).

28 411 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AB255 landed heavily and lost an undercarriage leg, P/O P.R. Eakins safe (bac-lac.gc.ca; allspitfirrepilots.org). See March 24, below.

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28 #22 OTU Wellington Ic X9935 crashed in England after an engine failure, F/S R.H. Vearncombe killed, Sgt R.W. Dawe, Sgt A.J. Edwards, P/O T.C. Robinson, P/O J.H. Robson, Sgt A.S. Fletcher RAF and Sgt H.H. Haines RAF(?) injured (COL BRUGGY at www.rafcommands.com).

28 #59 OTU, Hurricane I V6579 landed, lost, in the Irish Republic, Sgt S.B. Walcott RCAF (USA) 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). See April 20, below.

28 #32 SFTS, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, LAC(P) T.F. Hastings RCAF (USA) died in hospital in Regina of injuries received the pervious day (heritage.canadiana.ca).

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), probably on AJ987 and AJ985 as AJ986 was salvaged (see March 5, 1943). 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 USN, 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 RAF killed, Sgt A.N. Williams RAAF, P/O D.L. Williams RAF and Sgt D. Curnick RAF missing. F/S Campbell was buried

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at sea and he is listed on the Runnymede Memorial.

28-29 106 Sqn. Hampden I AT122 lost over Holland, F/S J.A. Jacobson, Sgt D.E. Hodgkinson RAF, Sgt S.G. Harding RAF, P/O R.V. Selfe RAF killed.

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 C.H.J. Brown RAF survived (www.rafcommands.com).

28-29 214 Sqn. Wellington Ic X9890 BU-F lost without trace on an operation over Germany, F/S F.A. Tait, Sgt F.G. Truscott RAF (Can.), P/O G.H. Webster, Sgt C.J. Irwin RAF, Sgt P.G. Milton RAF and Sgt G.M. Robinson RAF missing (214squadron.org.uk). F/S Tait had survived the crash of a #23 OTU Wellington Oct. 20-21, 1941.

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. At the end of their last professional game they were cheered by the crowd and carried off the ice by members of the opposing Montreal Canadians, who they had beaten 8-1. 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 17 Sqn. Hurricane IIb aircraft begin arriving at Mingaladon, Burma, 6 aircraft including pilots Sgt J.F. 'Tex' Barrick RCAF (USA), Sgt J.F. Gibson RCAF (USA) and Sgt K.M. Wheatley. Other pilots enroute to Burma were P/O L.D. Thomas, P/O T.L. Lewis, P/O W.E. Chadwick, P/O H.J. Everard, Sgt C.S. Miller, Sgt A. MacDonald and Sgt C.E. Wisrodt RCAF (USA) [from 17 Sqn.], P/O J.W. Monk RCAF (USA) [135 Sqn.], P/O L.H. LeCraw, Sgt R.C. Payne, Sgt V.B.G. Butler, Sgt E.H. Viens, Sgt M.C.H. Cuthbert and Sgt A.J. DeCruyenaere [136 Sqn.] (Shores, Cull and Izawa; T.W. Melnyk).

29 #8 RD, Winnipeg, Man., AC2 E.F. Thompson RAF died of injuries from the loss of

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Electra #7841 January 26, above (www.rafcommands.com).

29 #9 EFTS, St. Catharines, Ontario, Finch II #4560 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

29 #36 SFTS, Penhold, Alberta, Oxford II #1508 stalled on approach to land and crashed, LAC A.S. White RAF killed (R.W.R. Walker).

29 Conversion Training School, Rockcliffe, Ontario, repaired Battle Trainer I R7422 collided 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, 2 bombers lost (BC War Diaries; W.R. Chorley).

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).*

30 151 Sqn. Defiant II AA436 was damaged landing cross-wind at RAF Wittering on a training flight, Sgt N. MacPherson safe (bac-lac.gc.ca). See September 1, below.

30 500 Sqn. Hudson IIIa V9109 MK-P went down in the sea off Lowestoft, England, F/O R.F. Campbell, Sgt G.D. Hart RAF and Sgt R.J.C. Garrett RAF killed, Sgt J. Harrop RAF missing (R. McNeill www.rafcommands.com).

30 #115 (BR) Sqn. RCAF, Patricia Bay, BC, Bolingbroke I #716 had an engine catch on fire on an air test. One crewman, F/S M.E. 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*; bcam.net).

30 #36 SFTS, Penhold, Alberta, Cpl S. Ryder RAF died in an accident involving a tractor.

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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).

31 407 Sqn. Hudson V AE649 RR-R lost off the Dutch coast, Sgt L.W. Jaggard RAF killed, P/O H.J. Parker RAF missing, Sgt W.J. Palmer RAF wounded and taken PoW with Sgt D. Sykes RAF (407 SH).

31 #1 (Coastal) OTU Hudson I T9308 crashed in Scotland, P/O D.M. Burgess and Sgt J.R.V. Bones RAF killed, when it struck the chimney of a house in Scotland at low atitude (bac-lac.gc.ca). 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 QR-L was coned by searchlights over Brest, France, hit by flak and set on fire before clipping a balloon cable and ditching (losses.internationalbcc.co.uk). 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 R.D. 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 webpage Escape/Evasion Reports (http://www.rafcommands.com/archive/03392.php).

31-1 102 Sqn. Whitley V made a belly landing on return to England from a NICKEL sortie, Sgt J.F.W. Towse, P/O E.F. Lloyd RAF, Sgt F. Booth RAF, Sgt J.(?)H. Rowe (RAF?), Sgt D. Boddy RAF and one unknown crewman safe (R. Allenby). See May 11 below.

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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 (english.turkcebilgi.com).

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).

Hitler permanently ended German planning to invade England on this date (B. Kite).

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).

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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 for Germany (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 AC1 G.L. Austin died in Ottawa Civic Hospital of a brain tumour. He had been discharged as medically unfit August 31, 1941 (wwrsimon at www.rafcommands.com; www.findagrave.com).

Tuesday

3 First major Japanese air raid on Eastern Java inflicts heavy 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

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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 following an operation for acute appendicitis in the hospital in Port Coquitlam, BC (www.rafcommands.com). 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, of a self-inflicted gunshot wound (www.rafcommands.com).

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 cross-country practice flight when it flew into Skye Mountain near Whycocomagh, Cape Breton Island, NS, Sgt W.R. Dikeman RCAF (USA), P/O I.B. MacDonald and F/S R.F. Varey killed, LAC F.J. Ball survived with slight injuries (www.findagrave.com).

4 #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).

With increased Luftwaffe support and German reinforcements from France the Soviet threats to surround German forces in central Russia are stopped (Bergström & Mikhailov V.2).

Unescorted Canadian tanker* Montrolite *torpedoed by* U-109 *at sea northeast of Bermuda with the loss of 28 of her 48 man crew, carrying light crude from Venezuela to Halifax (RCN Chronology).

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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). See February 2-3, 1943 and January 21-22, 1944.

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 Sgt T.P. O'Riordan RAF missing (R. Hayward; www.rafcommands.com).

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, or his aircraft was set on fire when another aircraft exploded as he taxied past it [T. Kelly; Wartimes.ca]. He was badly burned escaping from the wreckage and taken to hospital. According to his friend Terrence Kelly he was wounded in the legs and was not able to escape his burning fighter quickly. See Feb. 10, below.

6 #21 OTU Wellington Ic R1047 crashed in England following an engine failure and propeller loss on a practice bombing exercise, Sgt R.F. Anderson RCAF (USA), Sgt W.E.G. Taylor, F/S R.K.R. Talbot RAF, Sgt A.E. Jaeckels RAF and Sgt W. Gorman RAF killed, Sgt D.H. Tyne RAF died of his injuries.

6 #52 OTU Spitfire Ia's X4932 and R7206 were in a mid-air collision, Sgt B.H. Cassidy was killed in X4932, Sgt R.E. Waters RAAF safe (www.rafcommands.com).

6 #59 OTU Hurricane I P3463 flew into a hill in bad weather in Scotland, Sgt W.A. Campbell killed (aircrewremembered.com).

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

6-7 Bomber Command sent 60 bombers to attack the ships at Brest, 1 loss (BC War Diaries).

6-7 103 Sqn. Wellington Ic R1452 was returning from Brest when an engine began failing. Landing at the closest airfield F/S S.S. Martin landed long, and when braking swerved off the runway into a snowbank with slight damage to the airframe, crew safe (bac-lac.gc.ca). See June 1-2, below.

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Saturday

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

7 17 Sqn., Burma, Hurricane IIb fighters intercepted Japanese Ki-27 fighters near Rangoon, Sgt J.F. Barrick RCAF (USA) claimed 2 destroyed and one damaged, while P/O L.D. Thomas RCAF (USA) claimed 1 shot down (Shores, Cull and Izawa; T.W. Melnyk).

7 50 Sqn. Hampden I AF306 shot down by fighters on a daylight GARDENING operation off Holland, F/S C.E. Carroll, F/S R.N. Smith RAF (Rhod.), Sgt A.G. Bocock RAF and F/S J. Stables RAF missing.

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 sailing unescorted between Portland, Maine, USA and Halifax with the loss of 11, including 1 RAF member of the MSFU unit, AC2 G.C.G. Cross RAF, of the 65 on board. AC2 Cross is listed as missing in Canada (CWGC; discussion page on *SS Empire Sun*, www.rafcommands.com; uboat.net).

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).

8 274 Sqn. Hurricane IIc BD820 YK-D, P/O W.A.G. Conrad claimed a Bf 109 probably destroyed (Shores, Massimello V.2). See February 12, below.

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.

8 400 Sqn. Tomahawk AH747 and DH.82 Tiger Moth II 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.

8 407 Sqn. Hudson V AM617 RR-A lost on an anti-shipping patrol off Holland, P/O J.R. McCulloch RCAF (USA), Sgt A.K. Cobb RAF, Sgt L.J. Hodson RAF and F/S N.N. Palmer RAF missing (407 SH).

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

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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. Béchard, 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).

8-9 87 Sqn. Hurricane II BD941 crashed out of fuel in England on a night exercise with searchlights, Sgt J.R. Keith was killed when he flew into trees attempting a forced landing (malcolm_raf and H. Welting at www.rafcommands.com).

Monday

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

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

Agreement between Canada and England to increase finance of training from 2,500 to 5,000 RCAF airmen to be recruited for Radar work in RAF units. Unique among RCAF recruits these men were all seconded to #60 (Signals) Group RAF, and these men had to agree that they would serve under RAF command in any RAF or Allied Air Force Unit, any Royal Navy ship or unit, and in any Army unit they were assigned to (Grande, Linden, and Macauley). See February 23, 1943, and OMAHA Beach and MARKET-GARDEN in 1944.

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.

9 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.

9 #1 OADU Wellington Ic DV496 undershot a landing at Gibraltar and was wrecked, Sgt L.J. Hogan and his crew safe.

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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, Greece and Syria, before being sent out from Egypt to Malaysia after the Japanese landings there, arriving only about 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 Mankibol 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 for a short biography and photos of this airman.

Tuesday

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

Remaining serviceable Hurricane fighters leave Singapore for Sumatra (T. Kelly). 232 Sqn. P/O T.W. Watson left Singapore in a Buffalo, his first flight on one, under rifle fire from Japanese infantry (T.F.J. Leversedge).

HMCS Spikenard ***torpedoed and sunk in the Atlantic by U-136. Only 8 survivors were found 19 hours later (B. Barry et al). In the Atlantic northwest of Bermuda*** **U-564** ***torpedoes and then shells the unescorted Canadian Imperial Oil tanker*** **Victolite, sailing in ballast to Venezuela*, lost with all 47 crew (RCN Chronology).***

10 258 Sqn. P/O R.B. Keedwell died in hospital in Sumatra of his injuries. He was buried in the local cemetery in Palembang but his grave site is unknown and he is commemorated on the Singapore War Memorial [Wartimes.ca].

10 73 Sqn. Hurricane II BD957 was shot down in Egypt on a ferry flight, F/S E.S. Foster killed.

10 61 Sqn. Manchester I R5834 was hit by flak and lost an engine over Brest on a daylight operation. Approaching England the aircraft ran out of fuel due to damage and force landed, F/S J.D. Patey, Sgt B. Usher RNZAF, F/S J.B. Underwood RAF, WO Scott RAF, F/S R.G. Fawkes RAF, F/O P.F.B. Bluett RAF and Sgt Graham RAF safe. See May 30-31, below.

10 MSFU, unknown ship, Hurricane launched but controls jammed, and wing struck water in a turn, P/O (?) J.E. Sheppard picked up, unhurt (acesofww2.com). See August 1, 1944.

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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 #11 OTU Wellington Ic X9905 crashed in Leytonstone, East London, England, after becoming lost on a night training flight, into the Harrow Green School, F/S H.E. Jowett, Sgt A.J. Foote RAAF, Sgt A.W. Ford RAF, Sgt A.C.E. Rogers RAF, Sgt W. Mance RAF and Sgt J.S. Taylor RAF killed in the aircraft and five Civil Defence Air Raid Precaution Wardens, Walter George Black (21), Henry Arthur Edwards (46), James Edwin Goreham (37), Joseph George Smith (34) and Albert Edward Stanion (29), were killed in the School which was also an ARP Depot (wartimeheritage.com).

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, Sgt A.W. Armstrong RCAF (Nfld.), Sgt W.C. Howell, Sgt J.J. Cadd RAF, Sgt G. Glassbrook RAF, Sgt F. Hartley RAF and Sgt T.A. Jeffries RAF safe (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 flew into high ground in England in a snow squall, Sgt J.D.L. Graham killed. There is a memorial near the crash site (www.findagrave.com).

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 in a snow storm at Clappisons Corners, Ontario, reason not known, F/O E.T. Montgomery RCAF (USA) killed (S. Shail; www.findagrave.com).

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 V.2).

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

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(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 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 Ic T4879 lost over the Bay of Biscay on a flight to the Middle East, F/L A.B. Parker RAF (Can.) and Sgt J.R. Strathdee RAF missing (aviation-safety.net).

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 N7766 collided in mid-air with #6 FIS DH.82 Tiger Moth II T7850, both aircraft crashing. Sgt A.J. Maher and F/O F.W. Buckland RAF were killed in the Master, P/O S.C. Jones RNZAF and F/O G.G.W. Pledger RAF were killed in the Tiger Moth (ref. in J. Rennison's *Wings over Gloucestershire*, cited by davew in www.rafcommands.com).

11 #10 OTU Whitley V N1439 crashed just after taking off on a night circuit exercise, Sgt R.O. Colquhoun, Sgt R.H. Lean and Sgt A. Robson RAF killed, Sgt D.E. Hughes RAF injured.

11 #52 OTU Spitfire Ia P9546 crashed after an inflight structural failure, Sgt G.A. Davis killed (malcolm_raf at www.rafcommands.com).

11 #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 <u>Channel Dash</u>, 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 movement 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

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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).

<u>Channel Dash</u>, 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.

11-12 12 Sqn. Wellington III W5355 lost without trace on an operation to France, P/O N.N. Powell, P/O E. Sharman RAF (Can.), Sgt J.W. Aston RAF, Sgt D.T. Smith RAF, Sgt R.C. Wentworth-Hyde RAF and Sgt G.H. Bonner RAF missing.

Thursday

12 The Malta bound convoy meets off Tobruk and heads to Malta under heavy escort (Shores, Massimello V.2).

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).

12 1 Sqn. RIAF (or 28 Sqn. RAF) Lysander II shot down by friendly fire over Burma, F/L N. Prasad RIAF and Sgt S.E. Moyer RAF (Can.) bailed out and safe (Jagan and alieneyes at www.rafcommands.com). The Squadrons were involved in bombing to support the Army in Burma at this time and suffered heavy casualties (wikipedia).

12 274 Sqn. Hurricane II BD821 lost near Tobruk, F/L A.J. Smith RAF (Can.) missing (Shores, Massimello V.2). 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

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reports he was captured but escaped.

12 274 Sqn. Hurricane IIa DG631 YK-C, P/O W.A.G. Conrad claimed a Ju 87 destroyed and a second damaged (Shores, Massimello V.2, CVWM). See March 27, below.

12 287 Sqn. Master III W8850 crashed in England on a ferry flight, F/S R.N. Langley died of injuries (www.rafcommands.com).

12 405 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 <u>Channel Dash</u>, by German battlecruisers* Scharnhorst, Gniesenau *and* Prinz Eugen *from France to Germany with very heavy fighter protection by German Luftwaffe and surprise heavy jamming of British radar.

An unjammed radar station noticed orbiting aircraft moving slowly north in the Channel entrance in the mid-morning and two Spitfires were sent to investigate, who discovered the cruisers and their naval and fighter escorts, and reported the sighting, which activated the FULLER counter-measures.

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. Forty two aircraft were lost on these attacks from these Commands and the Royal Navy. 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.

12 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.

12 83 Sqn. Manchester I L7389 OL-M was intercepted by German fighters and damaged,

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knocking out the hydraulics, then flew over the German battle-cruisers and was hit by flak and lost one engine, and ground-looped on landing with one tyre deflated. Rear gunner Sgt L.G. Whibley RAAF was wounded and later died of his wounds, Sgt J.H. Allen RAF, P/O Feirn RAF, P/O Hayes RAF, P/O R. McFarlane RAF, F/S Partridge (slightly wounded?) RAF and Sgt Ridd RAF safe. Pilot P/O McFarlane was awarded an immediate DFM for this action (rafpathfinders.com). According to a letter sent to his wife Observer P/O H.B. Barber was also on this aircraft (CVWM). See July 25-26, below.

12 114 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.

12 129 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].

12 137 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.

12 234 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AA722 AZ-B missing from an escort off Belgium, P/O D.N. McLeod force landed (forum.12oclockhigh.net; www.spitfires.ukf.net).

12 401 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 Magazine*, September 1983). P/O I.C. Ormiston destroyed a Bf 109, then shared a second with F/O A.E. Harley and Sgt D.R. Morrison, while P/O Levesque's wingman Sgt MacDonald claimed damage on another (D. McIntosh). 401 Sqn. was to have been part of a heavy escort for a formation of 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).

12 403 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BL337 KH-K, F/S A.H. MacDonald, one of two Spitfires scrambled to investigate reported enemy aircraft, entered cloud and lost control after the aircraft 'shuddered' and began to come apart, possibly collided with Spitfire AD273 (below). F/S MacDonald abandoned the aircraft and landed in the sea near a naval vessel which quickly rescued him (www.rafcommands.com; rcaf403squadron.wordpress.com).

12 403 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AD273 KH-C scrambled and crashed into the sea off Brighton, believed to have collided in cloud with BL337, P/O J.N. Cawsey missing (rcaf403squadron.wordpress.com).

12 405 Sqn. Wellington LQ-N (Z8428?), P/O Thiele, sighted one of the large battlecruisers through a gap in the clouds, but too late for observer Sgt K.M. Leslie RAAF to drop any bombs. A search of the area above the clouds failed to re-locate the ship. This

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was the only 405 aircraft to sight any of the German warships (R. Palmer). See August 17, below.

12 407 Sqn. Hudson V AM712 RR-W lost attacking *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau* in the Channel, P/O H.V. Spicer killed, S/L W.A. Anderson DFC, Sgt N. Jordan RAF and F/S S. Walker RAF missing. Sgt A.F. Muris RAF was also listed as missing from this aircraft, but is also listed as as lost from AM598 below, which given the confusion and urgency of the operations on this day this might be possible (www.rafcommands.com; pers. comm. A.D. Squires).

12 407 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 for this operation. 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). Sgt A.F. Muris RAF was also listed as missing from this aircraft, but is also listed as as lost from AM712 above, which given the confusion and urgency of the operations on this day this might be possible (www.rafcommands.com; pers. comm. A.D. Squires). F/O Lister is referenced by J.V. Watts in his book.

12 407 Sqn. Hudson V, F/S W.A. Creeden, Sgt G. Hancox RAF and Sgt H.G. Everett RAF were awarded DFMs for their actions attacking a German destroyer, then fighting off enemy air attacks, claiming a Ju 88 damaged (407 SH; H.A. Halliday; A. Thomas). See May 15, below.

12 407 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).

12 408 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-*

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Gunner Short Bursts, May, 2004; http://www.airmuseum.ca/mag/0405.html). See August 28-29, below.

12 419 Sqn. Wellington Ic Z1091 VR-A lost without trace attacking German warships off the Dutch coast, P/O H.G. Anderson, F/S M.A. Reid, F/S J.J. Roche, F/S T.J. Thomas, F/S J.F.P. Vezina and F/S N. Williamson missing. A photograph of this aircraft is in the book Wellington at War. F/S Roche had survived the ditching of a 115 Squadron Wellington November 15-16, 1941, and F/S Vezina had force landed a Wellington of 218 Squadron December 16-17, 1941 (www.rafcommands.com).

12 419 Sqn. Wellington Ic Z1146 VR-E believed shot down by a German fighter off the Dutch coast attacking German warships, P/O G.K. Armstrong and F/S J.W. Poirier killed, P/O W.F. Bond, P/O R.A. Laing, Sgt G.H.S. Ross, Sgt H. Rowsell RAF (Nfld.) missing (www.baaa-acro.com).

12 420 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.

12 455 Sqn. RAAF Hampden I P1156 UB-F lost without trace attacking German warships, F/O E.G. de T. Symons RAF (Can.), F/L W.E. Perrin RAF (Aus.), P/O A.R. Abbott RNZAF and Sgt R.E. Tomlinson RAF missing.

12 #7 Air Gunner School, RAF, Lysander TT.III P1719 crashed in Wales, Sgt A.V. Roffey and AC1 C. Thomas RAF killed (www.findagrave.com).

12 #5 EFTS High River, Alberta DH.82C Tiger Moth #4995 crashed near Stavely, Alberta after a mid-air collision with #15 SFTS Crane #8661, Sgt G.H. Campbell and LAC(P) D.J. Dawson killed in the Tiger Moth, LAC(P) A.E. Anderson was uninjured in the Crane and force-landed nearby (heritage.canadiana.ca). See March 5-6, 1945.

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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.

13 205 Sqn. Catalina I, F/L H. Garnell RAF, sighted and attacked the Japanese invasion

fleet off Sumatra, navigator Sgt R.D. Bonnar manned the bow gun. The crew flew another sortie on the 14th before flying to Ceylon that night. His fellow navigator on 205 Sqn. F/L J.M. Barnes flew to Australia in a damaged aircraft (T.W. Melnyk). See December 4, 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 57 Sqn. Wellington III Z1568 returned from an operation to Le Havre (GARDENING?) with it's bomb-load and found the hydraulic system not working, due to damage from flak. After pumping down the undercarriage a landing was made without flaps, but the aircrft was damaged when it overran the runway and struck a gun post, Sgt J.O.H. Nevill and crew safe (bac-lac.gc.ca). See April 1-2, below.

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 after going onto a spin from a turn, LAC(P) G.N. Northcott slightly injured (R.W.R. Walker; heritage.canadiana.ca).

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, Sgt H.P. Low and Sgt W.H. James were among those taken PoW making an attempt to recapture the airfield (Shores, Cull & Izawa; bac-lac.gc.ca). Radar mechanic Sgt L.G. Stiff may also have been taken PoW (see June 25, below). The airfield was neutralized (Shores, Cull & Izawa). See April 9, below.

Leningrad, at around this time the railroad to Leningrad is rebuilt, under attack by

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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 V.2).

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.).

14 232 Sqn. Hurricane P/O W.M. Lockwood and his wingman intercepted a formation of Japanese bombers that had bombed Palembang and shot one down. Returning to Palembang they found the airfield under attack by paratroops and diverted to another airstrip created inland where they flew over boats bringing in supplies to the Japanese landing force (V. Johnson).

14 122 Sqn. Spitfire Vb W3261 collided with 122 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AD511 when the latter had to brake suddenly after both had been cleared for take-off but were cut-off by a Hudson, both aircraft damaged, P/O J.G. Durkin RCAF (USA) in W3261 and P/O R.W.L. Mulliner RAF in AD511 were uninjured (R. Allenby). See July 30, below.

14 #12 OTU Wellington Ic R1027 crashed in England landing from a night exercise when the pilot attempted an overshoot, F/S W.L. Sinclair, P/O J.R. Reenberg RNZAF, P/O F.B. Richardson RNZAF, Sgt G.N. Duke RAF and Sgt W. Walsh RAF killed. See February 23-24, below.

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 A.J.G. Pegrum RAF and

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Sgt J.W. Melhuish RAF injured (www.rafcommands.com). W.R. Chorley notes Sgt J.R. Viau's brother, Private A. Viau, RCAMC, had died in England January 29, 1942 (CWGC).

14 #55 OTU two Hurricane aircraft, Mark I V6955 and Canadian built Mark X AE976, were engaged in a mock dogfight when they collided over Tudhope Village, England, and crashed. Sgt C.J. Scott was killed in AE976 (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. There is a memorial to both airmen at the Tudhoe cemetery.

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.B. Martin and LAC(P) F.S. Howarth RAAF missing (A. Storr).

14 #1 SFTS, Camp Borden, Ontario, Harvard 3160, LAC(P) K.G. Campbell RAAF, was practicing forced landings in marginal weather and was damaged when its tail wheel struck a furrow and it tipped on its nose. Three days later during recovery it was futher damaged whin it was hit by an Army truck (heritage.canadiana.ca). It was salvaged and put back into service.

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). Radar technician WO1 E.W. Goodchild was also taken PoW, see October 12, 1944. AC J.S. (Jack) Ford RAF (Nfld.) of 36 Sqn. was another taken PoW, see August 9, 1945. Radar officer F/L L.R. Montgomery and radio technician (radar?) LAC E.A. Graham were also PoW (T.W. Melnyk).

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 BT-F returning from Malta to Egypt when it ran into an air raid. It had just shot down an Italian Cant Z.506B floatplane in the

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Mediterranean when it was shot down by two German Ju 88C night fighters, F/S G.A. Jackson RCAF (USA), fitter AC1 H. Gorman RAF and Sgt A.A. Largent RAF missing (R. McNeill www.rafcommands.com; aviation-safety.net).

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 ditched into the ocean after an engine failed, S/L J.A. Piddington RAF (Can.) and P/O D.G. Howie (RCAF?) safe (R. Hayward; Dakota at www.rafcommands.com; heritage.canadiana.ca). See July 27-28, 1943.

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).

15-16 10 Sqn. Halifax II L9619 ZA-E had it's radios fail and became lost in bad weather over England. When it ran short of fuel it was abandoned, P/O L.D. Hillier, F/S W.N. Guertin, F/S E.O.S. Lloyd RAF, Sgt J.W. Thain RAF(?), Sgt F.P. Mapes, Sgt Mathias and Sgt R.L. Glifford RAF safe (R. Allenby). See May 3-4, below.

15-16 77 Sqn. Whitley V Z9231 KN-U crashed in England in ground mist attempting an emergency landing with a failed engine on return from an operation to France, Sgt C.D.E. Campbell RAF (Nfld.), F/S G.R. Millar, Sgt W. Powell RAF (Can.), Sgt R.A. Kemp RNZAF and Sgt G.A. Anson RAF killed (aircrewremembered.com). F/S Millar had helped bring a damaged Whitley back from Hamburg October 26-27, 1941.

15-16 77 Sqn. Whitley V Z9229 KN-M crashed in England after an engine failure returning from an operation over France, F/S W.P. Connell, F/S J.W.A. Giffin, P/O E.M. Hooper RAF and Sgt P.H. Roan RAF killed, P/O J. Spalding RAF bailed out and was safe.

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Monday

16 Prime Minister Tojo of Japan announces implementation of Co-Prosperity 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 RAF 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, on a training flight, Sgt J.M. Ambler RAF (Can.), P/O K.H. Bottrill RAF and Sgt J.M. Roberts RAF killed.

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).

16-17 61 Sqn. Manchester I L7433 QR-B shot down into the sea by flak on a GARDENING sortie, Sgt F.S. Partridge RNZAF, Sgt A.G.E. Pearce RAF and Sgt G.F.G. Rackstraw RAF killed, F/S W.W. Fairbrother, F/S P.H.G. Webster RAF, F/S A.L.E. Johnson RAF and F/S K. Ashurst RAF missing (asn.flightsafety.org).

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 or #1443 Flt. 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 off Holland, P/O L.N. Sarles, F/S

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B.F. Culf MiD RAF, Sgt P. Harrison RAF 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.

17 407 Sqn. Hudson V AM567 crashed on take-off in a gusting cross-wind, killing Sgt W.J.T. Flagg, F/S A.W. Goulding, F/S J.C. Harris and Sgt R.G.E. Whale.

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.

18 153 Sqn. Defiant I T3914 spun and crashed in the Irish Sea off Northern Ireland on a training flight, F/S J.R. Lucas and F/S C.T. Deane RAF killed (asn.flightsafety.org; rafcommands.com).

18 #1 (Coastal) OTU Hudson V AM825 stalled and crashed into the sea, P/O T.R. Godfrey, Sgt J.F. Green RAF, Sgt C. Taggart RAF and F/S D. Thomas RAF killed (malcolm_raf & R. McNeill www.rafcommands.com; asn.flightsafety.org).

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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 scarlet fever (heritage.canadiana.ca).

18 #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 injured (heritage.canadiana.ca). See February 19, below.

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).

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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 "<u>If Day</u>", 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 interning 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, LAC(P) M. Huculak died in Col. Belcher Hospital, Calgary, of injuries sustained the day before (heritage.canadiana.ca).

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, the use of aircraft to land soldiers to outflank Iraqi forces in the advance from Habbaniya, 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).

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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).***

Hockey player Phil Esposito born in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario (wikipedia).

20 #17 OTU Blenheim IV Z5899 hit barrage balloon cables in bad weather on a low level flight exercise and crashed, Sgt W.T. Kyle, Sgt L.S. De Lisser RAF (Jamaica) and Sgt E. Scott RAF killed. See February 9, 10 and 11, 1943.

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 during night training near the relief airfield at Edenvale, Ontario, F/L D.B. Gardiner killed, Sgt W.G. Baldwin slightly injured (heritage.canadiana.ca, CVWM).

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 Sgt Hatfield overshot his first

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solo landing at Shoal Harbour, BC, in Hudson I #776 MX-T. He 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 focusing 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).

Off British Guiana the unescorted Canadian merchant ship* George L. Torian*, a laker carrying a load of bauxite ore, is torpedoed by the* U-129*. The captain and 14 crew were questioned by the U-boat and released, but were not seen again. Four other crew were later found and rescued by a US flying boat (RCN Chronology; www.uboat.net; www.wrecksite.eu).

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 3rd (RCAF (USA) 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.

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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). Off Venezuela the* U-129 *torpedoes and sinks a second unescorted Canadian merchant ship, the laker* Lennox *out of Dutch Guiana with a load of bauxite ore, with 2 deaths (RCN Chronology; www.uboat.net).

23 10 Sqn. Whitley V Z6756 overshot the landing area attempting an emergency one-engined landing, P/O G.W. Coldwell, Sgt O.N. Morris RAF, Sgt A. Taylor RAF and Sgt K.R. Bunney RAF safe (ac-lac.gc.ca). See April 12, below.

23 245 (N. Rhodesia) Sqn. two Hurricane II aircraft collided in mid-air and crashed in England, killing Sgt L.T.P. Delorme in BE516 and F/S T.E. Foster in BD980.

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

23 #2 OADU Anson I AX565 collided in mid-air with #6 AOS Proctor II Z7256 aircraft in England, observer Sgt J.D.D. White killed, Sgt J.G.J. Fedigan, AC J.F. Holmes RAF, AC A.E. Knight RAF and P/O S. Zaydel PAF injured on the Anson (www.rafcommands.com).

23 #1 Central Flying School, Trenton, Ontario, two Harvard aircraft were in a violent ground collision, P/O D.R. Beardall was killed and P/O E.R. McQuarrie injured in Harvard II #2955, P/O? G.G.O. James and F/O C.A. Barrett RAF safe in Harvard IIb #3111 (CVWM). See July 2, below.

23 #5 SFTS, Brantford, Ontario, Anson I #6823 was badly damaged when it made a practice precautionary landing at an unauthorized field near Paris, Ontario and ran into trees, LAC(P) E.A. Coleman Jr. RCAF (USA) and LAC M.C. Birmingham were safe, but LAC Coleman was disciplined (bac-lac.gc.ca; heritage.canadiana.ca). See May 8, below.

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 #31 SFTS, Kingston, Ontario, Harvard II aircraft AJ559 and AJ572 collided in mid-air and crashed near Collins Bay, Ontario, killing P/O W.E. Madden and Acting Leading Airman W.H. Riddett RN in the former and Acting Leading Airman C.A. Treble RN in the latter aircraft.

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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.

23-24 108 Sqn. Wellington Ic AD599 'E' lost attacking the airfield of Martuba, Libya, WO2 N.S. Hall, F/O B.A. Willis RAAF, F/S C.M. Gray RNZAF, F/S J. Bradbury RAF, Sgt F. Coulson RAF and Sgt P.R. Cooper RAF killed.

23-24 108 Sqn. Wellington Ic AD606 'K' lost attacking the airfield of Martuba, Libya, F/S L.R. Sinclair, Sgt W.B. Moffat RAF, Sgt H. Brown RAF, Sgt R.C. Hook RAF, F/S A. Stirrup RAF and Sgt J.A. Acaster RAF killed. F/S Sinclair's brother, F/S W.L. Sinclair, had been killed in England just 10 days before.

Tuesday

24 US carrier aircraft from* USS Enterprise *attack Japanese installations on Wake Island (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).

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). Their presence blocked the main supply route for the Soviet advance, thus limiting what might have been a major break-through. At first these transport flights are largely ignored by Soviet fighters, but this soon changed as they were reinforced, and began hunting the transports (Bergström & Mikhailov V.2). See April 21, below.

Canadian Order in Council passed authorizing internment of Canadians of Japanese descent (including Canadian Army veterans of the First World War) and their removal from the West Coast of Canada to detainment camps inland, some 19,000. This is at the request of the BC politicians and represented decades of racism against the Japanese and other ethnic groups from Asia in the province, and was influenced by the US governments plan to remove it's ethnic Japanese citizens from the West Coast, and against the advice of the RCMP, the Army and the Navy (Douglas & Greenhous). The order also includes seizure and sale of their private property, to defray the costs of their

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internment. Another 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), but it is interesting that US Japanese citizens in the Hawaiian Territory were not subject to internment.

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). Under a program sponsored by the Duke of Windsor workers from the Bahamas are also brought to the USA to work in Agriculture (E. Wiberg).

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 he was raised in Canada (www.findagrave.com)).

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).

24 401 Sqn. Magister was caught in a downdraft when landing and came down in a tree, which then slowly bent and dropped the aircraft into a hedge, Sgt Pope and his passenger armourer LAC O'Briend, unhurt (D. McIntosh). See March 29, below.

24 418 Sqn. Boston III W8335 flew into the ground in England on a night 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).

24 #52 OTU Spitfire Ia X4036 flew into the ground in bad visibility in England, Sgt I. MacKenzie killed (www.spitfires.ukf.net; www.rafcommands.com).

24 #1 SFTS, Camp Borden, Ontario, Harvard II #2623 collided with Yale #3373 (below) and crashed, LAC W.J. Hogan RAAF killed in #2623 (A. Storr, R.W.R. Walker;

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heritage.canadiana.ca). (A. Storr states incorrectly that both LAC Hogan and LAC Loginoff were killed in #3373).

24 #1 SFTS, Camp Borden, Ontario, Yale #3373 collided with Harvard #2623 (above) and crashed, LAC N.A. Loginoff RAAF killed (A. Storr, R.W.R. Walker; heritage.canadiana.ca).

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).

24-25 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 17 Sqn., Burma, Hurricane IIb, Sgt J.F. Barrick RCAF (USA) claimed a Ki-27 shot down before being forced away from a Japanese fighter sweep by a Ki-44 (Shores, Cull & Izawa).

25 #21 EFTS, Chatham, new Brunswick, LAC A.L. Little died in hospital from injuries suffered in a car accident. A #10 AOS station wagon ran into a snow plow between Chatham and Newcastle in the early hours of the morning, possibly due to to poor visibility in snow, LAC N. Grecco, LAC R.W. Lawson and LAC(P) J.C. Sadlier were slightly injured (heritage.canadiana.ca).

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

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force landed and burnt out, the crew, P/O E.D. Baker, Sgt J.A. Lancaster RAF and Sgt A.C. Cole RAF injured, F/S S.S. Dawes, Sgt E.G.W. Shotter 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.

#14 SFTS, Aylmer, Ontario, three airmen from the station apprehended a German PoW who had escaped from Westminster Hospital in London, Ontario, and brought him to the base where he was locked up until collected by the RCMP (heritage.canadiana.ca).

26 401 Sqn. aero engine mechanic Cpl J.P. Turgeon died in England from injuries sustained after he was run over by a truck.

26 405 Sqn. Wellington II Z8493 was damaged making a heavy landing in poor visibility, F/S W.B. Blizard, P/O J.F. Clark (RCAF?), F/S L.G. Higginson and F/S E.T. McGill were safe, Sgt C.E. Senkey RAF was injured (bac-lac.gc.ca). See also September 10-11, below.

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 (R.W.R. Walker).

26 #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 V9986 ZA-M lost without trace on an operation to the German ports, F/S J.A. Bissett, Sgt J.J. Westland RAF (Can.), F/S E.V.H. Wieland RAF, Sgt J.H. Jefferies RAF, Sgt W.A.I. Glanville RAF, Sgt E.H. Simmons RAF and Sgt C.F. Darwin RAF missing.

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). Sgt Falkoski went by the nickname of 'The Count' (J.V. Watts). 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 Jr., Sgt J.A. Eves

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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 fire. 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.

26-27 405 Sqn. Wellington II W5516 LQ-D lost without trace on an operation to the German ports, believed shot down by a night-fighter, W/C G.D. MacAllister, F/S E.C. Phillips, F/S W.S. Piers, F/S M.P.F. Robson, F/S J.H. Dyson RAAF and F/L J.A. Robson RAF missing (asn.flightsafety.org). W/C MacAllister was the commanding officer of 405 Squadron.

26-27 #16 OTU Canadian built Hampden I P5319 crashed after an engine failure on a night flying exercise, F/S J.W. Connell, Sgt J.G. Tallentire RAF and Sgt K. Twidale RAF killed, P/O J. Maura RAF safe.

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. See December 9, 1944.

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

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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 W. Oxendale, Sgt C. Grimwood RAF 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 the Station Hospital at Lethbridge of natural causes (www.rafcommands.com).

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 captured 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 Japanese invasion of Java begins (Oxford). Japanese fighters attack Port Moresby, sinking 3 RAAF Catalina flying boats (D. Newton).

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&AEE Albemarle I P1368 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 YO-R was shot down by enemy fighters over the Channel on a RAMROD sortie, F/S G.F. Clarke missing (aircrewremembered.com). Sgt D.R. Morrison shot down a Fw 190 that jumped P/O I.C. Ormston (D. McIntosh).

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

28 411 Sqn. was scrambled to escort boats returning from the Commando raid on Bruneval. Spitfire Vb AA844, F/S R.H. Gridley, collided with Spitfire Vb AB845, Squadron commanding officer S/L R.B. Newton, and ditched off Manston, F/S Gridley rescued, safe. S/L Newton was unable to open his hood, but fortunately managed to crash land at Manston and safe (wartimes.ca; www.spitfires.ukf.net). See March 24, below.

28 #16 OTU Hampden I N9065 (originally built as an inline engined Hereford) was burnt out after a fire following a hard night landing, Sgt G.H. Foster RAF injured, Sgt J.H. Stilborn and crew safe (www.rafcommands.com).

28 #1 Wireless School, Montreal, LAC G. Butt RAF (Nfld.) died in hospital of natural causes (wwrsimon at www.rafcommands.com).

28 #2 EFTS, Fort William, Ontario, DH.82C Tiger Moth #5817 suffered damage after a hard landing by LAC(P) R.V. Gough.

28 #5 EFTS, High River, Alberta, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4996 crashed and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

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).

To reduce losses to U-boats from west-bound convoys disbursed to proceed independently convoys were now kept together and escorted all the way to Halifax, and convoys between Halifax to St. John, NB, and to Boston were established. These were additional tasks undertaken by the RCN. The

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Halifax-Boston convoy safely delivered ships to and from US waters, but ships along US coast are still not being put in convoys (english.turkcebilgi.com; M. Milner).

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). In this period 17 LB-30 Liberators taken from the RAF contract were converted with Canadian built radars before being deployed to the Panama Canal Zone with the USAAF 6th Bomb Group (Oughton et al).

Sunday

1 Off San Francisco the Japanese submarine* I-17 *tries to torpedo the tanker* SS William H. Berg*, but just misses. Surfacing to shell the ship it was surprised, and quickly forced to submerge, by the quick and accurate fire of the ships gunners (B. Coyle; ww2db.com).

Japanese invasion forces land on Java just after midnight. Japanese forces with tanks manage to travel 30 miles through the night to overrun 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).

US Navy PBO (Hudson) bomber from VPB-82, Argentia, Newfoundland, flown by Ensign W. Tepuni USN, sinks U-656, first US U-boat victory of the war (http://www.homeofheroes.com).

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 cloudy conditions in England

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returning from a formation practice flight, killing P/O A.L. Logan (R. Allenby). There is a local story that he made an unauthorized low flight over the house of a girl he was in a relationship with and crashed from low level after doing so. He was buried at the local cemetery at the request of the girls family (R. Allenby).

1 #5 (Coastal) OTU Beaufort I L4445 crashed attempting a forced landing after it lost a propellor when it flew into the River Taw on a low level bombing exercise, P/O R.S. Brimacombe and P/O R.A. White RAAF killed, Sgt P. Scott RNZAF slightly injured (A. Storr; devonheritage.org). 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

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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; W.T. Melnyk).

2 #5 AOS, RAF, England, Hampden I N9090 stalled and crashed at the Isle of Man on approach to land from a weather check flight, F/S D.K. Swain, LAC R.W. Aisbett RAF and LAC G. Robson RAF killed (Government of Canada Collection Search). This aircraft was originally built as an in-line engined Hereford (www.rafcommands.com).

2 #14 SFTS, Aylmer, Ontario, Harvard IIb #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

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unknown.

In the Crimea a tanker carrying fuel to the Kerch forces was disabled and bad weather forces an end to the Soviet offensive, but this is not accepted by Stalin who orders ruthless measures be used to continue the offensive (Bergström & Mikhailov V.2).

413 Sqn. ordered to relocate from Scotland to Ceylon due to Japanese gains in the Pacific (RCAF Sqns.). Aircraft begin leaving next day.

In an attempt to take the port of St. John's, Newfoundland, out of the war U-587 fires a torpedo into the cliffs in the harbours entrance to try to cause a landslide, but it does not work (Legion Magazine March/April 2021).

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 Combined 232/242 Sqn., Java, Hurricane IIb shot down by Japanese anti-aircraft fire attacking a Japanese occupied airfield, P/O R. Mendizabal managed to crash land away from the airfield and evade. See March 8, below.

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

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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).

3-4 419 Sqn. Wellington III crash landed in England, F/S Thomson and his crew safe (419 SH).

Wednesday

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

In the Russian Arctic Soviet air forces launched 24 Hurricanes with rockets to attack Luftwaffe bombers near Petsamo, Finland, which made a successful attack. A second attack by 22 Hurricanes lost 2 fighters. This was intended to support approaching convoy PQ-12, and opened the renewal of aerial fighting in the region as the sun returned (Bergström & Mikhailov V.2).

House of 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 and Malizia). 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 V.2).

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).

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Thursday

5 Japanese capture Batavia, Java (CJCA headlines).

Soviet bomber forces reformed as a night bombing long range force, similar to Bomber Command, but limited by circumstance to tactical operations at this time (Bergström & Mikhailov V.2).

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* sunk by U-505 after a 9 hour search (uboat.net). With a calm sea the decision was by 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 66 Sqn. Spitfire IIa P8194, F/S F.Y. Campbell landed long at night, and lost an undercarriage leg and a damaged engine turning off the runway at high speed (bac-lac.gc.ca). See July 15, below.

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 came down in Minas Basin after an engine failed, possibly due to icing, F/S J. MacKay and LAC(P) G.W.E. Power killed [CVWM].

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). As well a unit of RAAF radio intelligence was set up to

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monitor Japanese frequencies used for these operations, and were soon giving advanced warnings of approaching attacks, allowing defences to be prepared (B. Kite).

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 Lt P.W.T. Baker RN PoW (BLME V.2 Errata).

Saturday

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

7 #575 AMES, radar mechanic Cpl. W.S. Pink was killed while fighting with ground forces in the Netherlands East Indies against the invading Japanese forces (wartimes.ca). He has no known grave.

7 14 Sqn. Blenheim IV V5954 was on a bombing sortie to Libya when it flew into the ground in Egypt due to haze in the desert, F/S W.V. Howey, Sgt K.W. Stevenson RAF and Sgt L. 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 Sgt 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 had taken off from Vanscoy, Saskatchewan, on a ferry flight when the fabric peeled off the right wing at low altitude just after taking off and the aircraft crashed, F/S H.C. Campbell, LAC(P) B.D. Cook and LAC(P) H.V. Ford were killed, LAC(P) A.L. Freebairn and LAC(P) E.P. Friesen were injured (www.baaa-acro.com; heritage.canadiana.ca; bac-lac.gc.ca). 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 in hospital of natural causes (www.rafcommands.com).

7 USAAF 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

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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 10 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).

Construction of the Alaska Highway begins in northern BC (wikipedia). The route selected followed the route of airfields established by the efforts of Edmonton's G.W.G. 'Grant' McConachie (aka* The Bushpilot with a Briefcase*), founder of* United Air Transport*, who planned an air-route to China from Edmonton, via the Yukon and Alaska, which became known during the war as the North-West Staging Route. The existing airfields allowed survey and construction parties to be flown in to begin work in both directions, supplied and co-ordinated by aircraft. See September 24, below.

8 unknown units, AC2 R.C. Adolph, LAC C.P. Edwards RAF (Nfld.), Sgt W.H. Monsell, P/O A.M. Morris, Sgt K.A. Osborn RAF (Can.) and W/C W.D. Woods RAF (Can.) were taken PoW in Java (www.fepow.family; www.mansell.com/pow_resources). Sgt F.M. Golab and Cpl O.A. Luce (radar technician) were also taken prisoner in Java, possibly on this date (www.roll-of-honour.org.uk). See January 8, 1944.

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

8 unknown unit, F/L L.H. Chater RAF (Can.) taken PoW in Java. Later taken to Japan he kept secret notes of his incarceration, later used in war crimes trials and also a book, *Behind the Fence: Life as a POW in Japan*, 1942-45, Vanwell Publishing. softcover ed. 2004 (www.fepow.family).

8 91 Sqn. Sgt A.R. Appleton taken PoW at Bandoeng, Indonesia (www.fepow.family).

8 211 Sqn. AC2 E.T. Mickleburgh RAF (Can.) taken PoW in Java (www.fepow.family). See October 1, 1944.

8 121 (Eagle) Sqn. Spitfire Vb AB206 shot down over Belgium, P/O W.L.C. Jones RCAF (USA) PoW (www.rafcommands.com, www.spitfires.ukf.net).

8 403 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BL661 shot down over the Channel on a CIRCUS escort, P/O D.S. Aitken missing.

8 #5 AOS, England, Blenheim IV Z6363 lost, Sgt R.E. Nies, AC2 T.W. Fenton RAF, LAC

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N.B. Rendall RAF and LAC H.V.S. Richardson RAF missing (R. McNeill and Oldduffer at www.rafcommands.com).

8 #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).

8-9 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 RAF and Sgt H. Williams RAF were injured, and F/O A.G. Kirkman RAF was blown out of his rear turret unharmed by the explosion of the mines.

8-9 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 then 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).

8-9 12 Sqn. Wellington II Z8409 PH-H shot down by a night fighter over Holland, Sgt F.J. Menshek RCAF (USA), F/S 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.

8-9 15 Sqn. Stirling I N3673 LS-D hit by flak and crashed in Holland, F/S C.S. Carruthers, F/S W.A. Cross, F/S J.L.H. Phillips, Sgt D.F. Tuck RAF, Sgt H.W. Bidgood RAF, Sgt D. McCallum RAF, F/L G.W. Nicholson RAF, P/O A.J. Rampton RAF and P/O R.M. Disley RAF killed.

8-9 83 Sqn. Manchester I L7426 OL-D shot down by a night fighter over the IJsselmeer, Holland, P/O C.R. Frost DFM RAF, P/O I.F. Livingstone RAF and Sgt J.H. Stone RAF killed, P/O W.A. Harris, F/S W.D. Biltcliffe RAF, Sgt S. Grunwell RAF and Sgt H.R. Hay RAF missing.

8-9 101 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.

8-9 115 Sqn. Wellington III X3419 KO-T lost without trace, P/O R.L.G. Hosea DFC, P/O J.M. Runner DFM, P/O R.P. Runagall DFC RAF, F/S J.A. Chamberlain RAF, Sgt S.W. Stevenson RAF and Sgt H.J. Hickman RAF missing.

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8-9 408 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 Sgt K.A. Osborn RAF (Can.) (59 Sqn.), 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.), Cpl W. Yeardye RAF (Can.) (242 Sqn.), AC1 V.E. Syrett (242 Sqn.), AC1 J.S. Cummings RAF (242 Sqn.), S/L A.M. Jardine RAF (Can.) (205 Sqn.), radar mechanic Cpl C.R. Moore and many others (H.A. Halliday; www.fepow.family). See March 13 and April 15, below, June 14, 1943 and July 19, 1943. S/L H.D. Domville RAF MiD (Can.) was taken PoW, possibly on this date at an unknown location, see July 30, 1943. 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 it's 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 overwhelmed 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).

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***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 53 Sqn. Hudson V AM877 crashed in England after taking off, Sgt C.S. Milne killed, Sgt R. Walbanke RAF and Sgt F.A. Hutton RAF injured (www.rafb24.com; www.rafcommands.com).

9 137 Sqn. Whirlwind P7036 went into a spin and crashed in England making a mock attack on a formation of Spitfires, killing P/O C.W. De-Shane (aircrewremembered.com).

9 401 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BL538 crashed when the wing failed during practise aerobatics, Sgt A.D. Blakey killed.

9 401 Sqn. driver LAC W.F. Cramer killed when hit by a bus.

9 417 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AD302 crash landed in Scotland when the engine failed on an gunnery exercise, P/O A.A. Williams injured (www.spitfires.ukf.net; www.rafcommands.com).

9 418 Sqn. Boston III W8314 crashed in England when an engine failed on take-off, P/O J.K. Reynolds and P/O R.H.H. Pawsey RAF injured (H.A. Halliday www.rafcommands.com).

9 #3 (Coastal) OTU Whitley V P5083 missing on a training flight, F/S F.H.E. Anger, F/S J.A.B.G. Galloway, F/S J.W. Mosey, Sgt A.A. Thompson RAAF and P/O F.C. Gill RAF missing (A. Storr; CVWM).

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 V3912, 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).

9-10 9 Sqn. Wellington III X3637, suffered an engine failure outbound and began to return, followed by further engine problems. After jettisoning their bomb load pilot F/O J.L.H. Eliott RCAF (USA) attempted a landing at Manston fighter base, but the aircraft overran the runway and was damaged when the undercarriage collapsed. See May 8-9, below.

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).*

In Port Castries, St. Lucia, the U-161 torpedoed and sank the Canadian National liner* RMS Lady Nelson *and the British passenger freighter* Umtata*, with the loss of

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3 crew and 15 passengers on the former and 4 crew on the latter. Both ships sank in shallow water and were salvaged, but the* Umtata *was torpedoed again off Miami under tow and sunk (J. Boileau; www.uboat.net; www.bedequemuseum.ca) . See May 4 below and April 22, 1943.

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'Blenes killed (www.spitfires.ukf.net).

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

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 G.H. Harris RAF survived, injured. See March 1-2, 1943.

10-11 405 Sqn. Wellington II Z8428 LQ-N disappeared over the North Sea after sending an SOS, Sgt J.M. Broddy, F/S F.C. Garnett RCAF (USA), F/O R.K. Durbridge RAAF, F/S R.N. Lonergan RAAF, Sgt G.A. Tilley RAF and Sgt W. Wright RAF missing.

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 with injuries (419squadron.com). See July 13-14, below.

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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).

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, Sgt N.F.T. Brown RAF killed, Sgt H. Smith, Sgt F.A. Cake RAF, Sgt G. McWilliam RAF and Sgt N. Shearer RAF injured (www.rafcommands.com). After climbing aboard their dinghy Sgt R.T. Scott called out that he would swim ashore for help, but he drowned. The ditched aircraft later drifted to shore.

11 #60 OTU Master III W8525 KT-9 force landed, F/O W.J.A. Nelson RCAF (USA) safe. F/O Nelson, from Alaska, flew fighters in England before being sent to North Africa where he shot down 2 high altitude Ju 86P photo reconnaissance aircraft. He transferred to the USAAF in 1944 and was killed in a snowstorm flying P-51 aircraft in England January 13, 1945. His son flew naval fighters in Vietnam (R. Allenby and rjnelson at www.rafcommands.com).

11 #1444 Ferry Training Flight Hudson III AE550 hit a tree on a night flight in poor visibility and crashed in England, P/O W.J. Atkinson, F/S R.N. Coleman RCAF (USA), Sgt V. Fellows RAF and Sgt J.P. Town RAF killed (H. Welting www.rafcommands.com).

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 OTU, Patricia Bay, BC, AC1 R.V. Cockcroft RAF shot himself (www.rafcommands.com; heritage.canadiana.ca).

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).

12 213 Sqn., Egypt, Hurricane crashed after a mid-air collision, Sgt F.A.W.J. Wilson RAF (Can.) bailed out and survived after his parachute failed to open until 400 feet above the ground, where he was surrounded by locals who believed he was an enemy airman (acesofww2.com). See June 27, below.

12 133 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AD118, Sgt W.C. Wicker, made a belly landing in the dark when the undercarriage system failed (bac-lac.gc.ca). See April 27, below.

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

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12 500 Sqn. Hudson III T9390 lost, radio mechanic Cpl J. Molnar, Sgt J.R. Hand RAF, Sgt P. Robinson RAF, Sgt H. Chaplin RAF and Sgt S.M. Jones RAF missing (R. McNeill www.rafcommands.com).

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 shot and killed himself with a rifle (bcam.net).

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 AA-V 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 (asn.flightsafety.org).

12-13 77 Sqn. Whitley V Z9312 KN-S 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). Possibly Sgt L.E. Keane, 34 Sqn., taken PoW in Java, moved to Japan in September-October 1943 via Singapore (www.roll-of-honour.org.uk/Java_Index).

Soviet forces in the Crimean Peninsula go back on the offensive on Stalin's orders, disregarding defensive measures (Bergström & Mikhailov V.2).

13 401 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AD234 crashed in England returning from a CIRCUS escort after being damaged 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 missing, F/O W.L. MacKay buried at sea (bac-lac.gc.ca). This was 415 Squadrons first aircraft loss.

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13 #2 FIS Magister I T9699 crashed on taking off in Scotland, P/O P.H.A. Spiers injured (R. McNeill www.rafcommands.com). Other sources refer to Sgt R.R. Giffin injured. See also July 28-29, 1944.

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, Sgt W.E. Loucks and P/O A.M. Rhodes RAF injured, P/O Barnett RAF safe (R. Allenby; www.rafcommands.com). 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 #1652 HCU Halifax I L9513 swung and lost it's undercarriage on landing, W/C J.B. "Willie" Tait DFC RAF and S/L A.J.D. Snow RAF safe. Rest of crew also safe, believed to be P/O J.R. Kennedy, Sgt F.R. Mills RAF, Sgt E.C. L. Hebblethwaite RAF, Sgt T.P.W. Davies RAF and Sgt G.M. Edwards RAF (R. Allenby). See May 3-4, below.

13 #14 SFTS, Aylmer, Ontario, Harvard IIb #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 12 Sqn. Wellington II Z8578 lost without trace on an operation to France, F/S J.A.L. Giroux, F/S L.M. Scott RNZAF, Sgt R.A. Hudd RAF, P/O F.W. Jones RAF, Sgt G.W. Howes RAF and Sgt L.R. Meager RAF missing.

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. See March 25-26, below.

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. F/S Moore had been slightly injured in the ditching of a Whitley September 20-21, 1941.

13-14 77 Sqn. Whitley V Z6873 KN-B crashed on landing from an operation to Germany, Sgt J.W.P.E. Louthood, Sgt G. Silva RAAF, Sgt J. Dunseath RAF, Sgt Cooper and Sgt A.F. Smith safe (R. Allenby). See March 27-28, below.

13-14 83 Sqn. Manchester I L7432 OL-S shot down by a night fighter over Holland, F/S J.M. Thompson, Sgt P.H. Foster RAF, Sgt E. Rose RAF and F/S L.F.R. Davis RAF killed, P/O J.R. Feirn RAF has no known grave, F/O J.L. Bromiley RAF and Sgt J.P. Dowd

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RAF PoW. Sgt Dowd later escaped from prison.

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).

14 112 Sqn. Kittyhawk I AK900 GA-A shot down over Libya by an Italian MC.202, F/S R.E. Simonsen killed (http://raf-112-squadron.org/planelosses.html).

14 112 Sqn. Kittyhawk I AK878 GA-C shot down by an Italian MC.202, Sgt R.B. Evans wounded (http://raf-112-squadron.org/planelosses.html).

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

Sunday

15 Japanese bases in New Guinea raided (CJCA headline). Attacked by RAAF and USN carrier based aircraft, noted above.

In Norway the German backed government of Vidkun Quisling attempted to institute a Fascist based education program. To this end they dissolved all teachers unions and ordered teachers to join a new teachers association, similar to the Gleichschaltung program in Germany, to control any groups that might object or resist political change. The majority of teachers signed a letter refusing to join the association or teach the curriculum. The government then closed the schools, only to receive letters of protest from parents, while teachers held classes in secret. On this date over a thousand teachers were arrested, half were sent to a Norwegian concentration camp, and the other half sent to the Arctic to be used as slave labour alongside Soviet PoWs unloading ships. On the way there, and in the communities they were sent to, citizens stood in silent salute when they were marched past, and they held lectures and social events in prison. In November the government abandoned the education plans and released the teachers, their non-violent protest having succeeded in keeping Fascist indoctrination out of the education system in Norway (riverasun.com).

In the Caribbean between Venezuela and Haiti the* U-161 *torpedoes the unescorted Canadian merchant ship* Sarniadoc*, a laker out of British Guiana with a load of bauxite ore, all 21 crew lost (RCN Chronology; www.uboat.net).

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

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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. Ironically his older half-brother Lt A.D'O. Rochfort MC RAF also died in Egypt October 13, 1918, of injuries while serving with #58 Training Squadron RAF.

15 234 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BL668 force landed in bad weather in England, P/O W.J. Locke RAF (Nfld.) injured. Three other Spitfires were forced down from this flight, with 1 killed, 1 injured and 1 safe (Chris Pointon www.rafcommands.com). See March 20, 1943.

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. LB-30 Liberator II AL577 'N' 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 RAAF, 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, Sgt A.M.S. Brownlie RAF, F/S G. Buchanan RAF, F/S L.G. Jordan RAF and Sgt H.W.T. Sloman RAAF. P/O W.B. Stephens RAF died of injuries, and Sgt C.R. Amos RAF, F/O J.R. Anderson DFC RAF, Sgt T.E. Pattison 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 and S. Challon's article *Liberator Tragedy*, *Flypast*, May 1998.

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Monday

16 US troops arrive in Australia (CJCA headline).

16 57 Sqn. Wellington III X3599 crashed into high ground in Northern Ireland in poor visibility on a training flight, F/O J.W. Elliott, F/O H.E. Hunter RNZAF, Sgt W.S. Taylor RAF, F/L H.L. Magee RAF, Section Officer B.K. Blakiston-Houston WAAF and civilian Reverend J.D. Crawford killed, Sgt W.L. Henderson RAF injured (discussion page, www.rafcommands.com; aircrewremembered.com).

16 133 (Eagle) Sqn. Spitfire Ia X4353 lost on convoy patrol, P/O H.C. Brown RAF (Can.) missing (www.rafcommands.com). P/O Brown was born in Canada but was a citizen in the USA when he enlisted in the RAF (www.londonremembers.com).

16 406 Sqn. Cpl. G. Grant died of coal gas poisoning, believed to be a suicide (www.rafcommands.com).

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 Ia AR212 crashed in England after colliding with Spitfire Ia X4605, Sgt S.W. Steenson killed (www.spitfires.ukf.net).

16 #119 (BR) Sqn. Bolingbroke IV #9064 crashed after take off near Grand Lake, NS, when an engine failed at low level, pilot F/S R.L. Parker killed, pilot Sgt D.P. Scratch was seriously injured and the two other crew, Sgt D.C. Dickson and Sgt F.A. Connolly, were slightly injured (C. Charland www.rafcommands.com; bac-lac.gc.ca). Sgt Scratch had both lower legs and ankles badly broken and it was considered he would be permanently handicapped, but he forced himself through a difficult convalescence and succeeded in being medically cleared for flight duties, and was commissioned (N. Emmott and others). See August 8, 1944.

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 EA-I flew into a sea cliff in bad visibility making land fall on a test flight, killing P/O R.E. Manders RCAF (USA) and P/O D.A. Cook RAF. P/O Manders listed his home town as Shanghai, China [www.49squadron.co.uk; losses.internationalbcc.co.uk].

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 MiD 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 I AG114 believed lost in the sea on a training flight when the weather closed in, F/S W.O. Krueger RCAF (USA) missing (bac-lac.gc.ca).

17 #59 OTU Hurricane I R4098 was caught by bad weather and unable to land. Sgt W.W.

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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, Sgt J.R. Baillie injured, F/S F.H. Mitchell RAAF, F/S L.J. Boucher, Sgt D.K. or D.F Campbell, Sgt S.L. Pettingale and F/S G.M. Phillips were safe (R. Allenby; www.rafcommands.com). See April 12-13, June 27-28, September 8-9, below, and August 12, 1943.

Wednesday

18 40 Sqn. Wellington Ic Z9104 crashed in Egypt on an air test, F/S H.W. Garvin RCAF (USA), WO F.E. Johnson RAF, Sgt J.C. Joss RAF and Sgt R.J.J. Robb RAF killed.

18 86 Sqn., 22 Sqn. or OADU Beaufort I W6474 lost off Portugal 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 in bad weather during a test flight, F/S R.W. Le Mere RCAF (USA) and Sgt H. Rogerson RAF killed (malcolm_raf at www.rafcommands.com; bac-lac.gc.ca).

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 were killed and Sgt W.J.D. Carter RAF was injured.

18 #60 OTU Defiant N1629 collided over England with another Defiant and crashed, Sgt G.A.P. Sanders died of injuries, Sgt R.J. Roberts (RAF?) injured (www.rafcommands.com).

18 #6 AOS, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan Anson I R9740 crashed near Kinistino, Saskatchewan in poor weather weather, on a night 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 USA were killed (www.rafcommands.com; www.findagrave.com).

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

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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 returning from an anti-shipping strike, P/O T.T.B. Stoker, Sgt N.A. Branchflower RAF and Sgt A.J. Woolsey RAF killed, Sgt W.H. Bond RAF injured (R. Hayward; CWGC; www.rafcommands.com).

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 (COL BRUGGY at www.rafcommands.com).

20 unknown unit, observer F/O G.E. Walker DFC RAF (Can.) died in England when he fell out of a window at Bournemouth (www.rafcommands.com). 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). He was also the first Canadian airman to fly over Germany, dropping leaflets, September 3-4, 1939.

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).

Hitler declares that Germany's economy is now officially on a war footing, in large part due to losses in the east (Bergström, Dikov & Antipov V.3).

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

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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 17 BG, USAAF, Sgt C. Aitken RAF (Can.) was one of a group of RAF attached to this Unit and taken PoW in Batavia. He transferred to the RCAF after repatriation (wwrsimon at www.rafcommands; www.mansell.com/pow_resources).

21 17 Sqn. was part of an attack on Japanese aircraft at Mingaladon, Burma, including P/O H.J. Everard [1 Ki-27 hit], Sgt J.F. Barrick RCAF (USA) [2 destroyed] and Sgt J.F. Gibson RCAF (USA) [1 destroyed] (Shores, Cull and Izawa).

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 V.2).

21 274 Sqn. Hurricane II Z5313 shot down by flak attacking an airfield in North Africa, Sgt E.A. Mullis missing (Shores, Massimello V.2).

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 engine servicing platform (31 OTU/7 OTU Roll of Honour, Ancestory.com via D. Burke at www.rafcommands.com).

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, became lost on a flight in a snowstorm from Debert, NS to Moncton, NB, and crashed 10 miles east of Kingman, Maine, attempting a forced landing out of fuel, F/O A.S. Armour RCAF (USA) killed, AC F. Farrell bailed out and safe. 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

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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 #16 SFTS, Hagersville, Ontario, Anson I #6748 was caught in a sudden snow storm and forced down at Dunkirk, New York, USA, no casualties (heritage.canadiana.ca).

22-23 418 Sqn. flies it's 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). This is recognition that Germany has become over extended in its fighting in Russia and Africa, and it's occupation of Norway, France and the Balkans.

23 94 Sqn. Kittyhawk I AK858 (FZ-L?), F/S J.F. Edwards claimed a Bf 109 shot down in North Africa, his first claim (Shores, Massimello V.2). See May 30, below.

23 114 Sqn. Blenheim IV V5456 was landing and ran over a runway light, and the main wheel collapsed, believed due to a previous hard landing, F/S W.M. Popplestone and crew safe (bac-lac.gc.ca). See March 26, below.

23 407 Sqn. Hudson V AM811 did not return from a daylight navigation exercise over the North Sea, F/S M.D. Gallagher, F/S E.J. Graham, F/S E.J.F. Paquette, F/S R.J. Thompson, AC1(WAG) A.W. Hooper RAF and AC1(WAG) F.W. Palmer RAF missing.

23 415 Sqn. Hampden I AT230 GX-L crashed from a spin just after taking off in England on a training flight, F/S C.H. Jay Jr. RCAF (USA), F/S P.G. O'Brien, F/S R.R. Oliver, F/S M.F. Ramsey RCAF (USA) killed (Wartimes.ca).

23 #1518 Beam Approach Training (BAT) Flight Oxford I AT659 struck high tension cables and crashed near it's airfield, Sgt L.D.J. Crozier, Sgt T.D. Dakin and F/O H.M. McGuffie RAF killed.

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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).

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 was killed and LAC(WAG) C.G. Harris badly injured in #2069, their pilot Sgt W.M. Haggart survived after bailing out, LAC(WAG) D.F. Hood, LAC(WAG) G.G.J. Hower RCAF (USA) and F/S. H. Naoum were killed in #1892 (S. Shail; heritage.canadiana.ca). LAC E.P. Harris and LAC C.G. Harris were brothers (www.findagrave.com).

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.]

24 401 Sqn. Spitfire Vb (possibly BL658) force-landed in Kent and flipped over with the engine on fire, trapping the pilot F/S J.K. Ferguson. Nearby soldiers extinguished the fire and saved F/S Ferguson (www.spitfires.ukf.net; D. McIntosh). See April 28, 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 S.A. Taylor wounded over France on a CIRCUS escort by German fighters, landed damaged in England (www.rafcommands.com).

24 411 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BL638 was damaged making a force landing in England when it ran out of fuel returning from a CIRUS operation over France, P/O P.R. Eakins safe (bac-lac.gc.ca). See August 19, below.

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 BL245 shot down over France on a CIRCUS escort by German fighters, P/O A.T.A. Young PoW (discussion page at www.rafcommands.com).

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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 DFM 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.S. 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 propellor 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 Central Flying School, Trenton, Ontario, Harvard II #7816 ground-looped and lost an undercarriage leg when it was landing behind an aircraft which had been waved off, and attempted to avoid it's prop-wash, Sgt A.S. Neilly safe [bac-lac.gc.ca]. See April 12, below.

25 #14 EFTS, Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4164 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

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,

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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.

25-26 61 Sqn. Manchester I L7518 QR-O shot down over Holland by a night fighter, P/O R. Heggie, P/O J.R. Hubbard RAF, P/O A.W. Buchan RAF, F/S J.G. Clelland RAF and Sgt A.W. Baker RAF killed, Sgt P. Jones RAF and Sgt T.C. Stanley RAF PoW.

25-26 142 Sqn. Wellington IV Z1321 QT-V shot down by flak over Holland, F/S A. Lennox, F/S W.M. Pipher, Sgt D.J. White RAF, Sgt R.H.J. Barrie RAF and Sgt A. Jelly RAF killed, Sgt E.C. Groves RAF missing (http://www.aviationarchaeology.org.uk). There is a monument commemorating this crew at the crash site in Vlaardingen, Netherlands.

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 V.2).

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. See June 18-19, below.

26 410 Sqn. Defiant I N3364 crashed in England after apparently after losing control on instruments in bad weather, F/S F.E. Haines killed, F/S J.A.J.G. Pelletier bailed out and safe, slightly injured (aircrewremembered.com). 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 INTRUDER operation against German nightfighter airfields (M. Huxtable www.rafcommands.com). See March 28-29 below.

26 603 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BL510 went into a dive and disintegrated in the air over Scotland, P/O W.I. Jones RCAF (USA) killed (www.spitfires.ukf.net; www.rafcommands.com).

26 #16 OTU Hampden I P1221 struck a church spire and 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 1418 Flt., radio mechanic LAC A.M. Galbraith died in England on the aerodrome at Tempsford in a motorcycle accident (www.rafcommands.com). LAC Galbraith had pursued an education in radio work before the war, and #1418 Flight, later the Bombing Development Unit, was established to test radar equipment developed for the RAF, so it is possible he was one of the Canadian volunteers selected for work on radar.

26 #10 (BR) Sqn. Digby #753 PB-D crashed at Gander in bad weather, F/L Williams, P/O D. Raymes and their crew safe (R.W.R. Walker; C.L. Annis; Hagedorn & Hagedorn; aviation-safety.net).

26 #1 TTS, St. Thomas, Ontario, air frame mechanic AC2 M.A. Beetz died of natural causes, bronchio-pneumonia, while in the Christie Street Hospital, Toronto

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(jonheyworth at www.rafcommands.com; bac-lac.gc.ca).

26 #31 ANS, Port Albert, Ontario, F/O T.E. Brammall RAF died, of natural causes in hospital in London, Ontario (wwrsimon at www.rafcommands.com).

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).

26-27 12 Sqn. Wellington II W5372 PH-D shot down by a night fighter over Holland, F/S B.E. Doe, F/S M. Duncan, Sgt F.D. McLeod RAAF, W/C A. Golding DFC & Bar RAF, Sgt W.S. Makin RAF and F/S P.G. Thorpe RAF killed.

26-27 12 Sqn. Wellington II W5371 PH-X shot down by a night fighter over Holland, F/S F.J. Lowe, Sgt T.E. Parsons RAAF, Sgt C.W.L. Pooley RAAF, Sgt B.J. Dove RAF, Sgt W.R. Lea RAF and Sgt L.C. Stanley RAF killed (asn.flightsafety.org).

26-27 57 Sqn. Wellington III X3665 shot down by flak over Germany, F/S D.L. Ballingall, F/S R.V. Snook RNZAF, F/S P.J. Paine RAF, Sgt C.G. Freeman RAF, Sgt J.V. Hill RAF and Sgt D.W. Bond RAF killed (asn.flightsafety.org).

26-27 114 Sqn. Blenheim IV Z7307 RT-L shot down into the sea by a night-fighter off Holland on a night INTRUDER sortie, F/S W.M. Popplestone and P/O C.E. White RAF killed, P/O W.G.F. Hawkins RAF missing (CVWM).

26-27 150 Sqn. Wellington Ic X3175 hit and damaged by flak, P/O O.H. Morgan, F/S R.B. Davenport RNZAF, Sgt Baldwin, Sgt White, Sgt Mee and Sgt H.J. Guy safe (R. Allenby).

26-27 420 Sqn. Hampden I AE298 PT-D lost without trace on a GARDENING sortie, believed shot down by a night-fighter into the sea, F/S W.G. Groff, F/S L.O. Stalker, Sgt A.F. Williams and Sgt R.H.D. Morgan RAF missing (asn.flightsafety,org).

Friday

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

27 72 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AA914 was damaged when the brakes failed and it ran into the back of it's earthen dispersal bay wall, F/O B.O. Parker RCAF (USA) safe (bac-lac.gc.ca). See May 29, below.

27 136 Sqn. Hurricane II, possibly BM921, shot down off Akyab Island by Japanese fighters, P/O L.H. LeCraw bailed out, wounded (Shores, Cull & Izawa; H. Welting www.rafcommands.com).

27 274 Sqn. Hurricane IIb BG226, P/O W.A.G. Conrad shot down an MC.202 (Shores, Massimello V.2). See June 12, below.

27 81 Sqn. Spitfire Va P8563 *City of Leicester I*, hit high ground in England returning from a patrol, P/O H.J. Appel killed (www.spitfires.ukf.net; www.rafcommands.com).

27 407 Sqn. Hudson V was in transit to a forward base when it collided with a balloon

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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.

27 409 Sqn. Beaufighter IIf 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 RCAF (USA) killed. S/L Hanbury was a veteran of the Battle of Britain (http://battleofbritain1940.net). P/O Sweet had been a staff pilot at #60 OTU and had made a poor landing and damaged a Blenheim IV T2355 a week or so before and it had been recommended he be transferred to an operational unit (CVWM).

27 #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.

27 #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.

27 #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).

27-28 38 Sqn. Wellington (Fishington) 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).

27-28 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.

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Allenby).

27-28 138 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. See December 22-23, below.

27-28 408 Sqn. Hampden I AT176 EQ-A missing from a GARDENING sortie off Holland, F/L W.B. Brown, F/S C.D. Dunn, Sgt C. Brown RAF and Sgt R.F. Howell RAF missing.

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.

27-28 408 Sqn. Hampden I L4140 EQ-B Bar lost on a GARDENING sortie off Holland, F/S G.P. McLean, P/O G.F. Beaver RNZAF, Sgt S.F. Bentley RAF and Sgt R.N. Beale 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).

28 129 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BL766 lost in the English Channel off the coast of France on a RODEO, possibly due to oxygen failure, P/O R.P. Hunter missing (www.spitfires.ukf.net; aircrewremembered.com).

28 418 Sqn. Boston III W8395 damaged in a landing, no details (H.A. Halliday www.rafcommands.com).

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

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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 7 Sqn. Stirling I W7466 MG-B lost over Germany, shot down by a night-fighter, P/O J.M. Murdock, F/S C.W. Starrett, P/O M.R.R. Green RAAF, Sgt J.F. Grimmett RAF, Sgt E.G. Tapner RAF, Sgt D.I. Dunn RAF and Captain J.F. Wyn Griffith Royal Artillery (attached to the Squadron) killed (www.baaa-acro.com). Capt. Wyn Griffith may have been observing German anti-aircraft defences.

28-29 83 Sqn. Manchester I R5781 OL-R lost over Germany, shot down by flak, F/S P.C. Walsh, Sgt. J.E. Burcher RAF, 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 (www.baaa-acro.com). TSGNO notes that F/S Walsh had been slightly injured in an aircraft accident at #6 EFTS, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan on Feb. 16, 1941.

28-29 109 Sqn. Wellington Ic X9913 lost without trace on an operation to Germany investigating radio signals, P/O L.J. Convey, Sgt F.J. Cassells RAAF, Sgt F.G. Bower RAAF, P/O G.J. Maygothling RAF, P/O R.J. Cussen RAF, LAC R.F. Rendell RAF (special operator), P/O B.E.P. Sadler RAF (special operator) and F/S R.A. Walker RAF missing (A. Storr).

28-29 142 Sqn. Wellington IV Z1203 QT-O ran out of fuel and made a crash landing in Holland, P/O J.H. Hall, F/S L.H. Houghton RAF, F/S J.E. Harritt RAF, F/S A.R. Tidder RAF, Sgt G.P. Wadsworth RAF and Sgt E.J. Pettitt PoW (http://www.aviationarchaeology.org.uk).

28-29 142 Sqn. Wellington IV Z1274 QT-P lost over Germany, F/S W.C. Picher, Sgt H.J. McHutchison RAF, Sgt G.P. Murray RAF, Sgt G.T. Leather RAF, Sgt K.W. Smith RAF and Sgt H.J. Whale RAF killed.

28-29 419 Sqn. Wellington III X3477 VR-G crash landed at very high speed and broke up in a sea marsh in Germany after being damaged by night fighters and crippled by flak, F/S A.L. Flesch and P/O K.E. Hobson died of injuries, F/S J.C.A. Marcotte, F/S S.J. Bailey, Sgt K.H. Paul and P/O W.E. Brodrick PoW (419 SH).

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

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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).

29 401 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AB974, P/O C.S. McLean, overshot a landing and was damaged when it tipped up on its nose for the second time (www.airhistory.org.uk).

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. Recently it is believed the intact Spitfire has been located on the seabed, but this has not been confirmed (asn.flightsafety.org).

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

29 418 Sqn. Boston III W8360 crashed and destroyed by fire, crew safe (H.A. Halliday www.rafcommands.com).

29 #23 OTU Wellington Ic X9629 lost control and collided with a building after an engine failed when landing, Sgt J.K. Crossing, Sgt J.W. Asseltine, P/O C.H. Grant RAF, Sgt D.R. Brown RAF, Sgt R.G.W. Swan RAF and Sgt W.J. Fry RAF injured. See June 25-26, below.

29 MSFU, Dartmouth, NS, Canadian built Sea Hurricane Ia BW842 damaged in a crash, P/O F.H. Dennison safe (www.rafcommands.com). 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).

29-30 61 Sqn. Manchester I L7454 QR-L shot down into the sea off Holland by a night fighter on a GARDENING sortie, P/O J.F. Chevalier, P/O C.S. Churchill RAF, P/O I.M. Cassavetti RAF, Sgt H. Dracass RAF, Sgt D.A.B. Hume RAF, Sgt R. Dawson RAF and Sgt J. Mitchell RAF missing (asn.flightsafety.org).

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

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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 22 Sqn. Beaufort I AW201 OA-D came down in the sea after an engine failure between Gibraltar and Malta, Sgt J.B.D. Wilson (later F/L) and his crew Sgt R.F. Ferguson RAF, Sgt M.J. Jenkins RAF and Sgt J. Read RAF PoW. (vrjam & R. McNeill www.rafcommands.com; *Airforce Magazine*, Winter 1990).

30 #5 (Coastal) OTU Beaufort L4459 stalled when landing and lost an undercarriage leg, P/O A.L. Bell and crew safe (R. Palmer).

30 #42 OTU Blenheim IV V5572 crashed in England when an engine failed on a practice overshoot landings, P/O A.F. McTavish, Sgt R.C. Hunter RNZAF and P/O N. Wolfenden RAF killed. Observer Sgt Hunter had done his training in Canada (H. Welting and discussion on www.rafcommands.com; aircrewremembered.com).

30 #57 OTU Spitfire Ia R7117, Sgt Q. Di Persio, had a tire blow out making a heavy landing, swung and lost an undercarriage leg ground-looping to avoid hitting a Wellington (bac-lac.gc.ca). See July 16, below.

30-31 German battleship* Tirpitz *near Trondheim, Norway, targeted by 34 Halifax bombers but was not spotted due to weather, 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). See also J.V. Watts. Middlebrook and Everitt note only 1 loss from this operation, but Chorley notes 6 losses.

30-31 10 Sqn. Halifax II W1044 ZA-D lost attacking the *Tirpitz* in Norway, crashing alongside the ship, P/O G.C. Day RAF, Sgt R.G.A. Richards RAF and Sgt K.C. May RAF killed, F/S H.R. Franklin, F/S A.R. Henman, P/O N.R. Blunden RNZAF, Sgt W.B. Eastwood RAF missing. Further information can be found at http://ktsorens.tihlde.org/flyvrak/fuglan.html.

30-31 35 Sqn. Halifax II R9438 TL-H flew into a cliff on Shetland returning from an attack on the battleship *Tirpitz*, F/S J.P.B.R. Buckley and P/O M.L. Usher killed, F/S J.B. Bushby RAF, Sgt A.J. Peach RAF, Sgt R.H. Meredith RAF, Sgt G.N.E. Powell RAF and Sgt J.A. Wood RAF missing. One body was recovered from the sea and interred as unidentified, and a second was buried on the cliff face, unidentified, with a Padre being lowered by rope to perform the service (asn.flightsafety.org). See http://ktsorens.tihlde.org/flyvrak/fitful.html for photos of the crash site and the memorial placed nearby.

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30-31 35 Sqn. Halifax II W1015 TL-H shot down by a flak ship off Norway and crashed on a skerry (rocky islet) attacking the battleship *Tirpitz*, F/S G.H. Steinhauer, P/O P.G. Brown RAF, Sgt E.T. Meade RAF, Sgt M. Cohen RAF killed, Sgt J.B. Dunlop RAF, F/S L.E. Goodrum RAF and Sgt D.G.J. Campbell RAF missing. Further information and a crew photo can be found at http://ktsorens.tihlde.org/flyvrak/remming.html

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 RAAF, 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.

31 289 Sqn. Hurricane I W9241 crashed in the sea near Inverness, Scotland, F/S T.D. Forestell killed.

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 central offensive to a halt, leaving many units in vulnerable and extended positions (Oxford). Both sides faced supply difficulties as Russian secondary roads became muddy tracks, and mud limited front-line fighter operations from temporary airfields. Nonetheless air attacks on roads and railways continued (Bergström & Mikhailov V.2).

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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).

In the USSR General Aleksandr Novikov was appointed Commander of the Soviet Army Air Forces. He gradually introduced many needed reforms to the Russian Air Forces, including re-introduction of the pre-1940 training of pilots, and introduction of a stage of advanced training before deployment. The use of forward air observers, wider use of radio, and introduction of radar warning stations were also implemented, but these measures took time to take effect, especially better training. Until then the brunt of combat would have to be borne by existing pre-war airmen and recent graduates from the flying schools (C. Bergström).

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).

With declining support and the effects of the war the Brooklyn (formerly New York) Americans hockey team ceases operations, leaving only 6 teams in the NHL, Montreal, Toronto, Chicago, New York, Boston and Detroit (wikipedia; K. Cuthbertson).

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Wednesday

1 Gibraltar was attacked by 3 SM.82 bombers which caused no damage (H.W. Neulen). Heavy attacks on Malta by German fighters, bombers and dive bombers continue (J.G. Debono).

Gas Rationing starts in Canada (CJCA headlines). (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 V.2).

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 Sgt G. Warren-Wright RAF killed (www.rafcommands.com). 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 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 and exposure, Sgt W.L. Moots and P/O J.D. Mullins survived, injured (CVWM). See June 28-29, below.

1 #10 (BR) Sqn. RCAF, Gander, Newfoundland, Digby aircraft on a patrol engaged and damaged by gunfire from a freighter, one crewman was slightly wounded (Hagedorn & Hagedorn; C. Vincent).

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).

Luftwaffe bombers attack Weymouth, England (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).

1-2 57 Sqn. Wellington III X3607 shot down by flak over Germany, F/S G.G. Giroux, F/S J.O.H. Nevill, Sgt H.E. Cruze RAF, Sgt B.L. Randall RAF, F/S S. Jones RAF and Sgt M. O'Brien RAF killed.

1-2 57 Sqn. Wellington III X3748 lost over Germany, F/S H.W. Lundy and F/S R.E. Knobloch RNZAF killed, Sgt E.G. Ratcliffe RAF, Sgt R.A. Flood RAF, Sgt G.H. Lloyd RAF and Sgt R.O. Thomas RAF PoW.

1-2 57 Sqn. Wellington III Z1565 shot down over the target, Hanau, 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 (www.baaa-acro.com). F/S Fraser had survived the loss of a #11 OTU Wellington June 21, 1941.

1-2 144 Sqn. Hampden I AD959 shot down by a night-fighter over Germany, F/S G.M.

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Robertson, Sgt A.H. Cassam RAF and Sgt J.O. Davies RAF killed, Sgt L.A.E. Smith RAF PoW (www.baaa-acro.com).

1-2 214 Sqn. Wellington Ic Z8805 lost over Germany, P/O T. Best, Sgt E. Dixon RAF, Sgt A.G. Richards RAF, P/O J.M. Henderson RAF, Sgt E.K. Stevens RAF and Sgt E.T. Albrighton RAF killed.

1-2 214 Sqn. Wellington Ic R1789 lost over Germany, Sgt S.G. Burtwell Jr. 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 (www.findagrave.com).

1-2 214 Sqn. Wellington Ic Z8979 BU-P lost over Germany, F/S N.G. Hickey, P/O R.W.S. Hayes RAF, Sgt G.W. Jackson RAF, Sgt I.L. Eagleton RAF, Sgt R. Kitney RAF and F/S J. Nash RAF killed (asn.flightsafety.org).

1-2 214 Sqn. Wellington Ic Z1156 lost over Germany, crashing into the Rhine River near Ludwigshafen, 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 (www.ig-heimatforschung.de).

1-2 214 Sqn. Wellington Ic Z8842 believed lost over the sea off Holland, Sgt E.G.W. Shotter RAF and Sgt V.L. Stephens RAF killed, F/L E.D. Baker DFC, F/S S.S. Dawes RCAF (UK), Sgt G.E. Newman RAF and F/S E.H. Erby RAF missing. F/L Baker, F/S Dawes, Sgt Shotter and F/S Erby had survived a forced landing Feb. 25-26, above, and F/L Baker had also survived a crash in a #23 OTU Wellington Aug. 13, 1941.

1-2 214 Sqn. Wellington Ic Z1052 lost over Belgium, F/S W.D. Page, Sgt H. Mitchell RAF, Sgt J. Murphy RAF, Sgt S. Perry RAF and Sgt R.A. Platt RAF killed, Sgt C.H. Davidson RAF PoW.

1-2 405 Sqn. Wellington II Z8527 LQ-L shot down over France by flak, F/S M.C. Howe, F/S R.O.J. Page, F/S M.A.G. Howsan RAAF, Sgt W.P. Ashun RAF and P/O J.G. MacKinnon RAF killed, P/O L.G. Burgoyne PoW (www.baaa-acro.com).

Thursday

2 British leave Burma oilfields (CJCA headline).

After sailing east to ambush the expected 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).

German attacks on supply ships in the Black Sea continue. Again the loss of a tanker bringing fuel to the Soviet forces in the Crimean Peninsula forces the offensive to end (Bergström & Mikhailov V.2).

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

2 126 Sqn. Spitfire Vb (Trop.) BP844 shot down off Malta, P/O W.F. McCarthy missing.

2 #5 (Coastal) OTU Anson I N5105 overshot when landing from a night exercise and lost it's undercarriage when it hit an obstruction, Sgt F.R. Tillotson and crew safe (R. Palmer).

2 #101 (Glider) OTU DH.82 Tiger Moth II 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).

2-3 101 Sqn. Wellington III X3709 SR-J lost on a GARDENING sortie off France, F/S H.T.M. Cooper, P/O N.E. Myring RAF and Sgt C.W. Valder RAF killed, Sgt J.S. Weaver RAF, Sgt I.H. Roberts RAF and Sgt J.H. Dixon RAF missing.

2-3 418 Sqn. Boston III W8351 lost over France on an night INTRUDER sortie, F/L A.J. Love RAF and F/S M. Bunting RAF killed, F/S H.E.D. Tilby RAF missing.

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.

Day and night bombing of Malta continued, and began to increase over over the Easter weekend, usually an important holiday to the Maltese (J.G. Debono).

3 #16 OTU Canadian built Hampden I P5346 crashed on a practise low level bombing exercise, P/O J.F. Anderson, F/S R.St.J. Gregory, P/O J.E. Piggot and Sgt W.A. Skinner RAF killed.

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).

Over Malta no fighters were able to take-off to protect the Island until the evening, and only anti-aircraft artillery was available for defense. Only 10 Spitfires and

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Hurricanes were operational on this date. It was noted that bombers were beginning to shift to civilian targets, including churches, over the Easter weekend, in an attempt to demoralize the civilian population (J.G. Debono).

In the evening the Luftwaffe sent 100 level and dive bombers to try to take out the Soviet Baltic Fleet, frozen into the Neva River at Leningrad where their heavy guns were used against German army positions, but Soviet anti-aircraft fire at Leningrad, the heaviest concentration on the front, disbursed them and only 1 ship was hit. It was not possible to 'sink' these ships in the shallow river, the intention was to destroy them, to take out their use as artillery positions, and before they could move in the Spring, when they might threaten shipping in the Baltic (Bergström & Mikhailov V.2). See April 24, below.

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 G.C. 'Bart' Onyette, Sgt G. Catlin RAF, Sgt W. Cook RAF, P/O P.N. Kenny RAF and Sgt F.C. Phillips RAF made PoW, all wounded (www.mansell.com; J. Boileau Legion Magazine; Jagan at www.rafcommands.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 Magazine*, 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 72 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BL721 lost on an operation over France, F/L R.R. Gillespie PoW, later repatriated (H. Welting and alieneyes at www.rafcommands.com).

4 156 Sqn. Wellington Ic DV814 had a failure of the undercarriage down indicator, and made a precautionary landing on grass. The undercarriage was down, but unable to stop the tailwheel was knocked off and the aircraft damaged when it overshot the landing area, Sgt R. Woof and his crew safe (bac-lac.gc.ca). See July 31 - August 1 below.

4 405 Sqn. Magister I L8162 crashed in England while doing aerobatics, F/L W.H. Fetherston, Squadron Senior Navigation Officer and S/L J. McCormack, B Flight commander, killed (R. Allenby). See April 5, 1946.

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

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killed, Sgt F.E.S. Warren RAAF 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).

4-5 240 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).

Heavy attacks on Malta hit several air raid shelters and disrupted distribution and storage of flour used to bake daily bread, essential for survival on the Island. By afternoon no fighters were serviceable to attack the bombers (J.G. Debono).

Prince Rupert, BC, declared a port for support of the defence of Alaska, leading to improvements in it's port facilities, fortification and garrisoning by US soldiers. Later a Canadian Army Armoured Train was created to patrol the CN Line from Prince Rupert to Terrace to prevent sabotage (B. Coyle).

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

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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 30 Sqn., 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

5 205 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.), F/S E.A. Allen RAF, Sgt A.T.E. Danniells RAF, Sgt W.C.F. Dodd RAF, F/L J.R. Graham RAF, LAC I. Lewis RAF and Sgt R.D. Walker RAF missing (B. Barry et al; CWGC; www.rafcommands.com).

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 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 (lorraineluke at www.rafcommands.com).

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

5 407 Sqn. Hudson V AM684 RR-O shot down off the coast of Denmark on a daylight anti-shipping patrol, making an attack on a German flak ship anchored off Hanstholm, Denmark (Carsten Petersen www.rafcommands.com), WO2 S.D. Dean, F/S A.K. Hamilton, Sgt L.G. Murphy killed, F/S J.F.P.H. Lafreniere missing.

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 II #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-serialed #8763 with others in this batch of Cranes before being written off in 1943 (corres. M. Joost, DND, 18/10/24)

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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 7 Sqn. Stirling I N3706 was hit by flak and also damaged by an incendiary bomb over the target, and crash-landed on return, P/O I.F. Hoidas was slightly injured, F/S W.H. Bracken, F/S G.J. Kearns MiD and crew safe (bac-lac.gc.ca). See May 19-20, below.

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 AA-P 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 (asn.flightsafety.org). 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 Coastal Defence Flight RIAF Wapiti (Jagan www.rafcommands.com).

German bombers heavily attacked Malta, making the 2,000 recorded air raid since June, 1940. No fighters were available to defend the Island until late in the day when Hurricanes were flown in from Libya (J.G. Debono).

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.M. Lowry and WO1 D.A. McCann missing. See K. Abbot for a description of this loss. After this daylight patrols were discontinued. This loss is referenced with photos of the crew and a profile of the aircraft by S. Beebee.

6 #16 OTU Hampden I P1299 spun and crashed on a practice bombing exercise, F/S

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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 when attempting an overshoot and hit trees at night, Sgt D. Lees RAF killed, P/O J.R. Moore and P/O R.M. Jenkins RAF died of injuries, Sgt R. Walton injured (bac-lac.gc.ca).

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).

6-7 15 Sqn. Stirling I W7448 LS-E lost over the North Sea, Sgt A.I. Brandt RAAF killed, WO1 T.W. Hare, F/S R.W. Golder RAAF, F/S F.W. Cooper RAF, Sgt R. Thompson-Horan RAF, Sgt E.R.C. Oakley RAF, Sgt K. Taylor RAF and Sgt G. Stephenson RAF missing.

Tuesday

7 Heavy bombing of Valletta, Malta, destroyed several historic buildings and churches in the city. Again no fighters were able to defend the Island (J.G. Debono).

7 #52 OTU Master II AZ315 crashed after takeoff, Sgt L.N. Brown and F/O H.K. Smith RAF killed (P. Cornwell). See April 11, 1943.

7 #5 B&G School, Dafoe, Saskatchewan, armourer LAC J.P. Carmody and #14 EFTS, Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, LAC(P) J.A. Lawn were killed in a vehicle accident while both were on leave in Pembroke, Ontario. Their vehicle was hit by a train at a level crossing. Civilians Philias Boucher, William Allan Foy and James G. Goddard were also killed [CVWM]. LAC Lawn 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. See May 8-9, 1944.

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 J.V. Magrane RAF, Sgt J. McLean RAF, Sgt G.C. Pearson RAF, Sgt J.L. Stuart RAF and Sgt S. Walker RAF killed (www.rafcommands.com). WO Tourville is referenced in D.A. Fraser's book *Live to Look Again*

7-8 207 Sqn. Lancaster I R5498 EM-Z crashed in England on a training flight due to a fuel management problem, Sgt J.D.L. La Salle, F/S J.J.N. McCarthy RNZAF, Sgt J.M. Leahy RAF, Sgt D.L. Worthington RAF and Sgt J.K. Banfield RAF injured. See July

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24, below.

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 it's range and on this date had to retire to it's base in the Maldives to refuel (Stuart).

Further heavy attacks on Valetta in Malta continues. No defending fighters were available until the afternoon (J.G. Debono).

The Crown Corporation Park Steamship Lines is created to manage the operation of Canadian built merchant ships (RCN Chronology).

8 15 Sqn. Stirling I W7511 LS-T swung on take-off for an air test and crashed, the wreck then catching fire, Sgt T. Soper RAF and Sgt J. Morris RAF injured, F/S J.J. Rigby and the rest of his crew safe (www.rafcommands.com).

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 53 Sqn. Hudson V AM549 PZ-F damaged by flak attacking a convoy in the North Sea and ditched off the Island of Sylt, Sgt D.O. Moran, Sgt L.A.W. Diamond RAF, Sgt M.A. May RAAF and Sgt D.C. Thornhill RAF PoW (R. McNeill www.rafcommands.com).

8 #7 School of Aerial Gunnery, England, Whitley III 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 #22 OTU Wellington Ic R1773 crashed into a tree after an engine failure, killing F/S V.L. Morris, F/S J.W. Scarff, F/S D.S. Woodley and P/O J.M. Warnock RNZAF, Sgt C.H. Wheatley and Sgt Wilmen RAF survived, injured. See Nov. 24, 1943.

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

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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 V.2).

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 83 Sqn. Manchester I L7427 OL-Q lost over Germany, shot down by a fighter, F/S G.C. Fisk, F/S C.D. Gellatly RCAF (USA), F/S G.D. Hutchinson RNZAF, P/O J.H. Morphett RAF, F/S A.H. Salter RAF and Sgt R.S. Williams RAF killed, P/O P.A. Lovegrove RAF PoW, but later died in prison Nov. 12, 1942 (www.baaa-acro.com).

8-9 405 Sqn. Wellington II Z8358 LQ-B crashed into the sea on an operation to Germany, F/S N. Leftly and Sgt A.H. Edwards RAF killed, P/O R.P. Locke, F/S J.W. Sanderson, Sgt J.C. Dennis RAF and Sgt D.E. Jones RAF missing.

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) and his views on how being in the Air Force and a PoW can be found in an article he wrote, *A Kriegie Remembers*, published in *Airforce Magazine*, Spring 2007. F/S Winston Churchill Parker was a distant relation to British PM Churchill (*Airforce Magazine*, 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.

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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. See July 14, below.

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 *(sailing without aircraft) 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). See May 5, below.

Malta was still under heavy attack on this day. A large, possibly unfused, bomb fell into a church during a service but did not explode. No one from the congregation of over 300 was hurt. This was seen as a miracle and an inspiration by the Maltese (J.G. Debono).

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

9 607 Sqn., WO1 W.H. James, previously reported as missing, was reported captured in Java on this date. 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 March 9, above. T.W. Melnyk and testimony on file at Library and Archives Canada states he was taken PoW February 14, 1942 in the Japanese parachute landing at Palembang, Sumatra. See July 21, 1942.

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9 413 Sqn. Catalina I W8421 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 (www.rafcommands.com). This crew gave warning that the fleet was approaching Trincomalee.

9 unknown unit, Hurricane claims damage on 3 Japanese dive bombers attacking Trincomalee before it is shot down, Sgt C. Gauthier wounded (H.A. Halliday).

9 #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).

9 #10 SFTS, Dauphin, Manitoba, Crane I #7957 crashed near Makinak, Manitoba, inside the boundaries of Riding Mountain National Park, Sgt D.D. Dean RCAF (USA) and LAC S.F. Bradley RNZAF killed (bac-lac.gc.ca).

9-10 #1444 Flight Hudson III AE524 crashed taking off at Luqa, Malta, enroute to the Middle East, F/S K.L. Hardy killed, Sgt J.B.C. Passmore RAF died of injuries, Cpl P.J. Sadd RAF, Sgt C.J. Saul RAF, Sgt F.R. Vivian RAF and Sgt L.F. Yates RAF injured (www.aviationinmalta.com; www.rafcommands.com).

Friday

10 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).

Air attacks on Malta did not begin until the middle of the day, and 16 Hurricanes and Spitfires were able to attack them (J.G. Debono).

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).

In Halifax harbour a burning freighter* SS Trongate*, carrying ammunition, is intentionally sunk by* HMCS Chedabucto *to prevent an explosion (Legion Magazine, March/April 2021).

10 17 Sqn., Loiwing, China, Hurricane IIb 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

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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).

10 412 Sqn. Spitfire Vb aircraft BL242 and Spitfire Vb AD305 were escorting a flight of captured enemy aircraft when they collided in mid-air over England just after taking off and both crashed, F/S G.S. Gould was killed in AD305, F/L W.F. Napier was injured in BL242 (Wartimes.ca; www.airhistory.org.uk).

10 #1 PRU Spitfire PR.IV R7056 failed to return from a photo flight over Norway, F/O J.B. Ayer RAF (Can.) missing (www.rafcommands.com). From Ottawa, F/O Ayer was born in Bangor, Maine, USA (Allison & Hayward).

10 #14 SFTS, Aylmer, Ontario, AW2 Mary Kathryn Heysel died of injuries, and Cpl D.G. Mansfield seriously injured from a car crash near Tillsonberg, Ontario when on leave. She was the first member of the RCAF (WD) to be killed (www.wwiicdnwomensproject.org).

10-11 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).

10-11 12 Sqn. Wellington II W5570 lost without trace on an operation to Germany, P/O H.L. Cook, F/S W.T. McEwen, Sgt R.R. Frost RAAF, F/S C.A. Fletcher RAAF, Sgt E.V. Pratt RAF and Sgt S. Elmes RAF missing.

10-11 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).

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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.

Attacks on Malta returned military targets in the harbour and airfields (J.G. Debono).

11 48 Sqn. Hudson V AE645 OY-N aircraft lost in Norway, S/L K.D. Bruce RAF (Can.), Sgt R. Brock RAF, Sgt R.F. Chisholm RAF and F/O Dr. G.B. Will RAF killed, P/O H.A. Sullivan RAF missing (R. McNeill, www.rafcommands.com).

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

11 410 Sqn. Defiant I N3503 RA-F flew into the sea off England, F/S R.G. Smith and Sgt A.G. MacKinnon RAF missing (aviation-safety.net; www.rafcommands.com).

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 in Hamilton, Ontario, of natural causes (www.rafcommands.com).

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., F/S R.S. Fleming and Sgt B.J. Langley RAF were swept off rocks on the sea shore in Cornwall, England and drowned while on leave (CWGC; www.rafcommands.com).

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.

12 418 Sqn. Boston III Z2173 crashed when landing from an operational sortie (H.A. Halliday www.rafcommands.com).

12 616 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AD375 lost off the French coast, believed shot down by German fighters while escorting Boston aircraft, P/O H.R. Strouts missing (allspitfirepilots.org; aircrewremembered.com).

12 #1 PRU Spitfire PR.IV AA798 crashed in England on a sortie to Rotterdam, F/O E.W.R. Fortt killed. The crash was officially attributed to oxygen starvation but there is evidence that it might have been due to a medical condition that his commanding officer refused to acknowledge (cmhs/sabretache/Sabretache_2020_05_1.pdf).

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12 #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).

12 #1651 CU, Stirling I W7451 landed long and was slightly damaged when it went through a fence into a field, P/O C.W. Coldwell and crew safe (bac-lac.gc.ca). See May 17-18, below.

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

12 Central Flying School, Trenton, Ontario, Finch #4447, P/O B.G. Hughes, was taxiing to take-off and failed to notice Fawn #222, Sgt A.E. Neilly, and they collided, no injuries but both aircraft damaged (bac-lac.gc.ca; heritage.canadiana.ca). See May 28, below.

12 #111 (F) Sqn. (?), Sea Island, BC, Kittyhawk AL137, P/O H.F. Heather, collided on the ground with #8 (BR) Sqn. Bolingbroke #9041, F/S L. Barnard and LAC A. McDonald. No injuries reported and both damaged aircraft were repaired and returned to service. Published accounts state AL137 (later #1078) was on charge with #14 (F) Sqn. when this occurred, but that unit was still working up in Ottawa prior to transfer to BC and Alaska.

12 #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).

12-13 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.

12-13 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.

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Taylor RAF and Sgt J.T. Smith RAF did not leave the aircraft and were killed in the crash (R. Allenby).

12-13 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 J.W.J. Butler RAF, 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).

12-13 76 Sqn. Halifax II R9487 MP-X shot down by flak over Germany, F/S W.A.R. Moule, Sgt K.F. Lloyd-Jones RAAF, P/O W. Culmsee RAF, F/S R.W.A. Hawksworth MiD RAF, Sgt H.E. Hothersall RAF and Sgt P.L. Wheeldon RAF killed, P/O R. Fairclough RAF PoW.

12-13 405 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 F/S D.K. Lloyd RAAF killed, Sgt W.R. Ferrier, F/S G.M. Phillips, F/S R.A. Gardiner and F/S H.J. Thomas RAF bailed out just before the crash and survived (A. Storr). See June 27-28, below.

12-13 408 Sqn. Hampden I AT120 went down at sea on an operation over Germany, F/S J.J. Davenport and F/S W.I. Meech killed, F/S G.M. Lantz and F/S G.J. Wilkie missing. See February 19-20, 1944. The crew is believed to have boarded their life-raft as they released carrier pigeons with their position after ditching which arrived safely in their lofts, but they were not found (rollofhonour.nottinghamshire.gov.uk).

12-13 418 Sqn. Boston III Z2210 lost on a night INTRUDER, Sgt J.E.C. Pringle, Sgt B.F. Filliter and P/O J.D.W. Willis RAF PoW.

12-13 420 Sqn. Hampden I P1239 PT-Y lost without trace, possibly shot down by a night fighter, F/S R. Johnson RAF (Rhod.), Sgt C.J.E. Butler RAF, F/S R.H. Black RAF and Sgt J. Salmon RAF missing.

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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).

13 213 Sqn. Hurricane IIc BE553, Sgt W.H. Stephenson claimed a Ju 88 damaged off Alexandria, Egypt (Shores, Massimello V.2). See May 21, below.

13 172 Sqn. Leigh Light equipped Wellington VIII Z8721 '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; www.rafcommands.com). 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 Jr. RCAF (USA) died accidentally in England due to smoke from a couch set on fire by a cigarette (www.rafcommands.com).

13 #3 (P) AFU Oxford R6294 struck Oxford AB727 when formatting on the latter, and Sgt I.C. Lamont force landed wheels up after ordering Sgt J.A. Longley to bail out. Sgt Roberts safe in AB727 (bac-lac.gc.ca). See September 4-5 and October 14-15, below.

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 #59 OTU Canadian built Hurricane I Z7150 collided in mid-air with Hurricane Z4103 over England. Z4103, Sgt H.F. Ross, landed safely but Z7150 crashed, killing Sgt B.W. Taylor (R. McNeill www.rafcommands.com).

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. It is believed LAC Foster tried to swim to shore through the still icy waters but didn't make it (CVWM; www.findagrave.com).

13 #16 SFTS Hagersville Ontario, Anson I #6751 crashed near Victoria, Ontario, LAC(P) O.K. Nickerson killed. LAC Nickerson had been part of the RCAF silent drill team that preformed at the Canadian National Exhibition in 1941 (CVWM).

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 off Malta 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.bombercommandmuseumarchives.c

www.rafcommands.com, Shores, Massimello, Guest, Olynyk and Bock). See August 20, 1943. J.G. Debono notes that an RAF rescue launch that was sent out came under heavy attack by German fighters and was forced to shelter under the Islands cliffs until nightfall and it could return with 5 crew wounded.

14 185 Sqn. Hurricane II Z4004, Sgt G.E. Horricks claimed a Bf 109 damaged over Malta protecting the returning Beauforts (Shores, Massimello V.2).

14 403 Sqn. Spitfire Vc BM146 shot down by German fighters over the coast of France on an evening fighter sweep, F/L C.P.J. Wood DFC RAF killed (www.rafcommands.com; FCL'42-43).

14 #21 OTU Wellington Ic R1085 stalled and crashed in England after a propellor 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 GV-E 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; losses.internationalbcc.co.uk).

14 #14 (P)AFU, Oxford II AB662 hit buildings on a hill and crashed in England, off course on a night cross-country training exercise, Sgt M.H. Smith RCAF (USA) killed (H. Welting www.rafcommands.com, R. Allenby).

14 #122 (K) Sqn. RCAF Patricia Bay, BC, RCAF Lysander II #461 dove into the water near Piers Island following an engine failure, BC, P/O W.S. Wooster killed, AC2 S.W. Baxter bailed out and safe (bcam.net).

14 #4 B&G School, Fingal, Ontario, Battle I #1746 had a hydraulic leak that blinded the pilot, F/O J.A. Christensen, making it's second belly landing (S. Shail; heritage.canadiana.ca). 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 was over England returning from operations over Germany and lost two engines on one side that ran out of fuel due to a failed fuel pipe and the pilot's decision to loiter over the target to ensure he hit it. The aircraft went into a spiral dive and the pilot, F/O R.P. Hughes RCAF (Argentina), ordered the crew, Sgt R. Atkinson RAF, Sgt L. Trembath RAF, P/O J.R.F. Ganderton RNZAF,

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Sgt E.A. Stubley RAF, Sgt J.S. Triggle RAF and Sgt J.W. Tyson RAF, to bail out (bac-lac.gc.ca). F/O Hughes was killed, he was the only casualty. F/O Hughes had survived a ground collision on December 29, 1941.

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 10 Sqn. Halifax II slightly damaged by flak, P/O D.D.P. Joyce RCAF (Argentina), F/S K.R. Kettlewell, Sgt A.M. Anderson RAF (Nfld.), Sgt J.G.B. Garson RAF, Sgt E.W. Perry RAF, Sgt W.J. Laker RAF and Sgt Martin safe (R. Allenby). See June 1-2, below.

14-15 214 Sqn. Wellington Ic Z1148 BU-L 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. Mason RAF killed (asn.flightsafety.org). 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 W5390 LQ-X lost on an operation to Germany, P/O P.C. Toft, F/S H.W. Bydwell, P/O W.R. Samson RAF, Sgt P.M. Crowe RAF and Sgt F.J.A. Hesselden RAF PoW.

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.

14-15 419 Sqn. Wellington III X3484 VR-O lost without trace on operations over France, F/S F.D. Barbour, F/S H.F.S. Darley, F/S L.M. Langlois, F/S A. McMillan, F/S J.R. Norris and Sgt A.W. Robertson RAF missing (www.419squadron.com/X3484.html).

14-15 420 Sqn. Hampden I AT219 PT-G crashed in England after taking off on operations, possibly due to a double engine failure, P/O W.F. McCarthy, P/O W.J. Murray, Sgt K.A. Birch RAF and Sgt K.A. Johnson RAF killed. A plaque was placed in their honour at the North Kesteven Academy, North Hykeham, near the crash site, in 2020 (www.lincolnshirelive.co.uk).

14-15 420 Sqn. Hampden I AT128 PT-G shot down over Germany, F/S B.W. Johnson RAF, Sgt H.E. Vosper RAF, Sgt J.P. Shipton RAF and Sgt J.C.D. McHardy RAF killed.

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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).

15 607 Sqn. pilots WO1 H.P. Low and WO1 R.C. Smith MiD had been captured Feb. 14-15 when Japanese paratroops attacked P.2 airstrip in Sumatra. On April 10, 1942 WO Low, WO 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).

15 416 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BL851 crash landed on a hill on the Scottish coast after suffering engine problems, P/O J.S. McKendy injured (416 SH; www.rafcommands.com).

15 MSFU CAM Sea Hurricane V6843 collided with DH.82 Tiger Moth II T7298 over England and they both crashed into the River Dee, P/O E.R. Taylor killed in the Sea Hurricane and L/A(P) R.V. Barnaby FAA killed in the Tiger Moth (www.rafcommands.com).

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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.
15 #4 B&G School, Fingal, Ontario, Battle I #1747, F/O J.W. Erwin, force-landed wheels up after an engine failure (heritage.canadiana.ca).

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).

15-16 103 Sqn. Wellington R1344 was returning from an operation when an engine caught on fire and lost a propellor. The extinguisher system put out the fire, and a belly landing was made, P/O G.H. Gosman, Sgt T. Baillie RAF, Sgt N.H. Bode RAF, Sgt A.J. Dowty RAF, Sgt F.B. Garrett RAF and Sgt D.W. Spooner RAAF safe (R. Krumin, D. Swift).
15-16 156 Sqn. Wellington III X3697 shot down by flak and 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 (www.baaa-acro.com).
15-16 214 Sqn. Wellington Ic Z8951 believed shot down by flak over Holland, P/O L.M. Leech, Sgt V.E. Egan RAF, Sgt P. Heppenstall RAF, Sgt G.M.C. Turner RAF, Sgt J. Ward RAF and P/O H.A. Shortt RAF killed. There is a memorial at the crash site (www.tracesofwar.nl).

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 II BT745 glider undershot a landing and hit a fence, Pvt T. O'Malia Border Regiment died of injuries, Sgt E.A. Smith, Lt R. Reese and Pvt Bennett injured (R. McNeill www.rafcommands.com).
16 408 Sqn. Hampden I overshot a single engined landing and was badly damaged, F/S R.W. Dreyer, F/S J.R. Dillon RCAF (USA) and two crew were slightly injured (TSGNO; bac-lac.gc.ca). See May 15-16, below.
16 410 Sqn. Defiant I V1183 crashed from low level on a night flying test, P/O I.B. Constant RAF and P/O W.J. Lewis RAF killed (aviation-safety.net).
16 #9 AFU Oxford II V4021 crashed killing F/S D.M. Atkinson, AC2(AG) H.W.C. Bond RAF

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and Sgt J. Sedlacek RAF (Czech.) (Col Bruggy www.rafcommands.com).

16 #11 EFTS RAF, Perth, Scotland, Magister I R1921 crashed, Sgt L.L. Armour and Sgt J.R. de Rzonca 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 53 Sqn. Hudson V AM803 lost, F/S G.N. Moore, F/S D.G.S. Corden RAF, Sgt A.R. Clouston RAF and Sgt H. Cliffe RAF missing (Peter Clare www.ww2talk.com).

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).

<u>Augsburg Raid</u>, 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 43 Sqn. Hurricane II Z3068 struck an obstacle and crashed when engaged in low level attack practice in England, F/S A.J. Reed killed.

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 44 Sqn. Lancaster I L7565 KM-V shot down over France by fighters, F/S A.E. Ross, WO J.F. Beckett DFM RAF, Sgt B.D. Moss RAF, Sgt B.G. Seagoe RAF, Sgt J.H. Hackett RAF, Sgt R.L. Trustram RAF and Sgt A.J. Harrison RAF killed.

17 97 Sqn. Lancaster I R5513 OF-P hit by flak and exploded over the target, F/S J.G. Donoghue RCAF (USA), WO T.J. Mycock DFC RAF, Sgt N.C. Hayes MiD RAF, WO

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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. See January 8, 1943.

17 121 (Eagle) 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 G Flight, #1 AACU Henley TT.III L3293 ditched off the coast of England, drogue operator LAC E.R. Heaton RAF drowned, pilot Sgt S. Rogers RCAF (USA) rescued (H. Welting, www.rafcommands.com). See February 7, 1943.

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 #16 OTU Hampden I P1247 overshot a landing, stalled, and crashed in England, F/S W.H.E. Phillips killed, Sgt M.A. Bent injured. F/S Phillips had been injured Oct. 13, 1941 in an accident with an Anson.

17 #22 OTU Wellington Ic X9624 was involved in a taxiing accident, air gunner F/S G.M.L. Robertson RCAF (Nfld.) killed. F/S Robertson's brother, Sgt M.G. Robertson RAF (Nfld.), had been killed May 8-9, 1941. See also March 15-16, 1944.

17 #4 B&G School, Fingal, Ontario, Battle I #1936, F/O J.W. Erwin, force-landed wheels up after an engine failure, his second in two days, and Battle I #1605, F/O P. Mikkelson also force landed wheels up due to another engine failure due to a glycol leak (heritage.canadiana.ca).

17 #6 SFTS, Dunnville, Ontario, Harvard II #2839 crashed and burned near Fisherville, Ontario, possibly due to structural failure, LAC(P) A.S. Guelich RCAF (USA) and LAC(P) A.L. Rankin RNZAF killed (aircrewremembered).

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 12 Sqn. Wellington II Z8398 PH-V shot down by flak over Germany, Sgt A.J. Currie

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RAF (Nfld.), F/L W.D. Castello DFC RAF, Sgt M. Deighton RAF, Sgt H.R. Jones RAF and P/O A.R. Heaton RAF killed (W.R. Chorley; asn.flightsafety.org).

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.

17-18 101 Sqn. Wellington III X3655 SR-V lost over Germany, P/O E.A. House RAF (Nfld.), F/S L.E. Willigar, Sgt W.E. Davies RAF and F/S G.M. Mason DFM RAF killed, Sgt R.V. Simpson RAF and Sgt L. Sykes RAF 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 Afganistan 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

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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 'F' 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 (losses.internationalbcc.co.uk).

18 407 Sqn. Hudson V AM878 RR-B shot down by flak 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; www.baaa-acro.com). 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). This was his first operational flight [CVWM]. P/O Giradot's 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. F/S Kennedy's brother, Radio Officer W.G. Kennedy, had been killed August 10, 1941, in the loss of a Ferry Command LB-30 Liberator.

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.

18 MSFU, Halifax, NS?, Sea Hurricane XIIa BW843 damaged in a wheels up landing, P/O H.F.E. Gedge RAF safe (www.rafcommands.com). See June 14, 1944.

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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).

19 143 Sqn. Blenheim IV N3533 clipped a wall attempting a forced landing in bad weather in the Republic of Ireland, Sgt F.D. Bertrand, Sgt R.L. Smith RAF, Sgt C. Morton RAF and Sgt F.R. Newbold RAF safe (D. Burke, www.ww2irishaviation.com).

19 #111 (F) Sqn. RCAF Kittyhawk I AL212 (RCAF #1090) dove into the sea recovering from a gun firing exercise off Galiano Island, BC, Sgt D.L. Stapleton missing (www.ottawamemorialproject.org).

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. or R.L. Sharp, P/O W.H. Carr, Sgt H. Dawson RAF, Sgt P.W. Todd RAF and Sgt L. Taylor RAF safe (www.rafcommands.com).

19-20 58 Sqn. Whitley V Z9388 GE-W crashed into the sea off Ireland after losing an engine on a Coastal Command training flight, 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 (bac-lac.gc.ca). A Memorial service for this crew was held in July 1986 (*Flypast* June 1986).

19-20 420 Sqn. Hampden I AD869 PT-L crashed in England just after taking off on a training flight, F/S H.H. Davis RCAF (USA), F/S G.G.J. Laronde, F/S J.C. Pritchard and Sgt G.C. Player RAF killed. Sgt Davis had survived a crash landing March 17, above.

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 Sgt M.H. Buckley, 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). See August 19, below.

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 into 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 recommended, 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 northwest of Bermuda U-459, the first* Milchkuh *(Milk Cow, or submersible tanker & supply submarine), met and refuelled it's first attack U-boat, greatly increasing the reach of U-boats on the shores of North America

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and in the mid-Atlantic Gap (M. Gannon; M. Milner). North of the Bahamas the unescorted Canadian merchant ship* Vineland *in ballast was torpedoed and shelled by the* U-154 *with the loss of 1 crewman. The remaining 34 survivors were questioned by the U-boat then released, reaching the Turks Islands 4 days later (RCN Chronology; www.uboat.net).

#125 (F) Sqn., Sydney, NS formed on Hurricane I aircraft (RCAF Sqns.).

20 30 Sqn. Hurricane IIb BG916 ran into the slipstream of another aircraft at low altitude and crashed in Ceylon, F/S J.B. Lisle RCAF (USA) killed (www.rafcommands.com).

20 126 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BP956 lost off Malta, P/O G.A.J. Ryckman missing.

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 been 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.tihlde.org, R. McNeill www.rafcommands.com). There is a monument at the crash site.

20 #3 (Coastal) OTU Wellington Ic T2834 was practicing night circuits and landings when visibility caused cancelation of the exercise, but flew into the ground in England attempting to land, pilots P/O H.E. Rath and Sgt K.M. Miegel RAAF killed (aircrewremembered.com).

20 #5 (Coastal) OTU Beaufort I N1028 'B' flew into high ground in poor visibility, P/O F.G.D. Baker, P/O M.H. Penney RAF, Sgt G.B. Gillan RAF and Sgt C.F. Gunn RAF killed (R. McNeill at www.rafcommands.com; R. Hayward; R. Palmer).

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 #56 OTU Canadian built Hurricane I P5209 force landed in England after becoming lost, P/O F.H. Pollock safe (alclark www.rafcommands.com).

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20-21 138 Sqn. Whitley V Z9158 NF-V flew into ground in England returning from a NICKEL sortie over France, 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. Overlooked was the fact that it had cost the Luftwaffe heavy losses of its transport fleet, much of which came from training schools on temporary detachment, and the loss of time and valuable instructors could not be replaced. Damaged and salvaged aircraft could be sent directly to Luftwaffe bases in occupied Europe for repair as well, which would not be an option at Stalingrad. Although the German army units had held out the situation was critical with many suffering from malnutrition (Bergström & Mikhailov V.2).

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.), 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 59 Sqn. Hudson V AM782 TR-O shot down into the North Sea on a training flight, P/O J.A. St. Ours and P/O M.G. Boggon RAF killed, Sgt N. White RAAF, Sgt J.E. Howell RAF and S/L J.S.J. Thomson missing (www.number59.com).

21 415 Sqn. flies it's first operation, an ASR search (415 SH).

21 Ferry Command Hudson IIIa FH335 crashed near New Carlisle, Quebec attempting a forced landing enroute to Goose Bay from Presque Isle, Quebec, S/L J.T. Gutray, Sgt R.R. Kember and Sgt P.A. Beavis RAF killed (CVWM).

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 RCAF (USA) (R.W.R. Walker; CVWM; www.findagrave). Sgt Hammond's brother, F/L W.I. Hammond RAF, had been killed in an accident November 13, 1939.

Wednesday

22 Commandos raid Boulogne (CJCA headline).

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22 603 Sqn. Spitfire Vc BP970 lost near Malta, P/O G. (Scotty) Murray RCAF (USA) missing (Kevin rafcommands.com). 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 53 Sqn. Hudson V AM542 PZ-J failed to return from a search for a missing aircraft, shot down by a German fighter of Holland, P/O S.G. Goatley, F/S R.H.W. Camm RAF, Sgt J.M.C. Jenkinson RAF, P/O G.G. Shore RAF missing (www.rafb24.com, R. McNeill at www.rafcommands.com). The McMaster University website has an autobiography of P/O Goatley.

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. Sebarras, 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.

22-23 408 Sqn. Hampden I AE237 EQ-X shot down by a night fighter on a GARDENING sortie off Holland, F/S J.H. Daughney, F/S R.E. Wilson, Sgt E.A. Corderoy RAF and Sgt A.J. MacGregor RNZAF missing. F/S Daughney's brother, Major R.H. Daughney DSO, North Shore Regiment, was killed in fighting in France August 10, 1944 (CVWM). See also January 27-28, 1944 and December 15, 1944.

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).

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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).

23-24 First operations by RAF Wellingtons from bases in India (*Datafile: Vickers Wellington*, Aeroplane Monthly*, September, 2001).

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 CIRCUS 132 and 133, losses supporting these CIRCUSES of 12 Boston aircraft attacking oil facilities at Flushing in The Netherlands, followed by 6 more attacking the airfield at Abbeville in France, protected by several Wings of fighters 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

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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. Claims were made for 1 Luftwaffe fighter destroyed and 1 damaged, but this was incorrect, none were lost. The continued campaign of the RAF sending fighters to occupied Europe on CIRCUS, RAMROD, RODEOS and RHUBARB operations was being questioned by some squadron leaders as casualties were far higher than losses inflicted on the defending Luftwaffe fighters, and it was felt these fighters could be better used elsewhere (J. Starkey).

Lucy Maude Montgomery, creator of the* Anne of Green Gables *stories, dies in Toronto (wikipedia).

24 148 Sqn. wireless air gunners Sgt A. Balinson, F/S A.E. Charron and 5 civilians were killed, 13 civilians injured when two shelters in Valetta, Malta were hit by bombs.

24 122 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.

24 122 Sqn. Spitfire Vb W3826 returned, damaged, P/O W.A. Prest wounded (JohnE at www.rafcommands.com).

24 124 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].

24 234 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BL623 shot down by German fighter aircraft on a CIRCUS escort, F/S F.C. Fisher PoW.

24 234 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AD463 shot down by German fighter aircraft on a CIRCUS escort, Sgt S.H. Machan PoW.

24 408 Sqn. air frame mechanic LAC J.F. McMahon died in hospital in England of natural causes.

24 412 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).

24 502 Sqn. Whitley V Z6552 lost on an anti-submarine patrol after suffering engine trouble, F/S J.A. Smith, P/O G.G. Lonsdale RAF, F/S V.D.J. Harris RAF, F/S J.A. Rogerson RAF, Sgt F.W. Foster RAF and Sgt S.A. Smith RAF missing.

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).

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Luftwaffe bombers return to Exeter for the second of the <u>Baedeker Raids</u> (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.

24-25 150 Sqn. Wellington III X3305 JN-X crashed and exploded just after take-off, P/O A.F. James, F/S N.K. MacLeod, P/O N.C. Lerwill RAF, Sgt H.J. Thorogood RAF, Sgt G.H. Jordan RAF and Sgt T.W. Chaston RAF killed (R. Allenby).

24-25 420 Sqn. Hampden I P5330 PT-J lost over Denmark, hit by flak and crashed making an attempted forced landing, Sgt J.M. Hicks, F/S J.H. Smith and Sgt J. Potter RAF killed, Sgt F.G.W. Adams RCAF (UK) injured and PoW (H. Moyle; CVWM).

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.

In Leningrad the Luftwaffe made a second heavy bomber attack to try to destroy the Soviet Baltic Fleet ice-locked in the Neva River, but were again driven off by anti-aircraft fire. Other attacks in the next days destroyed only 1 ship. In the Spring the ships were more valuable as mobile artillery batteries attacking German positions and were not used at sea (Bergström & Mikhailov V.2).

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.

25 229 Sqn. Hurricane BN182 was shot down at Malta, F/S L.D. "Shadow" Brooks killed (Powell River's Unsung Heros Of World War II, Powell River Museum).

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25 107 Sqn. Boston III AL286 shot down by flak and crashed off the French coast 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 by flak on a CIRCUS escort to France, P/O D.Y. Claxton missing (allspitfirepilots.org).

25 403 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AR368 shot down over France by fighters on a CIRCUS escort, P/O W.F. Munn killed.

25 133 (Eagle) Sqn. Spitfire Vb BL967, Sgt G.E. Eichar RCAF (USA), was caught by gusting winds when landing, and was written off after an undercarriage leg collapsed (bac-lac.gc.ca; www.spitfires.ukf.net). See July 31, below.

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 BL708 crash landed in England after colliding with Spitfire AB978, above, F/O N.R. Dick injured.

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. 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.

25 502 Sqn. Whitley V Z6733 YG-N ditched due to an engine failure while searching for another missing squadron aircraft (possibly Z6552 above), Sgt J.G. Fogarty RAF, P/O J.G. Brown RAF and F/O H.C. Pearce RAF killed, F/S R.B. Goodman, Sgt A.R. Freeman RAF and P/O G.M. Densem RNZAF missing (R. McNeill www.rafcommands.com).

25 #11 OTU Wellington Ic R1661 crashed short of the runway, F/S C.A. Parke, Sgt W.J. Telford RAF and P/O H.J. Snelling RAF killed, Sgt D.C. Marsden RAF and Sgt H.W. Woodward RAF injured.

25 Ferry Command B-24D 41-1119 lost off the west coast of Ireland, flying out of Gander, G/C H.R. Carefoot, Radio Officer L.B. Doherty, Flight Engineer H.I. Douglas, W/C M.J.M. Stanley RAF, P/O W.G.J. Woodmason DFC RAF missing (CVWM).

25 #7 EFTS, London, Ontario, Finch II #4588 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

25 #11 EFTS, Cap de la Madeleine, Que, Finch II #4675 spun and crashed on an instrument training exercise, Sgt S. Rogow killed, LAC (P) J.C. McAllister injured (heritage.canadiana.ca). See Feb. 21, 1945.

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

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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.

25-26 115 Sqn. Wellington III X3633 KO-Y shot down over Denmark by a night fighter, Sgt A.D. Saint RAF (Nfld.), Sgt A.T. Fone RAF, Sgt J.S. Grieve RAF, Sgt I.J. Rollinson RAF, Sgt A.E. Simmans RAF and Sgt W.G. Smith RAF killed.

25-26 218 Sqn. Stirling I W7506 HA-K lost over Germany on an operation to Pilsen, Sgt D.H. Bird RAF (Can.), Sgt P.G. Detmold RAF (Can.), P/O H.R. Millichamp, Sgt T.C. Bird RAF, Sgt P.H. Bullock RAF, P/O J.A.S. Banting RAF, Sgt T. MacFarlane RAF and Sgt S.A.B. Kellie RAF killed. P/O Millichamp had written off a #1651 CU Stirling Feb. 18, above.

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 S.A. Taylor safe (vrajm at www.rafcommands.com).

26 #1 EFTS, Malton, Ontario, DH.82C Tiger Moth #1221 flew into high tension electrical lines near Etobicoke, crashed and written off, Sgt D.H. Lewis slightly injured (R.W.R. Walker; bac-lac.gc.ca under F/S T.J. Hannah). See September 14-15, 1943.

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

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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). 125 (Newfoundland) Squadron was involved in the defence of the City, claiming 1 bomber destroyed and a second damaged (aviation-safety.net).

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.

26-27 125 (Newfoundland) Sqn. Defiant II N3370, F/O R.G. White RAF (Nfld.) and P/O J.R. Gavegan RNZAF, damage a He 111 in a fight over England, but their aircraft is also damaged on landing when the undercarriage failed (http://www.thejwarrens.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/bathblitz/events06a.htm via phasselgren at www.rafcommands.com; www.heritage.nf.ca). See Feb. 11, 1945.

26-27 149 Sqn. Stirling I W7512 OJ-A shot down into sea off Kiel, Germany, P/O P.C. Budd, Sgt C.H. Johnston RAF (Nfld.), P/O J.H. Thomson, Sgt A.J.V. Holman RAF and Sgt A. Pope RAF killed, Sgt J.D. Burnley RAF, Sgt G. Baker and F/S H.F. Jordan RAF missing. See June 25-26, below.

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).

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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).

<u>National Plebiscite on Conscription</u> 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 and August 5, 1944.

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 Middle East Command, Trans-African Ferry, Hurricane IIc BN584 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, injured, interned by Vichy French. He was released December 19, 1942 (*From Takoradi to Timbuktu*, *Airforce Magazine*, 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. Sgt Williams took part in the Great Escape and was murdered April 6, 1944.

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27 133 (Eagle) Sqn. Spitfire Vb BM264 *'Shetlander'* 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 was living in Paris, France, and managed to make it to England when France was defeated in 1940, where he enlisted in the RAF. He was flying with 258 Squadron when his Hurricane was shot down in France July 8, 1941, and he evaded and returned to England via Gibraltar in August of that year (CVWM; wartimes.ca).

27 416 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BL779 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 (radar?) mechanic LAC J.F. Burns killed in a car accident in England. LAC Burns had trained at Queen's University, and #31 Radio School RAF, Clinton, Ontario, before sent overseas (bac-lac.gc.ca).

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 #2 Wireless School 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 in the Crane. F/O J.M. Simpson and LAC(WAG) H. Newell RNZAF landed safe in the Fort (heritage.canadiana.ca).

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

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Bomber Command front line squadrons (BC War Diaries). The* Tirpitz *attack was thwarted by smoke generators which covered the area the battleship was anchored in (J.V. Watts).

German <u>Baedeker Raids</u> continue with an attack on Norwich (wikipedia).

27-28 7 Sqn. Stirling I N3727 MG-G shot down by a fighter into the sea off Denmark 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 (www.baaa-acro.com).

27-28 10 Sqn. Halifax II W1041 ZA-B shot down in Norway by flak attacking the battleship *Tirpitz*, Sgt J.D. 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 (paulmcmillan at www.rafcommands.com). 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 (K.B. Cothliff). The aircraft broke through the ice and sank in 90 feet of water 12 hours later (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. See April 23, 1945.

27-28 35 Sqn. Halifax II W1019 TL-U hit by flak and damaged attacking the German battleship *Tirpitz* in Norway and returned to Scotland on 3 engines, P/O R.J. Lane, Sgt Sykes and crew (probably Sgt Williams, Sgt L.S. Thorpe RAF, Sgt Flint, Sgt Martin and Sgt Crowther) safe (K.B. Cothliff).

27-28 97 Sqn. Lancaster L7572 OF-L shot down by flak 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 (www.baaa-acro.com). 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. Garroway RAF and Sgt I. Edwards RAF killed, F/S J.W. Ralston, Sgt R.B. Shoebridge RAF and Sgt G.H. Lee RAF were

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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.

27-28 150 Sqn. Wellington III X3700 JN-R lost over Germany, P/O F.B. Grundy, P/O V.L. Bailey RAAF, Sgt B.J. McGinn RAF, P/O A. Wilkinson RAF, Sgt W.G. Marsh RAF and Sgt R.M. Sutton RAF killed.

27-28 418 Sqn. Boston III Z2240 TH-T shot down by a night-fighter over Holland on a night INTRUDER sortie, F/O R.J.W. Askwith and F/S G.J. Hardy killed, P/O N.W. Mapes PoW (www.mygrandfatherswar).

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).

#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 II 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.

28 229 Sqn. Malta, Hurricane IIc BE565 crashed on an air test, killing P/O T.G. Foley (www.rafcommands.com). Prior to moving to Malta 229 Sqn. had been in the desert fighting, where P/O Foley went missing in combat Jan. 28, 1942, returning to the Sqn. Feb. 11 uninjured.

28 401 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AB917 *"The Inspirer"* crashed in England returning from a fighter sweep over France escorting CIRCUS 144, P/O G.B. Whitney Jr. bailed from low level but was killed (CVWM; aircrewremembered.com). 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.S. Ferguson PoW.

28 401 Sqn. Spitfire Vb P/O D.J.M. Blakeslee RCAF (USA) destroyed 2 Fw 190 fighters and damaged a third escorting CIRCUS 144 (D. McIntyre). See March 6, 1944.

28 #12 (P)AFU Oxford II W6565 was damaged when making a single engined forced landing at a disused airstrip, Sgt A.G.W. Keene and one other airmen safe (bac-lac.gc.ca). See August 9, below.

28 #22 OTU Wellington Ic R3198 'D1' crashed in England practicing circuits and landings, F/S J.A. Schweitzer, Sgt J.P. Williams and Sgt H.C. Crouch RNZAF killed (losses.internationalbcc.co.uk).

28 #116 (BR) Canso, F/L N.E. Small, attacked a U-boat, no result (I. Wikene).

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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). See J.V. Watts for details.

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 RAF survived, injured. See September 16-17, below.

28-29 59 Sqn. Hudson V AM639 crashed into the sea practicing low level bombing, Sgt H.F. Neary RAF (Nfld.) and Sgt J.R. Hoskins RAAF killed, Sgt E.S. Normore RAF (Nfld.) and P/O D.V. Thesiger RAF missing (www.number59.com; www.northlincsweb.net).

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).

28-29 407 Sqn. Hudson V AM571 RR-D lost on an anti-shipping flight off Denmark, F/S R. Hancock, P/O R.J. Majeau MiD, P/O J.A. Richard and F/S A.E.G. Wheadon missing. The body of P/O Richard was recovered by a German ship, identified, and buried at sea (bac-lac.gc.ca).

28-29 408 Sqn. Hampden I AE426 EQ-W shot down by a night fighter over Germany, F/S R.L. Gordon, F/S J.A.E. Romas, Sgt W.Y. Alderdice RAF and Sgt T. Hindle RAF killed (www.baaa-acro.com; aircrewremembered.com). See also February 24, 1944.

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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 it's propellor 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. Hudson III AM942, Sgt N. Brown, was on a reconnaissance sortie to Port Blair in the Andaman Islands and was badly hit by anti-aircraft fire, P/O R.A. Baker badly wounded and died of his injuries. The aircraft made a difficult flight back to Akyab and was damaged beyond repair on landing (H.A. Halliday at www.rafcommands.com).

29 GR Flight Hudson III AE574 shot down near Rangoon on a reconnaissance sortie, P/O J.W. Arthurs, P/O L.G. MacLeod, Sgt E. Graham RAF and P/O K.F. Harvey RAF missing (Shores, Cull & Izawa; CWGC; www.rafcommands.com).

29 10 Sqn. Halifax II W1052 hit by flak on an operation (April 28-29 or 29-30?), F/S D.A. Clear and P/O R.J. Dempsey RNZAF injured (www.rafcommands.com).

29 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).

29 415 Sqn. flies it's first offensive operation, an anti-submarine patrol (415 SH).

29 #4 EFTS, Windsor Mills, Quebec, Finch II #4665 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

29 #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).

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Norwich again attacked as part of the Baedeker Raids (wikipedia).

29-30 78 Sqn. Halifax II W7663 lost over France, P/O J.B.F. Brown, Sgt C.R. Campbell RAF, Sgt D.H. McDonald RAF, Sgt S.K. Springham RAF, Sgt R.W. Watson RAF, Sgt T.J. Naish RAF and F/O R.M. Shattock RAF killed.

29-30 115 Sqn. Wellington III X3593 KO-C lost over France, WO1 D.B. McGrath, Sgt W.F. Reynolds RAF, Sgt D.T. Male RAF, Sgt B. Wilkes RAF, Sgt J.H. Harries RAF and Sgt E.H. Jones RAF killed.

29-30 158 Sqn. Wellington II Z8525 NP-H lost without trace, F/S G.R. Lefebvre, F/S H.K. Bedwell RAAF, Sgt J.E.T. Saunders RAF, Sgt D.R. Freear RAF and Sgt H.R.F. Wakeford RAF missing.

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 in Poland. Sgt Robertson was later Mentioned in Dispatches [CWGC].

30 #19 OTU Whitley V Z6641 force landed on a beach in Scotland after an engine failure, Sgt J.W. Einarson and his crew safe. See September 9-10 below, 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, LAC(P) R.W. Hill, returned to base damaged, but #3018 crashed near Windsor Mills, Quebec, killing LAC(P) M.R. Davis RCAF (USA) (heritage.canadiana.ca; bac-lac.gc.ca). 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). Possible reference in H.D. Bracken.

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).

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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 Magazine*, 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

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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.).

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.).

Outbound from the Turks Island to St. John's, Newfoundland with a cargo of molasses the unescorted Canadian schooner* James E. Newsom *is sunk by shelling by the* U-69 *in the Atlantic, the 9 man crew managed to reach Bermuda (RCN Chronology; www.uboat.net).

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 #13 OTU RAF Blenheim IV L9206 crashed in England taking off on a training exercise, F/S J.R. Young, Sgt H. Morrison RNZAF and Sgt G.W. Boggess RAF killed (aircrewremembered.com).

2 #111 (F) Sqn. Kittyhawk I AL218 (RCAF #1093) TM-W damaged at Patricia Bay after

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it's undercarriage failed, Sgt S.R. Maxmen safe (440 SH; asisbiz,com). See July 16, below.

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).

2-3 419 Sqn. Wellington III X3726 hit by flak on a GARDENING sortie and crash-landed in England. F/S F. Pikula and his crew, probably WO2 K.L. McDowell, Sgt W. Thomson, F/S W.H. Webster RCAF (USA) and Sgt G. Clelland RAF, safe (www.419squadron.com/z1562.html). See May 17-18, below.

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 (Shokaku 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

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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 W8390 was taking off in England on an operation when the starboard undercarriage failed and fell off with the wheel, striking and tearing off part of the tailplane (www.aircrewremembrancesociety.co.uk). 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 was injured on the ground by flying debris (Alan www.rafcommands.com).

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, possibly U-453 (Hagedorn & Hagedorn; C. Vincent). See May 7, below.

3 RAF Ferry Command, Ventura I AE711 out of Gander, Newfoundland, crashed near the wharf at Bradore Bay, Quebec, 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).

3 #2 ITS, Regina, Saskatchewan, clerk AC1 W.H. White died accidentally at the Arcadia Dance Hall in Regina when he fell down some steps (bac-lac.gc.ca).

3 #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 <u>Baedeker Raids</u> 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 10 Sqn. Halifax II W7666 ZA-J damaged by flak over Hamburg, F/S W.N. Guertin, P/O L.D. Hillier, WO E.C. Lloyd RAF, Sgt Darby, Sgt Rycroft, Sgt Ruane and Sgt J.W.

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Thain safe (R. Allenby). See May 29-30 and September 2-3, below.

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.

3-4 78 Sqn. Halifax II R9391 lost over the North Sea, P/O J.R. Kennedy, S/L A.J.D. Snow RAF, Sgt E.C. Smith RAF, Sgt F.R. Mills RAF, F/O E.C.L. Hebblethwaite RAF and Sgt T.P.W. Davies RAF killed, Sgt G.M. Edwards RAF missing.

Monday

4 <u>Battle of the Coral Sea</u> 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* RMS Lady Drake*, sister ship of the* RMS Lady Hawkins*, torpedoed and sunk off Bermuda by* U-106*. 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 bailed out but was not found. He has no known grave.

4 137 Sqn. Whirlwind I P7103 crashed in England due a structural failure, P/O R.E.D. Wright killed (aircrewremembered.com).

4 403 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BL900 *The Canadian Policeman* was written off after it ran into parked Spitfire Vb AB865 and both were written off, P/O R. Wozniak safe (allspitfirepilots.org). It is possible P/O G.F.J. Hoben, ex-RCMP, was involved in this incident as he was assigned aircraft BL900 as a public relations exercise, and he was admitted to hospital May 5, 1942 (R. Allenby). See July 11, below.

4 #15 AFU Oxford I AT739 flew into the ground in England after an engine failed after

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take-off, Sgt A.B. Goff Jr. RCAF (USA) killed (www.rafcommands.com; northlincsweb.net).

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 #61 OTU Master III W9003 crashed in England, P/O A. Pensa and F/S P.R. Wright RAF killed (H. Welting www.rafcommands.com).

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 Z8833 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 shot down by a night fighter 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. The night fighter, Bf 110 D5+Dr from NJG-3, was also shot down by return fire (asn.flightsafety.org). 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.

4-5 407 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,

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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.

4-5 407 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). The *MV Sizilien* was sunk in this attack (A. Thomas).

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.

Following a study of more flexible tactical methods used by the Luftwaffe the Soviet air forces were re-organized into Air Armies, still attached but freeing them from direct control by ground based forces, and better able to be reinforced or moved to new regions when and if required. Around this time as well the superiority of the German fighter tactics based on a two aircraft unit (as reported by veterans from Spain and the air battles of the last year) were finally accepted and this was formally adopted, replacing the approved 'vic' of three fighters. New modern designs were replacing obsolete ones at the front as they were produced, but could not replace experienced aircrew lost since the war began, so training was still short due the need for pilots and Soviet airmen continued to fight at a disadvantage against more experienced German pilots (Bergström & Mikhailov V.2).

5 122 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BM138 MT-N shot down over Belgium on an escort for CIRCUS 157, F/S R.A.J. Ribout killed (www.spitfires.ukf.net).

5 144 Sqn. Hampden TB.I AT188 lost on a Coastal Command night operation off Norway, F/S J.A. Long, Sgt R.F. Birchnall RAF, Sgt R.H. Lewen RAF and Sgt H.M. Webb RAF missing (CWGC; www.rafcommands.com).

5 #1 AOS RAF, England, Anson I W2631 crashed after hitting a balloon cable, F/S G.E. Daniels, Sgt W.J. Perkins RAF, Sgt K.J. Neill RAF and Sgt H.V. Osborne RAF killed (Al Clark and H. Welting at www.rafcommands.com).

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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.

5-6 #16 OTU Hampden I AD826 crashed in England on a night cross country exercise, possibly after an in-flight fire, Sgt T.L. Brown, F/S J.P. Hancock, F/S A.G. Maxwell, Sgt D.K. O'Brien killed (aircrewremembrancesociety3.com). The crash site was excavated in 1982 or 1983 (*Flypast*, March 1983).

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 58 Sqn. Coastal Command Whitley V Z9426 lost, F/S M.A. Schofield, Sgt T.C. Stobie RAF, Sgt K.E. Savage RAF, Sgt J. Moore RAF, Sgt E.W. Barfield RAF and Sgt A.F. Ada RAAF missing (A. Storr, CWGC).

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

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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 #11 (BR) Sqn. RCAF Torbay, Newfoundland, Hudson I #761 OY-A 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 (aircrewremembered.com). This was F/S Taylor's 3rd crash, see Oct. 3, 1941 and Jan. 27 above. F/L Le Blanc had survived the loss of Digby #749 November 16-17, 1940. 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 #18 EFTS, Boundary Bay, BC, LAC R.J. Osborne RAF killed in a car accident in Clark County, Washington, USA while on leave (www.findagrave.com; heritage.canadiana.ca).

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.

6-7 419 Sqn. Wellington III X3717 VR-C shot down by flak over Germany, F/S A.C.V. Brophy, F/S V.E. McDougall, F/S J.G. Murray, F/S L.J.O. Roberts and F/S W.J. Valkenier RCAF (USA) killed (www.baaa-acro.com).

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 <u>Battle of the Coral Sea</u> 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 Shoho. *The invasion

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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 #23 OTU Wellington Ic Z1053 stalled and crashed in England following an engine failure during a night bombing exercise, Sgt J.M.L. Charbonneau, F/S G.L.M. Mesheau, P/O P.J.A.H. Palin, F/S J.M. Sadler, Sgt V.S. Henderson RAAF and Sgt L.F. Fisher RAF (South Africa) killed.

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).

7-8 407 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). The Swedish *MV Ruth* was forced to beach itself and was lost, and another ship damaged in this attack (A. Thomas; wikipedia).

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. Wood 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

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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 <u>Battle of the Coral Sea</u> Japanese and US carrier aircraft locate each others ships, and both send aircraft to attack. Japanese carrier* Shokaku*, 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).

German attack on the Kerch Peninsula. Heavy attacks at dawn against Soviet airfields destroy or damage most Russian aircraft in the region before the assault, and on the ground Soviet defences collapsed (Oxford; Bergström & Mikhailov V.2).

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).

In the Atlantic the unescorted Canadian sailing ship* Mildred Pauline*, enroute to St. John's, Newfoundland from Barbados, was shelled and sunk by* U-136*, no survivors from the 7 crew (RCN Chronology; www.uboat.net).

8 53 Sqn. Hudson V AM683 PZ-Y shot down off the Dutch coast on a ROVER patrol, WO2 C.J. Wyllie RCAF (Argentina), Sgt W.R. MacLeod RAF, Sgt W.J. Rowe RAF and F/S A.T. Thompson RAF killed (www.airwar4045.nl; www.rafcommands.com;

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wargraves.eu). [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 an aerial fight.

8 141 Sqn. Beaufighter If X7568 crashed in England on a night flying test and training flight, F/S H.B. Crouse, Sgt C.A. Furbank RAF and passenger F/S F.W. Bodfish RAF killed (Scott McIntosh at www.rafcommands.com; asn.flightsafety.org).

8 415 Sqn. Hampden drops depth charges on a submarine, no effect (415 SH).

8 #21 OTU Wellington Ic Z1161 suffered an engine failure and was partially abandoned before crashing into a tree in England, possibly attempting a forced landing, Sgt H.H.J. Rohrlach RAAF, Sgt W.L. Williams RAAF and Sgt I.M. Fergusson RAF killed, Sgt R.I. Hart RAF and Sgt P.W.S. Brooke RAF injured, Sgt T.J. Tighe safe (A. Storr). See Sept. 30-Oct. 1, below.

8 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 McMahon, Saskatchewan, when low flying, LAC C.H. O'Bryan RAF killed (D.J. Carter).

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 RAF safe. Sgt Kopp has no known grave.

8-9 Bomber Command sends 193 bombers to Warnemünde 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 9 Sqn. Wellington III X3369 believed to have been shot down by flak over Germany, F/L J.L.H. Eliott RCAF (USA), 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 Reid, F/S 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

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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, possibly by a night-fighter, 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 (aircrewremembered.com). Less than a month before F/S Charbonneau had been involved in a Stirling accident at #15 Conversion Flight, April 18, above.

8-9 44 Sqn. Lancaster I R5557 KM-G lost without trace, P/O M.H.D. MacDonald RCAF (USA), WO P.O. Jones DFM RAF, Sgt L.E. Evans RAF, Sgt J.C. Drennan RAF, F/S P.H.H. Thirkell DFM RAF, Sgt J.H. Miller RAF, F/S C.H. Ship RAF and F/S A.H. Bolus RAF missing.

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 50 Sqn. Manchester I R5778 was hit by flak on approach to the target and lost an engine but returned to make a safe landing at it's base where the aircraft was written off due to damage, Sgt D.M. Baird RCAF (Nfld.), Sgt A.C. Benn RAAF, Sgt Byres RAF, Sgt J.W. Campbell RAF, Sgt E.W. Finch RAF and Sgt J.B. Wilkie RAF safe (asn.flightsafety.org). See May 30-31, below.

8-9 158 Sqn. Wellington II W5387 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.

8-9 158 Sqn. Wellington II W5562 NP-H crashed into the Baltic off Germany, P/O R.M. Graham, F/S C.S. Neveu, F/S I.W. Davies RNZAF, Sgt J.P.D. Clarke RAF and Sgt N.C. Stocker RAF killed. F/S Neveu had been badly injured August 21, 1941, in the loss of Whitley Z6862.

8-9 408 Sqn. Hampden I AE288 EQ-H shot down by flak over the sea off Denmark, F/S J.S. Norton, Sgt M.S. Sinclair, Sgt C.S. Jefferies RAF and Sgt H.F. Stroud RAF killed (rollofhonour.nottinghamshire.gov.uk).

8-9 408 Sqn. Hampden I AE297 EQ-F shot down by flak over Germany, P/O J.S. Dafoe, F/S C.H. Finkbeiner, F/S J.W. Markle and Sgt E.J.J. Killham RAF killed (www.baaa-acro.com).

8-9 419 Sqn. Wellington III X3840 VR-J hit by flak and ditched off the Danish coast, P/O C.J. Porter killed, F/S J.D. Giddens, F/S B.J. McKinley, F/S D.K.G. MacMillan, Sgt C.L. MacCallum and Sgt G.W. Robinson PoW.

8-9 419 Sqn. Wellington III X3703 VR-Q shot down by flak over Germany, F/S H.R. Hibbard, F/S J.C. King, F/S M. McAroy, F/S A.E. McCoy, F/S C.M. Shannon and F/S H.E. Went killed (www.baaa-acro.com).

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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 UY-X 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 (losses.internationalbcc.co.uk).

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.

In the Caribbean the unescorted Canadian laker* Mont Louis *with a load of bauxite ore was torpedoed and sunk off British Guiana by* U-162 *with the loss of 13 of her 21 crew, and the Imperial Oil tanker* Calgarolite *in ballast to Colombia was torpedoed off the Grand Caymans and sunk by* U-125 *with no loss to her 45 crew (RCN Chronology; www.uboat.net).

9 *USS Wasp*, Spitfire Vc BP971 lost, F/S J.V. Rounsefell missing (JohnE www.rafcommands.com).

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 propellor 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). He later reached Malta May 18 from *HMS Eagle*. Before he left the *Wasp* USN pilots on board awarded him a set of US Naval Aviator wings for his landing (jigsawblue; www.pprune.org; allspitfirepilots.org).

9 *USS Wasp* Spitfire Vb F/S G.H.T. 'Gord' Farquharson flew to Malta the day before his 21st birthday (http://www.thepeterboroughexaminer.com/2017/02/23/peterborough-lawyer-ann-farquharson-retracing-fathers-steps-during-the-second-world-war-siege-in-malta).

9 221 Sqn. Wellington VIII Z8712 lost from Malta on a Special Duties flight to North Africa, F/O W.A. White, Sgt A. Bentley RAF, Cpl F.J. Few RAF, S/L J.E. Gorringe-Smith RAF, F/S T.F. Grosvenor RAF, Sgt J.F. Jacklin RAAF and F/O J.A. Leslie RAF

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missing (www.rafcommands.com). Cpl Few was the radar operator and is referenced in the book *Canadians on Radar* (Grande, Linden, and Macauley).

9 118 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AR365 shot down by German fighters escorting CIRCUS 168, F/S F.W. Hough killed. One of four 118 Squadron Spitfires shot down and one that returned with a wounded pilot after being jumped by German fighters over the coast (aircrewremembered.com).

9 501 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.

9 #124 (Ferry) Sqn. RCAF Rockcliffe, Ontario, Oxford I AS673 force landed and was written off near Pembroke, Ontario, following an engine failure, Cpl R.E.G. Bell, P/O F. Cain, and passenger AC2 P. Holmes RCAF (USA) slightly injured (bac-lac.gc.ca; J.A. Griffin). See August 12, below.

9 #2 Air Navigation School, Pennfield Ridge, NB, LAC A. Hoople died in hospital of natural causes.

9 #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.

9-10 RAF Ferry Command, Hudson IIIa FH269 missing out of Gander, Newfoundland after turning back due to an engine failure, P/O A.R. Montgomery, W/C C.F. Herrington RAF (Can.) and P/O R.J. Sotham RNZAF missing (www.ottawamemorialproject.org).

Sunday

10 US Forces on Mindanao Island in the Philippines surrender to the Japanese, ending US military resistance in the Islands.

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).

Unescorted Newfoundland registered ship* Kitty's Brook *torpedoed off Cape Sable by* U-588*, carrying US military supplies and trucks to Argentia, Newfoundland. Nine crew lost, and 25 survivors landed in Nova Scotia (RCN Chronology; www.u-boat.net).

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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 #102 (Glider) OTU DH.82 Tiger Moth II DE304 crashed in England, F/S E.L.J. Coleman and F/S F.G. Williams killed (www.findagrave.com).

10 #56 OTU Hurricane I V7164 crashed while carrying out authorized low flying training, killing Sgt A.N. Laporte (bac-lac.gc.ca).

10 RAF Ferry Command, Ventura I AE740 crashed and burned landing at Reykjavik, Iceland, attempting a single engine landing. Radio Officer L.B. Long killed, pilot P. Zimmer and navigator M. Schellenberg were injured (www.stridsminjar.is).

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 the Caucasus (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).

11 272 Sqn. Beaufighter Ic XK-V Sgt E.F.R. Truby one of a group that claimed a He 111 shot down while escorting a convoy off North Africa (Shores, Massimello V.2). See June 14, below.

11 59 Sqn. Hudson AM852 V TR-F shot down into the sea by flak off Holland, F/S E.W.K.

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Baker killed, P/O V. Moss RAF, Sgt L. Davis RAF and F/S S.A. Coombs RAF missing (www.number59.com; R. McNeill www.rafcommands.com; www.baaa-acro.com).

11 115 Sqn. Wellington III X3602 KO-Q 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 (115squadron-raf.be).

11 286 Sqn. Oxford I DF253 crashed in England, Sgt D.C. MacGregor, F/S A.G. Gouldson RAF and Sgt M. Piwko PAF killed (www.polishwargraves.nl; CWGC; www.rafcommands.com).

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.). Implementation of RCN convoys between Sydney, NS and Quebec City begins soon after (M. Milner).

#36 OTU, Greenwood, NS, begins operations (http://www.bombercrew.com/BCATP.htm).

12 250 Sqn. was escorting a flight of Beaufighters sent to intercept Ju 52/3m aircraft carrying troops to Libya, Kittyhawk I AK953, Sgt L.J. Devlin claimed 2 of the 11 cargo planes shot down (Shores, Massimello V.2).

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

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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).

13 #5 EFTS High River, Alberta, DH.82C Tiger Moth #5091 crashed in a spin near High River killing Sgt P.H. Chapman and badly injuring his student LAC(P) R.B. Thompson. See June 2-3, 1944 (R.W.R. Walker; Chris Charland & EddieFell at www.rafcommands.com).

Thursday

14 Operation GRETE, U-boat U-213 landed an agent Lt M.A. Langbein with a radio near St. Martins, NB, in the Bay of Fundy. He was supposed to travel to Halifax and report on shipping there. He went to a store in St. Martins to enquire about transport to Saint John, but there was none, but he was made welcome and local arrangements were made to drive him there. Along the way he decided to abandon his mission, buried his radio and toured Canada instead, going as far west as Manitoba before returning to live in Ottawa. After he ran out of money he surrendered in 1944, where his story was initially not believed. As he had not participated in any spying he was held as a PoW and later released. U-213 was under orders to sink a ship in the Bay of Fundy before leaving as a cover in case they had been tracked, but the strong tides had already affected the submarines schedule and worried it's crew, so they left (A. MacLean; uboat.net). See May 15, below.

14 249 Sqn. Spitfire Vc BP878 shot down off Malta, F/S H.J. Fox RCAF (USA) bailed out but missing (www.spitfires.ukf.net; www.rafcommands.com).

14 #52 OTU Spitfire IIa 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.

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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). See December 1, below.

14 #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 JD156 (mcmillan_p). This was confirmed by B. Goodman of Ottawa who found the accident card for the loss of the Anson that records F/O Bradley as RAF, serial 10044, which is in error for F/O Bradley, RCAF J/10044. He also determined the date of this incident.

Mid-May, first convoying of merchant shipping on the US East Coast begins between Florida and Virginia, which begins to reduce losses (english.turkcebilgi.com; M. Milner). 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 tasked to escort most of these 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

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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); and the freighter* Selije *was sunk (A. Thomas; Wikipedia).

Exiting the Bay of Fundy the U-213 was surprised on the surface in foggy weather by a Norwegian destroyer (possibly* HMCS Mansfield*, a Norwegian manned destroyer loaned to the RCN) and depth charged, sustaining slight damage (uboat.net; legionmagazine.com; wikipedia).

15 261 Sqn. Hurricane BN268 crashed in Ceylon after a mid-air collision, P/O A.L.D. St. Aubin killed (bac-lac.gc.ca).

15 274 Sqn. Hurricane II damaged by flak as part of an escort for a tactical reconnaissance aircraft, Sgt T.B. Hamilton safe (Shores, Massimello V.2). See July 18, below.

15 407 Sqn. Hudson V AM525 RR-A shot down on an anti-shipping strike off the Dutch coast, F/S G.F. Alger, F/S M. Knight, F/S G.F. MacNutt and F/S G.A. Tooth missing.

15 407 Sqn. Hudson V AM812 RR-S shot down by flak attacking shipping off the Dutch coast, P/O S.R. Balden and F/S N.C. Doehn killed, F/S D. McDonald missing, and Sgt W.R. Hamilton PoW (R. McNeill POW List at www.rafcommands.com; www.baaa-acro.com).

15 407 Sqn. Hudson V AM614 RR-N shot down by enemy night fighters attacking a convoy off Holland, P/O G.F. Cook, F/S W.M. Crane, WO1 J.W. Daubner, P/O A.R.R. Farley missing.

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.R. Powell. P/O Creeden 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 AM679 RR-B shot down at sea by flak attacking a convoy off the Dutch Coast, P/O W.A. Haliburton, F/S A.J.W. Pottle, F/S L.O. Scott, P/O L.N. Skinner missing.

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

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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-squadron.co.uk/willem34a.htm.

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 L.W. Bartman, Sgt A.A. Long, Sgt A.J. Mulligan, Sgt M.D. Woods and Sgt G.W. Wood RAF injured (highgroundsman at www.rafcommands.com).

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 on a GARDENING sortie off

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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 attacking 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, injured. Sgt Copeman was repatriated to Canada due to his wounds in September, 1944 (rollofhonour.nottinghamshire.gov.uk).

15-16 408 Sqn. Hampden I AT224 EQ-A shot down by a German mine sweeper off Denmark on a GARDENING sortie, F/S R.J. Dillon RCAF (USA) and Sgt W.D. Palmer RAF killed, F/S R.W. Dreyer and P/O C. Creswell RAF missing (CVWM).

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). Other targets imagined for the Amerikabomber included industrial sites in the USA, a cryolite mine in Greenland, and the aluminium smelting plant in Vancouver, BC (to be attacked from Japan?) (wikipedia).

16 260 Sqn. Kittyhawk I AK693 was shot down by flak over the desert Sgt J.S.E.M. Bernier safe (Shores, Massimello V.2). 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 IIF R2337 crashed in England, P/O D.B. Lacey RAF (Nfld.) killed (aviation-safety.net).

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. MacNab and P/O W.H. Parr RAF killed, WO N.D. Mullins RAF bailed out and survived (www.rafcommands.com).

16 #58 OTU Spitfire IIa P7675 crashed in Scotland in a practice dogfight, Sgt K. Bushell killed (www.spitfires.ukf.net).

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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 AC1 A. Shaver died in Canada of natural causes, having been discharged in December 1941 as physically unfit (www.rafcommands.com).

Sunday

17 62 Sqn. Hudson III AM934 shot down by a Japanese fighter over Burma, 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). A 1947 investigation reported that three of the crew survived the crash, but were murdered by members of the Burmese Independence Army, then a pro-Japanese force (CVWM). [recorded as from 60 Sqn. in CWGC].

17 German attacks on the newly arrived ships of convoy PQ-15 at Murmansk are driven off with losses by Soviet Hurricane, Kittyhawk and LaGG-3 fighters (Bergström & Mikhailov V.2).

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).

In the Atlantic south of Nova Scotia the unescorted Canadian built* Fort Qu'Appelle *on her maiden voyage from Vancouver to Halifax with general cargo was torpedoed by U-135 with the loss of 13 of her 47 crew. On May 7 she had picked up 22 survivors of the* MV Green Island *and landed them in Jamaica (www.uboat.net).

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 48 Sqn. Hudson V AM881 OY-R missing attacking a ship, F/O J.R. Paisley, F/S J. Phillip RAF, Sgt J.O. Butcher RAF and F/S E. Neal DFM RAF missing (R. McNeill, H. Welting and C. Petersen at www.rafcommands.com).

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

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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 on approach to land, Sgt O.N. Elwell RCAF (USA) killed in X7063, Sgt M.D. Duggan RAAF killed in L4603 (www.rafcommands.com; www.baaa-acro.com).

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 #31 SFTS, Kingston, Ontario, Harvard II #AJ649 struck power lines and crashed into Lake Gananoque, WO D.C. Hide RAF (Can.) killed, Acting Leading Airman P. Snowden RNVR(?) safe (heritage.canadiana.ca). WO Hide was born, raised, married and served in England and he might have been identified as a Canadian in error.

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 DFC 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.

17-18 149 Sqn. Stirling R9310 OJ-P shot down by flak off Denmark on a GARDENING sortie, P/O G.W. Coldwell, Sgt J.H. Baillie RAF, Sgt W. Collins RAF, Sgt A.H. Smith RAF, P/O R.P. Gent RAF killed, P/O A.J. Frost RAF and Sgt J. Currie RAF missing.

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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. WO1 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, Sgt V. Lawrence safe (www.rafcommands.com). See July 7, 1943.

Monday

18 <u>Operation MILLENNIUM</u> After a month of study to see if it 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 May 20, below.

HMS Eagle ***flies off 18 Spitfires to Malta, including P/O J.F. Lambert (Canwell & Sutherland; Kevin www.rafcommands.com) and F/S J.A. Smith (allspitfirepilots.org). See July 20 and August 10, below.***

423 Sqn. RCAF formed as a Coastal unit on flying boats (CCMA, RCAF Sqns.).

18 112 Sqn. Kittyhawk I AK994 shot down in Libya by flak, F/S J.V. Davey wounded (http://raf-112-squadron.org/planelosses.html). See May 19, below.

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 Johnstone Lake when the pilot dragged the wing tip through the

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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). Sevastopol 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).

19 106 Sqn. Manchester I L7418 missing on a navigation exercise, F/S R.A. Post, Sgt R.E. Warren RAAF, Sgt A.J. McHardy RAF, Sgt F. Chapman RAF and Sgt K.J. Gill RAF missing.

19 133 (Eagle) Sqn. Spitfire Vb AD502 lost to enemy action over the Channel on a RODEO, P/O D.R. Florance RCAF (USA) missing (www.spitfires. ukf.net; www.rafcommands.com).

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; ottawamemorialproject.org).

19-20 37 Sqn. Wellington Ic AD626 shot down by flak attacking airfields in Crete, P/O R.D. Flitton, P/O W.A. Hayworth, F/S R.W. Hood, P/O A.D.J. Salt, F/S A.H. Winters and Sgt E.A. Samuel RAF missing (BLME V.2 Errata).

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

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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 7 Sqn. Stirling W7520 MG-S was attacked by a Bf 110 night fighter over Belgium and exploded, destroying the night-fighter as well, F/S W.H. Bracken, P/O I.F. Hoidas, F/S G.J. Kearns MiD, P/O R.A. Bowker RAF, P/O C. Lewis RAF, Sgt W. Helliwell RAF and F/L H.G. Pilling DFC RAF (Kenya) killed, as well as Obit. F. Gutezeit and the two crew of the night fighter (www.findagrave.com). Referenced in S. Hadaway as N7520. F/S Bracken, F/S Kearns and F/L Pilling had survived the crash of a #23 OTU Wellington Aug. 13, 1941.

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 76 Sqn. Halifax II W7660 MP-L shot down over Belgium by a night fighter, Sgt R.H. Baird, F/S R.A. La Franchise, F/S F.W. Anderson RAF (Can.), Sgt E.K. Southward RAF, Sgt C. Ilian RAF, Sgt J.B. Gowers RAF and Sgt A.E. Redding RAF all PoW (Allison & Hayward).

19-20 102 Sqn. Halifax II W1099 DY-A crashed in England making an emergency landing returning from a NICKEL sortie over Vichy France, F/S C.R. Barr, F/S E. Conter, Sgt J.W. Brown RAF, Sgt R.C. Perriam RAF, Sgt E.H. Williams RAF and Sgt J.G.S. Rocks RAF safe. See June 16-17, below.

19-20 103 Sqn. Wellington Ic Z1141 shot down over the target in France, F/S W.N. Mitchell RCAF (USA), F/S L.C. Taylor, F/S H.C. Watson, P/O M.W. Williams, F/L P.E. Rees RAF and Sgt B.W. Harris RAF killed (bac-lac.gc.ca). P/O Williams was an ordained Presbyterian Minister (losses.internationalbcc.co.uk).

19-20 156 Sqn. Wellington III X3671 shot down 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 (www.baaa-acro.com).

19-20 418 Sqn. Boston III W8268 TH-O "*Ottawa*" shot down by flak on a night INTRUDER to the Holland, P/O D. Duxfield, F/S G.M. Riches and P/O N.J. Stabb RAF killed (www.baaa-acro.com). Both P/O Duxfield and F/S Riches fathers had served in the RFC/RAF during the First World War (CVWM).

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19-20 418 Sqn. Boston III W8281 shot down by flak on a night INTRUDER over Holland, F/S R.G. Dusten, F/S R.P. Shannon Jr. and Sgt G.W.G. Harding RAF killed (www.baaa-acro.com).

Wednesday

20 Last British forces withdraw from Burma into India.

Vichy consulates closed (CJCA headline).

Churchill approves plan for 1,000 Bomber attacks, <u>Operation MILLENNIUM</u>. See May 30-31, below.

20 10 Sqn. Halifax, Sgt H.P. Calvert RAF (Can.) killed, shot by police in Dresden while escaping. He was later MiD. He had been shot down and made PoW August 16-17, 1941.

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 suddenly of a coronary thrombosis while playing a softball game (www.rafcommands.com; heritage.canadiana.ca).

20 #13 EFTS?, Finch II #4731 damaged at St. Eugene, Ontario, and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

Thursday

21 Unescorted Canadian laker* Torondoc *with a cargo of bauxite ore is torpedoed off Martinique by* U-69. *The U-boat questioned the crew in their lifeboats and released them, but none of the 22 crew was seen again. Off Jamaica the unescorted Canadian laker* Troisdoc *was torpedoed and then shelled off Jamaica by* U-558 *with a general cargo for British Guiana, and sunk with no loss of life (RCN Chronology; www.uboat.net).

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,

21 213 Sqn. F/O J.A. Sowrey in Hurricane IIc BN285 'M' and Sgt W.H. Stephenson in Hurricane IIc BN133 'Y' shot down a Ju 88 photo-reconnaissance aircraft over Egypt (Shores, Massimello V.2). See June 26, below.

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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 #14 AFU, RAF Station Ossington, England Oxford I BG207 flew into high ground attempting a landing at night after fog moved in during training killing Sgt T.H. Campbell and Sgt N.C. Keenan RAF (R. McNeill www.rafcommands.com; CVWM; Newark Advertiser, *Two Hero Pilots lost in Egmanton training accident honoured by Museum*, June 6, 2022).

21 #25 OTU Wellington Ic DV841 crashed in England on a navigation exercise, Sgt R.M. Boates, F/S W.N. Reeves, F/S A.F. Roberts, Sgt R.D. Roberts RAAF and Sgt R. Groom RAAF killed. There is a plaque remembering this crew at the North East Land Sea and Air Museum, Sunderland, England (crooktown.org).

21 #8 Repair Depot, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Service Police F/S C. Parkes, on temporary duty from RCAF Station Trenton, Ontario, died in hospital of effects from bronchitis.

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 Roll of Honour, paulmcmillan and Dakota at www.rafcommands.com).

21 #41 SFTS, Weyburn, Saskatchewan, Sgt E.P. Fairgrieve RAF and Sgt G.A. Gardner RAF accidentally drowned when the sailboat they had rented while on leave overturned on Wascana Lake, Regina. The third airman on the boat, believed to be Sgt M.G. Eastlake RAF, and a civilian, 18 year old R. Bishop, were unable to save them (paulmcmillan at www.rafcommands.com).

Friday

22 After the sinking of Mexican ships off it's coasts by U-boats, Mexico declares war on Germany (wikipedia).

First boat carrying supplies of food reaches Leningrad over Lake Ladoga (Bergström & Mikhailov V.2). See May 26, below.

Due to the increasing loss of tankers carrying unrefined oil from Venezuela and refined petroleum from the Netherlands Caribbean island of Aruba which was causing a shortage of oil in eastern Canada, the RCN sent escorts to convoy these ships bound from the Caribbean to Halifax, 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, all summer until the US Navy fully adopted the convoy system. But to find

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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; RCN Chronology).

In the Atlantic the unescorted Canadian laker* Frank B. Baird *enroute from British Guiana to Sydney, NS, with a cargo of bauxite ore, was intercepted and sunk by shelling by* U-158*, the 23 crew were later rescued by a Norwegian ship and taken to Africa (RCN Chronology; www.uboat.net).

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 RAF, contacted the Senussi tribesman who returned them to Egypt.

Saturday

23 Soviet forces abandon Kerch Peninsula [in Crimea] (CJCA headline).

23 80 Sqn. Hurricane IIc aircraft BE707 EY-B F/S W.R. Scott Jr. and BM974 WO2 J.J.V. Howard shot down by German fighters in the desert and both killed (Shores, Massimello V.2). 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 wounded and was rescued.

23 404 Sqn. Blenheim IV Z6181 flew into a hill in Scotland in bad visibility, F/S E.J. Morrow Jr. RCAF (USA), P/O L.G.D. Thomas and Sgt W.O. White RAF killed. This aircraft had 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 in bad weather on a formation exercise, Sgt D.P. Carruthers killed. The wreckage was discovered nine days later

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(aircrewremembered.com).

23 RAF Ferry Command, Dorval, Quebec, Hudson IIIa FH233 crashed offshore of Eire, F/L J. Constabaris 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 II #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 Hudson aircraft AM780 (bac-lac.gc.ca).

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).

#18 EFTS, Boundary Bay, BC, closes on this date (http://www.bombercrew.com/BCATP.htm).

25 274 Sqn. Hurricane IIc BE229 YK-S, P/O G.C. Keefer claimed a Bf 109 probably destroyed in North Africa (Shores, Massimello V.2). See June 4, below.

25 247 Sqn. Hurricane IIb BD951 spun and crashed in England, F/S J.H.A. Ryan killed.

25 400 Sqn. Tomahawk IIa AH889 spun at low altitude and crashed in England, P/O F.W.G. Faunt killed.

25 #20 OTU Wellington Ia P2527 was damaged when the tailwheel deflated and the pilots, Sgt H.M. Russell and Sgt D.C. Jackson RAF did not notice until the damaged tail-wheel assembly broke off (bac-lac.gc.ca). See August 27-28, below.

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 S.A. Noyes injured in DV840, and Sgt J.S. Williams RNZAF, Sgt D. Callaghan

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RNZAF, Sgt M. Wilkinson RNZAF, Sgt V.R. Pascoe RAAF and Sgt J.E. Hough RAF killed, P/O C.R.F. Morris and F/O J.J. Gale RAF injured on AD625 (COL BRUGGY at www.rafcommands.com).

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).

Hitler, misreading the use of boats to bring supplies into Leningrad as Soviets evacuating civilians from the city, orders all out efforts to destroy the shipping on Lake Ladoga. Hitler's strategy of liquidating the population by starvation appeared threatened, and he failed to understand the Russians were not retreating, but consolidating. The boats were taking civilians out, but that was not the main purpose (Bergström & Mikhailov V.2). This began a series of air attacks on ports on the Lake that were heavily defended by anti-aircraft artillery, strong fighter units and radar (Bergström & Mikhailov V.2).

Soviet-UK pact signed (CJCA headline).

26 250 Sqn. Kittyhawk II AL130 spun and crashed making a steep turn after taking off from desert airstrip in Libya, WO1 E.A. Russell killed.

26 235 Sqn. Beaufighter VIc T5133 lost off the Dutch coast, P/O V.G. Desourdy and his navigator, Sgt G.E. Lee RAF, missing (L. Rizzotti www.rafcommands.com).

26 404 Sqn. Blenheim IV Z6245 EE-L (possibly named *Flin Flon Floosie 3rd* with artwork?, aircrewremembered) lost off Norway, F/S J.M. Jamieson and S/L P.H. Foster RAF

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(Can.) killed, F/O A.N. Briggs PoW. S/L Foster, whose family name had been Fenster, had originally joined the RCAF before resigning and travelling to try to join the Finnish, and then the Norwegian air forces in 1940. Later he was enlisted in the RAF (B. Barry et al; www.kenleyrevival.org).

26 #59 OTU Master N7884 crashed in Northern England, Sgt H.H. Way and Sgt G.E. Carden RAF killed (www.rafcommands.com).

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.

U-553 entered the Bay of Fundy and surfaced undetected on this night off Saint John, NB. Searchlights, ships and aircraft over the next 2 nights did not see him and may have been training flights. The captain determined that the port was not being used for convoys (a serious error) and departed the Bay of Fundy soon after, the last U-boat to enter the Bay (legionmangazine.com).

Convoy PQ-16, enroute from Iceland to the Soviet Arctic ports, loses 5 ships to

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heavy Luftwaffe bomber attack (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).

27 229 Sqn. ordered to return to Egypt from Malta. 12 Hurricanes took off in poor weather conditions, 9 landed in Egypt, one was shot down and the pilot walked out, two lost and ran out of fuel and the pilots were taken PoW. Sgt N.A. Ganes was one of the latter, in Hurricane IIa Z2982.

27 274 Sqn. Hurricane IIc, F/S J.W. Neil shot down a Ju 87 near Tobruk (Shores, Massimello V.2). See June 5, below.

27 81 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BM467 FL-T 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 at www.rafcommands.com; allspitfirepilots.org).

27 137 Sqn. Whirlwind I P7122 *Bellows Uruguay* aircraft shot down by flak 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 and brewerjerry at www.rafcommands.com; oorlogsslachtoffersijmond.nl). F/S A.E. Groves RAF, F/O W.S. Marshall RAF and F/S P.H. Thimblebee missing from V5568 (www.rafcommands.com). See also November 9, below.

27 416 Sqn. scores first victory, a He 111 damaged by F/S J. Moul 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 <u>Battle of Midway</u>, 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 V.2).

28 416 Sqn. Spitfire V BL804 crashed into the sea on a practice exercise, killing Sgt D.G. Allen (www.rafcommands.com).

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 Sgt B.W. McClennan and injuring Sgt P.C. Bion, Sgt R.G.A. Braithwaite RAAF, Sgt A.E.

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Browes RAAF and Sgt D. Crompton RAF. Sgt Bion was awarded a BME for his actions in saving three of the crew from the burning wreck (aircrewremembered.com). See June 25-26, below.

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. AC2 Rabinovich's brother, F/O M. Rabinovich, was taken PoW November 25-26, 1943 (CVWM).

28 #21 EFTS, Chatham, NB, Finch II #4454 crashed at Chatham, Sgt A.S. Neilly was killed and F/S R.D. MacKinnon was badly injured (heritage.canadiana.ca).

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.G. 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). F/S G.R.C. Davis and F/S H.L. Davis (#1443 (Ferry Training) Flight above) were cousins (CVWM).

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 submarine's 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.

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German forces in Central Russia begin a deception plan of an attack to capture Moscow while the main attack of the summer would be made to the south. This successfully mis-led Stalin to reinforcing his ground and air units in the region (Bergström, Dikov & Antipov V.3).

Hitler issues revised plans for German and Italian forces to invade unoccupied (Vichy) France and/or Spain if necessary (Polsson). See November 10, below.

Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov arrives in Washington, DC via London (ww2total.com Chronology/1942), having flown across German occupied territory in a Pe-8 aircraft and landed in Scotland May 19 (R. Allenby).

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 V.2). See June 25, below.

29 59 Sqn. Hudson AM784 TR-G shot down off the coast of Holland by flak attacking a convoy, F/S D.C. Imeson, Sgt J.A.E. Hann RAF and Sgt L.V. Schafer RAF (S. Rhod.) killed, Sgt W.J. Wilkinson RAF missing (www.number59.com; www.baaa-acro.com; R. McNeill www.rafcommands.com).

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 in England from a bullet wound due to mishandling a gun (www.rafcommands.com).

29 RAF Ferry Command, Hudson IIIa FH465 (serial confirmed by C.A. Christie and P.J. Marson) lost over the North Atlantic after departing from Gander, Newfoundland, P/O R.P. Dezall, Sgt A. Scarth and P/O D.G. Gatehouse RAF missing.

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 #32 OTU, Patricia Bay, BC, Beaufort I N1026 RD-O crashed in the sea just after take-off, killing F/S G.G. Hall, F/S D.D. MacColl, F/S M.J.P. O'Brien and Sgt S.H. Stilwell RAF (R. Hayward).

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

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three ships with torpedoes, claiming damage on a large vessel for the loss of 1 aircraft, below. See also June 27-28 and 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 10 Sqn. Halifax II W7667 ZA-G was hit in the nose and wing by flak attacking the Gnome & Rhône factory, F/S W.N. Guertin, WO E.C. Lloyd RAF, Sgt G.R. Kent, F/S Darby, Sgt R. Dill, Sgt Ruane and Sgt J.W. Thain returned safely (R. Allenby). See November 10-11, below.

29-30 15 Sqn. Stirling I W7515 LS-Q lost without trace on a GARDENING sortie, F/O F.J. Kennedy, F/O F.K. Dyle RAF, Sgt W.G. Bond RAF, Sgt F.A. Morris RAF, Sgt E.W. McSparron RAF, Sgt T.W. Soper RAF, Sgt H. Doughty RAF and Sgt W.E. Chambers RAF missing.

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, WO2 W.P. McCarthy and WO2 J.F. Clarke were injured and picked up by a German ship, where WO 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 it's 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 F/O D.H. Sargent missing. F/S McWilliams had been slightly injured July 1, 1941 in the

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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.

29-30 419 Sqn. Wellington III X3715 VR-G shot down by flak over France, P/O E.G. Cavaghan, F/S O.E. Crawford, F/S J.G. Forbes, Sgt W.L.F. Kellow RAF (Can.) and F/S R.W. Whitley killed. F/S Forbes and Sgt Kellow had both survived the crash of a #23 OTU Wellington Jan. 25, above.

Saturday

30 <u>Battle of Midway</u>, after 48 hours of intense repair work the* USS Yorkton *is made fit for flight operations and leaves Hawaii to join* Enterprise *and* Hornet *in position east of Midway (C.E. Hipperson).

Soviet fighters protect ships of PQ-16 as they approach Murmansk (Bergström & Mikhailov V.2).

#145 (BR) Sqn. RCAF formed at Torbay, Nfld. from #11 (BR) Sqn. RCAF detachment of Hudson aircraft (RCAF Sqns.).

30 250 Sqn. Kittyhawk II AK648 LD-E collided in combat with a German Bf 109 and crashed in Libya on an operation to strafe ground vehicles, F/S L.J. Devlin killed (C. Shores, via www.cieldegloire.com; www.rafcommands.com).

30 260 Sqn. Kittyhawk Ia 'O', F/S J.F. Edwards damaged a Bf 109 in North Africa (Shores, Massimello V.2). See June 8, below.

30 260 Sqn. Kittyhawk Ia, F/S J.S. Bernier claimed a Bf 109 probably destroyed in North Africa (Shores, Massimello V.2).

30 236 Sqn. Beaufighter VIc X8083 lost in a torpedo attack off Ameland, in the Danish Frisian Islands, F/O D.A. Hamilton RAF (Can.) and his navigator P/O H.S. Keeton RAF killed (www.rafcommands.com).

30 421 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AB963 hit an obstruction landing in England after an engine failed, Sgt D. Goodwin injured (www.spitfires.ukf.net; www.rafcommands.com).

30 #1451 Air Target Illumination Flight Havoc II AH452 crashed making a 1 engined landing in England, F/S C.M. Chute killed, Sgt G.W. Powell RAF injured. This flight operated Turbinlite (search light) equipped Havocs (a version of the Douglas Boston) intended to illuminate bombers at night for Hurricane fighters to shoot down (Henk Welting at rafcommands.com; asn.flightsafety.org).

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

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Sgt A.C. Norris RAAF injured (31 OTU/7 OTU Roll of Honour; www.findagrave.com).

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).

<u>Operation MILLENNIUM</u> - 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 Halifax, 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 Blenheim 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 Sqns., 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, precise navigation, 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.

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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 (two-thirds 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.

30-31 9 Sqn. Wellington III BJ674 shot down by a night fighter over Holland, F/S T.J. Hartnett, Sgt H.L. Jones RAF, F/S T.E. Newby RAF, F/S C.N.D. Stewart RAF and F/L M.R. Hodges RAF killed.

30-31 10 Sqn. Halifax II W1042 ZA-T stalled and crashed in Holland attempting a forced landing after being attacked by a German night-fighter, Sgt M.F. English, Sgt A.R. Moore RAF and Sgt F. Walker RAF killed, WO2 L.R. Silver, Sgt D.L. Thurlow RAF, Sgt J.A. Ogden RAF and Sgt H.R. Stacey RAF PoW (www.baaa-acro.com). See June 3, below.

30-31 12 Sqn. Wellington II Z8376 shot down over Germany by a night fighter, F/S A.A. Seifert, P/O A.A. Waddell RAAF, F/S R.G.K. Holden RAAF, Sgt H. Bottomley RAF and F/S E.S. 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 61 Sqn. Lancaster I R5561 QR-O shot down over Germany by flak, F/S J.H. Charles, P/O J.D. Patey, P/O B. Usher RNZAF, P/O J.B. Underwood RAF, Sgt A. Williamson RAF, F/S R.G. Fawkes RAF and F/O P.F.B. Bluett RAF killed (losses.internationalbcc.co.uk). Most of this crew had survived a force landing in a Manchester due to damage Feb. 10, above.

30-31 101 Sqn. Wellington III Z1612 SR-Z was experiencing engine problems when it was

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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 RAAF, Sgt J.B. Wilkie RAF and Sgt J.W. Campbell RAF PoW.

30-31 109 Sqn. Wellington Ic Z1113 HS-U shot down over Germany by a night fighter, Sgt D. Miller RAF, Sgt R.A. Currie RAF and F/S H.H. Witts RAF killed, Sgt T.G.H. Hatfield, Sgt T.B.D. Eddy RAF and F/S J. Austin RAF PoW (Dakota www.rafcommands.com).

30-31 142 Sqn. Wellington IV Z1209 QT-Z lost over the sea, probably shot down by a night fighter, F/S J.W. Smyth and Sgt G.S. Watson RAF killed, P/O G.H. Chaffey, P/O J.M. McAleavey and Sgt I.C. MacKeand RAF missing (http://www.aviationarchaeology.org.uk).

30-31 156 Sqn. Wellington Ic DV715 shot down over Holland by a night fighter, F/S L.F. Cooke, Sgt R. Catley RAF, Sgt P.G. Malin RAF, Sgt J.K. Holmes RAF and Sgt R. Peel RAF killed.

30-31 156 Sqn. Wellington III X3598 shot down by a night fighter over Holland, P/O J.D.N. Bain DFC, F/S W.T. Cormack, P/O L. Newton RAF, Sgt A.T. Brunton RAF, Sgt D.H. Normington RAF and P/O E. Evans RAF killed. Sgt Cormack had survived an accident in a #22 OTU Wellington March 27, above.

30-31 158 Sqn. Wellington II W5392 NP-L shot down by night-fighter over Germany, P/O R.C. O'Brien, P/O W.A. Reason, Sgt A. Schofield RAF, F/O G.D.T. Skipwith RAF and Sgt W.L. Waller RAF killed.

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 RCAF (USA), 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 attacked by a night-fighter and exploded over Germany, 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 have no known grave (asn.flightsafety.org). 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.

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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, attached to 75 Squadron, 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 (CWGC).

30-31 #12 OTU Wellington Ic X9874 was attacked bya a night fighter and ditched off the coast of England returning from operations over Germany, P/O A. Lucki and P/O R.L.W. Ferrer RAF missing, Sgt K.H. Buck, F/S J.D. McKenzie and F/S R. Grundy RAF rescued, but F/S McKenzie died in hospital of his wounds from the attack (www.ipswichwarmemorial.co.uk), and Sgt Buck was killed May 5, 1943 in the loss of a 102 Sqn. Halifax over Holland.

30-31 #14 OTU Hampden I L4173 GL-T2 damaged on operations over Germany and crashed into the town of Norwich, 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 Ic DV828 aircraft, F/S D.M. Baird RCAF (Nfld.), F/S T. Cook RAF and WO B. Doyle RAF missing when the pilot lost control and ordered a bailout, the aircraft and remaining crew returned safely (losses.internationalbcc.co.uk).

30-31 #22 OTU Wellington Ic R1235 OR-O shot down over Germany by a night fighter, F/S P.G. Barclay Jr., Sgt D.H. Edwards RNZAF, F/S C.J. Matthews RAF, P/O W.F. Caldwell DFM RAF and P/O D.A.R. Tallis DFM RAF killed (losses.internationalbcc.co.uk).

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 #22 OTU Wellington Ic DV701 DD-P lost without trace on an operation over Germany, believed shot down by flak, F/S R.N.A. Creswell, F/O D.S. MacLean, F/S N.

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Grattan, F/O H.R. Blake DFC RNZAF and F/S J.R. Wanbon DFM RAF have no known grave (asn.flightsafety.org; bac-lac.gc.ca).

30-31 #22 OTU Wellington Ic DV843 'Q' shot down over Holland by flak, Sgt R.A. Armstrong, F/O L.J. Tait RAF (Can.), P/O W.A. Fullerton DFM RAF, F/S J.K. Napier DFM RAF and F/S R.M. Sanders RAF killed (aircrewremembered.com).

30-31 #23 OTU Wellington Ic N2851 'F3' shot down by a German fighter over Holland, F/S W.R.C. Johnston and Sgt R.A. Broodbank RAAF killed, Sgt J. Donn-Patterson RAAF, Sgt M.L. Glenton-Wright RAAF, and Sgt G.F. Bolton RAAF have no known grave (www.baaa-acro.com).

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 #102 Conversion Flight Halifax II R9533 returned from Cologne with damage, F/S F.F. Duff, Sgt T.O. McIlquham, P/O F.H. Mylrea, Sgt R. Gayler RAF, S/L E.D. Griffiths RAF, Sgt A.E. Waddicor RAF, and Sgt L.J. Ward (RAF?) safe (R. Allenby). See also June 25-26, below.

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).

Off Yarmouth, NS, the* U-432 *torpedoed and sank the unescorted Canadian coaster* Liverpool Packet, *out of New York for Halifax with a cargo of US government stores, with the loss of 2 of the 21 man crew (RCN Chronology; www.uboat.net).

31 73 Sqn. Hurricane IIc BM988 lost on training flight in Libya, F/S D.G. Barrie missing (www.rafcommands.com).

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 shot down near Bir Hakim, Libya, P/O W.H. Ismay killed (discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk).

31 3 Sqn. Hurricane IIb BD956 flew into high ground in bad weather in England, P/O J.N. Lewis killed.

31 121 (Eagle) Sqn. Spitfire Vb W3645 crashed off Flushing, Holland, after striking the sea attacking a flak ship, F/L T.W. Allen RCAF (USA) missing (V. Haugland).

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31 125 (Newfoundland) Sqn. Beaufighter IIf T3039, W/C Ivins and Sgt Clark, was on a HUMBUG patrol when they were asked to intercept an unknown aircraft, which turned out to be a Coastal Command Whitley (aviation-safety.net).

31 #3 (P)AFU Oxford I P9033 was damaged when the undercarriage failed to extend and it landed on on main wheel, P/O J.H. Thomas RAF and Sgt F.J.H. Highmoor safe (CVWM). See August 4, below.

31 #6 (Coastal) OTU Hudson I T9279 missing on a training flight, Sgt E.A. Young and Sgt A.F. Gregory RAF were killed, P/O G.R. Stratford and Sgt D.R. Laddams RAF were missing (www.rafcommands.com; CWGC; bac-lac.gc.ca).

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 II AS831 crashed near Holsom relief airfield, Alberta, Cpl(P) R. Leprou, Free French Forces, killed (D.J. Carter; www.rafcommands.com).

31-1 <u>Second Baedeker Raids</u>, in response to the attack on Cologne Luftwaffe ordered to re-commence attacks on English cities of cultural significance, begins with an attack on the city of Canterbury (wikipedia).

<u>June 1942</u>

In June the last of 160 Canadian built Handley-Page Hampden bombers flew. Most of these were used in England, some in Russia, but many were later returned to Canada 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.).

During the month #10 (BR) Sqn. began flying anti-submarine patrols from Goose Bay in Labrador. Again one of the Squadrons Digby aircraft would be damaged by gunfire from a merchant ship in a convoy it was escorting, the crew returned safely (C. Vincent).

"X Wing" RCAF formed in Anchorage, Alaska, to conduct offensive operations in Alaska (RCAF Sqns.).

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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.

Two freighters of PQ-16 sunk by German bomber attacks as they unloaded at Murmansk (Bergström & Mikhailov V.2).

#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 (Trop.) AB329, F/L J.J.P. Sabourin and Spitfire Vb (Trop.) AB324, Sgt H.G. James RAF share the first claim by Spitfires in the desert air war, a Ju 88 damaged near Gambut, Libya (www.spitfires.ukf.net; Shores, Massimello, Guest, Olynyk and Bock). See June 8, below.

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.), 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

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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).

1 #16 EFTS?, DH.82C Tiger Moth #3891 damaged at Edmonton, Alberta and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

1 #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).

<u>Operation MILLENNIUM</u>, 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 shot down by a night-fighter 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 (asn.flightsafety.org). Sgt Anderson was believed to have been the first Newfoundlander to join the RAF after the outbreak of the war.

1-2 10 Sqn. crew in a borrowed 78 Sqn. aircraft Halifax II W1143 EY-F lost over or off Holland, P/O H.G. Clothier RNZAF killed, Sgt A.O. Mireau, F/O J.R.F. Ganderton RNZAF, F/S J.S. Clapham RAF, Sgt J. Simpson RAF and F/S T.A.G. Morris RAF missing, Sgt W.R. Forbes RAF PoW.

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

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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 97 Sqn. Lancaster I R5571 OF-A shot down by flak over Germany, F/S E.H. Coone, P/O W.J. Keough RCAF (USA), F/S H.L. Davies RAF, Sgt A.G.J. McMechan RAF, Sgt E.B. Goodwin RAF, Sgt E.G. Smith RAF and Sgt J.L. Goddard RAF killed (losses.internationalbcc.co.uk).

1-2 114 Sqn. Blenheim IV R3620 RT-A shot down by flak over Germany on an INTRUDER sortie, F/S P.B. L'Hirondelle, Sgt H. Meakin RAF and P/O R.G. Inglis RAF killed (aircrewremembered.com).

1-2 142 Sqn. Wellington IV Z1410 QT-Z turned back with engine problems and crashed in England, F/S R.L. Cox, P/O D.P. McDonald RCAF (USA), Sgt T. Sleeman RAF, Sgt A. Smith RAF and Sgt W.T. Stanley RAF killed, Sgt C.M. Harrison RAF injured. F/S Cox had survived a crash landing at #27 OTU July 19, 1941.

1-2 405 Sqn. Halifax II W7713 LQ-T shot down by flak over Germany, P/O R.L. Baltzer, F/S J.M.W. Fortin, F/O F.A.G.W. Gerty, F/S L.D. Jackson, F/S S.L. Reid, F/S J.A. Thompson and Sgt J.L. Turnbull RAF killed (www.baaa-acro.com).

1-2 408 Sqn. Hampden I AT191 EQ-A shot down over the IJsselmeer in Holland, P/O W.F.D. Charlton RAF, P/O C.I.A. Sandland RAF, F/S F.J.E. Womar DFM RAF and Sgt A. Marland RAF killed. See http://www.teunispats.net/fr-wwii.htm for details.

1-2 #10 OTU Whitley V Z6581 'P' shot down by a night fighter over Holland, F/S J.E. McDonald, P/O J.O. Little DFM RAF, P/O R.R.H. Rowe RAF, Sgt J.D. O'Sullivan RAF and S/L D.B.G. Tomlinson DFC RAF killed.

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.

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1-2 #21 OTU Wellington Ic W5618 ED-W shot down by a night fighter over Belgium after requesting a course for home, F/S F.B. Albright, P/O W.M. Richards, Sgt E.V. Stephens RAAF and Sgt R.T. Burt RAAF killed, Sgt D.A.G. Watkins RAAF PoW, F/S J.H. Forsyth Jr. evaded (A. Storr; losses.internationalbcc.co.uk). The wreckage was not found until June 7 (bac-lac.gc.ca). See June 6, below.

1-2 #23 OTU Wellington Ic R1266 WE-G2 shot down by a night-fighter, crashed and sank in marshy ground between two dykes on the bank of the River Maas in Holland (asn.flightsafety.org; bac-lac.gc.ca). The remains of F/S T.L.J. Norrie RCAF (USA) were found soon after the loss, but the wreckage and the remainder of the crew, F/S F.J.B. Scrimes, P/O G.W. Murray, F/O W.J. Mawdesley RAAF and Sgt K.N. Killby RAF, were not recovered until 1957. They were interred in a communal grave beside F/S Norrie but are also commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial.

1-2 #25 OTU Wellington Ic DV434 'F2' lost over Holland, Sgt G.T. Reid RAF killed, Sgt J.A. Nugent, P/O W.J. Clough, F/O R.F. Jessop RAF, F/S R.A. Booth RAF and Sgt R.J.A Johnstone RAF PoW.

1-2 #26 OTU Wellington Ic HX375 'X' shot down by flak over Belgium, F/S R.I. Derry, F/S K.B. Utman, Sgt B.H. Edye RAAF, Sgt K. Edmonds RAF and Sgt G. Horner RAF killed (www.baaa-acro.com). The bomber fell onto a warehouse in Antwerp and was destroyed by fire, which also destroyed the warehouse (bac-lac.gc.ca). F/S Derry was on a draft to England when his family asked he be kept in Canada as his father was dying of a terminal illness, and he was then posted to a home based RCAF Squadron. However he did not appreciate this, and stowed away on a ship to England where he was reprimanded before being sent for training to be an instructor at an OTU (bac-lac.gc.ca).

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. A fin from this aircraft became the score board of the Unit that shot it down, Abteilung 816, and a photo of it can be found in Palmer & Neeven.

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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 Sevastopol begins. Specially made extremely large railway artillery guns were used to destroy Russian defensive fortifications (ww2total.com Chronology/1942), while heavy bomber and torpedo attacks are made on the port and supply vessels (Bergström & Mikhailov V.2).

#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 32 Sqn. Hurricane IIc Z3842 crashed in England after a mid-air collision with Hurricane IIc BN383, killing F/S W.J. Merrithew in Z3842 and F/S J. Vejlupek (aka Walters) RAF (Czech.) injured in BN383 (www.rafcommands.com).

2 239 Sqn. or #1 OADU Beaufighter Ic T4899 crashed while landing in England, P/O J.A. Logan killed, Sgt D.R. Cheetham RAF injured (www.rafcommands.com).

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, WO1 D.G. Campbell PoW. A photo of WO Campbell just after his bail-out, and brief description of his incarceration appeared in *Airforce Magazine*, Vol. 40, #2, October, 2016.

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 damaged on a morning RODEO, F/S? G.D Aitken bailed out near Dover and rescued. 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.

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2-3 <u>Second Baedeker Raids</u>, 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 61 Sqn. Lancaster I R5562 QR-G shot down by a German fighter over Germany, F/S A.W. Armstrong RCAF, P/O E.R. Seibold, F/S J.L. Tarran RAF, Sgt W. Simons RAF, Sgt G. Glassbrook RAF and Sgt F.J.L. Hanson RAF killed, Sgt W.C. Howell PoW (www.baaa-acro.com; losses.internationalbcc.co.uk).

2-3 102 Sqn. Halifax II R9491 DY-N believed to have gone down at sea off the English coast after signalling it was under attack by enemy fighters, 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 (bac-lac.gc.ca).

2-3 102 Sqn. Halifax II R9532 DY-D crashed attempting to land in England with severe damage from flak over Germany, Sgt D.B. Patterson, F/S B.J. Treloar RAAF, Sgt J. Powell RAF, Sgt I. Williams RAF, Sgt J.K. Baker RAF and Sgt A.G. Frampton RAF safe. See July 8-9, below.

2-3 408 Sqn. Hampden I AT154 EQ-B shot down by a night fighter off the Dutch coast on an operation over Germany, Sgt O.W. McKenzie, P/O K.H. Taylor and Sgt E.G. Ronson RAF killed, F/O P.L. Edwards RAF missing. See http://www.teunispats.net/fr-wwii.htm for details.

2-3 420 Sqn. Hampden I AE260 PT-O lost over France on a GARDENING sortie, Sgt E. Harrison RAF, Sgt J.S. Gething RAF and Sgt G.J. Laing RAF killed, Sgt L.C. Nall RAF PoW (R. McNeill POW List, www.rafcommands.com).

2-3 460 Sqn. RAAF Wellington IV Z1249 UV-K hit by enemy fire and exploded 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 have no known grave (asn.flightsafety.org).

Wednesday

3 <u>Battle of Midway</u>, aircraft operating from Midway Island sight Japanese invasion fleets.

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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.

#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. Informed of the attack on Dutch Harbour the Bolingbrokes are immediately sent on to Anchorage (B. Coyle). #111 (F) Sqn. RCAF redeploys 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 launched from *HMS Eagle* but was shot down short of Malta when his flight intercepted by German fighters, P/O D.F.G. Rouleau missing (vintagewings.ca).

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.

3 610 Sqn. Spitfire, F/O J.H. Curry RCAF (USA), landed in Malta from *HMS Eagle* (acesofww2.com). See September 1, below.

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). F/S G.C. English and Sgt M.F. English, killed May 30-31 above, were cousins (CVWM).

3 408 Sqn. Hampden I AT220 EQ-G was burnt out after catching fire while being refuelled (H. Moyle).

3 416 Sqn. Spitfire Vb R7224, P/O R.A. Buckham, made a hard landing and tore off an undercarriage leg. P/O Buckham kept airborne, retracted the remaining undercarriage, and made a wheels-up landing (aircrewremembered.com). See January 15, 1947.

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).

www.bombercommandmuseummarches.ca

Third attack on the Isle of Wight in the last month (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).

3-4 32 Sqn. Hurricane IIc Z3681 shot down over Belgium on a night INTRUDER, F/L R.D. Shuman RCAF (USA) PoW (www.rafcommands).

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 shot down into the North Sea by a German night-fighter, 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. Treppass RAF, P/O J.B. Holdsworth RAF and Sgt Bushell RAF safe. See June 6-7 below.

3-4 218 Sqn. Stirling I W7474 HA-K shot down over Holland by a night fighter, F/S L.L.J. Farley, P/O J.R. Webber RAF, P/O J. Garscadden RAF, Sgt L.J. Smith RAF, P/O J.D. Insch RAF, F/S H.C.F. Broadbent DFM RAF and Sgt N.C.F. Sibley RAF killed, Sgt K.R. Cox RAF PoW.

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Thursday

4 <u>Battle of Midway</u>, attacks by Midway based aircraft on Japanese carriers suffer heavy casualties but cause no damage. A Japanese attack on the island decimates it's fighter defences, leaving the base vulnerable to a second attack. 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 it's large carriers were sunk and many of it's 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* Yorkton *behind. Realizing his ships could not catch the US carriers, and without air cover, Admiral Yamamoto cancels the invasion of Midway.

A second attack was made on Dutch Harbour in Alaska. 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.

#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).

417 Sqn. arrives in Egypt. Pending delivery of aircraft the Squadron is used in ferrying airplanes in the region (RCAF Sqns.).

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

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attacking a Ju 87 dive bomber over Bir Hakiem (Shores, Massimello V.2).

4 234 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AD245 shot down over the English Channel on RAMROD 21, F/S W.H. Jackson missing.

4 403 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BM428 was damaged when it struck the sea investigating a suspected floating mine while escorting a group of minesweepers, F/S L.A. Walker managed to recover and land safely (bac-lac.gc.ca). See August 19, below.

4 408 Sqn. Hampden I AT180 EQ-B crashed in England on an air test, P/O H.J. Randall RAF, P/O R.P. Wishart RAAF, Cpl K.E. Godfrey and AC1 J.H. Chalmers (RCAF or RAF?) safe (H. Moyle). The aircraft was later repaired. See July 22, below.

4 415 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. Mahn RCAF (USA) managed to get into a dinghy. Please see June 14, below.

4 501 Sqn. Spitfire Vb W3842 shot down over the English Channel on RAMROD 21, F/S B. Strachan missing.

4 #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.

4 #14 SFTS, Aylmer, Ontario, Harvard II #2507 force landed near Simcoe, Ontario, in a rainstorm and overturned, Cpl McLean and one airman safe (CVWM, heritage.canadiana.ca).

4 #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).

4 #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). In June and July over half of Coastal Command attacks on U-boats in the Bay of Biscay would be by Leigh Light equipped aircraft (Grande, Linden, and Macauley).

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

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War Diaries).

Friday

5 <u>Battle of Midway</u>, 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). There a missionary is killed, his wife and 42 Aleuts in the village are taken to Japan (B. Coyle).

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.

5 274 Sqn. Hurricane IIc, F/S J.W. Neil damaged a Bf 109 over North Africa (Shores, Massimello V.2). See June 11, below.

5 125 (Newfoundland) Sqn. had two Beaufighter IIf aircraft over the Irish Sea to attempt to intercept the daily German weather aircraft, T3039 P/O J.A.P. Boyd and Sgt F. Saunders at high level, and V8140 P/O Turnbull and Sgt Lawn at lower level. P/O Boyd found the Ju 88 and was damaged by return fire, making no observable hits. The aircraft dived through clouds and was met by P/O Turnbull who also fired on it, but the aircraft escaped (aviation-safety.net).

5 401 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,

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then numbered #1 (F) Sqn. RCAF, Sept. 15, 1940 during the Battle of Britain.

5 #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. From his postings LAC MacDonald, who was only 18 at the time of his loss, was one of the Canadians enlisted for service in the RAF for radars and other secret equipment [bac-lac.gc.ca].

5 #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.

5 #132 (F) Sqn., Rockcliffe, Ontario, Kittyhawk #731 (ET866) crashed, no details (H.A. Halliday).

5 #2 SFTS, Uplands, Ontario, LAC(P) L.D. Wetmore died of the injuries from his force landing June 1, above.

5 #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. This is possibly the accident referenced by H.D. Bracken.

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).

5-6 10 Sqn. Halifax II W7696 ZA-H lost over Germany, F/O E.B.H. Openshaw RNZAF, F/S P.G. Rochford DFM RAF and Sgt L.C. Matthias RAF killed, Sgt A.G. Hunter, F/O R.N. Speer, Sgt R.E. Shannon RAF and WO W.A. Stubley RAF PoW.

5-6 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.

5-6 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 Sgt O'Connor safe (R. Allenby). See November 10-11, below.

5-6 103 Sqn. Wellington Ic DV699 lost over Germany near the Dutch border after colliding

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in mid-air with another Wellington, 156 Sqn. X3339 (see below), 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 flak, F/S F.D. Lindsay, S/L R.B. Harris RAF, Sgt J. Easting RAF, Sgt J. Parris RAF, Sgt S.D. England RAF, F/S J.S. Flockhart RAF and Sgt N.H. Kortright RAF killed (www.baaa-acro.com).

5-6 150 Sqn. Wellington III X3674 JN-H lost over Holland, F/S J.R. Cooper, F/S A.D. Robert, Sgt J.J. Clifton RAF, F/S T. Kay RNZAF, Sgt H.R. Camfield RAF and Sgt G.F.C. Bonner RAF killed.

5-6 156 Sqn. Wellington Ic DV812 GT-D shot down into the IJsselmeer by a night fighter, Sgt S.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 (asn.flightsafety.org).

5-6 156 Sqn. Wellington III X3339 collided in mid-air with 103 Sqn. Wellington DV699 (see above) and crashed in 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.

5-6 419 Sqn. Wellington III X3486 VR-U lost without trace on an operation to Germany, F/S J.M. Dutton, F/S H.J. Kirkpatrick, F/S C.F. McCaw, P/O D.H. Peters, F/S W.R. Rice missing. Postwar it was discovered the aircraft had crashed in Germany, but the crew have no known grave (www.419squadron.com). F/S Dutton was on his 30th sortie (419 SH).

Saturday

6 **<u>Battle of Midway</u>** ***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.***

#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).

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German bombing of <u>Sevastopol</u> is unending, some bomber units flying 15-18 sorties a day against the ports defences. Although unable to meet this onslaught in numbers Soviet fighters and ground attack aircraft continue to operate and harassing night bombing by biplanes continued (Bergström & Mikhailov V.2).

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).

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. MacAllan, 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.

6 #108 MU or OADU, Hudson IIIa FH299 was enroute to India, crashed and was destroyed by fire landing at an airstrip in Iraq during a dust storm, P/O A.J. Pedden RAF (Can.), Sgt D.N.L. Harwood RAF, Sgt A.E. Johnson RAF and P/O C.C. Rowe RAF have no known grave (www.rafcommands.com; J. Baugher).

6 118 Sqn. Spitfire Vb EN975 shot down over English Channel on a RAMROD, F/S L.H. Jones missing.

6 400 Sqn. Tomahawk I 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.

6 408 Sqn. Hampden I AD980 EQ-Y crashed in England on an air test, P/O H.J. Randall RAF, P/O R.P. Wishart RAAF and Sgt H.E. Elliott RAF injured. P/O Wishart was later killed on operations in a 97 Sqn. Lancaster Jan. 30-31, 1944 (A. Storr).

6 #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).

6 #20 OTU Wellington Ic DV713 ZT-W flew into the sea avoiding bad weather on a navigation exercise, F/S A.C.C. Peircey, F/S H.J. Palmer, Sgt F.H. Mitchell RAF, P/O J.H. Walker RAF and Sgt J. Sinden RAF missing (aircrewremembered.com).

6 #21 OTU pilot F/S J.H. Forsyth Jr., 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.

6 406th Bomb Sqn., 41st Bomb Group, USAAF, A-29 (Hudson) 41-23468 crashed landing at Edmonton, Alberta (AAIR).

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6-7 Japanese land on Alaskan Aleutian Island of Kiska, part of the Midway diversion plan. Kiska had a US Coast Guard weather station and possessed a very good natural harbour, control of which was seen as essential by the Japanese Navy to prevent an invasion of Japan from Alaska. Originally the forces landing here and at Attu were intended to occupy the island of Adak, farther east, but the presence of USAAF land based fighters encountered over Dutch Harbour indicated airfields had been built nearby, which the Japanese knew nothing about, so the target was changed to remain out of range of these fighters (B. Coyle). See July 29, below.

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 7 Sqn. Stirling I W7471 MG-J shot down over Holland by a night fighter, WO2 C.F. Henigman, F/L E.J. Earngey RAAF, F/O N.L. Tayler RAF, Sgt W.E. Goodman RAF, P/O F.St.J. Travis RAF, F/L H.D. Spry RAF, WO J.H. Arnold RAF and Sgt S.J. McNamara RAF PoW.

6-7 35 Sqn. Halifax II R9439 TL-A lost without trace on an operation to Germany, P/O T.J. Taylor III RCAF (USA), F/S R.L. Bradshaw, F/S R.J. Chisholm, Sgt S.E. Davies RAF (Argentina), Sgt H. Thomas RAF and Sgt A. Squires RAF missing.

6-7 156 Sqn. Wellington Ic HF918 shot down by a night fighter 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 (www.baaa-acro.com).

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 RAF, 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.

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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.).

As part of the <u>Midway</u> plan Japanese submarines were again sent to the US and Canadian Pacific coast to intercept US carriers that were to have been lured north to Alaska. On this day the submarine* I-26 *torpedoed and sank the US freighter* Coast Trader *at sea off Port Renfrew, BC. Fishing boats and the corvette* HMCS Edmunston *picked up survivors, while ships and patrol aircraft from both countries sought the submarine without success (B. Coyle).

German ground offensive against <u>Sevastopol</u> begins, but were held by Soviet defences while their fighter and ground attacks continue (Bergström & Mikhailov V.2).

7 73 Sqn. Hurricane IIc BN330 shot down over the Desert, F/L C.T. Cantrill killed, he has no known grave (www.rafcommands.com).

7 #13 EFTS, St. Eugene, Ontario, Finch II #4539 and #4667 crashed at Rigaud Mountain, Quebec, following a mid-air collision 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 (heritage.canadiana.ca; asn.flightsafety.org).

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 As part of a series of attacks on airfields used to support the German campaign in Libya an airfield in Crete is attacked by British and Greek commandos that destroy 5 aircraft and stock-piled supplies, and damage 29 more aircraft. Twelve local civilians were executed after the attack (wikipedia). See June 12-13, below.

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.

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As part of the <u>Midway</u> 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 Squadrons 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 completed his strafing attack, then 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). F/O Simpson had flown Lysanders in France, and later flew as an exchange officer in Korea (Allison & Hayward).

8 145 Sqn. F/L J.J.P. Sabourin in Spitfire Vb (Trop.) AB321 and Sgt H.G. James RAF in Spitfire Vb AB324 shared shooting down a Bf 109 near Tobruk (Shores, Massimello V.2). See June 12, below.

8 260 Sqn. Kittyhawk Ia 'M', F/S J.F. Edwards shot down a Bf 109 near Bir Hacheim (Shores, Massimello V.2). See June 14, below.

8 274 Sqn. Hurricane II, F/L G.C. Keefer claimed an MC.202 destroyed over North Africa (Shores, Massimello V.2). See June 12, below.

8 415 Sqn. Hampden I AT237 crashed after take-off on a training flight, possibly due to engine failure, F/S J.C. Black and WO2 D.B. McGregor killed (H. Moyle).

8 Empire Central Flying School Master W8778 crashed in England practicing night circuits killing F/L K.H. Moon and F/L F.G. Pafford (www.finagrave.com; bac-lac.gc.ca). TSGNO notes that F/L Moon had previous experience as a bush pilot. See August 28-29 below and September 16, 1944.

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, Sgt H.T. Wright RAF injured (www.rafcommands.com). There are references to F/S Doten's training etc. in D.S. Fraser's *One Man's Journal-The War Years*.

8 #6 (BR) Sqn., Alliford Bay, BC, LAC R.L. Aney died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound (www.rafcommands.com; bac-lac.gc.ca).

8 #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.J. Sinclair killed.

8 #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.rafcommands.com). See May 4, 1944.

8 #14 SFTS, Aylmer, Ontario, Harvard II #3216 belly landed near Strathburn, Ontario, (M.L. McIntyre).

8 #38 SFTS, Estevan, Saskatchewan, Anson II #8538 damaged in an accident, no details (CMA).

8 unknown unit, Kittyhawk I #1030 crashed and written off on a ferry flight to Western Air Command (R.W.R. Walker).

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8 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 W1021 TL-J shot down by a night fighter near Brussels, Belgium, F/S J.K. Watson, Sgt S.G. Cooper RNZAF, Sgt E. Corcoran RAF, Sgt T.A. Drower RAF, Sgt H.G. Pike RAF, Sgt D. Wrampling RAF and Sgt R.A. Yates RAF PoW (www.rafcommands.com).

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. McKinstry RAF killed, Sgt J.A. Catley RAF PoW and Sgt J.T. Pack RAF evaded.

8-9 83 Sqn. Lancaster R5659 OL-B lost over Germany, F/S H.K. Ford, F/O J.L. Rowe RAF, P/O E.A.L. Hardman RAF, Sgt S.H. Wise RAF, P/O B.G. Galloway-Wilson RAF, Sgt C.G. Sherratt RAF and Sgt C. O'Neill RAF killed.

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, F/S J. MacQueen RAF, Sgt F.W.E. Ball RAF and Sgt H. Halliwell RAF killed.

8-9 109 Sqn. Wellington Ic Z1048 lost over Belgium, P/O M.D. Mackenzie, F/S R. Hunt RAF, Sgt A.R.V. Matthissen RAF, Sgt D.M. Brown RAF, Sgt A.R. Pain RAF and Sgt A. Bentham RAF killed.

8-9 150 Sqn. Wellington III X3725 JN-N Shot down off the coast of Holland returning from a sortie over Essen, F/S E.F.B. Mandin, F/O W.D. Love RAAF, Sgt L.C. Gray RAF, Sgt R.D. Procter RAF and Sgt L. Dent RAF missing (www.baaa-acro.com).

8-9 405 Sqn. Halifax II W1111 LQ-D lost without trace, F/S T.R.M. Cattle, F/S G.R. Montgomery, P/O D.G. Morris RCAF (Nfld.), WO2 W.L. Platt, Sgt J. Fleming RAF, Sgt R.D. Holland RAF and Sgt E.L. Jackman RAF missing.

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, F/S H. Olsen, 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

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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.

8-9 405 Sqn. Halifax II DG224 LQ-U shot down by flak over Germany, P/O L.G. Higginson, F/S E.N. Jeffries, F/O A.J. McEwen, F/S E.T. McGill, Sgt W.J. Pethybridge, F/S R.P. Healey RAF and F/S L. Heycock RAF killed, Sgt D.R. Riches RAF PoW (asn.flightsafety.org).

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.

Tuesday

9 All remaining islands in the Philippines are brought under Japanese control.

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). Sgt Q. Di Persio also flew in on this flight (allspitfireplots.org).

9 33 Sqn. Hurricane IIb BG992 'Q', P/O D.W. McClarty RCAF (Argentina) claimed a Bf 109 damaged in a fight over the desert (Shores, Massimello V.2). See July 27, below.

9 33 Sqn. Hurricane IIb BP239 P/O L.C. Wade RAF (USA) claimed a Bf 109 destroyed in the same fight (Shores, Massimello V.2).

9 #1 Central Navigation School, Rivers, Manitoba, Anson I #6069 crashed south of Newdale, Manitoba, in bad weather on a night navigation exercise, killing Sgt J.T.

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Carter, Sgt J.C.W. Gauthier dit Larouche, Sgt A.J. Mazur and P/O A.W. Willoughby (heritage.canadiana.ca). There is a plaque remembering this aircrew in Cardale, Manitoba, near the crash-site (www.findagrave.com).

9 #1 Central Navigation School, Rivers, Manitoba, Anson I #6083 crashed near the airfield in the same bad weather, Sgt E. Hopkins and Sgt J. Ross badly injured, Sgt D.G. Goodfellow and LAC L.E. Strangward were slightly injured (heritage.canadiana.ca).

9 #1 Central Navigation School, Rivers, Manitoba, Anson I #6377 crashed 6 miles north-east of Rivers, Manitoba in the same bad weather, Sgt J.W. Low, Sgt F.E. Jeanes, Sgt F.P. Sharpe and Sgt A.E.G. Staton slightly injured (heritage.canadiana.ca).

9 #2 Training Command, Winnipeg, Man., administration F/L H.A. McCaghey found dead in a hotel room from a self-inflicted wound (www.rafcommands.com).

9-10 77 Sqn. Whitley V BD195 KN-M shot down by fighters off Brest on an anti-submarine patrol, S/L D.D. Pryde DFC RAF (Can.), F/S W. Carmichael RAF and Sgt J.W. Cook RAF missing, F/L R.G.N. Laidlaw, Sgt A.P. Tyson RAF and Sgt G. McLeod RAF PoW (R. McNeill www.rafcommands.com; 77squadron.org.uk; losses.internationalbcc.co.uk). S/L Pryde was born in Scotland and had two brothers, S/L G.A.M. Pryde DFC RAF and F/O W.S. Pryde RAF, who were also killed during the war, and his connection with Canada is unknown or an error [CWGC; madeinperth.org].

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 J.M. 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).

USAAF aircraft overflies Kiska and is fired on, returns after noting Japanese ships

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in the harbour there (B. Coyle).

10 #23 SFTS, Bulawayo, Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) Harvard I N7009 collided in mid-air with Oxford I AR790 and both crashed, killing Sgt R. Golland RAF in N7009 and Sgt H.E. Boyce RAF (Can.) in AR790 (www.rafcommands.com).

10 213 Sqn. Hurricane IIc BN139 AK-U, P/O D.R. Rehill, claimed a Ju 87 damaged over North Africa (Shores, Massimello V.2).

10 107 Sqn. Boston III AL715 shot down over the sea by fighters returning from 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 (www.rafcommands.com).

10 #1 AOS, Malton, Ontario, LAC(N) A.J. Garritty died in hospital of natural causes. LAC Garritty's brother, Lt. M.E. Garritty, PPCLI, died in Italy December 20, 1944.

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. Rommel stated that "Nowhere in Africa was I given a stiffer fight" (quoted in LH). 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 down 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 122 Battery RA (on this sortie to make observations of enemy anti-aircraft fire) missing (BLME V.2 Errata).

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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.).

North of Colon, Panama, the Canadian built freighter* Fort Good Hope*, on it's maiden voyage from Vancouver with wheat, timber, lead and zinc ore, is torpedoed by U-159 while in a convoy, 2 crew lost (www.uboat.net).

Kiska bombed by a mixed force of B-17 and B-24 bombers, but they make no hits on shipping there while losing a B-24 to emplaced anti-aircraft artillery (B. Coyle).

11 274 Sqn. Hurricane IIc, F/S J.W. Neil shot down a Bf 109 over North Africa (Shores, Massimello V.2). See July 3, below.

11 77 Sqn. Whitley V Z9477 KN-G missing over Bay of Biscay, P/O D.H. Bootsma RCAF (USA), Sgt M.A.E. Ennion RAF, Sgt R.G. McKenzie RAF, Sgt A.H. Cameron RAF, P/O E.A. Smith RAF and Sgt R.G. Horne RAF missing (COL BRUGGY at www.rafcommands.com; losses.internationalbcc.co.uk).

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, F/S H.L. Spinney safe (heritage.canadiana.ca).

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

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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 83 Sqn. Lancaster I R5636 OL-K lost without trace on an a GARDENING sortie, F/S T.H. Clarke, F/O W.K. Williams RAAF, Sgt H.M. Spence RAAF, P/O P.S. MacKay RAF, Sgt D.N. O'Day RAF, Sgt D.J. Monk RAF and Sgt J.W. Melhuish RAF missing.

11-12 214 Sqn. Stirling I R9326 BU-G force landed on a beach on the island of Memmert in the Friesian Islands on a GARDENING sortie, F/S C.L. Honeychurch, Sgt A.R. Tonkin RAAF, Sgt G.H. Ransome RAF, Sgt W.D. Horne RAF, Sgt G.D. Morton RAF, Sgt S.G. Goodey RAF, F/S L.C. Beagles RAF and Sgt A. Ballentine RAF PoW, 1 crewman with a broken leg (tonks www.rafcommands.com).

11-12 #25 OTU Wellington Ic R1375 'N' undershot it's landing returning from a navigation exercise and then 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.

After delays from weather a series of large planned attacks was made to destroy dock facilities at Murmansk, but defending fighters (including Hurricanes) and anti-aircraft artillery prevented this (Bergström & Mikhailov V.2).

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

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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).

12 33 Sqn. Hurricane IIb Z5143 NW-C shot down over the desert near El Adem, F/S W. Cameron missing (Shores, Massimello V.2).

12 112 Sqn. Kittyhawk I AL185 hit and damaged by flak over the desert, F/O J.M.A. Crichton safe (http://raf-112-squadron.org/planelosses.html). See June 15, below.

12 145 Sqn. Spitfire Vb (Trop.) AB339, F/L J.J.P. Sabourin, shot down a Bf 109 and damaged a second over North Africa (Shores, Massimello V.2). See September 8, below.

12 274 Sqn. Hurricane IIc, Sgt R.J. Thompson claimed a Bf 109 probably shot down (Shores, Massimello V.2).

12 274 Sqn. Hurricane IIc, P/O W.A.G. Conrad shot down a Bf 109 (Shores, Massimello V.2). See June 15, below.

12 274 Sqn. Hurricane IIc BG700 YK-B, P/O G.C. Keefer damaged a Bf 109 in North Africa (Shores, Massimello V.2). See June 16, below.

12 58 Sqn. Whitley V BD210 GE-J flew into a cliff on the coast of Spain in fog on a patrol over the Bay of Biscay, F/S A.S. Lorimer RCAF (Scotland), 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 (R. Palmer). All are buried in Spain. F/S Lorimer was a fur trader and had made a month long canoe trip from an isolated post in Northern Quebec with his partner to Montreal where they both enlisted in the RCAF in 1940 (CVWM; rcaffingal.blogspot.com).

12 144 Sqn. Hampden I AD973 crashed in England on a training flight after an engine failure, Sgt W.H. Hood and crew safe (H. Moyle).

12 404 Sqn. Blenheim IV Z6175 struck a balloon cable and crashed in rain on a navigation exercise, pilot Sgt G.S. Brockington and Sgt J.D. Moller RAF killed, Sgt A.C. Sallis RAF injured (404 SH; www.rafcommands.com; bac-lac.gc.ca). See July 13, below.

12 407 Sqn. sank the Swedish freighter *Senta* off the Dutch coast (A. Thomas).

12 #56 OTU Hurricane V7468 stalled on a turn attempting a forced landing and crashed, killing Sgt W.N. Hergott. See also March 30-31, 1944.

12 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).

12 #20 EFTS, Oshawa, Ontario, pilot F/S R.E. Farnham died in hospital in Toronto due to injuries from an automobile accident June 10 near Pickering, Ontario, Sgt W.J. Dawson and WO2 K.G. Ruppell, also of #20 EFTS, were badly injured in the same accident. FS Farnham was to have been married on the day he died (CVWM).

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12 RCAF Station Sea Island, BC, F/O R. Pyper died of injuries in hospital after falling off a bicycle on duty.

12-13 Under cover of an RAF bomber attack Free French commandos attacked the airfield of Heraklion on Crete and destroyed 20 Ju 88 aircraft. Two other airfields were planned to be attacked, but one was not in use and Maleme airfield was too heavily guarded. Following the attack the group was betrayed, and further 50 Cretan civilians were executed in Heraklion (wikipedia).

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 into the sea, F/O W.S. Patterson, Sgt A.R. Thomas and Sgt A.N. Urquhart were killed, Sgt G.J. Pearson, AC1 E.R. 'Ted' Watson and F/L C.W. Grant RAF, 233 Sqn., were missing (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 W.H. 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 RCAF (USA).

Sunday

14 210 Sqn. Catalina VA729 "P for Polar" took off for Spitsbergen where it picked up

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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).

14 260 Sqn. Kittyhawk Ia 'T', F/S J.F. Edwards claimed a Bf 109 probably destroyed and a second damaged flying protection for the VIGOROUS convoy (Shores, Massimello, Guest, Olynyk and Bock; Shores, Massimello V.2). See June 17, below.

14 272 Sqn. Beaufighter Ic T4867 XK-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 Sgt K.J. Garrett RAF missing (D. Newton; Shores, Massimello, Guest, Olynyk and Bock).

14 801 Sqn., *HMS Eagle,* Canadian built Sea 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).

14 415 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 descending in poor visibility 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 (losses.internationalbcc.co.uk). (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).

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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).

Two ships were reported sunk by 407 Squadron off Den Helder, Netherlands (A. Thomas).

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 Soviet 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 defensive since the summer thaws but were forbidden to retreat, are pinched out by German forces (Oxford). Starvation of the nearly surrounded forces was key in this, with Luftwaffe destroying supplies trying to access the cut-off forces on a narrow corridor, and interdicting night transportation flights (Bergström & Mikhailov V.2).

Off Virginia Beach, Virginia, U-123 sank 2 freighters in full view of holiday crowds on the beaches (M. Milner).

#135 (F) Sqn. RCAF formed at Mossbank, Saskatchewan, on Hurricane XII aircraft (RCAF Sqns.).

15 69 Sqn. Baltimore AG699 left Malta on a shipping patrol and was lost, F/S A. Greaves RAAF killed, Sgt W.E. Fincham, Sgt F.W.A. Baum RAF and Sgt R.T. Purslow RAF were taken PoW (A. Storr). Sgt Purslow died in December 1943 of natural causes as a PoW (www.rafcommands.com). The nearly intact wreck of this aircraft was re-discovered off the Island of Linosa, close to Sicily, in 2016.

15 112 Sqn. Kittyhawk I AL192 slightly damaged by flak over the desert, F/O J.M.S. Crichton safe (http://raf-112-squadron.org/planelosses.html). See June 16, below.

15 274 Sqn. Hurricane IIc damaged in a fight with Italian MC.202 fighters, P/O W.A.G. Conrad safe (Shores, Massimello V.2). See June 16, below.

15 91 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AR370 lost on a shipping reconnaissance near Dieppe, F/S E.E.

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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, first as an OTU aircraft for training, then as a maritime patrol bomber (Griffin CMA). The Ventura had originally been ordered by the RAF to replace the Blenheim as a fast 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.

16 145 Sqn. Spitfire Vb (possibly Vb (Trop.) AR284), F/O H.J. Phillips RAF (Can.) damaged a Ju 88 over North Africa (Shores, Massimello V.2). See July 10, below.

16 274 Sqn. Hurricane IIc BN676, F/L W.A.G. Conrad claimed a probable Bf 109 near Tobruk (Shores, Massimello V.2). See June 17, below.

16 274 Sqn. Hurricane IIc BE689, F/L G.C. Keefer claimed a Bf 109 near Tobruk (Shores, Massimello V.2). See June 17, below.

16 121 (Eagle) Sqn. Spitfire Vb W3841 lost on a RHUBARB over Belgium attacking a train, F/L J.J. Mooney Purple Heart (USA) RCAF (USA) killed (V. Haugland; www.americanairmuseum.com).

16 404 Sqn. Blenheim IV V5765 flew into the ground during target practice killing Sgt D.W. Campbell, Sgt J.I. Mair and AC1 W.F. Dunbar RAF, Sgt L.D. Cooper injured (404 SH; www.rafcommands.com).

16 #1651 CU Stirling I N6088 LS-X caught fire in the air and partially broke up before crashing while on a cross country exercise, F/S H.L. Johnson, Sgt R.P. Broadbridge RAF, Sgt R.G. Le Blanc RAF (France), Sgt E.W. Morris RAF, Sgt J.T. Smith RAF, P/O M.R. Scansie RNZAF, F/S J.B. Tomlinson RAF and Sgt D.B. Robinson RAF killed.

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16 #13 SFTS, St. Hubert, Quebec, Harvard II #3090, was on a night cross country navigation flight to Ottawa and return, but crashed, lost, at Ragged Lake Mountain near Malone, NY, USA, WO2 V.D. Legacy and LAC(P) J.C.H. Theoret killed (R.W.R. Walker). One of four Harvards from a flight of nine that came down in the USA on this night, all in the same region (heritage.canadiana.ca). 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 #13 SFTS, St. Hubert, Quebec, Harvard II #3092 came down near Malone, New York State, USA, P/O R.A. Thomson was killed, LAC R.V. Sanders slightly injured (heritage.canadiana.ca).

16 #13 SFTS, St. Hubert, Quebec, Harvard II #2931 came down near Malone, New York State, P/O E.A. Wilson injured and LAC(P) J.E. Desloges badly injured (heritage.canadiana.ca).

16 #13 SFTS, St. Hubert, Quebec, Harvard II #3109 came down near Malone, New York State, F/S E.H. Shum badly injured and LAC(P) R.J. Lacerte slightly (heritage.canadiana.ca).

16 #17 EFTS, Stanley, NS, Finch aircraft force landed after an engine failure, LAC(P) R. Brady safe (*Great Little Biplane, Airforce Magazine*, 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 7 Sqn. Stirling I R9324 MG-X shot down over France by a night fighter, Sgt L.C. Fenton RAF, P/O D. White RAF and F/S T.W. Rayment RAF killed, F/L H.H. Haszard RAF, Sgt K.R. Cooper RAF, Sgt J.S. Duckworth RAF and Sgt J.E. Thomas RAF PoW, F/S T. Templeman evaded.

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 35 Sqn. Halifax II W1117 TL-S shot down over Germany by a night fighter, F/S A.E. Hammond, Sgt G.W. Brown RAF, Sgt R.E. Gay RAF, Sgt C.F. Goode RAF, Sgt J.R. Jones RAF and Sgt S.H. Woolley RAF killed, F/S M.W. Brown PoW.

16-17 102 Sqn. Halifax II R9530 DY-J shot down off Holland by a night fighter returning to England, 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 (www.baaa-acro.com). Most of this crew had survived an emergency landing May 19-20,

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above.

16-17 102 Sqn. Halifax II W7651 DY-M attacked by a night fighter and exploded over Holland, WO1 W.R. Davies, F/S F.G. Peebles, Sgt D. Hanlon RAF, Sgt E. Jackson RAF, Sgt H. Smith RAF killed, P/O J.E. Sumpton, Sgt I. Duncan RAF and P/O E. Lloyd RAF missing.

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. LeBlanc, 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 X3723 VR-H shot down by a night fighter into the sea off Holland, P/O F.R. Donnison, P/O A.H. Harris and F/S H.A. MacDonald killed, F/S E.N. Costigan and F/S J.T. Hunter missing. P/O Harris had been injured in the crash of a #23 OTU aircraft Aug. 13, 1943.

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 Düsseldorf 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 DFMs (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.

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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, Newfoundland, or other countries (R. Steacy). This was due in part to the fact that the USA, while able to co-ordinate it's military with other countries abroad, had never envisioned a situation when it would request foreign assistance to defend it's possessions in North America, and it's 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).

U-202 lands 4 German agents near Jacksonville, Florida, but fishermen discover them, and they are captured by FBI agents (E. Wiberg).

17 260 Sqn. Kittyhawk I ET585 damaged by a German fighter over the desert and crash landed at it's base on return, Sgt J.S.E.M. Bernier safe (Shores, Massimello V.2). See September 2, below.

17 260 Sqn. Kittyhawk Ia 'S', F/S J.F. Edwards had damaged a Bf 109 (later confirmed destroyed), but was separated from his flight when he saw another Bf 109 at low level and took a quick deflection shot before departing, for which he made no claim (J.F. Edwards and J.P.A.M. Lavigne; Shores, Massimello V.2). See F/L Conrad, 274 Sqn., below, and July 5, below.

17 274 Sqn. Hurricane II BM967, F/L W.A.G. Conrad, shot down by a Bf 109 fighter in the desert flown by Oblt O. Schulz as his 51st victory, who was known for always ensuring aircraft he claimed were destroyed. When the Hurricane did not burn he and his wingman came back to strafe it (not knowing F/L Conrad was taking cover

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under the nose) when he was hit by F/S Edwards deflection shot and crashed into the ground, F/L Conrad safe (J.F. Edwards and J.P.A.M. Lavigne; Shores, Massimello, Guest, Olynyk and Bock; Shores, Massimello V.2). See June 26, below.

17 274 Sqn. Hurricane IIc BE689, F/L G.C. Keefer claimed a MC.202 damaged in North Africa (Shores, Massimello V.2). See July 10, below.

17 125 (Newfoundland) Sqn., Beaufighter IIf R1318 crashed, P/O P. Gruchy RAF (Nfld.) and Sgt F. Whyte RAF killed (www.rafcommands.com; CWGC).

17 #24 OTU Whitley V BD358 stalled and crashed while landing, Sgt A.F. Alcock, F/S W.T. Rushton RAF, P/O L. Rowlinson RAF, Sgt G.E. Hibben RAF, Sgt E.M. Taylor RAF, LAC H.G. Foot RAF and AC2 Murray RAF killed, Sgt V.G. Harris RAF injured.

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, LAC(WAG) R.T. Lippincott RCAF (USA) slightly injured (heritage.canadiana.ca; CVWM).

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).

Having failed to destroy the docking facilities at Murmansk or interdicting the rail line leading south the Luftwaffe began bombing residential areas of the port, which left most of the town destroyed in the month that followed, and the loss of virtually all of its defending fighters. Strong anti-aircraft artillery kept the port and it's facilities open, however (Bergström & Mikhailov V.2).

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18 113 Sqn. Blenheim IV Z7892 flew into ground in poor weather on a sortie to bomb Myitkina in Burma (www.rafcommands.com). 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).

18 250 Sqn. Kittyhawk I damaged by flak over North Africa, Sgt G.W.A. Troke safe (Shores, Massimello V.2). See June 20, below.

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 C.A. Howard RAF and Sgt R.J. Shelley RAF injured (www.rafcommands.com).

18 415 Sqn. survivor of Hampden AT240, P/O F.H. Mahn RCAF (USA), shot down June 4, was picked up alive after 2 weeks adrift in a dinghy in the North Sea. P/O Mahan lost both his legs but returned to flying, but not operationally. There is an account of his survival in the Squadron History, *Swordfish-The Story of 415 Squadron*. See March 5, 1946.

18 #14 OTU Hampden I AT223 crashed short of the airfield after an engine failed on approach, Sgt R.G. Allan, Sgt L.E. Thorneycroft, P/O R.H.G. Boosey RAF and Sgt B.S. Braybrook RAF injured (www.rafcommands.com).

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 unknown unit, AC2 A.J. Botcher RAF died in hospital in Middleton, Nova Scotia, of natural causes (Dakota www.rafcommands.com).

18-19 Bomber Command sends 65 GARDENING sorties to France and Holland, 1 loss (BC War Diaries).

18-19 408 Sqn. Hampden I AT189 EQ-G crashed in France on a GARDENING sortie, P/O S.J. Beranek, Sgt A.E.C. Squire RAF, Sgt E.V. Conwell RAF and Sgt D. Haddock RAF killed (H. Moyle). Sgt Conwell had been injured March 26, above, in the loss of another 408 Squadron Hampden.

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

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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.

A Fi 156 Storch liaison aircraft carrying the plans for Operation BLAU, the main German offensive against the Soviet Union in 1942, crossed the front lines lost and was shot down, both crew killed. Despite this the planning was too large to change, and the attack plan was not altered (Bergström, Dikov & Antipov V.3). See June 28, below.

19 5 Sqn. India, Mohawk IV AR641 and BJ534 collided in mid-air, P/O T.J. Trimble bailed out and safe from AR641, Sgt E.W.J. Blake RAF missing in BJ534 (D. Hagedorn & A. Tincopa; (www.rafcommands.com)).

19 142 Sqn. Wellington IV suffered an engine failure on a night flying test flight making an overshoot from a landing, and was damaged when it ran out of runway and ran through a hedge, Sgt B.E.B. Luckman RAF was slightly injured, Sgt D.C. West, Sgt I.D. Lowther RAF, Sgt D.L.F. Toombs RAF and passenger Sgt D. Hannah No. 1 Parachute Battalion safe (bac-lac.gc.ca). See July 26-27, 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 during a rainstorm, killing AC1 P. Miller and Sgt C.F. Schwan (CVWM).

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

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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.

19-20 101 Sqn. Wellington III X3669 SR-H believed lost at sea off Holland, F/S N. MacDougall, Sgt F.J. Keen RAF, P/O G.E. Sheppard RAF and Sgt J.W. Williams RAF killed, Sgt W.R. Payne RAF PoW.

19-20 101 Sqn. Wellington III X3668 suffered an engine failure outbound from England. Pilot Sgt D.P. Roberts managed to return and land safely on one engine, P/O A.A. Castle (RAF?), Sgt J.C. Jaggers RAF, Sgt W. Matheson RAF and Sgt W.E. Murray RAF safe (bac-lac.gc.ca). See July 21-22, 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-26 *in an attempt to destroy the radio detection station they believed was installed there (B. Coyle).

South of Vancouver Island the Japanese submarine* I-25 *torpedoed the Canadian built* Fort Camosun *on its first voyage. The corvettes* HMCS Edmunston *and* HMCS Quesnel *answered the distress call, arriving the next morning and picking up the survivors. The ship was carrying lumber and this kept it from sinking. The* I-25 *had returned to the site of the attack, but was detected and engaged by the* Quesnel *without result. Later joined by* HMCS Vancouver *and the USN* Y-994 *the* Fort Camosun *was kept afloat until salvage tugs arrived, and it was towed back to port and repaired (B. Coyle). On her second voyage carrying timber to England the* Fort Camosun's *convoy was attacked by U-boats, and the ship was bombed but missed off England (wikipedia).

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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.

20 250 Sqn. Kittyhawk I AK640 crash landed in North Africa, Sgt G.W.A. Troke safe (Shores, Massimello V.2). See June 26, below.

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 #2 SFTS, Trenton, Ontario, Harvard IIb #3111 crashed north of Brockville, Ontario, on a local and aerobatic flight, LAC(P) W.C. Oquendo RCAF (USA) killed (CWGC; heritage.canadiana.ca). The crash-site was not found until June 26, the search having concentrated on an oil slick noted in Rideau Lake which turned out to be a sunken boat (heritage.canadiana.ca).

20 #2 SFTS, Trenton, Ontario, Harvard II #2914, LAC(P) H.S. Schleifer, became lost on a solo cross country exercise and overturned making a precautionary landing at Ferme Neuve, Quebec (heritage.canadiana.ca). Repaired this aircraft was in service post-war with the RCAF until 1960 (R.W.R. Walker).

20 #5 Manning Depot, Lachine, Quebec, LAC E.F. Allan died by drowning (bac-lac.gc.ca).

20-21 407 Sqn. Hudson IIIa FH346 RR-A lost off the Dutch coast on a shipping attack, Sgt L.L. Aikenhead and Sgt A.S. Bennett RAAF killed, P/O P.C. Little and Sgt T.M. Duffy RAAF missing. See http://www.626-squadron.co.uk/willem34.htm for details on the crew.

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 7 Sqn. Stirling I W7472 MG-C shot down off Holland by a night fighter, P/O J.R. Heslop, F/L A.W. Bevan RAF, Sgt J.H. Williams RAF and Sgt A. Cadden RAF killed, Sgt R.N. Parham, P/O B.A. Trapp, P/O E.D. Calvert RAF and Sgt G.B. Granshaw RAF missing.

20-21 9 Sqn. Wellington III X3713 WS-J 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

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P/O A.V. Brooke RAF killed (losses.internationalbcc.co.uk). W/C James had just been made the Squadron commanding officer.

20-21 76 Sqn. Halifax II MP-F W1114 shot down by a night fighter over Holland, P/O H. Norfolk RAF, Sgt W.H. Charlesworth RAF and F/S E. Salway RAF killed, P/O E.A. White, Sgt H.D. Jones RAF, Sgt R.W.F. Painter RAF and Sgt D.S. Smith RAF PoW.

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.

20-21 420 Sqn. Hampden I AT185 PT-A shot down off the coast of Holland by a night fighter, F/S G.H. Ellis and P/O H.G. Waddell RAAF killed, F/S B.D. Nidelman and Sgt L.G. Still RAF missing.

Sunday

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 as the port they captured stockpiled fuel, huge quantities of supplies and vehicles, including 2,000 CMP (Canadian Military Pattern) trucks, which the Germans desperately needed and helped rejuvenate the Afrika Corps logistics (A. Beevor; **Legion Magazine** ***March/April 2021). 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 #235 AMES (radar unit) captured at Tobruk, F/O F.E. Heney, F/O L.R. Forster RAF, AC V.F. Holford RAF, P/O L.N. Vaudin RAF and AC H.O. Williams RAF taken PoW (UK National Archives).

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.

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21 #24 OTU observer F/S H.R.N. McCormick 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 Central Gunnery School Hampden I P2084 had the hydraulics fail on approach to land and was damaged landing wheels up, F/S G.C. Goold, P/O M.G. Wilson, F/S J.E. Blair RAF, F/S A.K. Cox RAF and F/S E.H. Noxon RAF safe (bac-lac.gc.ca). Please see September 16-17, below.

21 #6 SFTS, Dunnville, Ontario, Harvard II #2555 crashed near the airfield at the Bell Aircraft plant, Tonawanda, New York, USA, while possibly engaged in unauthorized low-flying and stunting, killing LAC(P) H.E. Connors RCAF (USA) (www.rcafmuseum.org).

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* I-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).

21-22 460 Sqn. RAAF Wellington IV Z1383 UV-D believed shot down GARDENING off France, Sgt J. Moores RAF (Nfld.), F/S R.J. Buckingham RAAF, Sgt R.G.M. Roget RAAF, Sgt F.R. Martin RAAF and Sgt W.S. McQueen RAAF killed.

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 IIb HL723 lost at sea from England, F/S E.E. Rathwell killed (www.rafcommands.com). F/S Rathwell had been injured in a car accident August 15, 1941 near his base at #6 SFTS, Dunnville, Ontario.

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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 flown by LAC(P) R.D. Anderson when flying in formation and crashed near St. George, Ontario, Sgt T.B. Wolch killed (heritage.canadiana.ca).

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 shot down by a night fighter 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 have no known grave (www.baaa-acro.com).
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.
22-23 218 Sqn. Stirling N6078 HA-P shot down over the North Sea by a night-fighter, WO2 J.S.D.B. Gosselin, F/S A.H. Gudgeon, F/S A. Stelman, Sgt J.F. Baxter RAF, Sgt E.V. Davey RAF, Sgt R. Wigham RAF and P/O R.W. Medus DFC RAF missing (asn.flightsafety.org).

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 <+I, 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 39 Sqn. Beaufort Ia DD976 shot down by anti-aircraft fire attacking shipping off Italy, P/O W.F.B Griffiths RAF and Sgt H.H. Watson RAF killed, F/O T.H. Gardiner and

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Sgt E. Mullin RAAF PoW, (powellrivermuseum.ca A Record of Service; R. Hayward, Mark Horan, *The Malta Beauforts-RAF Beaufort Operations June 23, 1942*; www.rafcommands.com).

23 #2 AFU Oxford II V3585 and I R6075 crashed after a mid-air collision, Sgt W. Burnside was killed in V3585, and Sgt R.F. Snell RAF killed in R6075 (www.rafcommands.com).

23 #23 OTU Wellington Ic X3172 crash landed 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 #33 ANS, Hamilton, Ontario, Anson I #6767 crashed, Cpl C.J. Campbell RAF, Sgt E.F. Doughty RAF, F/L J.O.D. Kellow RAF, LAC H. Preston RAF and LAC J. Watson RAF killed.

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 9 Sqn. Wellington III X3423 WS-X crashed in England returning from a operation over France, F/S F.H. Eubank, Sgt A.B. MacDonell, F/S G.A. Morley and Sgt J.D. Kingdon RAF killed, Sgt P.J. Georges RAF injured (www.rafcommands.com; losses.internationalbcc.co.uk).

23-24 103 Sqn. Wellington Ic DV831 PM-R shot down into the sea off Holland by a German night-fighter on a GARDENING sortie, F/S G.C. Evans, Sgt S.J. Vickery RAF, Sgt J.W. Moss RAF, Sgt H.E.A. Willey RAF and Sgt E.W. Baker RAF missing (losses.internationalbcc.co.uk).

23-24 418 Sqn. Boston III Z2171 shot down by flak near Amsterdam on a night INTRUDER over Holland, F/S J.A. Foran, P/O T.E.E. Keyes and F/O R. White killed (John Larder www.rafcommands.com; www.baaa-acro.com).

23-24 420 Sqn. Hampden I AD786 PT-L suffered an engine failure and 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 (www.baaa-acro.com). 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 MP-D was on a training flight when it collided with a #1516

www.bombercommandmuseumarchives.ca

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 (losses.internationalbcc.co.uk). Many of this crew including WO2 Roberts had survived the loss of a Halifax Nov. 30-1, 1941 and again June 3-4 above.

24 400 Sqn. Tomahawk AH861, P/O D.G. Burlingam, was doing authorized low flying and damaged a wing when he ran into a tree (bac-lac.gc.ca). See Aug. 19, below.

24 415 Sqn. Hampden I AT242 GX-F shot down on a torpedo sortie to the Frisian Islands, F/S H.A. Clarson, F/S G.D. Klarner, WO2 J.A. Ridley and F/S R.W. Veit missing (H. Moyle).

24 #23 OTU Wellington Ic L7891 crashed in England after it's dinghy deployed on a training flight and fouled the controls, F/S C.G. MacDonald, P/O L.G. Morrison, P/O C.D. Chant RAF, P/O A.W. Smith RAF and Sgt F.W. Sims RAF killed. F/S MacDonald's father, Honourary F/L Chaplain G.A. MacDonald, also died in RCAF Service, November 15, 1940 (www.findagrave.com).

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 #5 SFTS Anson II #8257 had an engine fail and force landed in a woods where it was written off from the damage, P/O D.C. Laird and LAC(P) Fleming uninjured (heritage.canadiana.ca). A painting of this accident was the cover of *Legion* magazine June 1988, for an article on the dangers of flying instruction.

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.com).

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 89 Sqn. detachment Malta Beaufighter If X7716 'A', F/O R.C. Fumerton and Sgt L.S. Bing shot down a Ju-87 dive bomber on one sortie, and a Z.1007bis on a second (D. Nicholas).

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

www.bombercommandmuseumarchives.c

Chronology/1942).

24-25 214 Sqn. Stirling I DJ973 BU-A crashed in England on approach to land after turning back from a sortie due to engine problems, Sgt E.H. Brown RCAF (USA), Sgt P.G. Brothers RAF, Sgt G.J. Mugford RAF, F/S W.N. Craig RAF, Sgt H.S. Barker RAF, Sgt D.E. Shrimpton RAF and Sgt R.B. Appleby RAF killed.

Thursday

25 425 Sqn. RCAF formed in England as a Bomber unit (RCAF Sqns.). It was also established as a French speaking unit to encourage support for the war in Quebec.

25 unknown AMES unit, radar mechanic Sgt L.G. Stiff was one of a party of 4 airmen that repaired an abandoned boat in Java and attempted to escape to Australia. They left Java April 5, 1942, but the boat proved unmanageable and kept drifting to the west. P/O P.S. Steward RAF died of exposure followed by Sgt Stiff and both were buried at sea [bac-lac.gc.ca]. The two survivors came ashore at the *Vlakken Hoek* Lighthouse, at Tanjung Chkuhbalambing, Sumatra, on June 26 where LAC K.T.P. Marlow RAF died three days later, and Cpl L.L. Tetley RAF was arrested by the Indonesian police who turned him over to the Japanese Army (J. Heyworth at www.rafcommands.com). Sgt Stiff 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 V.2).

25 250 Sqn. Kittyhawk I AK944 shot down on the Egyptian border escorting bombers, P/O R.E. Hamilton PoW (Shores, Massimello V.2). In September 1943 when Italy surrendered he left his PoW camp and escaped (UK National Archives).

25 10 Sqn. Halifax II W1155 ZA-U stalled on landing and crashed in England on an air test due to a possible technical fault in the controls, F/S D.R. Stewart, Sgt W.J.W. Wiseman RAF, Sgt J.A. Carter RAF, F/O J.G. Mutter RAF and Sgt S.V. Duvall RAF killed in the aircraft and two soldiers manning a searchlight, probably Gunner T.J. Owers RA and Gunner J.W. Kay RA, killed (R. Allenby). P/O D.A. Street was injured. See July 26-27 below.

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 #6 (P)AFU, Oxford II ED172 swung and was damaged landing at night, Sgt R.J. Woodruff safe (bac-lac.gc.ca). See also September 30 - October 1, below.

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. It was quickly repaired and flew the sortie, crew Sgt J.F. Long, Sgt W.E. Mander, Sgt M.L. McCarthy, S/L R.A. Norman RAAF, P/O D.B. McLeod RAAF, P/O A.D.L. Lamont RNZAF, Sgt W.A.

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Lawson RAF and F/S A.D. Heard safe (R. Allenby). See July 26-27 and August 9-10, below.

25 #12 EFTS, Goderich, Ontario, DH.82C Tiger Moth #1279 hit telephone lines and crashed into the Conestoga River near Hawkesville, Ontario, while on a low-flying exercise, F/S L.C. Small killed, LAC(P) J.C. Joly slightly injured (heritage.canadiana.ca).

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 DFC 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 <u>Operation MILLENNIUM</u>, third and last 1,000 Bomber Raid, on Bremen, by 960 Bomber Command and 102 Coastal Command Hudson and Wellington aircraft (including 6 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

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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, WO1 G. Scott missing.

25-26 76 Sqn. Halifax II W7747 MP-G lost without trace, Sgt J.S. Almond RAF (Can.), F/S W.C. Francoeur, F/S J.E. Meyer, Sgt J.McD. Cameron RAF, Sgt A.C. Gasson RAF, Sgt W.J. Mills RAF, Sgt A. Wearmouth RAF and Sgt H. Dronfield RAF missing.

25-26 102 Sqn. Halifax II W7654 DY-Q believed to have come down in the sea, Sgt L. Starbuck RAF killed, P/O R.F. Bradbury, Sgt P.J. Fernie, F/L K.B. Wright RAF, F/S I.G.I. Lewis RAF and Sgt E.R. Taxeira de Mattos RAF missing.

25-26 102 Sqn. Halifax II W7759 DY-L shot down over Holland by a German night-fighter, F/S C.C. Harris, Sgt G.C. Pratt RAF, Sgt V.J.F. Bicat RAF, Sgt T.H. May RAF, Sgt J.P. Hankins RAF and Sgt J.B. Smith RAF missing (asn.flightsafety.org). F/S Harris had survived a force landing of a #102 Conversion Flight Halifax May 11, above. According to H. Welting at www.rafcommands.com the aircraft crashed in Holland, and the crew is buried there as unidentified (page 'Serial number engines', www.rafcommands.com).

25-26 102 Sqn. Halifax II W7746 DY-N was manoeuvring for take-off for operations when it's tail-wheel ran into a hole and broke off, Sgt G.F. Fargher, F/O D.A. Dobson (RAF?), Sgt S.H. Jackson RAF, Sgt K. Marshall RAF, F/S J.B. McCormack RAF and P/O B.G.H. Smith RAF safe (R. Allenby). See September 10-11, below.

25-26 158 Sqn. Halifax II DG225 NP-H ran out of fuel and ditched just off England returning from an operation over Germany, Sgt W.J. Smart, Sgt R.W. Brindley RAAF, P/O L.E. Bradbury RAF, Sgt R. Edlington RAF, Sgt A.J. Fomings RAF, Sgt W. Walton RAF and Sgt R.A. Petherbridge RAF safe. See July 13-14, below.

25-26 158 Sqn. Halifax II W1166 NP-L was attacked by a night fighter that damaged the hydraulics and radio, and knocked the life raft out of it's wing stowage. The crew bombed an alternate target and returned to England, F/S D.M. Blott, P/O E. Johnstone RNZAF, P/O F.S. White RAF, S/L F.P. Hewitt OBE RAF, Sgt F.N. Wright RAF, Sgt D.G. Mogg RAF and Sgt J.S.M. Stewart RAF safe (R. Allenby). See July 26-27 below.

25-26 206 Sqn. Hudson V AM606 VX-S shot down by a night fighter over Germany, coming down offshore on a sandbank, P/O J.C. Watson, W/C H.D. Cooke RAF, F/S G. McGlynn RAF, S/L C.N. Crook DFC RAF and F/S R.A.W. Hubbard RAF killed (R.

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McNeill & H. Welting, www.rafcommands.com).

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 a ASR launch.

25-26 #10 OTU Whitley V AD689 'W' shot down by a fighter 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 (www.baaa-acro.com).

25-26 #11 OTU Wellington Ic R1078 TX-Q shot down over Germany by a fighter, WO2 F.C. Main, 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 #11 OTU Wellington Ic KJ-L shot down by flak over Germany, F/S R.N. Urquhart, Sgt L.A. Mitchell RNZAF, Sgt V.A.B. Falk RNZAF, F/S R. Holden RAF and F/S C.T.R. Matthewman RAF killed.

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 missing.

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 #20 OTU Wellington Ic T2723 ZT-N damaged by a night fighter and shot down into the sea by flak returning from an operation to Bremen, F/S R.C. Marchant, Sgt R.G.A. Brathwaite RAAF and Sgt W.A. Carruthers RAF killed, WO2 N.W. Levasseur and WO2 G.C. Thomson both PoW (asn.flightsafety.org). WO Thomson's brother, P/O J.H. Thomson, had been killed April 26-27, above.

25-26 #21 OTU Wellington Ic X3179 SJ-U lost without trace, Sgt A. O'Quinn RAF (Nfld.), F/S I.F. McManus RAAF, WO J.G. Simpkin RAF, F/S F. Cross RAF and Sgt N.F. Poulton RAF missing.

25-26 #22 OTU Wellington Ic X9701 LT-D ditched off England returning from an operation over Germany, Sgt R. Dempsay, Sgt J.G. Cameron, Sgt G.D. Murray, Sgt G.F.J. Phalempin and Sgt R.W. Davison RAF took to their life raft. See June 30 and Oct. 13-14, below.

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25-26 #22 OTU Wellington Ic X9980 'K' lost without trace, F/S W.H. Gardner, F/S J.C. Hadley RCAF (USA), F/S D.A. Millard, WO2 D.L. Torkelson and F/S A. Yankoski missing.

25-26 #23 OTU Wellington Ic X9875 'D3' believed lost off the Dutch coast, Sgt T.W. Joy RAF and Sgt R.T. Sudbury RAF killed, F/S D.F. Lord, Sgt C.G. Cockayne RAF and Sgt J. Rooney RAF missing. This aircraft had been force landed with an engine out December 16-17, 1941.

25-26 #23 OTU Wellington Ic DV475 BY-G shot down by a night fighter over Holland, F/S J.K. Crossing, Sgt R.A. Chapman RAF, Sgt T.H. Inch RAF, Sgt J.R. Jones RAF and Sgt J. Swales RAF killed. F/S Crossing had been injured March 29, above, in the crash of a #23 OTU Wellington.

25-26 #24 OTU Whitley V Z9441 lost over Germany, P/O J.A. Preston, F/S C.R. Robinson, P/O E.L. Bedford RAF, P/O W.G.W. Lapham RAF and Sgt A.E. Owen RAF killed.

25-26 #24 OTU Whitley V BD266 believed to have been shot down into the sea off Holland by a night-fighter, Sgt W.P. Rixon RAF killed, F/S F.M. Cole, F/S P.C. Omilianouski, P/O S.A. Cheeseman RAF and P/O H.W. Blackford RAF missing. See September 23-24, 1943 (www.baaa-acro.com).

25-26 #27 OTU Wellington Ic R1162 'R' lost without trace, P/O T.F. Lamb, Sgt J.B. Mathers RAAF, Sgt N.H. Cox RAAF, Sgt K.H. Poynting RAAF and Sgt J.M. Synnott RAAF missing.

25-26 #102 Conversion Flight Halifax II V9987 DY-U shot down by flak 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 (www.baaa-acro.com). F/S Duff had been the airman lost for two days near Lake-of-the-Woods when he got lost on a navigation flight to Winnipeg, March 25, 1941. 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.

25-26 #1652 CU Halifax II V9993 GV-U shot down over Holland by a night fighter, F/S I.R. Watson and F/O K.D. Whisken DFC RAF killed, WO2 H.F. Spratt, F/O W.H. Andrews, F/O D.B.E. McKenzie, WO2 R.W. Wagstaff RCAF (UK) and F/S V.A. Martin RAF PoW. See http://www.teunispats.net/fr-wwii.htm for details. W.R. Chorley states F/S Watson may have been from the USA but he was from Montreal, his family later moved to the USA. See July 29-30, 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).

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Soviet attempt to supply forces in Sevastopol lose a destroyer to German air attacks, but a fast cruiser succeeds in landing reinforcements and supplies. The German land attack is gaining some ground through the ports defences but at terrible cost, while the defenders are running out of ammunition and supplies (Bergström & Mikhailov V.2).

First flight of the Grumman F6F (Hellcat) naval fighter.

26 213 Sqn. Hurricane IIc BN128 'K', F/S W.H. Stephenson claimed a Ju 87 damaged over Mersa Matruh (Shores, Massimello V.2). See July 5, below.

26 250 Sqn. Kittyhawk I AK640 crash landed in North Africa after an engine failed on approach to land, Sgt G.W.A. Troke safe (Shores, Massimello V.2). See July 10, below.

26 260 Sqn. Kittyhawk Ia 'P', F/S J.F. Edwards claimed a Bf 109 probably destroyed near Mersa Matruh (Shores, Massimello V.2). See July 5, below.

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).

26 280 Sqn. Anson AX649 crashed in England on a night exercise, F/S E.J. Norwick, F/S I.H. Christison RAAF, Sgt E.R. Brooks Clarke RAF and F/S A. Bell RAF killed (A. Storr).

26 #56 OTU Hurricane I V6985 stalled and crashed at Newburgh, Scotland, making a mock attack on another Hurricane while engaged in unauthorized low-flying, Sgt A.C. Baker RCAF (USA) killed (bac-lac.gc.ca).

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, flown by P/O R. Miller, were uninjured and landed safely (heritage.canadiana.ca). [Note, the records for both these aircraft indicate both were involved in a repairable accident on May 5, 1942, but this is not mentioned in the unit Daily Diary. #3771 served in the post war RCAF and later as a civilian aircraft (R.W.R. Walker).]

26-27 247 Sqn. Hurricane IIc BD231 ZY-E crashed in France on a night INTRUDER attacking a train, WO2 A.R. White killed (C. Rowley, *Dark Knight*, *Flypast*, September, 2021).

Saturday

27 <u>Convoy PQ-17</u> departs Reykjavik, Iceland for Murmansk, USSR, with 36 cargo ships and 1 tanker, and a direct escort of 24 RN and USN warships, plus 5 more in

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close call and 20 more including 2 battleships as back-up. The departure was reported by long-range Fw 200 aircraft which had been monitoring the build-up of the convoy with regular overflights of Iceland (Bergström, Dikov & Antipov V.3).

Withdrawing from Sevastopol the Soviet cruiser **Tashkent** ***was damaged after a 4 hour battle with German bombers. It was towed away, but this was the last attempt to supply the port with large ships. Attempts to use transport aircraft also failed due to the heavy Luftwaffe fighter forces (Bergström & Mikhailov V.2).***

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 Ic Z9028 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 (www.rafcommands.com). See also January 28-29, 1944.

27 213 Sqn., Hurricane, Sgt F.A.W.J. Wilson RAF (Can.) claimed a Ju 87 shot down over North Africa (acesofww2.com). See July 10, below.

27 125 (Newfoundland) Sqn. Beaufighter IIf shot down a Ju 88 (aviation-safety.net).

27 401 Sqn. Spitfire Vc BL756, P/O J.R. Tucker, suffered an oxygen failure at high altitude. P/O Tucker regained consciousness to find the aircraft in a dive, and tried regain control without success, but the aircraft pulled out just above the ground. It was found to have been damaged by stress during the dive and was re-built as a Seafire (bac-lac.gc.ca; allspitfirepilots.org). See July 26, below.

27 415 Sqn. Hampden TB.I P1153 GX-V shot down off the German coast on an anti-shipping strike, F/S L.H. Latimer, WO2 J. McCallum and F/S R.M. Neil killed, F/S H.F. Hasleden missing (H. Moyle).

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. Ritcher died in hospital of natural causes, atrophy of the liver with jaundice (bac-lac.gc.ca). [double entry in TSGNO, under Richer, June 21, and Ritcher, June 27, CWGC says Richer, but his file at Library and Archives Canada confirms 'Ritcher', and died June 27].

27-28 Bremen attacked again by 144 bombers which cause moderate damage to the

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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 61 Sqn. Lancaster I R5615 QR-H lost over Germany, F/S P.W. Gregory RAF (Can.), F/S J.H. Kinch, P/O W.J. Ruddy, Sgt E.R.J. Burrell RAF, Sgt H. Dauncey RAF, Sgt J. Grocock RAF and F/S F. Roe RAF killed.

27-28 97 Sqn. Lancaster I R5675 OF-H shot down over Holland by a night fighter, P/O J.C. Weir, F/O A.W. Friend RAF and Sgt F.E. Mackenzie RAF killed, F/S H. Shrybman, Sgt E.E. Hayward RAF, Sgt S.J. Allen RAF and Sgt N. Nicoll RAF PoW.

27-28 115 Sqn. Wellington III BJ589 KO-X was attacked and damaged by a German night-fighter over Holland and forced to jettison it's bombs. Tail gunner F/S W.A. McCann was killed, Sgt R. Dickie, Sgt C. Parsons and Sgt C. Rowe were injured, and F/L T.L. Sandes RAF was safe (www.rafcommands.com; losses.internationalbcc.co.uk). The aircraft returned to England and was repaired, see December 20-21, below. *Billy McCann Memorial Park* in Transcona, Manitoba is named to honour F/S McCann (www.veterans.gc.ca).

27-28 150 Sqn. Wellington III Z1610 ZN-K shot down by flak over Holland, F/S L.A.M. Cauchy, F/S D. Cranswick, F/S M.A. Fawcett, Sgt A. Nightingale RAF, Sgt G.B. Gane RAF and Sgt L.E. Clarke RAF killed.

27-28 218 Sqn. Stirling DJ974 HA-T shot down by flak just off the coast of Germany, F/S T.C. Parry, Sgt R. Waters RAF, Sgt J.K.L. Heath RAF, P/O H.M. Simon RAF, Sgt J. Armstrong RAF, Sgt G.A. Gow RAF and Sgt F. Dick RAF killed.

27-28 405 Sqn. Halifax II W1110 LQ-C shot down by a night fighter off the coast of Holland, P/O J.H.M. Lacelle, Sgt G.B. Tatham and WO2 G.M. Phillips killed, F/S J.E. Cole, WO1 W.L. Scott, Sgt J.J. Hughes MiD RAF and Sgt S.B. Rowland RAF missing.

27-28 405 Sqn. Halifax II W1175 LQ-Q shot down into the sea off Holland by flak, Sgt M.R. Kleisdorff RAAF killed, F/S J.D. Ailey, F/S W.E.N. Field, WO2 R.C. Fitzgerald, Sgt R.F. Ansell RAF, Sgt A. Danby RAF and Sgt E.O. Smith RAF missing (asn.flightsafety.org). F/S Ailey is remembered in a display at his alma mater Hillcrest High School, Thunder Bay, Ontario (J.R. Kerr).

27-28 415 Sqn. Hampden TB.I AT245 GX-U shot down off the Frisian Islands attacking a convoy on a torpedo sortie, F/S B.A. Dakin, WO2 I.W. Garfin, F/S D. Pearce and F/S V.B. Whelpley killed (www.415sqn.com).

Sunday

28 Major German summer offensive begins, Operation BLAU, 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). If successful

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the advance would continue to the British controlled oil fields in Iran and Iraq as well. The attack opened using classic Blitzkrieg tactics of neutralizing airfields, railways and roads with morning attacks, and close tactical support of attacking ground forces. Soviet forces, although badly hit, had political permission to retreat and re-group instead of allowing themselves to be surrounded (Bergström, Dikov & Antipov V.3).

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 #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 Memphremogog, Vermont, USA, just over the USA/Canada border, killing LAC(P) R.N. Pate.

28-29 Using formations of aircraft to mask the engine noise of assault craft German forces make a surprise amphibious landing at Sevastopol, outflanking and surprising Soviet defenders (Bergström & Mikhailov V.2).

Soviet heavy bombers begin nightly attacks on bridges, communication and supply centres supporting Operation BLAU, including frequent attempts to kill German generals by attacking their headquarters (Bergström, Dikov & Antipov V.3). See July 3-4, below.

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).

With German landings in the port of Sevastopol and ground attacks with heavy dive bomber support, and running out of ammunition, the Soviet defence begins to fail (Bergström & Mikhailov V.2).

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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).

The Canadian schooner* Mona Marie*, enroute from Barbados to Trinidad with empty oil drums, was stopped and shelled, later sinking, by* U-126*, the crew of 8 survived (RCN Chronology; www.uboat.net).

29 175 Sqn. Hurricane IIe 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. F/S McLachlan's brother, Lt D.H. McLachlan of the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada, was also killed in Action in Italy, May 23, 1944.

29 #14 OTU Hampden I AD848 GL-G crashed on a night cross country exercise, Sgt R. O'Keefe RAF (Nfld.), P/O F.F.A. Wood, Sgt T.A. Krome RAAF and Sgt W.A. Robson RAAF killed. W.R. Chorley notes that Sgt Robson had married in Canada before being posted to England.

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 W.B. Blott injured (www.rafcommands.com).

29 #61 OTU Master III W8584 was damaged when the pilot, Sgt J.J. Shea, accidentally activated the undercarriage up system while taxiing (bac-lac.gc.ca). See September 28, below.

29 RAF Swinderby, England, LAC J.E. Morgan was found hanging from a ladder in an air raid shelter. His death was ruled a suicide but this was challenged (www.rafcommands.com).

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 70 Sqn. Wellington Ic Z1170 'O' crashed and exploded taking off from a landing ground in Egypt to attack enemy ground formations, F/S J.H. Gunyon, F/S H.B. Stevens RNZAF, F/S W.H. Rowles RNZAF, F/O W.M. Pugh RNZAF and Sgt L.H. Harrison RNZAF killed, and Sgt N.C. Harrop RNZAF injured.

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).

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29-30 7 Sqn. Stirling I N3706 crashed into the sea off the Island of Borkum, P/O B.A.C. Richards RAF, Sgt A.J. Hamlyn RAF and Sgt S.A. Morison RAF killed, Sgt H.A.T. Watson RNZAF and Sgt R.H. Kelly RAF missing, F/S M.G. Bailey, Sgt L.J. Keatley RAF and Sgt D.A.W. Peachey RAF PoW. See http://www.teunispats.net/fr-wwii.htm for details.

29-30 57 Sqn. Wellington III Z1578 lost without trace, P/O R.J. Jackson, P/O B.A. Miller, S/L J.H. Franks DFC RAF, Sgt P.E. Gartell RAF, P/O P.E. O'Meara RAF and Sgt N. Windle RAF missing. P/O Jackson had been badly injured Dec. 7, 1941, in loss of #22 OTU Wellington T2566.

29-30 57 Sqn. Wellington III BJ612 returning from operations was attacked by a night-fighter, P/O J.W.A. Bustin killed and Sgt C. Gibson RAF wounded (www.rafcommands.com). The aircraft returned safely.

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 G.K. Geddes, F/S E.V. Fulton, Sgt L.R. Davis RAF and P/O M.F. LeBeau RAF were injured, F/L C.M.C. Woodroffe RAF safe (www.rafcommands.com).

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. McIver RAF and Sgt D. Gardiner RAF were picked up by an Air Sea Rescue launch.

29-30 149 Sqn. Stirling I BF310 OJ-H shot down into the IJsselmeer in Holland, P/O C.W. Simmons RCAF (USA), F/O K. White, Sgt W.C. Scarlett RAF, Sgt L.S. Lloyd RAF, Sgt F. Squires RAF, Sgt R.E. Barr RAF and Sgt W.E. Thomas RAF killed.

29-30 405 Sqn. Halifax II W1113 LQ-G shot down over Holland by a night fighter, WO2 J.W. Bell, F/S W.J. Dickinson RCAF (USA), F/S W.J. Harrell RCAF (USA), F/S P.P.A. Oneson, F/S R.T. Adams RAF, Sgt W.P. Beare RAF, Sgt A. Simpson RAF and P/O H.A. Echinn RAAF killed. P/O Echinn served under the name of Chinn. Both he and F/S Bell had bailed out of a 405 Sqn. Wellington II Z8530 April 14-15 above. See http://www.teunispats.net/fr-wwii.htm for more details.

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, F/S 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).

29-30 405 Sqn. Halifax II W7715 LQ-H shot down by a night-fighter over Germany, WO1 W.E. Alcazar RCAF (Trinidad), Sgt L.N. Dearlove, Sgt A.G. McFee, F/L H. Liversidge RAF, Sgt L.H. Bradbrook RAF and Sgt J.E.T. Foot RAF were killed, Sgt J.W. Dumond RCAF (USA) was PoW (www.baaa-acro.com).

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Tuesday

30 After refuelling and resting the Italian long range SM.75GA aircraft leaves Zaporozhye bound for China (H.W. Neulen).

Soviet tanks make a counter attack on the German southern advance into the Caucasus while both sides air forces fight over the battleground, including the first use of Boston light bombers provided under Lend-Lease (Bergström, Dikov & Antipov V.3).

To assist Convoy PQ-17 Soviet bombers begin a series of attacks on German airfields in northern Norway (Bergström, Dikov & Antipov V.3).

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 la Prairie, Manitoba, DH.82C Tiger Moth #5096 crashed at Virden, Manitoba (R.W.R. Walker).

30-1 Except for a few small biplane night bombers all remaining Soviet combat aircraft in Sevastopol are flown out or destroyed (Bergström & Mikhailov V.2).

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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 Ib, 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 ASV 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 (Bykofsky & Larson, wikipedia). To get an idea of how much was shipped to these sites see N. Polunin for his descriptions of Fort Chimo, Coral Harbour and Churchill postwar.

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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).

In exchange for exports of critical ore to Germany Turkey begins receiving Fw 190A-3 fighters in July, which served until 1947 (wikipedia; **Aeroplane Monthly** *July*

2025).

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).

Although outnumbered the Soviet air forces are making a stubborn defence over their ground units in the Don region, allowing them to retreat out of the planned German encirclement. Luftwaffe units are tasked with seeking out and attacking Russian airfields farther behind the line of attack (Bergström, Dikov & Antipov V.3).

Anxious to avoid a street to street battle in the town of Sevastopol by his nearly exhausted troops the German commander orders heavy bomber and artillery attacks that destroy the town. It is occupied that afternoon. Other bombers attack ports in the Black Sea, effectively destroying the remaining Soviet naval, merchant and support vessels there, and preventing evacuation of retreating Russian forces from Sevastopol (Bergström & Mikhailov V.2).

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

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Commonwealth forces) methods and advice (M. Milner). See August 5, below.

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), via Gander.

In Canada sugar rationing starts (CJCA headline).

#127 (F) Sqn. formed at Dartmouth, NS, on Hurricane XIIa 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 IIb BN103 struck trees at low level and crashed into a church on a training exercise, killing F/O S.W. Jamieson (www.rafcommands.com).

1 #21 OTU Wellington Ic X9637 SJ-V crashed in the sea off England on a navigation exercise, Sgt F.D. Schmeltz RCAF (USA) 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 H.H. Harris RAAF, 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

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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 <u>Convoy PQ-17</u> 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).

2 415 Sqn. Hampden I AT235 GX-P lost at sea on a torpedo sortie to Holland, F/S A.K. Farnie, F/S T. Gibbons, F/O G.G.O. James RCAF (UK) killed, F/S G.A. Pearce missing. F/O James had been involved in a fatal ground collision February 23, above.

2 #7 EFTS RAF, England, DH.82 Tiger Moth II T7605 ditched in the Blackbrook Reservoir, Leicestershire, England, F/S J.E. Ratigan was seen to be swimming from the aircraft but drowned (www.rafcommands.com).

2 #14 AFU Oxford II ED154 spun and crashed on an exercise, P/O S.R. Horswill, Sgt F.G. Shears RNZAF and AC2 A.A. Liddinton RAF killed (www.rafcommands.com).

2 #19 EFTS, Virden, Man., DH.82C Tiger Moth #3878 was caught by weather when engaged in dual night flying and flew into the ground descending through mist, crashed, and caught on fire, Sgt H.K. Cox was killed and LAC(P) J.A. Parker was slightly burned trying to pull him from the wreckage (hertiage.canadiana.ca). See February 15-16, 1944.

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 propellor 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 89 Sqn. detachment Malta Beaufighter, F/O R.C. Fumerton and Sgt L.S. Bing shot down two more aircraft, bringing their total over Malta to six (D. Nicholas).

2-3 Bremen attacked by 325 bombers in good visibility which cause moderate

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damage, supported by 24 Blenheim INTRUDERS attacking various airfields, 13 bombers lost (BC War Diaries).

2-3 10 Sqn. Halifax II W1056 ZA-N lost off the Dutch coast, Sgt J.J.F. Martin RAF killed, Sgt H.J. Gill RAF (Can.), Sgt E.J. Lawer RAAF, Sgt D.M. Jones RAF, Sgt R.T.C. Martin RAF, Sgt H.A. George RAF and Sgt O.L. Williams RAF missing.

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 G.E. Mayer RAF PoW (O. Clutton-Brock). P/O Spooner and F/S C.L. Bray had earned their DFMs for their actions January 10-11, above. F/S Bray has been killed April 25-26, above.

2-3 103 Sqn. Wellington Ic DV611 shot down by a night-fighter 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 (www.baaa-acro.com).

2-3 109 Sqn. Wellington Ic AD605 ZP-C shot down over Holland on a Special Duties operation by a night fighter, P/O P.R.V. Sullivan RAAF, WO W.R. Allison RAF, F/S W. Adamson DFM RAF, Sgt R.J. Liversuch RAF and Sgt J.A. Eyers RAF killed, F/S W.J. Garnett and Sgt W.J. Morrison RAF PoW (R. Tebbutt, harringtonmuseum.org.uk).

2-3 214 Sqn. Stirling I BF313 BU-T shot down by a night fighter over Holland, P/O D. Malofie, Sgt E.G. Wilson, Sgt R. Fairhurst RAF, Sgt P.F. Inman RAF, Sgt J.W.C. Underwood RAF, Sgt T.E.L. Palmer RAF, W/C K.D. Knocker RAF and F/S R.H. Ritchie RAF killed.

2-3 218 Sqn. Stirling I N3718 HA-C lost over the sea after sending an SOS, F/S R.J. Anderson, F/S H.E. Magladry, F/S R.F. Noton, P/O G.G. Jeary RAF, Sgt J. Mainwaring RAF, F/S R.E. Pithers RAF and Sgt W.M. Watson RAF missing.

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 26 (bac-lac.gc.ca). 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).

2-3 #2 (O) AFU Anson N5297 flew into high ground in Scotland in cloud on a navigation exercise, F/S W.T. Gale, Sgt J.B. Hall RAF, LAC(BA) J.C. Campbell RAF, LAC(BA)

www.bombercommandmuseumarchives.c

J.A. Wild RAF and AC2(WOP) E. Everall RAF killed (alclark www.rafcommands.com; www.peakdistrictaircrashes.co.uk).

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).

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.

Concerned that Operation BLAU was not meeting his expectations Hitler travelled by train to Poltava to meet with his Generals to decide which direction the attack should take (Bergström, Dikov & Antipov V.3).

Germany and Italy promise to respect Egyptian sovereignty and independence once they have defeated Allied forces there (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).

#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 IIc 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'.]

3 274 Sqn. Hurricane IIc BP326 'T', F/S J.W. Neil damaged a Bf 109 near El Alamein (Shores, Massimello V.2). See July 21, below.

3 #1 SFTS, Camp Borden, Ontario, Harvard II #2648 crashed and burned at Fergusonville, Ontario on an instrument practice flight while engaged in unauthorized low flying, killing LAC(P) A.R. Bonner and LAC(P) J.R. Moody Jr. RCAF (USA) (bac-lac.gc.ca).

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).

www.bombercommandmuseumarchives.c

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). This Hampden was also listed as lost September 4, 1942 with 455 Sqn. (dennis_burke at www.rafcommands.com).

3-4 Being informed of Hitlers presence Soviet heavy bombers attack the rail centre at Poltava seeking to kill him, but his train had been moved to another location (Bergström, Dikov & Antipov V.3).

Bomber Command had 6 Lancasters on GARDENING operations off Denmark with 2 losses (BC War Diaries).

3-4 61 Sqn. Lancaster I R5488 QR-F shot down by flak and came down in the North Sea on a GARDENING operation, P/O R.L. Storey, S/L P.W.M. West DFC RAF (NZ), Sgt E.C. Marshall RAF, Sgt J.W. Morton RAF and Sgt J. Brown RAF killed, Sgt E. Knight RAF and F/O R.W. Komiski RAF missing (www.baaa-acro.com).

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 Sevastopol falls to German attack. The last remaining Russian defenders were forced to surrender. In the original planning for the invasion of the USSR this port was expected to fall within weeks, not a year (wikipedia). Airpower had been key to this success, dropping over 20,000 tons of bombs against the ports and shipping in the last month, but the cost had been very high (Bergström & Mikhailov V.2).

The capture of a bridge over the Don River led to the German forces of Operation BLAU to target Voronzeh as the main attack (Bergström, Dikov & Antipov V.3).

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). S/L A.B. Wheeler RCAF (NZ) of 226 Sqn. was part of this attack (Palmer & Neeven). See February 15, 1944.

www.bomber commandmuseumarchives.c

4 #301 MU, India, Blenheim IV V6465 crashed attempting a forced landing due to fuel mismanagement, P/O J.K. McKechnie died of injuries, Sgt J.A. Shirley RAAF, Sgt B.W. Turner RAF and Sgt R.F. Tyler RAF injured (www.rafcommands.com). P/O McKechnie had crashed Hurricane IIb BG768 in Sumatra Feb. 12, above. P/O McKechnie's brother was G/C W.N. McKechnie GC RAF, a career RAF officer, who was killed August 29-30, 1944.

4 92 Sqn. (attached to 80 Sqn.) Hurricane IIc BN291 'S', P/O W.L. Chisholm claimed a Ju 87 damaged near El Alamein (Shores, Massimello V.2). See July 24, below.

4 213 Sqn. Hurricane IIc BN368 AK-Z shot down in Egypt, P/O D.R. Rehill missing (Shores, Massimello V.2).

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 <u>Convoy PQ-17</u> 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 of 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 the PQ convoys, which at this time were delivering more than half of Lend-Lease supplies to Russia, and this loss represented 10% of all Lend-Lease shipments intended for the USSR for 1942. Cancellation of further convoys denied supplies Russia desperately needed, and as well a plan to send a wing of 6 RAF squadrons of Spitfires and Hurricane fighter bombers by sea to re-enforce the Soviet air defence of Murmansk was called off (Bergström, Dikov

www.bomberscommandmuseumofcanadaarchives.ca

& Antipov V.3).

The prototype Catalina "Guba", still operational in the USSR, is one of the aircraft used to search for the scattered merchantmen.

On the same day returning convoy QP-13 ran into a British minefield off Iceland in error and lost 7 more merchantmen (Bergström, Dikov & Antipov V.3).

Operation RUTTER, a planned attack by Canadian troops with British commandos and US Rangers on Dieppe, commences with embarkation of soldiers in England.

Off Tampico, Mexico, U-129, which had sunk several Mexican tankers off the port, was attacked by an armed Mexican Air Force AT-6B (Harvard) on an anti-submarine patrol (S.A. Flores).

5 33 Sqn. Hurricane IIc BP186 F/L L.C. Wade RAF (USA) claimed a Bf 109 shot down in North Africa (Shores, Massimello V.2).

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.

5 213 Sqn. Hurricane IIc BN136 'S', Sgt W.H. Stephenson claimed a Bf 110 shot down in the El Alamein area (Shores, Massimello V.2). See August 31, below.

5 260 Sqn. Kittyhawk I ET623 HS-E, Sgt J.F. Edwards damaged a Bf 109 over El Daba (Shores, Massimello V.2). See July 6, 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 when a row-boat tipped over, LAC H.G. Little who was also in the boat tried to pull him to shore but was unsuccessful (CVWM).

5 #15 SFTS, Claresholm, Alberta, LAC J. Lockhart drowned in Willow Creek near Claresholm.

5-6 German Army and Luftwaffe commanders hold a celebratory dinner for the capture of Sevastopol in Yalta. Tipped off by partisans Soviet SB bombers attack and interrupt the celebrations (Bergström & Mikhailov V.2).

***Off Cap Chat, Gaspé, U-132 attacks convoy QS-15 from Montreal to Sydney, NS, and sinks three freighters,* SS Dinaric, SS Hainaut *and* SS Anastasios Pateras**

www.bombercommandmuseumarchives.c

(J.W. Essex). Escorting minesweeper* HMCS Drummondville *attacked and badly damaged the U-boat, driving her to the bottom of the river.

Monday

6 City of Voronezh falls to German forces in Russia (Polsson). Heavy fighting in and over the City held German forces there for days (Bergström, Dikov & Antipov V.2). 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 Soviet forces in the war, thus preventing an encirclement (Oxford), which denied one of the aims of Operation BLAU (Bergström, Dikov & Antipov V.2).

In India the Congress Party met for 8 days to discuss their response to the failed Cripps Mission with regard to the 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).

Fighter and bomber aircraft from Mont-Joli took off in the darkness in an attempt to find U-132, losing 1 fighter and pilot from #130 (F) Sqn. (M.-A. Valiquette). 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 PoW (www.rafcommands.com).

6 601 Sqn. Spitfire Vc (Trop.) BR325 was one of flight of 4 that attacked Ju 88 bombers near Daba in North Africa, but were attacked by escorting Bf 109s, and was one of two shot down, WO2 F.H. Belcher PoW (Shores & Massimello V.2; COL BRUGGY at www.rafcommands.com; www.spitfires.ukf.net).

6 185 Sqn. Spitfire Vc BP979 shot down near Malta, F/S E.D. Moye RCAF (USA) missing.

6 260 Sqn. Kittyhawk Ia ET623 HS-E F/S J.F. Edwards claimed a Bf 109 and damaged 2 more over North Africa (Shores, Massimello V.2).

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6 260 Sqn. Kittyhawk Ia ET623 HS-E on a second patrol F/S J.F. Edwards shot down a Bf 109 and damaged another over North Africa (Shores, Massimello V.2). See August 4, below.

6 419 Sqn. Wellington III X3556 VR-L crashed in England attempting a forced landing after an engine failure on a training flight with passengers, P/O R.B. Cowell, F/S S.D. Palmason, aero engine mechanic LAC A.W. Patmore, F/S R.W. Pearson, F/S C.F. Williams, Cpl K.E.V. Denyer RAF, Pfc R.L. Baral USAAF and Pfc D.J. Rudd USAAF killed, P/O A.L. Parnall and Pfc C. Nelson USAAF injured (aircrewremembered.com). See August 31-September 1, 1943.

6 421 Sqn. scores it's 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.

6 #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. See August 16-17, 1944.

6 #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).

6 #1654 HCU Manchester Ia L7496 crash landed when an engine cut on an overshoot, F/S G. Lancey and crew safe.

6 #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*. Both may be correct as the submarine was hunted. The exact details need research.

6 #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 before dawn 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 it's RAF serial, AK915 (R.W.R. Walker). S/L Chevrier had flown in the RAF in the Battle of Britain (http://battleofbritain1940.net), and had served as Aide-de-Camp to the Earl of Athlone, Governor General of Canada, prior to taking command of #130 (F) Squadron (CWGC).

6 #1 Central Navigation School, Rivers, Man., LAC S.F. Moore drowned at the bombing range at Lac du Bonnet. LAC Moore's brother, George Howard Moore, had fought in the Mackenzie-Papineau brigade in the Spanish Civil War and had been killed in October 1938 during the fighting at Aragon (bac-lac.gc.ca; spanishcivilwar.ca).

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6 #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, LAC L.A. Beatty, P/O E.R. Brooks, LAC C.R. Merredew, Sgt D.P. MacLean and P/O J.C. Olson were injured (bcam.net). See July 7, below.

6 unknown unit, LAC S.D. Thurston RAF died in a car accident, Barrifield, Ontario.

6 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 (uboat.net, wikipedia). P/O Howell received a DFC and later transferred to the USN and rose to command an aircraft carrier in the 1960s.

6-7 156 Sqn. Wellington III X3345 shot down into the sea on a GARDENING operation off France, F/S W.G. Roddy, Sgt A.F. Galley RAF, Sgt K.J. Alexander RAF (Trinidad), Sgt J.D.R. Heddle RAF and F/S G.C. Barrie RAF killed (www.baaa-acro.com).

6-7 419 Sqn. Wellington III Z1597 VR-T was returning from a GARDENING sortie off France and crashed in England when it flew into trees descending through cloud, WO1 C.P.L. Brown, P/O I.T.H. Evans, F/S J.M. Ferguson, F/S J.G. Holmes, F/S P.L. Murphy and F/S C.B. Smith killed.

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).

7 21 Sqn. Blenheim IV V5851 crashed in England on a training flight after hitting some trees, F/S F.B.G. Heron, F/S G.D. Maluish and Sgt G.E. Step RAF killed.

7 #21 OTU Wellington Ic T2962 caught fire making an emergency landing on a cross country exercise, Sgt F.H.S. Bush RAF and Sgt R.J. McKean RAF killed, Sgt T.G. Baycroft, Sgt L.C. Baker RAF, Sgt A. Hill RAF and Sgt H.A. Hill RAF injured.

7 #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), in use since 1938 as a training aid. The identity of the submarine was based on photos taken during the initial attack by the Bolingbroke. It is speculated

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that this was a Soviet submarine, possibly engaged on a clandestine mission in US waters (D.D. Bruhn, *Battle Stars for the Cactus Navy*, Berwyn Heights, 2014, ref. in wikipedia). F/S Thomas was recommended for a DFM, but received an MiD for this attack (Awards).

7 #119 (BR) Sqn. Hudson III BW648, WO2 L.E. Fulton, Sgt C.I. Arme, F/S R.K. Gaul and F/S J.H. Wenman, diverted to investigate a shore report of a submarine off Seven Isles (Sept Isle) Quebec. There they sighted a U-boat submerging and attacked the periscope, making what seemed like a good attack (424 SH).

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 F.O. Harrison RNZAF, Sgt L.T.B. Phillips RAF, Sgt R.J. Smart RNZAF and P/O R.F. Watson RNZAF killed, Sgt J.R. Milligan safe (www.rafcommands.com). Sgt P.F. Smith RAF also reported safe from this loss (aircrewremembered.com). 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).

7-8 15 Sqn. Stirling I R9353 suffered an engine failure just after taking off, and made a successful 3 engined landing, Sgt L.J. Blackmore RAF (Nfld.), Sgt D.T. Jeans RAF (Nfld.), Sgt J.L. Sturgess, Sgt P.D. Goodbourne RAF, Sgt R. Helyar RAF, F/S O.P. Marshall RAF, F/S K. McAusland RAF and Sgt T. Shoesmith RAF safe (bac-lac.gc.ca). See August 12-13, below.

7-8 406 Sqn. Beaufighters flown by P/O Harrison RAF, P/O G.A. Lawrence, W/C G.G. Stockdale RAF and commanding officer W/C D.G. Morris DFC RAF (South Africa) shot down five German bombers (Grande, Linden, and Macauley).

Wednesday

8 33 Sqn. Hurricane IIc BP181 shot down by a fighter over the fighting area in North Africa, P/O R.E. Wigle killed (Shores, Massimello V.2; www.33squadronassociation.co.uk).

8 32 Sqn. P/O C.W. Gomm died of shock and exposure after being rescued the previous

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day when his Hurricane IIb Z5256 crashed into the English Channel (www.rafcommands.com). See October 24, 1944.

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 during a sudden rain squall, LAC(P) G.W. Gibson killed (heritage.canadiana.ca). 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, Sgt R.G. Johnston were killed in #8669 and LAC(P) W.C. MacDonald and LAC(P) C.M. Stearns were killed in #8743 (bac-lac.gc.ca).

8-9 69 Sqn. Wellington Ic HX391 took off from Malta on a shipping reconnaissance operation, but had an engine catch fire and made an emergency landing during an air raid, the aircraft was burnt-out, ___ (WAG) J.R. Cameron was one of the crew, all safe (S. Bond).

8-9 148 Sqn. Wellington Ic DV540 FS-G became lost returning from an operation over Tobruk and crash 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 SR-T shot down into the sea by flak 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 (losses.internationalbcc.co.uk).

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. Sgt Frampton had survived the crash of a 102 Squadron Whitley Z6870 September 11, 1941 where he had pulled a badly burned Sgt E.W. Smith from the wreck (R. Allenby).

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.

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Thursday

9 826 Sqn. Albacores in North Africa fly to a landing ground in the desert 250 miles behind the front lines where they meet Bombay transports, and were re-fuelled, to make an attack on Tobruk that night (E. Brown). See Operation CHOCOLATE, November 13, below.

Fairchild Cornell basic trainer, built by Fleet Aircraft Canada, enters service with the RCAF (Griffin CMA).

9 250 Sqn. Kittyhawk II AK771 spun and crashed on take-off in the desert, killing P/O D.A. McMaster (www.rafcommands.com).

9 603 Sqn. Spitfire Vc BP957 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 (www.rafcommands.com). TSGNO states he was from Montreal, but was actually born in Paris, France, and serving in the RCAF, thus the nom de guerre to protect his family [bac-lac.gc.ca].

9 #15 OTU Wellington Ic DV932 landed too long and attempted to overshoot, but stalled avoiding trees and crashed, radar 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 #119 (BR) Sqn. Hudson III BW723 crash landed at Scatarie Island, NS, after an engine failure returning from a patrol (R.W.R. Walker).

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).

9-10 142 Sqn. Wellington IV Z1324 QT-A shot down by a night fighter on a GARDENING sortie and crashed in the North Sea, P/O J.E.H. Emond killed, F/O S.B. Critchison RAF, Sgt W.E. Hudson RAF, Sgt H.S. Stock RAF and Sgt J.C. Skelton RAF missing.

Friday

10 German army begins to advance south from Voronezh taking most of it's Luftwaffe units with it, but heavy Soviet air operations continue over the city, a

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communications hub, which achieve air superiority in the region but with heavy losses. This indicates how thin the Luftwaffe was in the fighting in Russia, strong in support of attacking units but with weak protection of rear areas (Bergström, Dikov & Antipov V.3).

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 55 Sqn. Baltimore II AG795 stalled on take-off on a sortie to bomb enemy transport in North Africa, F/S J.L. Granda, Sgt E.C. Hyde RAF, Sgt N.W. Orr RAF and Sgt F.M. Taylor RAF safe.

10 92 Sqn. detachment attached to 80 Sqn., Hurricane BP511 EY-A shot down over El Alamein by German fighters, one of 6 Hurricanes lost or force-landed on this day, F/S W.F. Kenwood safe (Shores, Massimello V.2). See September 26, below.

10 126 Sqn. Spitfire Vc (Trop.) BR244 lost near Malta, F/S B.W. Reynolds missing. F/S Reynolds brother, F/L J.B. Reynolds, had been killed in England February 18, 1941.

10 145 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AR290(?), F/O H.J. Phillips RAF (Can.) claimed a Bf 109 probably destroyed over North Africa (Shores, Massimello V.2). See October 28, below.

10 213 Sqn., Hurricane damaged in a dogfight over North Africa, Sgt F.A.W.J. Wilson RAF (Can.) returned safe. One week later he flew his last flight in the Squadron before returning to England where he joined the RCAF (acesofww2.com). See May 5, 1944. See May 5, 1944.

10 250 Sqn. Kittyhawk II AK661 shot down in desert, F/O A.A. MacLeod PoW (www.rafcommands.com).

10 250 Sqn. Kittyhawk I ET919 'B' , Sgt G.W.A. Troke shot down 2 MC.202 aircraft off Libya (Shores, Massimello V.2). See October 19, below.

10 274 Sqn. Hurricane BP398 YK-P damaged by German fighters over Egypt, F/S P.G. Hemmer RCAF (USA) wounded (Shores, Massimello V.2). See July 22, below.

10 274 Sqn. Hurricane IIc BF698 YK-J, F/L W.A.G. Conrad damaged an MC.202 near El Alamein (Shores, Massimello V.2). See August 8, below.

10 274 Sqn. Hurricane IIc BN111 YK-D, F/L G.C. Keefer claimed a MC.202 damaged near El Alamein (Shores, Massimello V.2). See July 17, below.

10 58 Sqn. Whitley V Z9522 missing from operations over the Bay of Biscay, F/S P.W.B. Box, P/O P.D. Mosher, Sgt S.A. Curtis RAF, F/O C.W. Harris RAF, Sgt A.S. Hoad RAF and Sgt L.E. Webster RAF missing (A. Storr; CWGC; www.rafcommands.com).

10 418 Sqn. Boston III W8304 lost in the mouth of the Scheldt River on a night INTRUDER

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to Holland, Sgt E.C.L. Jones killed, F/S F. Bradley and Sgt A.S. Douglas RAF (Can.) missing.

10 753 Sqn., HMS Condor, RNAS Arbroath, Scotland, Albacore I N4255 aircraft lost over the North Sea on an exercise, pilot Lt. J.E. Diamond RCNVR, Leading Airman R.W. Markland RN and LA W. McCallum RN missing (www.naval-history.net).

10 #61 OTU Spitfire II P8181 stalled & crashed near the aerodrome, Sgt C.S. Barber killed (www.spitfires.ukf.net; www.rafcommands.com).

10 #10 (BR) Sqn. RCAF Digby #739 'P' 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; asn.flightsafety.org). It is believed that the wreckage had been discovered by hunters several years before but their 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

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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 97 Sqn. Lancaster I R5696 OF-H lost over Poland on an evening attack on Danzig, F/S A.E. Nickerson, P/O R.J. Westgate, Sgt N.L. Smith RAAF, P/O J.N. Eslick RAF, Sgt J. Forsyth RAF, Sgt A.T. Grossmith RAF and F/L C.W. Miller DFC RAF (NZ) killed.

11 105 Sqn. Mosquito IV DK299 GB-S 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 (aircrewremembered.com).

11 403 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AR345 crashed in England after making a dive and climb on Topcliffe airfield on a communications flight, P/O G.F.J. Hoben killed. P/O Hoben had been based at Topcliffe as a pilot on bombers, but had been transferred to Fighter Command when a Spitfire was donated by the Police Association of Ontario, Spitfire Vc BL900 *The Canadian Policeman*, under the understanding that it would be flown by an ex-Policeman. P/O Hoben was an ex-member of the RCMP and the only pilot available in England at the time, so he was allowed to transfer from Bomber Command to Fighter Command, which was rare. The original aircraft was written off in an accident (May 4, above), and it is believed the name was transferred to Spitfire AR345. P/O Hoben was on an authorized solo flight and is believed to have diverted to his old airfield to show off, but something went wrong and the fighter crashed (R. Allenby; bac-lac.gc.ca).

11 #1 (Coastal) OTU Hudson I T9353 was seen to emerge from cloud out of control and crash into the sea off of Scotland, 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; bac-lac.gc.ca)

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 L.E. 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.

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Chalmers RCAF (UK) and Sgt T.L. Roberts RAF killed, Sgt I.M. Thomas RAF badly injured, Sgt H.J. Wigley RAAF, Sgt R.W. Luck RAF and Sgt M.D. Richards RAF slightly injured (aircrewremembered.com).

11-12 148 Sqn. Wellington Ic T2749 'M' 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. Greggs RAF and Sgt L.L. Horseman RAF 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; BLME V.2 Errata).

11-12 Bomber Command sends 49 GARDENING sorties over Denmark and the North Sea, 2 were lost (BC War Diaries).

11-12 101 Sqn. Wellington III BJ583 lost over the North Sea on a GARDENING sortie, F/S A.J. Gerein, F/S G.T. Morris, Sgt R.M. Wilkinson RAF and P/O A.A. Angel RAF killed, F/S P.E.J. Howe missing.

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.).

A Luftwaffe Bf 109F-4 werke number 10132 of JG-5 was shot down by a Soviet fighter near Murmansk escorting a Fw 189 reconnaissance aircraft, Hauptmann Horst Carganico force landed and was picked up the next day by another aircraft. His fighter was salvaged by Soviet forces and displayed in Murmansk, and postwar was used in a Russian film. It is now part of the collection of National Aviation Museum in Ottawa (Bergström, Dikov & Antipov V.3).

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

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23, 1943.

12 80 Sqn. Hurricane IIc BM987 badly damaged in a fight with Bf 109s over El Alamein, WO V.E. Mitchell safe (Shores, Massimello V.2). See July 17, below.

12 405 Sqn. Halifax II W1097 was on a night navigation exercise when it needed to make an emergency landing in Wales. The airfield they could reach was, however, too small and the aircraft over-ran the landing area and was damaged beyond repair, Sgt T.A. Withers Jr. RCAF (USA) injured, F/S H.M. Slezak and the rest of his crew, Sgt J.D. Creede, P/O N.L. Laing, Sgt J.W. MacAulay, F/S A.D. Swansburg, F/S G.R. Titus and Sgt K.S. Watson RAF, safe (www.rafcommands.com; aviation-safety.net). See July 26-27, below.

12 #1 Flying Instructors School RAF, Oxford II N4768 aircraft crashed practicing single engine approaches, F/S J.A. Parkinson killed, Sgt E.T. Porter RAF injured (C. Charland www.rafcommands.com).

12 #14 OTU Hampden I X2974 collided with a #25 OTU Wellington aircraft over England and crashed, F/S G.E. Pickel and P/O M.G. Lees RAF killed, P/O L.G. Lyons RAAF bailed out and survived. See 408 Squadron entries Aug. 28-29, 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 (still marked as ET863) spun in from height and crashed near Woodwards Hill, Surrey, BC, on a test flight, Sgt C.L. O'Hara killed. Structural failure may have been the cause (bac-lac.gc.ca).

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, instructor Sgt J.M. Stevenson badly injured (heritage.canadiana.ca).

12 #45 Group, RAF Ferry Command, Hudson VI FK413 lost from Gander, Newfoundland, Sgt R.E. Wylie, F/L R.D. Crofton RAF and Sgt E.D. Brabender RAAF missing. Weather had forced this aircraft to land in Maine, and again in Nova Scotia, before they reached Gander (CVWM).

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).

12-13 420 Sqn. Hampden I AE390 PT-Z shot down off the French coast on a GARDENING operation, F/S J.A. Thomson and Sgt W.J. Chapman RAF killed, F/S T.J. Hannah and F/S P.E. Bull DFM RAF missing.

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Monday

13 Three ships sunk in the St. Lawrence (CJCA headline). #130 (F) Sqn. redeploys from Mont Joli to Saguenay (Bagotville), Quebec (RCAF Sqns.).

13 38 Sqn. Wellington (Fishington) Ic HF868 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, Sgt D.J. Mole RAF and Sgt A. Mannering RAF safe (www.rafcommands.com; www.findagrave.com). P/O Morgan had been slightly injured Jan. 16, 1941 in an overshot landing at #11 OTU, and ditched a 99 Squadron Wellington October 20-21, 1941. At this time 38 Squadron, formerly a bombing unit, was engaged in night torpedo attacks of ships illuminated by flares by radar equipped Wellingtons (nicknamed 'Goofingtons') (wikipedia).

13 401 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BM650 and Vb BL782 collided in mid-air in a dogfight over France escorting CIRCUS 199, F/S F.A. Duff and F/L J.R.C. Tyre killed (www.spitfires.ukf.net).

13 404 Sqn. Blenheim I K7120 crashed, Squadron commanding officer W/C J.A. Dixon RAF and Sgt A.C. Sallis RAF killed (404 SH; www.rafcommands.com).

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.

13 #20 OTU Wellington Ic N2821 ZT-M, Sgt H.R.W. Whittle RAF suffered power failure on a night navigation exercise over Scotland. One crew bailed out and safe before the aircraft made a forced landing on high ground, crew safe including Sgt M.E. Buechler RCAF (USA) injured and Sgt W.O. Snow safe (bac-lac.gc.ca). See September 16-17, below. The Canadian Virtual War Memorial has an account of this accident on the page for F/S Beuchler.

13 #23 OTU Wellington Ic R1062 crashed in the circuit after taking off from a very rough landing, Sgt G.W. Miller and Sgt R.E. Hawken injured, Sgt R.R. Stover, Sgt G.J. Folks, Sgt J. Law RAF and Sgt G. Moorhouse RAF safe. See March 12-13, April 14-15 and Nov. 3-4, 1943.

13 #101 Conversion Flight, attached from 7 Squadron, Stirling I N6075 SR-W[3] flew into high ground in mist, F/S J.R. Griffin, F/S T.E. Helgesen, F/S J.F. Hirst, F/S L.J. Regimbal, Sgt R.U. Morrison RAF, Sgt J.E. 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) shortly after leaving Anchorage (M.E. Crandall).

13 #111 (F) Sqn. Kittyhawk I AK875 LZ-T ground-looped landing at Naknek, Alaska, F/O R.W. Lynch safe and the aircraft was salvaged (airandspace.si.edu). See notes November 22, 1941.

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.

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Littlejohn RAAF.

13 RCAF Recruiting Centre, Quebec, AC2(WAG) J.A.J.B. Genois drowned while on leave before reporting for training.

13 #31 EFTS, De Winton, Alberta, LAC A. White RAF died in Canada of natural causes (malcolm_raf and paulmcmillan, www.rafcommands.com).

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 W.A. Elliot RAF, Sgt P.M. Jackson RAF, Sgt J.H. Janes RAF, Sgt R.F. MacDonald RAF and P/O D.A. Alexander RAF, were safe (35squadron.wordpress.com).

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! Sgt H.B. MacDonald, and P/O G.F. Freedman RAF injured, P/O J. Baker RAF, Sgt E. Whitter RAF, Sgt J.R. Ely RAF, and Sgt J.E. Jones RAF, were safe (www.rafcommands.com; 35squadron.wordpress.com).

13-14 97 Sqn. Lancaster I R5558 OF-J came down in the sea off the English coast (losses.internationalbcc.co.uk). The local lifeboat rescued Sgt L. Robinson RAF who later died of his injuries, but F/S A.J. McPhee, F/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. Margerison RAF and Sgt R.J.E. Esling RAF PoW.

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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 E. Hayes RAF injured.

13-14 158 Sqn. Halifax II W7753 NP-T shot down by flak over Germany, Sgt W.J. Smart, Sgt R.W. Brindley RAAF, P/O L.E. Bradbury RAF, Sgt E.G. Kendall RAF, Sgt P. Roy RAF, Sgt A.J. Fromings RAF, Sgt W. Walton RAF and Sgt R.A. Petherbridge RAF killed. Most of this crew had survived a ditching June 25-26, above.

13-14 158 Sqn. Halifax II DG227 NP-Q crashed into the sea off the British coast, Sgt C. Craft RAF killed, WO2 G.S. Robb, Sgt E.G. Dodd RAF, Sgt R.G. Fewtrell RAF, Sgt W.J. Maas RAF, Sgt N.W.S. Cantell RAF and Sgt A. Harkness RAF missing.

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, 19th Bombardment Group, Philippines, Pvt E.A. Beaver USAAF (Can.), taken prisoner May 6, above, in Bataan, died as a PoW of malaria in the Cabanautuan Prison Camp (myfallensoldiers.com).

14 33 Sqn. Hurricane IIc BP186 F/L L.C. Wade RAF (USA) claims a Bf 109 shot down and a CR.42 damaged in North Africa (Shores, Massimello V.2). See September 11, below.

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

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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. See October 13-14, below.

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".

HMS Eagle ***launches 32 Spitfires to Malta, 31 arrive safely (D. Newton). Pilots included Sgt N.G. Bryden, Sgt D.J. Hartney, F/S G.A. Hogarth, Sgt J.G. Livingston, P/O J. Lowery RCAF (USA), P/O V.K. Moody, Sgt J.E. Otis RCAF (USA), F/S H.G. Reynolds, Sgt W.S. Shewell, P/O R.I.A. Smith, Sgt C. Weaver III RCAF (USA) and Sgt V.H. Wynn RCAF (USA) (Shores, Cull & Malizia).***

15 8 Sqn. Blenheim IV Z7920 was positioning from Aden to Hargeisa, Somaliland, with the task of making a reconnaissance of Djibouti, French Somaliland, where it was shot down by anti-aircraft fire, killing P/O L.R. Maguire RCAF (USA), F/S F.E. Channon RAAF and Sgt V.P.C. Sennet RAF, and passengers aero engine mechanics AC1 H.L. Sneath RAF (Can.) and Cpl H. Wray RAF killed (A. Storr; www.rafcommands.com).

15 48 Sqn. Hudson IIIa FH378 lost on a patrol off Norway S/L V.A. Pedersen RAF killed, F/S G. Dogue, Sgt T.B. Langoulant RAAF and Sgt T.A. Willis RAAF missing (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,

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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 Ic W5619 missing from a training exercise, F/S M.T. Hammell, F/S W. Kravac, F/S J.A. McMahon, Sgt S.A. Ferry RAF, F/S P.J.D. Pearce RAF and Sgt L.G. Trussell RAF missing (www.rafcommands.com).

15 RAF Ferry Command, Dorval, Quebec, Hudson IIIa 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. Cpl Langevin had remustered to aircrew after a years service as an accounts clerk (bac-lac.gc.ca).

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 BP179 collided with Spitfire BR459 (see below) taking off from LG.154 and crashed in Egypt, P/O E.W. Ollen-Bittle killed (Shores, Massimello V.2).

16 33 Sqn. Hurricane IIc BP186 F/L L.C. Wade RAF (USA) claimed a Ju 88 shot down and shared damage on a second with 4 other pilots including Sgt L.H. Moher in 33 Sqn. Hurricane IIc BP184 'X' over North Africa (Shores, Massimello V.2). See July 20, below.

16 238 Sqn. Hurricane IIb VK-B, P/O J.D. Phelan claims a Ju 87 damaged near El Alamein (Shores, Massimello V.2).

16 601 Sqn. Spitfire Vc (Trop.) BR459 was in a mid-air collision on take-off with Hurricane BP179 at LG.154 in North Africa, killing F/S Q. Di Persio (www.spitfires.ukf.net; Shores, Massimello V.2 [which state serial BR479 in error]).

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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).

16 149 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 #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, struck a chimney 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 DFC and P/O O.J. Eskil) but five were lost, all flying into the sea, ground or mountains on the island of Unalaska. 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), but LAC M.E. Crandall recalled W/C McGregor returned to Cold Bay before their C-47 took off, and they met P/O Eskil at Umnak on arrival (B. Coyle).

16 #121 (K) Sqn. RCAF, Dartmouth, NS, Lysander II #466 crashed into the sea off Goose Bay, near Wedgeport, NS, Sgt L.W. Kerr killed, LAC C.E. Wright missing (bac-lac.gc.ca).

16 #128 (F) Sqn.) Hurricane I #1354 suffered an engine failure and crashed near East Bay, Bras'Dor Lake, NS, after pilot Sgt D.S. Washburn had bailed out (R.W.R. Walker; www.rafcommands.com).

16 #38 SFTS, Estevan, Saskatchewan, Anson II #8502 written off after a crash (CMA). Possibly written-off due to damage in a sudden thunder and hail storm with extreme high winds that struck the airfield on this day, damaging aircraft and buildings (heritage.canadiana.ca).

16 LAC(WAG) J.A. Redner died in hospital of leukaemia after being medically discharged April 1941 (www.rafcommands.com; CVWM). He had been training at #1 Wireless School, Montreal, prior to his illness (bac-lac.gc.ca).

16 unknown unit, AC2 A. Gordon RAF died in Canada, no details.

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16-17 148 Sqn. Wellington Ic HX400 failed to return from an operation to Tobruk, shot down while illuminating the target area, P/O M.A. Bennetto, F/S H.J. 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 (bac-lac.gc.ca). Sgt Bennetto, Sgt Drake, Sgt Griffiths and Sgt Parker had walked out from a crash landed Wellington May 29-30 above.

Friday

17 In southern Russia Hitler, dissatisfied with the results of Operation BLAU, fired the commanding General and assumes direct command. He orders the advance to head south to meet German forces instead of crossing the Don River. This gave Soviet forces time to reinforce Stalingrad and is considered one of the great blunders of the war (Bergström, Dikov & Antipov V.3).

In the Windward Passage west of Haiti* U-658 *made two torpedo attacks on convoy PG-6, damaging the freighter* Laguna *and sinking the freighter* Samir *and the Canadian built* Fort la Reine *on it's maiden voyage from Vancouver to England with grain, lumber and general cargo, killing 3 of the 44 crew (www.uboat.net).

#123 (F) Sqn. RCAF deploys from Sea Island to Patricia Bay, BC (RCAF Sqns.).

17 80 Sqn. Hurricane IIc BM984 'Z' shot down by Bf 109s over El Alamein, WO V.E. Mitchell PoW (Shores, Massimello V.2).

17 274 Sqn. Hurricane IIc BE487 YK-F, F/L G.C. Keefer claimed a Bf 109 damaged near El Alamein (Shores, Massimello V.2).

17 185 Sqn. Spitfire Vb (Trop.) BR292, Sgt C. Weaver III RCAF (USA) shot down a Bf 109 over Malta (acesofww2.com).

17 400 Sqn. Mustang I AG591 was damaged when it was parked in a dispersal on a slope with the parking brake unlocked, and a few minutes later rolled backward into a fence, F/L J.F. McGrath was reprimanded, although the report on the accident noted there was no way to ensure the brakes were locked from outside of the cockpit [bac-lac.gc.ca]. See July 21, below.

17 #1 Staff Pilot's Training Unit, RAF, Anson I R9640 flew into high ground on the Isle of Man 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 #10 OTU Whitley V BD223 written off in a night landing accident, WO2 D.H. Thompson and his crew safe. See Sept. 26, below, and May 27-28, 1943.

17 #14 SFTS, Aylmer, Ontario, Yale #3379 struck and heavily damaged on ground by Harvard IIb #3067 and written off (M.L. McIntyre).

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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 fighters 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.

18 274 Sqn. Hurricane IIc Z5064 force landed in the desert after being damaged in a fight with German and Italian fighters, Sgt T.B. Hamilton safe (Shores, Massimello V.2). See August 8, below.

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 #2 ITS, Regina, Saskatchewan, AC2 W.J. Grant died, no details. AC2 Grant had been considered for aircrew training but was discharged April 1941 as medically unfit due to high blood pressure [bac-lac.gc.ca].

18 #32 SFTS, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Harvard II #2727 crashed, P/O F. Biver RAF killed.

18-19 Soviet air forces send 75 bombers to attack Königsberg, but they run into heavy cloud and icing. Only 2 people injured on the ground by scattered bombs (Bergström, Dikov & Antipov V.3).

Sunday

19 German Army units reach the Don River in Russia. Russians abandon Voroshilovgrad (CJCA headline).

With success apparently on every front Hitler gave orders for the 'final attack' on Leningrad on this date (Bergström, Dikov & Antipov V.3).

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. House of Commons holds a secret session to discuss the U-boat campaign (CJCA headlines).

19 126 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BP861 shot down over Malta, F/S J.E. Otis RCAF (USA) killed (www.rafcommands.com).

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 was seen to come down in the sea on a cross channel

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sweep, 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 RAF killed (tomthorne83, A. Smith and H. Welting at www.rafcommands.com).

19 #5 Glider Training School Hotspur II HH232 crashed in England, F/S J.G. Fruchtl RCAF (USA) killed, Sgt J. Haddock RAF injured (www.rafcommands.com).

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 L.A. Caddell injured (www.rafcommands.com). 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 was a Guinea Pig and his recovery is detailed in R. Donovan's book *As For The Canadians*. (Note Ms. Donovan states Sgt Caddell was injured in April, 1943).

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 #3 Bombing & Gunnery School, MacDonald, Man., equipment assistant LAC W.L.B. Walsh died of injuries from accidentally falling through a window during party for the marriage of a fellow airman in Winnipeg, Man.

19 RCAF Station Rockcliffe, Ontario, pilot F/S J.B. Sorley drowned while swimming at Brittannia 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 10 Sqn. crew on loan to 102 Sqn. in Halifax II W1106 ZA-A lost without trace, F/S W.G. Gibson, P/O E.E.E. Johnstone, F/S F.W. Stewart, P/O J.S.V. Fegan RAF, Sgt A.J. Beattie RAF, Sgt C. Atchison RAF and Sgt F.G.A. Bick RAF missing.

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 M.W. Atkinson, Sgt W.C. Bacon RAF, P/O W.G.M. Rothschild RAF and Sgt J.P. Van Lelyveld RAF (S. Rhod.) were injured, Sgt J. Davey RAF safe (R. Allenby). See October 1-2, below.

19-20 158 Sqn. Halifax II W1179 NP-S lost off Holland, shot down by a night-fighter, F/S W.M. McLachlin, Sgt J.K. Paton RAAF, P/O H.J. Skelly RAF, Sgt D.G. Jillings RAF, Sgt R.J. Smith RAF and Sgt J.R. Rennie RAF killed, Sgt F.H.G. Simkins RAF missing (aviation-safety.net).

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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 IIc BE134 shot down over Egypt, WO2 L.H. Moher bailed out of the aircraft but died of injuries in an Australian Ambulance Unit (Shores, Massimello V.2).

20 112 Sqn. Kittyhawk I AK667 GA-G damaged over El Alamein and the pilot, Sgt R. DeBourke RCAF (USA), walked back from his force landing (http://raf-112-squadron.org/planelosses.html; Shores, Massimello V.2). See Nov. 1, below.

20 250 Sqn. Kittyhawk I AK960 'X', P/O R.I Baldwin, claimed an MC.202 damaged over Fuka, Egypt (Shores, Massimello V.2).

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 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.

German Luftwaffe begin attacks on Rostov (Bergström, Dikov & Antipov V.3).

Hitler orders an offensive in the far north from Finland to cut off Murmansk and it's

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railway from the rest of Russia (Bergström, Dikov & Antipov V.3).

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 from complications of dysentery and following an operation (bac-lac.gc.ca).

21 274 Sqn. Hurricane II BD750 'W' force landed in the desert, possibly due to flak, Sgt W.S. Howie RCAF? safe (Shores, Massimello V.2). See July 22, below.

21 274 Sqn. Hurricane II BE685 'T' force landed in the desert, possibly due to flak, F/S J.W. Neil safe (Shores, Massimello V.2). See July 22, below.

21 35 Sqn. Halifax II R9489 TL-T crashed in England on an air test after a rudder overbalance in a steep turn, WO2 W.W. Craig, F/S H.R. Giddens, Sgt T.C. Murray RAF, Sgt A.T. Wharfe RAF, Sgt P.M. Thurgood RAF, P/O H. Hibbert RAF, Sgt S.A. Keen RAF and two Army passengers, Sgt W.H. McBurney RA and Sgt A. Roebuck RA, killed (R. Allenby).

21 106 Sqn. Lancaster I R5576 crashed in England on a training flight when an engine failed on take off, P/O W.B. Carlyle, F/S A.G. Gibson, P/O G.R. Hanna, F/S J.E.S. Walker, Sgt A.M. Blyth RAF, Sgt J.K. Marshman RAAF, Sgt R.M. Mathieson RAF, Sgt J. Teevin RAF, LAC H.R. Forster RAF and AC1 G.E. Smith RAF killed. Three of the RAF were passengers.

21 111 Sqn. Spitfire Vb W3716 caught fire and crashed in the sea on a RHUBARB, P/O L.E. Swatridge missing (www.spitfires.ukf.net).

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.rafdavidstowmoor.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 near the tongue of the Bering Glacier between Yakutat and Cordova, Alaska, aero engine

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mechanic Cpl T.B. Donald was killed, Sgt R.J. Powers and AC1 T.S. Silberman were both injured with broken legs, Sgt F.M. Bailey, F/O P.M. Gault RCAF (USA), armourer AC1 J. McIntosh and AC1 W.E. Naylor, also injured, pulled them from the wreckage, set up a camp for the two immobile airmen, and later began to walk out to seek help, but AC1 McIntosh was drowned attempting to cross a glacial stream. Meanwhile the wreck had been spotted by a US aircraft which sought help from locals. Four US civilians, Don George, C.A. 'Mac' Miller, Joe Maloy, and B.B. Watson, set out to the area to search for the wreck site. The survivors of the walking party were found by the civilian party, who took them to safety, then with Sgt Bailey to guide them another RCAF Goose from #122 (K) Squadron was able to re-locate the wreck site and rescue the injured survivors August 6. Disciplinary Sgt F.M. Bailey was awarded a George Medal for his leadership in the aftermath of the crash and in the rescue of the survivors. His citation made no mention of the assistance of the civilians, however [bcam.net]. 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.

21-22 101 Sqn. Wellington III X3312 SR-U believed shot down by flak over the North Sea off Holland, F/S E. Fortin, Sgt W. Matheson RAF and Sgt G.C. Morfew RAF killed, F/S D.P. Roberts, Sgt L.D. Firminger RAF and Sgt E.A. Thomas RAF missing (www.wrecksite.eu). F/S Roberts brother, Lt E.L. Roberts, Algonquin Regiment, was killed September 14, 1944 in Belgium.

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.

21-22 115 Sqn. Wellington III X3750 KO-B shot down by a night fighter and crashed in Holland, Sgt W.E. Brown, F/S G.W. Roney, Sgt J.H. Fletcher RAF, Sgt J.I. Morris RAF and Sgt L.A.C. Standen RAF killed (www.findagrave.com).

21-22 142 Sqn. Wellington IV Z1408 QT-P lost without trace, Sgt R.K. McGrath, Sgt R. Vandersteen RAF, Sgt D. Berger RAF, Sgt N.W. Dawkins RAF, Sgt R.A. Evans RAF missing.

21-22 408 Sqn. Hampden I AT139 EQ-A Bar crashed in the Waddenzee in Holland, F/S J.B. Pleasance, F/S R. Wishart and P/O T.R. Ashton RAF killed, F/S R.S. Doherty missing.

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Wednesday

22 Deportation of Jews from the Warsaw Ghetto begins (wikipedia).

22 73 Sqn. Hurricane IIb BN165 shot down over the desert, F/S A.A. Carcary killed, he has no known grave (Shores, Massimello V.2). F/S Carcary's brother, Pvt. W.T. Carcary, Winnipeg Grenadiers, had been killed December 24, 1941, in Hong Kong [CVWM].

22 274 Sqn. Hurricane IIc BG949 YK-Y damaged by Italian fighters over Egypt, F/S P.G. Hemmer RCAF (USA) safe (Shores, Massimello V.2).

22 274 Sqn. Hurricane IIc BG753 'U' shot down by an MC.202 and force landed in the desert, Sgt W.S. Howie RCAF? safe (Shores, Massimello V.2). See November 2, below.

22 274 Sqn. Hurricane IIc BP326 'T', F/S J.W. Neil claimed a Bf 109 probably destroyed over North Africa (Shores, Massimello V.2). See August 9, below.

22 450 Sqn. RAAF Kittyhawk I AK805 shot down by flak near El Alamein, Sgt R.C. Hughes PoW. Possibly the same as P/O R.C. Hughes, see August 23, 1944.

22 *HMT Orduna*, Cpl A.J. Doherty RAF (Can.) reported missing, presumed to have fallen overboard and drowned (www.rafcommands.com).

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.

22 185 Sqn. Spitfire Vb (Trop.) BR292 Sgt C. Weaver III RCAF (USA) claimed 2 German fighters shot down over Malta (Shores, Cull & Malizia; www.spitfires.ukf.net).

22 249 Sqn. Spitfire Vb (Trop.) BR128 3-W shot down off Malta, P/O J.H.R. Paradis missing (www.spitfires.ukf.net; Shores, Cull & Malizia; www.rafcommands.com).

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 and had also served in the MSFU (CVWM).

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 RAAF, Sgt R.E. Richards RAAF and F/L J.K. Rhodes RAF killed.

22 #1 Central Navigation School, Rivers, Man., Anson I #6189 crashed in poor visibility due to smoke on a night 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 (CVWM; wartimes.ca).

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 RAAF and P/O B.S Walker RAAF survived, injured (31 OTU/7 OTU Roll of Honour; bac-lac.gc.ca).

22 RNor.AF, Piper Cub collided with a Tiger Moth at Barker Field, Toronto, Ontario, killing S. More (wikipedia).

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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 it's 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, leaving both to do these tasks unsupported by the other. 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 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 Hitlers 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).

Hitlers purpose in taking Stalingrad was propaganda, but 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). As well the German intrusion to Stalingrad and the Volga interrupted supplies of oil from the Baku region, needed on all the fronts, and forced oil previously transported by barge to be shipped by rail around the combat zone, which led to shortages (C. Bergström).

Luftwaffe pilots over Voronezh first encounter Soviet Lend-Lease P-39 Airacobras, claiming 2 shot down (Bergström, Dikov & Antipov V.3).

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).

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First group of 6,500 Jews from the Warsaw Ghetto arrive in Treblinka, and are murdered in the newly built gas chambers there (wikipedia).

23 159 Sqn. LB-30 Liberator II AL534 came down in the sea off Benghazi, Libya on an anti-shipping sortie, F/S J.S. Peterson RCAF (USA) killed, F/S J.H. Hogg RAF missing, Sgt C.A. Westwood, F/O R.A. Malcolm RAF, WO R.J. Male RAF, Sgt W. Bell RAF and Sgt A. Charlton RAF PoW. Sgt Westwood is identified in various sources as A., C.A. or J.A. Westwood, and may be confused with Sgt J.A. Westwood PoW from 9 Sqn. Wellington, July 23-24, below.

23 185 Sqn. Spitfire Vb (Trop.) EP122 Sgt C. Weaver III RCAF (USA) claimed 2 German fighters shot down over Malta for the second time in two days (Shores, Cull & Malizia). At 19 he became the youngest Allied Ace of the war.

23 Spitfire Vc (Trop.) BR524 was on a ferry flight from RAF Takoradi, Gold Coast, to Egypt and crashed near Ibadan, Nigeria, 123 Sqn. F/S J.M. McKerroll killed (www.rafcommands.com).

23 51 Sqn. Whitley V Z9215 ditched in the English channel on a Coastal Command sortie after an engine failure (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, Sgt B. Bushell RAF, Sgt J.G. Humphries RAF, F/S R.E. Longard RAF, Sgt J.A. Lovett RAF and Sgt P.J. Russ RAF injured (www.rafcommands.com).

23 #54 OTU Beaufighter IIF R2440 flew into the ground in England, F/L W.D.W. Hilton killed (aviation-safety.net).

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 Bolingbroke 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(OB) S.S. Schwartz RCAF (USA), P/O K. Slater RAAF and LAC(OB) J.S. Williams RAF killed.

23 #5 B&G School Dafoe, Saskatchewan, two Battle I aircraft #2066 and #1925 collided near the runway when landing and crashed, Sgt E.H. Dunn and LAC(WAG) O.V. Nickerson were killed, LAC(WAG) R.C. Parker and passenger LAC R.A Ward injured in the former aircraft, and LAC(WAG) J.P.A. Bail killed, LAC(AG) M.W. Bowen and Sgt J.E. Parker badly injured in the latter (S. Shail; heritage.canadiana.ca; bac-lac.gc.ca).

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).

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23-24 9 Sqn. Wellington III Z1577 shot down by flak over Germany, F/O H.E. Brown RAF killed, Sgt A.F.C. Ratcliff injured, P/O G.B. Smith, Sgt J.A. Westwood and P/O N. Jefferies RAF PoW (www.baaa-acro.com). See August 6, below.

23-24 57 Sqn. Wellington III BJ673 DX-R shot down into the sea off Holland by flak, Sgt A.H. Davies RAF and Sgt S.F.O. Blackmore RAF killed, Sgt R.D. Peters, P/O T.W. Kenyon RAF and F/S D.J. Popple RAF missing. Sgt Peters lied about his age on enlistment and was only 16 when he died (wartimeheritage.com).

23-24 207 Sqn. Lancaster I R5632 EM-N shot over the North Sea by a German night-fighter, F/S T.C. Blair killed, F/S J.C. Chiasson, Sgt P.J. Hooper RNZAF, F/S W.G. Hawes RAAF, Sgt H.F. Clarke RAF, Sgt E. Cartwright RAF and Sgt W.R. Smith RAF missing (www.baaa-acro.com). F/S Blair's brother, Major G.T. Blair, Loyal Edmonton Regiment, was killed in Italy September 18, 1944.

23-24 207 Sqn. Lancaster I R5867 EM-T shot down by flak over Germany, F/S J.D.L. La Salle, P/O J.J.N. McCarthy RNZAF, F/S R.A. Edmonds RAF, F/S J.M. Leahy RAF, F/S A. Rowland RAF, Sgt D.L. Worthington RAF and Sgt F.A.W. Thorne RAF killed. A Russian forced labourer, sheltering in a ditch, was also killed when the bombs exploded after the crash (aviation-safety.net). F/S La Salle, P/O McCarthy, F/S Leahy and Sgt Banfield had all been injured in a Lancaster crash April 7-8, above.

23-24 214 Sqn. Stirling I W7567 BU-S shot down over Holland by a night fighter, Sgt J.B. Fleming, Sgt E.H. Cooper RAF, Sgt D.F. Dobson RAF, Sgt F.A.W. Thorne RAF, P/O J.D. Peel RAF and F/S P.J. Withers RAF killed, Sgt H.C. Fairhall RAF PoW.

23-24 405 Sqn. Halifax II W7769 LQ-K was making a circuit to land from an operation when an engine failed. The aircraft lost control and fell into the village of Pocklington, Yorkshire, hitting trees and a house chimney before crashing into a school (www.treehousegenealogy.co.uk). 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, WO2 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).

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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 IIa AW355 BX-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).

24 185 Sqn. Spitfire Vb (Trop.) EP122 Sgt C. Weaver III RCAF (USA) shared a Ju 88 destroyed over Malta (Shores, Cull & Malizia).

24 33 Sqn. Hurricane IIc BP120 shot down at El Dhaba (now El Dabaa), Egypt, WO2 F.G. Davison RCAF (USA) killed (Shores, Massimello V.2).

24 33 Sqn. Hurricane IIc BN358 NW-H shot down over El Alamein, Sgt J.B. Waddell killed (Shores, Massimello V.2; www.33squadronassociation.co.uk).

24 92 Sqn. (attached to 80 Sqn.) Hurricane IIc BN359 'T', P/O W.L. Chisholm claimed a Bf 109 probably destroyed over North Africa (Shores, Massimello V.2). See August 1, below.

24 112 Sqn. Kittyhawk I AK788 P/O J.E. Loree claimed a Ju 88 shot down over North Africa, possibly a Bf 110 aircraft (Shores, Massimello V.2). See August 28, below.

24 112 Sqn. Kittyhawk I AK995 P/O J.G. Wright claimed a Bf 109 shot down over North Africa (Shores, Massimello V.2). See October 1, below.

24 112 Sqn. Kittyhawk I AK603 shot down by a fighter over North Africa, P/O W.A.J. Johnson PoW (Shores, Massimello V.2).

24 459 Sqn. RAAF Hudson III V9052 GK-D shot down by Bf 110 on shipping strike in the Mediterranean, P/O F.E. Anderson, Sgt J.C. Aldred RAF, P/O R.R. Kemp RAF and Sgt G.N. Downward RAF missing (D. Vincent).

24 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).

24 236 Sqn. Beaufighter VIc X8088 ND-X lost in the North Sea off Holland on a sortie to attack a convoy, P/O P.O. Webster and Sgt G.R. Lewis RAF missing (aviation-safety.net). 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).

24 #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).

24 #6 AFU Oxford I DF293 crashed in England on a night training flight, Sgt D.G. Henderson killed (www.rafcommands.com).

24 #128 (F) Sqn. Canadian built Hurricane I #1351 landed wheels up at Sydney, NS and was damaged. Later converted to XIIa (R.W.R. Walker).

24 #10 SFTS Dauphin, Manitoba, Crane I #8008 crashed in poor visibility killing P/O J.S. Bladon and LAC(P) G.H. Cabush. See #12 SFTS loss July 25, 1942.

24 #17 EFTS Stanley, NS, Finch II #4445 crashed near Otterson Lake, Brentwood, NS, doing aerobatics at low level on what was supposed to be an instrument flying flight, killing WO2 L.L. Burks RCAF (USA) and LAC W.E. Barker RAF (R.W.R. Walker).

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24 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).

South of Cape Sable the fishing boat* Lucille M. *out of Yarmouth, NS, was stopped and sunk by shelling by* U-89, *the crew of 11 (4 wounded) rowed 100 miles to Shelburne, NS (RCN Chronology; www.uboat.net).

25 #243 Wing Hurricane IIb BP195 was part of a flight of two being ferried to an advanced landing ground which became separated in a sandstorm. Sgt W.P. Begley is believed to have been engaged by enemy fighters, and was later reported by the Red Cross, via Italy, to have died in a 'camp hospital' of wounds at 'ElDaba' (El Dabaa?), Egypt. (www.rafcommands.com; www.airhistory.org.uk; bac-lac.gc.ca).

25 111 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, although his watch was later recovered after the war [bac-lac.gc.ca].

25 277 Sqn. Defiant I V1117 was shot down into the sea on an ASR sortie off Dunkirk, France, searching for a pilot of a Spitfire aircraft, probably F/L Fernie, above, F/S J.S.G. Arundel and Sgt W.G. Bunn RAF missing (aircrewremembered.com). This was the last Defiant aircraft shot down in combat (aviation-safety.net).

25 416 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BM142 shot down over the English Channel as part of an escort for a Defiant on an ASR sortie off Dunkirk, France, as above, P/O J.F. Stokes missing.

25 #1 Overseas Aircraft Preparation Unit (OAPU), RAF Station Lyneham, England, Beaufort Ia DE121 crashed when the engines cut out attempting a landing low on fuel having got lost on a fuel consumption test flight, F/S R.G.E. Kater, F/S J.E. Lemon, Sgt D.E. Carpenter RAF and P/O C.W.B. Barton RNZAF killed (aircrewremembrance.com; R. Hayward).

25 #14 OTU Oxford I V4021 lost an undercarriage leg making a heavy night landing, Sgt G.M. Frame safe (bac-lac.gc.ca). See September 12, below.

25 #1449 Flight Canadian built Hurricane X AG190 undershot a landing and collapsed it's undercarriage on the Scilly Islands (www.rafdavidstowmoor.org, H. Welting).

25 #12 EFTS Goderich, Ontario, DH.82C Tiger Moth #3933 crashed and burned near Port Albert, Ontario, killing LAC(P) W.M. Morrison (heritage.canadiana.ca).

25 #12 EFTS Goderich, Ontario, DH.82C Tiger Moth #3915 ground-looped on landing and lost it's undercarriage, LAC(P) J.A. Dixon safe (heritage.canadiana.ca).

25 #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

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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. This was the first confirmed loss to this defect.

25 #32 SFTS Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Harvard II AJ755 collided in mid-air with Harvard II #2637 practising formation flying, LAC(P) G.L. Bryant was killed in AJ755 when it crashed at Hallonquist, Saskatchewan, Pte O. Gabrielsen RNor.AF landed his damaged Harvard back at Moose Jaw (heritage.canadiana.ca).

25 #32 SFTS Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Harvard II AJ732 crashed north of Lillestrom, Saskatchewan, LAC(P) M.R.E.A. Rhys Wingfield RAF killed (heritage.canadiana.ca).

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 15 Sqn. Stirling I W7576 LS-G shot down over Holland by a night fighter, F/S J.C. Fitzgerald, P/O W.A. Shoemaker DFC and Sgt P.D. Byrne RAF killed, Sgt D.L. Evans, Sgt H.A. Robinson RAF, Sgt R.J. Fletcher RAF and Sgt G.D.G. Muir RAF PoW. F/S Fitzgerald's sister, M.J. Fitzgerald, served as a Lt Nursing Sister in the RCAF in the Second World War, as a flight nurse with the USAF during the Korean War, and retired as a Colonel and Matron-in-Chief, Canadian Forces Medical Service in 1976 (www.findagrave.com).

25-26 35 Sqn. Halifax II W1147 TL-J shot down by a night-fighter over Holland, P/O H.E.V. Bruce, P/O J.F. Day, F/S C.E. Evans, F/S D.M. Ross, Sgt W.A. Allsopp RAAF and P/O J.E. Maple RAF killed, Sgt J.T. Bennett RAF evaded (35squadron.wordpress.com). F/S Ross's brother, Lt A.B. Ross, North Nova Scotia Highlanders, was killed in a training exercise in England February 1, 1944 (CVWM; wartimeheritage.com).

25-26 83 Sqn. Lancaster I R5619 OL-S shot down into the North Sea by a night-fighter on return, F/O H.B. Barber, Sgt R.A. Wilson RAAF, P/O H.H. Whitehead DFM RAF, P/O J.W. Corfield DFM RAF, Sgt E.A. Rudge RAF, Sgt J. McCarten RAF and Sgt R.H. Brash RAF missing (aviation-safety.net).

25-26 106 Sqn. Lancaster I R5683 exploded in mid-air over the English coast heading out on

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a sortie and came down on a mud bank, P/O R.B. Smith, Sgt J.W. Grimwade RAAF, F/S G. Appleyard DFM RAF, Sgt R.L. Beaddie RAF, F/S M. Darvill DFM RAF, Sgt L.W. Young RAF and Sgt J.D. Davie RAF killed. A memorial was placed at the crash-site in 2025 (*Memorial to WW2 bomber crew*, www.bbc.com).

25-26 114 Sqn. Blenheim IV V6264 RT-X lost without trace on an INTRUDER operation to Holland, F/S P.G. Leslie, F/S R.A. Smith and WO1 E.E. Warnick missing (www.rafcommands.com). See July 3-4, 1943.

25-26 115 Sqn. Wellington III Z1606 KO-J shot down by a night-fighter over Germany, P/O D.O. Felt, Sgt C.W. Bourke RAF, Sgt A.R. Bowen RAF, Sgt C.S. Weston RAF and P/O J.W. Scott RAF killed (www.baaa-acro.com). In 1944 the Don Felt Trophy for achievement was donated to 102 Royal Canadian Air Cadets Squadron in Barrie, Ontario, by P/O Felt's parents in his memory [CVWM].

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.

26 412 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).

26 #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).

26 #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, P/O R.T. Meek RAF, Sgt C.E. Hayes RAF and Sgt J.E. Millar RAF missing. Sgt Scott was from Scotland and married a Canadian while training in Canada (caspir.warplane.com).

26 #61 OTU Spitfire IIa P8468 landed with the wheels retracted and was damaged, Sgt N.H. MacKay RCAF (USA) safe (bac-lac.gc.ca). See September 29, below.

26 #1443 Flight Wellington II Z8489 was on a cross country exercise when had to ditch off

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Yorkshire due to an engine fire, Sgt G. Bennett RAF (Can.), Sgt R.L. Berry RAF, Sgt B. Doublard RAF, Sgt P. Greenstein RAF, Sgt N.R. Millson RAF and Sgt E.J. Powell RAF rescued by a fishing boat (Grappener at www.rafcommands.com). See September 19-20, below.

26-27 185 Sqn. Hurricane Sgt C. Weaver III RCAF (USA) was one of three fighters that tried to bomb an airfield in Sicily, but had to return with his bombs unable to locate it at night (Shores, Cull & Malizia).

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 RAF (Can.), Sgt A.J. Roberts RAF, Sgt R.C. Stewart-Moore RAAF and Sgt E.E. Blythe RAF PoW.

26-27 35 Sqn. Halifax II W7760 TL-B lost over the sea, F/S N.M. Rattray, Sgt P.H. Smith RAF, Sgt F.W. Huntley RAF, P/O D.A. Holliger RAF, Sgt E.A. Holland RAF, Sgt H.G.Le B. Pakenham-Walsh RAF and Sgt J.L. Graham RAF missing.

26-27 57 Sqn. Wellington III Z1654 shot down by a night-fighter over Germany, F/S V.R. Lenichek, F/S J. Ross, Sgt A.W. Pierard RNZAF, Sgt K. Hudson RAF and Sgt R.L. Lloyd RAF killed (www.baaa-acro.com).

26-27 78 Sqn. Halifax II W1184 lost without trace, Sgt G.A.R. Bissonette, F/O C. Mitchener RAF, Sgt E.A. Tewwdale RAF, Sgt W.J. Taylor RAF, Sgt W.K. Daniel RAF, Sgt D. Horgan RAF and Sgt L.G. Dowling RAF missing.

26-27 97 Sqn. Lancaster I R5487 OF-V believed lost over the sea, Sgt O. Barraclough RAF killed, F/S J.P. Doyle, F/O W.A. McMurchy, P/O K.J. Williams RAF, Sgt E.N. Grimwood RAF, F/S J.G. Richardson RAF and Sgt T.A. Grey RAF missing.

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 RCAF (USA), 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 (ref. alieneyes at www.rafcommands.com).

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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. See August 16-17, 1944.

26-27 106 Sqn. Lancaster I R5748 ZN-R shot down over Holland by a night fighter, S/L F.H. Robertson DFC RAF, Sgt J.J. Cooper RAF, P/O W.A.J. Fuller RAF and Sgt M.J. Dembrey RAF killed, P/O H.F.C. Humphries, Sgt J.C. Henry RAAF and Sgt R. Stoker RAF PoW.

26-27 115 Sqn. Wellington III BJ615 KO-G shot down over the sea by a German fighter, 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 (www.baaa-acro.com).

26-27 142 Sqn. Wellington IV Z1319 QT-W lost over Germany, P/O W.S. Findlay and F/S W.A. Penney killed, F/O J.A. Goring, S/L C.L. Olsson DFC RAF (Can.) and Sgt A.H. Collinson RAF PoW. Post war F/O Goring met and married Betty Findlay, the widow of P/O Findlay, who worked in New York City for the British Purchasing Commission during the war (www.findagrave.com; bac-lac.gc.ca; aviationarchaeology.org).

26-27 142 Sqn. Wellington IV Z1461 QT-F lost over Germany, P/O D.C. West, Sgt G.L. Cooper RAF, Sgt I.D. Lowther RAF, Sgt B.E.B. Luckman RAF and Sgt P. Milnes RAF killed.

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.

26-27 226 Sqn. Boston III AL746 MQ-S shot down by German marine flak and crashed off-shore of Spiekeroog Island, East Frisian Islands, Germany, on an INTRUDER sortie, P/O V.N. Salmon, F/S S. Duckworth RAF, P/O H.F. Deck RAF (Argentina) and Sgt L.E.C. Oxley RAF killed (www.baaa-acro.com). P/O Deck was one of 3 brothers killed in RAF service in the war (M. Bone).

26-27 405 Sqn. Halifax II W1186 LQ-P hit by flak over Germany and exploded over the Elbe River, Sgt J.D. Creede, Sgt J.W. MacAulay, P/O D.A. Street killed, P/O N.L. Laing, F/S H.M. Slezak, F/S A.D. Swansburg, F/S G.R. Titus and Sgt K.S. Watson RAF missing. F/S Street had survived the crash of 10 Sqn. Halifax W1155 on June 25, and F/S Slezak and most of this crew had experienced a bad crash landing July 12, above (aviation-safety.net).

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

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aircraft had only arrived at the squadron two days before it's loss. F/S Withers had also been a member of the aircraft mentioned July 12, above. (See as well N. Budanovic). See July 9-10, 1943.

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.

26-27 420 Sqn. Hampden I AE202 PT-X lost over Germany, F/S J.H. Timmis RAF, Sgt N.F. Axford RAF and Sgt J.R. Elliott RAF killed, P/O R.N. Rayne RAF PoW.

26-27 420 Sqn. Hampden I AE267 PT-V lost without trace, F/S A.T. Johnstone, WO2 H.N. Law, F/S J.J. Price and P/O G.E. Tilling RAF missing.

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 (BC War Diaries).

HMCS St. Croix *attacks and sinks U-90 south of Greenland. See March 4, 1943.*

27 33 Sqn. Hurricane IIc BN342, damaged by Bf 109 fighters over it's desert landing ground, P/O D.W. McClarty RCAF (Argentina) safe (Shores, Massimello V.2). See October 9, below.

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 40 Sqn. Wellington Ic HX370 'Y' lost over the desert attacking enemy airfields, believed to have crashed in flames near it's target, F/S H.G. Graham, F/S J.J. Thompson, Sgt W.H. Mitchell RAF, Sgt R.H. Lowe RAF, Sgt G.M. Duff RAF and Sgt C.E. Tipper RAF missing.

27-28 185 Sqn. Hurricane Sgt C. Weaver III RCAF (USA) was one of three fighters that bombed an airfield in Sicily (Shores, Cull & Malizia).

27-28 Birmingham and several other targets attacked by 30 Luftwaffe bombers (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).

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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 II 'D' AH413 (South African Air Force #1666) aircraft shot down by a German fighter on a reconnaissance off Crete, F/O L. Harvey RAF (Can.), Sgt G.W. Jewell, Sgt J.M. McIntosh RAF and P/O C.R.H. Underwood RAF missing (COL BRUGGY at www.rafcommands.com).

28 103 Sqn. Conversion Flight Halifax II W1218 crashed in England on a training flight, F/S F.L.J. Hartnett, F/S A.F. Pearson, F/S W.J. Birmingham RAAF, Sgt S.W. Stockford RAF, Sgt D.C. Cochrane RAF, Sgt L.J. Storey RAF and F/S S.N. Ryder RAF killed. The bomber spun-in from a steep turn at low altitude, possibly due to rudder lock that these early Halifax aircraft were susceptible to (www.northlincsweb.net).

28 206 Sqn. Hudson V AM805 VX-W missing on an anti-submarine patrol from Scotland, F/S R.J. Edgar, Sgt C.P. Jenkins RAAF, F/S W.A.L. Ireland RAF and Sgt R. North RAF missing (A. Storr; www.coastalcommand206.com).

28 288 Sqn. Canadian built Hurricane I P5179 crashed taking off at Duxford, F/L B. Bernas RAF (Poland) injured (H. Welting, www.rafcommands.com).

28 #14 AFU Oxford I N4647 crashed in England on approach to land, P/O J.A. Brown, AC2 E.C. Alton RAF, LAC A.E. Fricker RAF and Sgt R.C. Wootton RAF killed (R. McNeill at www.rafcommands.com; ww2talk.com).

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 X3606 shot down by flak over Germany, P/O G.M. Beech, P/O J.E. Coleman RAF, S/L H. Ledger RAF and F/S J.R. Ludkin RAF killed, F/S D.A. Hunter RAF PoW (www.baaa-acro.com).

28-29 9 Sqn. Wellington III X3475 shot down by flak over Germany, P/O G.A. Cooper, F/S E.J.H. Gurr, P/O J.D. Mullins, P/O R.O. Cordall RAF, P/O M.W. Groves RAF and

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Sgt J.C. Highfield RAF killed (www.baaa-acro.com). P/O Cooper was flying as co-pilot on his first operation (CVWM), and P/O Mullins had just celebrated his 21st birthday July 28 (bac-lac.gc.ca).

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, Sgt H.J. Hannaford RAF, Sgt E.J. King RAF and Sgt G.L. Ferry RAF missing.

28-29 18 Sqn. Blenheim IV Z7344 shot down by flak on the coast of Germany while engaged in an INTRUDER sortie, P/O S.O. Hill, WO2 D.R. McKinnon and Sgt D.B. Williams RAF killed (aviation-safety.net). 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 57 Sqn. Wellington III Z1650 lost over Germany, F/S A. Daniels, F/S P.D. Dempsey, F/S H.T.F. Freysteinson, F/S J.E. Smith, F/L J.A. Dean RAF and Sgt A.W. Fricker RAF killed. F/S Dempsey was killed on his 22nd birthday (bac-lac.gc.ca).

28-29 88 Sqn. Boston III AL690 lost without trace on an INTRUDER sortie, F/S J.W. Ganes RCAF (USA), P/O T.K. Matthews RAF, P/O D. Rogers RAF and Sgt E.H. Dean RAF missing.

28-29 107 Sqn. Boston III AL765 shot down by flak in Holland crossing the coast on an INTRUDER sortie, F/S J.R. Collins, F/S R.A. Russell RCAF (USA), Sgt S.H. Schofield RNZAF and Sgt J.E. Percival RAF killed (www.baaa-acro.com). FS Collins brother, Craftsman H. Collins RCEME, was killed in an accident in England July 14, 1944 (losses.internationalbcc.co.uk; CVWM).

28-29 115 Sqn. Wellington III Z1624 KO-D shot down over Holland by a night fighter, P/O L.M. Mason RNZAF and Sgt J.A. Brogan RAF killed, P/O G.B.F. Pilgrim RCAF (Antigua), P/O J.A.O. Rondeau and P/O C.F. Thorpe RAF PoW.

28-29 156 Sqn. Wellington III BJ592 shot down by flak over Germany, F/S I.B. Caryll RCAF (Jamaica), F/S G.M. Clark RCAF (USA), Sgt D. Fenton, F/S J.M.M.R. Théberge, P/O G.F.R. Cooke RAF and F/L J.C.M. Wilson AFC RAF killed (www.baaa-acro.com).

28-29 156 Sqn. Wellington III BJ840 lost over the sea, F/S J.T. Bray RAAF killed, F/L J.G. Hudock RCAF (USA), W/C H.L. Price DFC RAF, Sgt J. Duthie RAF, Sgt W.D. Evans RAF and Sgt M.W. Walsh RAF missing.

28-29 218 Sqn. Stirling I W7464 HA-Z shot down into the North Sea by a night-fighter, Sgt D.B. Henshaw, Sgt J.L. Johnson RAF, Sgt K. Haworth RAF, P/O F.C. Holloway RAF, Sgt D.E.G. Merritt RAF, Sgt J.T. Davidson RAF and Sgt J. Cowen RAF missing (aviation-safety.net).

28-29 218 Sqn. Stirling I BF309 HA-M shot down into the sea by a combination of night fighter and flak attacks, F/S T.A. Harp, S/L G.A. Powell DFM RAF and F/S R.J. Preston RAF killed, Sgt H.H.F. Harker, F/S G.F. Elliott RAF (Can.), Sgt T.H. Forsythe RAF, Sgt J. Rawlinson RAF and Sgt J.W. Garrod RAF PoW.

28-29 419 Sqn. Wellington III X3488 VR-H believed shot down into the North Sea by a night

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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 (aviation-safety.net). 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. P/O Dell's brother, Sgt T.E. Dell, Lincoln and Welland Regiment, died of wounds received in the fight to cross the Ghent Canal into Belgium September 10, 1944 (www.findagrave.com).

28-29 #16 OTU Wellington Ic R1450 'Y1' shot down over Germany by a night fighter, Sgt T.H. Cray RNZAF, P/O A.F. Litzow RAF and Sgt W.J. Atchison RAF killed, F/L P.W. Langford MiD (injured), F/L F. Lowe RAF and WO W. White RAF PoW (T. Barris). See March 31, 1944.

28-29 #16 OTU Wellington Ic L7894 XG-U2 shot down by flak over Germany, F/S P.B. Andrew, F/S R.E. Fahey, WO2 C.C.D. Hinks, F/S R.E. Stageman RCAF (USA) and Sgt J.G. Watson RAF killed (losses.internationalbcc.co.uk).

28-29 #22 OTU Wellington Ic X3201 'O Bar' shot down by flak 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 RCAF (USA) taken PoW (www.baaa-acro.com). See October 8-9, below.

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' shot down by flak and 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 (www.baaa-acro.com).

28-29 #1651 Conversion Unit Stirling I N6069 'G' shot down into the sea by a night-fighter off the coast of Holland, 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 (www.baaa-acro.com).

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 Off Georgetown, British Guiana, the Canadian laker* Prescodoc *leaving Georgetown

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in ballast for Trinidad, was torpedoed by the* U-160 *and sank with the loss of 16 of the 21 crew (RCN Chronology; www.uboat.net).

With an escort of USN and RCN ships US soldiers are landed on Adak Island in the Aleutians. Once secure a motley fleet of local ships, fishing boats and barges landed a military engineering battalion that dammed and drained a coastal lagoon and built an airstrip in 10 days that could be used to attack Japanese occupied Kiska and Attu (B. Coyle).

29 51 Sqn. Whitley V Z9164 shot up by a German fighter on an anti-submarine patrol July 28 but returned to England, air gunner F/S C.A. Eastwood, however, died of wounds from the attack (www.rafcommands.com; CVWM).

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 kind (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 due to vibration of the airframe. 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 in a dive 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 and a re-designed elevator control circuit was designed and installed, solving the problem (M. Bone). 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 I. Hughes RAF and two Air Training Corps Cadets, K.R. Couzin Wood and

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G. Hughes, both 16 years old, killed (H. Moyle).

29 416 Sqn. Spitfire Vb EP113 lost on a convoy patrol off England on this date, cause not known, F/S A.C. Kelly missing (www.spitfires.ukf.net; www.rafcommands.com). F/S Kelly had been involved in the fight July 25, above.

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 R.L. Demone and Sgt L.B. Williams RAF were slightly injured, while the pilot Sgt A.C. Combe was uninjured (www.rafcommands.com).

29 #36 SFTS, Penhold, Alberta, Stearman PT-27 FD980 collided with PT-27 FD990 when landing and both crashed, LAC F.J. Brand RAF and P/O A.G. Clark RAF killed in FD980, LAC D.M. Gross RAF killed in FD990 (H.A. Halliday at www.rafcommands.com).

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 RAAF, 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. Derick (see Dec. 14, below) and Sgt S.G. Brook (see Nov. 27, 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 12 Sqn. Wellington II W5424 PH-D stalled and crashed just after taking-off on an operational flight, P/O M.H. James RAF (Can.), F/S C.A. Manchur, Sgt W. Foster RAF, Sgt J.W. Ross RAF and Sgt G.F. Stephens RAF killed.

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 RAAF, Sgt A.

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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 61 Sqn. Lancaster I R5737 QR-N believed shot down over France by a night-fighter, F/S W.V. McQuaid, P/O J.G. Stewart RNZAF, Sgt R.A. Parsons RAF, Sgt J.E. Sullivan RAF, Sgt J.A. Rice RAF and Sgt L.G. Millar RAF killed, Sgt R.L. Beard RAF PoW (www.baaa-acro.com; losses.internationalbcc.co.uk).

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 Bf 110 D5+AR was also shot down in this engagement, killing the pilot Oblt. R. Eckardt, radio operator Fw Frank safe (aviation-safety.net).

29-30 142 Sqn. Wellington IV Z1316 QT-H shot down over Belgium by a night fighter, P/O G.C. Hooper, Sgt R.E.E. Bedford RAF, Sgt R.H. Foster RAF, Sgt K. McLennan RAF, Sgt H.A. Oates RAF and Sgt R.F. Stainforth RAF killed. A memorial to this loss is located in the Communal Cemetery at Olmen, Belgium, where the crew were initially interred (www.tracesofwar.com).

29-30 149 Sqn. Stirling I R9161 OJ-T shot down by a night fighter over France, Sgt J.T. Avedisian, P/O R.R. Graham, F/S E.J. LeBlanc, Sgt A. Allsopp RAF, F/L F.G. Neate RAF and Sgt H.W. Sampson RNZAF killed, Sgt C.W. Hazell RAF PoW.

29-30 149 Sqn. Stirling I BF320 OJ-H shot down over Germany by flak, F/S W.V. Pickering, F/S C.R. Spratt, F/S G.K. Sutherland, P/O T.M.F. Hulse RAF, Sgt E.J. Buckton RAF, Sgt R.B. Kendall RAF, Sgt R.G.P. Capham RAF and Sgt G. Martins RAF killed. F/S Spratt was the brother of WO2 H.F. Spratt taken PoW June 25-26, above (http://www.teunispats.net/fr-wwii.htm).

29-30 419 Sqn. Wellington III X3712 VR-D believed shot down by a night fighter over Belgium, F/S K.J. Aronson, F/S D.A. MacAulay, WO2 N.M. Moore RCAF (USA) and Sgt B.E. Coffey RAF killed, Sgt W.R. Orndorff evaded. WO Moore had previously flown Spitfires until he was injured in an accident September 5, 1941 (aviation-safety.net; allspitfirepilots.org).

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Thursday

30 To divert German forces attacking towards <u>Stalingrad</u> and the Caucasus oilfields a heavy Soviet air and ground attack is made in Central Russia on this date. In this series of attacks Russian airpower initially took control in the region, overwhelming the outnumbered Luftwaffe forces there, which required reinforcements from southern and northern Russia, and from France (Bergström, Dikov & Antipov V.3).

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).

Conscription for home defence begins in Canada.

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 87 Sqn. Hurricane HL779 stalled at high speed at low level and spun into the ground in England, F/S S. Bocking killed (www.airhistory.org.uk; bac-lac.gc.ca).

30 122 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BM266 shot down over France on a RAMROD, S/L L.O.J. Prevot RCAF (Belgium?) evaded (www.conscript-heroes.com MI-9 files).

30 122 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BM352 shot down into the sea by flak on a RAMROD, P/O J.G. Durkin missing (allspitfirepilots.org).

30 174 Sqn. Hurricane IIb BE684 (XP-Y?) force landed in France on a RAMROD, F/S W.Y. Denison PoW (discussion page www.rafcommands.com).

30 402 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BM513 crash landed in England with engine problems, F/S A.M. Skinner safe. See Jan. 17, 1943.

30 502 Sqn. Whitley GR.VII Z9192 crashed when landing in England on a transit flight after having repairs made at it's diversion airfield, F/S F.N. Smith RCAF (USA), F/S G.R. Douglas RAF, P/O G.R. Gethings RAF, Cpl R.A. Brown RAF, WO W.G. Mewha RAF, AC2 E. Barrett RAF, P/O L.J. Endicott RAF, AC2 H.H. Nicholls RAF and Sgt W.E. Powell RAF killed (R. McNeill www.rafcommands.com).

30 #14 OTU Canadian built Hampden I P5397 collided in mid-air with Hampden I AE192, Sgt A.R. Gruber and crew Sgt O.J. Edgar RAAF and Sgt J.M. McCarthy RAAF bailed out of P5397 safely, and P/O C.E. MacIntosh received a commendation for landing his damaged AE192 safely (Alex Smart at www.rafcommands.com). 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 retired in June 1941 due to medical reasons and died in the Strathroy Hospital, Ontario, on this date.

30-31 Scattered Luftwaffe bombing attacks on England (ww2total.com

www.bombercommandmuseumarchives.c

Chronology/1942).

30-31 407 Sqn. Hudson V crash landed in England after trying to find an airfield in deteriorating weather following an attack on a convoy off Holland, P/O J.R. Watson and his crew safe (407 SH). See Sept. 10-11, below.

30-31 415 Sqn. Hampden TB.I AD762 GX-J crashed trying to land in poor visibility after returning early from a shipping sortie off Holland following an engine failure, F/S M. Bloomfield, F/S R.M. Ennis, F/S J.H. Labelle, WO2 B.D.R. McComb killed (H. Moyle; www.northlincsweb.net). This crew had survived the crash of a Hampden July 1-2, above.

Friday

31 Weaker Soviet forces are still delaying the German advance on Stalingrad, which is supported by a strong concentration of Luftwaffe units. On this date Hitler decrees that the capture of Stalingrad is the most important aim of Operation BLAU, and orders the forces invading the Caucasus to change their direction to support that objective (Bergström, Dikov & Antipov V.3). The planned offensive to capture the Caucasus oil fields would have ended at Baku, which would have eliminated almost all of the Soviet Unions oil production, but this threat was ended by Hitlers orders (Bergström, Dikov & Antipov V.3).

HMCS Skeena *and* HMCS Wetaskiwin *sink U-558 in the Atlantic (M. Milner).*

Oxford Committee of Famine Relief (OXFAM) founded (wikipedia).

31 148 Sqn. Wellington Ic HX527 lost without trace on an operation to Tobruk, P/O R.E. Vaupel, F/O W.D. Bohl RAAF, Sgt R.G.L. Holton RAAF, Sgt J.W. Southgate RAF and Sgt R. Vernon RAF missing (A. Storr). See June 17, 1943.

31 185 Sqn. Spitfire Vb (possibly EP137) shot down into the sea off Malta, F/S C. Weaver III RCAF (USA) rescued (letter, *Airforce Magazine* Vol. #31, #3, 2007). Shores, Cull & Malizia, however, state that he force landed damaged Spitfire Vb (Trop.) EP343 on the Island and was unhurt. See September 9, below.

31 185 Sqn. Spitfire Vb (Trop.) EP255 shot down by Bf 109s and ditched on fire off Malta, Sgt J.G. Livingstone was rescued unharmed by HSL 128 (Shores, Cull & Malizia). It might be these events have been mixed up.

31 133 (Eagle) 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 (Eagle) 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 (Eagle) 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).

www.bombercommandmuseumarchives.c

31 416 Sqn. Spitfire crashed into trees taking off and wrecked, Sgt J.M. Maffre safe. Sgt Maffre had flown with 242 (Canadian) Sqn. (416 SH). (Possibly Vb EP380).

31 #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).

31 #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 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 Düsseldorf, 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 9 Sqn. Wellington III BJ878 shot down by flak near Düsseldorf, Germany, WO2 G.E. Ford RCAF (UK), F/S J. Hannaby, F/S A.E. McIlveen, P/O R.E.S. Pink RAF and Sgt P.J.H. Donelan RAF killed. WO2 Ford had been slightly injured Dec. 23, 1941 in the crash of a #12 OTU Wellington (www.baaa-acro.com).

31-1 12 Sqn. Wellington II Z8499 shot down by flak over Germany, F/S H.L. Laxdal, Sgt W.H. Good RAF, P/O T. Barrett RAF, P/O F.H. Down RAF and Sgt D.W. Brett RAF killed (aircrewremembered.com).

31-1 44 Sqn. Lancaster I L7537 KM-L lost over Germany, F/S E.B. Egan, F/S N. Tetley RAF (S. Africa), Sgt E. Forman RAF, Sgt J.M. MacMahon RAF, F/S G. Kelly DFM RAF, Sgt P. Rix RAF and Sgt C.N. Gardner RAF (S. Africa) killed.

31-1 57 Sqn. Wellington III BJ607 shot down offshore of Holland by flak, F/S T.F. Murphy, F/S K.T. Howarth DFM RAF, Sgt W.J. Tanner RAF, Sgt R.E. Furnell RAF and Sgt F.J. Smith RAF killed.

www.bcmuseumarchives.ca

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.

31-1 101 Sqn. Wellington III BJ841 lost over Germany, WO2 A.C. Vautour, Sgt A.R. Dally RNZAF, Sgt D.D. Northfield RAF, Sgt A.W. Daniel RAF and Sgt S.B. Ward RAF killed.

31-1 156 Sqn. Wellington III Z1622 GT-C shot down by flak into the 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 (aviation-safety.net).

31-1 158 Sqn. Halifax II W7777 NP-V was hit by flak and put out of control. The pilot P/O C.L. Sparke RAAF, pulled it out of a very high speed dive and flew back to England, P/O Sparke and his crew, Sgt R.F. Watson, P/O J.B. Aris RAF, Sgt R. Edlington RAF, Sgt H. Middleton RAF, Sgt C.G. Dawson RAF and Sgt D.R. Collyer RAF safe (R. Allenby). See September 10-11, below.

31-1 405 Sqn. Halifax II W1109 LQ-S shot down by flak 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 (aviation-safety.net).

31-1 405 Sqn. Halifax II W7718 LQ-T lost over Belgium, Sgt I. Watters RAF killed, P/O L.J.O. Nadeau injured and taken PoW with Sgt D.E. West, F/O W.R. Bandeen, P/O J.H.G. Howard and Sgt W.D. Gibbon RAF. Sgt R.E. Pearce RAAF evaded. See August 3 below.

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 RAAF killed, Sgt O.M. Nelson PoW.

31-1 415 Sqn. made a successful torpedo attack by two Hampdens off the Dutch coast. In this period it was also working with radar equipped Hudson's to track and attack convoys (415 SH).

31-1 418 Sqn. Boston III W8326 shot down over Holland, P/O R.S. Patterson, P/O M.G. Abey and F/S C.O. O'Brien killed (bac-lac.gc.ca).

31-1 420 Sqn. Hampden I AE355 PT-A lost, P/O W.D. Frost, WO2 W.J. Kaufman, WO1 R.R. Stewart and Sgt A.J. Greenaway RAF missing. WO Stewart had previously bailed out of a #16 OTU Anson Sept. 28, 1941.

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 RAAF died 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.bombercommandmuseumarchives.c

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 RAAF killed, WO2 N.E. McGowan PoW.

31-1 #14 OTU Canadian built Hampden I P5322 GL-U3 shot down by flak over Cologne, Germany, F/S E.T. Hunking and F/O R.E. Guthrie RAAF killed, Sgt C.A.B. McMullin RAF missing and Sgt J.H. Morrison PoW (O. Clutten-Brock; www.baaa-acro.com).

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. Remainder of crew, Sgt R.L. Featherstone RAAF, Sgt W.D. Folder RAAF and Sgt D.L. Paul RAF, were safe (www.rafcommands.com). 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 DV736 "F2" shot down by a night-fighter over Belgium, F/S T.J. Armstrong, F/S R.D. Gibson, Sgt G. Redhead RAF, Sgt F.P.G. Moore RNZAF, F/S E.H. Vickers RAAF and Sgt N.A. Long RAF killed (www.baaa-acro.com).

31-1 #16 OTU Wellington Ic HF852 'C2', attached to 405 Sqn., shot down by a night-fighter over Holland on an operation to Germany, F/S L.G. Harvie, F/S E.F. Hueston, F/S D.H. Kurtz, F/S E.G. Robertson RCAF (USA) and Sgt H.L. Cox RAF (Nfld.) killed (www.baaa-acro.com). F/S Harvie died the day before his 21st birthday (bac-lac.gc.ca). In 1998 the farmer on whose land this aircraft crashed discovered an engine and propeller form the bomber, and F/S Kurtz's wallet [www.findagrave.com].

31-1 #24 OTU Whitley V Z9512, attached to 405 Sqn., shot down by flak over Duisberg, 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 (www.baaa-acro.com). 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. The University of New Brunswick established a scholarship presented to a first year student of York County, NB, in memory of F/S Donahue (aircrewremembered.com; CVWM).

31-1 #25 OTU Wellington Ic T2909 PP-E believed lost off the Dutch coast, possibly shot down by a night-fighter, F/S P. Prime RCAF (USA) killed, F/S J. Tait, P/O E.B. Willoughby, Sgt H. Buchan RAF and Sgt E.C. Cohen RAF missing (aviation-safety.net).

www.bombercommandmuseumarchives.c

31-1 #25 OTU Wellington Ic DV439 PP-D was damaged over the target by flak then 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 (www.baaa-acro.com). 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.

31-1 #25 OTU Wellington Ic DV560 PP-X shot down by flak over Holland, Sgt J.B. Campbell, Sgt V.Le R. Simonson, F/S W.H. Treadwell, Sgt V.S. Mason RAF and Sgt W.H. Day RAF killed. See July 10, 1944.

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 on attacks 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).

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 also has 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. However in order to conceal this from the Axis more credit was given to Canada as the source for Uranium, while the work in the Congo was Top Secret. This deception continued long after the war as well (F. Swain).

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.).

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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 <u>Target Finding Force</u> 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).

www.bombercommandmuseumarchives.c

1 92 Sqn. (attached to 80 Sqn.) Hurricane IIc BP235 shot down near El Alamein, F/S M.P. Reece wounded (Shores, Massimello V.2). See August 10, below.
1 92 Sqn. (attached to 80 Sqn.) Hurricane IIc BN359 'T', P/O W.L. Chisholm and Hurricane IIc BN531 'C' P/O I.D. Colquhoun-Thomson (RAF?) shared a Bf 109 destroyed near El Alamein (Shores, Massimello V.2). See August 19, below.
1 112 Sqn. Kittyhawk I AK744 hit by flak and force landed in the desert, Sgt R.C.C. Smith RCAF (USA) safe (Shores, Massimello V.2). See October 1, 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.
1 #14 OTU Hampden I P2129 crashed in England on a training flight attempting a landing after a flare had ignited in the bomb bay, Sgt J.A. Ramsay, Sgt C.W. Webb, Sgt E.A. Coates RAAF and Sgt D.L. Paul RAAF injured. See April 28-29 and Aug. 10-11, 1943.
1 #31 Personnel Depot RAF, LAC K. Taylor RAF died in Canada, of natural causes (various, www.rafcommands.com).

1-2 418 Sqn. Boston III W8264 lost on an INTRUDER sortie to France, P/O R.G. Blamires RCAF (NZ), F/S H.E. Prime and Sgt H.L. Green RNZAF killed.

Sunday
2 185 Sqn. Spitfire Vb (Trop.) EP139 Sgt C. Weaver III RCAF (USA) claimed a Bf 109 destroyed over Malta (Shores, Cull & Malizia).
2 250 Sqn. Kittyhawk I AK671 'D' shot down over Mersa Matruh, Egypt, P/O R.I. Baldwin PoW (Shores, Massimello V.2).
2 #2(ME) Pilots and Aircew Pool Blenheim IV Z7594 flew into the grond flying at low altitude on a ferry flight, near Wadi Seidna, Sudan, F/S J.P. Speakman, Sgt W.S. Burns RNZAF and Sgt R.E. Simkin RAF have no known grave (www.rafcommands.com; bac-lac.gc.ca).
2 #1 (O)AFU Anson DJ472 flew into high ground on the Isle of Arran in a thunderstorm, Sgt G.R. Lewis, F/L H.C. Campbell RAF, LAC K. Whalley RAF, Sgt R.R. Hinton RAAF and Sgt H.T. Swain RAF killed (A. Storr; http://www.aircrashsites-scotland.co.uk).
2 #116 (BR) Sqn. RCAF, Canso, S/L N.E. Small AFC attacks U-89 (I. Wikene). See August 5, below.
2 unknown unit, Cpl W.H. Grubham RAF died in an accidental drowning in Canada, location unknown.

www.bomber-command-museum-archives.ca

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).

3 413 Sqn. Catalina I AH549 QL-F shot down in error over Koggala, Ceylon, Sgt I.R.E. Meiklejohn RAF killed, Sgt G.K. Palmer RAF and LAC R.L. Craggs RAF injured, S/L L.H. Randall, P/O S.S. Williams, P/O E.J. McKie, P/O L.W. Lasser, Sgt L.E. Gardiner, Sgt S. Moorhouse and LAC L.A. Gregory (RCAF and/or RAF) safe (R.S. Grant, *Airforce Magazine*, Winter 1992; www.rafcommands.com).

3 33 Sqn. Hurricane IIc BE409 'G' badly damaged and force landed in a fight near El Daba in the desert, Sgt J.A. Kingdon wounded (Shores, Massimello V.2). See October 9, below.

3 38 Sqn. Wellington Ic HF905 missing on a sortie in North Africa, Sgt J.E. Olmsted, F/S J.A. Sampson, Sgt A. Arnot RAF, Sgt A. Fowndrow RAF and Sgt T.M. Grace RAF PoW (UK National Archives via H. Welting at www.rafcommands.com).

3 70 Sqn. Rescue Flight Wellington Ic Z8778 'F' lost on a search for a missing Wellington which had force landed in the desert, is believed to have crashed in an unknown location in the desert, P/O H.G. Locke, P/O R.C. Prince, F/S J.C. Daley RAAF, Sgt I.A. Baines RAAF, F/S H.S. Impett RAF, F/O J.T. Dick DFC RAF and Sgt R.S. Hughes RAF have no known grave (bac-lac.gc.ca).

3 250 Sqn. Kittyhawk AL199 crashed in a spin at low level in Egypt on a training flight, WO1 J.A. Riddell killed (bac-lac.gc.ca). See also October 5, below.

3 58 Sqn. Whitley VII Z9518 stalled and crashed attempting an overshoot from landing in Scotland, F/S K.M. Byers, Sgt K.G. Dunn RNZAF, Sgt W.A. Friendship RAF, F/S M.W. Randall RNZAF, Sgt A.F. Sparham RAF and Sgt P.M. Stewart RAF were killed (www.rafcommands.com).

3 405 Sqn. P/O L.J.O. Nadeau died in hospital in Belgium of the injuries he received July 30-Aug. 1, above.

3 #1 (O)AFU Anson I N5082 collided over the sea with Lysander TT.III T1446 and crashed, LAC(BA) K.J. Garmston RAF killed, F/S G.K. Irwin, LAC(BA) P.S. Glover RAF, LAC(BA) S.D. Turner RAF and LAC (BA) G.K. Cameron RAF missing. The Lysander managed to make a safe landing (www.rafcommands.com).

3 #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.

3 #11 SFTS, Yorkton, Saskatchewan, Crane I #7943 crashed near Otthon, Saskatchewan, killing LAC(P) N.A. McBrien and P/O K.W. Richardson. See #12 SFTS loss July 25, 1942.

3 #36 OTU, Greenwood, NS, Anson I AX611 crashed near Kentville, NS, S/L L.A.G.

www.bomphercommandmuseumarchives.ca

Howard RAF killed (#36 OTU Roll of Honour).

3 #39 SFTS, Swift Current, Saskatchewan, Harvard II AJ979 crashed SW of the airfield, LAC J.P. Clark RAF killed (D.J. Carter).

3 #32 EFTS, Bowden, Alberta, LAC(P) C.G.T. Mann RAF died in a vehicle accident near Penhold, Alberta (www.rafcommands.com). Six other airmen, not authorized to be in the vehicle, were injured, and another airman Sgt Dunn (based in Penhold) was safe (heritage.canadiana.ca).

3 #41 SFTS, Weyburn, Saskatchewan, LAC T. Benham RAF died in a car accident (B. Barry et al).

3-4 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).

4 238 Sqn. Hurricane II force landed on an operational sortie, Sgt F.E. Wise returned safe (Shores, Massimello V.2). See November 4, below.

4 252 Sqn. Beaufighter Ic T5033 BT-J shot down by MC-200 fighters off Egypt, F/S E. Babiak and Sgt A.W.T. Lancaster RAF PoW (R. McNeill www.rafcommands.com; aviation-safety.net).

4 260 Sqn. Kittyhawk I AK891 'F' shot down escorting Boston bombers, P/O N.E. Gilboe bailed out, safe (Shores, Massimello V.2). See October 27, below.

4 260 Sqn. Kittyhawk I AL140 HS-O, F/S J.F. Edwards claimed a Bf 109 probably destroyed near El Alamein (Shores, Massimello V.2). See September 3, below.

4 236 Sqn. Beaufighter Ic T4715 spun and crashed on the Isle of Man when an engine failed on a consumption test, P/O W.B. Sherry and Sgt R.A. Shaw RAF killed

www.bombercommandmuseumarchives.ca

(aviation-safety.net).

4 #5 (Coastal) OTU Beaufort I L4496 'Y2' flew into the ground on approach to land following an engine failure, Sgt D.B.St.J. Malcolm and Sgt F.J.H. Highmoor killed (R. Hayward; www.baaa-acro.com).

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.

4 #3 Communication & Ferry Flight, St. Hubert, Quebec, Harvard II #3284 crashed in the Ottawa River near Ile Perrot, Quebec while on an instrument practise flight, killing P/O L.V. Longley, P/O R.E. Banks slightly injured (bac-lac.gc.ca). P/O Longley's brother, Captain H.G. Longley, North Nova Scotia Highlanders, was killed in Normandy June 7, 1944.

4 #1 ANS, Rivers, Manitoba, LAC J.J.B. Berube accidentally drowned at Lac St. Louis, Quebec, while on leave (bac-lac.gc.ca).

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). First jamming of the GEE navigation signals experienced over Essen (Grande, Linden, and Macauley).

4-5 44 Sqn. Lancaster I R5603 KM-D lost without trace on an operation to Germany, F/S G.A. Firman, P/O I.A.J. MacQueen RCAF (Argentina), 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.

4-5 142 Wellington IV Z1487 QT-Z lost on a GARDENING sortie off France, F/S J. Anderson, F/S G. Hall, F/S E.E. Hopper, F/S C.L. Love Jr. RCAF (USA) and F/S R.C. Pearce killed.

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 Canadian escorted convoy SC-94 by wolfpacks, but although losing 11 ships 2 U-boats are sunk and 4 more damaged (D. Sommerville). See August 6, below.

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Of the nearly 400 merchant ships sunk off the coast of North America since January 60% were British flagged ships forced to sail independently. This, and the requirement for shipping for Operation TORCH, severely reduced imports to England when new built Liberty Ships contracted for England were taken over by the US planning boards to support their operations. Even intervention by President Roosevelt could not get any US allocation to England of cargo ships to make up their losses, which were primarily due to the US Navy's failure to adopt convoying (which anglophobe Admiral King refused to acknowledge). The need for escorts for the TORCH landings led to a temporary suspension of convoying off the coast of South America, which led to further losses of unescorted British shipping (see November 23, below). After much acrimony, and with growing shortages in England, Lend-Lease funding was expanded to provide further Canadian built Fort ships to England (M. Milner).

5 459 Sqn. RAAF Hudson FH302 lost off North Africa, Sgt A.S. Killham RAF (Can.), F/S L. Gamble RAAF, F/S W.L. Staines RAAF and Sgt N.C. Woolcock RNZAF missing (D. Vincent).

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 on an exercise and crashed, killing P/O G.T. Koellhoffer RCAF (USA) in AA868 and F/S J.D. Luxton in BL859 (www.spitfires.ukf.net; CVWM).

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 and P/O L.E. Thompson RAF injured, the rest of the crew safe (www.rafcommands.com).

5 #1653 CU LB-30 Liberator II AL588 suffered an elevator failure on climb-out from taking off for a gunnery exercise with a Spitfire, entered a steep turn 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 #116 (BR) Sqn. RCAF, Canso, S/L N.E. Small AFC attacks U-89 for the second time, damaging it (I. Wikene). See Jan. 7, 1943.

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.

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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 shot down by a night-fighter 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.

5-6 102 Sqn. Halifax II R9495 DY-L shot down by a night-fighter over Holland, F/S S.R. Lupton, F/S W.G. McKinnon, Sgt N.C. Hain RAAF, F/S R.S. Tadman DFM RAF, Sgt J. Colville RAF, Sgt F.A. Frost RAF and Sgt A.S.C. Ellis RAF killed (www.findagrave.com).

5-6 102 Sqn. Halifax II W7706 DY-O crash landed in England after being badly damaged over Germany by a night fighter attack, Sgt L.H. Cailes, F/S F.A. Schaw RNZAF, Sgt S.J.E. Dunn RAF, Sgt L.C. Fantani RAF, Sgt H. Johnson RAF, Sgt R. Levente RAF and Sgt A. Huddlestone RAF all safe.

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.

5-6 158 Sqn. Halifax II W1221 NP-R was hit by flak damaging the inner engines, fuselage and wings, Sgt G.A. Smith RAF (Can.), Sgt Byrne RAF, P/O I.T. Chambers RAF, Sgt J.G.E. Davis RAF, Sgt E. Davies RAF, Sgt E.L. Lister RAF and Sgt W.A. Thomas RAF landed safe in England (R. Allenby). See September 10-11, below.

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. Culley 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. See also July 14, 1944.

5-6 419 Sqn. Wellington III X3360 VR-R shot down by a night-fighter over Germany, F/S H.A. Brown, P/O R.M. Krefting, F/S W.J. Macaulay, Sgt R.F. Churchill RAF, Sgt A.H. Johnson RAF and Sgt T.H. Lawton RAF killed (www.baaa-acro.com).

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

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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 ***and 6 corvettes, escorting 33 merchant ships of eastbound convoy SC-94, were intercepted by a group of U-boats on the Grand Banks, just out of range of aerial coverage. The escort fought the U-boats in scattered fog conditions.*** **Assiniboine** ***detected U-210 on radar and intercepted the U-boat. For nearly an hour the destroyer and U-boat fought each other on the surface with guns at close range in the shifting fog. A hit set a fire around the bridge of the destroyer that engulfed the wheelhouse, where Chief Petty Officer M.L. Bernays RCNR ordered the others out to safety and remained to control the ship. Despite being the main target of the submarines gun fire, wounded by shrapnel and surrounded by the fire CPO Bernays took the orders of the Captain LCDR J.H. Stubbs RCN on the bridge above throughout the running battle, steered the ship while also transmitting over 130 engine orders to the engine room as they engaged at extreme close range with the U-boat. At last the fire was put out and a hit was made with a main gun on the U-210, which was then rammed and forced under, but resurfaced and was scuttled.*** **Assiniboine** ***lost 1 sailor killed and 13 wounded, and picked up 38 survivors from the crew of the U-boat, but had extensive damage and flooding, with radar, ASDIC, gun control and lighting knocked out it was forced to return to St. John's for repairs, leaving the escort group without any modern radar just as they entered the mid-Atlantic air gap. CPO Bernays was recommended for a Victoria Cross by order of the Privy Council in Ottawa, the first Canadian to be recommended for this award by the Canadian government, but this was viewed with disfavour in England and he received the Conspicuous Gallantry Medal, one of only two awarded to members of the RCN (M. Milner; R.C. Fisher).***

6 55 Sqn. Baltimore II AG773 overturned when landing in Egypt, P/O C.B. Carter, P/O A.M. Cameron RAF, P/O M.J.G. Harvey RAF and Sgt J.M. Marvin RAF injured.

6 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.

6 58 Sqn. Whitley V Z9525 GE-J lost on a U-boat patrol over the North Sea, P/O G.J. Strutt DFM, Sgt L.S. Williams RAAF, Sgt G.A. Morgan RAF, Sgt E.T. Prior RAF, Sgt E.W. Griffiths RAF and Sgt A. Hooper RAF missing (A. Storr; aircrewremembered.com). TSGNO carries the citation for P/O Strutt's DFM earned during a previous attack on a U-Boat.

6 #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.

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6 #4 Manning Depot, Quebec City, Quebec, AC2 J.A.R. Langlois died in hospital of natural causes following an operation. AC2 Langlois had enlisted in the RCA and was an officer-cadet when he transferred to the RCAF (bac-lac.gc.ca).

6 #6 SFTS, Dunnville, Ontario, AC2 L.W. Scharf died in the Christie Street Hospital of natural causes.

6 #14 SFTS, Aylmer, Ontario, Yale #3383 force landed near Calton (Carlton?), Ontario (M.L. McIntyre).

6 #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).

6-7 78 Sqn. Halifax II W1237 EY-P shot down off Holland by a night fighter, Sgt J.G.A. Hoare RAF and Sgt G.W. Scott RAF killed, Sgt G.J.M. Cantwell RAF (Nfld.), F/S A.G. Johnston, F/O Count J.M.J.A. d'Ursel, Chevalier of the Order of Leopold, Croix de Guerre (Belgium) RAF (Belgium), F/S W.E.S. Luck RAF and Sgt W.J. Cole RAF missing.

6-7 103 Sqn. Halifax II W1225 crashed into the estuary of the Humber River in England returning from an operation over Germany, WO2 J. Beaupre, P/O J.N. Gilby RAF, Sgt C.J. Lee RAF, P/O E.A. Cassidy RAF, Sgt W.M. Crane RAF and F/S I. Rutherford RAF killed, Sgt R.F. Tidmarsh RAF missing. There was no signals from the aircraft after it had taken off, but it is believed they had been involved in some incident that incapacitated the pilot as the observer was found in the pilot's seat. He may have been attempting a force landing in the sea when they crashed (bac-lac.gc.ca).

6-7 218 Sqn. Stirling I N6072 HA-P shot down by a night fighter over Holland, WO2 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.

6-7 408 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,

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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 it's 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 passengers were 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 II Z5337 YK-O shot down into the sea off Alamein, Egypt. F/S P.G. Hemmer RCAF (USA) was seen to bail out, but was found dead (Shores, Massimello V.2).

7 809 Sqn. Fulmar II X8747 lost, *HMS Victorious*, Leading Airman Air Gunner J.F. Elson RN (Can.) and Sub Lt C.G. Taylor RNR missing in the Atlantic on a training exercise for Operation PEDESTAL (www.naval-history.net; codenames.info; www.rafcommands.com; aircrewremembered.com).).

7 #2 (Coastal) OTU Blenheim IV V6255 crashed into the sea off England, Sgt A.W. Lefurgey missing (Eddie Fell at www.rafcommands.com; Dave Lefurgy at wartimememoriesproject.com).

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7 #7 SFTS, Fort MacLeod, Alberta, Anson III R9688 collided in mid-air on landing approach with Anson III #6958. Both crashed, LAC(P) P.S. Kotelmach was killed in R9688, and LAC(P) J.E. Todd and P/O W.G. Rannie were killed in #6958 (aviation-safety.net).

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, P/O J.A. Powell RAF seriously injured (S.W. Clay; heritage.canadiana.ca; bac-lac.gc.ca). There is a photo of the wreckage in *Airforce Magazine*, Winter 2006/2007.

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), F/S D. Wolstenholme, Sgt F.R. Smith RAAF, Sgt R. St.C. Gowdie RAAF, F/S L.P. Kerr RNZAF, Sgt J.I. Thomson RNZAF and F/S E.K. Hainey RAF missing.

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 In Central Russia the first bombing attacks are made by Lend-Lease B-25 bombers, in daylight, losing 8 shot down. They are soon re-assigned to night operations (Bergström, Dikov & Antipov V.3).

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).

8 145 Sqn. Spitfire Vb (Trop.) BR467, F/L W.A.G. Conrad shared a claim for a Ju 88 damaged over North Africa (Shores, Massimello V.2).

8 162 Sqn. Blenheim V BA545 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 (BLME V.2 Errata).

8 274 Sqn. Hurricane II BP440 YK-U shot down over the desert in flames, WO1 T.B. Hamilton killed (Shores, Massimello V.2).

8 274 Sqn. Hurricane IIc BP444 YK-Z, F/S D.C. Gordon destroyed a Bf 109 over North Africa (Shores, Massimello V.2). See March 17, 1943.

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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).

8 409 Sqn. Beaufighter VIF X8162 was flying an defensive patrol in low cloud when it was shot down into the sea in error by a patrolling Mosquito of 151 Sqn., F/S A.J. Matches and his navigator P/O B.A. Thornley missing (aviation-safety.net; bac-lac.gc.ca).

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, High River, Alberta, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4245 spun and crashed, Cpl(P) R.R. D'Amico was unable to bail out and was badly injured (R.W.R. Walker; heritage.canadiana.ca).

8 #6 Recruitment Centre AW2 Grace Audrey Moulson died of natural causes while at home on leave after enlisting and awaiting posting to Manning Depot (www.wwiicdnwomensproject.org; bac-lac.gc.ca).

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

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(7th) Symphony was preceded by a Soviet artillery barrage on German guns to prevent them interrupting the performance (wikipedia).

9 274 Sqn. Hurricane IIc BP326 'T', F/S J.W. Neil claimed an MC.202 probably destroyed over North Africa (Shores, Massimello V.2). See September 2, below.

9 122 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.

9 296 Sqn. pilot F/S A.T. Morgan RCAF (USA) died in hospital in England after surgery (B. Barry et al).

9 #15 OTU Wellington Ic X3171 landed after a cross-country flight and found rear gunner Sgt R.D. Bijur RCAF (USA) missing (bac-lac.gc.ca). It is possible he bailed out after the aircraft had a brief dive when the pilots were changing positions and tangled in the controls (losses.internationalbcc.co.uk).

9 #20 OTU Wellington Ic L7845 ZT-Z (or -E) 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 (losses.internationalbcc.co.uk). 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. However, a propeller from this crash is part of a monument to fallen airmen at the Montrose Air Station Museum.

9 #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.

9 #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).

9 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 #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

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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.

9-10 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 RAAF 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.

9-10 405 Sqn. Halifax II W7709 LQ-J shot down over Holland by a night fighter, F/L D.J. Bain RAF (Can.), F/S F.E. Gibbons, Sgt H.P. Gover RAF (Nfld.), Sgt W.A. Hill, Sgt T.G. Morgan RAF, P/O T.M. Calderwood RAF and P/O R.H. Vaughan RAF killed.

Monday

10 <u>PEDESTAL Convoy</u> 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. This was opposed by some 600 Italian and German bombers based along it's route. 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. Any element of surprise was lost when the convoy overflown by a Vichy French passenger aircraft enroute to Algiers which was not attacked as it was neutral, but whose pilot reported the convoy (J.G. Debono).

10 4 Sqn. SAAF Kittyhawk I AK623 shot down by Bf 109s in North Africa, P/O J.K. McIvor RAF (Can.) has no known grave (Shores, Massimello V.2).

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10 80/92 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 89 Sqn. detachment Malta Beaufighter X7748, just delivered from England with improved radar to support the PEDESTAL Convoy, had both engines fail after taking off and ditched off-shore, F/O R.C. Fumerton and Sgt L.S. Bing rescued (D. Nicholas).

10 126 Sqn. Spitfire Vc (Trop.) BR366 shot down over Malta, P/O J.A. Smith bailed out but was not found and is listed as missing (www.rafcommands.com). P/O Smith was acting as wingman for his brother, F/O R.I. 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.I. Smith were scattered by a Spitfire aircraft over the sea where his brother had disappeared (K. Kjarsgaard www.rafcommands.com).

10 48 Sqn. Hudson IIIa FH427 lost on a patrol off Norway, P/O G.R. Watts RAAF killed, F/S G.R. Ash, Sgt J.E. Ramsey RAAF and Sgt R.K. Bannear RAAF missing (A. Storr).

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.

10 #1 B&G School, Jarvis, Ontario, LAC(OB) O.W. Johnson RCAF (USA) died by drowning while on special leave in Seattle, Washington, USA.

10 #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).

10-11 149 Sqn. Stirling I R9162 OJ-Q lost on a GARDENING operation near Denmark, F/S C.W.S. Oliver RAAF, Sgt L.R. Sims RAF and Sgt J.H. Storey RAF killed, F/S G.F. Smith, Sgt N.P. Gregson RAF, P/O W.C. Sutton RAF and Sgt W.H. Streater RAF missing.

10-11 207 Sqn. Lancaster I R5499 EM-O lost without trace on a GARDENING sortie off Denmark, F/S M.W. Atkins, F/O J.G. Speir, F/O S. Glazebrook DFM RAF, Sgt C.W. Musto RAAF, F/S L.G. Cladis RAF, F/O G. Easley RAF and P/O R.R. Hartell RAF missing.

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.R. Dennis, P/O N. Altstedter, P/O P. Houlsworth and Sgt D.A. Stallard (RCAF or

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RAF) rescued (H. Moyle). (W/C Dennis injured?)

10-11 #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. His file at Library and Archives Canada, however, states he was killed bailing out too low and his parachure did not fully deploy. 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.

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 August 12, below and 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). (However by this time the main attack there had been diverted to Stalingrad.)

Attacks on <u>PEDESTAL Convoy</u> 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. Among the pilots flown off from* Furious *were P/O L.S. Nomis RCAF (USA), P/O A.F. Roscoe RCAF (USA), Sgt N.D. Sintetos RCAF (USA) and F/O P.A. Woodger RCAF (USA) (Shores, Cull and Malizia). 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 <u>Manhattan Project</u> (C.E.

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Hipperson).

11 #14 OTU Hampden I AE155 GL-S crashed on take-off after making a difficult night landing, F/S R.P. Davies, F/S J.H. O'Connor and Sgt D.H. Barton RAAF killed (loses.internationalbcc.co.uk).

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 #5 Manning Depot, Lachine, Quebec, LAW Elizabeth Genevieve Woodman RCAF WD (Nfld.) died in Montreal of natural causes aggravated by a fall, which required a later operation, following medical discharge in June, above (wartimeheritage.com; www.wwiicdnwomensproject.org).

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 near Vantage, Saskatchewan, F/O L.W. White and LAC Howat badly injured (R.W.R. Walker; heritage.canadiana.ca).

11 #38 SFTS, Estevan, Saskatchewan, Anson II #8425, LAC Crocker RAF, overshot a night landing, went through the boundary fence and down a ravine which wrote off the aircraft due to damage, but left the pilot uninjured (CMA; heritage.canadiana.ca).

11 USAAF P-40 42-45940 had the landing gear fold on landing in British Columbia, minor damage, 1LT F.W. Herald USAAF safe (forum.12oclockhigh.net).

11-12 108 Sqn. Wellington Ic HX484 'P' crashed in the desert when an engine failed on a sortie to Tobruk, WO2 J.L. Roach, Sgt R.M. Hutchinson RAAF, Sgt A.S. Graeme-Cook RAF, Sgt T.C. Clugas RAF and Sgt F. Butler RAF taken PoW. See Aug. 23 below.

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 RCAF (USA), 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

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Sgt H.T. Smith RAF PoW.

11-12 50 Sqn. Lancaster I R5746 VN-Q shot down by flak over le Havre, France, F/S J.M. Lowe, P/O D. Gray RAAF, Sgt T.W.S. Addison RAAF, Sgt G.B. McCloy RAAF, Sgt A.A. Waldie RAF, Sgt W.P. Taylor RAF and Sgt J. Bogard RAF killed (www.baaa-acro.com). See January 30, 1943.

11-12 57 Sqn. Wellington III BJ830 DX-E shot down by flak over Germany, F/S S.L.G.Y. Buchanan, Sgt R. Riddell RNZAF, P/O W. Nisbet RAF, Sgt R.C. Cockayne RAF and Sgt T. Henderson RAF killed (aviation-safety.net).

11-12 75 (New Zealand) Sqn. Wellington III BJ625 AA-T lost over Germany, F/S R.G.R. Hodges, F/S T.S. Barclay RNZAF, Sgt R.J. Warring RNZAF and Sgt W.G.L. Inglis RNZAF killed, Sgt J.W.F. Atkin RNZAF PoW (losses.internationalbcc.co.uk).

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 killed, F/S A.I. Ellis, F/S G.E.F. Bradey RNZAF, F/S C.V. Green RNZAF and S/L R.E. Kimber RAF missing, Sgt J.E. London RAF PoW. This was F/S Ellis's first operational flight (bac-lac.gc.ca).

11-12 78 Sqn. Halifax II W1061 was hit by flak over Germany and damaged, before being shot down by a night fighter, WO2 W.E. Lunan and Sgt F.A. Scotland RAF killed, F/S J.C. Jupp, Sgt J.K. Howes RCAF (BWI), 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 shot down over Germany by a night-fighter, 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 (www/baaa-acro).

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 78 Sqn. Halifax II W1245 EY-B lost over Belgium, F/O D.A. Kingston RAF, Sgt P. McCann RAF, P/O G.W. MacAllister RAF, Sgt I.B. Griffiths RAF and Sgt E.F. Burrell RAF killed, Sgt R.G. Kendall and Sgt J. Stewart RAF PoW.

11-12 156 Sqn. Wellington III X3798 shot down by a night-fighter over Belgium, P/O C.S. Lenover and F/S F.V. Harker RAF killed, F/S K.E. Morrison, Sgt J.B.T. Weaver and Sgt F.J. D'Arcy RAF PoW (aviation-safety.net). See reference to this loss in S. Hadaway's *Missing Believed Killed.*

11-12 405 Sqn. Halifax II W7748 LQ-D shot down by flak over Germany, Sgt A.W. Hyson, F/S G. Langford-Pudney RAF (Can.), Sgt K.R. Toller RAF and Sgt G. Atkins RAF killed, Sgt T.A.S. Duff, Sgt J.J. Garrity and Sgt J.D.M. Mercer RAF PoW (www.baaa-acro.com).

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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 Sqn., *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 Sqn./880 Sqn., *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 "AF966" 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 Ia 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.

12 101 Sqn. Wellington III Z1661 was being marshalled into dispersal pad when it was damaged striking a tree with a wing-tip, Sgt F. Burrill, Sgt R.E. Gorman, Sgt W.W.H. Lavers, Sgt A.E. Rey and Sgt M.A. St. Louis were safe (bac-lac.gc.ca). See

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September 10-11 and December 2-3 below.

12 406 Sqn. Beaufighter VI X8157 ditched off England after it's dinghy deployed in flight and fouled the controls (*Flypast*, September 1986).

12 #23 OTU Wellington Ic Z1159 overshot it's landing and crashed in England, F/S A.M. Hornseth and P/O J.G. Stewart killed, Sgt V.A.G. Valiquette slightly injured.

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 R.E. Wagner, Sgt J.A. McIntosh RNZAF and Sgt F.A. Perry RAF injured (www.rafcommands.com). See May 13-14 and 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 N1627, 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 A.J. Labella RCAF (USA) and aero engine mechanic LAC J.C. MacIntyre with passenger P/O F.P. Boswell RCAF (USA) were killed in #6717, and Sgt J.H. Kirby, air frame mechanic AC1 D.H. Rushton and passenger LAC P. Holmes RCAF (USA) were killed in #6247 (bac-lac.gc.ca). P/O Boswell was actually a civilian, having been discharged from the Air Force the day before, and should not have been on this flight. LAC Holmes was travelling as a passenger on leave before his posting for further training in Eastern Canada. Prior to enlisting in the RCAF he had been a star in movies in Hollywood (www.imdb.com). Sadly AC1 Rushton's best friend, Sgt A.W. Cooke, had been killed just two days before in the loss of a #31 OTU Hudson (www.findagrave.com).

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 D.T. Jeans RAF (Nfld.), Sgt J.L. Sturgess, Sgt R. Helyar

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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. Another memorial to Sgt Blackmore is in the Public Library in Clarenville, Newfoundland, his hometown.

12-13 207 Sqn. Lancaster I R5633 EM-R lost over Germany, WO2 B.A. Brophy RCAF (UK), F/S S.F. Kane RAF, Sgt A.I. Steel RAF, Sgt C. Racine RAF, Sgt W.P.L. Wood RAF, Sgt D.H. Whiting RAF and Sgt J. Preston RAF killed.

12-13 408 Sqn. Hampden I AE150 EQ-M lost without trace on an operation to Germany, F/L J.S. Coulter, F/S W.M. Gartside, F/S W.G. Gittings and F/O R.C. Hodgson RAF missing.

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 it's 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 below.

<u>PEDESTAL Convoy</u>, 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 and F/O W. Shovlin RAF were lynched in India when a train was attacked by a hostile crowd (Jagan at www.rafcommands.com). F/O Shovlin's body was not recovered and he has no known grave (CVWM). See August 13, below.

13 248 Sqn. Beaufighter T5101 'W' flying from Malta was shot down by enemy fighters escorting a convoy into the Mediterranean, P/O D.J. Jay DFC RCAF (USA) bailed out but was not found (bac-lac.gc.ca). His navigator F/S R. MacFarlane, was rescued, injured, 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.

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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; commentary at WW2 People's War at www.bbc.com; and D. Burke, www.ww2irishaviation.com).

13 #1 SFTS Camp Borden, Ontario, Yale #3370 was flying low and diving on boats over Georgian Bay outside of the established solo practice area and flew into the water near Midland Ontario, killing LAC(P) D.B. Parkhill RCAF (USA) (bac-lac.gc.ca).

13 #3 B&G School, MacDonald, Manitoba, Battle I #1818 crash landed due to engine failure just after taking off on a test flight and written off, F/O J. Nelson and mechanic Sgt G.E.J. Kay (both RCAF?) safe (R.W.R. Walker; heritage.canadiana.ca).

13 #7 AOS, Portage la Prairie, Man., Anson I #6077 crashed returning from a night navigation exercise, Service Pilot J.L. von Kosloff, LAC C.K. Bowrey RAF, LAC R. Jones RAF and Sgt C.E. Raison RAAF killed (A. Storr; www.findagrave.com).

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 Sgt Cook 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, which had inflated in the wind blowing towards the shore, having forgotten to release it (M.L. McIntyre; heriage.canadiana.ca).

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 it's 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 Saddleback Mountain near Brownville Junction, Maine, USA, killing air frame mechanic LAC A.C. Duffield, Sgt E.H. Hollenbach, and accounting clerk AC2 P.L. Paterson. AC2 E.G. Machan (or Macham) survived with burns and walked downhill from the crash-site to a logging camp where he was found. The wreckage of the aircraft was found after a 2 day search by ground parties (http://www.mewreckchasers.com/Spruce.html;

www.bombercommandmuseumarchives.ca

www.findagrave.com; bac-lac.gc.ca; aviation-safety.net). All the aircraftsmen on board were passengers from #8 SFTS, Moncton, NB (bac-lac.gc.ca).

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 at Stonehenge, Saskatchewan, LAC(P) Crowden (RAF?) injured (R.W.R. Walker; heritage.canadiana.ca).

14 #37 SFTS, Calgary, Alberta, Oxford I AS666 and Oxford I BM810 collided in mid-air near Conrich, Alberta and both crashed, LAC(P) L.R. Nimmo RAF was killed in AS666 and LAC(P) W.E. Webb RAF was killed in BM810 (heritage.canadiana.ca).

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 (USA), Radio Officer H.T. Moores (Nfld.) and Flight Engineer J.H.K. Parker (UK) killed (CVWM under LAC A.C. Duffield).

14 USAAF ACFC, 3 Ferry Group, P-40K 42-45947 landing accident at Whitehorse, Yukon, pilot 1LT M.K. Rowe USAAF safe (AAIR; forum.12oclockhigh.net).

14-15 In London, England, a massive burst of cosmic rays is detected, source unknown (wikipedia).

Saturday

15 The new <u>Target Finding Force</u> 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 <u>Pedestal convoy</u> 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 <u>PEDESTAL convoy</u> 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.

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A detachment of #111 (F) Squadron Kittyhawk fighters is sent with a detachment of USAAF P-40 fighters to the newly built airfield on Adak Island, which had been strafed by Japanese A6M2N 'Rufe' floatplane fighters (B. Coyle). See September 25, below.

15 112 Sqn. Kittyhawk I EV340 aircraft spun and crashed near it's landing ground in Egypt on a practice flying exercise, 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 (http://raf-112-squadron.org/planelosses.html; www.rafcommands.com). F/S Schofield had arrived on the Squadron only 4 days before (bac-lac.gc.ca).

15 #1446 Ferry Flight Wellington Ic HX603 was taking off in Hastings, Sierra Leone, for Lagos, Nigeria, when the undercarriage was retracted too early (www.rafcommands.com). 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 seriously injured (www.baaa.acro.com). See Aug. 16, below.

15 #6 EFTS Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, LAC(P) P.G. Cameron and instructor Sgt D.R. McLeod became lost returning from night flying at the Relief Airfield at Hagen in DH.82C Tiger Moth #3887. Attempting a forced landing near Melfort, Saskatchewan the Tiger Moth struck high tension power lines and crashed. Both airmen survived the crash, but when LAC Cameron tried to pull Sgt McLeod from the wreckage he touched the aircraft's control wires which had become entangled with power lines, and was electrocuted (bac-lac.gc.ca; heritage.canadiana.ca).

15 RCAF Detachment, Western University, London, Ontario, clerk Sgt J. Jordan was found drowned while on leave at Chatham, Ontario, in unexplained circumstances (www.gatheringourheros.ca; bac-lac.gc.ca).

15-16 Night fighters were in action over Malta where Italian bombers were trying to destroy the tanker *Ohio* before it's cargo of fuel could be off-loaded. Several bombers were shot down including a BR.20M by 89 Sqn. detachment Beaufighter V7702 'T' flown by F/O R.C. Fumerton and Sgt L.S. Bing (D. Nicholas).

15-16 Düsseldorf 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).

15-16 50 Sqn. Lancaster I R5735 shot down by a night-fighter over German-Dutch border, F/S H.A. Chislett, P/O G.R. Jones RAAF, Sgt A.J. Pankhurst RAAF, Sgt R.C.M. White RAF and Sgt N. Tomlin RAF killed, F/O F.E.D. Lethbridge RAAF and Sgt J. McMillan RAF PoW (www.baaa-acro.com).

15-16 106 Sqn. Lancaster I R5678 shot down by flak over Düsseldorf, F/S J.D.O'L. Cooney, F/O J.E. Coates RAAF, Sgt T.A. Reid RAF, P/O A. Maxwell RAF, F/S J.A. Williams

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RAF, Sgt C.A. Holmes RAF, Sgt J.D. Dickie RAF and Sgt S. Topham RAF killed (www.baaa-acro.com).

15-16 408 Sqn. Hampden I AE432 EQ-S lost without trace, shot down by a night-fighter into the sea, F/L J.S. Cardell, P/O G.L. Stanair RAF, Sgt H.L. Jewell RAF and Sgt E. Mitchell RAF missing (www.baaa-acro.com).

Sunday

16 German forces reach and cross the Don River northwest of Stalingrad. This begins a series of heavy attacks by Soviet bombers against the bridgeheads, but inexperienced aircrew brought in become easy targets to concentrated German flak and fighters (Bergström, Dikov & Antipov V.3).

Off Bahia, Brazil, the German submarine U-507 sinks 5 neutral Brazilian ships in two days (D. Sommerville). See August 22, below.

In one of the mysteries of the war the US Navy blimp L-8 (which had been used in April to deliver urgent parts at sea 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).

16 92 Sqn., Spitfire Vc (Trop.) BR494 'R', F/S R.T. Hempstead RCAF (Guatemala) claimed a Bf 109 damaged in North Africa (Shores, Massimello V.2). See August 27, below.

16 459 Sqn. RAAF Hudson III V9172 missing between Sollum and Burgel on the Libyan coast on a search for German F-boats (powered armed cargo barges), Sgt M.E. Greer, F/O G.H. Burkett RAAF, F/S G.R. Knapp RAAF and F/O K. Terry RAAF missing (D. Vincent).

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 #14 OTU Hampden I P4318 GL-O flew into high ground in England when off track on a night navigation exercise, F/S J.M. Henry and Sgt T.B. Phillips died of injuries, Sgt R.O. Lumgair and Sgt J.M. Churchill injured (R. Allenby). See July 9-10, 1943.

16 #57 OTU Spitfire IIa P7598 crashed after a mid-air collision with Spitfire IIa P7549, killing Sgt J.L.D. Brophy in P7598 and Sgt R.I.D. Forsyth RAF in P7549 (www.rafcommands.com).

16 Telecommunications Flying Unit Anson I DJ184 crashed in England after a structural failure on a ferry flight, aero engine mechanic F/O A.J. Marsh, F/L F. Brown RAF, F/O E.T. Sellick DFC RAF, F/O G.F. Sellick RAF, LAC H.D. McCallum RAF and AC2 R.F. Umney RAF killed. F/Os E.T. Sellick and G.F. Sellick were brothers (aviation-safety.net).

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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 USAAF 5th Ferry Sqn., 5th Ferry Group, P-40K 42-45940 landing accident, Fort Nelson, BC, pilot F.W. Herald safe (AAIR).

16-17 Bomber Command sends 56 aircraft on GARDENING sorties in the North Sea, 2 lost (BC War Diaries).

16-17 207 Sqn. Lancaster I R5616 EM-J shot down by a night-fighter and crashed into the sea off Denmark on a GARDENING sortie, F/S J.A. McLean, F/O D.J. Quinlan, F/O W.M. Edmonds RAAF, P/O A.J. Southwell RAF, Sgt R. Robson RAF and Sgt T. Douglas RAF killed, Sgt J. Read RAF PoW (www.airmen.dk).

16-17 418 Sqn. Boston III W8350 shot down by a night-fighter on an INTRUDER to France, F/S J.W. Hutchison and Sgt H. Firth RAF killed, Sgt V.W. McCabe PoW (www.baaa-acro.com).

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). This flight included pilots F/O Davidson, Sgt Griffin, Sgt A.O. MacLeod, Sgt L.J. McDougall, P/O J.F. McElroy, P/O H.T. Nash RCAF (USA), P/O I.F. Preston RCAF (USA), P/O J.R. Scott and P/O J.D. Stevenson (Shores, Cull & Malizia).***

Enroute to Cyprus with Commonwealth soldiers the Canadian passenger ship

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Princess Marguerite ***was torpedoed and sunk by*** **U-83** ***with the loss of 49 of the 1,123 on board (RCN Chronology; wikipedia).***

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.). For a description of the move and early operations at Gander see J.H. Martin.

17 185 Sqn. Spitfire Vc (Trop.) BR374 Sgt C. Weaver III RCAF (USA) claimed two Bf 109s destroyed over Malta (Shores, Cull & Malizia).

17 58 Sqn. Whitley VII Z9517 GE-U shot down off Spain by a Fw 200 on an anti-submarine patrol over the Bay of Biscay, Sgt E.R. Phillipson RAF killed, F/S J.R.R. Metivier, P/O P.J.C. Savage, F/S K.M. Leslie RAAF, P/O K.W. Clugston RAF and Sgt A. Marshall RAF missing (A. Storr; www.rafcommands.com; R. Palmer). F/S Leslie had previously flown operations with 405 Squadron, and F/S Metvier had flown with 612 Squadron in Iceland. The Fw 200 was damaged by return fire in this attack and one of its crew was killed (R. Palmer).

17 204 Sqn. Sunderland I L2158 'M' crash landed off the coast of Sierra Leone, Africa, while escorting a convoy, due to an engine failure. The depth charges could not be rendered safe in the short time before the crash and exploded (bac-lac.gc.ca). F/S E.H. Connell, Sgt W.D. Maconnell, 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

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with a Lerwick that had also landed, when the crews stated 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 BR985 damaged over France while escorting a USAAF Fortress evening CIRCUS and crashed attempting to land in England, WO2 W.E.L. Rowthorn injured (www.spitfires.ukf.net). See Aug. 19 below.

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.B. 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 X3654 SR-K shot down over Holland by a night-fighter, P/O E.H. Brown, WO2 T. McBride, Sgt W.J. Justice RAF, Sgt J. Skipsey RAF, Sgt E.S. Thomas RAF and F/S D.H. Methven RAF killed (www.baaa-acro.com).

17-18 101 Sqn. Wellington III BJ844 was attacked by a night-fighter off Holland and ditched in the North Sea off the English coast 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 (aviation-safety.net; losses.internationalbcc.co.uk). See September 3, 1943.

17-18 214 Sqn. Stirling I BF330 BU-H shot down off Holland by a night fighter, F/S A. Fleming, Sgt A.H.C. Gill RNZAF, Sgt A. Dewar RAF, Sgt W.H. Jones RAF and Sgt G.W. Pickworth RAF killed, P/O K.P. Symes RAF and Sgt R. Kerry RAF missing.

Tuesday

18 Fighter Command secretly deployed squadrons to airfields within range of Dieppe to support Operation JUBILEE, scheduled for the next day (V. Johnson).

18 113 Sqn. Blenheim IV T2245 with a crew attached from 45 Sqn. was on an "internal security" flight in India when it struck a railway signal mast, crash landed and flipped over in a flooded area near the Ganges River. F/S S.A. Goss RCAF (USA) was killed in the crash and remains believed to be his were recovered when the aircraft was salvaged some months later. F/S C.A. Whiteside RAF and Sgt A. Murray RAF

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were rescued by railway officials, but were then taken prisoner by a mob of civilians, and were later murdered, and it is not positive that their bodies were recovered (various at www.rafcommands.com). All are recorded buried in a collective grave. According to S. Raghavan aircraft had been used to attack crowds of people supporting the "Quit India" campaign with machine-guns. Five events of aircraft firing machine-guns over crowds in this period were brought up in the British House of Commons, where it was stated on only two occasions was it possible civilian casualties were caused, and no deaths were believed to have resulted (Jagan at www.rafcommands.com). During this period in this region of India there were many attacks on Indian officials, police and military.

18 76 Sqn. Halifax II V9992 MP-M spun and crashed in England on a training flight while flying with three engines, F/S C.C. Lee, F/S J. Gillies RAF, Sgt J.A.R. Triscott RAF, Sgt A. Collins RAF, F/S J.H.F. Sydes RAF, Sgt W.C. W.C. Bacon RAF and Sgt S. Downing RAF killed (R. Allenby).

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.A. Miller and F/S A.J. Linden RAF killed, F/S H.I. Smith and Sgt D.F. Woods injured (www.rafcommands.com). 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 in hazy conditions 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 (CVWM). (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.

18-19 104 Sqn. Wellington II Z8492 'O' crash landed after taking off for a sortie over Tobruk after an engine failed, P/O C.E. Stotesbury RAF killed, Sgt J.H.R. Ledoux, Sgt F. Rowell RAF and Sgt A. Broomhead RAF injured, P/O B.R.W. Blogg RAF safe.

18-19 The Target Finding Force makes it's 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

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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 57 Sqn. Wellington III X3371 DX-G believed lost over the sea near Sweden, P/O R.P. McLaren, Sgt H.J. Wakeman RNZAF and Sgt J.C. Williams RNZAF killed, P/O K.H.W. Alderton RNZAF and Sgt W.E. Collins RAF missing.

18-19 172 Sqn. Wellington VIII HX482 shot down into the sea off Wales by friendly fire from a US tanker, Sgt H.E. Dawe RAF (Nfld.), P/O R.P. Fahrni, P/O J.S. Haynes, Sgt E.T.A. Deacon RAF, P/O G.C.V. Jamieson RAF, Sgt J. Mullins RAF and passengers AC1 F.P.C. Cross RAF and 2Lt D.H. Kaufman USAAF killed.

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 it's 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).

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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 airborne landings and bombing to distract

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defenders, 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 groups survival and achievements.

19 92 Sqn. Spitfire Vc (Trop.) BR492 'T', P/O W.L. Chisholm destroyed a Bf 109 and claimed a second probably destroyed over North Africa (Shores, Massimello V.2). See August 30, below.

19 Middle East Pool, pilots P/O E.F. Bent and P/O P.H. Wyman were among those killed when USAAF A-29 (Hudson) 41-23592 crashed at Wadi Sedina, Sudan on a ferry flight test flight with the loss of these officers and it's US crew (USAAF or Pan-American Airways?), possibly on it's delivery flight to China (CWGC; various discussion pages, www.rafcommands.com and forum.12oclock.net; J. Baugher). Their presence on the aircraft was not officially authorized (bac-lac.gc.ca).

19 3 Sqn. Hurricane IIc BD867 QO-Y hit by flak over the beach at Dieppe and came down into the sea, F/S S.D. Banks killed.

19 3 Sqn. Canadian built Hurricane IIb AM286 (built as a Hurricane X) shot down by a Fw 190 attacking gun positions in Dieppe, Squadron commanding officer S/L A.E. Berry DFC RAF (NZ) killed (www.cieldegloire.com, CWGC). S/L Berry was leading his

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4th flight of the day over the invasion area (nzetc.victoria.ac.nz).

19 43 Sqn. Hurricane IIb BD712 'Z' lost, F/S H. Wik PoW (www.rafcommands.com).

19 66 Sqn. Spitfire Vc AB517 shot down into the sea near Dieppe, F/S R.H. Loyns missing.

19 81 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BM376 damaged by a German fighter over Dieppe, P/O W.S. Large managed to return to England safe (R. McNeill www.rafcommands.com). See Jan. 1, 1943.

19 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 J.L. Senour rescued (www.baaa-acro.com).

19 226 Sqn. Boston III AL736 MQ-P crashed into the sea shot down by fighters on a sortie to lay smoke screens over the beachhead, P/O R.J. Corrigan and F/S W. Osselton RAF missing, Sgt S. Moth RAF PoW (Jon Hipkins www.rafcommands.com).

19 400 Sqn. Mustang Ia AM151 shot down over Dieppe, P/O D.G. Burlingam killed.

19 400 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).

19 401 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.

19 401 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 Magazine*, Summer 1992). Onboard the rescue launch HSL 177 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* (and also in D. McIntosh), 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.

19 401 Sqn. Spitfire IX BS157 shot down off Dieppe by German fighters, F/S M.H. Buckley missing. F/S Buckley had flown a 603 Sqn. Spitfire off *USS Wasp* to Malta April 20, above, but had fallen ill and was evacuated from the island after only a few sorties (CVWM; wartimes.ca).

19 401 Sqn. Spitfire IX BS107 shot down near Dieppe by German fighters, Sgt L.J. Armstrong RCAF (USA) PoW.

19 401 Sqn. WO2 W.E.L. Rowthorn died of injuries received Aug. 17. WO Rowthorn is remembered in a display at his alma mater Hillcrest High School, Thunder Bay, Ontario (J.R. Kerr).

19 403 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).

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19 403 Sqn. Spitfire Vb EN850 shot down near Dieppe, P/O L.A. Walker MiD killed.
19 411 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BM406 shot down off Dieppe by a Fw 190, P/O P.R. Eakins killed (thehistoryhangar.ca).
19 411 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AD263 damaged in combat over Dieppe, F/S S.A. Mills injured.
19 411 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).
19 411 Sqn. Spitfire Vb returned to England with a bent propellor after hitting the sea, Sgt Dawson safe (411 SH).
19 412 Sqn. Spitfire Vb EN831 VZ-J went down off Dieppe, shot down by flak, P/O J.N. Brookhouse missing.
19 412 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BL857 shot down at Dieppe by flak, F/S W.F. Aldcorn baled out and rescued.
19 414 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 Sqns.; I. Wikene; FF Years). See June 23, 1944.
19 414 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).
19 416 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).
19 418 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.
19 610 Sqn. Spitfire Vb, P/O J.L.E. Hokan was badly damaged in combat with Fw 190 aircraft but managed to return safely (thecanadianencyclopedia.ca). See September 26, below.
19 #2 AFU Anson I N4902 flew into a mountain on the Isle of Man, killing F/S R. Jones , P/O J.R. Heaton RAF, Sgt K.L. Pickard RAF, Sgt G. Quarmby RAF and Sgt D.T. Wilson RAF crew (www.rafcommands.com).
19 #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).
19 #5 EFTS?, DH.82C Tiger Moth #5808 crashed at High River, Alberta and written off (J.A. Griffin).
19 #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.G. Morin and LAC

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(WAG) R.B. Sandman (S. Shail).

19 #11 SFTS Yorkton, Saskatchewan Crane I #7935 crashed, LAC(P) D.C. Brown killed. See #12 SFTS loss July 25, 1942.

19 #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).

19-20 61 Sqn. Lancaster QR-M R5563 ditched in the Bay of Biscay off the Spanish coast on a shipping strike, F/S K.R. Jackson, WO2 C.P. Shriner, Sgt G.A. Melville RAF, Sgt J. McNeary RAF, F/S F.J. Monk RAF, Sgt E.W. Temple RAF and Sgt P.R.A.S. Whiting RAAF missing (Allan1944 at www.rafcommands.com).

19-20 61 Sqn. Lancaster R5605 QR-R lost on a shipping strike off Spain, F/S A. Shepherd, F/O E.E. Sheppard, WO2 G.H. Smith, F/S H.J. Taylor, F/S O. Haynes RNZAF, Sgt D.J. King RNZAF and Sgt A. Wotherspoon RAAF missing (R. McNeill and E. Martyn at www.rafcommands.com; losses.internationalbcc.co.uk).

19-20 61 Sqn. Lancaster R5543 QR-T crashed in Spain, shot down on a shipping strike, P/O J.E. Madson, P/O T.L. Wilson, Sgt H. Allen RAF, Sgt T.L. Boland RNZAF, P/O J.H. Harrad RAF, Sgt R.H. Linton RAF and Sgt V.J. Watson RAAF killed (R. McNeill www.rafcommands.com; losses.internationalbcc.co.uk).

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 it's 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.

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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).

First party of RAF to establish #111 (Coastal) OTU in the Bahamas arrive in Miami, Florida (E. Wiberg).

20 37 Sqn., Egypt, P/O J.R. Dudley DFC RAF (Can.) killed in a vehicle accident in Egypt (jonheyworth at www.rafcommands.com).

20 86 Sqn. Beaufort IIa AW341 BX-F from Malta shot down attacking an enemy convoy, F/O P.K. Roper, Sgt B.N. Checketts RAF, P/O G. Godd RAF and Sgt L. Miles RAF PoW (Shores, Cull & Malizia; R. Hayward; www.rafcommands.com).

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.

20 296 Sqn. Whitley V BD536 stalled and crashed on approach to land, F/S J.H. Kelly, F/S J.J. Major, AC2 D.F. Armstrong RAF, AC2 R.F. Fisher RAF, AC2 W. Inglis RAF, AC2 R.F.G. Padfield RAF and P/O J. Woods RAF killed, F/S J. Oliver RAF injured (www.rafcommands.com). This Squadron operated Whitleys in support of Airborne forces, dropping paratroops and as glider tugs (R. Williams).

20 #5 (Coastal) OTU Beaufort L4480 'G2' flew into high ground and exploded just after taking off on a night training exercise in Scotland, F/S D.G. Taylor, F/S 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 it's position it flew into high ground, Sgt H.W. Campbell, Sgt B.G. Crew injured, Sgt J.E. Collinson, Sgt H. Nelson and Sgt R.L. Skillen safe (www.rafcommands.com).

20 #11 SFTS, Yorkton, Saskatchewan, LAC A. McKay died of natural causes while uner treatment for depression at the Saskatchewan Mental Hospital, North Batteford, Saskatchewan (D. Burke at www.rafcommands.com; bac-lac.gc.ca).

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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 75 (New Zealand) Sqn. Wellington III BJ774 lost without trace on a GARDENING sortie off the French coast, F/S A.I. McDonogh, F/S A.H. Robitaille, F/S R.C. Stuart, WO E.K.A. Andersen DFM RAF and Sgt G. Stead RAF missing (G. Workman).

20-21 115 Sqn. Wellington III X3989 KO-V lost without trace on a GARDENING operation, F/S J.W. Newman, Sgt C. Aitken RAF, Sgt G.O. Tyler RAF, Sgt E.F. Stanley RAF and Sgt A.K. Taylor-Thomas missing.

20-21 218 Sqn. Stirling I W7573 HA-U shot down by flak over Germany on a GARDENING sortie, F/S C.D. Dixon, F/O O.J. Sanderson RAAF, F/S J. Farrimond RAF, Sgt R.T. Higgins RAF, Sgt F.J. James RAF, Sgt C. Smith RAF and Sgt G.L. Tudor RAF killed (www.baaa-acro.com; losses.internationalbcc.co.uk). F/S Dixon had been injured April 27, above, in the loss of a #23 OTU Wellington.

20-21 218 Sqn. Stirling I BF338 HA-Q shot down by flak and crashed at Goosefeld, 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 from the bomber, and 4 civilians were killed on the ground when the bomber crashed into houses (www.baaa-acro.com).

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, WO2 R.H. Bradley, Sgt J. Murphy, P/O F.G. Bamber RAF, P/O A.E. Mackney RAF and Sgt J. Walker RAF killed (www.rafcommands.com).

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 near Candiac, Saskatchewan, LAC(OB) L.H. Davidson, LAC(OB) W.W. Douglas, Sgt

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L.A. Insall RNZAF, and civilian pilot I.A. Bowman killed (bac-lac.gc.ca). Prior to enlisting in the RCAF LAC Douglas had been a Cadet F/L in #111 Air Cadet Squadron, Vancouver, BC.

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 39 Sqn. Beaufort II AW353 lost over Corfu, Sgt G.S.L. Cumming RAF (Can.), F/S D. Foster RAF, Sgt J.B. Shone RAF and 2/Lt W.B. Wolfe SAAF PoW (www.rafcommands.com).

22 202 Sqn. Sunderland III W4029 crashed when making a night landing at Gibraltar returning from an anti-submarine patrol, followed by the depth charges exploding, F/S F.D. Scott, F/O C.A. Rimmington RAAF, F/S J.M. Corcoran RAF, Sgt E.F. Chaplin RAF, Sgt C.J.B. Orr RAF, Sgt J.S. Hay RAF and Sgt H. Wallis RAF killed, P/O N.K. Adams RAF, Sgt G. Form RAF, Sgt C.J. Lee RAF and Sgt A. Morgan RAF missing, P/O K.G. Gray RAF injured (bac-lac.gc.ca).

22 15 Sqn. Stirling I W7525 LS-E crashed short of the runway making a three engined approach from a training flight, F/S F.J. Levesque killed, P/O J.L. Meredith RNZAF, Sgt J. Buchanan RAF, Sgt J.H. Vincent RAF, Sgt R.F. Escreet RAF and LAC A.F.W. Farley RAF injured (www.baaa-acro.com).

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 towards <u>Stalingrad</u>, strongly supported by Luftwaffe reconnaissance and tactical attacks on Soviet defenders. It was

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hoped they could capture the City in 2 days. By evening they are in sight of the city and have reached the Volga River to its north (A. Beevor; Bergström, Dikov & Antipov V.3).

In the fighting in Central Russia the heavily reinforced Luftwaffe was able to regain air superiority over the battleground (Bergström, Dikov & Antipov V.3).

Having been disrupted on it's earlier attempt to fly to the North Pole from Spitsbergen, the modified 210 Sqn. Catalina IIa 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.

23 108 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 32 Sqn. Canadian built Hurricane IIb AM347 hit power lines and crashed in England, Sgt T.W. Buckley RNZAF injured (www.rafcommands.com).

23 58 Sqn., wireless operator/air gunner F/S J.W.C. Cowan accidentally drowned in Cornwall.

23 421 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BM589 crashed in England on a training exercise, killing P/O D.M. Iverach (www.rafcommands.com; CVWM). 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

www.bombercommandmuseumarchives.ca

Coal Harbour and Comox, BC (A.T. Jarvis). B. Coyle notes the weather was rough that night, but also notes a Japanese submarine, *I-25*, was on patrol in this area.

23 #33 EFTS, Caron, Saskatchewan, DH.82C Tiger Moth #5990 crashed and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

23-24 Heavy bombing of Stalingrad causes a firestorm, and razes most of the city (wikipedia). 600 bombers flew 1,600 sorties over the city in the evening and night, dropping 1,000 tons of bombs, 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; Bergström, Dikov & Antipov V.3).

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.

German bombing of Stalingrad continues. The amount of destruction in the City later became a problem for the German advance, and provided the defending Soviet forces with positions to defend the City. With the Luftwaffe concentrated over the City an attempt to occupy it from the north was successfully blocked by Soviet forces, which counter-attacked and surrounded the force on the banks of the Volga (Bergström, Dikov & Antipov V.3).

From France two pressurized Ju 86R aircraft, modified from Ju 86P high altitude reconnaissance aircraft to carry a 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 reported as attacked (C. Goss). See August 28, below.

24 276 Sqn. ASR Lysander III T1696 AQ-H missing on an training sortie over Lyme Bay,

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Dorset, after a report of enemy fighters in the area, P/O J.D. Ernst and AC2 S.H. Fleet RAF missing (www.rafcommands.com; CVWM; aircrewremembered.com).

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 #1 PRU, L Flight Mosquito PR.IV DK310 LY-G, F/L G.R. Wooll RAF (Can.) and Sgt J. Fielden RAF were on a Photo Reconnaissance flight from England to the Italian Adriatic ports to locate ships of the Italian fleet in the lead-up to Operation TORCH when it suffered an engine failure just short of Venice. The engine was feathered and a direct return to England was attempted, but the second engine was strained to keep altitude over the Alps and also failed. A forced landing was made in Switzerland. The aircraft was later purchased by Switzerland for its use. After being released F/L Wooll returned to Canada and was a Mosquito Production Test Pilot at De Havilland Canada (A. Fletcher).

24 #10 SFTS, Dauphin, Manitoba, Crane I #7953 crashed into trees taking off at Wawanesa, Manitoba, 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. Spark 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 BF335 MG-E crashed in England attempting a landing with heavy damage from a night fighter attack, Sgt J.E. Land, F/S C.R. Bee, Sgt S.A. Pearce RAF, Sgt G. Hayes RAF, Sgt L.J. Walter RAF, Sgt F.E. Davidson RAF and Sgt G.F. Eldridge RAF safe. See Sept. 18-19, below.

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

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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. P/O Teillet evaded until he was taken September 6 (O. Clutton-Brock).

24-25 44 Sqn. Lancaster I W4105 KM-X shot down over Belgium by a night-fighter, P/O L.M. Beaumont, P/O G.C. McDonald, F/S F. Hagger RAF, F/S R.G. Page RAF, Sgt J.V. Holland RAF, P/O D.F. Nicholson RAF and P/O J.M. Rickard RAF killed (www.baaa-acrp.com).

24-25 61 Sqn. Lancaster I R5662 QR-A shot down by flak over Germany, Sgt J.M. Atkinson, F/S N.R. Meyer RAF, W/C G.H. Sheenan RAF, F/S B.J. Davis RAF, Sgt A.F.P. Cursett-Sutherland RAF, Sgt J. McCleary RAF and Sgt H. Ekin RAF killed (www.baaa-acro.com).

24-25 83 Sqn. Lancaster I R5623 OL-C exploded over Germany, F/S C.H.J. Byrd, WO2 L.T. Goodfellow, F/O E.H. Renfree RAAF, Sgt J.J. Mathieson RAF, Sgt E. Webster RAF, Sgt H. Young RAF and Sgt D.L. Howe RAF killed.

24-25 97 Sqn. Lancaster I R5537 OF-B shot down over Belgium by a night fighter, F/O G.C. Hooey DFC RAF (Can.), Sgt V.J.A. Butler RAF, Sgt R.C. Martin RAF, Sgt P.V. Parry RAF, F/S L. Grundy RAF, F/S A.H. Whithers RAF and P/O E.J. Smitherman RAF killed. F/O Hooey had been awarded the DFC for his part in the Augsburg Raid of April 17, above (CVWM).

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.

24-25 149 Sqn. Stirling I N6083 OJ-N caught fire in the air after taking off, and crashed in England, P/O E.P. Wynn, Sgt R.L. Raphael RAF, F/L D.A. Pebworth DFC RAF, Sgt W. Green RAF, F/S A.N. Charlton RAF, F/S S. Martin RAF and P/O J.A. Trotter RAAF killed.

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).

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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 it's 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.

25 274 Sqn. Hurricane IIc BP445 YK-E shot down in Egypt, P/O W.C. Wigston killed (Shores, Massimello V.2).

25 459 Sqn. RAAF Hudson IV FH257 stalled in a turn at low level and crashed in Egypt on a training flight killing F/S J.E.M. Lamb, F/S J.K.N. MacMillan, F/S J.D. Purcell, F/S W.L. Farrand RAF and Sgt E.W. Fuidge RAF (D. Vincent).

25 249 Sqn. Spitfire Vb EP695 lost off Sicily, P/O B. Butler missing (www.rafcommands.com).

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, had been named in honour of Prince George in 1915 (www.the canadianencyclopedia.com).

25 #1 (Coastal) OTU Hudson V AM636 lost over the sea on a bombing exercise, F/S R.D. McKenzie, F/S H.R. McMillan, F/S E.L. Randall killed, Sgt P.H. Dawson RAAF and Sgt A. Cowie RAF missing (A. Storr).

25 #22 OTU Wellington Ic X9929 crashed in England on a night flying exercise, Sgt R.H. Harper, F/S A. Leether, P/O G.L. Shaw, Sgt E.T. Spears and P/O E.F.J. Stoll killed.

25-26 Japanese land at Milne Bay with naval ships for gunfire support 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

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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 EP164 and Spitfire Vb BM638 are believed to have collided after being vectored to a suspected enemy aircraft while on a convoy patrol from RAF Angle in Wales, F/S M.E. Shaw RCAF (USA) killed in the former and P/O G.D. Woolrich RCAF (USA) missing from the latter aircraft (bac-lac.gc.ca).

26 #7 (Coastal) OTU Wellington VIII HX424 was engaged in low flying night torpedo attack practice when it flew into the sea in the Firth of Clyde, P/O L.W. Boulton, P/O E.R.H. Holmes, Sgt A.L. Keith, P/O L.H.P. Van Der Goes and Sgt K.W. Organ RAF injured, F/S H.W. Gregory missing (www.rafcommands.com; bac-lac.gc.ca).

26 #21 OTU Wellington Ic Z1160 crashed making an emergency approach to land after suffering engine problems, Sgt D.B. White RAF injured, P/O M. Holub and Sgt H.L. Locke RAF (Can.) safe (www.rafcommands.com). See September 4 and September 13-14, below and September 17, 1944.

26 #3 SFTS, Calgary, Alberta, air frame mechanic Cpl H.J. Manson killed in a car accident in Calgary while off duty. His wife and #3 SFTS airman LAC R.L.L. De Armond were badly injured when the car went off the road and hit a railing which pierced the vehicle. The driver, also an airman, was later charged with manslaughter (www.findagrave.com; heritage.canadiana.ca).

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.

26 RCAF Station Trenton, nursing orderly LAC R. Dukes died in Canada from natural causes (H. Welting and D. Burke, www.rafcommands.com; bac-lac.gc.ca).

26-27 At Milne Bay the Australian Army was uncertain they could hold the airstrip, so RAAF P-40 fighters were flown to Port Moresby overnight, while RAAF groundcrew supported infantry in defence of the airfields (B. Kite).

Soviet long range bombers attack Berlin, Danzig and Königsberg (Bergström, Dikov & Antipov V.3).

Night INTRUDER operations from Malta over Italian airbases in Sicily begin (D. Newton).

Thursday

27 RAAF fighters returned in the morning to the airstrips at Milne Bay, and with

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bombers continue attacks on the Japanese landing force, breaking off only to defend their airfields from an attack by Japanese D3A dive bombers escorted by A6M fighters (D. Newton; B. Kite).

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). This attack prevents Hitlers ordered assault on Leningrad (Bergström, Dikov & Antipov V.3). See October 2, below. 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 92 Sqn., Spitfire Vc (Trop.) BR515 'D', F/S R.T. Hempstead RCAF (Guatemala) claimed a Bf 109 damaged in North Africa (Shores, Massimello V.2). See August 31, below.

27 185 Sqn. Spitfire Vc (Trop.) BR374 Sgt C. Weaver III RCAF (USA) claimed a Ju 88 destroyed over Malta, but it was able to return damaged (Shores, Cull & Malizia).

27 185 Sqn. Spitfire Vb EP200 GL-T hit by flak over Sicily and crash landed, F/O P.A. Woodger RCAF (USA) PoW (www.rafcommands.com; Shores, Cull and Malizia).

27 227 Sqn. Beaufighter T5150 'K' P/O D.W. Schmidt, escorting a strike of Beauforts, shot down a Cant Z.1007bis escorting an Italian freighter which was also torpedoed and sunk between Crete and Benghazi (Shores, Massimello V.2).

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 #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.

27 71 (US) Sqn. Spitfire Vb AD196 lost escorting CIRCUS 208, shot down into the sea,

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F/S J.E. Evans RCAF (USA) was seen to get into his life-raft but was not found and is missing (bac-lac.gc.ca).

27 154 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BM248 crash landed in England after a fight with enemy fighters, F/O A.S. Turnbull wounded.

27 418 Sqn. Boston III W8262 lost on an evening INTRUDER sortie over France, Sgt R.J. Blenkarn, F/S J.C. Colter and Sgt A.G.G. McBain RAF 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 EN956 SD-L and F/S E.W. Shadbolt RAF killed in EN958 SD-B (Gus at www.rafcommands.com; bac-lac.gc.ca).

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 S.R. 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 3 Sqn. Hurricane IIc Z3582 lost over France on a night INTRUDER sortie, WO2 F.R. Varrick killed.

27-28 12 Sqn. Wellington II Z8403 PH-Z lost without trace, F/S S.A. Wilson, P/O A. Norman RAAF, P/O H. Fallas RAF, Sgt G. Hughes RAF and Sgt C.J. Broomhead RAF missing.

27-28 12 Sqn. Wellington III X3802 PH-J shot down over Holland by a night fighter, Sgt C.R. Podmore RAAF, Sgt D.S. McNeil RAF, Sgt A. Mills RAF and Sgt F.G.E. Pierson RAF killed, Sgt E. Gershater RCAF (USA) PoW.

27-28 12 Sqn. Wellington III X3988 PH-X lost over Germany, Sgt R.H. Ashwell RAF (Can.), Sgt F.R. Cummins RAAF, Sgt J.E. Dalton RAAF, P/O D.H. MacNaughton RAF and Sgt A. Norton RAF killed.

27-28 15 Sqn. Stirling I BF327 LS-D shot down over Holland by a night fighter, P/O D.S. Masur RCAF (S. Africa), P/O J.R. Thornton RAF, Sgt W.R. Hopkins RAF, Sgt H. Clegg RAF, P/O J.W. Frazer RAF, Sgt M.H. Burtt RAF and Sgt E.W. Margetts RAF killed.

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27-28 44 Sqn. Lancaster I W4124 KM-D shot down by a night fighter over Germany, F/S A.F. Christie, F/O R.H. Suckling RNZAF, Sgt T. Bickers RAF, Sgt M. Rowbottom RAF, Sgt E.C. Allen RAF, Sgt H.V. Winch RAF and Sgt A.E. Johnson RAF killed.

27-28 97 Sqn. Lancaster I W4139 OF-V lost, F/S C.H. Hincks, WO2 G.L. McKenna, Sgt D.W. Wallis RAF, Sgt S. Lloyd RAF and F/S J.C. Wilkinson RAF killed, Sgt J.D. Garland RAAF and Sgt F.W. Ambrose RAF PoW.

27-28 101 Sqn. Wellington III BJ698 lost without trace, F/S J.J. Kincaid, F/S H.E. Roberts, P/O E. Beale RAF, Sgt D. Rowles RAF, Sgt F.D. Chudleigh RAF and F/L G.L. Clack RAF missing.

27-28 115 Sqn. Wellington III BJ710 KO-L missing, F/S D.E. Morgan RAF (Can.), Sgt J. Bingham RAF, F/S W. Graham RAF, F/O W.A. Skelton RAF killed, F/S J.W. Middleton RAF PoW.

27-28 142 Sqn. Wellington IV Z1338 QT-D shot down by flak over Cologne, Germany, P/O F.R.S. Pye, F/O A.H. Paget RAF, Sgt E. Tupholme RAF and Sgt J. Bellinger RAF killed, Sgt F.C. Weighill PoW (www.baaa-acro.com).

27-28 142 Sqn. Wellington IV Z1411 QT-Z lost over Germany, F/S A.H. Amlin, F/S H.C. Empey, F/S D. Fletcher Jr., P/O C.W. Keddy and F/S J. Paterson killed.

27-28 142 Sqn. Wellington IV Z1424 QT-F lost over Germany, P/O B.S. Biden, P/O M.F. Johnson, P/O W.L. Quinn, Sgt T. Rooney RAF and Sgt L.M. Tetley RAF killed.

27-28 150 Sqn. Wellington III X3418 shot down over Holland by a night fighter, Sgt N.S. Ball, Sgt G.E. Coombes RAF, F/S E.G.W. Lewis RAF, F/O D.C. Pritchard RAF and P/O J.A.J. Milne RAF killed.

27-28 207 Sqn. Lancaster I W4129 EM-R lost over the North Sea on an operation to Germany, possibly due to a night-fighter attack, F/S R.A. Clement, P/O T.D. Brown RAF, Sgt E.W.J. Chaldecott RAF and Sgt H.C. Taylor RAF missing, P/O G.D. Hughes, F/S D.H. Boswell RAF and Sgt J. Boon RAF PoW (aviation-safety.net).

27-28 214 Sqn. Stirling I R9155 BU-Q lost over Germany, F/S R.R. Gray, P/O R.H. Dunckley RNZAF, F/O A.R. Skone RAF, Sgt J. King RAF, Sgt W.J. Bushell RAF, Sgt C. Lyle RAF and F/S R.A. Coleman RAF killed.

27-28 218 Sqn. Stirling I R9160 HA-G shot down into the North Sea by a night fighter, P/O T.P. Scanlon RAF and Sgt G.F. Medhurst RAF killed, F/S H.M. Russell, P/O V.C.W. Trowbridge, Sgt L.A. Jones RNZAF, P/O W.R.B. McCarthy DFC RAF, Sgt H. Forshaw RAF and F/S J.R. Bird RAF missing. See also January 31, 1943 and June 26, 1945.

27-28 408 Sqn. Hampden I P1244 EQ-Y shot down by flak over Germany, WO2 L.G. Chaston, F/S A.H. Jennings RAF, F/S J.W. Todd RAF and Sgt C.H. Thompson RAAF killed (losses.internationalbcc.co.uk).

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

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they drove off. Crew F/S N.C. Turnour, Sgt L.S. Leech (RAF or RCAF?) and Sgt M.P. Hall 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 May 4-5, 1943 and 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 two nearby 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 XIIa 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 Ia GA-V shot down by a German fighter over the desert, P/O J.E. Loree taken PoW (http://raf-112-squadron.org/planelosses.html).

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.

28 401 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

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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 #14 OTU Hampden I AE312 GL-H crashed in England on a night exercise, Sgt D.E. Brownlee, F/S N.A. Clare, F/S G.A. Gray and Sgt J.J.E.G.R. Patry killed.

28 #24 OTU Whitley V BD380 abandoned over England after an engine over speeded, Sgt A.C. Combe RAF injured, Sgt E.V. Millar, P/O H.C. Taffs, Sgt Fear, P/O Graham RAF, Sgt Lancashire RAF and Sgt Curtis RAF safe (www.rafcommands.com).

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. Dodd 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 #12 EFTS, Goderich, Ontario, DH.82C Tiger Moth #1294 made a poor landing and was wrecked, Sgt W.J. Matthews slightly injured (heritage.canadiana.ca).

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).

28-29 15 Sqn. Stirling I R9153 LS-U shot down by a night fighter over France, WO2 E.W.J. Gilson, P/O E.C. Patterson, F/S V.G. Lawrence RAF, Sgt K. Hawthorn RAF, Sgt J.O. Ludgate RAF, Sgt A.G. Oswin RAF and Sgt G.V. Payne RAF killed (aviation-safety.net).

28-29 35 Sqn. Halifax II W7700 TL-G shot down by a night-fighter over France, F/O A. Cook, F/S M.F. Robbins, P/O F.J. Taylor, F/S P.W. Tucker-Feltham RAF, Sgt G.F. Bush RAF, Sgt G.J. Phillips RAF and Sgt H.S. McCartney RAF killed (35squadron.wordpress.com).

28-29 49 Sqn. Lancaster I L7567 shot down by a night-fighter and crashed in Holland, F/S N.R. Mitchell, F/O J. Lowrie RNZAF, Sgt R.P. Dobson RAAF, Sgt W.D. Peirce RAAF and Sgt E.A. Barrett RAF killed, WO J. Allen RAF and Sgt G.H.M. Gordon RAF PoW (www.baaa-acro.net).

28-29 49 Sqn. Lancaster I R5897 EA-B lost over Germany, believed to have collided in mid-

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air on the bombing run with 57 Squadron Wellington BJ701 (below). Sgt J. Breivis RCAF (USA), F/S L.J. Capton, F/S E.G. Burton RAF, Sgt K. Newberry RAAF, Sgt G.A. Swan RAAF, Sgt E.C. Ibbotson RAF and Sgt J.D. Osbaldeston RAF killed (aviation-safety.net).

28-29 57 Sqn. Wellington III BJ701 lost over Germany, believed to have collided on the bomb run with 49 Sqn. Lancaster R5897 (above), WO2 J.H. Rowney, Sgt K.C. Brown RNZAF, Sgt D.G. Craill RNZAF, Sgt H.W. Pike RNZAF and Sgt C.J. Whalley RAF killed.

28-29 61 Sqn. Lancaster I R5742 QR-L shot down by flak over Nuremberg, 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 (losses.internationalbcc.co.uk). P/O Wright's brother, Sapper J.E. Wright, had been taken PoW at Dieppe just 10 days before [CVWM].

28-29 75 (New Zealand) Sqn. Wellington III X3389 lost over Germany, F/S W.H. Irvine, F/S E. Perks RNZAF, Sgt R.G.A. Lee RAF, Sgt J.D.R. MacGillivray RAF and Sgt P. Oaten RAF killed.

28-29 75 (New Zealand) Sqn. Wellington III DF673 shot down by a night-fighter over Belgium, F/S H.D. Baittle, F/S L.D. Hiltz, F/S D.A. McKay, F/S S.B.T. Davis RAF and F/S C.H. Vickers RAF killed (losses.internationalbcc.co.uk).

28-29 78 Sqn. Halifax II W7809 shot down over Belgium by a night-fighter, Sgt T.H. Miller, Sgt S. Ross, Sgt J.A.B. Marshall RAAF, Sgt G.E. Dunn RAF, WO T.M. Manning RAF, Sgt J.P. Martin RAF and Sgt J.G. Mellor RAF killed (www.baaa-acro.com).

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).

28-29 115 Sqn. Wellington III X3647 KO-A shot down by a night fighter over France, F/S W.J. Hesp, F/S J.F. Tuck, F/S W.S. Allen RAF and Sgt E. Hepworth RAF killed, Sgt W.D. Haddleton PoW (R. McNeill PoW List; www.baaa-acro.com).

28-29 115 Sqn. Wellington III X3675 KO-D shot down by a night fighter over Belgium, Sgt W.J. Sharpe RAF (Nfld.), WO J.G. Smith RAF and Sgt L.G. Carr RAF killed, Sgt N.J. Mackenzie RNZAF PoW and Sgt J.E. Cope RAF evaded.

28-29 115 Sqn. Wellington III BJ688 KO-R shot down by a night fighter over Germany, F/S J. Jemmett, P/O C.W. Pafford, P/O J.A.J. Laidlaw RAF, Sgt A.F. Ellis RAF and Sgt

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E.G. Follett RAF killed. P/O Pafford's brother, F/L F.G. Pafford, had been killed June 8, above.

28-29 406 Sqn. Beaufighter IF X8222 was scrambled to meet an unidentified aircraft, intercepted and shot down a Do 217 over the sea, but return fire knocked out an engine. Returning to base it overshot it's landing in fog and hit a house, F/L J.R.B. Firth RAF (Can.) and P/O F.G. Harding RAF killed (aviation-safety.net). F/L Firth was born and raised in England and his listing in TSGNO may be in error and needs clarification.

28-29 408 Sqn. Hampden I AD829 EQ-E shot down over France by a night-fighter, Sgt E.J. Stansfield RAF (Can.), Sgt S.F. Clark RAF and Sgt H. Gregson RAF killed, Sgt P.L. Kemp RAF PoW (www.baaa-acro.com).

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 L.L. Garner, F/S C.A.L. Sutherby, F/O W.H. Gould RNZAF and Sgt T.C.R. Murlis RAF killed.

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 shot down by a night-fighter 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 (www.baaa-acro.com). 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 #25 OTU Hampden July 12, above.

28-29 419 Sqn. Wellington III DF665 VR-Q shot down by a night fighter over Belgium, F/S A.E. Caton, F/S A. Holmes, F/SJ.R. Morrow, F/S P.K. Zaparynuk killed, Sgt W.H. Ledford evaded, returning to England via Gibraltar. See also Aug. 23, 1943. Sgt Ledford's account of his evasion appears in B. Barry et al's book *Age Shall Not Weary Them*.

Saturday

29 Further Japanese troops landed at Milne Bay in New Guinea (Oxford).

German ground forces break through Soviet defences to the south of Stalingrad (Bergström, Dikov & Antipov V.3). This forces Soviet units west of the Volga River to disengage and pull back to Stalingrad (Polsson). Hitler reinforces the attack there while the southern drive in the Caucasus stalls (Oxford).

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Germany annexes Luxembourg (wikipedia).

29 #308 MU, India, Ryan PT-22 41-15299 and 41-15311, intended for China, spun and crashed avoiding each other on a low level formation flight, W/C R.B. Harvey MiD RAF (Can.) killed in 15299 and F/O J.H. Rowe RAAF killed in 15311 (www.rafcommands.com).

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.

29 450 Sqn. RAAF Kittyhawk fighters shot down over the desert, P/O N.H. Shillabeer RAAF killed, Sgt A.G. Markle wounded in Kittyhawk I ET918 OK-W (H. Welting, Buz and COL BRUGGY, www.rafcommands.com). See Nov. 8, below.

29 125 (Newfoundland) Sqn. was exchanging it's Merlin engined Beaufighter IIf aircraft for more powerful Hercules powered VIf aircraft. On this date Beaufighter IIf T3039, the Squadron's second Beaufighter, was picked up by a ferry pilot, but on take-off could not gain height and was written off when it hit some buildings, pilot safe (aviation-safety.net).

29 125 (Newfoundland) Sqn. Beaufighter VIf R2310, P/O J.A.P. Boyd and Sgt F. Saunders were on an air-test with this new aircraft when they were asked to investigate an unidentified aircraft. It turned out to be a Ju 88 which they shot down (aviation-safety.net).

29 402 Sqn. Spitfire IX BS195 shot down into the sea off England escorting USAAF B-17 bombers, F/S W.A. Hayes was recovered but had died (www.spitfires.ukf.net; www.kenleyrevival.org).

29 407 Sqn. Hudson V AM685 overshot a landing and written off, Sgt T.G. Brookes injured, Sgt D.K. Moores, F/S L.J. April and Sgt W.P. Attrill safe (407 SH).

29 #29 OTU wireless air gunner Sgt R.G. Walters died of injuries sustained the previous day in the crash of Wellington DV834.

29-30 Soviet bombers attack Berlin, Königsberg and 20 other cities in eastern Germany (Bergström, Dikov & Antipov V.3).

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.).

With Soviet forces west of the Volga River retreating to Stalingrad Luftwaffe bombers again begin attacking the City (Bergström, Dikov & Antipov V.3).

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Facing heavy Soviet ground and air resistance in mountainous terrain, and with limited troops and poor logistics, the German drive on the Caucasus oil fields bogs down. Ready availability of Lend-Lease supplies and aircraft being supplied through Iran helped (Bergström, Dikov & Antipov V.3).

30 80 Sqn. Hurricane IIc BN126 and BN359 lost on a tactical reconnaissance sortie in North Africa, possibly collided, F/S R.J. Thompson and Sgt J.F.J. Montgomery RAF missing (Shores, Massimello V.2, CWGC).

30 92 Sqn. Spitfire Vc (Trop.) BR474, P/O W.L. Chisholm destroyed a Bf 109 in the morning over North Africa (Shores, Massimello V.2).

30 92 Sqn. Spitfire Vc (Trop.) BR525, P/O W.L. Chisholm, and P/O F.C. Bradley-Smith (RAF?), shared a Bf 109 destroyed in the area of El Alamein (Shores, Massimello V.2). See September 1, below.

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 Hendricksen 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 with Crane #8025 and crashed at Horseshoe Lake near Gorlitz, Saskatchewan, LAC(P) J.P. Devries killed in #8079, P/O L.E. Giles and LAC S.M. Tietjens RNZAF were uninjured in #8025 (bac-lac.gc.ca). Sgt Tietjens was lost in Stirling BK783, 75 (New Zealand) Squadron, May 23-24, 1943 (losses.internationalbcc.co.uk).

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). <u>Battle of Alam Halfya</u>, 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

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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). Of note during this time radar installed on RCN ships were maintained by RCAF radar technicians seconded to them which continued into 1944 (Grande, Linden, and Macauley).

First contingent of non-commissioned RCAF Airwomen arrive for duties in England (*Airforce Magazine*, Summer 1992).

At Nazan Bay, Atak Island, in the Aleutians, US Navy PBY flying boats supported by aircraft tenders had been harassing the Japanese occupied islands of Attu and Kiska. On August 30 the Japanese submarine RO-61 entered the bay but found a USN destroyer there as well. After sitting on the bottom for over 30 hours the destroyer left, whereupon the RO-61 torpedoed seaplane tender* USS Casco*. It was then sunk by PBY attacks and the destroyer with 5 survivors, the first Japanese taken prisoner in North America (B. Coyle).

31 92 Sqn., Spitfire Vc (Trop.) BR522, F/S R.T. Hempstead RCAF (Guatemala) claimed an MC.202 shot down in North Africa (Shores, Massimello V.2). See September 2, below.

31 213 Sqn. Hurricane IIc BP351 'D', Sgt W.H. Stephenson claimed a Ju 87 shot down before he was hit and force-landed near El Alamein (Shores, Massimello V.2). See October 21, below.

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 B.M. Tripp injured (www.rafcommands.com). 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. Perrett RAF killed, Sgt J.F. Boyer injured.

31 #24 OTU Whitley V P5100 overshot a night landing in England, and collided with trees,

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F/S W.H. Terwilliger RCAF (USA) and Sgt G. West RAF killed, Sgt W.J. Bowman RAF injured.

31 Heavy Glider Conversion Unit Whitley V BD438 struck a tree on take-off towing a glider and crashed, wireless operator air gunner F/S R.W.J. Hisson and F/O W. Thornley RAF killed, Sgt J.F.R. Parker (RAF?), AC S. Arthurs (RAF?) and Lt C.A. Davis-Goff injured (www.rafcommands.com). The glider, Horsa I DP755, was released before the crash but also flew into trees, F/S T.A.E. Tobias RAF AFM badly injured, and was released from the RAF, but didn't recover and died in 1945 (jonheyworth at www.rafcommands.com).

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 "light 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).

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).

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Tuesday

1 Canadian Army 4th Division lands in England (CJCA headline).

With the southern attack on the oil rich Caucasus bogged down in mountain fighting German forces attempted to break into the region with an amphibious landing from Kerch on the far east of the Crimean Peninsula (Bergström, Dikov & Antipov V.3).

404 Sqn. begins to gradually re-equip with Beaufighter IIf 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 July 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).

HMCS Morden *sinks* U-756 *southwest of Greenland (RCN Chronology).*

#3 AOS closed at Regina, Saskatchewan and re-opened at Pearce, Alberta on this date (http://www.bombercrew.com/BCATP.htm).

1 #1 Middle East Training School RAF Tomahawk IIb AM454 "C" crashed in Egypt, failed to pull out of a dive while engaged in formation training, Sgt A.M. Rowe killed (www.rafcommands.com; bac-lac.gc.ca).

1 55 Sqn. Baltimore II AG828 'H' was hit by flak over Daba and crash landed on return, F/S R.C. Payne and crew safe (Shores, Massimello V.2). See November 6, below.

1 92 Sqn. Spitfire Vc (Trop.) BR525 'S', P/O W.L. Chisholm destroyed a Bf 109 over El Alamein (Shores, Massimello V.2).

1 92 Sqn. Spitfire Vc (Trop.) BR525 'S', P/O W.L. Chisholm destroyed a second Bf 109 over North Africa (Shores, Massimello V.2). See September 28, below.

1 112 Sqn. Kittyhawk I EV162 P/O H.L. Phillips RCAF (USA) claimed a Ju 87 dive bomber shot down in North Africa (Shores, Massimello V.2). See September 9, below.

1 213 Sqn. Hurricane IIc BP341 AK-Y F/O A.U. Houle claimed a Ju 88 bomber shot down near El Alamein (Shores, Massimello V.2). See September 4, below.

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.

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Asquith RAF have no known graves.

1 601 Sqn. Spitfire Vc BP988 UF-N, F/L J.H. Curry RCAF (USA) claims 2 Bf 109 fighters shot down in two separate sorties (Shores, Massimello V.2). See September 7, below.

1 410 Sqn. Beaufighter IIf T3221 stalled on approach to land and crashed in Scotland, WO2 N. MacPherson and F/S S.M. Cooksey RAF killed (aviation-safety.net).

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, WO J.E. Jones RNZAF and LAC F.D. Young RAF killed, F/S W.H. Drury RAF died of injuries in the Hampden, F/S L.A. Goodson (RAF) and P/O L.G. Burgess (RAF) injured on the Beaufort [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 and Sgt R.A. Nickless RAF injured, Sgt D. Pay RAF safe (www.rafcommands.com). 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.C. Tait RAF (Can.) killed, Sgt J.L. Hirst and Sgt L.J. Langham RAF injured, Sgt E. Clarke RAF and Sgt S.W. Templar RAF were safe (www.rafcommands.com).

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 it's 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 69 Sqn. Wellington 'H' missing from a sortie to Tunisia from Malta, F/L R.M. Johnson PoW, crew P/O S. Melvin, Sgt Recce, Sgt Pires (possibly WO2 S.R. Pires RCAF (USA)? PoW), Sgt Lister and Sgt Targett? fate unknown (Kevin www.rafcommands.com).

1-2 Saarbrucken was the target for 231 bombers with Target Finding support, but they

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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 97 Sqn. Lancaster I R5741 OF-K returned to England with a technical fault, and was ordered to jettison it's bombs in the North Sea. They flew out to do this but did not return, believed lost at sea (bac-lac.gc.ca). WO2 R.H. Morgan and Sgt F.P. Coaker RAF were killed, their bodies found washed ashore in Denmark, F/S R.B. Walls, Sgt A. McNeil RAF, Sgt A. Byrom RAF, Sgt L.G. Jones RAF and Sgt A.F. Priest RAF are missing. WO Morgan's brother, LAC C.H. Morgan, had been killed November 22, 1940, in a training accident (www.findagrave.com).

1-2 102 Sqn. Halifax II W1248 DY-O suffered an engine failure returning from an operation, and force landed in England after running out of fuel, P/O H.K. Stinson, Sgt G.A. McIntyre RAF, Sgt C.G.A. Brazier RAF, Sgt A. Hodson RAF, Sgt W.A. McMullan RAF, Sgt A.W. Bailey RAF and Sgt F. Tooth RAF safe (R. Allenby).

1-2 115 Sqn. Wellington III BJ893 KO-C shot down by a night-fighter over France, F/S J.S. Orr, F/S L.J.W. Ross, P/O R.A. Shires, P/O R.A.G. Tucker RAF, P/O R.E. Thornley RAF and WO L. Rosekilly RAF killed (www.baaa-acro.com).

1-2 156 Sqn. Wellington III BJ716 crashed in England just after taking off on an operation, F/S L. Kriger, F/S J.J. Lucas and Sgt P. Hayes RAF killed, Sgt J.W. Douglas RAF, F/S E.A. Greenwood RAF and F/S C.A. Warfield RAF injured.

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 before the wing failed and the aircraft crashed, but some fell in the sea, F/S C.G. Eagles, WO2 N.A. MacKenzie and Sgt H. Stone RAF were killed, F/S L.D. Dawdy was missing, P/O E.B. Mason, Sgt J.A. Kaucharik and Sgt J.R. Alexander were injured (losses.international.co.uk; aircrewremembered.com; CVWM). A memorial to this loss was dedicated at the crash-site in 2004. This loss was also referred in the wartime publication *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. See September 15-16, 1943, June 12-13, 1944, and February 13-14, 1945.

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Wednesday

2 With German army units closing in on Stalingrad and overwhelming air superiority Hitler orders that the male population of the City are to be treated as dedicated Communists, and executed (Bergström, Dikov & Antipov V.3).

Convoy PQ-18, 39 freighters and 3 tankers with a heavy escort including an escort carrier with 12 Sea Hurricanes leaves Scotland (Bergström, Dikov & Antipov V.3).

In the fighting at <u>Alam Halfa</u> 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 33 Sqn. Hurricane IIc HL661 NW-J F/L L.C. Wade RAF (USA) claims a Ju 87 damaged over North Africa (Shores, Massimello V.2).

2 92 Sqn. Spitfire Vc (Trop.) BR515 QJ-D shot down in North Africa, P/O L.B. Mount missing (Andy Ingham www.rafcommands.com; Shores, Massimello V.2).

2 92 Sqn., Spitfire Vc (Trop.) BR573 'T', F/S R.T. Hempstead RCAF (Guatemala) claimed an Bf 109 damaged in North Africa (Shores, Massimello V.2). See October 9, below.

2 127 Sqn. Hurricane IIb BN160 'J', F/L R.C. Lawrence claimed two Ju 87 destroyed near El Alamein (Shores, Massimello V.2). See September 11, below.

2 127 Sqn. Hurricane IIb BP300, P/O A.L. Rebman claimed a Ju 87 destroyed and a Bf 109 damaged before he was hit and damaged, but returned safe (Shores, Massimello V.2). See September 4, below.

2 260 Sqn. Kittyhawk IIa WO J.S.E.M. Bernier shot down a Bf 109 in North Africa (Shores, Massimello V.2). See September 3, below.

2 274 Sqn. Hurricane IIc BP326 'T', F/S J.W. Neil claimed a Ju 87 destroyed and a second Ju 87 probably destroyed near El Alamein (Shores, Massimello V.2).

2 274 Sqn. Hurricane IIc BP742 'X', WO J.W. Neil claimed a Bf 109 damaged over North Africa (Shores, Massimello V.2). See November 2, below.

2 77 Sqn., on detachment to Coastal Command, Whitley V Z9515 'H' shot down attacking U-256 off France, possibly striking the deck with one of it's propellors (uboat.net). The bomber ditched, Sgt G.E. Johnstone, P/O A. Cassie RAF, Sgt A.R. Chapman RAF, Sgt P.G.W. Everett RAF and Sgt T. McMahon RAF PoW (COL BRUGGY at www.rafcommands.com).

2 401 Sqn. two Spitfire IX fighters were vectored to intercept 2 Fw 190 aircraft which they met on the coast of England. Neither took effective evasive action. P/O D.R. Morrison DFM appeared to have killed the pilot of one with his first attack, and his second attack left it full of holes, with a part of a wing hanging down, leaking oil and the engine on fire, but it continued to France were it was last seen flying inland. F/S R.D. Reesor hit the other Fw-190, the pilot bailing out into the sea where he was seen to be unable to get into his dinghy. F/S Reesor called a Mayday and with P/O Morrison guided a rescue launch which picked up the pilot, who sent his life jacket with his personal Thanks written on it to F/S Reesor (D. McIntosh). See October 2, below.

2 408 Sqn. Hampden I AE385 had an engine catch fire when starting. Aero engine

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mechanic LAC A.L. McConnell ran to get an engine cover to try to extinguish the flames, but was struck by a propeller and killed (bac.lac.gc.ca).

2 Torpedo Training Unit (TTU) Beaufort I N1180 TU-M crashed in Scotland on the Mull of Kintyre, presumed due to poor visibility, F/S T.H. Grasswick, Sgt F.J.B. Griffin RAF, Sgt A.A. Haydon RNZAF and P/O L.P. Booker RNZAF killed (E. Martyn, R. McNeill and M. Morrell via members.multimania.co.uk/daveswrecks).

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 #14 OTU Hampden I L4162 'O' crashed in England on approach to land, F/S J.K. Johnston, F/S P.V. Norris, F/S J.J.P. Wardrop and Sgt D. Wilson RAF killed (bac-lac.gc.ca).

2 #55 OTU Canadian built Hurricane X AG242 crashed taking off in Scotland, Sgt C.A. Watt injured (www.rafcommands.com).

2 #7 B&G School, Paulson, Manitoba, Battle I #1962 and Lysander TT.IIIa #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. Drogue operator LAC R.E. Smith (RCAF?) survived with slight injuries when the Lysander struck a fence and overturned making a crash-landing (bac-lac.gc.ca).

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 15 Sqn. Stirling I W7611 LS-F lost over France, P/O E.M. Palmer, Sgt R.J. Bebbington RAF, P/O G.H. Quinn RAF, Sgt S. Coop RAF, Sgt W.E. Overend RAF, Sgt R. Turley RAF and Sgt W.H. Creed RAF killed, Sgt W. Shearer RAF PoW

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). There is a small memorial and plaque a the site of the crash (www.tracesofwar.com).

2-3 405 Sqn. Halifax II DT487 LQ-M shot down over Belgium by a night fighter, F/S A.C. Ewing, F/L L.D. Hillier, F/S B.A. McGrath, Sgt A.D. Muir, Sgt G.W. Roberts, Sgt E.C.A. Coules RAF, Sgt E.J. Cutting RAF and P/O K.E.M. Mitchell RAF killed. It is possible that F/L Hillier is the same as P/O Hillier who survived bailing out of a 10 Sqn. Halifax Feb. 15-16, above.

2-3 419 Sqn. Wellington III X3711 VR-R shot down by a night fighter over Belgium, F/S F.W. Cassidy, P/O J.H. Freestone, P/O G.C. Hart, F/O H.W. Thompson and W/C A.P. Walsh DFC AFC RAF (Can.) killed. P/O Hart had arrived in England in 1940 as

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a member of #112 (AC) (later #402) Squadron (CVWM). W/C Walsh was 419's commanding officer. Post-war a report on the loss and interment of this crew by Mme Jean del Marmol was sent to the Freestone's, and a copy can be found in P/O Freestone's Library and Archives file. Mme del Marmol was later arrested and sent to Ravensbrück Concentration Camp where she died.

Thursday

3 In the morning Luftwaffe bombers begin 24 hours of continuous bombing of Stalingrad (Bergström, Dikov & Antipov V.3).

In the lower Strait of Belle Isle U-517 finds and sinks the Canadian freighter SS* Donald Stewart *with the loss of 3 of the 20 man crew (J.W. Essex; RCN Chronology).

3 145 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AR290, F/S E.A. Ker claimed a Bf 109 damaged over North Africa (Shores, Massimello V.2). See September 16, below.

3 260 Sqn. Kittyhawk IIa FL226 shot down in desert, P/O J.S.E.M. Bernier killed.

3 260 Sqn. Kittyhawk IIa FL233 HS-T, F/S J.F. Edwards claimed a Bf 109 damaged in North Africa (Shores, Massimello V.2). See September 6, below.

3 281 Sqn. Defiant I N1804 lost on a gunnery practice flight, F/S J.A.J.G. Pelletier and his pilot F/O S.J. Sowinski RAF (Poland) missing (www.rafcommands.com; bac-lac.gc.ca). F/S Pelletier had been slightly injured March 26, 1942 bailing out of Defiant N3364.

3 #5 (Coastal) OTU Beaufort I L9803 crashed, F/S B.D. Francis, F/S J.B. Hargreaves, F/S R.A.E. Lutes and Sgt C.D. Hammond RAF killed (R. Hayward; Highgroundsman and others at www.rafcommands.com).

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 RAF 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 U-517 as it was closing in on a convoy. One depth charge exploded prematurely and damaged the aircraft. The location was searched by a second Digby and a convoy escort but no further contact was made (Hagedorn & Hagedorn; Awards; C. Vincent).

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).

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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 shot down by a night-fighter 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 (losses.internationalbcc.co.uk). 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 intense fighting, however, leads Hitler to cancel the planned attack on the city (Oxford).

Stalingrad, German forces reach the banks of the Volga River south of the cities outskirts (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).

4 33 Sqn. Hurricane IIc BN348 'E', F/S J.W.E. Belse collided with a Bf 109 near El Alamein, both fighters crashed, F/S Belse bailed out safe (Shores, Massimello V.2). See October 27, below.

4 127 Sqn. Hurricane IIb shot down in a fight with MC.202 aircraft over North Africa, P/O A.L. Rebman crash landed but was picked up safe by an army unit (Shores, Massimello V.2). See November 3, below.

4 213 Sqn. Hurricane IIc BP128 F/O A.U. Houle damaged a Bf 109 in North Africa (Shores, Massimello V.2). See October 26, below.

4 601 Sqn. Spitfire Vc (Trop.) BR136 UF-H P/O C.R. Scollan shot down a Bf 109 over North Africa (www.spitfires.ukf.net; Shores, Massimello V.2).

4 601 Sqn. Spitfire Vc (Trop.) BR132 UF-W P/O R.J.F. Sherk claimed a Bf 109 damaged over North Africa (www.spitfires.ukf.net; Shores, Massimello V.2). See September 7, below.

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. Storrier RAF and Sgt E. Barr RAF missing.

4 296 Sqn. Whitley V BD543 stalled and crashed making an attempt to land after an engine failure on a non-operational flight, P/O K.G. Lavery, F/O J. Callahan RAAF, P/O W.R. Stephens RAF, F/S R.J. Mayes RAF, Sgt A. Dougherty RAF, Lt. H.R. Taylor (Royal Warwickshire Regiment) and 2Lt A.E.G. Twelvetrees (Hampshire Regiment) killed (bac-lac.gc.ca).

4 #6 (Coastal) OTU Hudson IV AE627 crashed in England, F/S J.A. Montgomery RCAF (USA), F/S H.B. Shaver, Sgt F.H. Wright and Sgt E.S. Studholme RAF killed (R. Allenby).

4 #25 OTU Wellington Ic DV600 L3 crashed in England in poor weather on a night cross country exercise, F/S J. Anderson, Sgt J.L. Brovender, F/S G.E. Derbyshire, F/S

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W.B. Sage and Sgt H.B. Burnett RAF killed (www.baaa-acro.com). See R. Allenby for details.

4 #25 OTU Wellington III X3940 N Bar caught fire in the air on a night navigation exercise 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 #13 SFTS LAC J.A. Phaneuf was servicing flares used for night landings when he was struck and killed by Harvard II #2757 which swerved off the landing area.

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 <u>Target Finding Force</u> 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 TIs with incendiaries and drop more TIs), 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 Bell 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.

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4-5 101 Sqn. Wellington III BJ891 shot down into the sea off Holland by a night-fighter, F/S J.D. Gill, F/S J.N. Tapp, Sgt G.S. Jennings RNZAF, P/O H.I. Gill RAF and P/O R.W. Harrison RAF missing (www.baaa-acro.com).

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.

4-5 142 Sqn. Wellington IV Z1214 QT-C shot down into the sea off Holland by a night fighter, F/S A. Roy, Sgt F.W. Baker RAF and Sgt H.J. Balkwill RAF killed, F/S R.H. Culp and F/S I.C. Lamont missing (mike www.rafcommands.com).

4-5 142 Sqn. Wellington IV Z1221, air gunner F/S W.J. North killed, Sgt F.A. Larsen, Sgt D. Anderson RAF and Sgt F.S. Conway RAF injured, due to an enemy attack while on operations (www.rafcommands.com; bac-lac.gc.ca).

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 enroute to the USSR. F/O W.H. Bowler, F/S J.P. Campbell and F/S J.S. Jewett killed. P/O D.I. 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 (flyvrak.info/tsatsa.html). 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 it's 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). A German air attack was in progress at the time (bac-lac.gc.ca). 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, Sgt D. Turnbull and Sgt R.J. O'Neil and 1 RAF (possibly Cpl Baker) safe (H. Moyle; www.rafcommands.com). 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

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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 and October 2025 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. Blind, Sgt H.L. Bertrand RAF (Can.) and Cpl G.R. Desforges RAF 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 (Guatamala), 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).

4-5 419 Sqn. Wellington III BJ602 VR-J lost without trace, F/S R.A. Kertson, P/O C.R.F. Morris, F/S 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 P5304 UB-H crashed in mountain in a remote area of northern Sweden enroute to the USSR, Sgt E.J. Smart RAAF, F/S T.G. Nicholls RAAF, Sgt L.A. Biggins RAF, Sgt J.M.O. Harris RAAF and fitter Cpl D.H. Nelson RAAF killed.

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 McIver, 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).

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5 462 Sqn. RAAF Halifax II W7679 'C' (on detachment from 227 Sqn.) shot down over Crete on a daylight attack by 4 Halifax bombers from Egypt, F/S W.J. Porritt DFM, S/L A.H. Hacking RAF and F/S A.E. Carson RAAF killed, F/O N.H. Turner PoW, Sgt J. Bradley RAF and Sgt J.W. MacFarlane RAF evaded (A. Storr, D. Newton).

5 101 Sqn. Wellington III BJ961 struck an object taking off that damaged the undercarriage, and it was unable to retract. After jettisoning bombs and fuel a landing was made, the damaged undercarriage burst a tire, and the wing was damaged, Sgt J.V. Foy, F/S J.B. Lawrence, F/S S. McMenomy, P/O C.W. Reaume and F/S R. Williams RAF were safe (bac-lac.gc.ca). See September 6-7, below.

5 228 Sqn. Sunderland III W4032 “O” struck a rock making a forced landing in the sea off Scotland after running out of fuel returning from an escort of convoy PQ-18 (R. McNeill www.rafcommands.com; bac-lac.gc.ca). The crew was forced to abandon the aircraft. P/O F.J. Fife, F/S V.E. Ames RAF, F/S K.P. Barber RAF, Sgt C.F. Castle RAF, Sgt E Cowan RAF, Sgt W.H. Henderson RAF and LAC W. Currie RAF killed; P/O R.H. Frame and passenger War Correspondent F.G.J. Nancarrow (*The Glasgow Herald*) missing, F/O M.E. Russell RAF and F/S R.B.H. Scroggs RAF rescued (R. McNeill www.rafcommands.com, CWGC).

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 US Navy LORAN station at Battle Harbour, Labrador, and was taxiing across the Harbour after landing when a depth charge fell off the aircraft and exploded, followed by further explosions as the wreckage sank. Both pilots F/L A.R. Schlacks RCAF (USA) and F/S G.A. Soeder were missing, McNamara employee Mr. E. Snelling and DoT Accountant Jack F. Cosgrove were killed, 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, and McNamara Accountant Gill Reid 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 #8 SFTS, Moncton, New Brunswick, flying was stopped when a brush-fire was detected at the north end of the airfield. Station personnel began fighting the fire which was not extinguished for 3 days, and stopped all flying until September 7 (heritage.canadiana.ca).

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 USAAF 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

www.bcmilitarymuseum.com

and defeated by Australian forces, the first time a Japanese invasion has been stopped (wikipedia). 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 RAF 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 Croisiau, 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, where a day to day account of the crews adventures can be found recorded as *The Saga of F/O B.E. Johnson*), and Sgt Bebbington and Sgt Davies received the Military Medal (BLME V.2 Errata).

Sunday

6 Over <u>Stalingrad</u> Soviet air forces are still fighting, and are reinforced. Around this time they organize an effective system of radio nets using ground observers reporting to centres that plot the German formations and control interceptions by radio, similar to the system used by the RAF but without radar. At the same time they begin recognizing successful pilots, and organizing them into groups freed from other tasks to increase successful interceptions (Bergström, Dikov & Antipov V.3).

The German invasion force from Kerch into the southern Caucasus had reached the Soviet port of Novorossisyk, and forced a crossing over the Terek River. The latter was then heavily attacked by Russian ground and air forces (Bergström, Dikov & Antipov V.3).

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 86R bomber, but a USAAF P-38 (on the types first operation in

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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 Columbia the Canadian laker* John A. Holloway *with a cargo of construction material from the US to Trinidad was torpedoed by* U-164 *in convoy and sank, 1 crew lost (RCN Chronology; www.uboat.net).

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 MiD RAF (Can.), F/S R.S. Gibbons DFM RAF, Sgt M.F.N. Wadham RAF and P/O R.M. Watson RAF missing (www.rafcommands.com). 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 BP333 shot down by fighters over the desert, F/L R.J. Crot RCAF (USA) bailed out and was taken PoW (www.127squadron.co.uk; Shores, Massimello V.2).

6 260 Sqn. Kittyhawk IIa FL241 HS-D shot down in North Africa, F/O R.A. Dunbar killed, he has no known grave (Shores, Massimello V.2).

6 260 Sqn. Kittyhawk IIa FL233 HS-T F/S J.F. Edwards claimed a probably destroyed Bf 109 near El Alamein (Shores, Massimello V.2). See September 15, below.

6 #132 MU, Gaza, Palestine, Hurricane IIc BP470 crashed when the engine cut on taking-off, Sgt R.J. Bowes killed (www.airhistory.org.uk).

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. Biggs, F/S E.T. O'Neil, F/S F.H.R. Wright, P/O F.F. Ross RAF and Sgt R.W. Sherwin RAF missing.

6 #21 OTU Wellington Ic X9942 lost control in a low level turn, hit a tree 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 (aircrewremembered.com).

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 and both crashed near Fort William. LAC(P) J.M. Turner was killed in #5820, Cpl(P) F.C. Hall bailed out of #5914 and survived (heritage.canadiana.ca).

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

www.bomber command museum archives.ca

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 12 Sqn. Wellington II Z8517 PH-C lost over Germany, F/S J.M. Dunlop, Sgt A.S. Millis RAAF, P/O R.A. Ainslie RAF, P/O W.G. Elby RAF and Sgt M.E. Wheatcroft RAF killed.

6-7 12 Sqn. Wellington III BJ691 PH-T lost without trace, F/S F.R. Carruthers, F/S G.B. Littlejohn RAAF, Sgt S. Marsden RAAF, Sgt G.L. Marshall RAF and Sgt F.H. Wilson RAF missing.

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.

6-7 101 Sqn. Wellington III BJ769 shot down into the sea by flak, F/S J.B. Lawrence, F/S F.E.E. Lyons, F/S S. McMenomy, P/O C.W. Reaume and F/S R. Williams RAF missing (losses.internationalbcc.co.uk). P/O Reaume's brother, Pvt A.A. Reaume, Essex Scottish Regiment, had been taken PoW at Dieppe (bac-lac.gc.ca).

6-7 115 Sqn. Wellington III BJ724 KO-P exploded and crashed in England on an operation when it's photo flash ignited, Sgt L.O. Colbran was killed in the crash, F/S S.W. Scott and Sgt M.R. Constable died the same day of injuries, F/S C.H. Lanceley and Sgt N. Hands injured (115squadron-raf.be; CWG; bac-lac.gc.ca). See September 8, below. Sgt Hands was born in Canada but lived in the USA.

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 lit 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-shipping strike patrol off of Dunkirk, 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 (TSGNO Addendum #2).

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

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was injured, Sgt H.A. Cheasman RAF, Sgt R.M. Curtiss RAF, Sgt W.R. Laws RAF and P/O A. Martin RAF safe (www.rafcommands.com). See August 23-24, 1943.

6-7 Off the Gaspé Peninsula U-165 fired torpedoes at Convoy QS-33 that sank the Greek freighter* SS Aeas *with the loss of 2 crew and the* HMC Armed Yacht Raccoon *which was lost with all hands (J.W. Essex; www.uboat.net).

Monday

7 Japanese attacking Port Moresby overland (CJCA headline) [this refers to the forces landed on the north shore of Papua-New Guinea in July and attacking over the Owen Stanley Mountains along the Kokoda Trail].

The freighters* SS Mount Pindus, SS Mount Taygetus *and Canadian laker* SS Oakton *in convoy QS-33, were torpedoed off Gaspé, Quebec by* U-517 *(J.W. Essex; RCN Chronology; www.uboat.net). See September 9, below.

7 230 Sqn. Sunderland II W3987 crashed just after taking off on a patrol from Aboukir Bay Egypt, when an engine caught fire and filled the cockpit with smoke, F/L A.F. Howell RAAF, fitter and flight engineer Cpl F.J. Milne RAF, F/L R.F. Crockett RAF, F/S R.D. Adamson RAAF, Sgt B.W. Jenkins RAAF, Sgt J. McSherry RAF and P/O R.J.F. Lunn MiD RAF killed, F/O S.R.H. Dunfield, P/O A.G.G. Richmond RAAF and Sgt A.M. Goldsmith RAAF seriously injured, wireless air gunner AC1 W. Thomas RAF, Sgt G.F.A. Whitehead RAF and LAC Cowles slightly injured, fitter air gunner LAC K. Barrow RAF safe (A. Storr). P/O Richmond was awarded the George Medal for his efforts to rescue survivors from the wreckage (cas.awm.gov.au).

7 601 Sqn. Spitfire Vc (Trop.) BR478 UF-B, F/L J.H. Curry RCAF (USA) claims a Bf 109 fighter shot down and a second damaged over North Africa (www.spitfires.ukf.net; Shores, Massimello V.2). See September 11, below.

7 601 Sqn. Spitfire Vc BP959 UF-Y P/O R.J.F. Sherk claims an MC.202 damaged over North Africa (Shores, Massimello V.2). See September 13, below.

7 501 Sqn. Spitfire Vb EP705 collided with Spitfire Vb (Trop.) BR168 SD-A over the sea on a convoy patrol off England, P/O H.G. Harwood RCAF (USA) missing in EP705, and Sgt L.R.C. Foxwell RAF killed in BR168 (www.spitfires.ukf.net).

7 #7 AFU Master II DL838 was in a mid-air collision and crashed, killing Sgt F.N. Andrew and P/O N.G. Bailey RNZAF. (H. Welting www.rafcommands.com). Sgt D.D. Knott RAF and Sgt K. Letch RAF were killed on the other aircraft, Master DL849 (www.findagrave.com).

7 #22 OTU Wellington Ic HF865 lost power, stalled and crashed in England on a night navigation exercise, Sgt F.H. Dowland, Sgt R.A. Jackson, F/S G.B. Robb, Sgt A.J. Temple and F/S P.N. Templeton RCAF (USA) killed (aviation-safety.net). Three of the aircrew also lost borthers in the war, Sgt Dowland's brother, WO1 H.L. Dowland, was killed August 25, 1944, F/S Robb's brother Cpl. R.B. Robb of the South Saskatchewan Regiment was killed July 20, 1944 in Normandy, and F/S

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Templeton's brother Sgt J.W. Templeton USAAF was killed in an accident in France March 18, 1945 (B. Barry et al; www.findagrave.com). There is a reference to F/S Templeton in N. Emmotts book *One Foot on the Ground*, Lugus Publications, 1992.

7-8 37 Sqn. Wellington Ic ES989 'A' missing from a sortie over Tobruk, WO2 A.B. Cameron, WO2 R.B. Clements RCAF (USA), WO1 S.A.G. Turner, F/S R.D. MacDonald RAAF, Sgt P. McIntyre RAF and Sgt G.D. Rawbone RAF missing.

7-8 37 Sqn. Wellington Ic DV457 'W' flew into a hill in Egypt returning from a sortie over Tobruk, F/S W.T. Crabb and Sgt G.W. Brewster RAF killed, no known grave. Sgt H.S. Shepherd RNZAF, Sgt J.H. Stuffins RAF, Sgt E.C. Hare RAF and P/O R.K. Simmonds RAF survived.

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).

7-8 214 Sqn. Stirling hit in the left wing by flak over Germany which punctured fuel tanks and damaged the main spar, P/O R.J. Cartmell, P/O H.E. Orr, F/S J.G. Spouler, Sgt R. Dicks RAF, Sgt R.F. Reynolds RAF, Sgt S. Watson RAF, and P/O P. Fussey RAF returned safely, but were shocked the next morning to find the outer wing had failed and collapsed to the ground after they had landed and parked (214squadron.org.uk). Note: date inferred from losses reports, this event may have occurred September 6-7. See September 13-14, below.

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).

7-8 #20 OTU Wellington Ic T2913 ZT-B crashed in Scotland after running short of fuel on a navigation and bombing exercise, F/S H. Paul RAF (Can.), Sgt G.J. MacMillan, Sgt C. Moulds RAF, F/L T.V.G. Blanks RAF, Sgt R.H. Mason RAF, Sgt A. Clark RAF and P/O J. Gwyther RAF injured. See Sept. 9, below.

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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).

8 145 Sqn. Spitfire Vc BP986 ZX-X, F/L J.J.P. Sabourin claimed a Bf 109 shot down in North Africa (Shores, Massimello V.2). See September 16, below.

8 115 Sqn. F/S C.H. Lanceley died of injuries received Sept. 6-7, above.

8 279 Sqn. Hudson III V8987 flew into high ground in England attempting to land in bad

weather, F/S J.D. Granger, Sgt H.T. Farrer RAAF, F/O J.J. Holloman RAAF and F/O L.W. Waters RAAF killed (A. Storr).

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 RAF (S. Africa), ran the aircraft ashore and saved the crew, but the aircraft was a write off (ktsorens.tihlde.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 J.S. Abel RAF, Sgt R.E. Hayman RAF and P/O H.A.W. Larkins RAF injured (www.rafcommands.com). 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 78 Sqn. Halifax II W7782 EY-C shot down over Belgium by a night fighter, F/S G.R. Yeates, P/O E.W.T. Gibbs RAF and F/L P.H. Tippetts-Aylmer DFC RAF killed, Sgt T.S. Brandon and Sgt E.T.H. Hodge RAF PoW, Sgt J.A. Winterbottom RAF and Sgt R. Brown RAF evaded.

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

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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 LQ-J aircraft with no explanation, missing (losses.internationalbcc.co.uk). Aircraft returned safely. F/S Baillie had been injured March 17-18, above.

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).

8-9 766 Sqn., HMS Landrail, RNAS Macranhanish, Albacore L7109 crashed on a night flight when it hit a fence on a hillside when attempting to find it's base in sudden poor visibility, Sub Lt(A) R.M. Wilson RCNVR, Sub Lt(A) E.B. Jones RNVR and LA R.T. Hill RN killed (B. Barry et al; www.fleetairarmarchive.net; www.ceredigion-war-memorial.co.uk; www.naval-history.net; bac-lac.gc.ca).

Wednesday

9 Spitfires of 421 Squadron lightened by field modifications for higher performance were scrambled to intercept a high altitude Ju 86R 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 it's 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 16 corvettes as escorts for Operation TORCH this left RCN escorts in the mid-Atlantic over worked and without reserves for breakdowns or reinforcement of convoys under attack (M. Milner; RCN Chronology).

#113 (BR) Sqn. RCAF detachment of 5 Hudsons sent to Chatham, NB (RCAF Sqn's).

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The Japanese submarine I-25 launched a E14Y1 'Glen' float plane in a planned attempt to start forest fires, dropping 2 incendiary bombs on forests in southern Oregon. Although spotted and identified as Japanese by many observers their reports are discounted until long after the aircraft had returned to it's submarine. Just after the aircraft had been stowed a USAAF A-29 (Hudson) spotted the submarine and attacked, causing some damage. Troops were deployed on the coast in case this preceded an invasion, and in the belief the aircraft had flown from a secret base, remote lakes in the region were checked by FBI teams on horseback in the following months (B. Coyle). See September 29, below.

9 62 Sqn. Hudson III AE523 was part of a formation attacking Akyab, Burma, but fell behind with engine problems, and was shot down by Japanese fighters, F/S A.A. Margolis, P/O G.O. Maughan DFM RAF and Sgt N. McNeil RAF have no known grave, F/O K.M. White RAAF PoW (www.rafcommands.com; bac-lac.gc.ca). F/O White died as a PoW November 29, 1943 due to ill treatment (aircrewremembered.com).

9 112 Sqn. Kittyhawk Ia EV368 GA-A force landed in the desert, P/O H.L. Phillips RCAF (USA) safe (Shores, Massimello V.2).

9 185 Sqn. Spitfire Vc (Trop.) BR112 'X', damaged over Sicily and force landed on a beach, Sgt C. Weaver III DFM RCAF (USA) PoW (see *Aeroplane Monthly*, pg.1047, December 1974 and johanherman www.rafcommands.com). After 2 attempts he was able to escape from his prison in September 1943 when Italy surrendered. See January 28, 1944.

9 77 Sqn. Whitley V Z9209/G, attached to Coastal Command, missing after transmitting an SOS, F/S R.F. Smith, Sgt W.J. Hilton RAF, P/O J.C. Kenworthy RAF, P/O J.W. Hawkes RAF, Sgt J. Ferguson RAF and Sgt P. Johnson RAF missing (R. McNeill www.ww2talk.com). On the www.ww2talk.com website poster redtop noted that a Ju 88C-6 F8+KX of 13/KG-40 was also lost in the same area on the same date, and it is possible both aircraft were destroyed in the same fight. Hptm P. Hiede, Ogefr R. Wienkce and Fw K. Gruendler were missing from the Ju 88. The 'G' suffix cited for this aircraft as part of the serial number indicates it needs to be guarded at all times due to secret equipment, and might indicate it was equipped with ASV radar.

9 245 (N. Rhodesia) Sqn. Hurricane IIb Z5223 crashed in England after hitting high power cables, F/S W.R. Robb killed.

9 #10 OTU Whitley V Z6638 ditched in the Bristol Channel after an engine caught fire on an anti-submarine patrol, Sgt W.C. Roach and Sgt G.A. Hiddleston RAF injured, F/S R.O.O. Warren RCAF (USA) and the rest of his crew safe (www.rafcommands.com). See Sept. 21 and Oct. 8-9, below.

9 #20 OTU air gunner F/S H. Paul RAF (Can.) died of injuries received Sept. 7-8 above.

9 #10 (BR) Sqn. Digby, Gander, Newfoundland, sighted a U-boat but was not able to

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attack it (C. Vincent).

9 #1 B&G School, Jarvis, Ontario, Bolingbroke IVT #9098 was on a gunnery exercise when it left before completion. Flying in level flight it suddenly dove and crashed near Nelles Corner, Ontario, cause unknown, killing Sgt(BA) F.J. Hawke, LAC(BA) R.W.G. Killick and Sgt R.N. McCrank (bac-lac.gc.ca).

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. Beilhartz and LAC(WAG) A.L. Nicholson were killed.

9 #34 EFTS, Assiniboia, Saskatchewan, DH.82C Tiger Moth #5879 written off after a crash, LAC(P) Howard injured (R.W.R. Walker; heritage.canadiana.ca).

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. Vasil 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.

9-10 207 Sqn. Lancaster I R5628 EM-Q lost near Denmark on a GARDENING sortie, shot down by a night-fighter, P/O D.W. Ross, Sgt F.R. Carter RAF and Sgt A.M. Cockie RAF killed, F/S H.B. Einarson, Sgt G.H.A. Birch RAF, Sgt A.F.C. Kensett RAF and Sgt N.F. Smethurst RAF missing (aviation-safety.net). The Do 217 night-fighter was damaged by return fire and abandoned to crash over Denmark (aircrewremembered.com). F/S Einarson's twin brother, F/L J.W. Einarson DFC DFM was killed February 25-26, 1944.

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* off LaCoruna, Spain, 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 RAF 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 Longs burns (Arculus at www.rafcommands.com; www.baaa-

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acro.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 TA-S, crashed at Lough Erne, N. Ireland, no fatalities, P/O L. Hoare RAF (Rhod.), P/O(?) T. Dobson (RCAF or RAF (Can.)) and crew safe. This was the last Lerwick lost before the type was withdrawn from service at the end of the month (J. O'Loughlin; wikipedia; A. Thomas).

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 W.O.H. Hill and Sgt Adams RAF injured, Sgt D.V. Childers, Sgt E.G. Mabley RAF and Sgt E.A. Marchant RAF safe (www.rafcommands.com).

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 of suicide (www.rafcommands.com; www.wwiicdnwomensproject.org).

10 #6 SFTS, Dunnville, Ontario, Harvard II #3193 and IIb FE336 collided in mid-air on a formation practice flight and both crashed near Dunnville, P/O W.F. Roy was killed in #3193, and Sgt G.S. MacLeod bailed out of FE336 and was slightly injured (heritage.canadiana.ca).

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 Düsseldorf attacked by 479 bombers, including OTU aircraft, with Target Finding support. This operation saw the first use of 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 7 Sqn. Stirling I W7630 MG-M shot down by a night fighter over Holland, F/L L.R. Barr DFC & Bar RAF and P/O E.R.M. Runnacles RAF killed, P/O I.D. Fountain, Sgt M.S. Pepper DFM RAF, Sgt J. Greenwood RAF and Sgt P.B.P. Price RAF missing, P/O E.H. Cook RAF PoW, P/O P.G. Freberg evaded and returned to operations. See April 11, 1943. Ref by P. Dirksen & F. Mink that the crash site was recently excavated, and there is now a monument at the site (aircrewremembered.com).

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P/O Fountain's brother, Lt R.B. Fountain, Westminster Regiment, was killed in Italy September 3, 1944 (www.findagrave.com).

10-11 15 Sqn. Stirling I BF347 LS-J crashed in England making an emergency landing on return from an operation over Germany, P/O C.W. Higgins RAF (Can.), F/S H.E. Bannister RAF, Sgt H.E. Williams RAF, Sgt W.E. Pittendrigh RAF, Sgt H.H. Maginn RAF, Sgt N.A. Prime RAF and Sgt S. Mansfield RAF killed.

10-11 61 Sqn. Lancaster I R5888 lost over Germany, F/S A.C. Yates, Sgt L.W. Thomas RAAF, F/S F. Hobson RAF, Sgt G.A. Hill RAF, Sgt W.T. Belton RAF, Sgt P.H. Fairbanks RAF and Sgt E.W. Catlin RAF killed.

10-11 61 Sqn. Lancaster I QR-N W4111 shot down by flak over Germany, F/S J.L. Blair, F/S F.W. Kidson, F/S A.B. McLellan, P/O L. Poch, F/S J.H.B. Woolgar, Sgt M.C. Davies RAF and Sgt P.A. Lashly RAF killed (aircrewremembered.com). See August 2, 1943 and September 6, 1944.

10-11 75 (New Zealand) Sqn. Wellington III BJ968AA-W *'Rosaline'* lost without trace, F/S F. Burrill, F/S R.E. Gorman RCAF (USA), F/S W.W.H. Lavers, F/S M.B. St. Louis and P/O R.C. Smart RNZAF missing (losses.internationalbcc.co.uk).

10-11 83 Sqn. Lancaster I W4104 OL-A lost over Germany, F/S D.J. Calderwood, F/O J.G. McDonald DFC, F/S H.R. Watson, Sgt A.G. Cook RAF, F/O H.L. Mazengarb RAAF, Sgt P.W.A. Samwell RAF and Sgt G.G. Millard RAF killed.

10-11 102 Sqn. Halifax II W7752 DY-R shot down into the North Sea by a night-fighter, F/O P.A.V. England, F/S G.F. Fargher, F/O B.G.H. Smith RAF, Sgt K. Marshall RAF, Sgt R. Moore RAF and F/S S.H. Jackson RAF killed, Sgt D.R.W. Schofield RAF and P/O J.B. McCormack RAF missing.

10-11 106 Sqn. Lancaster I R5638 lost over Germany, F/S W.M. Andrews, P/O J.F. Nicolle, Sgt A.G. Smith RAAF, Sgt R.D. McPherson RAAF, Sgt A.P. Jamieson RAF (S. Rhod.), Sgt G.G. Chalmers RAF (S. Rhod.) and Sgt J. Russel RAF killed.

10-11 158 Sqn. Halifax II W7745 NP-K believed shot down into the North Sea, F/S G.L. Ellsworth, S/L P.B. Robinson DFC RAF, Sgt A.J. Sutton RAF, Sgt W.A. Thomas RAF and P/O A.H. Hanson DFC RAF killed, Sgt G.A. Smith RAF (Can.), Sgt J.G.E. Davis RAF and Sgt P. Silverman RAF missing.

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 safe (R. Allenby). See October 13-14 and December 10-11 below and November 6, 1943.

10-11 218 Sqn. Stirling I BF351 HA-C shot down by a night fighter over Holland, F/S G.E. Milligan, Sgt M.V. Tate RNZAF, Sgt R.E. Graham RNZAF, Sgt R. Vallance RAF, Sgt J.W. Humphrey RAF, F/S D. Emeny RAF and Sgt R.W. Bowler RAF killed.

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

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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 #14 OTU Hampden I L4131 PL-A shot down over Germany, F/S W.O. Anderson, Sgt D.H. Chapman, Sgt W.D. Deatherage and F/S J.C. Kerr killed.

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. Rogers 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 was damaged by flak over the target, and later shot down by a night-fighter 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 RAF were rescued from their life raft Sept. 16 and PoW (aircrewremembred.com; www.baaa-acro.com).

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 shot down over Holland by a night-fighter, 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 (www.baaa-acro.com). See November 2, 1944.

10-11 #22 OTU Wellington Ic R1616, attached to 102 Sqn., shot down over Holland by a night fighter, Sgt C.H.L. Bell, Sgt W.T. Cranna, F/S R.W. Hughes, P/O W.T.B. McBratney and F/S J.D. Williams killed.

10-11 #22 OTU Wellington Ic X9932 shot down over Germany by a night-fighter, F/S W.H. Johnson, Sgt E.S.J. McCasky, F/S D.L. Pablo RCAF (USA), Sgt C.E. Pollard and P/O C.R. Sullivan killed (aviation-safety.net).

10-11 #25 OTU Wellington III Z1725 PP-M shot down by flak over Germany, F/S J.H. Charron, F/S M.K. Matson, Sgt S.T. Southgate RAF, F/S F.R. Molton RAF and Sgt H.W. Hancock RAF killed (losses.internationalbcc.co.uk; www.baaa-acro.com). F/S Matson's brother, Sgt R.M. Matson RCEME, was killed in France August 8, 1944 (CVWM).

10-11 #25 OTU Wellington III BJ987 PP-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 (aviation-safety.net).

10-11 #26 OTU Wellington Ic DV703 'C' shot down by a night fighter over Germany, F/S J.B.

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Higginson, Sgt C.C. Ogilvie RAAF, P/O J. M'Ilveen 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 33 Sqn. Hurricane IIc HL661 NW-J F/L L.C. Wade RAF (USA) claims a Ju 87 destroyed before his aircraft was attacked and damaged by fighters over North Africa (Shores, Massimello V.2).

11 127 Sqn. Hurricane IIb BN160 'J', F/L R.C. Lawrence and Sgt I.R. Campbell (RAF?, Z3759 'R') shared a Bf 109 destroyed over North Africa (Shores, Massimello V.2). See November 2, below.

11 601 Sqn. Spitfire Vc (Trop.) BR481 UF-K, F/L J.H. Curry RCAF (USA) claims a Bf 109 probably destroyed and an MC.202 damaged over North Africa (Shores, Massimello V.2). See September 29, below.

11 #17 OTU Blenheim IV L4891 swung on take off and collided with a tractor, Sgt B.M. Harvey RCAF (USA) and Sgt I. Gass RAF safe (www.rafcommands.com). See Dec. 6, below.

11 #52 OTU Spitfire IIa P7676 was seen to dive into the Severn River in England, F/S K.M. Grant killed (www.spitfires.ukf.net; allspitfirepilots.org).

Saturday

12 <u>Laconia Incident</u>. 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

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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.

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.

12 502 Sqn. Whitley VII BD428 crashed into the sea near the Scilly Islands believed to have been shot down in error by friendly forces, F/S L.J.S. Bush RNZAF and P/O T.J. Penney RAF killed, P/O J.A. Arbuckle, WO1 T.B. Barnhill, F/S L.J.P. Lafleur and Sgt S.F. Wells RAF missing (www.rafcommands.com; bac-lac.gc.ca).

12 #1 OTU, Bagotville, Quebec, Cpl G.R. Ebbs died of natural causes in Chicoutimi, Quebec.

12-13 <u>Battle of Bloody Ridge</u>, 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.

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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).

German Army, with heavy air support, begins it's offensive to occupy the centre of <u>Stalingrad</u> (Bergström, Dikov & Antipov V.3).

13 601 Sqn. Spitfire Vc (Trop.) BR253 P/O R.J.F. Sherk claims a Bf 109 probably destroyed over North Africa (www.spitfires.ukf.net; Shores, Massimello V.2). See September 29, below.

13 #61 OTU Master III DL611 crashed in England, killing F/S J.M. Kassaneff RCAF (USA) and AC1 K.G. Bowler RAF (www.rafcommands.com).

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 Conversion Flying Training School, RCAF Station Rockcliffe, Ontario, Harvard II #3106 collided in mid air with RCAF Station Rockcliffe Oxford II BG297, both aircraft crashing near Richmond, Ontario, LAC(P) W.K. Dean Jr. RCAF (USA) was killed in the Harvard, P/O C.E. Cuisson bailed out and survived (www.sarniahistoricalsociety.com; CVWM), electrician Sgt S.V. Patterson, LAC(P) F.L. Rash Jr. RCAF (USA), and P/O J.R. Shanks were killed in the Oxford (J.A. Griffin).

13-14 <u>Battle of Bloody Ridge</u>, 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). Radar officer F/O D.R. Thomson may have been wounded and PoW in this operation with the Long Range Desert Group.

Escorting Convoy ON-127 destroyer* HMCS Ottawa *is torpedoed by* U-91 *and sinks with the loss of 114 crew and 22 rescued merchant seamen, 69 survivors were picked up (RCN Chronology; wikipedia).

13-14 81st Bomb. Sqn., 12th Medium Bomber Group, USAAF, B-25C 41-12849 shot down over Tobruk, F/S C.J.H. Fry, 1Lt H.F. Belobraidich USAAF, 2Lt O.B. Reeves USAAF and Sgt L.J. Shore USAAF missing, 1Lt L.B. Hicks USAAF and 2Lt E.F. Jobb USAAF PoW (wartimes.ca). F/S Fry was the wireless operator air gunner on the

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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 USAAF killed, Sgt J.E. Venink USAAF, Sgt H. Reid, Col C.G. Goodrich USAAF, 2Lt R.G. Ries USAAF and Maj H.B. Houston USAAF 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, 2Lt C.A. Horr USAAF and Sgt E.L. Delaney USAAF killed, 2Lt W.J. Thomas USAAF missing, 1Lt L.P. Redburn USAAF was taken PoW [wartimes.ca]. 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 shot down by flak 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 (www.baaa-acro.com). It was the crews first operation. Sgt Feast is referenced by D. Hodgson.

13-14 44 Sqn. Lancaster I W4169 KM-S shot down by a night fighter over Holland, F/S G.L. Fiddler, Sgt P.C. Murphy RAF (Can.), Sgt D.N. Huntley DFM RAF, Sgt R.E. Williams RAF, F/O C.H. Lovegrove RAF and F/O C.T. Holland RAF killed, Sgt A.L. Goodyer RAF PoW. See http://www.teunispats.net/fr-wwii.htm for details.

13-14 102 Sqn. Halifax II W1271 damaged on operations, F/S G.H. Rowe wounded, Sgt Knight and P/O Plummer injured, Sgt Ling, Sgt Ray, Sgt Thirsk and Sgt Tuck safe (RAF or RCAF?). The aircraft returned safely to England (www.rafcommands.com). See Sept 20, below and June 21-22, 1943.

13-14 158 Sqn. Halifax II BB205 NP-B shot down over Holland by a night fighter, Sgt C.A. Hunt, Sgt L.J. Soper RCAF (USA), Sgt R.J. Cantillon RAAF, Sgt F. Caldwell RAF, Sgt R.H.D. Bren RAF, Sgt J.J. Reid RAF and Sgt D.F. Readman RAF PoW.

13-14 214 Sqn. Stirling R9166 BU-H shot down over Germany by flak, P/O R.J. Cartmell, P/O H.E. Orr, F/S J.G. Spouler, Sgt R. Dicks RAF, Sgt R.F. Reynolds RAF and Sgt S. Watson RAF killed, P/O P. Fussey RAF PoW (www.baaa-acro.com; 214squadron.org.uk).

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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, F/S A.J.G. Cameron, F/S F. Hubbard, F/S E.B. Hutchinson, Sgt D.A. McTavish and F/S R. Harling RAF injured, and rescued (419 SH; www.rafcommands.com).

13-14 #14 OTU Hampden I L4109 GL-S shot down by a night-fighter over Holland on an operation to Germany, Sgt G.E.C. Coldron, F/S R. Grabek killed, Sgt R. Carlson and Sgt T.F. Needham PoW (www.baaa-acro.com).

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. Pedersen, Sgt R.S.C. Plowright RAF and Sgt R.F. Stay RAF killed, P/O M. Holub, Sgt B.L. Hancock RAF 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 #22 OTU Wellington Ic R1658 lost without trace on an operation to Germany, Sgt R.E. Brown, Sgt G.L. Dixon, F/S G.I. Fee, F/S J.T. Reid and Sgt J.H. Davies RAF missing.

13-14 #22 OTU Wellington Ic HD991 shot down by a night fighter over Holland, F/S G.S. Bickerton, P/O D.C. King and F/S D. Murray killed, F/S W.J. Shaver and Sgt J.H. Dew RAF PoW. See http://www.teunispats.net/fr-wwii.htm for details.

13-14 #26 OTU Wellington Ic X9786 'F' shot down into the IJsselmeer off Holland by a night

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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 R1459 crashed just after taking off for an operation over Germany, Sgt P.E. Pigeon, P/O J.L. Munro RNZAF, P/O F.G. Rumbles RAF, Sgt K.W. Knight RAF and Sgt E.S. Speight RAF safe.

13-14 #1651 CU Stirling I N3684 LS-O was partially abandoned then crash landed in England returning from an operation to Germany, P/O G. Turner, F/O T. Ballauff RAF and Sgt I.J. Allen RNZAF injured, Sgt J.H. Keeley RNZAF, Sgt J.F. Bowman RNZAF, Sgt J. McGhie RAF, Sgt P.H. Conroy RAF and Sgt N.A. Young RAF safe. See Sept. 23-24, 1943.

13-14 #1654 CU Lancaster I W4108 shot down over Holland by a night-fighter, Sgt J.J.W. Adams, P/O P.A. Vivian RNZAF, P/O E.F. Dowdell RAF, Sgt G.A. Walker RAF, F/S R. Robertson RAF, Sgt R.L. Moss RAF and Sgt P.K. Jones RAF killed. See http://www.teunispats.net/fr-wwii.htm for details.

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. Without air support 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). The Sea Hurricanes engaged the torpedo bombers in the barrage of anti-aircraft fire put up by the convoy and lost 3 shot down by friendly fire, but saved the aircraft carrier (Bergström, Dikov & Antipov V.3).

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 raffer 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.

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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).

14 #6 SFTS, Dunnville, Ontario, employee William Cooper, 15, was killed in an accident involving a steam-roller while engaged in runway maintenance (heritage.canadiana.ca; www.rcafmuseum.org).

14 #6 SFTS Harvard II #3170 was on a night training exercise. It took off in a normal manner but then began turning until it went into a spiral dive and crashed, LAC(P) J.F. Tennian RAF (Can.) was killed. LAC Tennian had re-mustered to aircrew after several years in England in ground crew trades (Allison & Hayward). This loss and the death of a runway worker are not connected (heritage.canadiana.ca).

14 #14 EFTS, Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4118 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker). As #14 EFTS had closed in July this aircraft might have been damaged earlier and written off on this date.

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. Cundy 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).

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***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, damaging U-156, despite the survivors on deck, the lifeboats and the Red Cross flags (wikipedia).*

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. Further attacks on one of the U-boats took place on September 17 (wikipedia). Although some 1,500 survivors were picked up by the Vichy warships in the following days not all lifeboats were found (see October 20, below) and 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-in-Chief 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 Trails, 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. See November 28, below.

Off Cape des Rosiers, Quebec, the freighters **SS Saturnus** *and* **SS Inger Elizabeth** *were torpedoed and sunk by U-517 (J.W. Essex).*

15 250 Sqn. Kittyhawk I shot down near El Alamein, P/O C.R. Thorpe RCAF (USA) PoW (Shores, Massimello V.2). TSGNO states P/O Thorpe was from Calgary.

15 260 Sqn. Kittyhawk II FL238 HS-E shot down in North Africa, F/S J.F. Edwards claimed a Bf 109 probably destroyed over El Alamein (Shores, Massimello V.2). See October 21, below.

15 450 Sqn. Kittyhawk I EV160, F/O H.F. Marting RCAF (USA) claimed a Bf 109 destroyed and a second damaged over El Alamein (Shores, Massimello V.2). See October 20, below.

15 229 Sqn. Spitfire Vc (Trop.) BR486 lost near Malta, P/O J.R. Scott missing. See October 13-14, below.

15 419 Sqn. Wellington III X3796 VR-C crashed on a test flight, WO1 J.A. Clark, F/S E.M. Harney RCAF (USA), P/O J.A. Hay, air frame mechanic LAC W.R.A. Jahnke, F/S

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R.A. Kinnee, LAC E.D. Lawley, 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. P/O Hay's brother, Lt Harold Robert Hay, Carelton and York Regiment, was killed in Italy April 7, 1944 (www.findagrave.com).

15 #14 OTU Hampden I AD740 GL-E 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 J.E. Rushford injured (www.rafcommands.com; losses.internationalbcc.co.uk).

15 #9 AOS, St. Jean, Quebec, Anson I #6554 crashed into Lake St. Francis, Ontario, making a low pass over a boat, Sgt V.G. de Havilland, Sgt T.P. Fraser RAAF and LAC(N) W.H.F. Smale RAF killed, LAC(N) S.D.R. Cook RAAF injured (A. Storr; bac-lac.gc.ca).

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).

15-16 502 Sqn. Whitley VII Z9365 YG-A shot down by Ju 88 aircraft on an anti-submarine patrol over the Bay of Biscay, F/S W. Harvey, P/O A.E. Coates RNZAF, Sgt A.B. Cockburn RNZAF, Sgt J.R. Ellam RAF and F/S H.A. Roberts RAF missing, Sgt T.J. Edwards RAF was picked up the next night by a French fishing boat and made Prisoner of War (www.rafcommands.com; aircrewremembered.com; www.prisonersofwarmuseum.com).

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Wednesday

16 Japanese overland assault on Port Moresby, New Guinea, halted short of the harbour.

German troops break through <u>Stalingrad</u> 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, Quebec (RCAF Sqns.).* See below and September 24, below.**

16 #211 AMES, Cpl N.P. Wilson was accidentally electrocuted in a workshop accident in

India.

16 33 Sqn. Hurricane IIc returned badly damaged from a fight with MC.202 fighters, F/L L.C. Wade RAF (USA) safe (Shores, Massimello V.2).

16 145 Sqn. Spitfire Vb 'BP986' ZX-X, F/L J.J.P. Sabourin DFC, claimed a Bf 109 shot down over El Alamein in the morning. But in the afternoon he was shot down in Spitfire V 'BP847' ZX-Z and is missing (Shores, Massimello V.2). F/L Sabourin had 7 victories to his credit. He had survived after bailing out from an aircraft Nov. 22, 1941. The serial numbers are suspect from the records published of Spitfires built (www.spitfires.ukf.net).

16 145 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AR287, F/S E.A. Ker claimed an MC.202 destroyed and a Bf 109 damaged in the morning, and a second Bf 109 damaged in the afternoon over El Alamein (Shores, Massimello V.2). See September 18, below.

16 200 Sqn. Hudson IIIa FH265 'D' crashed on take off in Gambia on an anti-submarine patrol, P/O J.F. Lawless, P/O T.B.T. Moore, F/S J.R. Rozon and WO2 S.F. Santy killed (J. Baugher; bac-lac.gc.ca).

16 200 Sqn. Hudson IIIa FH288 forced down in Portuguese Guinea due to severe weather returning from a convoy patrol, P/O R.J. Weatherhead, P/O W.C. Zapfe, Sgt F. Spino and Sgt C.L. Copping interned (www.number59.com; www.rafcommands.com). See March 23, 1943.

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, WO2 J.W. O'Brien, AC1 L. Holloway RAF and AC2 D. McMillan RAF. All the aircrew lost in this accident had completed a tour of operations on bombers before being posted to OTU for a rest (bac-lac.gc.ca; CVWM).

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://bac-lac.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.

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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 7 Sqn. Stirling W7569 MG-D went down into the IJsselmeer off Holland, believed due to flak damage, P/O R.E. Clarke, P/O B. Dallenger RNZAF, F/S D.T. Lamb RNZAF, Sgt W.J. Anderson RNZAF, Sgt R.H. Crabtree RNZAF, Sgt H.O. Goddard RNZAF and Sgt P. Sandison RAF killed. See http://www.teunispats.net/fr-wwii.htm for details.

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.

16-17 9 Sqn. Lancaster I W4765 WS-T lost over Germany, Sgt T.H. Kidd RAF (Can.), Sgt K.B. Hobbs RAF, Sgt G. Dennison RAF, Sgt D.W. Constance RAF, Sgt M. Hull RAF, Sgt D.O.R. Dawson RAF and Sgt A.H. Jones RAF killed.

16-17 15 Sqn. Stirling I R9318 LS-J lost without trace, WO2 M.L. Morelly, P/O J.W. Brown RAF, P/O 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 15 Sqn. Stirling I BF353 LS-E shot down into the IJsselmeer in the Netherlands, Sgt L. Cowen RAF, Sgt T.C.F. Orr RAF (S. Africa), Sgt R.E. Evans RAF and Sgt K. Forster RAF killed, F/S W.E. Johnson, P/O L.W. O'Hara RAF and Sgt R.J. Mumford RAF missing. See http://www.teunispats.net/fr-wwii.htm for details.

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. Bouffler RAF, F/S A.B. Brooks DFM RAF and Sgt W.J. Hoban RAAF killed. P/O Moody was a Biggs' Boy (K. Stofer).

16-17 101 Sqn. Wellington III BJ897 lost over Germany, F/S R.K. Griffith, Sgt L.W. Stephenson RAAF, P/O C.H. Grant RAF and Sgt A.W. Firth RAF killed, P/O R.H. Hill RAF missing.

16-17 106 Sqn. Lancaster I W4178 lost off the coast of Holland, Sgt A. Williams RAF killed, P/O R.F. Chase, F/S H.C. Johnston, P/O D.J. Downer 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.

16-17 142 Sqn. Wellington III DF550 QT-N attacked by a night fighter and abandoned over

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France, Sgt A.E. Buckell RAF and Sgt H.M. James RAF PoW, Sgt R. Forster, P/O R.E. Glensor RNZAF and S/L D.B. Barnard RAF evaded (www.conscript-heroes.com MI-9 files).

16-17 142 Sqn. Wellington IV Z1380 QT-A lost over Germany, F/S L.E. Holland, WO2 D. Udell, F/S J.W. Whear, F/S J.H.E. Marriot RAF and Sgt W. Davis RAF killed.

16-17 150 Sqn. Wellington III BJ877 hit by flak and abandoned over Belgium, Sgt N.M. Graham PoW, F/S W.W. Dreschsler, Sgt W.S.O. Randle RAF, Sgt W. Brazil RAF, Sgt R. Frost RAF and Sgt D.C. Mounts RAF evaded.

16-17 405 Sqn. Halifax II W7770 LQ-E shot down over France by a night fighter after suffering several technical problems, F/S W.S. Grant, F/S C.A. Kitson, F/S W.F. Murray, F/S C.A. Paton and F/S J.G. St. Louis killed, Sgt R.E.H. Barnicoat RAF, injured, was taken PoW, P/O L.E. Kropf evaded. F/S Paton's brother, F/S J. Paton, had been killed in North Africa April 18-19, 1942. See October 4-5, 1944 and May 3, 1945. An account of P/O Kropf's evasion can be found at aircrewremembered.com.

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. This was the last Whitley lost on a Bomber Command operation.

16-17 #12 OTU Wellington III BJ650 shot down by a night fighter over Holland, F/S J.J. La Bossiere, F/L M.B. Mallet RAF, Sgt J.H. Evans RAF, Sgt S.C. Wedgwood RAF and Sgt V.F. Vinnicombe RAF killed.

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 #15 OTU Wellington Ic N2778 lost over Germany, Sgt T.A. Drew, F/S S.B. Robson, F/S H.D. Van Norman, Sgt J.A.J.D. Hatton RAF, P/O J.S. Shaw RAF and Sgt G.E. Jones 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. Lemoine, 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' shot down by flak near Essen, 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 (luftkriegsarchiv-koeln.de).

16-17 #23 OTU Wellington III Z1730 'J', attached to 106 Sqn., lost over Germany, F/S J. Donaldson, F/S J. Needler, F/S J.L. Nibblet RCAF (USA), Sgt J.A.C. Smith and F/S K.B. Tanner Jr. RCAF (USA) killed.

16-17 #23 OTU Wellington III BJ720 'U' lost over Germany, F/S D.R. Philp RCAF (USA), F/L

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T.F. Tyrrell RAF, Sgt A. Skinner RAF, P/O T.W. Sutton RAF and F/S P. Stewart RAF killed.

16-17 #25 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.

16-17 #1654 CU Lancaster W4138 JF-U lost over Germany, F/S S.H. Cowley, Sgt M.R. Crocker, F/S J.N.S. King, Sgt D.R. Gilchrist RAAF, Sgt L.E. Bell RNZAF, Sgt F.H. Huntley RAF (Rhod.) and Sgt R.A. Low RAF killed (losses.internationalbcc.co.uk).

Thursday

17 418 Sqn. Boston III W8331 ditched off the coast of England on a night INTRUDER to France, P/O C.G.T. McGregor, F/O A.T. Persian and F/S C.E. Stuart missing.

17 500 Sqn. Hudson V AM587 shot down by a German patrol aircraft on a meteorological flight, Sgt R. Finklestone-Sayliss RAF (Can.), Sgt R.J. Wilson RAF, Sgt A. Young RAF and F/S D.B. Smith RAF (S. Africa) missing (R. McNeill at www.rootschat.com, val at www.rafcommands.com).

17 #9 AFU Anson I R9645 (recorded as lost on this date in 1941 in some sources) crashed in Scotland making a missed approach, P/O H.L. Spangler RCAF (USA) and Sgt K.G. Patrick RAF killed, Sgt D.S. Dunker RAF, Sgt C.W. Cross RAF and Sgt E.C. Whittall RAF injured (COL BRUGGY www.rafcommands.com; bac-lac.gc.ca).

17 #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).

17 #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, Sgt A.N. Blackmore, Sgt R. Gordon, F/O B.G. Johnston and Sgt L. Crump RAAF safe (BLME V.2 Errata).

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).

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Unescorted Canadian laker* Norfolk *with a cargo of bauxite ore for Trinidad, torpedoed by* U-175 *and sank in minutes, 6 crew lost and 13 survivors on life rafts were rescued the same day (RCN Chronology; www.uboat.net).

18 46 Sqn. Beaufighter If X7707 was re-positioning from Malta and 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 (RAF), HQ Middle East killed (A. Storr; aviation-safety.net).

18 145 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AR287 'K', F/S E.A. Ker claimed a Bf 109 probably destroyed over North Africa (Shores, Massimello V.2). See March 1, 1943.

18 247 Sqn. Canadian built Hurricane X AG240 crashed making a forced landing in England, P/O H.K. Hamilton injured (H. Welting www.rafcommands.com).

18 #10 OTU Whitley V Z6974 crashed in England on take-off, F/S W.W. Evans, AC1 R.E.L. Stevens RAF and AC2 G.P. Hunter RAF killed, Sgt S.G. Murray injured.

18 #2 SFTS, Uplands, Ontario, Harvard II #3828 crashed in the Madawaska River near Calabogie Lake, Ontario, performing unauthorized slow rolls at low altitude, LAC(P) A.W. Ault and Sgt R.M. Cross RCAF (USA) killed (bac-lac.gc.ca). The investigation of this accident recommended that a portfolio of graphic photos of airmen killed and aircraft crashed doing unauthorized flying be prepared to be distributed to flying schools to discourage such activity (bac-lac.gc.ca).

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 RNor.AF, Little Norway, Toronto Island Airport, Ontario, Curtiss H75A-8 (Mohawk) 461 force landed after an engine failure. The aircraft was repaired and, with all surviving Norwegian H75A-8, purchased by the USA and sent to Peru under Lend-Lease (D. Hagedorn & A. Tincopa).

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 J.A. Gordon, Sgt Brown RAF, Sgt Goldsworthy RAF, Sgt A.V. Rimes RAF and Sgt Barber RAF, to bail out before he crash landed the bomber (H. Welting at www.rafcommands.com). 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 15 Sqn. Stirling I N3759 LS-Q lost without trace on a GARDENING sortie, believed shot

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down by flak, F/S C.R. Bee, F/S F.E. Davidson, P/O J.E. Land RCAF (USA), F/S W.D. Probert, Sgt R.F. Lowrie RAF, Sgt G. Hayes RAF and Sgt G.F. Eldridge RAF missing (aircrewremembered.com). F/S Bee, P/O Land, Sgt Hayes and Sgt Eldridge had survived the crash of a Stirling Aug. 24-25, above.

18-19 44 Sqn. Lancaster I W4177 KM-W lost on a GARDENING sortie, F/S J.W. Drinkwater killed, Sgt J. Beattie RAF, Sgt J. Cliffe RAF, Sgt J.R. Locke RAF, Sgt A.F. Bentley RAF, Sgt F. Walters RAF and Sgt A.K. Wrigley RAF missing.

18-19 50 Sqn. Lancaster R5689 VN-N returned from a GARDENING sortie and crash landed on approach to land when an engined failed, and the wrong engine on the same side was feathered in error, F/S J.R. Gibbons, P/O G.W.M. Harrison RAF, Sgt H. Male RAF and Sgt S.C. Garrett RAF killed, Sgt E.J. Morley RAAF, Sgt J.W. Dalby RAF and Sgt J. Fraser RAF safe [www.findagrave.com].

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.

18-19 115 Sqn. Wellington III X3718 KO-Q lost without trace on a GARDENING sortie, Sgt H.M. Williams RAF (Nfld.), Sgt J.C. Allan RAF, Sgt J.A. Hunter RAF, P/O F.H. Ellis RAF and Sgt R.D. Owen RAF missing.

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 base of Den Helder (FF Years)

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). But the loss of one quarter of the ships convinced the Royal Navy to try other tactics, reducing the size of the convoys. As well many of the RN Home Fleet ships that provided the heavy naval escort were required for Operation TORCH, the invasion of North Africa (Bergström, Dikov & Antipov V.3). Ironically the torpedo bombers that had caused such heavy losses were soon re-deployed to the Mediterranean following the invasion of North Africa (C. Bergström).

19 213 Sqn. Hurricane IIc BP196 AK-B hit by flak or possibly a fighter over Egypt and Sgt S.G. Brooks bailed out, landing between Commonwealth and German lines. It is reported that an Allied and a German armoured vehicle raced to were he landed, fortunately the Germans lost and Sgt Brooks was retrieved safe (Shores,

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Massimello V.2).

19 167 Sqn. Spitfire Vb W3243 crashed performing aerobatics at low level returning from a convoy patrol, F/S W.C. Keegan RCAF (USA) killed (www.spitfires.ukf.net; bac-lac.gc.ca).

19 409 Sqn. Beaufighter VIf X8106 crashed after overshooting a one engined landing following an engine failure on a patrol, and hit the station Post Office 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 (bac-lac.gc.ca). For this action LAC Carter was awarded a BEM and LAC Corbiell an MiD (FF Years, Awards; aviation-safety.net). In 1943 AC1 Corbiell received a second MiD (Awards, FF Years).

19 410 Sqn. Beaufighter IIf T3159 was scrambled and intercepted a Do 217 night bomber. Returning to base damaged by return fire the aircraft crash-landed and was written off, F/O S.J. Fulton and P/O R.N. Rivers were safe [aviation-safety.net].

19 #32 EFTS, Bowden, Alberta, PT-27 Stearman FJ923 crashed, P/O G.H. Williams RAF (Can.) and LAC O.W. Wynne RAF killed.

19-20 108 Sqn. Wellington Ic DV872 'W' failed to return from an operation to Tobruk after sending an SOS, Sgt G. Bennett RAF (Can.), Sgt R.L. Berry RAF, Sgt E.B. Doublard RAF, Sgt P. Greenstein RAF, W/C R.H. Maw DFC RAF and Sgt N.R. Millson RAF PoW (alieneyes at www.rafcommands.com).

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 shot down by a night-fighter 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 (www.baaa-acro.com).

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 15 Sqn. Stirling W7578 LS-A shot down by a German night-fighter over France, P/O A. Birchall, F/S P.J. Apps RAF, F/S I.J. Henderson RAF, F/S J.M. Pye RAF, F/S C.R. Russell-Collins RAF, Sgt J.A. Richards RAF and Sgt G.W. Vasil RAF killed (www.baaa-acro.com). P/O Birchall and most of this crew had survived bailing out

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of another Stirling Sept. 9-10, above. See also April 16-17, 1943.

19-20 61 Sqn. Lancaster I W4166 QR-J lost over Germany, P/O W.H. Donovan, F/S J.O. Tuller, Sgt R.R.B. Owen RAAF, Sgt D.T. McLean RAAF, Sgt T. Thompson RAF, Sgt A.G. Sale RAF and Sgt P.J. Maxwell RAF killed (losses.internationalbcc.co.uk).

19-20 101 Sqn. Wellington III BJ689 shot down by a night-fighter 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.F. de Bartok DFC and Sgt J.L. Dyhouse RAF have no known grave (www.baaa-acro.com).

19-20 102 Sqn. Halifax was damaged when a photo flash exploded in the aircraft, which returned to England after jettisoning it's bombs, Sgt A.N. Conner, Sgt O.W. Forland, Sgt J.A.T. Simpson, Sgt J.L. Hartshorn RAF, Sgt L.I. Neil RAF, Sgt K. White RAF and 1 crewman safe (R. Allenby). See October 13-14 below.

19-20 150 Sqn. Wellington III X3762 shot down by flak over France, F/S R.D. Gibson, Sgt R.G. Bassett RAF, Sgt W.A.F. Brannon RAF, Sgt D. Northey RAF and Sgt J.H. Roden RAAF killed (www.baaa-acro.com).

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).

19-20 161 Sqn. Whitley V Z6940 MA-S shot down over France by a night-fighter on an Special Operation sortie TERRIER to Belgium, F/S F.M. MacDonald, Sgt A.R. Ashford RAF, Sgt H. Pateman RAF, Sgt W.E.R. Wright RAF, P/O M.R. Symonds RAF and F/S J.D. Walls RAF killed (R. Tebbutt; wwwfindagrave.com).

19-20 214 Sqn. Stirling R9356 BU-U lost over Germany, WO2 R.T.J. Collett, Sgt C.L. Hanna RAAF, Sgt J. Holland RAF and Sgt C.J. Whittingham RAF killed, P/O G.W. Findlay, Sgt W.M. Thompson and WO P.J. McNamara RAF PoW (A. Storr; *Airforce Magazine*, Spring 1991).

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Sunday

20 First advances in what would become <u>First Arakan Offensive</u>, 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).

Over <u>Stalingrad</u> German fighters have almost completely routed Soviet fighters and ground attack aircraft despite heavy reinforcements, giving German bombers the ability to make unopposed heavy attacks in the City and east of the Volga. Soviet daytime operations continue despite these heavy losses while their

night bombing campaign expands. But the cost to German units is high as the relatively fewer pilots have to fly continuous operations, and their supply support remains poor, leading to many worn out pilots and grounded aircraft. In the city the German ground attack has become mired down by the stubborn Russian defence (Bergström, Dikov & Antipov V.3).

20 102 Sqn., wireless air gunner F/S G.H. Rowe died of the wounds he sustained Sept. 14.

20 #1 OTU, Bagotville, Quebec, Harvard IIb FE387 spun and crashed from a steep turn and crashed near St. Felix, Dot Island, Quebec while practising formation flight, Sgt M. Klimenko RCAF (USA) and air frame mechanic LAC 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 using turbo-supercharged engines, and 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 #53 Repair and Salvage Unit, Egypt, Kittyhawk I AK953 crashed on a low flying exercise, F/S J.A.E. Vincent killed (bac-lac.gc.ca).

21 236 Sqn. Beaufighter VIc EL322 ND-O hit a tree and crashed making a landing after an engine failed soon after taking of on a patrol, WO2 J.A.A.L. Bourassa and his observer F/S W.L. Williams RAF killed (aviation-safety.net; www.northlincsweb.net).

21 #1 (Coastal) OTU RAF, Hudson V AM608 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, Sgt S.A. Gardner RAF and AC2 A.W. Kennedy RAF killed (www.rafcommands.com).

21 #10 OTU Whitley V Z7695 JL-W ran out of fuel on an anti-submarine patrol and came down in the sea, WO2 H.G.P. Hart, WO2 E.J. Christian, F/L N.J. Mundell RNZAF, F/S K.G. D'Arcy RAF, WO J.F. Grier RAF and WO I.G. Keiller RAF taken PoW (www.rafcommands PoW list). The aircraft was later salvaged, intact, by the Luftwaffe.

21 #10 OTU Whitley V Z9472 lost on an anti-submarine patrol, possibly due to a change in

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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 Magazine*, 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, P/O W.K. Wells RCAF (USA) bailed out and was safe (heritage.canadiana.ca; aviation-safety.net). See #12 SFTS loss July 25, 1942.

21 #5 EFTS, High River, Alberta, DH.82C Tiger Moth #3906 damaged and written off in a crash near the airfield, Sgt W.A. Ostrom seriously injured (R.W.R. Walker; heritage.canadiana.ca).

21-22 GARDENING by 17 bombers off Germany and Denmark, 3 lost (BC War Diaries).

21-22 101 Sqn. Wellington III X3457 SR-R lost without trace on a GARDENING sortie, F/S J.E. Rodgers, Sgt H.M. Hawkins RAAF, F/S J. Rimmer RAF, Sgt J.S. Sagar RAF and F/S W. Shankland RAF missing.

21-22 101 Sqn. Wellington III X3815 went down over Denmark after being attacked by a night fighter on a GARDENING sortie, S/L V.R. Paterson DFC RAF, F/S E.J. Rowe RAF and P/O R.E.N. Butcher RAAF killed, P/O C.H. Mitchell and Sgt G.L. Otter RNZAF PoW.

21-22 115 Sqn. Wellington III BJ962 KO-D lost without trace on a GARDENING sortie, F/S R.Q. Leatherman RCAF (USA), F/S W.B. Martin, F/S R.E. Paudash, Sgt D.H. Evans RAF and Sgt D.T. Simpson RAF missing (losses.internationalbcc.co.uk).

Tuesday

22 First Canadian built Mosquito, B.VII KB300, flies at Downsview, Ontario (T. Judge).

22 39 Sqn. Beaufort IIa AW350 BX-M collided with 227 Sqn. Beaufighter VI T5150 'K' just before attacking a tanker in the Mediterranean. The collision took off the tail, and the aircraft dived into the sea, F/O A.F. Izzard, F/O R. Jones RAF, F/S J.R. Burrett

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RAAF and Sgt W.L. Doodson RAF missing (A. Storr; R. Hayward; L.A. Evans letter *Skywriters* section, *Aeroplane Monthly*, July 2007). The Beaufighter returned to Malta and crash landed.

22 70 Sqn. Wellington Ic Z9044 'B' force landed in the desert after being hit over Tobruk. The crew began to walk out but only Sgt T.A. Oldale RAF survived, WO M.W. Gilding RAF killed, Sgt P.G. Burrell RAF (Can.), P/O R.B. Muirhead RAF, Sgt C. Owens RAF and F/O P.D. Short RAF have no known grave (www.rafcommands.com).

22 125 (Newfoundland) Sqn. Beaufighter VIf X8150 crashed off Wales, P/O W.G.H. King RAF and P/O J.G. Young RAF missing (aviation-safety.net).

22 403 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AR440 collided in mid-air with 425 Sqn. Wellington III BJ695 (see below) during a fighter affiliation exercise and crashed in England, F/S J.T. Norman RCAF (USA) killed (R. Allenby).

22 425 Sqn. Wellington III BJ695 KW-P (or -J, W. Saunders) collided in mid-air with a 403 Sqn. Spitfire as outlined above, and crashed in England, Sgt J.R.A. Boudreault, F/S D.A. Girouard, WO2 E. Kuzyk MiD, P/O R.J. Rioux, Sgt E.W. St. Cyr killed in the Wellington. This was the first aircraft lost by 425 Sqn. (R. Allenby).

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, Sgt D.R. Evans RAF, WO R.J. Fulbrook DFC RAF, F/S F.W. Hill RAF and Sgt J.P. Wolfenden RAF (www.rafcommands.com; www.northlincsweb.net).

22 #1 (Coastal) OTU Hudson V AM655 crashed in Scotland, F/S W.R. Wynnychuk killed, Sgt W.J.B. Howell, Sgt H. Pincock and Sgt J.B. Shepherd injured (www.rafcommands.com). See Sept. 12, 1943.

22 #7 Air Gunnery School, England, Defiant I T4075 stalled and crashed offshore of Wales, Sgt J.F. Teskey and F/S T.W. Shrimpton RNZAF killed (www.rafcommands.com; familyhistoryswansea.blogspot.com).

22 #9 AFU Anson DJ126 flew into a hill in England, WO2 B.H. Vye, LAC(O) G.A. Horne RAF, Sgt A.W. Hawkes RAF, LAC(O) R.D. Hume RAF and LAC(BA) C.O.M. Rawson RAF killed (Dave Smith & Highgroundsman at www.rafcommands.com).

22 #19 OTU Whitley V N1393 crashed attempting an overshoot after an engine failure, Sgt M.W. Mazier, F/O J.S.M. Helme RAF, Sgt l. Bacon RAF, Sgt G.W. Catling RAF, F/S J. Simpson DFM RAF and Sgt W. Brown RAF killed, Sgt C.J. Usher RAF injured.

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).

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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 Vc (Trop.) BR383 shot down north of the island of Malta, P/O I.F. Preston RCAF (USA) missing (www.spitfires.ukf.net; www.rafcommands.com).

23 Patrol of 417 Sqn. Hurricanes sights a Ju 88 while patrolling over the Suez Canal, but it escaped (FF Years).

23 245 (N. Rhodesia) Sqn. Hurricane I V7192 crashed in England on a search-light co-operation exercise, F/S B.A. Kerkhoff killed (www.rafcommands.com; bac-lac.gc.ca).

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 training flight killing WO2 N.E. Kirk and P/O J.I. McIntyre. See April 21 and August 12-13, 1944.

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 Wellingtons 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.

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23-24 102 Sqn. Halifax II DT517 DY-G shot down by flak over Germany, F/S F.A. Youmans, F/O L.G. Mee RNZAF, Sgt D.J. Wood RAF, Sgt J.C. Coulthard RAF, Sgt W. Johnstone RAF, F/S W.H. Davidson RAF, Sgt L. Jackson RAF and Sgt J.T. Spirit RAF killed (www.baaa-acro.com). Sgt Jackson had survived the crash that took the life of F/S A.G. Buchanan Jan. 6, above.

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.

23-24 405 Sqn. Halifax II W1274 LQ-R lost over Denmark, P/O E.E. Gervais, Sgt J.H. Kaufman RAF (Can.), F/S J. Ott, Sgt J.M. Rankin, P/O W.M. Webb, F/S M.K. Burke RAAF and F/S W. Sheldon RAF killed. Three of the crew, Sgt Webb, Sgt Gervais and Sgt Rankin, had been injured Sept. 10-11 in the crash of a Halifax.

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).

The lack of success in Stalingrad angers Hitler, who has become obsessed with the battle and accused his soldiers of lack of vigour in attack on this day. In fact, despite having full control of the skies over the City the fighting was now in such close quarters that German bombers could make few attacks without endangering their own troops. That the fighting continued at all was due to Luftwaffe transport flights as the roads and railways leading to the city had become almost unusable due to heavy traffic, but even with air support supplies were not meeting demand (Bergström, Dikov & Antipov V.3).

422 Sqn. detachment of Catalina flying boats returns to England from the USSR (RCAF Sqns.).

Gibraltar attacked in daylight by 2 Italian P.108B heavy bombers which cause no damage (H.W. Neulen).

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.

24 48 Sqn. Hudson IIIa FH363 lost after taking off at Hofn Island, Iceland, P/O R.A. Massey, Sgt R.S. Darke RAF and P/O A.R. Glennie RAF missing, Sgt C.H. Wilde rescued (www.rafcommands.com).

24 107 Sqn. Boston III AL756 flown by F/O W.N. Hale lost it's nose wheel and written off

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on a landing, P/O W. Martin RAAF injured (www.rafcommands.com).

24 403 Sqn. Spitfire Vb R7265 "*Grimsby I*" crashed in England after apparently losing control in cloud while on an exercise, F/S K.E. Root killed (M.A. Critchlow and COL BRUGGY at www.rafcommands.com; R. Allenby). See March 22, 1945.

24 415 Sqn. Hampden TB.I AT233 GX-B crashed in England on a training flight, Sgt K. Coates RAF, Sgt D.R. Bird RAF, Sgt A.H. Gibbons RAF and Sgt A. Higson RAF killed (H. Moyle).

24 534 Sqn. Hurricane IIc Z3895 had the engine fail due to fuel mismanagement, and crashed when it struck some trees attempting a forced landing at Binsted near Arundel Castle, in England, WO2 D.G. Jardine killed (www.rafcommands.com; www.airhistory.org.uk). 534 Squadron had just been established 3 weeks before as Turbinlite night fighter squadron, using searchlight equipped Boston/Havoc aircraft to illuminate enemy bombers for Hurricane fighters to attack. The system turned out not to be practical, and the Squadron was disbanded four months later3 (wikipedia).

24 #22 OTU Wellington Ic DV653 crashed making a night landing, Sgt M.R. Foran killed, Sgt J.W. Dunford RAF and rest of the crew safe (www.rafcommands.com).

24 #113 (BR) Sqn. Hudsons sight U-517 seven times in 24 hours, and Hudsons flown by F/O M.J. Belanger, P/O R.S. Keatley and Sgt A.S. White make attacks, but the U-boat escaped (http://bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/history/secondwar/battlegulf/closegulf).

24 #2 Wireless School, Calgary, Alberta, Fort #3596 crashed, Sgt A.H. Coalbran RAF killed, LAC(WAG) J.B. McDougall seriously injured (heritage.canadiana.ca).

24 #5 Manning Depot, Lachine, Quebec, AC2 J.H. Davis died in hospital of natural causes.

24 #12 Air Inspection Department, Toronto, Ontario, F/L E.A. Moore RCAF (USA) killed testing a USAAF P-40F 41-13652, at Selfridge Field, Michigan, USA, while on leave prior to transferring from the RCAF to become a test pilot for the Packard Company in the USA (AAIR; www.rafcommands.com; bac-lac.gc.ca).

24 #36 SFTS, F/S G.F. Jennings RAF died in Canada of natural causes (D. Burke and P. MacMillan at www.rafcommands.com).

24 USAAF AAFFC, 3rd Ferry Group, P-40K 42-9769 force landed with an engine failure at River Canard, Ontario (AAIR).

24-25 Over the oil producing centre of Saratov Lt Valeriya Khomyakova in a Yak-1 spots German bombers in the glare of searchlights, and shoots down a Ju 88, the first victory of a Soviet woman fighter pilot (Bergström, Dikov & Antipov V.3).

Bomber Command sends 51 bombers on GARDENING sorties over the North Sea, 1 lost (BC War Diaries).

24-25 61 Sqn. Lancaster I R5679 QR-O shot down by a night-fighter over Denmark on a

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GARDENING sortie, F/S J.A. Duffield, Sgt W.J. Emerslund, Sgt T.R. Bevan RAF, Sgt C.N. Coldicott RAF, Sgt A.M. Cormack RAF, Sgt E. Dyson RAF, and Sgt L.W. Morrison RAF killed (aviation-safety.net).

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 RCAF (USA) 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). US fighters also shot down a 'Rufe' and attacked the submarines in the harbour in this attack (B. Coyle)

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 and Major S.V. Greig RASC killed, P/O F.E. Vale, F/S A.S. Watt, Sgt H. Nuttall RAF, F/S L.E. Marjoram RAF, P/O M.R. Jeffery RNZAF, and a civilian, L.D. Clamorgan of the Free French Forces, travelling with the nom de guerre of Canadian Mr. C.D. Marisel, missing (www.landinportugal.org; www.rafcommands.com; ww2talk.com). Lt Turner was a courier carrying plans for the upcoming invasion of Africa, Operation TORCH. His

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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). See March 16-17, 1945.

25 210 Sqn. Catalina Ib FP113 was returning from escorting a convoy off Russia when it was attacked by a Ju 88 aircraft that killed the pilot F/L D.E. Healy RAF. The Squadron commanding officer then flew the damaged Catalina to Kildin Island where the crew, F/S J.C. Maffre, P/O G.W. Adamson RAF, Sgt D. Baird RAF, LAC T. Carter RAF, Sgt R. Isaac RAF, WO H.S. Johnson RAF, F/O E. Schofield RAF, Sgt R.M. Smith RAF, Sgt T.R. Thomas and F/O R.W. Witherick RAF were returned by a Russian rescue party (www.rafcommands.com). F/S Maffre was one of 4 brothers who served in the RCAF, two of whom were killed (see February 18, 1943 and April 28, 1944). F/S Maffre flew with 210 Sqn. from the Arctic to the Mediterranean, and was invalided out of the Air Force in 1944 due to illness (J.M. Maffre, www.rafcommands.com).

25 #11 (BR) Sqn., Dartmouth, NS, Hudson III BW454 OY-K lost on an anti-submarine patrol, F/L A.R. Booth, P/O D.M. Knowles, P/O C.G. Sawyer, F/S J. Selig and P/O W.L. Junge RAAF missing.

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).

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Saturday

26 <u>Stalingrad</u>, 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 (Eagle) Squadron (now operating as part of the USAAF 4th Fighter Group) and they lost 11 Spitfires that landed in France in error and one that crashed in England on taking off (D. McIntosh).

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 92 Sqn. Spitfire Vc (Trop.) BR478 QJ-U shot down by Bf 109 fighters in North Africa, WO W.F. Kenwood RCAF (UK) PoW (www.spitfires.ukf.net; Shores, Massimello V.2). He was profiled in the CWH Newsletter *Flightlines* in March, 2021.

26 213 Sqn. Hurricane IIc HL887, F/O A.U. Houle shot down 2 Ju 87 dive bombers, claimed another probably destroyed and 2 damaged when his flight intercepted the German aircraft near their base at Daba (Shores, Massimello V.2). See January 8, 1943.

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 bailed out but is 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). The Squadron Diary quoted in D. McIntosh notes F/O Hokan had used fuel from his auxiliary (drop?) tank on the positioning flight before the operation, not realizing that there were no facilities to top up the tank before they took-off. The book also has a more detailed account of this operation, the loss of most of the 133 (Eagle) Sqn. aircraft, and how close 401 Squadron flights also came to having to ditch in the sea. F/O Hokan is believed to be the first Black-Canadian pilot, and first Black-Canadian commissioned officer, in the RCAF (www.blackcanadianveterans.com; thecanadianencyclopedia.ca; www.kenleyrevival.org).

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. The rest of the Squadrons aircraft managed to land in England, all short of fuel due to the wind (D. McIntosh).

26 406 Sqn. Beaufighter, Sgt E.S.P. Fox, claimed a Ju 88 shot down off Cornwall (www.rafdavidstowmoor.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.rafdavidstowmoor.org).

26 504 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AB135 crashed in Ireland due to a jammed aileron, F/S W.B. Fry RCAF (USA) killed (www.spitfires.ukf.net; www.rafcommands.com).

26 610 Sqn. Spitfire Vc AR508 crashed in England, F/S E.C. Plachner killed (www.spitfires.ukf.net).

26 #10 (O)AFU observer Sgt L.J. MacDonald died in medical care in Scotland of natural causes (www.rafcommands.com).

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

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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 a 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 #10 OTU Whitley V AD708 swung on landing from an anti-submarine patrol, WO2 D.H. Thompson and Sgt A.T. Wall RAF injured, Sgt A.O. Campbell RAF, Sgt C.N. Ellis RAF, P/O H.S. Smith RAF and Sgt D.G. Thomas RAF safe (www.rafcommands.com). WO Thompson had been involved in another Whitley accident July 17, above.

27 #23 OTU Wellington III BJ719 stalled and crashed on take-off, Sgt R.C. Ramsay injured, Sgt J.G.A. Patry, Sgt E.L. Brown, Sgt A.L. D'Eon and Sgt G.W. Heselton safe (www.rafcommands.com). See June 21-22, 1943. Note the website www.aviationarchaeology.org.uk identifies all this crew as RCAF.

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.

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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 FS-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 at rafcommands.com).

Monday

28 Australian forces begin to advance back up the Kokoda Trail, following Japanese ordered to retreat (www.empireworldwide.com).

Soviet airforces over Stalingrad had taken such heavy losses that, for the first time in their war with Germany, no daylight operations were flown in support of ground forces despite their pleas for help. Night bombing continued at a high level, however (Bergström, Dikov & Antipov V.3). The Soviet commander ordered his soldiers to 'hug' the attacking Germans close, to make their dive bomber attacks more difficult, which it did, but even when successful the German ground forces were often too exhausted in the bitter urban war in the ruins to make advances. While the Luftwaffe controlled the skies over the City during the day, at night Soviet bombers attacked, their targets marked by ground units with bonfires, flares or lights from vehicles, making attacks all night in 5 to 10 minute intervals that allowed no rest to the German forces (Bergström, Dikov & Antipov V.3).

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., F/S A.G. Hamlyn RAF (Nfld.) bailed out over the target Tobruk in error and missing (www.rafcommands.com).

28 92 Sqn. Spitfire Vc (Trop.) BR475 'J', P/O W.L. Chisholm and F/L J.M. Morgan (RAF?) BR525 'S' shared a Bf 109 destroyed over North Africa (Shores, Massimello V.2). See October 7, below.

28 #53 RSU, Egypt, Kittyhawk I ET572 crashed in a severe sandstorm, Sgt J.W.M. Gilbert killed (www.rafcommands.com).

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

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and F/S W. Clough RAF killed, Sgt J.M. Gilmour and Sgt J.J. Stansell PoW.

28 124 Sqn. Spitfire VI BR587 ON-T crashed in England after stalling in a low level turn, F/S J.J. Shea killed (bac-lac.gc.ca).

28 401 Sqn. Spitfire IX BS311 force landed in England after running out of fuel, and was written off, Sgt D.A. Wright was injured (www.spitfires.ukf.net).

28 #7 (Coastal) OTU Wellington VIII HX448 aircraft missing, reported crashed in the North Sea at St. Kilda in Scotland, F/S H.W.H. Adams, F/S J.L.T. Chartier, F/S J.R. Coffey, F/S E.R. Hutton, F/S J.E. Oatway and Sgt T.S. White RAF missing. F/S Coffey's brother, F/L L.C. Coffey, was killed October 24, 1950, in the crash of a Winter Experimental Establishment aircraft near Edmonton, Alberta (www.findagrave.com).

28 #3 EFTS (?), London, Ontario, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4102 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

28 #6 SFTS Dunnville, Ontario, Harvard II #3178 collided with another aircraft, LAC(P) F.C. Blair killed. Harvard #3178 collided in a spin with Harvard II #2823, P/O T.D. Fraser and LAC(P) E.R. Pearson RAF, who made a safe wheels up forced landing (C. Charland at www.rafcommands.com).

28 #31 ANS, Charlottetown, PEI, F/S J. Holland RAF died in hospital of natural causes (www.rafcommands.com). TSGNO states he was acting as an instructor at the time of his death. F/S Holland was from England, but his wife was Canadian.

28-29 148 Wellington Ic HD947 lost on a sortie to Tobruk, Sgt D.A. Mitchell, F/S D.D. Miller, F/S R.M.G. Banbury RAAF, F/S R.H. Gresham RAF, F/S A.H. Threlfall RAF and P/O S.C. Pearse RAF missing (A. Storr). W.R. Chorley notes Sgt Mitchell had been injured Nov. 6, 1941 in the loss of a #22 OTU Wellington.

Tuesday

29 Second and final bombing by Japanese I-25 submarine launched E14Y1 'Glen' float plane in southern Oregon to set forest fires (Polsson). Both bombs failed to work properly (B. Coyle).

Bombing raids on Malta intercepted and turned back before reaching the Island, marking a major turning point in this long battle (Canwell & Sutherland).

71 (Eagle), 121 (Eagle) and 133 (Eagle) 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

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at Gander, Newfoundland, which they ferry back across the Atlantic to England finishing Nov. 15 (RCAF Sqns.).

29 208 Sqn. Hurricane IIb AP852 aircraft crashed making a steep turn at low altitude at Landing Ground #202 in Egypt, killing P/O E.V. Garman (www.rafcommands.com).

29 238 Sqn. Hurricane BP384 force landed escorting a reconnaissance aircraft near El Alamein, Sgt R.W. Cairns injured. See April 4, 1943.

29 601 Sqn. Spitfire Vc BR392 (Trop.) hit by return fire attacking a Ju 52/3m in Libya, F/O R.J.F. Sherk made PoW (Shores, Massimello V.2; www.spitfires.ukf.net). He managed to escape Italy in September, 1943 (www.conscript-heroes.com MI-9 files). See March 15, 1944.

29 601 Sqn. Spitfire Vc (Trop.) BR469, F/L J.H. Curry RCAF (USA) was on the same sortie as F/O Sherk and shared the destruction of the Ju 52/3m (Shores, Massimello V.2). See October 3, below.

29 #1 OADU Beaufort Ia DW833 lost, reportedly after losing power to an engine between Malta and Gibraltar, F/S J.H. Charlesworth, F/S O.J. McEvoy, F/S W.G. Ward and Sgt F.T. Elliott RAF missing (www.rafcommands.com). See October 11, below.

29 421 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BM575 flew into a mountain in Wales in bad weather, F/S N.H. MacKay RCAF (USA) killed. There is a monument at the crash site (CVWM).

29 #1 Refresher Flying Training School Master III W8960 crashed into trees taking off at night, killing P/O T.R.C. Adams and F/O G.F. Brittlebank RAF (www.rafcommands.com; bac-lac.gc.ca). P/O had completed a tour in North Africa with 152 Squadron, and this was his first flight in a Master aircraft (bac-lac.gc.ca).

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. This and previous attacks were cited in the award of a DFC to F/O Belanger (http://bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/history/secondwar/battlegulf/closegulf; Awards).

29 #35 SFTS, North Battleford, Saskatchewan, LAC E.J. Thomas RAF was thrown from a horse frightened by a car in North Battleford and died (B. Barry et al; www.rafcommands.com).

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.) and Sgt J. Ellyatt RAF injured, their passengers 2Lt Ferguson, Cpl A. Gardiner and AC2 H. Byrne RAF safe (www.rafcommands.com).

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29-30 Fourteen bombers on GARDENING sorties in the Baltic, 1 lost (BC War Diaries).

29-30 9 Sqn. Lancaster I W4237 WS-W lost on a GARDENING sortie in the Baltic, Sgt V.J.L. Lebano, Sgt L.W. Goalen RAF, Sgt J.V. Redshaw RAF, Sgt D.P. Shanley RAF, Sgt A.G. Boughtwood RAF, Sgt D.B. Paton RAF and Sgt J.E. Watts RAF killed.

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. Groleau, 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 Z9465 lost on a Coastal Command operation, F/S P.W. Davis, F/S S.A.W. Lea, Sgt J.C. Caldwell RAF, F/S F. Oliver DFM RAF, Sgt J.D. Quilter RAF and Sgt F. Taylor RAF missing (www.rafcommands.com). FS Davis's brother, Captain R.W. Davis RCAMC was lost at sea November 8, 1942.

30 51 Sqn. Whitley V BD258 missing from a Coastal patrol, Sgt B.F. Bushell RAF and Sgt W. Green RAF missing, F/S J.D. Shaw RAF died of injuries Oct. 1, F/O H.E. Sullivan, WO2 H.F. Tice DFM and Sgt B.E. Robison RNZAF PoW (www.rafcommands).

30 257 Sqn. Canadian built Hurricane I AG217 hit a building in England during unauthorized low flying over a house being used as a billet for other Squadron members, F/S A. Stilin killed (www.rafcommands.com; bac-lac.gc.ca).

30 RCAF Station Patricia Bay, BC, LAC L.J. Caverley died after being struck by a car.

30 #6 EFTS, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4268 damaged at Prince Rupert, Saskatchewan and written off, Sgt J.N. McLeod and LAC(P) McKeown RAF safe (R.W.R. Walker; heritage.canadiana.ca).

30 #13 SFTS, St. Hubert, Quebec, Harvard II #3243 spun and crashed shortly after takeoff on a night flying exercise, killing Cpl(P) J.J.R. Denis (heritage.canadiana.ca).

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.

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30-1 Bomber Command sends 25 bombers on GARDENING sorties in the North Sea with 2 losses (BC War Diaries).

30-1 12 Sqn. Wellington III BJ964 PH-R shot down by flak over Holland on a GARDENING sortie, F/S S. Feinstein, F/S R.L. Wakelin, Sgt G.W.A. Mitchell RAF, P/O L.J.A. Graham RAF and Sgt H.J. Kendrick RAF killed (www.baaa-acro.com). F/S Feinstein's brother, Private N. Feinstein, North Nova Scotia Highlanders, died of wounds November 2, 1944 in Belgium (wartimeheritage.com).

30-1 149 Sqn. Stirling I BF328 OJ-D lost in the North Sea on a GARDENING sortie, F/S S.D. Wells RNZAF killed, F/S G.F. McHugh MiD, Sgt L.J. Tighe, Sgt M.H. Elliott RNZAF, Sgt E.G. Souter RAF, Sgt E.H.C. Phillips RAF and Sgt R.B.L. Flint RAF missing. F/S McHugh had been slightly injured in a crash just one year before on September 29-30, 1941.

30-1 #14 OTU Wellington Ic T2747 hit the ground in England making a step turn flying under low cloud at night, Sgt W.H. Backs, P/O E.P. Howarth and Sgt W.H. Ellwood RAF killed (bac-lac.gc.ca).

30-1 #23 OTU Wellington III X3751 lost without trace on a night navigation exercise, F/S M.J. Bracey, Sgt R. Sandham, F/S W.E. Scott, F/S R.J. Woodruff and Sgt L.W. Roberts RAF missing.

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).

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October 1942

#127 (F) Sqn., Gander, Nfld, re-equips 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 it's command, and the RCN made up 96% of it's escort ships, the remainder being from the US Coast Guard (Douglas and Greenhous). 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).

1 112 Sqn. Kittyhawk I ET919 GA-T, F/S R.C.C. Smith RCAF (USA) claimed a Bf 109 probably destroyed over North Africa (Shores, Massimello V.2). See October 20, below.

1 112 Sqn. Kittyhawk I EV318 GA-L, P/O J.G. Wright claimed a Bf 109 damaged North Africa (Shores, Massimello V.2). See October 26, below.

1 410 Sqn. Beaufighter IIf T3018 abandoned and crashed in England (www.nelsam.org.uk).

1 #4 AOS RAF, Anson DJ410 flew into a mountain in Scotland off course on a navigation excercise, WO2 F.O. Cadham died of injuries, LAC W.P. Edwards RAF, LAC R.C. Hurst RAF, Sgt E. Newark RAF and LAC E.C.P. Wright RAF injured (www.rafcommands.com).

1 #5 (Coastal) OTU Hampden I AD974 crashed into the sea on a training flight, Sgt J.N. Reigate, Sgt J. Sinden RAF and Sgt D.J. Hodgson RAF injured (H. Moyle; www.rafcommands.com). 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.

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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 and interned. 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 H75A-8 (Mohawk) 459 and 401 collided in mid-air on a training flight, 459 managed to land safely but 401 crashed killing 2Lt Bergan (wikipedia; D. Hagedorn & A. Tincopa).

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 W7852 ZA-K lost over Germany, F/S T.M. Hunter, F/S C.H. MacPherson, F/S C.E. Pickard, F/S J.H. Moller RNZAF and Sgt T.E. Brett RAF killed, Sgt A.F. McArthur and Sgt E.L. Hughes RAF PoW.

1-2 10 Sqn. Halifax II BB207 ZA-M lost, F/S A.M. Mowbray, F/O J.L. Jones RAF, Sgt R.Q. Stevens RAF, Sgt M.A. Pickering RAF, Sgt R.C. Prior RAF, Sgt K.R. Curran RAF and Sgt S.C. Carter RAF killed.

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 15 Sqn. Stirling I W7634 LS-G lost over the Baltic, Sgt G. Stark RAF killed, F/S A.H. Hansford, F/O J.L. Meredith RNZAF, Sgt J. Buchanan RAF, P/O J.H. Vincent RAF, Sgt R. Booth RAF and Sgt H.E. Webber RAF missing.

1-2 44 Sqn. Lancaster I W4187 KM-S went down in Denmark, F/S C.G. Nugent, Sgt N.E. Dowden RAF, F/S P. Hereford RAF, F/S H.R. Rowe RAF, F/S R.E.W. Williamson RAF, F/O J.D.V.S. Stephens DFC DFM RAF and F/O J.E. Tate RAF killed.

1-2 61 Sqn. Lancaster 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

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F.G. Bellchambers RAF, P/O G.A. Hawes RAF, Sgt J. Ramsey RAF, P/O J.E. Hanson DFM RAF and Sgt J.M. Robinson RAF killed.

1-2 61 Sqn. Lancaster I R5759 lost over Germany, F/S H.R. Williamson, F/S G.E. Dale RNZAF, Sgt G.F. Dare RAAF, Sgt R.W. Cadman RAF, Sgt R.S. Cole RAF and Sgt H. Hewitt RAF killed, Sgt J.G. Bartells RAF PoW.

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 78 Sqn. Halifax II BB236 lost over Germany, F/O J.H. Carrick, F/O G.M. Gillies, Sgt N.R. Jones RAAF and Sgt E.H. Tytherleigh RAF killed, Sgt E.W. Farr RAF, Sgt G.E. Swift RAF and Sgt J. Cunningham RAF PoW.

1-2 78 Sqn. Halifax II W1036 lost over Germany, F/S T.E. Turpin, Sgt J.K. Gregory RAF, Sgt R.H. Johnson RAF and Sgt S.S. Waldman RAF killed, Sgt G.E. Morrison, Sgt J.H. Hunt RAF and Sgt K. Markillie RAF PoW, Sgt Hunt was badly injured.

1-2 102 Sqn. Halifax II W7858 crashed in the Baltic on operations, F/S R. Mathews RAF killed, Sgt S.G.E. Dunn, Sgt D.S. Benner, Sgt R.J. Peters, Sgt D.H. Tarver RAF, Sgt T.H. Parker RAF and Sgt G.H. Sadler RAF missing.

1-2 102 Sqn. Halifax II W1066 lost over Germany, F/O A.L. MacGillivray, F/S P.C. Cato RAF, Sgt J.S. James RAF, Sgt G.A McIntyre RAF, Sgt R.L. Milbank RAF, Sgt R.J. Robinson RAF and Sgt F. Tooth 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).

1-2 218 Sqn. Stirling I N3763 HA-Q lost over Germany, Sgt T. Duffy RAF (Nfld.), Sgt M. Griffiths RAF, Sgt C. O'Callaghan RAF, Sgt N. Henderson RAF, Sgt J.T. Jones RAF, Sgt F.L. Roleston RAF and Sgt C.E. Jeffery RAF killed (Chris, www.rafcommands.com; W.R. Chorley).

1-2 405 Sqn. Halifax II W7710 LQ-K "*Ruhr Valley Express*" lost over the German Danish border, F/S A.M. Carter, Sgt B.B. Copeland, P/O A.M. Greene RCAF (USA), P/O J.C. Kitchen, F/S W.G. McCron, F/O E.C. Olsen RCAF (USA) and F/S A.J.R. Vineburg RAF killed.

1-2 405 Sqn. Halifax II W7802 LQ-T lost over Germany, P/O F.L. Cunningham, P/O W.H. Duncan, F/S P. Kucheryk, P/O A.A. Lang, F/O J.W. McCann, Sgt J.J. Pocock, Sgt A.

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Fairless RAF and Sgt L.R. Sheward RAF killed.

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.

1-2 425 Sqn. crew flying a 405 Sqn. Halifax II W7780 LQ-Q shot down over the target, P/O R.J. Ayles, P/O J.R.P. Burke, P/O J.T. Campbell, F/S C.A. Carpenter, P/O J.L.P. Le Page, Sgt A.D. Chance RAF and Sgt S. Peel RAF killed.

Friday

2 With heavy bomber support German forces destroy the Soviet attack attempting to break their defences south of Lake Lagoda, the last Russian units surrendering on this day (Bergström, Dikov & Antipov V.3).

#135 (F) Sqn. RCAF deploys from Mossbank, Saskatchewan to Patricia Bay, BC (RCAF Sqns.).

2 112 Sqn. Kittyhawk I EV315 GA-P, F/O J.M.S. Crichton claimed a Bf 109 damaged over North Africa (Shores, Massimello V.2).

2 112 Sqn. Kittyhawk I AK847, P/O H. Philips claimed a Bf 109 damaged over North Africa (Shores, Massimello V.2).

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 of a self inflicted gunshot wound (www.rafcommands.com).

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 10 Sqn. Halifax II W1116 ZA-P lost on an operation to Germany, F/O D.S. Armstrong, Sgt H.R. Lang RCAF (USA), Sgt C.M. Bradburn, Sgt J.P. Stocks, F/O K.A. Baxter RAAF, Sgt H.G. Clerke RAF and Sgt A.F. Shaw RAF PoW (J. Stephens www.rafcommands.com). Sgt Stocks was included in a display of RCAF Airmen from Pentiction at the Cities Museum & Archives in 2021.

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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.

2-3 115 Sqn. Wellington III BK271 KO-A lost over Germany, F/S F.C. Adsett, Sgt R.N.H. Jones RNZAF, Sgt G. Nelson RNZAF, Sgt G.W. Martin RNZAF and Sgt K.T. Turvey RAF killed.

2-3 149 Sqn. Stirling I R9167 OJ-N shot down over Holland by a night fighter, S/L W.R. Greenslade DFC AFC Twice MiD RAF (Can.), F/S R.F. McIntyre, Sgt M.K. Smith RAF, Sgt F.L. Hughes RAF, Sgt E.L. Moore RAF, F/S W. Orange RAF and Sgt B.F. Goldsmith RAF killed.

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).

2-3 419 Sqn. Wellington III BK269 VR-C shot down by a night fighter over Holland, F/O A.B. Morlidge, F/S H.D. Price, WO1 S.V. Stowe, F/O H.J. Stuart and F/S H.S. Sveinson killed, Sgt N. Nelan PoW.

Saturday

3 Eleven killed in Botwood crash (CJCA headline). **American Export Airlines** ***Sikorsky VS-44 NC41880*** **Excalibur** ***flying boat crashed taking off for Ireland via Iceland, 11 of the 37 crew and passengers on board killed or missing (wikipedia; www.baaa-acro.com).***

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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. RIAF 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 RIAF, 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 RIAF, 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.

3 601 Sqn. Spitfire Vc (Trop.) BR583 UF-L, F/L J.H. Curry RCAF (USA) claims a Ju 88 damaged over North Africa (Shores, Massimello V.2). See October 11, below.

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. MacIntyre 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.).

Submarine I-25 torpedoes the tanker* Camden *off Oregon, setting it on fire and sinking later (B. Coyle).

4 238 Sqn. pilot F/O J.D. Phelan died in Egypt of injuries from a truck accident.

4 227 Sqn. Beaufighter VIf 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. Briffett 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.

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4 415 Sqn. Hampden TB.I AE360 GX-H lost on a night navigation training exercise, Sgt J.F. Maher RAF (Nfld), Sgt J.G. Stuckless RAF (Nfld.), P/O J.H. Barton RAF and Sgt B. Boyton RAAF missing (A. Storr, H. Moyle).

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 HQ Sqn. 6th Ferry Group, OA-10 (Catalina) 43-3264 crashed landing at Edmonton, Alberta (AAIR).

Monday

5 401 Sqn. Spitfire IX BS307 crashed in England, failing to pull out of a dive, F/O R.G. Riddell killed (www.spitfires.ukf.net; D. Mcintosh). F/O Riddell's brother, WO1 J.A. Riddell, was killed in an accident in Egypt, August 3, above.

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 76 Sqn. Halifax II DT496 MP-A lost over Belgium, F/S K.A. Peters, Sgt V.J. Coombs RAF, Sgt A.E. Holding RAF, Sgt J.F. Killilea RAF, Sgt A. Waring RAF, F/S T.I.R. Owen RAF and F/O B.G. Robinson RAF were killed. F/S Peters had survived a ditching of a #19 OTU Whitley Aug. 20, above.

5-6 102 Sqn. Halifax II W7746 lost over Belgium, F/O L.F. McRae, Sgt F.R. Scott, Sgt J.N. Bourne RAF, Sgt R. Morgan RAF, Sgt T.E. O'Connell RAF, Sgt J. Thorpe RAF and F/O R.E. Williams RAF killed.

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 RAF 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 liquor store in a robbery that he

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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.

5-6 142 Sqn. Wellington III BK281 QT-M flew into a hill in England in bad weather, F/O G.H. Edgett, Sgt E.H. Bastow RAF, Sgt J. Bennie RAF and Sgt R.L. Partington RAF killed, F/S K.S. Nicholls RAF survived injured.

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. Wellington III BJ646 was struck by lightning that knocked out an engine. Losing height the crew bailed out, but pilot P/O D.R. Greenup RAF managed to return to make a belly landing in England, air gunner F/S C.W. Austin killed, F/O W. Douglas RAF, P/O F. Purvis RAF, F/L T.E. Trotman RAF and Sgt V.P. Youdell RAF PoW (Sgt Youdell report quoted by jonny at www.rafcommands.com). See March 30, 1943.

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 RAAF 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, CWGC). See Feb. 19-20, 1943.

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.

5-6 405 Sqn. Halifax II W7703 LQ-Q crashed due to running out of fuel after a missed landing, F/O R.S. Erickson, F/S N. Gislason, F/S M. Hudema, Sgt J.E. Park and Sgt J.F.P. Behn RAF killed, Sgt R.M. Reilly and F/S F.R. O'Neill survived. See April 30-May 1, 1943.

5-6 419 Sqn. Wellington III BJ729 VR-R lost over Holland, possibly due to severe icing conditions, F/S H. Broom, F/S G.J.H. McElroy, F/S J.L. O'Grady, WO2 T.E. Powell

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and F/O F.L. Todd killed. P/O Todd had survived an accident at #23 OTU in a Wellington June 23, above.

5-6 419 Sqn. Wellington III Z1623 VR-V lost without trace, F/S R. Doherty, F/S S.A. Palmer, F/S G.E Robson, WO1 J.H.G. Shaw and Sgt K.E. Crewe RAF missing.

5-6 425 Sqn. Wellington III X3943 KW-G crashed in England returning from an operation over Germany, the first operational loss by the Squadron on it's first operation, Sgt J.M. Armstrong, F/S A.C. Challis, F/S J.G. Howells, F/S M.F. O'Driscoll, F/S J.B. Sandiford killed. This crew, and in particular F/S Challis, is detailed in an article by W. Sanders.

5-6 #19 OTU Whitley V BD213 crashed in Scotland on a night navigation exercise, F/S M. Charton, P/O J.M. Sinclair RAF, Sgt J.A. Williamson RAF, Sgt G.C. Roper RAF and Sgt E.S.W. Hatch RAF killed.

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. Hurricane IIb BG684 stalled and crashed in India, F/S L. Banikhin RAF (Nfld.) killed (www.rafcommands.com).

6 238 Sqn. Hurricane IIc HL615 shot down by flak over El Daba, Egypt, Sgt H.A. Inder PoW (www.rafcommands.com).

6 404 Sqn. Blenheim IV T1949 EE-D crashed into the sea off Scotland, P/O J.H. Patterson RCAF (USA) and Sgt R.G. Tinsley RAF killed, F/S T.F. McCarthy RAF missing (404 SH; CWGC; Ross McNeill and Chris Charland, www.rafcommands.com).

6 418 Sqn. Boston III W8359 crashed just off England when it flew too low and struck the sea testing it's guns, F/O W.M. Poupore and F/O F.W. Turvey killed, Sgt D.A. Forestell survived with injuries (Alan and H.A. Halliday www.rafcommands.com). See April 4, 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).

6 #132 (F) Sqn. RCAF, Patricia Bay, BC, three Kittyhawk fighters in formation flew into fog, where 2 collided over William Head and crashed, killing F/L J.D. Butler in #728 and F/O G.P. Johnson in #1092. (*BC Times Colonist, Patricia Bay Aircrash List* 2009).

6 #3 SFTS, Calgary, Alberta, Crane IA #8133 crashed, LAC R.A.F. Chenery RAF and LAC E.T. Hughes RNZAF killed. See #12 SFTS loss July 25, 1942.

6 #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

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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.

6-7 115 Sqn. Wellington III BK313 KO-B lost over Germany, F/O L.I. Smith, P/O R.L. Albery RAF, P/O D.W. Lennard RAF, Sgt J. Hockenhull RAF and Sgt R.C. Loombe RAF killed.

6-7 115 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.

6-7 405 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. Eggertson, Sgt N.E. Brown and Sgt A.M.E. Moodie RAF PoW.

Wednesday

7 112 Sqn. Kittyhawk Ia ET919 GA-C damaged and made a wheels up landing in Egypt, F/L G.W. Wiley broke a leg (Shores, Massimello V.2). See March 10, 1943.

7 92 Sqn. Spitfire Vc (Trop.) BR525 'S', F/O W.L. Chisholm and F/L C.J. Samouelle RAF, BR520 'L' both claimed a Bf 109 destroyed over North Africa, but it appears they both claimed the same aircraft (Shores, Massimello V.2). See October 9, below.

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) of the RAF Telecommunications Research Establishment (TRE), Defford, Worcestershire, England, Hurricane IIc BN878 flew into Breedon Hill returning to land at night, P/O N.H.G. Snelgrove killed (R.H. Milne; www.rafcommands.com). Possibly lost acting as a target for radar development. A photo of the funeral is included in the Defford Airfield Heritage Group book *Defford Airfield 1941-57 – A Pictorial History*, (Dennis Williams).

7 RCAF Recruiting Office, Regina, Saskatchewan, clerk Sgt G.P.F. Merle died of natural causes.

7 RCAF Station Patricia Bay, BC, AC1 F.D. Gates died in hospital 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,

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but Sgt C.C. Hill, Sgt K. Bowhill RAF, Sgt E.A. Linforth RAF and Sgt A.W. Butteriss RAF 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.

8 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.

8 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 12 Sqn. Wellington III BJ780 PH-W shot down by flak over France in a GARDENING sortie, Sgt J.F. Wagner, Sgt T.S. Temple, P/O J.C.W. Simpson RAF, P/O J.D. Inglis RAF and Sgt R. Smith RAF PoW (Sgt Temple badly injured). A photograph of the wreck of this bomber appears in *Aeroplane Monthly* Magazine, September 1986.

8-9 #10 OTU Whitley V AD671 shot down over the Bay of Biscay by a Ju 88 on an anti-submarine patrol, Sgt W.A. Gammon, Sgt W.C. Roach, Sgt C.N. Ellis RAF, Sgt L.H. Dean RAF, Sgt F.D. Garrett RAF and P/O D.H. Cochran RAF all taken PoW (www.rafcommands.com). P/O Cochran RAF participated in the Great Escape, and was one of the recaptured prisoners who were executed by the Gestapo. Sgt Gammon's brother, F/S R.T. Gammon, had been killed July 28-29, above.

8-9 #26 OTU Wellington Ic R1389 became lost on a BULLSEYE sortie and after 9 hours of flying was force landed, caught fire, and burned in what turned out to be France. The crew Sgt G.S.C. Richardson RAF (Can.), F/L I.C. Allen RAF, F/O S.V. Gorton RAF, F/O G.C. Salt RNZAF and Sgt E. Wellings RAF tried to evade but all were captured and PoW in the next 10-12 days (discussion page www.rafcommands.com).

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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 convoy NL-9 is attacked by* U-69*, the Canadian coaster* SS Carolus *is sunk with the loss of 11 of her 30 man crew off Metis Point, near Mont Joli Quebec, just 190 miles from Quebec City, the furthest attack inland in the St. Lawrence by a U-boat (J.W. Essex; CVWM; RCN Chronology; www.uboat.net).

9 33 Sqn. Hurricane IIc BP548 'S' lost over the Desert, WO2 N.R. Learmonth missing (Shores, Massimello V.2).

9 33 Sqn. Hurricane IIc BP546 'J' shot down by flak 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 (Shores, Massimello V.2). 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, via T. Dubé, CAHS, on www.rafcommands.com).

9 33 Sqn. Hurricane IIc BP454 'L' badly damaged by Bf 109s and ditched off El Daba, Sgt J.A. Kingdon PoW (Shores, Massimello V.2).

9 92 Sqn., Spitfire Vc (Trop.) BR522 'K', F/S R.T. Hempstead RCAF (Guatemala) shared a Bf 109 probably shot down (Shores, Massimello V.2). See October 19, below.

9 92 Sqn. Spitfire Vc (Trop.) BR476 'J', F/O W.L. Chisholm claimed a Bf 109 damaged over Libya (Shores, Massimello V.2). See October 27, below.

9 213 Sqn. Hurricane IIc BP355 shot down over Desert, F/O C.F.A. Cantin killed, he has no known grave (www.rafcommands.com).

9 250 Sqn. Kittyhawk III FR898, F/S A.E. Roberts claimed a Bf 109 shot down over North Africa (Shores, Massimello V.2). See October 20, below.

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9 250 Sqn. Kittyhawk III FR292 shot down by a Bf 109 on a bomber escort near El Alamein, Sgt G.R. Rodney PoW (Shores, Massimello V.2).

9 450 Sqn. RAAF Kittyhawk III FR239 shot down into the sea off El Daba, Egypt, Sgt R.O. Holloway PoW (www.rafcommands.com).

9 401 Sqn. Spitfire IX flown F/L G.B. Murray and F/S E.L. Gimbel on an escort for USAAF B-17s shared a Fw-190 destroyed, while P/O D.R. Manley's Spitfire was hit by friendly fire from a B-17, returning safely (D. McIntosh).

9 #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 V. 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.

9 #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.

9 #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 (uboat.net).

10 92 Sqn. Spitfire Vc (Trop.) BR491 QJ-P or Q 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 at www.rafcommands.com; Shores, Massimello V.2).

10 92 Sqn. Spitfire Vb EP437 QJ-R shot down in Egypt, F/O E.H. Hill killed (www.rafcommands.com; Shores, Massimello V.2).

10 150 Sqn. Wellington III BK311 on a training flight crashed in England on approach to land in gusting winds, F/S N.C. Meyers, Sgt R. Ziser RAAF, WO E.H. Herbert RAF and Sgt N.D. Green RAF killed, Sgt W.H. Allworth RAF died of injuries, and Sgt T.V. Brown RAAF survived (COL BRUGGY www.rafcommands.com).

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,

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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 Ferry Pilots Pool (FPP) Canadian built Hurricane X AG116 crashed taking off in England due to an engine failure, 2nd Officer P.T. Robinson ATA injured (www.rafcommands.com).

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.

10 #36 OTU Greenwood, NS, Hudson III BW703 missing on a navigation exercise, Sgt E.P. Badmington RCAF (UK), Sgt M.W. Finn, Sgt D. Edmond RAF and Sgt J. Elder RAF missing.

Sunday

11 <u>The Battle of Bowmanville</u>, Bowmanville POW Camp, declared "calm" with prisoners in their barracks (uboat.net).

In the Cabot Strait off Newfoundland the Newfoundland registered 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.

Leaving the US Pacific coast to return to Japan the submarine I-15 encountered 2 surfaced submarines. With its last torpedo they attacked and sank one of them, believing they were US submarines, but in fact they were Soviet Navy submarines ordered from the Russian Pacific Fleet to serve in European waters via the Panama Canal. The L-16 sank with all hands, the L-15 opened fire on the Japanese submarine (B. Coyle).

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

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nickname "Joseph" because he liked to wear a brightly coloured dressing gown when off duty (113squadron.com).

11 203 Sqn. Maryland I AH280 'Y' came down off Crete on a reconnaissance flight due to engine failure. The crew took to their dinghies and were spotted on this date by a Beaufighter aircraft, which then intercepted a German Air-Sea Rescue Do 24 flying boat and led them to the survivors, and orbited while they were recovered (forum.12oclockhigh.net; caspir.warplane.com). WO2 W.J. Charlesworth, WO1 D.D. Hickson, Lt. F.J. Bergh SAAF and Sgt Mitchell (RAF?) injured and PoW. WO Charlesworth's brother, FS J.H. Charlesworth, had gone missing between Gibraltar and Malta on September 29, above.

11 601 Sqn. Spitfire Vc (Trop.), F/L J.H. Curry RCAF (USA) claimed Bf 109 shot down in North Africa (Shores, Massimello V.2). See October 20, below.

11 419 Sqn. Sgt L.W. Scobie died of his injuries from the crash the previous day.

11 #1 Flying Instructors School Tutor K3461 undershot a landing and crashed, Sgt M.M. Almond and Sgt A. Stewart safe (www.aviationarchaeology.org.uk).

11 #56 OTU Hurricane I 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 SFTS, Kingston, Ontario, Harvard II AJ590 crashed, A/LA (Acting Leading Airman) I.R. Breingan RNZN 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.

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Monday

12 120 Sqn. Liberator 'H', S/L T.M. Bulloch DSO DFC RAF, sinks U-597 in the middle of the Atlantic, the first success for the VLR Liberators (D. Somerville).

In New York US <u>Manhattan Project</u> 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.).**

<u>The Battle of Bowmanville</u>, 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 bayoneted. 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 (uboat.net; D.G. Dancocks).

Two Fleet 50K biplane twin engined freighters enter service with the RCAF (Griffin CMA).

12 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).

12 144 Sqn. Canadian built Hampden TB.I AN126 was handed over to the Soviet Navy for operations in the Arctic on this date (H. Moyle).

12 455 Sqn. Canadian built Hampden TB.I P5315 was handed over to the Soviet Navy for operations in the Arctic on this date (H. Moyle).

12 502 Sqn. Whitley VII BD564 YG-L was shot down over the Bay of Biscay, F/S V.D. Savage, Sgt R.A. Larcombe RAF, WO W.N. Moore RAF, Sgt R.P. Nicholls RAF, Sgt S.J. Page RAF and F/O R.B.F. Walker RAF missing (R. McNeill, D. Burke & Argus www.rafcommands.com).

12 #1 Torpedo Training Unit, England, Canadian built Hampden TB.I AN151 crashed into the sea on a torpedo training flight, Sgt S.W. Shadrack RAF and P/O W.T. Walton

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RAF killed, Sgt G. Howell RAF and Sgt E.W. Evans RNZAF missing (www.rafcommands.com; H. Moyle)

12 #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.

12 #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).

12-13 462 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, F/S A.G. De Clerck RAAF, Sgt L.W. Giles RAF and Sgt K.H. Whitmore RAF were part of the crew (R. Allenby; 466and462squadrons.com). See October 23-24 below.

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 Vb (Trop.) EP316 lost north of Malta, Sgt A.O. MacLeod missing (www.rafcommands.com).

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. Carmichael, 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 II AP395 crashed at night in England, F/S J.N. MacIver killed, Sgt H.S. Cutler RAF died of injuries three days later (details from member Albion, www.rafcommands.com).

13 #15 AFU Oxford II 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 #22 OTU Wellington Ic DV490 crashed on take-off at night after suffering a power loss, Sgt E.P. Hunt, F/S W.R.C. Sinclair and P/O R.S. Elsom RAF killed, Sgt D.O.

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Broughton injured. See May 12-13, 1943.

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 W7870 ZA-G lost without trace, F/O R.S. Braley, F/S F.X.J. Dunajski, F/S F.J. Hogan, F/O J.D. Lindsay, Sgt R. Gregg RAF, Sgt A.C. Girdlestone RAF and Sgt A.G. Langton RAF missing.

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 78 Sqn. Halifax II DT510 was landing from an operation to Kiel, swung, slid on wet grass and ran into a hangar, Sgt C.L. Morton, Sgt I.A.L. Lockhart, P/O E.W. Barnes RAF, F/S R.F. Martin RAF, Sgt L. Moran RAF, Sgt F. Sumner RAF and Sgt W.L. Turner RAF safe (R. Allenby). See November 15-16, below.

13-14 83 Sqn. Lancaster I R5911 OL-C lost without trace, Sgt R.T. Barber, F/S E.R. Bergquist, F/O W. Hedley, F/O D.P. Scott, Sgt J.J. Barton RAF, Sgt R. Pierpoint RAF and Sgt A.A. Walker RAF missing. F/O Scott's brother, P/O J.R. Scott, had been lost off Malta September 15, above.

13-14 102 Sqn. Halifax II W1167 DY-J lost an engine and it's radios outbound. Jettisoning of

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the bombs failed. Attempting to land they overshoot, and tried to go around again but the aircraft was too heavy for three engines, stalled and crashed where it was destroyed by fire after incendiary bombs still on board ignited, Sgt A.N. Conner, F/S O.W. Forland, Sgt J.A.T. Simpson, F/S J.L. Hartshorn RAF, Sgt L.I. Neil RAF, Sgt K. White RAF and Sgt J.B. Bell (RAF?) safe (R. Allenby). See October 23-24 below, February 14-15, 1943 and May 12-13, 1943.

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.

13-14 158 Sqn. Halifax II W7766 NP-H was damaged by flak over Germany and crashed on return to England attempting a three engine landing in poor visibility, Sgt J.S. Anderson, Sgt W.J. McAlpine, Sgt E. Bradley, F/S A.D. Lewis, Sgt H.D. Ellerby RAF, Sgt A.E. Surridge RAF and Sgt T. Campbell RAF injured (R. Allenby). See Oct. 17, below, and April 3-4, 1943.

13-14 214 Sqn. Stirling I BK599 BU-R shot down over Germany by a night fighter, F/S R. Dempsay, F/S G.D. Murray, Sgt G.F.J. Phalempin, F/S R.W. Davison RAF and Sgt S.A. Miller RAF killed, Sgt J.G. Cameron and Sgt J.D.F. Melrose RAF PoW. All the RCAF crew and F/S Davison had survived the ditching of a #22 OTU Wellington off Norfolk returning from the 1,000 Bomber Raid on Bremen June 25-26, above.

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 X3963 PT-D overshot its landing returning from operations and crashed, P/O B.L. Adilman, P/O D.C. Fairley, Sgt W.W. Fleger, F/O A.H. Moody injured, Sgt J.A. Simpson safe (www.rafcommands.com).

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

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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 BJ783 KW-F crashed in England attempting an emergency landing after an engine failed, Sgt R.S. Clinton, Sgt J.A. Delorme and Sgt J.R. Latremouille injured, Sgt A.G. Rowe, Sgt T.D. Copeland and Sgt S. Cuthbert RAF safe. See March 11, 1945.

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). The escorting minesweeper* HMCS Grandmere *rescued 101 survivors. 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).

14 #22 OTU observer P/O J.M. McLaren died of meningitis in hospital in England (B. Barry et al).

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14 #1 OADU Wellington VIII HX636 force landed in Gambia, F/S C.S.G. Crombie, Sgt R. Jackson RAF, Sgt D.A. Maile, F/S J.M. Rodgers and F/S H.K. Smallwood injured. The crew were helped and sheltered by local residents, and picked up by a seaplane the next day (www.rafcommands.com). See October 16 and 19, below.

14 *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. One of the RCAF survivors was Sgt T.L. Whettell, who had survived the sinking of a #116 (BR) Squadron Catalina September 5, above (ottawamemorialproject.org). [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]

14 #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.

14 #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).

14 #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*).

14 RAF Ferry Command, B-24D 41-23882 crashed in Trinidad killing Radio Officer C.V. Atkinson, Flight Engineer C.F. McDougall, Pilot T.L. Livermore (US), Pilot W.C. Chitty (US) and Navigator G.F. Johnston (US).

14-15 Airstrip at Guadalcanal again shelled by Japanese ships as two Japanese

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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).

14-15 104 Sqn. Wellington II Z8594 'T' lost on an operation to Tobruk, P/O R.J. Elliott, P/O E.W. Baldwin RAF, Sgt H.R. Clark RAF, WO D.M. Keane RNZAF, Sgt J.L. Smith RAAF and Sgt R.D. Gannon RAAF missing.

Thursday

15 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 Coast Watchers 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). On this day German armour and infantry finally reached the bank of the Volga river on a narrow front (Bergström, Dikov & Antipov V.3).

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

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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 Central Navigation School, RAF Station Cranagers, England, Anson I L7968 flew into a hill in England, Sgt J.M. Matheson, Sgt R.J. Reay, Sgt P.J. Woodcock RAF and Sgt W.G. Dale RAF killed (www.peakdistrictaircrashes.co.uk).

15 Glider Pilot Experience Unit, England, Horsa I DP373 crashed, F/S D.H. Stewart and Sgt L.A.G. Buckton RAF killed (www.rafcommands.com).

15 #19 MU, Mosquito NF.II DD784 lost it's tail in a dive on a test flight, F/L C.M.B. Symons RAF (Can.) and F/O J.W. Allison RAF killed (www.dehavilland.ukf.net; www.rafcommands.com). F/L Symons had flown in the Battle of Britain and was a Biggs' Boy (K. Stofer).

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.

15 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 10 Sqn. Halifax II W1058 ZA-S lost over Germany, F/S J.W. Dubroy, W/C R.K. Wildey DFC RAF and F/L A. Brinley RAF killed, P/O J.W. Murphy, Sgt F.E.P. Burtonshaw RAF, F/L M.M. Davis RAF, F/S C.E. Harrison RAF and P/O A. Sanderson-Miller RAF PoW.

15-16 12 Sqn. Wellington III BJ606 PH-S shot down by a night fighter over Belgium, F/S E.St.A. Richardson, F/O J. Johannesen RAAF, F/S J.E.F. Martin RAAF, Sgt R. Bayley RAF, Sgt A.G. Willans RAF and Sgt G.C. Willis RAF killed.

15-16 57 Sqn. Lancaster I W4130 lost without trace, F/S J.De F. Russell, P/O D.G. Thompson, P/O F.A.S. Wallis RAF, Sgt E.H. Hooper RAF, Sgt J.B. Stephens RAF,

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P/O P.P. Whitley RAF and Sgt J.C. Clarke RAF missing.

15-16 78 Sqn. Halifax II BB239 suffered a hydraulic failure just after taking off, followed by engine problems. After jettisoning their bombs in the sea they returned but crashed when landing and written off, Sgt L.A.W. Trevors, Sgt L.G. Masterson, Sgt E.A. Williams RAF, Sgt E.C. Jones RAF, Sgt H. Beals RAF, Sgt R. McReynolds RAF and Sgt C. Creaney RAF safe (R. Allenby). See November 5-6 below.

15-16 97 Sqn. Lancaster I W4170 OF-K lost over Germany, WO2 J.T. Ratcliffe DFM, F/L B.G. Smyth RAF (Can.), F/O A.D. Walker, Sgt W.S. Rendall RAF, Sgt S. Brans RAF, P/O B.S. Robertson RAF and P/O J.D. Turner RAF killed.

15-16 106 Sqn. Lancaster I W4195 ZN-W shot down over Holland by a night fighter, P/O R.K. Marshall RNZAF, Sgt D.D. Garbett RAF and Sgt T.L. Piddock RAF killed, P/O E.F. White, Sgt W.R. Piercy, Sgt J. Gaffney RAF (Can.) and Sgt J.P. Wilson PoW.

15-16 142 Sqn. Wellington III X3960 QT-Q crashed in England returning from an operation over Germany, F/S R.J.L. Cole, F/S C.G. MacLennan, Sgt R.A. Patenaude RCAF (USA), Sgt W.S. Walker RAF and Sgt H.G. Lester killed.

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. Shaddick RAAF, Sgt E. Watcham RAF, Sgt E.C. Woollard RAF and Sgt F.B. Hough RAF safe.

15-16 149 Sqn. Stirling I W7526 OJ-V shot down over Holland by a night fighter, F/S R.G. Blair, F/S J.C. Brocket RNZAF, Sgt T.C.B. Pike RNZAF, Sgt F.W. O'Sullivan RNZAF, Sgt J. Denny RAF, Sgt M.J. Howe RAF and Sgt T.B. Bywaters RAF killed.

15-16 150 Sqn. Wellington III X3552 believed lost over the sea off Holland, Sgt P.C. Harrison RAF killed, F/S D.L. Morrow, Sgt E.N. Smith RAF, P/O D.L. Hemming RAF, F/S P.W.S. Varley RAF and P/O E. Mayfield RAF missing.

15-16 158 Sqn. Halifax II W7859 NP-K was damaged over the target by flak and returned on 3 engines, Sgt J.R. Laws, Sgt M.M. Caplan RAF, Sgt A.A. Frederick RAF, Sgt A.G. Fleet RAF, Sgt J.C. Stait RAF, Sgt A. Corpe RAF and Sgt A.M. Daubon RAF safe (R. Allenby). See October 23-24, below.

15-16 214 Sqn. Stirling I R9146 BU-S shot down by a night fighter over Holland, F/S R.G. Brassnett, F/O J.M. Paape RNZAF, Sgt J. Holmes RAF, Sgt J.G. Ferris RAF, Sgt H. Hancocks RAF, Sgt L.F. Meadows RAF and Sgt K.P. Stibbs RAF killed.

15-16 405 Sqn. Halifax II W7854 LQ-T shot down by a night fighter over Belgium, Sgt I. Arbuckle, F/S A.G. Lee, F/S G.E. Lewis, F/S J.A. Longley, F/S L. Lowe, Sgt A.V.B. Milot and F/O M.M. Tomlinson killed.

15-16 419 Sqn. Wellington III BK270 shot down over Germany, F/S H.A. Grover, F/S J.P. Jolley, P/O L.R. Scourfield, Sgt P.J. Anderton RAF and Sgt V.O. Noonan RAAF killed. F/S Jolley had been involved in the loss of a #22 OTU Wellington Aug. 10, 1942. He, P/O Scourfield and F/S Grover have no known grave.

15-16 420 Sqn. Wellington III X3808 PT-B lost without trace, F/O G.R. Bing, P/O F.W. Buck, F/S J.M. Joynt, F/S D.B. Smyth and F/S L.E. White missing.

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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 #1 OADU, Sgt R. Jackson RAF died in hospital in Gambia of injuries from the loss of Wellington HX636, Oct. 14, above.

16 #2 PRU Spitfire PR.IV AB312 aircraft failed to return over Libya, F/O J.S. Bird missing (www.spitfires.ukf.net; www.rafcommands.com).

16 126 Sqn. Spitfire Vc BP992 shot down off Malta, F/O E.W. Wallace missing.

16 249 Sqn. Spitfire Vb EP338 shot down into the sea off Malta, WO2 P. Carter missing (www.rafcommands.com).

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.planecrashgirl.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 15 Sqn. Stirling I R9312 LS-C lost in France on a GARDENING sortie, F/S T.R. Taylor, Sgt N.E. Stone RNZAF, Sgt A.J. Tanner RNZAF, Sgt R.E. Lovell RAF and Sgt T. Wood RAF killed, Sgt A. Edgar RAF and Sgt J. Daly RAF PoW.

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.

16-17 149 Sqn. Stirling I BF392 OJ-D lost off France on a GARDENING sortie, WO2 J.H. Ekelund, F/O M.S. Gilberd RNZAF, F/S E.H. Howell RNZAF, Sgt A. Martin RNZAF, Sgt M.A. Torrance RNZAF, Sgt J.C. Leach RAF and Sgt E.H. Uzzell RAF killed.

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

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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 Maintenance Unit, Egypt, Hurricane IIb HL842 aircraft missing on a delivery flight, F/O J.E. Avise RCAF (USA) missing (www.rafcommands.com; Shores, Massimello V.2). F/O Avise had graduated from the US Naval Academy in 1934 (usnamemorialhall.org).

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).

17 158 Sqn. Sgt J.S. Anderson died of injuries received Oct. 14, in the crash of a Halifax.

17 207 Sqn. Lancaster I L7583, P/O R.S. Wilson RAF 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 these heavily armed aircraft shot down with another damaged, with the loss of flight engineer Sgt K.S. Chalmers RAF killed, rear gunner F/S C.W.W. Peck, Sgt R.P. Strain, Sgt J.H. Lovell RAAF, Sgt A. Perrin RAF, F/S W.J. Rose RAF (Rhodesia) and Sgt Wilson RAF safe. This resulted in the award of 5 DFMs to the surviving crew (www.rafcommands.com). See Nov. 7-8, below.

17 418 Sqn. Boston Z2186 crashed in Wales on a cross country exercise, F/O H.F.L. Longworth and Sgt R. Walker RAF killed, Sgt M.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.

17 #119 (BR) Sqn.?, Sydney, NS, Hudson IIIa BW648 landing at night struck and damaged anti-submarine B-17E 41-9177 USAAF beyond repair, and was written off (Chris McLean photos on www.flickr.com).

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 <u>Commando Order,</u> that all

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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, SSgt J.R. Carter USAAF, 1Lt L.D. Kerr USAAF and 2Lt H.W. Shoat USAAF killed (AAIR; www.rafcommands.com).

Monday

19 First snow falls in the Stalingrad region (Bergström, Dikov & Antipov V.3).

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 to mask movements of Allied troops moving up to positions at night and holding during the day to escape detection, while decoys were used to mislead the direction of the planned attack (H.W. Neulen; A. Beevor; Shores, Massimello V.2).

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 92 Sqn. Spitfire Vc (Trop.) BR522 'K' crashed after a mid-air collision with a 145 Sqn. Spitfire in the Desert, killing P/O R.T. Hempstead RCAF (Guatemala) (www.spitfires.ukf.net; Shores, Massimello V.2). The pilot of the 145 Sqn. aircraft survived.

19 250 Sqn. Kittyhawk III FR284, P/O G.W.A. Troke claimed a Bf 109 damaged over Libya (Shores, Massimello V.2). See October 30, below.

19 #1 OADU, wireless operator air gunner F/S C.G. Crombie died of injuries in Gambia (www.rafcommands.com). F/S Crombie had survived the crash of a #20 OTU Wellington July 30, 1941.

19 418 Sqn. Boston III Z2185 crashed on a cross country flight (H.A. Halliday www.rafcommands.com). (Possibly same aircraft noted lost on Oct. 17, above).

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 of natural causes (B. Barry et al; www.rafcommands.com).

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

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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 and F/S Hutchinson 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 from 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.

20 112 Sqn. Kittyhawk III FR263 'X', F/S R.C.C. Smith RCAF (USA) claimed a Bf 109 probably destroyed near El Alamein (Shores, Massimello V.2). See November 1, below.

20 250 Sqn. Kittyhawk III FR265 shot down over Egypt, F/S A.E. Roberts PoW (www.rafcommands.com; Shores, Massimello V.2)

20 450 Sqn. Kittyhawk III FR251, F/O H.F. Marting RCAF (USA), claimed a MC.202 shot down over the Desert when escorting bomber formation (Shores, Massimello V.2). See October 23, below.

20 601 Sqn. Spitfire Vc (Trop.) BP852 'K', F/L J.H. Curry claimed a Bf 109 shot down over North Africa (Shores, Massimello V.2). See October 21, below.

20 407 Sqn. Hudson VI EW921 RR-N lost without trace over the Bay of Biscay on an anti-submarine patrol, F/S G.A. Keil, WO2 M. Zumar, F/S T.H. Grain RAF, F/S L.A. Merchant RAF and F/S H.J. Woollatt RAF missing (407 SH).

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).

21 213 Sqn. Hurricane IIc BP455 shot down and force landed near El Alamein, P/O W.H. Stephenson PoW (www.rafcommands.com; Shores, Massimello V.2).

21 260 Sqn. Kittyhawk IIa FL322 HS-V F/S J.F. Edwards shot down an MC.202 over North

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Africa (Shores, Massimello V.2). See October 22, below.

21 601 Sqn. Spitfire Vc (Trop.) AB345 'J', F/L J.H. Curry claimed a MC.202 shot down over North Africa (Shores, Massimello V.2). See October 23, below.

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 it's first flight May 15, 1941.

21 534 Sqn. Hurricane IIc Z3081 collided with 605 Sqn. Turbinlite Boston III AL871 on a practice Turbinlite interception flight, Sgt A. Davies RAF (Can.) killed in the Hurricane, Sgt N.E.A. Ross RAF killed in the Boston (Allison & Hayward, H. Welting at www.rafcommands.com).

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. Sgt Cooper's brother, P/O H.J. Cooper, had been killed July 7, 1941.

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).

22 112 Sqn. Kittyhawk III FR217 'C', F/L R.R. Smith claimed a Bf 109 over North Africa (Shores, Massimello V.2).

22 260 Sqn. Kittyhawk IIa FL233 HS-O F/S J.F. Edwards shot down a Bf 109 over North Africa (Shores, Massimello V.2). See October 26, below.

22 267 Sqn. Lodestar II EW984 crashed in Egypt after taking off, W/C J.R.S. Smyth DFC RAF, P/O C. St.L. Hawkes RAF, F/O R.A. Harper RAAF and their passengers, WO2 V.S. Irwin, WO2 W.H. Plant, Cpl R. Benson RAF, F/L E.F.V. Copsey RAF, Cpl G.A.

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Grant RAF, Sgt G.M.R. MacBryde RAF, Sgt A.W. Mills RAF, F/S B.J. O'Connor RAF, P/O J.C.O. Trench RAF and P/O D.M. Walker RAF killed.

22 115 Sqn. Wellington III Z1657 damaged by a fighter aircraft on an operation over Germany, wireless air gunner F/S A.E. Prendergast killed, F/S A.S. Spires RAF injured (www.rafcommands.com).

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 #1 B&G School, Jarvis, Ontario, Cpl Doris Helen Scott died in hospital, believed to be a suicide (www.rafcommands.com; www.wwiicdnwomensproject.org).

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 of 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).

23 260 Sqn. Kittyhawk FL314 HS-B lost in North Africa, WO2 E.K. Tomlinson missing. WO Tomlinson had had to bail out of a 403 Tomahawk April 30, 1941 over England (Dirk www.rafcommands.com).

23 450 Sqn. Kittyhawk III FR309 destroyed a Bf-109 but was then shot down over Daba, F/O H.F. Marting RCAF (USA) PoW (Shores, Massimello V.2; H.A. Halliday; www.americanairmuseum). See October 29, below.

23 601 Sqn. Spitfire Vc (Trop.) BR583, F/L J.H. Curry claimed a Bf 109 damaged over North Africa (Shores, Massimello V.2). See October 26, below.

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

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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 On the Caucasus front with heavy losses by German fighters a bomber attack is made on their airfield that masked a heavy TB-3 dropping paratroopers, who shot up and damaged many aircraft with grenades before being driven off (Bergström, Dikov & Antipov V.3). See October 25-26, below.

The heavy daytime losses to fighters by single-seat Il-2 Sturmovik ground attack flights leads one pilot to have his airplane modified to carry a rear gunner who can warn of fighters and provide some return fire. This is very successful and leads to other local conversions, and is later added to production aircraft (Bergström, Dikov & Antipov V.3). The initial field modifications, however, have limited protection, and the casualty rate for the gunners, volunteer ground-crew, was very high.

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).

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).

23-24 462 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 78 Sqn. Halifax II W1018 lost over France, F/S W.S. Rausch, F/O D.F. Teague, Sgt F.G. Allen RAF, Sgt J. Beveridge RAF, Sgt G.J. Chambers RAF, Sgt A.E. Messer RAF, Sgt E. Walton RAF and F/L H. Rhoden DFC RAF killed.

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.

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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.

23-24 149 Sqn. Stirling I W7628 OJ-B ran out of fuel and crashed in England, Sgt L.J. Barnard RCAF (USA), F/S A.A. Siwack, Sgt E.E.C. Holmes RAF, P/O F.K. Randall RAF, Sgt R.A. Blake RAF, Sgt D.J. Bowden RAF and Sgt S.F. Taylor RAF killed.

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 RAAF 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 W7862 NP-D went down off the French coast on an operation to Italy, P/O T.E. Oliver and P/O W.H. Thomas killed, Sgt L.D. Clark RNZAF, Sgt G.S. Hughes RAF, Sgt A. Anderson RAF, F/S N.G.E. Perrett RAF, Sgt H. Hardy RAF and P/O K.W. Leakey RAF missing.

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).

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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.

24 207 Sqn. Lancaster I W4121 EM-B lost in the English Channel on a daylight attack on Milan, Italy, Sgt W.C. Colwill, F/S J.F. McCallum, F/S D.K. Potter RAF, Sgt W.G. Woodhouse RAF, Sgt W. Bell RAF and Sgt L.H. Bell RAF killed. Sgt A.J.V. Hunt RNZAF, F/S L.R. Wright RAF and F/S S.D.G. Roberts RAF missing.

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).

24 425 Sqn. Wellington III BJ958 KW-N crashed in England on a ferry flight from the airfield it had landed at returning from a sortie to Genoa, Italy, F/S W.F. Bauer, Sgt J.P. Bedard, F/S J.P.A. Boyer, F/S J.J.M. Seguin and Sgt J.L.R. Simoneau killed (R. Allenby).

24 #54 OTU Beaufighter IIF R2313 crashed during a heavy rainstorm killing F/O J. Morris (aviation-safety.net).

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 12 Sqn. Wellington II W5394 PH-H lost on a GARDENING operation off France, F/S A.R. Swain, F/S H.G. Wilson, Sgt W.G. Brown RAF, Sgt R.S. Lord RAF and Sgt J.H.

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Wilcox RAF killed.

24-25 103 Sqn. Halifax II W1223 PM-U crashed in France on an operation to Italy, F/S J. Molesworth, Sgt B.D. Swain RAF (Can.), F/S R.W. Taylor RAAF, Sgt S.A. Claridge RAF, Sgt S.V. Goodhew RAF, Sgt K.W. McAuliffe RAF and P/O E.A. Wagstaff RAF killed.

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 night fighter, Sgt F.B. Hough RAF (Can.), Sgt G.T. Reyburn, Sgt B.P. Shaddick DFM RAAF, 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).

25 272 Sqn. Beaufighter Ic T5078 XK-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 OADU, Beaufort I DW834 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 (www.rafcommands.com).

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 that killed 19 patients and staff as well as 2

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members of the Home Guard, 30 patients and 10 staff wounded (C. Goss, quoted on www.rafcommands.com). 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).

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.ww2irishaviation.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 #31 EFTS, De Winton, Alberta, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4072 crashed, F/O A.R. Frost RAF (Can.) killed (www.rafcommands.com).

25 #32 OTU, Patricia Bay, BC, Canadian built Hampden I AJ988 caught a wing tip in the water making a turn at low level and crashed off Sidney, BC, Sgt J. Orrell RAF and Sgt H.J. Thorn RAF missing (*BC Times Colonist, Patricia Bay Aircrash List* 2009).

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. He had commanded #110 (AC) Squadron in England in 1940.

25 unknown unit, LAC J.J. Allan died in hospital of natural causes in Canada (www.rafcommands.com).

25-26 Japanese Army forces again attack the Guadalcanal beachhead and airfields, and again are held off (J.B. Lundstrom).

In the Caucasus a heavy Soviet attack on a German bomber airfield destroys or damages over 100 aircraft and facilities, forcing the complete withdrawal of a bomber Gruppe back to Germany to be re-equipped (Bergström, Dikov & Antipov V.3).

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.

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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 38 Sqn. Wellington Ic HX645 (Fishington?) lost attacking an enemy convoy off Tobruk, F/O J.F. Osborne, F/S J. Howells RAF, Sgt D. Noble RAF and Sgt E.C. Ringham RAF missing (www.rafcommands.com), Sgt W.E. Hornby also listed on this crew, possibly PoW.

26 47 Sqn. Beaufort Ia DE115 'G' lost off Tobruk attacking the *Proserpina* convoy Sgt S.R.M. Pugh RAF killed, F/O H.J. Davidson and F/S S.B. Gitsham RAAF missing, P/O T.H.H. Jones RAF survived as PoW (A. Storr, DaveB www.ww2talk.com, E. Martyn www.rafcommands.com). *Proserpina* was sunk by a torpedo launched by P/O R.V. Manning in another 47 Sqn. Beaufort DE120.

26 112 Sqn. Kittyhawk III FR262 GA-Z shot down by MC.202 fighters over North Africa, Sgt A.F.G. Martin wounded (http://raf-112-squadron.org/planelosses.html; Shores, Massimello V.2). See October 27, below.

26 112 Sqn. Kittyhawk III FR279 'J', claimed a Bf 109 shot down near El Alamein, but was then damaged by flak and fighter attack and crash landed, P/O J.G. Wright injured (http://raf-112-squadron.org/planelosses.html; Shores, Massimello V.2). See November 19, below.

26 213 Sqn. Hurricane IIc HL887, F/O A.U. Houle shot down 2 Ju 87 dive bombers, claimed 1 Ju 87 probably destroyed, and a fourth damaged off Libya (Shores, Massimello V.2).

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26 260 Sqn. Kittyhawk IIa FL221 'F', F/S J.F. Edwards, claimed a Bf 109 probably destroyed over North Africa (Shores, Massimello V.2). See October 28, below.

26 260 Sqn. Kittyhawk IIa, F/O N.E. Gilboe, claimed a Bf 109 probably destroyed over North Africa (Shores, Massimello V.2). See October 28, below.

26 601 Sqn. Spitfire Vc (Trop.) BR469 'B', P/O C.R. Scollan claimed a Bf 109 damaged over North Africa (Shores, Massimello V.2).

26 601 Sqn. Spitfire Vc (Trop.) AB345 'J', F/L J.H. Curry claimed a MC.202 shot down over North Africa (Shores, Massimello V.2).

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, LAC J.F. Carr, Cpl C.T. Christopherson, LAC W.B. Danielson, Cpl M.J. Kasey, LAC B.E. Malone, LAC V.F. Peebles, AC1 L.V. Sparkes, LAC P.J. Tennant, Radio Officer A.H. Down, Ferry Pilot C.F. Kaiser (US), and civilians M.S. Myles, H.S. Millan, C.H. Cole and J.T. Barry killed.

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 #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 large part this was due to the fact that British naval aviation and methods had yet to catch up to the US Navy, which with the Japanese Navy were the world leaders in this field, while the 20 years the RAF had controlled Britain's naval air forces had left them with poor aircraft, older methods, and in particular, very few Naval officers with aviation backgrounds in command positions, a situation that remained throughout the war and afterwards (H. Adlam and others).

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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 33 Sqn. Hurricane IIc HL626 'L', F/S J.W.E. Belse claimed a Ju 87 probably destroyed near El Alamein (Shores, Massimello V.2). See October 30, below.

27 92 Sqn. Spitfire Vc (Trop.) BR576 'T', F/O W.L. Chisholm claimed a Bf 109 destroyed over the Egyptian-Libyan border (Shores, Massimello V.2). See December 2, below.

27 112 Sqn., Sgt A.F.G. Martin died of wounds. He has no known grave (http://raf-112-squadron.org/planelosses.html; Shores, Massimello V.2). See October 27, below.

27 #2 (Coastal) OTU Beaufighter VI EL267 overshot a landing and crashed, Sgt A.W. Cochrane safe (H. Welting and R. McNeill www.rafcommands.com). Possibly same as WO2 A.W. Cochrane, lost from Bomber Command March 1-2. 1943.

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).

27 #119 (BR) Sqn. Bolingbroke IV.W #9023 DM-E ditched off NS, P/O J.M. McQueen seriously injured, P/O G.W. Charles, Sgt W.R. MacDonald and Sgt R.H. McKay slightly injured (424 SH).

27-28 415 Sqn. Canadian built Hampden TB.I P5394 GX-O ditched off Cornwall after an engine failure on a torpedo sortie, F/L G.H. Lawrence injured, P/O K.R. Maffre, P/O L.S. Sharp (RCAF?) and F/S R.E. Vokey safe (H. Moyle; www.rafcommands.com). See Feb. 18, 1943.

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. A photograph of "the meeting of the bulldozers" with two US Army operators, Cpl R. Slims Jr. and Pvt A. Jalufka, shaking hands

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across the gap between their bulldozer blades, was later widely published. Cpl Slims was black, as were about one third of the construction force, and the image was used to support the idea of unity in the racially segregated US military, but their presence in Northern Canada was muted by US Army policies, which rigidly kept black US soldiers from visiting cities and towns in the region (J. Grant).

28 145 Sqn. Spitfire Vb EP643 lost over Egypt, F/L H.J. Phillips RAF (Can.) killed (www.rafcommands.com).

28 260 Sqn. Kittyhawk IIa FL221 'F', F/S J.F. Edwards, claimed a Bf 109 destroyed and a second probably destroyed over North Africa (Shores, Massimello V.2). See Nov. 1, below.

28 260 Sqn. Kittyhawk IIa, F/O N.E. Gilboe, claimed a Bf 109 probably destroyed over North Africa (Shores, Massimello V.2). See November 4, below.

28 #1651 HCU Stirling I BF314 'Y' crashed attempting a 3 engined overshoot, F/O A.F. Koehn, F/O A.W. McLean RNZAF, F/S F.S. Dean RNZAF and Sgt E.H. Turner RNZAF killed, F/O J.H. Bomford RNZAF and Sgt A.E. Mason RAF died of injuries, and Sgt K. Kenny RAF survived, injured.

28 #2 Manning Depot, Brandon, Manitoba, AC2 W.A. Cameron died in an accidental shooting at his home town of Rainy River, Ontario.

28-29 489 Sqn. RNZAF Hampden TB.I AT251 XA-O lost from a torpedo sortie off Norway, F/S H.G.N. Fisher, P/O S.C.W. Carlson RAF, Sgt S.J. Vincent RAF and P/O J.B. Lawrence RAF missing (H. Moyle).

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).***

29 450 Sqn. F/O H.F. Marting RCAF (USA), taken PoW October 23, above, had been interrogated and taken to Athens on his way to Germany. There he escaped and contacted the Greek resistance, who smuggled him to Turkey. F/O Marting had served in the US Marines before learning to fly. He was awarded a Military Cross for his evasion, and returned to Canada where he left the RCAF due to medical effects of his service in the desert and his escape, and became a civilian test pilot for Curtiss Wright aircraft, but was killed in an air crash September 20, 1943 (H.A. Halliday; www.americanairmuseum).

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

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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, Sgt S. Burr RAF, Sgt F.T.G. Hamlyn RAF and Sgt L.C. Race RAF killed, F/S R.A. Denney RAF, P/O B.P. Liddington RAF and P/O W.J. McCafferey RAF injured on the aircraft, and a civilian Sarah Cleary killed on the ground (www.joebaugher.com; CWGC; www.rafcommands.com).

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, 1943.

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 #5 EFTS, High River, Alberta, DH.82C Tiger Moth #5858 crashed and written off, Sgt M.J. Hoffart badly injured (R.W.R. Walker; heritage.canadiana.ca).

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 RAAF and Sgt D.H. Lee RAAF 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, Operation WRENCH, 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

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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) Sqn., flown by F/L E.L. Robinson, and U-520 sunk in Atlantic 115 miles east of St. John's, Newfoundland, by Digby #747 PB-X of #10 (BR) Sqn. 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 IIc BP354 'L', F/S J.W.E. Belse claimed a Ju 87 damaged over El Alamein (Shores, Massimello V.2). See March 22, 1943.

30 33 Sqn. Hurricane IIc BP130 hit by flak in the Western Desert, killing F/O L.H. Peterson (www.rafcommands.com).

30 450 Sqn. RAAF Kittyhawk III flight of Sgt A.G. Markle (FR273), P/O T.E.N. Crouch, Sgt M.A. Jenkins and Sgt H.B. Reid (RAF or RAAF?) found a Ju 52/3m transport over North Africa and shot it down (Shores, Massimello V.2).

30 24 Sqn. Hudson III V8983 flew into a hill in England, F/L P.M. Davis RAF (Can.), F/O R. Cook RAF, S/L J.F.A. Day AFC, Sgt A.G. Hudd RAF and Sgt W.J. Morbin RAF killed (www.rafcommands.com).

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, Sgt R.A. Blincoe RAF, F/S W. Wright RAF and Sgt G.C. Wright RAF were rescued after three days in their life raft (www.rafcommands.com).

30 #53 OTU Master III W8639 crashed in fog, killing P/O B.W. Andrews RCAF (USA) (Possibly a veteran of Malta) and Sgt H. Josephs RAF (www.rafcommands.com).

30 #5 EFTS (?), DH.82C Tiger Moth #1154 crashed at High River, Alberta (R.W.R.

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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 [? see below] 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).

31 112 Sqn. Kittyhawk III FR215 GA-V, P/O H. Phillips, claimed a MC.202 probably destroyed near El Alamein in the morning (Shores, Massimello V.2).

31 112 Sqn. Kittyhawk III FR217 GA-C, F/L R.R. Smith, shot down a Ju 87 dive bomber near El Alamein in the morning (Shores, Massimello V.2).

31 112 Sqn. Kittyhawk III FR216 GA-P, F/O J.M.S. Crichton, shot down a Bf 109 on an attack on Daba, Egypt, in the afternoon (Shores, Massimello V.2).

31 250 Sqn. Kittyhawk III FR275 'E', P/O G.W.A. Troke claimed a Bf 109 damaged over North Africa (Shores, Massimello V.2). See November 7, below.

31 511 Sqn. LB-30 Liberator II AL516 overshot it's landing at Gibraltar in a storm, on a flight from Malta, and crashed into the sea, killing passengers WO2 R.H. Davey, F/O E.H. Glazebrook DFC, P/O J.W. Williams DFC, F/S C.E. Mutch, F/L E.L. Hetherington DFC RAF, Sgt D.W. Spencer RAF, Mr. E.J. & Mrs. H.E. Rowe, Mrs. E.P. Sheldon, Mrs. M. Hucklebridge, Mrs. I.J. Aston and her son Simon Aston, Mrs. E.P. Chase and her son Thomas Chase. Two crew, F/L R. Walton RAF and P/O G.W.R. Frampton RAF, and two civilian passengers, Mrs. D.W. Spencer and Mrs. J. Neighbours and passenger F/S L.G. Pow (who was killed in action Nov. 25, 1944 with 411 Sqn.) were injured. Four crew, P/O E.J. Sanders RAF, Sgt E.J. Booker RAF, F/S I. Watson RAF and F/S J. McCulloch RAF, and 18 military passengers, F/L A.F. Roscoe DFC RCAF (USA), P/O G.F. Beurling DSO DFC DFM and Bar RAF (Can.), WO2 G.H.T. 'Gord' Farquharson, W/C A.H. Donaldson DSO DFC AFC RAF, F/O F.R. Johnson RAAF, F/O A.S. Yates RAAF, F/O C.A.M. Barbour RAF, P/O

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J.G.W. Farmer RAF, P/O J.A.H. Pinney RAF, P/O F.D. Thomas RAF, P/O L.S. Reid RAAF, P/O C.F. Bush RAF, F/S D.A. Bye RAF, F/S A.W. Varey RAF, F/S E.L. Mahar RAAF, Sgt K.R. Mitchell RAAF and Sgt F.W. Clewley RAAF, survived. Most of the military passengers involved in this loss were very experienced fighter pilots returning from tours in Malta, some with wounds (Shores, Cull & Malizia; Dennis Burke www.rafcommands.com).

31 150 Sqn. Wellington III BK360 shot down over Holland on a daylight operation to Germany, WO2 A.G. Makay, F/S C.R. Patton, Sgt J.A. Fuller RNZAF, F/O W.A. Tolmie RAF and Sgt J.G. Cocks RAF killed. See http://www.teunispats.net/fr-wwii.htm for details.

31 150 Sqn. Wellington III Z1625 shot down over Holland on a daylight operation to Germany, F/S F.J. Smith, F/O J. Towner RAF, P/O J.S. Lee RAF, Sgt R.G. Hillyer RAF and Sgt H.J. Brook RAF killed.

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 #145 (BR) Sqn., Torbay, Nfld., Hudson, P/O L.T. Ross, attacks a U-boat without result (I. Wikene).

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 F/L C.G. Coburn, medically discharged in December 1941, died in hospital of natural causes in Toronto (Jon Heyworth at www.rafcommands.com).

31 LAC H.N. McRae, medically discharged in September 1942 died in Canada, no details (Jon Heyworth at www.rafcommands.com).

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.

31-1 138 Sqn. Whitley V Z9159 NF-D lost over France, on a Special Operation PRODUCER 2, WO2 J.R. O'Leary, Sgt F. Morrison RAF, Sgt S. White RAF, P/O J.E. Turnham RAF, P/O L. Wheatley RAF and Sgt A. Hallewell RAF killed.

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

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(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 escorted by RCN ships then shipped to the fighting zones by the Trans-Siberian Railway, and this route would carry the bulk of Lend-Lease material to the Soviet Army during the war (P. Adair).

***In <u>Stalingrad</u>* 90% of the City has been taken by German forces, with Soviets holding only a strip along the western bank of the Volga River. Despite continuous air attacks the German ground forces are unable to seize the last areas, while steady Soviet reinforcement of the defences continues, supported by artillery across the river and nightly bombing attacks. But reports of Soviet forces crossing the Don River to the northeast of the City, and the need for Luftwaffe units in North Africa, meant that close support over the City began to be reduced in the coming weeks (Bergström, Dikov & Antipov V.3).**

Politician Ralph Klein born in Calgary, Alberta (wikipedia).

1 112 Sqn. Kittyhawk III FR263 GA-X, F/S R.C.C. Smith RCAF (USA) claimed one Ju 87

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destroyed and a second probably destroyed near El Alamein (Shores, Massimello V.2). See November 6, below.

1 112 Sqn. Kittyhawk III FR264 GA-W, F/S R. DeBourke RCAF (USA) destroyed one Ju 87 and claimed a second probably destroyed before he was damaged in combat with Bf 109s over the desert and wounded but landed safely (http://raf-112-squadron.org/planelosses.html; Shores, Massimello V.2).

1 250 Sqn. Kittyhawk III FR260 F/S W.K. Martin killed in the Western Desert when he belly landed his aircraft behind enemy lines, he has no known grave (www.rafcommands.com).

1 260 Sqn. Kittyhawk IIa FL305 HS-B, F/S J.F. Edwards shot down a Bf 109 over North Africa (Shores, Massimello V.2). See December 16, below.

1 #1 OADU Wellington II Z8418 (which had previously served with 405 Squadron) lost on a delivery flight from Gibraltar to Bathurst, Gambia on this date, F/S C.A. Powles, Sgt B. Arthur RAF, Sgt P.J. Davis RAF, Sgt D.H. de Gruchy RAF, Sgt R. Montgomery and Sgt J. Ogden RAF missing (BLME V.2 Errata). For some reason F/S Powles is commemorated on the Malta memorial while the rest of the crew are remembered on the El Alamein Memorial and this has led to some confusion.

1 233 Sqn. Hudson IIIa FH343 spun into the Atlantic Ocean off Portugal on a ferry flight, F/S W. Thirde, F/L F.G. Baker RAF, F/L C.W.M. Powell RAF and W/C H.M. Styles RAF missing (www.rafcommands.com).

1 415 Sqn. Hampden TB.I AT193 GX-R returning from an anti-shipping patrol over the Bay of Biscay 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). The 415 Squadron History has an account of this loss by P/O Frederick.

1 #145 (BR) Sqn. RCAF, Torbay, Nfld., Hudson III BW449 lost on a patrol, Sgt H.C. Beattie, P/O J.R. Davies, F/S L. Feldman and F/S L.G. Robinson missing.

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 it's 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

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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 IV V5945 crashed in Iraq after a fuel mismanagement problem, WO2 W.E. Whittingham and Sgt N.G. Beal RAF killed, Sgt W.C. Windsor RAF and Sgt T.H. Stanley RAF injured (www.rafcommands.com).

2 39 Sqn. Beaufort IIa DD937 'H' one of two lost in the Mediterranean, shot down attacking Italian naval ships off North Africa, WO1 A.G. Turner missing, Sgt C.E. Lyon RAF, Sgt J.W.A. Walker RAF and F/O G.A.R. Welsford RAF missing (www.rafcommands.com; R. Hayward).

2 127 Sqn. Hurricane IIb BN160 'J' damaged when a group of Bf 109 fighters made a head-on attack on a Squadron flight, F/L R.C. Lawrence returned and made a safe landing (Shores, Massimello V.2). See November 3, below.

2 274 Sqn. Hurricane IIc BE705 'D' shot down by a Bf 109 near El Alamein, F/S W.S. Howie PoW (www.rafcommands.com). [Note he is reported killed in Shores, Massimello V.2].

2 274 Sqn. Hurricane IIc BP742 'X', WO J.W. Neil claimed a Bf 109 damaged over the El Alamein battle area (Shores, Massimello V.2). See November 5, below.

2 175 Sqn. Hurricane (Hurribomber) IIe BP301 crashed in England, F/O D.K. Robertson killed (www.rafcommands.com).

2 #1521 BAT Flight Oxford I AT765 force landed on a training exercise after engine problems, Sgt E.H. Barrett, Sgt C.C.P. Thaughland RNZAF and Sgt A.H. Jeeves RAF injured. Sgt Barrett died that night of his injuries.

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 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.

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Tuesday

3 First operational use of Ventura bombers in the RAF (Polsson).

One of two sculpted stone lions outside the Vancouver Court House was badly damaged by dynamite in the morning. There were no injuries and the crime was never solved, but is believed to have been a protest against Canada's involvement in the war by a German sympathizer. The repairs to the sculpture can still be seen today (https://evelazarus.com/the-man-who-blew-up-the-courthouse-lion).

Off Grenada in convoy the Danish owned but Canadian operated freighter* Chr. J. Kampmann *with a cargo of sugar and rum from British Guiana was torpedoed by* U-160 *and sank with the loss of 19 of the 27 crew (RCN Chronology; www.uboat.net).

3 80 Sqn. Hurricane IIc BP586 'U', Sgt D.B.L. McMahon claimed a Ju 87 destroyed and a second shared with Sgt L.B. McKay, 80 Sqn., Hurricane IIc BP450 'V' near El Alamein (Shores, Massimello V.2). See January 11, 1943.

3 127 Sqn. Hurricane IIb BN406 shot down in the desert, F/L R.C. Lawrence missing (Andy_Ingham).

3 127 Sqn. Hurricane IIb HL629 shot down in the desert in Egypt, P/O A.L. Rebman killed (Andy_Ingham).

3 127 Sqn. Hurricane IIb 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 the moving propellor of Wellington VIII HX572, which he had left to stand in the prop-wash of the aircraft to cool down while it was being run-up (www.rafcommands.com).

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 badly injured, was rescued by civilians William and John Abrahams (407 SH, davew and Ian M at www.rafcommands.com).

3 414 Sqn. Mustang I AG654 crashed in England, F/O C.L. Horncastle killed (www.rafcommands.com).

3 #1484 (Bombing) Gunnery Flight Oxford I DF536 aircraft exploded just after take-off on

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a night bombing exercise, WO2 J.J.W. Forster, Sgt H.W. Carter RAF and Sgt F.J. Faye RAF killed (R. Allenby).

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 have 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, Dunnville, 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 RAAF survived, injured (A. Storr; www.rafcommands.com).

3-4 272 Sqn. Beaufighter Ic T4892 crashed in Egypt, F/O G.G. Cann and Sgt L. Cousins RAF killed (www.rafcommands.com).

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 (Fishington?) Ic HX627 lost in Mediterranean, Sgt E.J. Haid, Sgt D.G. Gage RAF, P/O P.B. Nanton RAF, Sgt J.B. Williams RAF and Sgt D.F. Wolf RAF missing (www.rafcommands.com).

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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, LAC F. Holland RAF and Sgt D.A. MacDonald RAF killed, F/O L.C. Pyke RAAF and LAC C.W.F. Ironmonger RAF died of their injuries, and LAC G.M. Paulger RAF injured. F/O Pyke was later MiD (A. Storr; COL BRUGGY at www.rafcommands.com).

4 238 Sqn. Hurricane IIc HL906 shot down near El Alamein, F/S F.E. Wise missing (www.rafcommands.com).

4 260 Sqn. Kittyhawk IIa FL351 'C' collided in combat with a MC.202 and both crashed, F/O N.E. Gilboe PoW (Shores, Massimello V.2).

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 I AH559 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 R. Leese RAF, Sgt T.M. Millar RAF, Sgt J.B. Ritchie RAF and Sgt E.J. Sleigh RAF missing (www.rafcommands.com).

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).

4 330 (Norwegian) Sqn. Northrup N3-PB 313 GS-L was seen to spin and crash from low altitude while escorting a convoy off Iceland. Kvm (Quartermaster) A.J. Taarnesvik killed, Fnr (Ensign) E.T.A. Gjertson and Kvm T.M. Osland missing. Both Kvm Taarnesvik and Fnr Gjertson had trained at Little Norway in Toronto, where Kvm Taarnesvik met and married Maureen Benson. After his loss she joined the RCAF and served in #6 Group Headquarters in England (aircrewremembered.com; letter from A. Thomas, *Flypast*, August 2022).

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 In the Caucasus a German panzer attack was spotted by aircraft, and heavily attacked for the next 2 days by Soviet aircraft (Bergström, Dikov & Antipov V.3). See November 7, below.

Rommel forms a new defensive line at Fuka, but they are unable to stop the

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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 80 Sqn. Hurricane IIc BM985 'W' shot down by Bf 109 fighters in North Africa, P/O G.P. Wilson RCAF (USA) PoW (www.rafcommands.com).

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).

5 250 Sqn. Kittyhawk III FR268 'R', F/S N.R. Chap RCAF USA claimed an MC.202 probably destroyed over that was attacking P/O G.W.A. Troke's Kittyhawk over Libya (Shores, Massimello V.2). See November 7, below.

5 260 Sqn. Kittyhawk IIa FL350 shot down in the Western Desert, WO2 G.W. Harttung has no known grave (www.rafcommands.com).

5 274 Sqn. Hurricane IIc BH287 'X' shot down by Bf 109s over North Africa, WO J.W. Neil bailed out over the sea, safe (Shores, Massimello V.2).

5 609 Sqn. Typhoon Ia R7818 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; www.rafcommands.com).

5 3rd Ferry Group, USAAF, P-36A 38-33 forced landed near Burwash Landing, Yukon Territory, due to pilot error, 1LT W. Pennington USAAF safe, aircraft recovered and repaired (D. Hagedorn & A. Tincopa).

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

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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).

Due to shortages in England, women are permitted to attend Church without wearing a hat (K. Farrington).

6 55 Sqn. Baltimore III AG898 'T' lost attacking enemy road transport in Egypt, P/O R.C. Payne, Sgt S.F. Howe RAF, F/S T. Sanderson RAF and Sgt G. Sparrow RAF missing.

6 112 Sqn. Kittyhawk III FR216 GA-P damaged strafing enemy targets, P/O J.M.S. Crichton safe (http://raf-112-squadron.org/planelosses.html). See Nov. 11, below.

6 112 Sqn. Kittyhawk FR263 GA-X landed wheels up after an engine failure in the desert, F/S R.C.C. Smith RCAF (USA) safe (http://raf-112-squadron.org/planelosses.html). See November 8, below.

6 21 Sqn. Ventura II AE848 lost off Holland on a daylight operation, WO2 N.A. Gardner killed, F/O R.W. Neill, F/O A.E.K. Perry RAF and P/O L.G.O. Smith RAF missing. Crew details can be found at http://www.626-squadron.co.uk/willem34.htm.

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

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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 #26 OTU Wellington Ic DV885 crashed in England on a training flight, P/O H.D. Murray RAF (Can.), Sgt J. Wilde, Sgt J.M. Lennox RAF, F/S W.C. Ferguson DFM RAF and Sgt H. Bailey RAF killed, Sgt Clarke RAF injured.

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 could not recover from a spin and crashed, Sgt J.W. Lailey and LAC(P) J. Yakimchuk bailed out and safe (R.W.R. Walker; heritage.canadiana.ca).

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 R5673 OL-L lost without trace, WO1 V.R. Long, F/S M.L. Roberts, Sgt J.L.G. Waite RAF, Sgt W.G. Chapman RAF, Sgt E. MacKay RAF, Sgt L.H. Morton RAAF and Sgt P. Hayward 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

6-7 218 Sqn. Stirling R9185 HA-Y lost over France on a GARDENING sortie, F/S A.G. Cumming, F/S E.C. Kehl killed, Sgt J.J. Sheridan, Sgt G.M.D. Hyde RNZAF, Sgt E.E. Harrison RAF, Sgt D.L. Ashmead-Bartlett RAF and Sgt D.L. Spriggs RAF PoW. Sgt Hyde later attempted an escape involving stealing a German aircraft, for which he was court-martialled as a PoW, but was awarded an MBE when released (O. Clutton-Brock).

6-7 #10 OTU Whitley V AD714 hit the top of a tree and crashed in England practicing night circuits, Sgt D. Gordon-Kay, Sgt A.W. Taney RAF and Sgt L.F.K. Spratt RAF killed, Sgt R.J. Nicholas RAF and Sgt N.R. Pickett RAF injured (Linzee www.rafcommands.com).

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Saturday

7 US bomber discovers Japanese force occupying Attu Island in the Aleutians, 5 months after the landings there (wikipedia).

In the Caucasus the German Panzer attack is halted by Soviet ground forces. Snow in the mountains and continued air attacks on ports and supply centres, with poor roads, bring German offensive operations to capture the Soviet oilfields to a standstill. Attempts to fly in supplies, especially fuel, cannot meet the demand. This is the furthest point the German invasion of the USSR will reach in the war (Bergström, Dikov & Antipov V.3).

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).

427 Sqn., 428 Sqn. and 429 Sqn. RCAF formed in England as Bomber units, all on Wellington III aircraft (RCAF Sqns.).

3rd Victory Loan brings in $991,389,050 (CJCA headline).

7 250 Sqn. Kittyhawk III FL877 or FR268 'M' shot down a Ju 52/3m before he was shot down near Tobruk, Libya, P/O N.R. Chap RCAF (USA) killed, he has no known grave (www.rafcommands.com; Shores, Massimello V.2).

7 250 Sqn. Kittyhawk III FR275 'E', P/O G.W.A. Troke shot down a Ju 52/3m and claimed a Bf 109 probably destroyed over Libya (Shores, Massimello V.2). See November 9, below.

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 83 Sqn. Lancaster I R5857 OL-F crashed in England just after taking off on a transit flight, F/S C.R. Hasekian RCAF (USA), F/S T.G. Irvine RAF and EO G.J. Stock RAF killed, F/S D.P. Gooby RAF died later of injuries, F/S L.E. Humber RAF, P/O Johnson RAF and F/S F. Mortimer RAF survived injured.

7 107 Sqn. Boston III Z2157 hit a power line in fog and crashed looking for their target in Belgium, WO2 N.S.H. Phillips, S/L P.R. Barr DFC RAF, F/O W. Barford DFC RAF and P/O T. Trotter RAF killed.

7 263 Sqn. Whirlwind I P7043 was shot down over France on a RHUBARB sortie, F/O D.R. Gill killed.

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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 #42 OTU Blenheim IV N3567 crashed in England, LAC T.E. Clarke RAF (Nfld.) killed, F/O W.R. Mummery RAF injured (www.rafcommands.com).

7 Service Policeman LAC P. Allan died in Canada. He had served in England but was repatriated and medically discharged in December 1940 (Jon Heyworth on www.rafcommands.com).

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://rafcentralia.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 arrive 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. Gorfunkle 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.

7-8 158 Sqn. Halifax II W1253 NP-M ran out of fuel and ditched in the River Humber in England, Sgt R.W. Stockton, Sgt M.F. Carlin RAF and Sgt M.A. Goldstein RAF killed, Sgt D.G. Culver and Sgt L. Purchase RAF injured, P/O D. Beveridge RAF

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and Sgt W.E.F. Wheeler RAF safe. Photographs of the crash appeared in *Aeroplane Monthly* magazine May, 1998. See Nov. 15-16, below, and March 2-3, 1943.

7-8 207 Sqn. Lancaster I L7546 EM-G lost over France on an operation to Italy, F/S C.W.W. Peck DFM, F/S R.P. Strain, F/S W.J. Rose DFM RAF (Rhodesia), P/O R.S. Wilson DFM RAF, Sgt W.A.H. Ball RAF, Sgt A.J. Lovell DFM RAAF and F/S A.J. Perrin DFM RAF killed.

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 it's 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

8 <u>Operation TORCH</u>, US and British forces invade Algeria and French Morocco. Algiers surrenders. Vichy Government breaks with USA (CJCA headline).

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 USCG cutters) with US commandos 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

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(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).

8 112 Sqn. Kittyhawk III FR259 GA-X force landed in the desert after being damaged in combat, F/S R.C.C. Smith RCAF (USA) safe (http://raf-112-squadron.org/planelosses.html). See November 10, below.

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), where wrote an article about his experience that was published in newspapers of *The Canadian Press* (D. McIntosh).

8 405 Sqn. Halifax II LQ-U lost on a Coastal patrol, F/S A.K. Hodgins killed, F/S W.C.

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Black, F/S P.J. Maroney, F/S W.W. Waddell RCAF (USA), F/S W.R. Waddle and Sgt A.C. Walland missing, Sgt G.M. Manning PoW (H.A. Halliday www.rafcommands.com).

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.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 #22 OTU Wellington III DF742 stalled and crashed in England, Sgt C.W. Milton and P/O T.D. Withington DFM killed. Sgt Milton had survived the loss of a #22 OTU Wellington on May 5.

8 #52 OTU Spitfire Ia N3026 dived into the ground in England killing Sgt G.E. Booth (www.spitfires.ukf.net).

8 #121 (K) [Composite] Sqn. RCAF Goose #925 EN-B lost between Sydney, NS and Torbay Nfld., F/O H.M.B. Arney, P/O W.G. Harber and passengers Lt. Col. A.A. Ernst West Nova Scotia Regiment, Lt. Cmdr. F.R.W.R. Gow RCN and Major H.B. Munro 4th Princess Louise Dragoon Guards missing.

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 76 Sqn. Halifax II DT550 MP-B shot down on the Dutch coast by flak on a GARDENING operation, Sgt E.H. Seares RAF, Sgt J. McGauchie, Sgt R.H.G. Bowkett RAF and Sgt T.A. Keech RAF killed, F/S C.B. Finley, F/S G.G. Sawatzky and P/O W.G. Barrett RAF missing. See http://www.teunispats.net/fr-wwii.htm for details.

8-9 179 Sqn. Wellington VIII HX732 'E' ditched off the Shetland Islands, WO2 J.P. McGrath

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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 it's 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 it's 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

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(http://www.bombercrew.com/BCATP.htm).

9 250 Sqn. Kittyhawk III FR275 'E', P/O G.W.A. Troke damaged an MC.202 over Libya (Shores, Massimello V.2). See November 17, below.

9 417 Sqn. Hurricane IIc HL782 and HL900 collided in mid-air over Egypt, WO2 W.K. Grant killed in HL782, Sgt D. Gaudin bailed out safely from HL900 (H. Welting and F. Williston at www.rafcommands.com)

9 544 Sqn. Spitfire PR.IV (Trop.) BR666 lost in Casablanca area on a reconnaissance supporting Operation TORCH, F/L C.A. Brennan missing (www.spitfires.ukf.net; www.rafcommands.com). F/L Brennan's brother, F/S J.R. Brennan, had been killed over Holland May 27, above.

9 408 Sqn. Halifax V DG238 stalled and crashed during a fighter affiliation exercise in England, F/S R.G. Bell DFM, P/O P.M. Matthews, Sgt A.E.F. Giles RAF, Sgt D.D. Gardner RAF and Sgt I.F.S. McColl RAAF killed. This was the first Mark V Halifax lost by Bomber Command, and the first loss by 408 Sqn. since converting to Halifax aircraft.

9 416 Sqn. Spitfire Vb aircraft BM419 had an engine fail on takeoff, swerved and struck Spitfires BL928 and EP279, wrecking all three, Sgt H.E. Martin seriously injured (416 SH, www.spitfires.ukf.net).

9 GPEU (Glider Pilot Experience Unit) Hector I K9781 crashed in England while towing a glider, WO2 W.H. Cole killed (A. Crawford, H. Welting at www.rafcommands.com).

9 #20 OTU Wellington Ic DV882 ZT-G lost without trace on a night navigation exercise, F/S D.C. Ferguson, F/S W.J. Pope, Sgt M.M. Stewart, Sgt R.M. Don RAF, Sgt H. Dale RAF and Sgt A.R. Morgan RAF missing.

9 #22 OTU Wellington III HF648 LT-L crashed on take-off on a training flight, Sgt C.S. Boomer, F/O D.B. Clements, P/O J.L. Doray, P/O A.A. Hebert and Sgt G.W. Wilken killed (www.aviationarchaeology.org.uk).

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 7 Sqn. Stirling I R9169 MG-Y lost without trace, F/S R.M. Baldock, P/O J.P. Bulanda, F/S K.L. Howard, P/O H.A. Harris RNZAF, Sgt D.F. Meade RAF, Sgt G.H. Stone

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RAF and Sgt C.D. Evans RAF missing.

9-10 7 Sqn. Stirling I BF387 MG-U lost over the North Sea, Sgt D.B. Beales RAF killed, WO2 W.F. Gordon, F/L W. Nicholls DFC RAF, Sgt D.H. Davison RAF, Sgt W.J. Jarvis RAF, Sgt L.A. Davies RAF and F/S J.P. Carter RAF missing.

9-10 57 Sqn. Lancaster I W4307 DX-O lost over Germany, F/S B.A. Boyd, F/S J.W.A. Senez, Sgt F. Dyson RAF, Sgt T.E. Edwards RAF, Sgt A.V. Woolgar RAF, Sgt S. Wilson RAF and Sgt M.A. Harran RAF killed.

9-10 102 Sqn. Halifax II W7864 DY-F lost without trace, Sgt C.C. Brook, P/O T.E. Dunlop, F/S T.R.N. Fetherston, F/S G.A. Neville, F/S J.K. Player, F/S N. Sidorchuk, Sgt F.W. Hope RAF and Sgt M.V. Riddle RAF missing. In 1999 the identification bracelet of F/S Fetherston was found on a beach in Holland. A monument to his memory was erected in the local churchyard in 2001 (http://www.bombercommandmuseum.ca/s,fetherston.pdf).

9-10 102 Sqn. Halifax II DT539 DY-A shot down on the Island of Texel off the Dutch Coast, F/S M.K. Callan, F/S E.H. Kingsland, F/S D.T. Marler, F/S F.W. Read, P/O J.H. Zealand, Sgt S. Broome RAF, Sgt P. Richardson RAF and Sgt W.A. Moire RAF killed.

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.

9-10 142 Sqn. Wellington III BJ711 QT-Z lost over Germany, P/O W.T. Bent RCAF DFM (USA), P/O A.A. Smith RAF, P/O G.D.R. Thompson RAF, Sgt J. Bradley RAF, Sgt A. Bradley RAF and F/S I. Kennedy RNZAF killed.

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.

9-10 420 Sqn. Wellington III Z1679 PT-B lost at sea off Germany, WO2 C. Collard killed, Sgt W.S. Beale, F/S J.D. McDonald, F/S A.J.M. Smith and Sgt C.S. Snider missing.

9-10 425 Sqn. Wellington III BK557 KW-S lost over Germany, F/S W.S. Bourke, F/S D.F. Burchell, F/S N. Davis, F/S N. Raitblat and F/S J.H.G. Tasse killed, Sgt N.J. Wellwood PoW.

9-10 425 Sqn. Wellington III BJ764 was hit by flak over Germany, where Sgt J.R.A. 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

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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 34 Sqn. Blenheim IV Z7705 'H' was one of two shot down by Japanese Ki-43 *Oscar* fighters on a bombing attack on Akyab in Burma, WO2 H.A. Elliot, F/S E. Hyland RAF and Sgt A.G. Elliot RAF missing (C. Shores & D. Newton).

10 113 Sqn. Blenheim IV V6491 'F' shot down over Akyab, Burma, on a bombing operation, WO2 C.T. Allen, Sgt S.C. Mintern RAF and F/S J.D.L. Williams RAF killed (C. Shores).

10 112 Sqn. Kittyhawk III FL880 GA-Z damaged in combat over the desert with Bf 109 and MC.202 fighters. F/L R.C.C. Smith RCAF (USA) safe (http://raf-112-squadron.org/planelosses.html). See March 10, 1943.

10 601 Sqn. Spitfire Vc EP451 shot down over Egypt, F/O C.R. Scollan missing (Shores, Massimello V.2).

10 69 Sqn. Wellington VIII HF883 aircraft lost from Malta, F/O A.B. Burgess, P/O F.G. James, F/O W.H. Mathews DFC, F/O B.J. Moffatt, F/O V.B. Ray and Sgt J.M. Watt RAF missing (dereksadler www.rafcommands.com).

10 69 Sqn. Wellington VIII HX559 aircraft lost from Malta, Sgt B. Fisher, F/S H.F. Locke, Sgt F.L. Olsen, Sgt B.C. McNall RCAF (USA), F/S F. Lewsley RAF and Sgt R.M. Bland RAF missing. It seems Sgt Olsen had just joined the Squadron (dereksadler www.rafcommands.com).

10 272 Sqn. Beaufighter Ic T4708 shot down in Tunisia, part of an attack on a high number of Luftwaffe transports noted by reconnaissance, 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; Shores, Massimello V.2).

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.

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Walker).

10 Ferry Command Boston IIIa BZ215 flying from Gander belly-lands, lost and with no radio contact, on a glacier on the east coast of Greenland, P/O D. Goodlet, P/O A. Nash and radioman F/S A. Weaver uninjured (M. Zuckoff, http://bobsganderhistory.com/KneeAbner.pdf). See November 13-14 below.

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 flak 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 DFC, injured, 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. J.V. Watts described this loss in his book where he states the aircraft and crew were still on charge to 10 Squadron RAF at the time. With his ditching October 1-2, 1941 F/L Watts was now a member of the Goldfish Club, the Caterpillar Club and was awarded the Winged Boot for evading.

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).

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Wednesday

11 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).

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).*

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). Some of the most effective Luftwaffe units were ordered to leave the region for Italy, to counter the Allied landings in North Africa on this date (C. Bergström).

Partially this was because of the lack of supplies reaching German units across the front. This was due to many reasons, such as the lack of roads in some areas and what roads there were falling into disrepair by heavy use and heavy vehicles, and the bureaucracy of the German supply system, which could tie up supplies in rail centres for weeks or even months. Pilferage and theft of supplies became commonplace, and even before the demands of supplying the forces cut off in Stalingrad many German units and their allies were operating on a logistical shoe-string (C. Bergström).

Allied forces capture the Halfaya Pass, enter Libya and capture Bardia on this date (D. Newton).

Allies occupy Casablanca (CJCA headline).

German forces invade and occupy Vichy controlled France (H.W. Neulen). Italian forces land in Corsica (Oxford). Spain mobilizes it's 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

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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.

11 425 Sqn. Wellington III BJ846 KW-E crashed when it flew into trees after several attempts to land in bad weather from a training flight, F/S M. Funk, F/S J.A. Larche and F/S W. Sokol killed, possibly F/S H.W. Potter and Sgt H.E. Martin injured (R. Allenby).

11 #55 OTU Canadian built Hurricane X AG195 collided in mid air with Hurricane I W9151 and both crashed, Sgt C.H.B. Fisher 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

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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 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 (CJCA headline).

<u>Operation CHOCOLATE</u>, 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

www.bombercommandmuseumarchives.ca

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 IIc BN702 hit a tree and crashed on a low-level training flight in India, WO1 T.T. Young RCAF (USA) injured (www.rafcommands.com). See Nov. 15, below.

13 272 Sqn. Beaufighter VIc EL229 'B' lost from Malta due to an engine failure on a patrol off Sicily, WO2 J.W. Stephen and Sgt S.A. Whear RAF missing (Kevin at www.rafcommands.com; aviation-safety.net).

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 DSC (US) RN (Can.) died of injuries, his previous wounds and exposure after being rescued (http://www.rcnvr.com). Passengers Brigadier F.W. Vogel OBE RA, Commander R.R. Devlin RN (Retd.), Sgt R.E. Cordrey RAF and Captain G.W. Wadham RN also killed. Crewmen F/O F.J. Lees RAAF badly injured, P/O R.P. Gray RAAF injured, P/O W.P. Thorpe RAAF, P/O W.S. Moore RAAF, Cpl D.E. Bennington RAAF, Cpl D.L. Graham RAAF, Sgt R.B. Wilkinson RAAF, Sgt S.J. Smith RAAF, LAC P. Stanton RAAF and Sgt D.G. Keating RAAF safe (www.ww2australia.gov.au, http://www.promare.co.uk, D. Newton).

13 105 Sqn. Mosquito FB.IV DZ320 shot down by flak attacking shipping off Holland, F/O R.F.L. Anderson and pilot F/O C.A. Graham RAAF killed.

13 107 Sqn. Boston III Z2269 lost without trace on a search and rescue sortie for the missing Mosquito aircraft, F/S K.E. Stilborn, F/O F.C. Hammond RAF, Sgt C. McCreedy RAF and Sgt G. Tough RAF missing.

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).

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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.

13-14 148 Sqn. Wellington Ic AD637 FS-E lost on a bombing sortie to Benghazi harbour, Sgt H.M. Lane, P/O W.G. Sharpe RAAF, F/S J.L.M. Thomson RAAF, P/O I.G.E. Davidson RAF, Sgt J.M. Jones RAF and Sgt R.E. Swift RAF missing.

13-14 97 Sqn. Lancaster I R5569 OF-B stalled and crashed attempting a landing on a training flight, F/S K.P. Mercer, F/S A.E. Shelson, Sgt G.G. Plimmer RAF, F/O J.W. Marshall RAF, F/O F. Mayes RAF and Sgt A.E. Trott RAF killed, Sgt K.V.G. Collings died of injuries.

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).

<u>Operation CHOCOLATE</u>, 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 Vb (Trop.) EP310 missing from Malta, F/O G.G. Davidson missing (www.rafcommands.com).

14 227 Sqn. Beaufighter VIf X8071 'X' one of two lost from a flight of four that attacked the airfield and seaplane base at Bizerta, Tunisia, shot down by Bf 109s, F/L D.M.

www.bomber-command-museum-archives.ca

Witherspoon and P/O R.B. Pearson RAF missing (aviation-safety.net).

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 R.K. Young RAF and Sgt N.N. Welch RAF interned.

14 245 (N. Rhodesia) Sqn. Hurricane IIb Z5153 crashed in England, P/O D.A. Dawson killed (www.rafcommands.com). 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 station 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.

<u>Operation CHOCOLATE</u>, 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 <u>Boston BZ215</u> leave their aircraft to attempt to hike 15 miles to the coast where the US Coast Guard ship* Northland *is ordered to meet them. They are using home-made

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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.IVd (Trop.) BS359 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 *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 78 Sqn. Halifax II DT522 EY-B abandoned over England after running short of fuel returning from an operation over Italy, F/S R.F. Martin RAF fell into a river and drowned, Sgt C.L. Morton, Sgt I.A.L. Lockhart, Sgt F. Sumner RAF and Sgt S.A.E. Parrish RAF injured, Sgt W.L. Turner RAF and Sgt L. Moran RAF safe. See September 29-30, 1943.

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 First heavy snow falls in the <u>Stalingrad</u> area (G.K. Koschorrek). It was expected

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that cold clear weather would be available over the zone for the planned Soviet attack there (Operation URANUS), but an unexpected warm front moved in with the snow that caused temperatures to rise, snow to melt, sleet, rain and fog. The Soviet airforces had trained with new tactics to identify their forces as they advanced, and be able to supply air support closer to the front than ever before, and had copied the German use of air liaison officers equipped with radios in the advancing units, but all this was thwarted by the weather. German air reconnaissance in the region had noted the build-up of Soviet land forces but were unable to do much about it as their own units were worn down from the summers fighting, and were under orders from Hitler to focus on Stalingrad and "those small parts" of the city not yet captured. The invasion of North Africa had also had an effect as many of their units had been ordered to the Mediterranean theatre to counter it (C. Bergström).

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*.

Edmonton, Alberta, had a sudden overnight snowfall of 50 cm that brought the city to a standstill. Emergency plows had to force a road through to Beverly to obtain coal to keep the University Hospital operational (J.W. Chalmers). Street-cars were derailed by snow build up in the tracks. The well known photograph of US Army soldiers in a jeep parked in snow across the usually busy road leading up the hill on the south end of the High Level Bridge with the Legislative Building across the river was probably taken on this date.

16 101 Sqn. Lancaster I W4326 exploded in mid-air and crashed in Wales, F/S J.R. Gould, Sgt J.W. Spinney, Sgt H.W.A. Collett RNZAF, Sgt S.R. Clarke RAF, Sgt C.L. Coleman RAF, Sgt A.E. Beach RAF and Sgt D.A.J. Holloway RAF killed.

16 #19 OTU Whitley V P5105 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 M.G. Williams RAF safe (www.rafcommands.com).

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, Sgt R.G. Moore, P/O E. Lambert

www.bombercommandmuseumarchives.ca

RAF, P/O F.W. Bartlett RAF and Sgt P.G. Rothera RAF injured, Sgt A. Napier RAF safe (R. Allenby; www.rafcommands.com). See December 21, below, and March 2-3, 1943.

16 #3 Flying Instructor School, Arnprior, Ontario, Service Policeman LAC T.N. Kolesar died in hospital in Ottawa of an accidental gunshot wound while on guard duty (www.rafcommands.com).

16-17 Bomber Command sent 65 GARDENING and 5 NICKEL sorties out on this night, 3 losses (BC War Diaries).

16-17 115 Sqn. Wellington III X3597 KO-Q lost on a GARDENING sortie off France, F/S D.G.H. Johnson, F/S J.L. Watkinson, Sgt T. Gill RAF and Sgt T. Clarke RAF killed, Sgt A. Morris RAF missing.

16-17 142 Sqn. Wellington III BK278 QT-C lost on a GARDENING sortie, WO1 F. Renkiewicz RCAF (USA), 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.

16-17 149 Sqn. Stirling I W7566 OJ-C lost off France on a GARDENING sortie, F/S C.R. McMullin and Sgt H. Carter RAF killed, F/S K.S. Gunning, Sgt T.H. Short, Sgt T.A. West RAF, Sgt W.R.St.G. Fairfield and Sgt B.D. Allen missing.

16-17 425 Sqn. Wellington III BJ894 KW-K crashed in England on a training flight, Sgt N.A. Ash, F/S J.F.R. Croteau, F/S J.Y.C.C.A. Laflamme, F/O W.G. Laut (426 Sqn.), Sgt J.A.F.E. Patry and F/S J. Tritt killed. Observer F/O Laut was flying in this aircraft for experience. He was the first member of 426 Sqn. lost (R. Jacobson).

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 Continued bad weather over the Stalingrad region leads to postponing the planned Soviet attack 2 days (C. Bergström).

17 112 Sqn. Kittyhawk III FR245 GA-B force landed in the desert after combat with Bf 109 fighters, Sgt W.E. Pollock safe (http://raf-112-squadron.org/planelosses.html).

17 250 Sqn. Kittyhawk III FR275 'E', P/O G.W.A. Troke and Sgt A.A. Orr (RAF?) in Kittyhawk III FR311 'F' shared a He 111 destroyed over Libya (Shores, Massimello V.2). See November 19, below.

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 12 Sqn. Wellington III PH-G had an engine failure on take-off and was landed wheels up on the airfield, Sgt F.L.E. Dupre, Sgt R.A. Weese, Sgt J.R.A. Hodgson RAF, Sgt

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S.R. Farley RAF and Sgt D. Keenan RAF safe (D. Hodgson). See March 29-30, 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.

17 405 Sqn. Halifax II W1096 LQ-O "*Every Drop Counts*" crashed in England on Coastal Command duties when the mid-upper gunner accidentally fired into the engines, resulting in a spin, Sgt R.J. Cavanaugh RCAF (USA), F/S A.J. Dolding, WO2 G.H. Richards and F/O H. Landau RAF killed, Sgt H.T. Jackson injured, Sgt W. MacDonald safe (Dakota www.rafcommands.com, R. Koval).

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 U-183. Hazy conditions hampered the attack until after the U-boat had dived (Hagedorn & Hagedorn; C. Vincent).

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 <u>Boston BZ215</u> 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 Ia 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).

18 213 Sqn. Hurricane IIc HV309 shot down over Libya attacking an airfield, F/O G.P. Waite killed (H. Welting www.rafcommands.com).

18 213 Sqn. Hurricane IIc HL941 hit attacking an airfield in Libya, wounding WO2 J.R.

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Rebstock. He managed to return to friendly lines and force landed (H. Welting www.rafcommands.com). See November 19, below.

18 213 Sqn. Hurricane IIc BP239 shot down attacking an airfield in Libya, P/O C. Luxton PoW (H. Welting www.rafcommands.com).

18 128 Sqn. Hurricane IIe BE550 crashed after an engine failure near Gabbai, Freetown, Sierra Leone, killing F/S J.N. Cabeldu (www.rafcommands.com).

18 405 Sqn. Halifax II, P/O Atkinson, sights, attacks and damages an enemy motor vessel in the Bay of Biscay (405 SH).

18 418 Sqn. Boston III W8342 crashed in England, S/L L.H. Wilkinson killed, F/O J.K. Reynolds and F/S J.M. Taylor injured (Alan and H.A. Halliday www.rafcommands.com).

18 #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.

18 #35 EFTS, Neepawa, Manitoba, DH.82C Tiger Moth #1246 written off after a crash (R.W.R. Walker).

18 RAF Ferry Command Ventura II AJ471 crash landed at Soulis Pond, near Gander, Newfoundland (http://www.planecrashgirl.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.G. Middlemass, 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

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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 the Romanian 3rd Army north of the city (Oxford). Bad weather over the battle zone grounds Romanian air support (H.W. Neulen; C. Bergström).

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 Vc BP952 went down 90 miles from Malta (www.rafcommands.com).

19 213 Sqn. WO2 J.R. Rebstock died in Libya of wounds received the previous day (H. Welting www.rafcommands.com).

19 250 Sqn. Kittyhawk III FR899 'T', P/O G.W.A. Troke and P/O J.E. Collier (RAF?) in Kittyhawk III FR884 'A' shared a Ju 88 destroyed off Martuba, Libya (Shores, Massimello V.2). See Feb. 26, 1943.

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 #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).

19-20 104 Sqn. Wellington II W5583 'E' shot down over Sicily on an operation from Malta, WO2 J. Fearnside, Sgt W.E. Hammond RNZAF, F/L H.D. Mercer RAF, F/S C.E. Gray RAF, Sgt J.W. Layton RAF and Sgt B.C.D. Holmes RAF killed.

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

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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 Operation URANUS, a second Soviet Army attacks and breaks through south of Stalingrad, through defences of the 4th Romanian Army (C. Bergström).

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).

20 112 Sqn. Kittyhawk III FR264, P/O J.G. Wright, claimed a Me 210 damaged over North Africa (Shores, Massimello V.2).

20 202 Sqn. Catalina Ib FP153 aircraft shot down in the Mediterranean by RN forces in error, F/O H.K. Pollock, F/O A.L. Campbell RAF, Sgt L.W. Drywood RAF, Sgt A.F. Fletcher RAF, Sgt R. Laverty RAF, F/O D.A. MacArthur RAF, F/O W.B. O'Connor RAF, Sgt J.L. O'Rorke RAF, Sgt J. Sanderson RAF and Sgt R.A. Tiffen RAF missing (www.rafcommands.com).

20 RAF Ferry Command Baltimore IIIa FA179 burst a tyre on taking off and crashed in Sudan, Ferry Captain J.A. Morrison (USA) killed, Sgt J. Fassina and Radio Officer J. Woodyard injured (www.rafcommands.com).

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 #31 GRS, Charlottetown, PEI, Anson N4894 lost, LAC S.V. Clench RAF, LAC N.J. Ficken RAF, P/O A.J. Freeman RAF and AC1 N.W. Thomas RAF missing (www.rafcommands.com).

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

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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 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 46 Sqn. Beaufighter VIf X8137 lost over Sicily on an INTRUDER operation to an airfield, F/O A. Bate RAF killed, F/S M.M. Vineburg PoW (Shores, Massimello et al, V.3; H. Welting at www.rafcommands.com).

20-21 142 Sqn. Wellington III BK536 QT-C abandoned over France due to engine failure on an operation to Italy, P/O T.M. Watt RCAF (USA), WO G.R.E. Gregory RAF, P/O A.G. Edwards RAF and Sgt W.G. Greaves RAF PoW, Sgt R.G. Smith RAF evaded.

20-21 150 Sqn. Wellington III BK538 JN-U stalled and crashed in England attempting an emergency landing, F/S H.M. Lisson, F/O J.F. Sweet, P/O T. Towell RAF and Sgt L.J. Somerville RAAF killed, Sgt E.O. Booth RAF injured.

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

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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).

21 511 Sqn. Albermarle GT.I P1451, crashed into the sea on take-off from Gibraltar on a return flight to England, Sgt G.L. Henning, F/L G.W. Thorougood RAF, F/S L.C. Webster RNZAF and F/S D.C. Henderson RNZAF have no known grave (E. Martyn, 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 May 18-19, 1943 and 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). C. Bergström, however, notes that due to poor supply routes in the region a Luftwaffe supply operation complete with radio beacons had been operating for 3 months to airfields around Stalingrad, and should have been able to supply the cut-off soldiers especially when further transports were sent.

22 272 Sqn. Beaufighter TF.X T5210 lost in the Mediterranean on a flight from Italy, F/L E.H. Hodgson and F/S W.J. Antonia RAF PoW (www.rafcommands.com; aviation-safety.net).

22 400 Sqn. Master I N8067 crashed in a spin from low altitude in England, F/O R.M. Curphey and Lt B.C. Clark, 4th Princess Louise Dragoon Guards attached to 400 Squadron killed (H. Welting www.rafcommands.com; corres. C. Mills).

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 DFC. The town of Walthamstow erected a monument and plaque in his memory (floyd williston at www.rafcommands.com;

www.bomber-command-museum-archives.ca

www.aviationarchaeology.com).

22 #2 (Coastal) OTU Beaufighter VIc EL394 collided over England with a 316 (Polish) Sqn. Spitfire Vb BL246 while flying circuits, F/S R.A. Patterson was killed in the Beaufighter and Sgt T. Orzechowski PAF was killed in the Spitfire (discussion page, www.rafcommands.com, R. Allenby).

22 #10 OTU Whitley V Z6751 returned to England in the evening after a long patrol, off course and with an unserviceable radio. Unsure of it's location it attempted to land at the first airfield it found but crashed when it flew into trees, Sgt B.A. Tidman RAF killed, Sgt D.L. Crossby, Sgt D.M. Shyba, Sgt J. Wilson, Sgt M.D. Woods and F/O D. McHarrie RAF injured.

22 #127 (F) Sqn., Gander, Newfoundland, Hurricane XII #5487 crashed on a night flight, P/O A.R. Taylor RCAF (Nfld.) bailed out and safe (Darrell and C. Charland, www.rafcommands.com). See June 6, 1944.

22 #34 OTU, Pennfield Ridge, NB, Ventura II AE868 crashed shortly after take-off, Sgt G.St.G. Putt RNZAF and Sgt D. Smith RAF killed (#34 OTU Roll of Honour).

22-23 99 Sqn., India, a group of 7 Wellingtons attacked Meiktila, Burma. Wellington Ic DV875 flown by Sgt Stanley was intercepted by a Japanese fighter and badly shot up, the rear gunner F/S W.F. Austin RAF injured. Landing back in India the bomber overran it's landing and was burned out, observer P/O R.D. MacDonald was injured with burns but was pulled from the wreckage by Sgt Mercer (C. Shores; www.rafcommands.com; S. Bond). 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 DT572 ZA-M crash landed in France on an operation to Germany, WO2 S. Jensen died of injuries, Sgt A.L. Rathburn, F/S W.N. Hogg, P/O O.S.R. Collett RAF, F/O J. Maher RAF, F/O A.P. Douglas RAF and Sgt A.N. Ross RAF PoW.

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 44 Sqn. Lancaster I W4304 KM-C lost without trace, WO2 J.G.R. Tough, Sgt E.A. Waters RNZAF, P/O S.R. Young RAF, Sgt C.A. Weymouth RAF, F/O D.J. Appleton RAF, Sgt W.K.D. Page RAF and Sgt T.W. Brock RAF missing.

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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 attempting a forced landing, Sgt F.R. Thompson RAF (Can.), P/O G.B.H. King RAF, Sgt H.T. Cheetham RAF, F/O T.H. Follett RAF, Sgt J. Nicholson RAF, Sgt H. Clarkson RAF and Sgt D. Johnson RAF killed.

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).

22-23 161 Sqn. Whitley V Z6629 MA-N believed lost over the sea on Special Operation PERIWIG 3/PRINTO to Belgium, F/S J.A. Hey RAF, Sgt C.R. Kenzie RAF, Sgt R.W. Andrews RAF and Sgt H. Metcalf RAF killed, F/S G.L. Harrison, Sgt H. Moxon RAF and agent Lt F. De Bisschop SIS missing.

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 it's flanks (Oxford, H.W. Neulen). Regional airfields and maintenance units are overrun by advancing Soviet forces with heavy losses of Romanian and German aircraft (C. Bergström).

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 **Northland** ***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***

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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 LY-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).

23-24 37 Sqn. Wellington Ic X9693 'U' shot down attacking an airfield in Crete, F/O E.D. Fleishman AFM, WO2 L.E. Mathews, F/O E.M. Bolton RAF, Sgt R.A. Giles RAF, Sgt G.R. Haugh RAF and Sgt T.C. Westwood RAF killed.

Tuesday

24 Soviet Army captures bridge over Don River and completes encirclement of German army in <u>Stalingrad</u>. 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 and F/S W.F. Austin RAF both 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).

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Wednesday

25 Bomber Command sends 11 bombers on daylight sorties in cloud cover, losing 2 (BC War Diaries).

Skies clear over the Stalingrad region, and Luftwaffe units locate and attack the Soviet forces, inflicting damage but taking losses as well (C. Bergström).

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 already flying into the City (soon supported with He 111 bombers, obsolete bombers from flight schools and Fw 200 patrol aircraft (Larry_Daley www.rafcommands.com; C. Bergström)), the Luftwaffe airlift grew to number over 800 aircraft by late December (ww2total.com Chronology/1942), but only an average of 90 tons a day is delivered.

25 152 Sqn., arrived in Bône, Algeria, to reinforce fighters there, arriving in an air raid and losing 2 Spitfire Vb shot down over the airfield and 2 more destroyed on the ground. On one of their first patrols P/O M.R. MacPherson claimed a Bf 109 probably destroyed but was shot down behind enemy lines (Shores, Massimello V.2; www.rafcomands.com).

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 Clear skies over the Stalingrad region continue, enabling a German Stuka unit to successfully destroy a Russian advance to it's airfield. On this date Soviet fighters begin seeking out and attacking German transport aircraft (C. Bergström).

The movie* Casablanca *premiers in Hollywood (wikipedia). A film based on refugees fleeing German occupation in Europe it has an international cast, including many actors who had indeed been forced to escape from Nazis.

26 81 Sqn. Spitfire Vb ER327 crashed in Tunisia after a mid-air collision, F/S J.R. Miller killed (www.spitfires.ukf.net; www.rafcommands.com).

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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 23 Sqn. Mosquito NF.II DD797 crashed after taking off in England, Sgt D.S. Hutt and Sgt G.M. Cridge RAF killed (www.rafcommands.com).

26 157 Sqn., LAC F.T. Penney RAF (Nfld.) died when he stumbled jumping off a moving tram and was hit by a truck (www.rafcommands.com).

26 235 Sqn. Beaufighter VIc EL271 LA-E lost flying from England on a Fishery patrol, F/O J.B. Wilson and Sgt A. Cooke RAF missing (H. Welting at www.rafcommands.com; aviation-safety.net).

26 268 Sqn. Mustang I AM143 shot down over Holland, F/L W.M.R. Griffin DFC MiD RAF (Can.) bailed out but died (www.rafcommands.com).

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.rafdavidstowmoor.org, Awards, H.A. Halliday, FF Years). 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.

26-27 104 Sqn. Wellington II W5550 'Q' ditched off Sicily after attacking airfields on the island

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from Malta, F/O K.C.W. Cope RAF missing, P/O F.M. Benitz DFC DFM RCAF (Argentina), F/S S.W. Thrower RAF, Sgt F. Parkinson RAF, Sgt B. Jones RAF and Sgt A. Haxton RAF PoW (Ken MacLean www.rafcommands.com).

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).

27 152 Sqn. Spitfire missing after a patrol over Tunis, WO2 K.V. Linquist killed (CWGC.

27 213 Sqn. Hurricane IIb HL987 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; Shores, Massimello V.2).

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 C. Cooper safe (www.rafcommands.com). Sgt Cooper is noted as a Guinea Pig in R. Donovan's book *As For The Canadians*.

27 400 Sqn. 3 locomotives were destroyed in France by Mustang I AP173 SP-M, F/O D.M. Grant (RCAF Sqns.). 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).

Off Natal, South Africa the U-177 torpedoed the troopship* RMS Nova Scotia*, which was carrying Italian PoWs and civilian internees from Ethiopia, Eritrea and Egypt. The ship sank in 10 minutes with only 1 lifeboat and some life-rafts

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launched. The U-boat picked up two survivors, Italian seamen, who explained that most of those on board were internees. Due to the 'Laconia Order' the U-boat commander contacted German Naval Headquarters by radio for directions, who ordered him to abandon the survivors and continue it's patrol, but contacted Portugal, who sent a destroyer from Mozambique which arrived at the location of the sinking the next day, and rescued 194 of the 196 survivors of the over 1,000 on board, 858 were known lost, most of them Italian internees. Many of those who died were victims of shark attack (wikipedia). See September 13, 1943.

In Stalingrad Soviet fighters and ground attack begin attacking the seven airfields in the encircled areas, causing high casualties to Luftwaffe transports unloading and forcing more flights at night and in bad weather (C. Bergström).

Northwest of Moscow Soviet Operation MARS begins, attacking both side of the Rezhev salient in an attempt to surround German forces in a similar manner to that at Stalingrad. Soviet airpower was heavily used, but poor weather and shortages of fuel (due the need to move this around the fighting in the Stalingrad region by train) limited its effect. North of this attacks by Soviet air and ground units surrounded and cut off the transportation hub of Velikiye Luki (C. Bergström). See March 17, 1943.

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 Vc AB520 lost when the pilot flew in the wrong direction after being given homing instructions to Malta from an operation over Sicily, F/S G.S. Edwards missing (www.rafcommands.com).

28 152 Sqn. Spitfire Vb (Trop.) EP775 shot down near Tunis, F/S R.N. Cruit killed (www.rafcommands.com).

28 95 Sqn. Sunderland III DV975 'H' crashed and caught fire in a river in Sierra Leone,

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Africa, Sgt J.J. Crosbie RAF, Sgt C.L. Hadwell RAF, Sgt W.A. Hogg RAF, Sgt R. Irvine RAF, F/S T.W. Robinson RAF and Sgt W.F. Searl RAF killed, P/O M.E. Tayler died of injuries (www.rafcommands.com).

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 I 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 #28 OTU Wellington Ic X9941 struck a tree and crashed in England taking off on a night training flight, F/S J.B. Jamieson killed, Sgt D. Potter RAF died of injuries Nov. 30, P/O P.F. McDermott RAF died of injuries December 15, Sgt L.A. Peers and Sgt J. Wolstencroft RAF injured (www.rafcommands.com). See July 14, 1944.

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 Ferry Command, Hudson VI FK693 missing between Gander and England, P/O N.A. Allen, F/O A.M. Carey, F/O I.E.S. Robinson and civilian Radio Officer J.P. Kiernan (US) missing.

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 #31 ANS, Port Albert, Ontario, Anson N9838 lost over Lake Huron on a night cross country, AC1 W.H. Addis RAF, F/S R. Basquin FFAF (serving under the name R. Brown), LAC C.P. James RAF and Sgt J.L. Shaw RAF missing (H.A. Halliday and H. Welting at www.rafcommands.com; R.W.R. Walker).

28-29 204 Sqn. Sunderland W6016 'X' (borrowed from 95 Sqn.) lost on a flight from England to Gibraltar, F/S D.D. Anderson, F/L A.G. Espley RAF (Can.), Sgt D.G. Davies RAF, F/O F.A. Beane RAF, Sgt A.P.D. Francis RAF, Sgt R.A. Hird RAF, Sgt A.J. Marshall RAF, F/L A.L. Mitchell RAF, Sgt B. McAulay RAF, Sgt J.D. Short RAF, Sgt G.H. Wilson RAF and passengers Cdr C.de.S. Brock RN and Cdr(S) R.I.C. Behr RN missing (R. McNeill & H. Welting www.rafcommands.com). F/L Espley had survived a previous loss of a 204 Sqn. Sunderland with F/L J.M. Ennis RAF (Can.), which crashed off the coast of North Africa, the survivors spending 70 hours in a dinghy.

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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.

Sunday

29 German forces hold Allies at Tebouba, Tunisia (Pareham & Belfield).

A USCG J2F-4 amphibian from the USCG* 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 4 Sqn. Mustang I AP208 flew into rising ground in England in bad weather, killing F/O S.P. Marlatt (R. Allenby).

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 DT576 LQ-U crashed just after taking off in England carrying 2 crews and maintenance people to another airfield, crewmen P/O A.C. Bradley, P/O S.S. Clark, F/O B.H. Enns, WO2 S.F. Gannon, Sgt O.D.C. Hamel, Sgt J. Jones, Sgt W.M. Kostenuk, F/S R.E. Milliken, F/S W.S. Milne, F/S N.W. Ross, WO2 M.J. Stanley, F/S G.R.I. Taylor RCAF (Cuba), aero engine mechanics Cpl J.V.R. Beaudry, Sgt E.L. McGillivray and Sgt F. Hooten RAF killed (T. Palmer). This was one of the worst non-operational losses of the War for Bomber Command.

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

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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. Wheildon RAF and F/L R.M. Smith RAF killed, Sgt M.G. Low and Sgt R.A. Fee PoW. O. Clutton-Brock notes Sgt Low spent 6 months in Gestapo custody before being sent to a PoW camp.

29-30 149 Sqn. Stirling I R9202 OJ-K lost over Italy, F/S W.M. Wright, F/S V.T. Bowie RNZAF, Sgt G.N. Beames RAF, Sgt C. Smith RAF, Sgt N.A. Macleod RAF, Sgt L.H. Smith RAF, Sgt A.T. Carter RAF and F/S P.M. Everson 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 USAAF 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 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.

30 249 Sqn. Spitfire Vc (Trop.) BR293 shot down by flak over Sicily, Sgt W.D. Wendt RCAF (USA) PoW (www.spitfires.ukf.net www.rafcommands.com). See Nov. 18, 1943 and June 7, 1944.

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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.

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 <u>Battle of Tassafaronga</u>, US cruiser force attempting to stop Japanese destroyers delivering food to Guadalcanal is driven off, 1 cruiser sunk and 3 damaged by torpedoes, 1 Japanese destroyer sunk (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).

30-1 418 Sqn. Boston III Z2165 lost on an INTRUDER/NICKEL sortie over Belgium, WO2 J.J.G. Chabot, WO1 M.R. Lockwood and Sgt R.V. Ievers RAF missing.

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,

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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 re-built to flying condition as Hurricane I G-TWTD in 2000. It has since been owned and flown in the USA and England (various).

Following its losses to the CCF in the Federal and Provincial elections, including a by-election for their new leader in February of 1942, young members of the Conservative Party orchestrated a change in direction, and merged with Progressives to form the new Progressive Conservative Party (K. Cuthbertson).

Tuesday

1 #117 (BR) Sqn. deploys from North Sydney to Dartmouth, NS (RCAF Sqns.). #126 (F)

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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 1800's 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 the* Beveridge Report *in England, which leads to post war social security and public health services in that country (ww2total.com Chronology/1942). In Canada this led to the* Report on Social Security for Canada*, also known as the Marsh Report, on social programs for a postwar Canada, published in March, 1943. It advocated for greater involvement by the Federal Government in social programs, including unemployment insurance, health insurance, family and children's allowances and workers compensation. Widely discussed and debated in the press the costs of such a program seemed too high, but much of it's proposals were unofficially adopted by MacKenzie King to counter the arguments of the CCF, and became part of Canada's post war reconstruction program (K. Cuthbert).

1 229 Sqn. Spitfire Vb EN972 shot down off Sicily, F/O J.R. Mowbray missing (www.spitfires.ukf.net; www.rafcommands.com).

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, P/O J.A. Livingston, was in a mid-air collision with Spitfire IX BR630, P/O A.A. Ince, and flew into a hill where he was pulled from the wreck and taken to the Swanage Bank Hospital with slight injuries by 2 civilians, P/O Ince landed safely (www.spitfires.ukf.net; www.rafcommands.com).

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'Donaghue 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 *RMS Lady Rodney* off the coast of Newfoundland. LAC Connah's Military Medal

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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). One of these, #7839, once NC13347, later CF-BTB with* Maritime Central Airways*, is now on display at he Museum of Flight in Seattle, Washington, USA, and was the last flying 247D (various).

2 92 Sqn. Spitfire Vc (Trop.) BF476 'J' was landing at Magrun, Libya, when it blew a tire and overturned, newly promoted F/L W.L. Chisholm suffered a slight concussion (acesofww2.com). See January 8, 1943.

2 614 Sqn. Blenheim V BA872 lost in Algeria on an operation to Tunis, WO2 G.T. Campbell and F/O T.A.B. Young RAF killed, Sgt A.J. Walsh injured.

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 Beaufort II DD876 lost over the sea on a navigation exercise, F/O J.J. Earls, Sgt H.W. Goodman RAF and Sgt H. Newell RAF missing (www.rafcommands.com).

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 75 (New Zealand) Sqn. Stirling I BK618 AA-Q shot down by a night fighter over Germany, Sgt A. Scott RNZAF and Sgt A.W. McMorrine RAF killed, Sgt A.E. Rey, Sgt W.K. Wright RNZAF, Sgt J.R. Smith RNZAF, Sgt R.W. Sharpe RAF, Sgt D.C. Baker RAF and Sgt R.E. Preston RAF PoW. Sgt Preston died in captivity April 10,

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1945.

2-3 102 Sqn. Halifax II W7884 lost over Germany, F/S T.I.M. Edwards and Sgt C.J. Pope RAF killed, P/O D.W. McKim, Sgt F.S. May, Sgt H.A.E. Chapman RAF, Sgt E.N. Neilson RAF and Sgt G.E. Nutter RAF PoW. See T. Barris for more on P/O McKim's life as a PoW.

2-3 102 Sqn. Halifax II W7913 DY-C shot down by a night fighter over Luxembourg, Sgt H. Morrissy DFM, Sgt R.F.H. Kenyon RAF, Sgt J.M.B. Albrecht RAF, P/O D.E. Pike RAF, Sgt E.L.R. Brown RAF, Sgt G.A. Robson RAF, Sgt J.W. Taylor RAF and Sgt T. McCallum RAF killed.

2-3 102 Sqn. Halifax II W7916 shot down by a night fighter over France, S/L J.G.G. Walkington RAF, Sgt J. Law RAF and Sgt L.C. Molloy RAF killed, Sgt R.C.A. Douglas RAF, F/S L.C. Fantini RAF and Sgt H. Johnson RAF PoW, P/O A.R. Haines and W/C J.R.A. Embling (attached from 77 Sqn. for operational experience) evaded.

2-3 115 Sqn. Wellington III BK338 KO-A lost over Germany, F/S A.M.B. Johnson, WO2 A.M.W. McCrea, F/S E. Simbalist, WO2 J.C. Swarbrick and F/S F.J. Garland RNZAF killed.

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 several attacks by 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.

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Thursday

3 German attack to reach forces cut off at Velikiye Luki stopped by heavy air attack and Soviet ground forces (C. Bergström).

(Date of the opening of the first book of the St. Cyr and Kohler mystery novels by J. Robert Janes, 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 Scoudouc, 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 it's loss.

Friday

4 Around <u>Stalingrad</u> the Soviet air forces organize belts of anti-aircraft guns and organized zones of responsibility for fighters to patrol and destroy German transport aircraft flying in supplies (C. Bergström).

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).

4 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.

4 417 Sqn. Hurricane IIc aircraft HL843 AN-C, WO H.G. Conn, and BP590 AN-R, F/L W.H. Pentland, intercept and damage a Ju 88 off Alexandria, Egypt (R.V. Smith).

4 614 Sqn., Tunisia, Blenheim V (Bisley) BA800 'D' was part of a formation of 614 and 18

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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.

4 614 Sqn. Blenheim V BA734 'Y', part of attack above, damaged by fighters and crash landed behind Allied lines, Sgt G.A. Limoges, F/O L.A. Quevatre RAF and F/O W.H. Irving RAF safe.

4 #70 OTU, Kenya, Baltimore II AG799 crashed, WO2 C. Brown, F/O D.E. Bernstein RAF, Sgt A.W. Knott RAF and F/S J.H. Glass RAF killed (CWGC; www.rafcommands.com).

4 401 Sqn. Spitfire IX BS317 crashed in France on a RODEO, possibly due to oxygen starvation, F/S B.H. Nickel missing.

4 401 Sqn. Spitfire IX BS277 shot down in English Channel by German fighters on a RODEO, Sgt H.M. Batters killed.

4 401 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.

4 402 Sqn. Spitfire IX BS132 missing from combat with German fighters on a RODEO over France, F/S R.B. Honeycombe RCAF (USA) killed.

4 402 Sqn. Spitfire IX BS450 missing from combat with German fighters on a RODEO over France, P/O H.E. McGraw killed.

4 402 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).

4 416 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BM292 abandoned over England due to engine failure, Sgt J.R. McLeod safe (416 SH, www.spitfires.ukf.net). See Jan. 23, 1943.

4 #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.

4 #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.

4 #149 (BR) Sqn. RCAF, Patricia Bay, B.C., Beaufort I N1005 'A' crashed, killing Sgt P. Bures RCAF (Czech.). A book about Sgt Bures was published in the Czech Republic, *Mechanikem RCAF*, by Pavel Vancata, 2002.

4 #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.

4 USAAF ATC C-64A (Norseman) 43-5107, operated by *Northwest Airlines,* crashed landing at Edmonton, Alberta (possibly at Cooking Lake?) (AAIR).

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4-5 418 Sqn. Boston III Z2207 missing on a INTRUDER/NICKEL sortie over France, P/O G.J. Lawson RAF, P/O C.D. Marshall RAF and P/O J.W.R. Pavitt RAF killed (H.A. Halliday & H. Welting, www.rafcommands.com).

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 V BA791 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 (www.rafcommands.com). 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.

5 404 Sqn. Beaufighter IIf V8157 EE-P crashed in England from a high speed stall in a steep turn at low altitude in a practice dogfight, P/O N. Taylor and Sgt S.E. Pike RAF killed (www.404squadron.com, R. McNeill www.rafcommands.com).

5 409 Sqn. Beaufighter VIf X8140 crashed in England after an engine failure, P/O K.E. Warner RCAF (USA) and Sgt H. Pendleton RAF killed (CWGC; www.rafcommands.com).

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 RAAF, 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 'X', Sgt P. Vickers RCAF (USA) became lost in weather on a gunnery practice flight and force landed wheels down 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.

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5 94th Twin Engine Flying Training Sqn., USAAF, AT-9 41-12044 flew into the ground in Alabama, USA, F/O D.A. Crowther RAF and a USAAF member (possibly Pvt F.F. Rollins USAAF) killed (www.rafcommands.com; AAIR).

Sunday

6 Battle of Medjez-el-Bab, Heavy German counter attack in Tunisia is halted (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).

6 252 Sqn. Beaufighter If T5137 ditched 3 miles off the African coast near Sirte, one of 4 Beaufighters strafing enemy transports in the area (aviation-safety.net). 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, nearly 150 Dutch civilians were killed altogether. 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 Z2252 OM-M attacked by fighters and shot down off the coast of Holland, P/O J.W. Beck RCAF (USA), WO A.J. Reid RAF, F/O D.R. Redbourn RAF and F/S W.J.A Spriggs RAF killed.

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.

6 226 Sqn. Boston III Z2266 MQ-S shot down into the sea by naval flak, P/O J.L.

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Fletcher, F/O N.J.A. Paton DFM RAF and F/L J.G.A. Maquire RAF missing.

6 464 Sqn. RAAF Ventura I AE702 SB-Q shot down by flak over the target, hitting several houses nearby, F/O M.G. Moor, F/O N. Cohen RAF, P/O S.A. Venneear RAF and Sgt M.L.V. Haas RAAF killed (A. Storr, A.T. Jarvis VMFA pers. comm).

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. The loss is detailed in Palmer & Neeven. F/S Harvey had crashed a #17 OTU Blenheim Sept. 11, above.

6 487 Sqn. RNZAF Ventura I AE701 EG-F flew into the sea or possibly hit a bird and crashed into the sea off Holland, F/S A.G. Paterson, Sgt E.J.F. Vick RAF, Sgt S.J. Isaac RAF and Sgt P.J. Stokes RAF missing, the first loss of the newly formed 487 Squadron (Palmer & Neeven).

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) (487 Squadron commanding officer) and Sgt T.M. Richings RAF killed.

6 #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 Ia 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).

6 #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.

6 #8 Bombing & Gunnery School, Lethbridge, Alberta, Sgt E.L. Williams RAF died of injuries from a Battle accident December 4, above.

6 #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).

6 RAF Ferry Command Hudson VI FK690 crashed just after taking off from Gander, P/O R.G.S. Burrows RAAF, Sgt J.E. Fazel RAAF, Sgt D.P.C. Simmons RAF and P/O G.H. Thomson RAF killed.

6 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).

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6-7 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 June 16-17, 1944.

6-7 7 Sqn. Stirling I R9259 MG-J shot down over Belgium by a night fighter, F/O H.F. Perrot, Sgt A.J. Wilson, F/L H. Arnott RAF, P/O R.L. Boyes RAF, Sgt E.A. Brookes RAF and Sgt J.W. Simmons RAF killed, Sgt W. McLean RAF evaded. (ref. S. Hadaway).

6-7 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 76 Sqn. Halifax II BB242 MP-P crash landed in France, P/O W.C. Hillier MiD RAF and Sgt A.F. Smith RAF killed, Sgt R.L. MacDonald, Sgt J.A. Parkin RAF and Sgt J.E. Theckston RAF PoW, Sgt H.J.B. Canter RAF and Sgt H.O. Robertson RAF evaded.

6-7 101 Sqn. Lancaster I ED322 SR-T crashed into sea off England on an operation to Germany, P/O H.E. Dabbs DFC, Sgt R.J. Middleton, F/S R.G. Smith and Sgt J. Hughes RAF killed, F/S L.R. Anderson, F/S S. Franchuk and Sgt W.T. Warren RAF missing. [Sgt Anderson listed in TSGNO as lost July 30, 1943?]

6-7 102 Sqn. Halifax II W7911 lost over France, F/S J.G. Clements, F/S W. Jackson, F/S J. McCartney, Sgt F.J. Eden RAF, Sgt P.A.J. Grant RAF, Sgt D.C. Langford RAF and Sgt S. Brownhill RAF killed.

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.

6-7 115 Sqn. Wellington III BJ898 KO-C lost over Germany, F/S E.F. Stammers, Sgt D.G.

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Williams, F/O J.S. Abel RAF, F/O H.W. Larkins RAF and Sgt R.E. Hayman RAF killed. F/S Stammers had been injured Sept. 8, 1942 in the loss of a #16 OTU Wellington.

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 Ic HF887 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 (www.rafcommands.com). 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 DFC RAF missing.

7 404 Sqn. Beaufighter IIF V8211 crashed at night in Scotland, Sgt J.B. Elder RAF (Can.) and P/O J.V. Ensom killed R. McNeill www.rafcommands.com).

7 #1 Beam Approach School Oxford I V4051 crashed, F/S H.L. Maughan and F/L N.A. Butcher RAF killed (R. McNeill www.rafcommands.com).

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.

8 252 Sqn. Beaufighter Ic EL270 was on a convoy escort and was damaged by Ju 88, and crash landed on return to base, Sgt S.J. Kernaghan and Sgt A. Powell RAF (?) safe (aviation-safety.net).

8 ADUME (Air Delivery Unit Middle East?), Beaufort Ia DW856 crashed at Takoradi, Ghana, on a test flight, killing F/S D.W. Gordon, Sgt S.J. Holmes RAF and LAC A.C. Sharp RAF (www.rafcommands.com).

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.

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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. Blignaut RAF, Sgt E. Bance RAF, Sgt F.G. Crapp RAF, Sgt R.G. Oliver RAF and Sgt R. Skelton RAF missing.

8-9 101 Sqn. Lancaster I W4782 SR-J shot down by flak and crashed in Denmark on a GARDENING operation, F/S E.C. McLean, WO2 F.P.D. Quinn and Sgt D.A. Milligan RAAF killed, Sgt W.E. Currier, Sgt D.F. MacDonald, Sgt R.F. Johncock RAF and Sgt R.O.S. Lucas RAF PoW. WO Quinn had survived a crash landing of a #20 OTU Wellington Aug. 9, above.

8-9 102 Sqn. Halifax II W7925 believed lost over the sea on a GARDENING sortie in the Baltic, Sgt W.N. Hopwood RAF and Sgt F.E.A. Box RAF killed, F/S G.C. Haig, F/S C.A. Massey, Sgt B.J. Ketchell RAF, Sgt C.G. Adnams RAF and Sgt A.C. Parry RAF missing.

8-9 149 Sqn. Stirling I R9253 OJ-C crashed on mud flats off Germany on a GARDENING sortie, Sgt D.P. McAleese RAF killed, F/O L.T. Izzard, F/S S.H. Hopkinson RAF, Sgt J.L. Strachan RAF, Sgt R.H. Williams RAF, Sgt F.H.K. Watt RAF, Sgt P.W. Ditchburn RAF and Sgt W. Osborn RAF missing.

8-9 207 Sqn. Lancaster I R5570 EM-R lost over Italy, Sgt W.H. Ellis RAF (Can.), Sgt W.E. Lodge RAAF, W/C 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]

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(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 Saguenay (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).

9-10 9 Sqn. Lancaster I W4764 WS-K shot down over France by a night fighter, WO2 L.H. Jordan, Sgt K.F. Neville RAF (Nfld.), Sgt L.F.W. Jones RAF, Sgt E.C.P. Newton RAF, Sgt W.M. Rimscha RAF, Sgt A.W.A. Robinson RAF and Sgt H.J. Warburton RAF killed.

9-10 57 Sqn. Lancaster I W4250 DX-K crashed in England on return from a sortie to Italy, F/S R.B. Dion, P/O A.J. McLaughlin, F/S G.H. Ramey and Sgt K.W. Pharoah RAF killed, Sgt T.N. MacLeod, Sgt W.O. Lundy RAF and Sgt J.F. MacPherson RAF injured. See Dec. 12, below.

9-10 115 Sqn. Wellington III X3393 KO-H lost on an operation to Italy, Sgt J.R. Tolmie, Sgt L.J. McCosham and Sgt R.M. Devine PoW, Sgt R.P. Smith and Sgt M. Reid RAF evaded.

9-10 #25 OTU Wellington III BK259 'A' force landed in England with engine problems returning from a NICKEL sortie over France, Sgt K.A.G. Miller and Sgt R.H. Pennells RAF injured, Sgt J.H.S. Harsley RAF, Sgt M.H. King RAF and Sgt W. Foster RAF safe.

Thursday

10 <u>Stalingrad</u>, Railway yards and depots in Soviet back areas east of the Volga

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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 I AP120 took off for a dive-bombing practice flight off Karachi, India, and was not seen again, presumed to have flown into the sea after radioing they were about to bomb their practice target, WO1 B. Carmichael and Sgt T.H. Lawton RAF missing (CWGC; www.rafcommands.com).

10 138 Sqn. Halifax I 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 RAAF, 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 DFC RAF (Czech.), F/L V. Krcha RAF (Czech.), P/O M. Rozprym RAF (Czech.), P/O F. Vanicek RAF (Czech.), P/O J. Tesar RAF (Czech.), WO V. Panek 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 RAAF, 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.

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10 125 (Newfoundland) Sqn. Beaufighter VIF X7963 had engine problems on a defensive patrol and crashed into the North Sea, S/L G.A. Denby DFC RAF and P/O E.S. Burrows RAF missing (aviation-safety.net).

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 #22 OTU Wellington III DF736 DD-L crashed in England returning from a night cross country flight, Sgt A.E. Nash, WO1 D.M. Smardon, Sgt W. Suttill, Sgt F.J. Baker RAF and Sgt W.E. Halliday RAF killed.

10 RAF Ferry Command Boston III BZ287 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 USAAF 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. See also J.H. Martin for a photo of the aircraft at it's forced landing site.

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.

10 Recruiting Centre, Hamilton, Ontario (attached), aero engine mechanic AC2 R.A. Urie died in hospital in Galt of natural causes (www.rafcommands.com).

Friday

11 Russian gains at Velikie Luki (CJCA headline).

11 272 Sqn. Beaufighter VI T5167 crashed into a hill near Tiberias, Palestine, killing WO2 J.K. Conn and Sgt K. Brighton RAF (www.rafcommands.com).

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 injures, 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,

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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 the 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). See April 14, 1944.

11-12 10 Sqn. Halifax II DG222 ZA-Q lost over France on an operation to Italy, F/S J.L. Dunlop, WO2 A.R. Juneau, F/O C.A. McRoberts, Sgt C.F. Budgen RAF, Sgt R.W.J. Crooks RAF, Sgt G. Kilpatrick RAF and F/S P.A. Warren RAF killed.

11-12 78 Sqn. Halifax II W7764 returned early from an operation over Italy and ditched off England with an engine fire, Sgt R.G. Head, P/O M.P. Watson RAF, Sgt G.E. Coleman RAF, Sgt L. McKinnon RAF, Sgt G.P. Bailey RAF, Sgt T.R. Galbraith RAF and Sgt W. Bamford RAF safe.

11-12 102 Sqn. Halifax II W7933 flew into the ground descending through cloud in England returning from an operation to Italy, F/S F. Allen, F/S J.A. McPhee, Sgt G.J. Morgan RAF, Sgt B. Norris RAF, Sgt R.L. Lines RAF, Sgt C.R. Wooley RAF and Sgt W.H. Casson RAF (S. Rhod.) killed (R. Allenby).

11-12 158 Sqn. Halifax II DT579 NP-V lost over France, F/O R.F. Watson, F/O J.B. Aris RAF, P/O D.R. Collyer RAF, Sgt R. Edlington RAF, Sgt J.W. Furniss RAF, F/S H. Middleton RAF and F/L C.L. Sparke killed.

11-12 199 Sqn. Wellington III BK414 EX-T hit by flak, set on fire and abandoned over France

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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. Turner-Jones RAF, 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, using classic blitzkrieg tactics of air attacks on Soviet airfields and support for the ground advance with Stuka and medium bombers. Soviet air forces were not active in the attack zone, but were concentrating on attacks on airfields inside the surrounded area, disrupting transport flights and with the intention of preventing the surrounded forces from attempting a break-out (C. Bergström). Hitler, however, had refused 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 38 Sqn. Wellington Ic HF881 lost bombing Tripoli, WO2 A.L. Croll, F/O B.W. Glickman (on loan from 458 Sqn. RAAF), F/S W.S.T. Carter RAF, Sgt A. Mannering RAF and F/S J.P. Robinson RAF missing (www.rafcommands.com).

12 57 Sqn. F/S T.N. MacLeod died of injuries received in the crash of a Lancaster Dec. 9-10.

12 167 Sqn. Spitfire Vb EP443 VL-Q missing on a scramble over the North Sea, F/S E.H. McConnell-Taylor missing.

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 (Beaufort?) 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, Canadian built Hurricane X AG177 crashed after striking a tree on an exercise, killing WO2 T.A. Johnston (www.rafcommands.com).

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

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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. Callery, 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.

12 #39 SFTS, Swift Current, Saskatchewan, Oxford I AS790 crashed, LAC T.N. Wood RAF killed.

Sunday

13 #113 (BR) Sqn. RCAF detachment leaves Chatham, NB for Yarmouth, NS (RCAF Sqns.).

13 73 Sqn. Hurricane IIc HV441, F/S D.M. Logan claimed a Ju 88 shot down in the evening near Benghazi, Libya (Shores, Massimello V.2). See March 5, 1943.

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.

13 411 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AB283 crashed in UK, F/S J.D. Barbour killed (411 SH).

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 #3 AFU, Wellington VIII HX681 lost, F/S G.M. Dunn, F/S W.E. Foster, F/S L.V. Johnston, F/S S.M. Thomas and Sgt R.C. Brinkley RAF missing (www.rafcommands.com).

13 #11 Recruiting Depot AC2 G.H. Taylor died on leave of natural causes after re-mustering to aircrew training.

13 #33 ANS, Hamilton, Ontario, Anson I #6709 crashed near Avon, Ontario after hitting trees in a snowstorm, Sgt R.G. Board RAF, LAC S.I. Bressloff RAF, LAC C.

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Chadwick RAF and LAC E. Johnson RAF killed (Dakota www.rafcommands.com).

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 I AG721 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 (www.rafcommands.com).

14 252 Sqn. Beaufighter Ic T4896 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 A. Cameron RAF PoW (aviation-safety.net). 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 RAF. He is buried in Florida (H. Welting, paulmacmillan and D. Burke at www.rafcommands.com).

Tuesday

15 Soviet Operation MARS, to try and encircle German forces in the Rezhev salient, fails due to heavy air attacks by Luftwaffe and Spanish fighters on attacking Il-2 formations. Over 70,000 Soviet soldiers and airmen died in this attack (C. Bergström).

After trying to send ships from Iceland to Murmansk singly and unescorted, Convoy

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JW-51A leaves Iceland on this date, consisting of 16 heavily escorted merchantmen, much smaller than the size of the earlier PQ convoys. They reached Murmansk undetected on December 25 (C. Bergström).

Married men on call-up status (CJCA headline).

15 194 Sqn. Hudson IIIa FH431 crashed near Tezur, India, on a supply dropping sortie, F/S W.C. Cameron, WO2 G.J.D. Kerswill, F/S R. MacLean RCAF (USA), P/O W.E. Foot RAF and Sgt L.K. Tempest RNZAF missing or no known grave (C. Shores; www.rafcommands.com).

15 260 Sqn. Kittyhawk IIa shot down by German fighters over Libya, Sgt N.E. McKee PoW.

15 119 Sqn. Sunderland II DV971 lost on an anti-submarine patrol; last heard transmitting an SOS, P/O B.D. King, P/O R.I. Law, F/L A.R. McCallum, P/O W.G. Milne, Sgt G.C. Crossan RAF, Sgt T. Gallagher RAF, F/S G. Hamilton RAF, F/O E.N. Jackson RNZAF, Sgt A.G. Shum RAF, Cpl H.R. Watkinson RAF and Sgt A.G.E. Wilson RAF missing (www.rafcommands.com).

15 172 Sqn. Wellington VIII LB114 lost, F/S W.R. Hawthorne, F/S D.G. Ide, F/S J.R.G. McFarland, F/S A.J. Skirten, F/O F.T. Keeping RAF and F/O J.B. Thornton RAF missing (R. Mcneill www.rafcommands.com).

15 405 Sqn. Halifax II crashed in England, returning from a patrol over the sea, when attempting to land on 3 engines, Sgt H.W. Gunn, Sgt R.A. Rollins, F/S R.J.A. Shaw, WO2 R.W. Stewart, Sgt A.G. Gapes RAF, Sgt J. Ryan RAF and F/S L.G. Watson RAF killed.

Wednesday

16 Soldiers pay increased; Liquor sales reduced (CJCA headlines).

Operation LITTLE SATURN, Soviet counter offensive to deflect <u>Stalingrad</u> relief force begins, breaking through Italian Army and forcing attacking German units away from Stalingrad (Oxford). It's full size and intentions to surround another German army had been prevented by the German attempt to reach Stalingrad (C. Bergström).

Using low cloud German fighter bombers attack 20 towns in England, losing 2 (ww2total.com Chronology/1942).

16 260 Sqn. Kittyhawk II, F/S J.F. Edwards claimed a Bf 109 near Marble Arch in Libya (Shores, Massimello V.2). See December 30, below.

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),

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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 15 Sqn. Stirling R9168 LS-T shot down by flak and fighters over Holland, P/O H.E. Hill, P/O R.N. Holmes, P/O E.H. Kieswetter RCAF (USA), P/O F.S. Millen RCAF (USA), Sgt G.S. Hutton RAF and Sgt R.H. McKillop RNZAF killed, Sgt J.F. Perring RAF PoW. See http://www.teunispats.net/fr-wwii.htm for details. There is a book in Dutch about this loss, "*De laatste vlucht van T for Tommy*", by Harry Bouwman.

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 RAAF, 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://75nzsquadron.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 it's 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.

16-17 #23 OTU Wellington III X3336 crashed on high ground in England on a training flight, P/O A. Higgins, F/S R.W. Lawton, F/S R.V.W. Bellew RAF, Sgt A.J. Dubben RAF, P/O R.S. Goodwin RAF and Sgt G.W. Hicks RAF killed. See R. Allenby for details.

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.

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With the failure of Operation MARS Soviet tactical and heavy bombers begin an offensive against German supply lines into the Rezhev salient, especially rail lines and stations, by day and night, which Luftwaffe fighters find difficult to counter (C. Bergström).

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 C.H. Pooley RAF killed, F/O R.L. Coulter, F/O G.C. Silver, Sgt I. Booth RAF and Sgt H.G. 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

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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 RCAF (USA), 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. Sheppard RAF killed, F/S G.T. Graham, Sgt H. Brown, Sgt E.H. Bundy, F/O R.R. Michell RAF and Sgt J.K. Alger RAF PoW.

17-18 44 Sqn. Lancaster I W4126 KM-B shot down by naval flak on the Dutch island of Texel, F/O J.W. Loree, F/O R.N. McCleery, Sgt G.W. Jones RAF, Sgt G. Beckett RAF, Sgt K. MacLeod RAF and F/O L.G. McNamara RAF killed, Sgt G.A. Read RAF PoW. See also D. Black 2009.

17-18 44 Sqn. Lancaster I ED355 KM-D shot down over Holland by a night fighter, F/S W.M.J. Stark, F/S J.G. Dening RAAF, Sgt E. Croal RAAF, Sgt J.A. Callan RAF, P/O M.A. Nias RAF, Sgt G.B. Wilkinson RAF and Sgt L.G. Powell RAF killed. There is a monument now at the crash site following the discovery of the wreckage in 1951. See http://www.teunispats.net/fr-wwii.htm for details.

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 97 Sqn. Lancaster I R5497 OF-Z lost without trace, P/O J.E. Bunt, WO2 R.S. Donald, Sgt W.C. Morgan RAF, F/S J.S. Macks RAF, Sgt C.A. Farrimond RAF, Sgt J.G. Liney RAF and F/S J.G. Hebdon RAF missing.

17-18 97 Sqn. Lancaster I ED338 OF-B shot down into a polder in Holland, F/S S.F. Mattoon, F/O S.L. McBurney, WO2 L.E. Thorneycroft, WO2 C.C. Trudell, Sgt J. Izatt RAF, Sgt W.H.P. Kelleher RAF and Sgt G. Bull RAF killed. W.R. Chorley notes that F/S Mattoon, F/O McBurney and WO2 Trudell's remains were not recovered until 1949, possibly when the polder was completely drained. Referenced at http://www.teunispats.net/fr-wwii.htm.

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

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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).

17-18 103 Sqn. Lancaster I W4786 shot down by a night fighter over Denmark on a GARDENING sortie. Crashed onto a farm where the mines exploded, leaving a large crater, destroying and damaging several nearby buildings. WO2 J.A. Hollinsworth, WO2 A.D. MacDonald, P/O H.B. Smith RAF, Sgt G.T. Canterbury RAF, Sgt F.R. Collins RAF, Sgt N. Frater RAF and F/O S.T. Hewitt RAF killed (for details see http://www.flensted.eu.com/194274.shtml).

17-18 115 Sqn. Wellington III BK274 KO-T shot down over Germany, P/O E.T. Bugden RAF (Nfld), F/O A.B. Campbell, F/S S.W. Sotkowy, F/O J.D. Woodman and Sgt T. Emery RAF killed. P/O Bugden is listed on the Newfoundland Roll of Honour (http://ngb.chebucto.org/NFREG/WWII/ww2-hon-roll-raf.shtml).

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.

17-18 218 Sqn. Stirling I W7614 HA-J lost over Germany, F/O C.C.M. McCann, WO2 J.B. Nault and Sgt M.W. Lavelle RAF killed, Sgt H.R. Whittall, F/O R. Marshall RNZAF, Sgt S. Wilson RAF and Sgt W.C. Fraser RAF PoW.

17-18 218 Sqn. Stirling I BF403 HA-R shot down by navy flak into the sea off Holland, F/L L.C. Shepherd RNZAF and Sgt S. Holmes RNZAF killed, F/S J.N.C. Hornidge, Sgt C.M. Taylor RAF, Sgt A.J.C. Lavers RAF, Sgt A.F. Copplestone RAF and Sgt G. Price RAF missing.

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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 <u>Stalingrad</u>. Airlift of supplies peaks at 120 tons a day, besieged forces becoming short of fuel, food and munitions (Oxford).

19 46 Sqn. Beaufighter VIf 'R' failed to return from a sortie over Sicily, F/O J.R.W. Roe RAF (Can.) and P/O G. Farmer RAF missing (aviation-safety.net).

19 250 Sqn. Kittyhawk III FR333 'Z' shot down by flak over Libya, F/S G.L. Robinson PoW (Shores, Massimello V.2).

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.

19 421 Sqn. clerk LAC C.F. Hutton died in England of natural causes.

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, F/L J.K. Potter and Sgt J. Luke RAF missing, P/O H.A. Goggin, Sgt C.E. Channey, Sgt B.B. Currie, F/L J.T. Reed, Sgt J.H.R. Tait RAF and Sgt R.J. Webster RAF survived, passengers F/O D.M. Cameron RAF killed and Sgt A.G. Rees RAAF missing, 8 others rescued (A. Storr; www.rafcommands.com).

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 VIII 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; www.rafcommands.com).

Sunday

20 German forces routed on the middle Don (CJCA headline). The German advance towards Stalingrad is stopped 55 km short of the surrounded area, by strong defences and the LITTLE SATURN attack. Luftwaffe units are operating with fewer serviceable aircraft and few replacements, allowing Soviet air units greater opportunities to support ground operations fighting the attempt to break through to Stalingrad. In the afternoon the weather begins to close in, mist and ground fog covering the battle zones (C. Bergström).

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).

A* Canadian Pacific Airlines *Lockheed 14 Super Electra CF-CPD enroute from Whitehorse to Vancouver via Prince George disappeared short of it's destination, off course in poor weather. A search was made for several weeks but poor weather and snow hampered the effort. In June 1943 the search was resumed and the wreckage was found at 7,000 near a ridge on Mount William Knight east of Chilliwack. The bodies of the crew of three and their ten passengers were buried at the crash site. The creek that drains out of the

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crash site is now known as Airplane Creek (explorenorth.com).

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 in Kittyhawk III FR117 (disputed) and Sgt R.H. Adams RAF taken PoW (www.rafcommands.com). The other 9 aircraft returned but 2 were badly shot up.

20 248 Sqn. Beaufighter VIF EL407 WR-K shot down off France on an patrol, WO1 H.A. Sharpe and F/S J.L. Fowler RAF missing (aviation-safety.net). One of two lost by 248 Sqn. on this patrol.

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

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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 and wood airframe 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 10 Sqn. Halifax II BB243 ZA-G had 2 large bombs fail to release and was lightly damaged by flak, but returned to land in England, Sgt L. Hanigan, Sgt F. Easton RAF, Sgt D. Brown RAF, Sgt S.D. Baldock RAF, Sgt B.T. Scammell RAF, Sgt R.G. Edwards RAF and Sgt H.E. Cross RAF safe (R. Allenby).

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, P/O 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 49 Sqn. Lancaster I R5762 shot down on the coast of Holland by flak, F/S E.I. Johnston, Sgt A. Howison RAF, Sgt R.A. Bignell RAF, Sgt M. MacLellan RAF, Sgt F.W. Morris RAF, Sgt G.A. Wainwright and Sgt S.J. Wick RAF killed. Sgt Johnston had bailed out of a #19 OTU Whitley Sept. 13-14.

20-21 76 Sqn. Halifax II DT511 MP-D shot down over Germany by a night fighter, F/S R.W. Forman, F/S W.A. Henschel, F/O D. Anderson RAF (Brazil), Sgt T.H. Walpole RAF, Sgt F.G. Tredinnick RAF, P/O W.S. Brimble RAF, Sgt J. Davey RAF and Sgt W.E. Adams RAF killed (H. Welting www.rafcommands.com).

20-21 76 Sqn. Halifax II DT570 MP-R shot down over Germany, WO2 E.G. Jones, F/S A.R. O'Dell (both attached from 428 Sqn. for experience), S/L R.N. Peace DFC RAF, Sgt D. Brierley RAF, Sgt J.E.N. Warner RAF, Sgt C.R. Ray RAF, Sgt L.E. Herbert RAF and Sgt F. Gilder RAF killed.

20-21 78 Sqn. Halifax II DT509 ditched in the North Sea after running out of fuel returning

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from an operation over Germany, P/O A.L. Fox killed, WO2 J.A. Hunter, F/S J.L. Kingsley, WO2 E.C. Malone and Sgt A.W. Edwards RAF missing, Sgt C.R. Baillie and F/S W.J. Ashworth rescued, injured.

20-21 97 Sqn. Lancaster I R5512 OF-C shot down by flak over Amsterdam, where it crashed into a park, P/O M.A. Harper, Sgt A. Mortimer, P/O 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.

20-21 106 Sqn. Lancaster I R5697 lost over Holland, F/S J. Gardner, F/S R.D. Wiberg, Sgt G.S. Anderson RAF, Sgt F.N. Skinner RAF, Sgt F.V. Lamb RAF, Sgt E.J.D. Watt RAF and Sgt R.M. Paterson RAF killed.

20-21 156 Sqn. Wellington III Z1660 lost over Germany, WO F.V. Watkins RNZAF and P/O S.W. Brooke-Norris RAF killed, Sgt H.C. Arbic, S/L J. Carter RAF and Sgt M. Southey RAF PoW.

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.

20-21 425 Sqn. Wellington III Z1729 KW-T shot down by a night fighter over Holland, P/O J.H.J. Cholette, P/O P.A.G. Martel, WO2 J.P.A. Raymond, WO2 C.W.H. Roy killed, F/S L.F. Causley RAF and Sgt H. Mohin 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 hospital in Egypt of natural causes (www.rafcommands.com).

21 152 Sqn. Spitfire Vb ER721 missing from a patrol in Tunisia, possibly shot down by flak, WO2 W.A. Dobson killed (www.rafcommands.com).

21 429 Sqn. Wellington III DF624 was abandoned over England on a training flight when both propellors 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.

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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 7 Sqn. Stirling I R9262 MG-A shot down over the Ardennes in France, F/O H. Duro RAF, Sgt G.R. Dickenson RAF and Sgt A.T. Carpenter RAF killed, Sgt P.G.E. Ross RAF PoW, P/O F.E. Lewis, Sgt H.L. McBeath and Sgt T.I. Boddy RAF evaded.

21-22 9 Sqn. Lancaster I W4185 WS-G lost over Germany, P/O R.G. Clarkson, Sgt J.F. Edwards, F/S E. Fenwicke-Clennell RAF, F/S J.P. Warren RAF, P/O J.A.W. Moffat DFC RAF and Sgt J.H. Baker RAF killed, Sgt P.M. Slater RAF PoW.

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. RAAF 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.

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Tuesday

22 Hitler orders production of the A-4, later V-2, missile (Polsson).

The transport situation to <u>Stalingrad</u> is becoming desperate, some days losing half of the transports to air and ground attack. On this day Luftwaffe transport units in Sicily, flying supplies to German units in Tunisia, begin withdrawing to Germany to be equipped for winter operations and sent to Russia (C. Bergström).

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 18 Sqn. Blenheim V BA822 crash landed in Tunisia after an engine failure, Sgt T.V. Parker RAF injured, WO G.F. Wallace and Sgt W.J. Herring RAF safe.

22 89 Sqn. Beaufighter IF X7753 stalled and crashed on approach to land in Algeria when the dinghy in the wing deployed and wrapped around the aircraft's tail, F/L H.E. Mitchell and P/O J.G. Trebell DFM killed (aviation-safety.net).

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).

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See November 1943.

22-23 407 Sqn. Hudson V AM695 lost on an anti-shipping patrol, F/L J.L. Ellam, WO1 J.L. Gaucher, F/O C.W. Woodward and F/S E.F. Willson RAF missing. It is noted that WO Gaucher had been wounded Jan. 10, above in another 407 Hudson.

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). 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).

22-23 415 Sqn. Hampden TB.I badly damaged on the same attack as Sgt Ellersgodt, above, Sgt J.C. Donald returned, safe (415 SH). See December 30, below.

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.

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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].

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) in 20 minutes. Supplies, fuel and maintenance equipment essential for cold weather operations are also lost, a heavy blow to continued operations (C. Bergström). 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). A second major airfield at Morozovsk is also attacked, but although held by German forces with air support right to the edge of the airfield, Luftwaffe units there were forced to withdraw (C. Bergström). 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, apparently of a self-inflicted gunshot (www.rafcommands.com).

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.

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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). Possibly 331st Single Engined Flying Training Squadron AT-6B 41-17279 wrecked in a force landing on this date in Arizona (J. Baugher).

24-25 Three OBOE attacks on 2 targets, again hitting the Krupp complex in Essen (BC War Diaries).

24-25 Ferry Command Catalina Ib FP266 lost on delivery flight to England, F/S D.O. Bevan, Radio Officer J.H. Auld, Ferry Captain B.H. Pierce (USA), Sgt G.E.J. Craven RAAF, Sgt R. Harding RAF and Sgt R.E. Thompson RAF missing.

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).

Fog grounded Bomber Command operations in England for Christmas and Boxing Day (*101 Sqn. Operational Records Book *via David Wallace at www.rafcommands.com).

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 #119 (BR) Sqn., Sydney, NS, RCAF Hudson III BW695 crashed after a double engine failure just after take-off and blew up, WO2 W.B.E. Bailey, Sgt J.E.P.E. Camire, WO2 L.H. Green and F/S R. MacGranachan killed.

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 German forces that had attempted to break into Stalingrad begin to form a new

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defensive line but attacks by Soviet Pe-2 bombers destroy trains of supplies and ammunition, forcing the relief force to retreat again farther west (C. Bergström).

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 81 Sqn. Spitfire Vc, P/O C. Peppler, claimed 2 Fw 190 fighters damaged over Bône (Shores, Massimello V.3). Possibly same as F/L C.E. Peppler. See May 20, 1944

26 OADU, Wellington VIII 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. Le Bel, F/S J. Richards, F/S W.A. Rollings and Sgt J.G. Wyatt RAF missing (CWGC; www.rafcommands.com).

26 #34 EFTS, Assiniboia, Saskatchewan, DH.82C Tiger Moth #1194 destroyed by fire (R.W.R. Walker).

Sunday

27 Thirty six 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 eight people were killed or died of injuries 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).

Escorting convoy ONS-154* HMCS St. Laurent, HMCS Chilliwack, HMCS Battleford *and* HMCS Napanee *jointly sank* U-356, *but the convoy lost 14 of 47 ships from attacks by 19 U-boats (RCN Chronology).

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.

27 179 Sqn. Wellington VIII HX638 was lost in the Mediterranean after an engine failure, Sgt R.C. Little, Sgt W.R. MacCosham, Sgt L.R. Tunney, Sgt W.J. Wilson, Sgt H.W. Dunn RAF and F/O A.S. Newey RAF missing (www.rafcommands.com).

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 (uboat.net), Sgt E.V.

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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 (uboat.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 <u>Stalingrad</u> again 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.).

28 615 Sqn. Hurricane IIc HV792 hit by anti aircraft fire attacking Akyab airfield in Burma and crashed in the jungle with pilot, WO2 W.G. Pavley (Shores, Cull & Izawa; www.rafcommands.com). See Jan. 2, 1943.

28 152 Sqn. Spitfire Vb ER852 shot down in Tunisia, F/O G.E. Glenwright killed (H.A. Halliday).

28 152 Sqn. Spitfire Vb ER660 shot down in Tunisia, F/O E.R. Gray killed (www.rafcommands.com).

28 152 Sqn. Spitfire Vb ER714 shot down in Tunisia, P/O W.H. Tape twice MiD killed (www.rafcommands.com).

28 #23 OTU Wellington III BK517 was caught in bad weather, hit a tree and crashed in England while on an air test, F/S J.T. McDonald, F/O J.G. Bryne RAF, F/S W. McMillan RAF, LAC L.H. Nicholson RAF, AC2 J.E.G. Beaumont RAF and AC2 G. Broadhurst RAF 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.

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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).

28-29 104 Sqn. Wellington Ic Z8908 'H' failed to return to Malta on an operation to Tunisia, Sgt S. Jefferies, Sgt R.T. Cottrell RNZAF, F/S E.C. Turner RAAF, F/S C.N. Stansbury RAF, Sgt N. Van Gelder RAF and Sgt A.M. Coakey RAF missing.

Tuesday

29 The crew of CF-BMV were found by local Inuit (Tunumiit) 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 of natural causes on a route march in Halifax, NS (www.rafcommands.com).

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).

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Wednesday

30 Luftwaffe transport units withdrawn from Sicily begin arriving in Russia to fly into Stalingrad, bringing the number of aircraft on the airlift to it's highest number, but long distances and aggressive Soviet anti-aircraft artillery, fighters and ground attack operations against the transports and their airfields are reducing the amount flown in, while the very cold weather and very short rations limit the ability of the surrounded soldiers to react to Russian attacks. However with more aircraft 180 tons of supplies were brought in (C. Bergström).

#111 OTU officially opened in the Bahamas with Mitchell aircraft (E. Wiberg).

30 159 Sqn. LB-30 Liberator II AL520 flew into high ground in Syria enroute to India, P/O A.I. McFarlane, Sgt G.V. Brooks RNZAF, Sgt D.K. Dickson RAF, Sgt R.H. Fitchett RNZAF, Sgt R.J. Grimmitt RAF, F/S R.T.C. Dixon RAF, F/S A.C. Feisst RNZAF and F/S J. Henry RNZAF killed (Oughton et al).

30 417 Sqn. Spitfire Vb ER209 shot down over Cyprus, F/O J.F. Paterson killed (www.rafcommands.com).

30 260 Sqn. F/L J.F. Edwards DFC DFM in Kittyhawk III FR350 HS-B and Sgt R.S.N. Brown in a Kittyhawk IIa shared in shooting down a Bf 109, before F/L Edwards shot down a second Bf 109 over Libya (Shores, Massimello V.2). See January 2, 1943.

30 415 Sqn. Hampden TB.I 'T' AE370 was written off at Thorney Island after a ground collision with 59 Squadron Fortress IIa FK188, Sgt J.C. Donald and crew safe (H. Moyle; R.M. Stitt; 415 SH). See April 24, 1943.

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 #1402 Meteorological Flight Hudson IIIa FH407 lost, WO2 S.R. Millar, Sgt P.W. Newbegin RAF, F/S C.W. Chatterley RAF and Sgt S.E. English RAF missing (Lyffe and RussG at www.rafcommands.com).

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 #131 (Coastal) OTU Catalina Ib FP239 flew into a hill in Northern Ireland in poor visibility, F/O R.M. Adams, Sgt G.W. Lowther RAAF, Sgt W. Nichol RAF, LAC L. Greenhalgh RAF, Sgt A.H. Perkins RAF, Sgt D.W. Yates RAF, Sgt F.H. Hilling RAF, Sgt J.E. Slade RAF, Sgt C.B. Ridge RAF, Sgt J.S. Orr RAF, F/O M.J.H. Newman RAF killed (J. O'Loughlin, A. Storr).

30 RAF Ferry Command Boston IIIa BZ238 missing between Georgetown, British Guiana and Belem, Brazil, navigator P/O J.R.W. Craig, US civilian Pilot J.R. Scribbins and UK civil Radio Officer S.G. Wells missing.

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 USAAF 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.

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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 major operations 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.

Thursday

31 On this day Luftwaffe transports flew 205 tons of supplies into Stalingrad, losing 13 aircraft (C. Bergström).

Losses of ships at sea from U-boats had reached alarming levels, and supplies reaching England were far below the level of 1939, resulting in shortages and affecting the war efforts of the USA and England as they sought to build up forces for offensive action in Europe (LH).

RCAF manpower totals 15,011 officers and 138,694 airmen & women.

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 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 VIf 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 August 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 #2 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

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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.

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 83 Sqn. Lancaster I W4799 OL-S lost over Holland on an operation to Germany supporting OBOE Mosquitos, possibly shot down by a night fighter, F/S D. Crossthwaite, WO2 B.E. Hargrove, P/O L.T. Jackson DFC, F/S L.R. Brettle RAF, F/S D. Smith RAF, F/S K. Taylor RAF and F/L J. McMillan RAF killed.

31-1 115 Sqn. Wellington III X3351 KO-T lost on a GARDENING sortie, Sgt W.T. Jones, F/S D. McKay, F/S W.D. Pearce, Sgt S.W. Walmsley and P/O L.W. Hickman RAF PoW (O. Clutton-Brock).

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.

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