

CANADA'S AIR WAR 1943

updated 24/01/06

1943, no details

208 Sqn. Spitfire, Italy, **F/O J.F. Paynter RAF (Can.)** listed as killed in TSGNO but not found in CWGC. However he is listed in London Gazette May 26, 1944 (ref. 537576 John de Camborne Paynter Warrant Officer appointed Pilot Officer (54669) on Probation General Duties branch Feb. 1944). It may be that his listing in TSGNO is in error.

January 1943

RCAF Badge approved by the King.

In the Middle East 417 Sqn. returns it's last Hurricane IIc aircraft and becomes fully equipped with Spitfire V aircraft (RCAF Sqns).

403 Sqn. begins to re-equip with Spitfire IX aircraft (RCAF Sqns.). 429 Sqn. begins to receive Wellington X aircraft (RCAF Sqns).

430 Sqn. formed in England as an Army Co-operation (AC) Squadron, initially on Tomahawk I and II aircraft for training, then Mustang I aircraft for operations (RCAF Sqns).

During this year the RCAF aircrew selection was opened for the first time to non-european candidates, ending a racial policy that extended to the founding of the Royal Flying Corps (A.D. English). One airman who took advantage of this policy change was Claude A. Rowe of Detroit, Michigan. Although he had had a lifetime interest in becoming a pilot he was barred from the training in the USAAF as he had no college education and was an African-American. He joined the RCAF and earned his wings. By then the USAAF was training African-American pilots (the famous Tuskegee Airmen) so he transferred to the USAAF where unlike other transferees from the RCAF he was required to complete the entire flight training program again. Although he didn't see combat he flew in the USAAF/USAF post war and retired as a Captain pilot and weather officer after 20 years (<http://tuskegeeaisd.org/newsletters/byREqsep11.pdf>).

*As well the Canadian Mutual Aid (CMA) program was started. Under the leadership of **C.D. Howe** it was similar to and modelled on the more well known US Lend-Lease program. CMA recognized that it was not economically useful to start and stop war production on a contract/payment basis, especially as Britain*

was not in a position to pay. It was better to keep production lines busy and intact. To this end Canada undertook to finance production in Canadian plants of material for Allied use. Only 30% of Canadian total wartime production went to the Canadian military, the rest went primarily to England (ships, trucks, artillery, aircraft, radios and food), followed by the USSR (vehicles, tanks, aircraft, radio sets, food), Australia, New Zealand, China, India and the Caribbean (Oxford). Another intention was to develop Canadian production facilities and export markets post-war (Douglas & Greenhous). See Aug. 31, 1945.

The first H2S ground plotting radar sets were issued to the Target Finding Force squadrons during the month, as well as standardized, purpose built Skymarker Target Indicators which could be triggered to "cascade" coloured pyrotechnics while in the air for marking over cloud covered targets where ground Target Indicators could not be seen.

The total number of bombers available to Bomber Command was beginning to increase, and these were 4 engined heavy types, especially improved versions of the Halifax and the new Lancaster. A single Group of Lancasters was now able to deliver a greater weight of bombs than the entire Bomber Command force of just a year ago. Bomber Command was on the verge of a great period of expansion (BC War Diaries). See January 1, below.

- 0 unknown unit, Wellington made a belly landing in eastern India after an hydraulic failure, **F/O R.B. Hopkins** was injured, suffering a severe concussion. While being treated in India he met and married a Canadian Nurse serving in the Imperial Nursing Service. They returned to Canada (B. Barry et al). See June 27, 1945.

Friday

1 Initial UN Charter signed.

#6 Group RCAF, formed in Yorkshire as part of Bomber Command, becomes operational with 4 stations (Croft, Dalton, Dishforth and Middleton St. George) and 8 Squadrons (408, 419, 420, 424, 425, 426, 427 and 428) (RCAF Sqns., CCMA). By the wars end #6 Group would be the largest Group in Bomber Command. [Please note that many details on #6 Group from this point are summarized from Richard Koval's <http://www.6bombergroup.ca/> website, especially from his Daily Operations summaries, as noted].

Soviets recapture Velikie Luki (southern Russia); Germans retreat in Caucasus (CJCA headlines).

Following the Battle of the Barents Sea, Hitler orders all large naval ships to be decommissioned (ww2total.com Chronology/1943). German Naval commander Admiral Raeder resigns to protest Hitlers decision to strip the surface fleet of resources (Polsson). Decision later partially reversed, but rebuilding work on the Gneisenau was ended. See March 27, 1945.

#129 (F) Sqn. RCAF, Dartmouth, NS, begins to re-equip with Hurricane XII aircraft (RCAF Sqns.).

- 1 353 Sqn. Hudson IIIA FH281 lost over the Bay of Bengal on a shipping reconnaissance. In 1955 it was determined the Hudson had crashed in Burma, but the crash site was overgrown and exposed to heavy rains, and investigators found no human remains (A. Storr, Joe Baugher). **P/O M.P. Massey**, Sgt S.K. Campbell RAAF, Sgt R. Wilson RAF and Sgt R.G. Wheeler RAF have no known grave.
- 1 81 Sqn. Spitfire Vb ER726 shot down in the Mediterranean theatre, **F/O W.S. Large** missing.
- 1 230 Sqn. Sunderland I N9029 lost in the Mediterranean off Egypt. The wreckage was found on a tidal reef but it was not possible to retrieve the bodies, **WO2 M.J. Dean**, F/O R.H. Holcombe RAAF, F/O R.W. Meaton RAAF, F/O L.S. Clayton RAAF, Cpl E.A.F. Nicholass RAF, LAC J. Savidge RAF, Cpl J. Barnard RAF, Sgt C.F. Butcher RAF, Sgt A.G. Daniels RAF, Sgt W.H. Darge RAF, LAC W.L. Purkiss RAF and F/S L.J. Webber have no known grave (A. Storr).
- 1 125 (Newfoundland) Sqn. Beaufighter VI X7967 ditched into the sea and sank following an engine failure, **F/O W.V. Hall** and his navigator Sgt G. Hewitt RAF missing (aviation-safety.net).
- 1 #1 AFU Anson I AX145 crashed on a navigation exercise. The wreckage was found Jan. 29 on high ground in Scotland, **P/O W.B.C. Thompson**, Sgt E.O. Knight RAAF, P/O B.O. Bown RAAF, P/O W. Burt RAF and Sgt G.D. Singleton RAF killed (A. Storr). See January 21 below.
- 1 #6 SFTS, Dunnville, Ontario, **WO1 A.W.F. Lawrence** died in a car accident near Hamilton, Ontario.
- 1 #31 EFTS?, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4166 damaged at De Winton, Alberta and written off (R.W.R. Walker).
- 1 USAAF 71st B [Base?] HQ OA-9 (Goose) 36-557 crashed in the White Hills near St. John's, Nfld., 1Lt E.E. Jordan USAAF killed, crew ? (AAIR).
- 1-2 70 Sqn. Wellington Ic DV536 'Z' landed wheels up out of fuel at Mersa Matruh returning from an operation over Crete, **F/S R.M. Crosse**, Sgt K. Batson RAF, Sgt F.C. Bennett RAF, Sgt W. Brett RAF, F/S J.W. Crook RAF and F/O N.H.J. Parent RAF safe (BLME V.2). See February 20-21, below.

Saturday

2 Allied bombers bomb Crete and Salerno (CJCA headline). RCAF Station Leeming becomes part of #6 Group, RCAF (RCAF Sqns.).

On orders from new military command of the Manhattan Project Canada's role is unilaterally changed from co-operative research to just supply of raw materials to the US program. See August 24, below.

- 2 615 Sqn., Magwe, Burma, Hurricane IIc HV849 shot down strafing Japanese aircraft on the ground, **F/O R.C. Finn DFM RAF (Nfld.)** killed (C. Shores; www.rafcommands.com). See January 15, below
- 2 615 Sqn., Burma, pilot **WO2 W.G. Pavley**, shot down Dec. 29, 1942, is reported to have died around this date in the jungle. He has no known grave.
- 2 242 Sqn. Spitfire Vb (Trop.) ER118 lost over Malta, **F/S L.B. Murray** missing. Three RAF pilots from 242 Sqn. were also lost on this date from Malta, F/S G.A. Coutts RAF, Sgt E.F. Greenshields RAF and F/S J.R. Mallinson DFM RAF, all missing (malcolm_raf www.rafcommands.com). B. Barry et al notes F/S Murray had fought in the air battle over Dieppe Aug. 19, 1942.
- 2 260 Sqn. Kittyhawk III one of 2 shot down in Tunisia as part of a flight of 11 attacking a German airfield, **F/S A.M. Arklie** PoW (G. Neid; PoW List www.rafcommands.com).
- 2 210 Sqn. Catalina II VA725 lost over the Atlantic, **Sgt F.H. Lukey RAF (Can.)**, **Sgt C.E. Wilde**, Sgt G. Gray RAF, Sgt H. Addinall RAF, WO H.R. Cox RAF, Sgt K. Holmes RAF, Sgt D. Sims RAF, Sgt E. Jones RAF, F/S G.K. Ross RNZAF and Sgt J.B. Robertson RAF missing.
- 2 418 Sqn. Boston III W8292 crashed in England on a test flight, **P/O J.J.A. Field**, F/O P.K. White RAF and ATC Cadet Corporal C.A. Hull (1207 Cadet Sqn.) killed (Henk Welting, forum.12oclockhigh.net).
- 2 #10 AFU Anson I DJ382 lost off the Scottish coast on a cross country flight, **Sgt W.H.M. Maxwell**, **Sgt J.C. McNeill**, Sgt Z. Jejiroski PAF, Sgt J.J. Henderson RAF and Sgt E.H. Woods RAF missing (malcolm_raf, www.rafcommands.com).
- 2 #1658 HCU Halifax II R9388 was practicing 3 engined landings when it suddenly entered a steep climb, stalled, and crashed, Sgt J.H. Atkinson RAF, Sgt W.F. Hewitt RAF and Sgt T.D. Watson RAF killed, **Sgt G.M. Lipsett** injured (R. Allenby).
- 2 #1660 HCU Manchester I L7482 was abandoned after the controls iced up in a snowstorm, **F/O H.C.C. Goodyear RCAF (Nfld.)** and P/O G.J. Gibbings RAF injured, Sgt N.P. Tutt RAF, P/O H. Robertson RAF, Sgt W.A. Barker RAF, Sgt W.R. Jakeway RAF and P/O N. Bird RAF safe. See April 22-23, 1944.
- 2-3 40 Sqn. Wellington Ic HE107 'C' abandoned over Tunisia after an engine failed, possibly due to flak, Sgt C.F. Last RAF and Sgt R.A. Brown RAF injured, **Sgt W.R. Burton**, Sgt C. Richardson RAAF and Sgt J.S. Dovey DFM RAF safe (Col Bruggy www.rafcommands.com).

2-3 Bomber command had 42 aircraft on GARDENING sorties off France and 2 OTU sorties without loss (BC War Diaries). #6 Group RCAF flew it's first operation on this night (R. Allenby). See January 3-4 below and April 30, 1945.

2-3 427 Sqn. Wellington III BK389 ZL-L was damaged by flak on a GARDENING sortie that put a large hole in one wing, **Sgt P.K. Chambers RCAF (USA)**, **Sgt B.H. Garoutte RCAF (USA)**, **Sgt L.H.A. McCormick**, **Sgt R.F. Moore** and **Sgt B.L. Owen RAF (Can.)** safe (R. Allenby). See January 30 and April 16-17, below.

Sunday

3 RCAF Station Topcliffe becomes part of #6 Group RCAF (RCAF Sqns.).

- 3 153 Sqn. Beaufighter If V8621 crashed in Algeria in bad weather after an engine failure on a ferry flight, **F/O W.M. Harris RCAF (USA)**, **F/O F. McNally RAF** and **S/L B.E. Smith-Rewse RAF** killed (aviation-safety.net).
- 3 unknown unit, pilot **WO1 D.J. Hartney** died of natural causes onboard a ship in the Mediterranean and was buried at sea. It is believed that he flew in defence of Malta and was injured there July 20, 1942 when his 185 Sqn. Spitfire Vc (Trop.) BR305 'N' crashed on an air test.
- 3 149 Sqn. Stirling I R9334 OJ-G was landing after a practice bombing exercise but overshot the landing area. Attempting a go around an engine failed and the aircraft crashed into the village of Lakenheath. **Sgt T. Whitelock RAF** was killed, **Sgt F.G. Giacomelli**, **Sgt J.C. Barker**, **F/S J.L. Blair RNZAF**, **Sgt W.F. Johnson RAF**, **Sgt W.H. Clayton RAF** and **Sgt R. Zambra RAF** injured. Fortunately it came down in the local sports field and no one on the ground was hurt. **Mr. F.S. Bullen** received a British Empire Medal for his actions getting some of the crew from the burning wreckage. For a first hand account of this incident see <http://freespace.virgin.net/lakenheath.2000> by **David Giacomelli**, **Sgt Giacomelli's** son.
- 3 428 Sqn. Wellington III Z1722 was landing when a truck drove across the runway in front of it, and they collided, **F/O W.R. Suggitt** and his crew safe, but **AC2 L.C. Keat RAF** and **AC2 J. Morrow RAF** were killed in the truck, and **Sgt G.E.J. Curtis** injured (R. Allenby; www.rafcommands.com). **AC2 Keat** and **AC2 Morrow** were the first airmen lost by 428 Squadron (W.R. Chorley) and probably the first lost by #6 Group. See February 13, 1944.
- 3 #23 OTU radio (radar?) mechanic **LAC J.J. Lammerse** died in hospital of natural causes.
- 3 #132 OTU Blenheim V BA235 crashed in Scotland, **P/O W.O. MacLean** killed (www.rafcommands.com).
- 3 #1 B&G School, Jarvis, Ontario, Bolingbroke crashed, aero engine mechanic **Cpl W.C. Doan** killed, **F/S G.R. Troutbeck** injured. See Jan. 4, below.
- 3-4 #5 Middle East Training School Beaufort Ia DW825 '5M' flew into the water attacking a

practice target in the Gulf of Suez, P/O T.H. O'Neil killed, F/S D.S. Cameron and Sgt G.E. Walker missing. Two survivors were pulled from the water by a nearby vessel, including F/S G.I. Morrison, who died of his injuries.

3-4 Bomber Command attacked Essen with 3 OBOE Mosquitos marking for 19 Lancasters to judge effectiveness of OBOE, plus 45 GARDENING and 3 OTU sorties; 6 Wellingtons of 427 Sqn. make the first operation by #6 Group RCAF (? see January 2-3 above), making GARDENING sorties with 3 successful and 3 returned early due to mechanical problems. Three Lancasters were lost on the Essen attack (BC War Diaries).

- 3-4 9 Sqn. Lancaster I W4840 WS-A shot down over Holland by a night fighter, F/S R.L. Dickie, WO2 R.R. Moore, F/O K.R. Smith, F/L D.H.S. Lonsdale DFC RAF, Sgt A.T. Riley RAF, Sgt J.I. Morris RAF and Sgt A.D. Smitherman RAF killed.
- 3-4 61 Sqn. Lancaster I W4769 QR-V lost over Holland, WO2 R.J. Kee, F/S R.H. Bird RAF, Sgt J. Davis RAF, P/O H.J.R. Tickle RAF, Sgt G.J. Inglis RAF, Sgt R.C. Gait RAF and Sgt L.G. Gunning RAF killed.
- 3-4 207 Sqn. Lancaster I W4134 EM-U shot down over Holland by a night fighter that made 3 attacks, Sgt W.H. Moger RAF, Sgt K.H. Pugh RAF, Sgt I.W. Lineker RAF and Sgt W.J. Harris RAF killed, Sgt G.K. Marwood RAF and Sgt J.K. Banfield RAF PoW, F/S J.B. Chaster evaded (Lancaster, C. et al has details of his evasion and the people he met, but according to R.H. Milne he took his time returning).

Monday

4 US and Australian forces eliminate Japanese forces at Buna Government Mission, New Guinea.

A Free French force from Chad crosses the Sahara desert into Libya where it establishes a base at Oum el Araneb (Oxford).

Time Magazine "Man of the Year" for 1943 is Joseph Stalin.

- 4 102 Sqn. Halifax II W7910 DY-D force landed wheels up after engine problems, WO2 J.F.W. Towse, F/S W.A. Gardiner, Sgt A.T. Tuck RAAF, F/S E. Lee RAF, Sgt K.H. Kirkpatrick RAF, Sgt A.T. Raine RAF and Sgt D.W. Muggleston RAF safe (R. Allenby). This was WO Towse's fourth accident. Later commissioned he was awarded a DFC (Awards).
- 4 429 Sqn. Wellington III X3399 AL-U was taxiing to the runway for a night training flight when it went off the taxiway and was slightly damaged in a collision with a floodlight, Sgt S. Hanan RCAF (USA) and Sgt M.P. Brown RAF (Rhod.) and their crew (believed to be F/S F.H. Purchase, Sgt F.S. Lane and Sgt E.G. Litchfield RAF) safe (R. Allenby). See March 12-13 and April 26-27 below.
- 4 #31 SFTS, Kingston, Ontario, F/L A. Blyth RAF (Can.) died in hospital in Toronto of natural causes (www.rafcommands.com).

- 4 #1 B&G School, Jarvis, Ontario, **F/S G.R. Troutbeck** died of injuries sustained in the Bolingbroke loss the day before.
- 4-5 99 Sqn., India, Wellington Ic HD977 had a bomb hang up on an operation which exploded on landing, Sgt E.M. Croft RAF, Sgt J.D. May RAAF and Sgt F.E.J. Orchard RAF killed, **F/O W.G. Clark**, F/S A.B. Grigor RAF and Sgt F.N. Robertson RAF injured. F/S Grigor died of his injuries the next day. See Jan. 24, below (COL BRUGGY www.rafcommands.com).
- 4-5 Bomber Command returns to Essen with 29 Lancasters dropping on new skymarker Target Indicators released by 4 OBOE Mosquitos with good results, 2 Lancasters lost (BC War Diaries).**
- 4-5 101 Sqn. Lancaster I W4796 SR-R lost without trace, **F/S J. Perry RCAF (USA)**, F/S L.J. Waterhouse RNZAF, Sgt E.J. Dollard RAF, P/O J.D. Brodie RAF, Sgt J.W.C. Clark RAF, Sgt L. Davies RAF and Sgt G.F. Roberts RAF missing.
- 4-5 460 Sqn. RAAF Lancaster I W4818 was attacked by a night fighter that damaged the bomb bay systems and wounded the bomb aimer **Sgt E.E. Wertzler** in both legs and started a fire in the fuselage. After the attacker had been driven off Sgt Wertzler put out the fire but was badly injured in the eye when a fire extinguisher exploded. The aircraft returned to England and landed, the rest of the crew, Sgt P.S. Isaacson RAAF, Sgt R.S.M. Nielsen RAAF, Sgt E.M. Copley RAAF and Sgt J. Grose RAAF safe. Sgt Wertzler received a DFM for his actions, but his injuries ended his operational career, so he re-mustered to a ground trade (R. Allenby).

Tuesday

5 Canadian bomber group in action (CJCA headline).

After testing, US Army orders 29 Sikorsky YR-4 Hoverfly helicopters (wikipedia).

An attempted uprising by Jews in Czestichowa, Poland, was put down by German forces. In retaliation 250 Jewish children and elders were shot on this day. All remaining Jews there were sent to concentration camps over the next few months (wikipedia).

A civilian Lockheed 10 Electra NC14915 flying from Seattle, Washington to Anchorage, Alaska via RCAF Annette Island, Alaska, goes missing following an engine failure in bad weather while attempting to locate the RCAF station with outdated charts. The pilot and most of the 5 passengers are injured at a wreck site on high ground usually covered in cloud. No position report had been received after the Mayday call (G.P. Liefer). See Jan. 10, below.

First of over 100 Fairey Swordfish aircraft entered service with the RCAF for use in

training. In Canada they were equipped with cockpit canopies and heaters (Griffin CMA). Swordfish aircraft later used on RN MAC ships (Merchant Aircraft Carriers) would also be overhauled in Canada at Dartmouth, NS.

American botanist and inventor George Washington Carver died (wikipedia).

- 5 72 Sqn. Spitfire Vb ER962 missing from a ground strafing operation in North Africa, **Sgt A.H. Dewar** PoW (Shores & Massimello V.3; UK National Archives).
- 5 #123 (AC) Sqn. Canadian built Sea Hurricane Ia BW837 was on its Squadron acceptance flight when it crashed following an engine failure, **F/O J.B. Prendergast** safe (www.thisisme.ca/439squadron; www.rafcommands.com). This aircraft had been first issued as a spare aircraft for the MSFU in Halifax, then issued to 118 (F) Squadron in the fall of 1942 where it was damaged in a crash and repaired, twice (R.W.R. Walker).
- 5 #1 General Reconnaissance School, Summerside, PEI, Anson I AX426 crashed at sea off the North Cape lighthouse, PEI, **Sgt W.F. Thompson** RAF killed, **F/S P.C. Bernstein** RCAF (USA), **Sgt E.H. Johnson** RAF and **Sgt A.R. King** RAF missing (floyd williston on www.rafcommands.com).
- 5 #4 Wireless School, Guelph, Ontario, DH.82C4 Menasco Moth II #4906 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).
- 5 #34 OTU, Pennfield Ridge, NB, LAC W.H. Dyason RAF died of natural causes (#34 OTU Roll of Honour).

Wednesday

6 Germans in retreat in Caucasus (CJCA headline).

A force of Japanese soldiers left Rabaul by ship heading to the Japanese occupied port of Lae in New Guinea with orders to attack overland the Australian base at Wau. Prior to the war the gold mines and town at Wau had been built and completely supported by aircraft from Lae. Its use as an Allied military base had been possible by building a supply road from an abandoned gold mine with an airstrip further inland. The planning of the Japanese offensive to eliminate Wau as a threat to Lae had been monitored by ULTRA intercepts, and the Japanese convoy was soon being attacked by RAAF and USAAF aircraft (wikipedia, D. Newton).

- 6 200 Sqn. Hudson VI FK497 crashed in Gambia, West Africa, just after taking off, **Sgt C.C. Blamey**, **WO2 S.J. McCammon**, **WO2 K.M. Miller** and **WO2 J. Shulman** killed.
- 6 #70 OTU, Kenya, Blenheim V BA243 crashed, **F/O F.H. Carr** killed, **Sgt W.B. Nesbitt**, **F/O C.F. Strutt** and **Sgt J.A. Ross** RAF safe (www.rafcommands.com).
- 6 #1406 Meteorological Flight, Master I T8616 crashed in Scotland beating up the airfield at Leuchars, killing **WO1 L.M. McLean** and **S/L A.B. Mitchell** RAF (AlanW www.rafcommands.com). TSGNO notes that **WO McLean** had been injured in a

- flying accident May 21, 1941.
- 6 #124 (Ferry) Sqn., Hurricane XII #5661 was on a delivery flight when it crashed at Mettenacket, Maine, USA. It was recovered and repaired (R.W.R. Walker).
 - 6 #4 Bombing and Gunnery School Fingal Ontario Lysander TT.III #1540 crashed near Shedden, Ontario after completing drogue towing for a gunnery exercise, killing drogue operator **Cpl K.E. Nicholson** and **F/S R. Prentice**.
 - 6 #10 SFTS Dauphin, Manitoba, Crane I #7877 crashed after take-off while practising night circuits, possibly due to structural failure, **LAC(P) K.M. Hancock** and Sgt G.A. Paynton RNZAF killed. See #12 SFTS loss July 25, 1942.
 - 6 #2 Flying Instructor School, Vulcan, Alberta, **F/S H.E. Walker** died in hospital in Lethbridge, Alberta of injuries sustained Dec. 31, 1942.
 - 6 #14 SFTS Aylmer, Ontario, Harvard II #2754 crashed near the airfield practising night flying, **LAC(P) H.D. Weatherbee** killed.
 - 6 #16 SFTS Hagersville, Ontario, Anson II #8266 crashed at Guelph, Ontario, **P/O J. Caskie**, **LAC(P) L.C. Jones RCAF (USA)** and **LAC(P) R.B. Steelman RCAF (USA)** killed.
 - 6 #33 EFTS, Caron, Saskatchewan, DH.82C Tiger Moth #5959 crashed, LAC W.V. Edmondson RAF killed.
 - 6 unknown unit, Canadian built Hampden TB.I AN115 crashed at Regina, Saskatchewan (H. Moyle).
- 6-7 104 Sqn. Wellington II W5401 'F' shot down by a night fighter attacking, Sousse, Tunisia, and exploded, **F/S I.N. Yudell**, Sgt G.A. O'Keefe RAAF, Sgt J.J. Kellest RAF, Sgt J.J. Redmond RAF, F/O T. Lonsdale RAF and S/L I.C. Strutt DFC RAF have no known grave (BLME V.2, A. Storr).

Thursday

7 Despite the loss of 2 ships and all their medical supplies 4,000 Japanese soldiers are landed at Lae. There they are moved by barge down the coast to Salamaua (wikipedia). See January 28, below.

Japanese forces in the Arakan hold off attacks by Indian Army at Donbaik (W. Fowler).

#123 (ACT) Sqn. RCAF Detachment at Sydney returns to Debert, NS (RCAF Sqns.).

Nikola Tesla, inventor of AC electric current, wireless telegraphy and many other inventions, dies in New York (wikipedia).

- 7 614 Sqn. Blenheim V BA731 lost attacking docks in Tunis, F/O M.S. Morris RAF killed, **WO2 R. Marsden RCAF (UK)** and Sgt F.L. Mills RAF missing (BLEM V.2, CWGC).
- 7 175 Sqn. pilot **P/O W.J. Perry** died in England in hospital of head injuries sustained

when he slipped and fell jumping across a stream.

- 7 #5 (BR) Sqn. RCAF, Gander, Nfld, Canso A #9737 crashed south of Gander Lake departing on an anti-submarine patrol, P/O D.L. Hudson, F/S J.T. Mangan, S/L N.E. Small DFC AFC, F/O A.M. Tingle and aero engine mechanic Sgt H.E. White killed, Sgt W.A. Wilson slightly injured, F/S J.E.V. Banning safe (Dr. L. Daly <http://www.planecrashgirl.ca/2016/04/>). S/L Small had sunk U-754 off Cape Sable flying #113 (BR) Sqn. Hudson BW625 on July 31, 1942. According to L. Pope, who once flew as co-pilot to S/L Small, the cause of this loss was believed to be icing (pers. comm. Nov. 20, 2006). According to Richard Goette (*Squadron Leader N.E. Small: A Study Of Leadership In The RCAF's Eastern Air Command, 1942*, Canadian Military Journal, Spring, 2004) S/L Small was testing a specially lightened Canso intended to extend its patrol range, which he says contributed to the crash, but does not explain how. It is possible that both were factors in the loss (ie, heavy fuel load and icing), but without access to the crash report this is speculation. See February 24, below.
- 7 #124 (Ferry) Sqn. RCAF, Bolingbroke IV #9139 had been on a ferry flight when it suffered an engine failure and landed in Maine for repairs. After two days of work the flight continued on this day, but while in the circuit to land at Moncton, NB, the same engine failed, causing a roll into the ground from low level. The pilot, P/O? D. Biden, survived, but aero engine mechanic LAC C.G. Work was killed (details from *Nine Lives*, D. Biden, *Airforce Magazine*, Vol. 12, #4, 1989). Ten years later the same pilot was forced to make another single engined emergency landing at the same airfield in Maine in an RCAF Expeditor.
- 7 #37 SFTS, Calgary, Harvard II's AJ953 and AJ912 collided, P/O P.D. Corlett RAF, LAC A. Leder RAF and LAC D.A. McAuley RAF killed (R.W.R. Walker, H.A. Halliday at www.rafcommands.com).
- 7 #4 SFTS, seconded to #2 Training Command, LAW Olive Goddard Walsh died in hospital in Winnipeg of natural causes (www.rafcommands.com; www.wwiicdnwomensproject.org).

7-8 Essen again targeted by Bomber Command OBOE Mosquitos guiding 19 Lancasters, but only moderate results, no losses (BC War Diaries).

Friday

8 The Target Finding Force is re-designated #8 (Pathfinder) Group, G/C Bennett RAF (Aus.) promoted to Air Commodore to command the Group at request of ACM Harris (BC War Diaries).

F/L Richard H. Hillary RAF (Aus.), a Guinea Pig and author of the best seller "The Last Enemy" about his experiences as a fighter pilot in the Battle of Britain, was killed in an air accident on this day.

- 8 427 Sqn. Wellington III BJ604 ZL-A, **Sgt W.E. Harwood** pilot, overshot it's landing at Middleton St. George in poor visibility and ended up just beyond the airfield perimeter blocking railway tracks. The crew **Sgt W. Newcombe**, **Sgt E.E. Plaster**, **Sgt O.H. Skelton** and **Sgt F.C. Smith** evacuated the aircraft but within minutes a freight train ploughed into it which exploded the fuel on board. The train's stoker Railwayman A. Glover jumped from the moving train and was killed, and Fireman G.F. Barber injured (P. Tweddle; www.rafcommands.com). This was the first loss by #6 Group RCAF.
- 8 #2 (Coastal) OTU Beaufighter VIc JL441 crashed in England in a snowstorm, possibly due to the engines stopping due to a fuel management error, killing **F/O R.L.R. Hepburn** and his navigator P/O P.N. Dix RAF (alclark www.rafcommands.com; R. Allenby; aviation-safety.net). F/O Hepburn's brother, **F/L D.S.R. Hepburn**, had been killed April 17, 1942, in the Augsburg Raid. His uncle, **Chaplain Lt Col C. Hepburn MM**, serving in England, arranged (with some creative paperwork) for his cremated remains to be returned to Canada where they are interred in the family plot in Stanstead, Quebec (J. Boileau).
- 8 #3 AFU Oxford I BG158 crashed on a night cross country exercise, **F/O R.P. Frayn RCAF (USA)**, Sgt N. Allison RAF and P/O J.G. Beck RAF killed (www.rafcommands.com).
- 8 #1443 Flight Wellington III BJ836 flew into high ground practicing night circuits, **Sgt R.V. Bridgeman** killed, **Sgt D.H. Neelin**, **F/S J.A. Reynolds**, **Sgt C.M.J. Murphy** and Sgt F.E.W. Clarke RAF injured. F/S Reynolds was later a Guinea Pig, and after treatment in England and Canada was posted to Ferry Command for ground, and later flying duties (R. Donovan).
- 8 #113 (BR) Sqn. RCAF, Yarmouth, NS, Hudson III BW447 crashed on a sandbar outside of the harbour at Yarmouth, NS, practicing bombing, **LAC W. Dale**, **Sgt W.D. MacRae**, **F/S D.M. May**, **Sgt L.E. Thomas** and **P/O E.W. Vogelsang** killed.
- 8 #2 SFTS, Uplands, Ontario, Harvard IIb #3080 crashed near Kars, Ontario, killing **Sgt C.A.P. McCabe** and LAC(P) M. Voss RAF.

8-9 Duisburg was the target of Bomber Command with 38 Lancasters bombing on 3 OBOE markers with 3 losses, and 73 GARDENING sorties and 2 OTU sorties, 2 losses (BC War Diaries).

- 8-9 9 Sqn. Lancaster I W4159 WS-Y shot down by a night fighter over Holland, **WO2 A.D. Foote**, Sgt M. McKenzie RAF, Sgt W.T. McLennan RAF, Sgt G. Mitchell RAF, Sgt M.W. Stephenson RAF, Sgt P.G. Brogan RAF and Sgt R. Wardrop RAF killed.
- 8-9 12 Sqn. Lancaster I W4371 PH-C lost without trace on a GARDENING sortie, **WO2 J.E. Bradley**, **WO2 J.A. Buick**, **WO2 D.C. Marshall**, Sgt R.F. Cripps RAAF, Sgt S.V. Ramsay RAF (S. Africa), Sgt G.D. Hester RAF and Sgt W.D. Dorey RAF missing.
- 8-9 44 Sqn. Lancaster I W4277 KM-S "Chris Columbus" lost over Denmark on a GARDENING sortie, **F/S M.J. Paige**, F/O A.G. Cameron RAF, Sgt A.R.A. Colonna

RAF, Sgt J. Hutchison RAF, Sgt J.H. Lightfoot RAF, Sgt D.B. Moog RAF and Sgt S. Wright RAF killed (<http://www.lancaster-archive.com>).

- 8-9 50 Sqn. Lancaster I W4800 VN-T lost over Germany, **F/S H.G. Dyer**, Sgt E.A. Sisson RNZAF, Sgt J. Kiernan RAF, Sgt P.S. Fisher RAF, P/O O.T.P. King RAF, Sgt E. Mantell RAF and Sgt K. Hall RAF killed.
- 8-9 467 Sqn. RAAF Lancaster I ED367 PO-H lost without trace, **P/O R.T. Hanbridge**, **F/S H.A. Horton**, **F/S D.H.B. Powell**, **P/O A.M. Wark RCAF (USA)**, **F/S S.V. Woyce**, Sgt E.J.C. Florey RAF and Sgt J.W. Humphries RAF missing. This was the first loss of a 467 Sqn. Lancaster.

Saturday

9 Thirty one light bombers (Venturas, Bostons and Mosquitos) attack targets in Holland and France, 1 Mosquito lost (BC War Diaries).

First flight of the Lockheed L-49 (C-69) Constellation 4-engined transport (M.J.H. Taylor).

- 9 #11 AFU Oxford II AP500 crashed in England, **Sgt G.J. Raby** killed.
- 9 #14 OTU Wellington Ic W5629 crashed on take off on a training flight, Sgt J.F.H. Mahony RAF, P/O J.P. Butler RAF and Sgt R.C. Havelock RAF killed, **Sgt J.H. Dillman**, **P/O H.D. Link** and Sgt J. Hill injured.
- 9 #32 SFTS (?), Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Anson crashed, N.S. Selmer RNor.AF killed (wikipedia).

9-10 Bomber Command sent 52 aircraft to Essen and 121 GARDENING sorties with 7 aircraft lost. OBOE gives a good concentration in the city centre (BC War Diaries).

- 9-10 10 Sqn. Halifax II BB252 ZA-X lost over Holland on a GARDENING sortie, **F/S C.B. Fetherstonhaugh**, **F/S C.L.C. King**, **F/S J.W. Smith**, **F/S A.W. Wilson**, Sgt E. Fish RAF and Sgt A. Smith RAF killed, Sgt M.J. Boyle RAF injured, but died of his injuries Jan. 15.
- 9-10 51 Sqn. Halifax II DT483 MH-P lost without trace on a GARDENING sortie, **F/S R.J.A. Cowan**, **F/S E.W.D. Roberts RCAF (Nfld.)**, Sgt R.A. Banks-Martin RNZAF, Sgt J.E.L. Griffiths RAF, **F/S P.A.J. Rudkin RAF**, Sgt H.A. Smith RAF and Sgt C.J. Osborne RAF missing.
- 9-10 57 Sqn. Lancaster I ED319 DX-H shot down over Holland by a night fighter, **F/S W.A. Gillen RCAF (USA)**, Sgt D.S. Warlow RNZAF, Sgt V.J. Donaldson RAF, Sgt R.E. Roberts RAF, Sgt A. Jacobsen RAF, Sgt J. Webber RAF and Sgt G. Roe RAF killed.
- 9-10 97 Sqn. Lancaster I R5738 OF-D shot down by a night fighter over Holland, **WO2 W.S. Hignell**, **F/S S.R. Colbert RAF**, Sgt T.G. Hesketh RAF, Sgt D.D. Richardson RAF, Sgt T.P. Bowles RAF and Sgt D. Wright RAF killed, **Sgt D.J. Dell PoW**.
- 9-10 158 Sqn. Halifax II W7751 NP-F hit by flak crossing the Danish coast on a

GARDENING sortie and crashed, killing **Sgt J.E.R. Lavigne**, **Sgt D. Mann**, F/S R. Owen RAF, **Sgt P.F.E. Newman** RAF, **Sgt I.K. Crawford** RAF and **Sgt H.I. Goodwill** RAF, **Sgt P.S. Skinner** RAF was taken PoW, as was **Sgt S. Llewellyn** RAF, but he died of his injuries Jan. 15.

9-10 419 Sqn. Halifax II W7857 VR-O lost on a GARDENING sortie, the first operation of the Squadron with the new Halifax aircraft (419 SH), **F/S H.A. Dunn**, **F/S V.A. Hugli** and **WO2 D.A. Watson** killed, **WO2 F.H. Barker**, **Sgt W.D. Cameron**, **F/S W.G. Murphy** and **Sgt R.E. Sackville-Golden** RAF missing. Both WO2 Barker and Sgt Cameron were from the town of Carbon, Alberta.

9-10 425 Sqn. Wellington III BJ605 KW-J crashed when landing on return from a GARDENING sortie, **P/O J.D.V. Lariviere**, **Sgt J.J.P. Michaud**, **Sgt F.H. Rowan**, **Sgt J.H. Woodrow** and **Sgt J.A.R. Coulet** (RCAF?) safe (R. Allenby).

Sunday

10 Reduction of besieged German army in Stalingrad begins (Oxford). A Soviet offensive in the city cuts the German held area in two on this date (<http://ww2db.com>).

Allied fighters sweep over Sicily (CJCA headline).

After trying to signal searching aircraft, and following the death of one of the passengers from her injuries, the pilot of the crashed airliner near Annette Island attempts to seek aid by walking down the mountain to the coast (G.P. Liefer). See Jan. 16, below.

10 #5 B&G School, Dafoe, Saskatchewan, Bolingbroke IV.T #10000 crashed SE of Quill Lake, Saskatchewan, killing **Cpl J.A. Meneilly**, **Sgt R.C. Chappell** RNZAF, **Sgt T.J. Sugrue** RNZAF and **LAC W.R. Moisley** RNZAF. **Cpl. Meneilly** had also been injured in a gas explosion August 30, 1941 at the Airmen's canteen at #2 Equipment Depot, Calgary, Alberta.

10 #11 SFTS Yorkton, Saskatchewan Crane IA #FJ272 crashed near Peebles, Saskatchewan, on a navigation exercise, **LAC(P) A.R. Campbell** and **LAC(P) J.O. Turnbull** killed. See #12 SFTS loss July 25, 1942.

Monday

11 First USAAF P-47 group arrives in England (Zijlstra).

11 92 Sqn. Spitfire Vc, **Sgt D.B.L. McMahan**, was flying as wingman to **F/O N.F. Duke** RAF in a fight where he shot down 2 MC.202 fighters in Libya (Shores, Massimello V.2). See March 5, below.

11 112 Sqn. Kittyhawk III FR216 GA-P shot down by flak in the desert, **P/O J.M.S. Crichton** PoW (Leedert www.rafcommands.com, <http://raf-112-squadron.org/planelosses.html>).

- 11 125 (Newfoundland) Sqn. Beaufighter VI X8258 crashed on a night flying test, **Sgt J.G. Crummey RAF (Nfld)** and Sgt N. Hurst RAF killed (malcolm_raf at www.rafcommands.com). The aircraft was seen with with one engine out before stalling into the ground by another Squadron Beaufighter flown by F/S Tilley (aviation-safety.net).
- 11 455 Sqn. RAAF Canadian built Hampden I AN166 UB-R crashed just after taking off for a torpedo strike on German ships off Norway, Sgt D.T. Martin RAAF killed, **F/S A.L.W. Watt**, Sgt S.A. Martin RAAF and Sgt K.C. Applekempff RAAF safe (H. Moyle).
- 11 #22 OTU Wellington III HZ104 hit a telephone pole on approach to a diversion airfield on a night exercise and crashed, **P/O E.E. Fisher**, **Sgt F.E. Fry**, Sgt F.R. Frost RAF, P/O J.R.A. Huxstep RAF and Sgt W.S. Yates RAF injured (www.rafcommands.com). See Jan. 14, below.
- 11 #81 OTU Whitley V LA766 crashed in Wales on an evening cross country flight, **WO1 D.R. Roberts**, **F/S W.H. Stewart**, Sgt C.E. Aaron RAF, P/O R.J. Binham RAF, Sgt A.T. Strachan RAF, Sgt D.B. Lister RAF, F/S R. Smeaton RAF and Sgt M.J. Buckle RAF killed.
- 11 RAF Ferry Command Mitchell II FR377 crashed in a prison farm near Jacksonville, Florida, USA, **F/O V.L. Martin** killed, 3 crew survived (C.A. Christie).
- 11 #5 Manning Depot, Lachine, Quebec, **AC2 C.M. Dean** died of natural causes during an exercise parade (www.rafcommands.com).
- 11 #10 SFTS, Dauphin, Man., Crane I #7897 dove into the ground near Ashville, Man. on an instrument flying test, killing **LAC(P) M.S. Dewar**, **LAC(P) G.E. Dunlop** and **F/O R.S. Thorpe**. See #12 SFTS loss July 25, 1942.
- 11 #32 EFTS, Bowden, Alberta, DH.82C Tiger Moth #5016 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

11-12 Four Mosquitos mark Essen for 72 Lancasters with unknown results, 1 Lancaster lost (BC War Diaries).

Tuesday

12 US forces land unopposed on Amchitka Island, 60 miles from Japanese occupied Kiska in the Aleutians, but lose 1 destroyer sunk due to navigational hazards (wikipedia). This island was selected after secret landings found an airfield could be built there. They also found evidence that Japanese landing parties had also visited the Island and made similar investigations (S. Cohen). Japanese flying boats and float fighters soon began attacks on the airfield until US P-40 fighters could be based there. With air coverage and patrols US Navy ships began a blockade of the Japanese occupied islands, sinking or forcing back supply ships (B. Coyle). See March 26, below.

Having built up an army capable of offensive operations inside besieged Leningrad, the 11 mile German blockade on the shore of Lake Ladoga is attacked from both sides by Soviet forces simultaneously (Oxford).

Penetrations into south western Libya continue as the Free French force captures Murzouk to the west of their base on this date and Hun to the north the next day enroute to Tripoli (Oxford).

12 RCAF Station Trenton, Ontario, **LAC T.C. Stephens RCAF (USA)** died in New York City, USA, when he fell from the window of a hotel (www.rafcommands.com).

12-13 Essen again targeted by OBOE but equipment and scheduling failures left the 55 Lancasters to drop on dead reckoning, with scattered results, 32 GARDENING and 5 OTU sorties also flown, no losses (BC War Diaries).

Wednesday

13 German lines at Stalingrad broken (CJCA headline).

Soviet offensive begins on northern Don River (Oxford).

Thirty six light bombers attack targets in France and 6 Wellingtons make daylight GARDENING sorties, no losses (BC War Diaries).

Off Algeria HMCS Ville de Quebec sank U-224 by depth charges and ramming (RCN Chronology; www.uboat.net).

13 112 Sqn. Kittyhawk III FR195 GA-F shot down in the desert escorting bombers, **F/O L.H. Curphey** was seen to bail out but was not seen again and has no known grave (<http://raf-112-squadron.org/planelosses.html>). (The serial FR195 was properly applied to a Mitchell bomber, but according to research by Buz at www.rafcommands.com several Kittyhawk fighters with serials applied to other aircraft did exist and were used by this Squadron. The reason remains a mystery.)

13 112 Sqn. Kittyhawk I AK784 badly damaged in a fight with German fighters, **F/L G.W. Wiley** safe (<http://raf-112-squadron.org/planelosses.html>). (This serial number AK784 has been questioned in some sources). See March 7, below.

13 3 Sqn. Hurricane IIc BN185 QO-B lost on night INTRUDER operations, **P/O K.H. Dalton** missing.

13 401 Sqn. Spitfire IX EN130 returned damaged by a German fighter on a CIRCUS escort, **F/O H.C. Godefroy** safe.

13 #1 (Coastal) OTU Hudson I T9322 overshot a landing and crashed in Scotland, **WO2 J.L.G. Belanger**, **F/S F.C. Zurbrigg**, Sgt D.W. Sanderson RAF and Sgt C. Ring RAF killed (malcom_raf www.rafcommands.com).

13 #1659 HCU RCAF Halifax II W1150, **P/O M.S.F. Schneider**, force landed in a field

wheels down in England, where it was later flown out, no crewmen injured. See June 26, and Oct. 8-9, below. See R. Allenby for details. P/O Schneider had been badly injured almost a year before in the loss of 10 Sqn. Halifax L9622.

- 13 826 Sqn., HMS Daedalus, RNAS Lee-on-Solent, Lt(A) J.L.S. Cunningham RCNR missing on an exercise in Swordfish L2839 (www.naval-history.net).
- 13 RCAF Station Sydney, NS, security guard LAC L.J. Descoteaux died of injuries received in a service vehicle accident on Jan. 11.
- 13 #6 SFTS, Dunnville, Ontario, Harvard II #3161 crashed and written off (R.W.R. Walker).
- 13 #31 GR School, Charlottetown, PEI, fire fighter AC1 P.A. MacDonald died in hospital in Halifax of natural causes.
- 13 unknown unit, LAC A.J. Whitcomb died of natural causes in Canada.

13-14 Final experimental OBOE attack on Essen achieved good results despite failure of marking by 3 Mosquitos for 66 Lancasters, 4 lost (BC War Diaries).

- 13-14 9 Sqn. Lancaster I W4843 WS-K lost without trace, F/S A.J. Kenney, Sgt G. Lyons RAF, Sgt B. Simmons RAF, Sgt R.L. Chitty RAF, Sgt H. Cowlshaw RAF, Sgt S. Coates RAF and Sgt A. Rees RAF missing.
- 13-14 103 Sqn. Lancaster I W4338 PM-L shot down by flak over Germany, F/S B.E. Atwood, F/S F.J. McKeown, F/S O.S. O'Hair, Sgt T.L. Davies RAF, Sgt R. Lyall RAF and Sgt R.E. Whiteman RAF killed, Sgt A.S. Laird RAF PoW.
- 13-14 106 Sqn. Lancaster I R5680 ZN-T shot down by a night fighter over Holland, P/O D.M. Crozier DFM, F/L E.F.G. Healey DFC DFM RAF, Sgt A. Dunbar RAF, F/O J.R. Pennington DFC RAF, P/O M.H. Lumley RAF, Sgt C.H. Jurgensen RAF and Sgt F.J. Edwards RAF killed.
- 13-14 106 Sqn. Lancaster I W4261 ZN-C lost over Germany, WO1 J. Aleo, P/O D.H.A. Dewar, WO2 M.A. Phair, WO2 J.E. Quinn, WO2 R.C. Zavitz, F/S L.W. Cronk RAF and Sgt G.E.P. O'Connor RAF killed.
- 13-14 407 Sqn. Hudsons flown by the new Squadron commanding officer W/C J.C. Archer RAF and S/L D.D. Weightman, successfully bombed a merchant ship off Den Helder (FF Years).

Thursday

14 Casablanca Conference begins, Churchill and Roosevelt meet in Morocco. President Roosevelt flew to the conference in a Boeing 314 Clipper, the first US President to travel in an aircraft while in office.

Stalingrad, Main German airlift airfield inside the Stalingrad enclave at Pitomnik overrun by Soviet tanks after 2 days of shelling (ww2total.com Chronology/1943).

At the request of the British Air Ministry for a unit to be made available in Canada to

carry out research into photography the Photographic Flight is formed at Rockcliffe, Ontario using 3 Spitfire and 3 Hurricane aircraft (RCAF Sqns.). These were the only Spitfires operational in Canada in the Second World War. See July 9, 1945.

Bomber Command sent 6 Halifax aircraft in cloud cover and 7 Wellingtons on daylight GARDENING sorties, 1 Wellington lost (BC War Diaries).

- 14 12 Sqn. SAAF Boston III AL663 'E' crash landed short of the runway returning from a bombing operation in Libya, F/S J.R. Gibbons SAAF killed, Lt J. Sadler SAAF injured, F/S J.A. Goyer and Capt. A.G. MacR. Budd SAAF safe (BLME V.2). See July 22, below.
- 14 #22 OTU, P/O E.E. Fisher died of injuries received in the loss of Wellington HZ104 Jan. 11, above.
- 14 #59 OTU Hurricane I P3411 crashed in England killing F/S R.D. Maynard.
- 14 #1 AOS Malton, Ontario Anson I #6739 failed to return from a navigational exercise, F/S J.R. Barnett, LAC(N) G.C. Bricker, Sgt R.H. Cochran RCAF (USA) and LAC(N) K.N. Miller missing.
- 14 #13 EFTS, St. Eugene, Ontario, Finch II #4774 spun and crashed, Cpl(P) W.A. Robert killed.
- 14 #14 SFTS, Aylmer, Ontario, Harvard II #2507 hit a tree near the airfield and crashed, P/O Hyder and LAC(P) McCahill injured (M.L. McIntyre).
- 14 USAAF 7th Ferry Group P-39M 42-4808 crashed near Lacombe, Alberta, pilot J.T. Wetmore killed.

14-15 Over Calcutta a recently deployed RAF Beaufighter night fighter shoots down 3 Japanese bombers in 4 minutes (ww2total.com Chronology/1943).

The bombing of German U-boat bases in the French Biscay ports by Bomber Command in 1943 opens with an attack on Lorient by 122 bombers plus 41 GARDENING sorties offshore and 13 OTU sorties. This was the first bombing operation for #6 Group RCAF, sending 9 Wellingtons and 6 Halifax bombers. Marking was accurate but bombing, which began on target, scattered into the city destroying 120 buildings and killing at least 12 citizens. Three Wellingtons lost in all (BC War Diaries).

- 14-15 160 Sqn. Liberator II AL620 'S' shot down by flak over Tripoli, Sgt N. Ellis RAF, Sgt J.P. Foster RAF, F/S E.D. Hillen RAF, F/L P. Price RAF, F/O B. Samuel RAF, Sgt A.N. Sinclair RAF, Sgt G.H. Wunsch RNZAF killed, F/O W.L. Smith PoW (BLME V.2).
- 14-15 426 Sqn. Wellington III BK165 OW-F lost without trace, F/O G.A. McQuillin, F/O G. Milne, P/O R.C. Richards, Sgt J.A. Pollock, Sgt W.J. Sullivan and Sgt A.R. Maddison RAF missing. This was the first loss in combat by #6 Group RCAF.
- 14-15 466 Sqn. RAAF Wellington X HE152 HD-L shot down by naval flak on a GARDENING

sortie, **F/S H.W. Stewart** killed, Sgt J.A. Austin RNZAF, Sgt R.V. Babington RAF, Sgt L.H. Tabner RAF, Sgt M. Harris RAF and Sgt A.J. Chester RAF missing. This was the first operational loss of a 466 Sqn. aircraft.

Friday

15 Eric Knight, author of the book "Lassie Come Home" and a veteran of the Canadian Army in the First World War, dies as a Major in the US Army Special Services (meaning at this time morale and propaganda operations, employing authors, photographers, film makers etc.) in an air crash in Dutch Guiana (now Surinam) (wikipedia).

German commander in the Caucasus requests permission to withdraw his army (Oxford).

The Pentagon in Washington, the world's largest office building, dedicated (wikipedia).

- 15 125 (Newfoundland) Sqn. Beaufighter VI X8134 was on a night flying test and radioed they had an engine failure and were bailing out over the sea, **F/S J.J. Finn RAF (Nfld.)** missing and Sgt J.F. Stanger RAF killed (aviation-safety.net; malcolm_raf www.rafcommands.com). F/S Finn's brother, **F/O R.C. Finn DFM RAF (Nfld.)** had been killed less than 2 weeks before in Burma.
- 15 401 Sqn. Spitfire IX EN183 last seen attacking a train in France on a RAMROD, **P/O W.K. Ferguson** killed.
- 15 401 Sqn. Spitfire IX BS308 force landed in France on a RAMROD, **P/O D.E. Hall** PoW.
- 15 #18 AFU Oxford I BG168 aircraft was in a mid-air collision with Oxford I EB809 in the circuit making a night landing, **Sgt R.J. Haag RCAF (USA)** and his instructor Sgt W. Badger RAAF were killed in BG168. In EB809 Sgt W.J. Wonnacott RAAF and **Sgt A.W. Paynter** were seriously injured (www.aviationarchaeology.org.uk, A. Storr).
- 15 #23 OTU Wellington III X3964 was practicing night circuits when an engine failed at low altitude with full flap down. It stalled and crashed short of the runway, **Sgt W.E. Barr, F/S W.J.A. Duplin** and Sgt J.H. Robson RAF killed.
- 15 #23 OTU Wellington III BK512 crashed after an engine failed on a BULLSEYE sortie, **F/O A.M.H. Gain** killed, **Sgt V.M. White**, Sgt E.A. Antrobus RAF, Sgt V.M. Caplin RAF and Sgt D.J. Burge RAF safe.
- 15 #1531 BAT Flight Oxford DF408 crashed, **F/O G.C. Smith** injured (alclark at www.rafcommands.com).
- 15 #1659 HCU RCAF Halifax II R9369 'N' landed with the gear up in error and was wrecked, **Sgt A.S. Green** and F/O A.A. Stewart RNZAF safe. See May 23-24, below.

15-16 The U-boat pens at Lorient again attacked, 157 bombers made a more accurate

attack which destroyed 800 buildings in the port yet has no real effect on the U-boats, protected in their concrete pens, 2 bombers lost. Other operations include 2 OBOE Mosquitos to Aachen, 9 GARDENING sorties off France and 3 OTU flights without loss (BC War Diaries).

This marked the beginning of the OBOE offensive against targets in the Ruhr Valley, using small numbers of bombers making accurate guided attacks on industrial targets. The Mosquito was ideal for this type of operation, being very hard to intercept due to its high speed, difficult to pick up on radar due to its wooden construction, and carrying a sizeable bomb load, now dropped with great accuracy.

- 15-16 161 Sqn. Halifax V DG285 MA-X lost in France on a SOE sortie Operation KER/CRAB 6, P/O W.W. Roy, P/O H.S. Readhead RAF (Can.), F/S R. Gray RAF, Sgt S.M. Anderson RAF, Sgt W. Wilson RAF, Sgt L.P. Manning RAF and Sgt H.G. Martins RAF killed. This was the first Halifax V lost on operations. (TSGNO states P/O Readhead from Vancouver, CWGC notes his wife was Australian and states he is Australian.)
- 15-16 214 Sqn. Stirling I W7637 BU-W lost without trace, S/L P.W. Carlyon DFC RAF (Can.), P/O J.N. Peck, P/O P.F. Pinder, F/O D.K. O'Donnell RNZAF, Sgt C.E.C. Ransom RAF, Sgt J.L. Kemp RAF and Sgt L. Carr RAF missing. S/L Carlyon was regarded by a former crewman E. Wheeler DFC as a "brilliant pilot" (CATP Museum *Contact* magazine Vol. 31, #4, November 2014).
- 15-16 427 Sqn. Wellington III BK364 ZL-G lost over France, S/L M.A.L. Williams RAF, P/O E.R. Charlesworth RAF, P/O A.R. Eckton RAF, Sgt H.D. Munro RAF and Sgt W.H. Pates RAF killed. This was the one of 6 427 Sqn. Wellingtons dispatched on the Squadron's operational debut, and the first aircraft lost by the Squadron on operations.
- 15-16 467 Sqn. RAAF Lancaster I ED360, rear gunner F/S A.J. Broemeling failed to respond on the intercom and was found unconscious, probably due to failure of his oxygen mask. The pilot, F/L Thiele RNZAF, quickly dived to a lower altitude then put the bomber on auto pilot to assist in pulling F/S Broemeling out of his turret, but despite continuous artificial respiration being applied by the rest of the crew (Sgt Bovis RAF, Sgt Metcalfe RAF, Sgt Sheekey RAF, Sgt Gillman RAF and Sgt Everard RAF), F/S Broemeling was declared dead when aircraft landed at its base (A. Storr). See July 8-9, below.

Saturday

16 After waiting for the pilot to return, the least injured of the 4 surviving passengers of the crashed Lockheed 10 near RCAF Annette Island, Alaska, hikes out from the crash site to the shore. After creating a signal he waited for 2 days before returning to the crash site with some game he had shot (G.P. Liefer). See Jan.

21, below.

- 16 #5 AOS Blenheim IV Z7313 crashed in Scotland, F/O T.O. Robertson RAF, Sgt W. Thompson RAF, P/O A.E. Usher RAF and passengers Flight Officer Pamela Ianthe Lawrence WAAF, civilian Mr. T.E. Perks (NZ, RAE?) and F/L E.V. Stanley-Jones RAF killed (www.rafcommands.com; www.findagrave.com; CWGC). Flight Officer Lawrence was the wife of **F/L G.H. Lawrence**. See March 3, 1944.
- 16 #58 OTU three Spitfire aircraft flying formation flew into a hill in mist, **Sgt G.M. Duda RCAF (USA)** was killed in Spitfire Ia X4614, **F/O H.G. Reynolds** was killed in Spitfire Ia AR254, and Sgt V.P. Daly RAF injured in Spitfire IIa P8276 (58 OTU Roll of Honour). It is reported that Sgt Daly tried to crawl off the hill dragging one of the other pilots before realizing the man was dead. He was found, alive, after two days by a shepherd and his dogs engaged in searching for lost sheep and was sent to East Grinstead as a "mashed" Guinea Pig, and later discharged from the RAF due to his injuries (John E. www.rafcommands.com).
- 16 #59 OTU Canadian built Hurricane X AG181 suffered an engine fire in flight and the pilot, Sgt J.H. Hobbs RAF, attempted to land but crashed on approach and was killed (COL BRUGGY www.rafcommands.com).
- 16 #14 (F) Sqn. RCAF, Sea Island, BC, Harvard IIb #3238 AY-F crashed near Aldergrove, BC, on a training flight, aero engine mechanic **AC1 I.T. Machum** and **P/O R.W. Todd** killed (R.W.R. Walker).
- 16 #5 B&G School, Dafoe, Saskatchewan, **LAC E.J. Daniels RCAF (UK)** died of natural causes.
- 16 RCAF Station Patricia Bay, BC, **Cpl S.T. Fulbrook** died in hospital of natural causes.

16-17 Bomber Command returned to Berlin for the first time since Nov. 7-8, 1941, with a force of 201 bombers, all 4 engined Lancaster or Halifax types, with Pathfinder marking and the first use of improved ground Target Indicators. The marking was poor due to visibility, however, and the bombing was not as concentrated as hoped, but the attack had a great impact on the population and the Nazi party, the bombing beginning just as the air raid sirens sounded. Many people were caught away from their usual shelters and nearly 200 died, ¼ of them PoWs. An annual circus performance was underway at the Deutschlandhalle, and the police and fire brigades managed to evacuate 10,000 spectators (mostly children) and all the circus animals without fatalities before the wooden stadium was hit by incendiaries and destroyed. Caught off guard German defences accounted for only 1 bomber. There were also 2 OBOE Mosquito attacks on the Ruhr without loss (BC War Diaries).

- 16-17 61 Sqn. Lancaster I ED332 QR-D lost over Germany, **WO2 R.F. Bird**, **P/O J.A. McPhee**, **WO2 C.H. Reed**, S/L E.D.J. Parker GC DFC RAF, Sgt T. Miller RAF, Sgt J.J. Cadd RAF and Sgt C.N. Judd RAF killed. S/L Parker had been awarded the George Cross for his actions June 8-9, 1940, saving the life of his wireless operator after

their 49 Sqn. Hampden L4044 had crashed in England (Bart FM Droog, www.rafcommands.com).

Sunday

17 German forces surrounded at Velikiye Luki surrender (C. Bergström).

- 17 607 Sqn. Hurricane shot down by Japanese fighters which were escorting an air raid on an RAF airfield at Feni in India, **WO1 H.L. Gill DFM** killed (D. Newton).
- 17 111 Sqn. Spitfire Vc ER884 shot down into the sea off Malta, **F/O T.M. Falls RCAF (USA)** missing.
- 17 #328 Flight Hurricane II HL968 flipped over attempting a wheels down landing on what turned out to be soft ground in Tunisia, **WO2 D.G.M. Thompson** killed.
- 17 56 Sqn. Typhoon Ib R7854 crashed in England after a structural failure while doing aerobatics, **F/S F.A. Sullivan** killed. See July 29, 1942 for a detailed summary of the possible cause.
- 17 402 Sqn. Spitfire IX BS130 shot down over France on a RAMROD, **P/O A.M. Skinner** killed. P/O Skinner had crash landed in a Spitfire July 30, 1942.
- 17 402 Sqn. Spitfire IX BS314 shot down near France on a RAMROD, **F/O M.J. Sunstrum** missing.
- 17 405 Sqn. Halifax II DT514 overshot a landing returning from an anti-submarine patrol (www.rafdavidstowmoor.org).
- 17 412 Sqn. Spitfire IX BS135 shot down near France by German fighters in a RAMROD, Kenley Wing Leader **W/C J.C. Fee DFC & Bar** missing.
- 17 US Air Transport Command C-87 (Liberator transport) 41-11708 missing enroute from Accra, Ghana to Natal, Brazil, LtCol R.R. Brunner US Army? and Major A. Mills USAAF killed, **Radio Officer C.B. Berry, F/S N.P. Drury, F/L H.J. Martin, Radio Officer O.C. McCombie, Ferry Captain W.R. Nixon, Sgt J.H. Warman, F/O P.C. Zoephel, Sgt J.L. Bell RAF, Cpl J.P. Braniff USAAF, 1Lt J.A. Byler USAAF, Sgt J.N. Clauss USAAF, P/O G.A. Clegg RAF, AC D.H. De Burgh AFC RAF, Capt O. Eknes USAAF, Sgt H.V. Lamb RAAF, Capt F.B. Lancaster USAAF, Col D.C. MacKeachie US Army?, Ferry Captain P.B. Makepeace (USA), MSgt C.W. McKain USAAF, 1Lt H.P. Minor USAAF, 2Lt J.F. Peoples USAAF, F/O W.T.W. Smithson RAAF, Cpl G.K. Trees Jr. USAAF, MSgt A.A. Young USAAF** missing (A. Storr; www.rafcommands.com; aviation-dafety.net; www.findagrave.com).
- 17 #7 ITS, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, stationary engineer **Cpl R.P. Short** died in hospital of natural causes.

17-18 Bomber Command returned to Berlin with 187 heavy bombers. Marking was again off, and no serious damage was done. The bomber stream used the same flight path as the previous night and paid for it, losing 22 aircraft to night fighters and flak (BC War Diaries).

The Luftwaffe bombers in France were sent on a "reprisal raid" for the attack on Berlin, 118 attacking London, losing 6 (ww2total.com Chronology/1943).

- 17-18 9 Sqn. Lancaster I W4379 WS-A lost over Germany, **F/S J.E. Galbraith** and Sgt J.H.W. De Silva RAF killed, **Sgt A.G. Carswell**, **Sgt C.E. Clemens**, Sgt J.W. Martin RAF, Sgt H.C. Hipson RAF and Sgt E.J. Phillips RAF PoW. Sgt Carswell survived as a PoW, including the strafing of a column of PoWs by Typhoons May 19, 1945. Postwar he re-joined the RCAF, was commissioned, and received the AFC for his rescue operations on the BC coast flying Canso aircraft, before becoming a safety inspector for the Department of Transport (National Post obituary, 2021).
- 17-18 9 Sqn. Lancaster I ED436 WS-G lost, **F/O C.B. Haslam**, **F/S F.M. Lacasse**, Sgt J.G.B. Chilvers RAF, Sgt L. Whiteside RAF, Sgt B. Naylor RAF, Sgt A. McCabe RAF and Sgt T.W. Jones RAF missing.
- 17-18 9 Sqn. Lancaster I W4761 WS-P shot down by a night fighter over Germany, **Sgt R.F. Matthews RAF (Nfld.)**, **F/S R.C. Morris RAF (Nfld.)**, **P/O A. Storey RCAF (USA)**, Sgt F.W. Cater RAF, Sgt H.C. Griffin RAF, Sgt A.C. Spear RAF and F/O G.H. McMillan RAF killed. Both Sgt Matthews and F/S Morris were from Grand Falls, Nfld.
- 17-18 9 Sqn. Lancaster I W4157 WS-V "*Barbara Mary*" lost without trace, **F/S F.A. Webb**, F/S T.L. Gibson RAAF, P/O E.M.W. Jacombs RNZAF, Sgt S. Wescombe RAF, P/O C.G. Tilson MiD RAF, Sgt B.K. Skinner RAF, Sgt H.G. Jenkins RAF and Sgt J.W.R. Broadley RAF missing (<http://www.lancaster-archive.com>).
- 17-18 12 Sqn. Lancaster I W4368 PH-U lost over Germany, **Sgt J.A.M. Edelson**, **F/S C.W. Roberts**, F/S R.L. Featherston RAAF, F/S T.C. Fouracres RAAF, Sgt L. Hickson RAAF, Sgt F.H. Cooper RAF and Sgt S.G. Bacon RAF PoW.
- 17-18 12 Sqn. Lancaster I ED388 PH-Y lost over Germany, Sgt R.F. Poole RAF and Sgt W.J. Smith RAF killed, **P/O J. Fallis**, **P/O H.F. Fansher**, Sgt K.F. Butler RAF, Sgt E. Cadden RAF and Sgt F.C. Marsh RAF have no known grave.
- 17-18 44 Sqn. Lancaster I ED318 KM-X lost without trace, **Sgt R.C. Fenton**, Sgt R. Calcutt RAF (Rhodesia), Sgt C.P. Mitchell RAF (Rhodesia), Sgt S. Allen RAF, Sgt R.D. Perkins RAF, Sgt R.D. Bradbury RAF and Sgt V. Lawrence RAF missing.
- 17-18 49 Sqn. Lancaster III ED444 EA-C shot down over Germany by a night fighter, F/O G.S. Jeffreys DFC RAF, P/O C.A. Watts RAF and Sgt H. Cowan RAF killed, **P/O D.J. Robertson**, Sgt R.S. Fermor RAF, F/S N.E. Mortimer RAF and Sgt J.E. Harrison RAF PoW.
- 17-18 50 Sqn. Lancaster III ED471 lost over Germany, **F/S I. Fraser**, **F/O R. Harvie**, **WO2 J.A. Moore**, F/S A.G. Thomas RAF, Sgt L.J. Bond RAF, Sgt J. Eastwood RAF and P/O E.P. Heinrich RAAF killed.
- 17-18 61 Sqn. Lancaster I W4767 QR-J shot down over Germany by flak, **Sgt G.M. Hair RAF (Can.)**, **P/O J. Woolford RCAF (USA)**, Sgt F.B. Andrews RAF, Sgt L. Noble RAF, Sgt K.E. Slade RAF, Sgt R. Waudby RAF and Sgt J.H. Worrow RAF killed.
- 17-18 76 Sqn. Halifax II DT569 MP-C shot down over Germany by flak, **Sgt D.R. Dewar**, **F/S C.A. Gruchy**, **P/O A.W. Stevenson**, P/O D.A. Gold RAF, Sgt A.D. Tidmarsh RAF, Sgt

J. Ward RAF and P/O A.H. Piggs RAF killed.

17-18 97 Sqn. Lancaster I R5575 OF-L lost in the Waddenzee between Holland and Germany, Sgt J.C. Brittain RAF killed, **F/S H.C. Beebe**, Sgt F.H. Rowson RAF, Sgt P. Lane RAF, Sgt J.E. West RAF, Sgt J. Bell RAF and Sgt G.A. Axup RAF missing.

17-18 106 Sqn. Lancaster I R5900 ZN-X "*Admiral Air Goosk*" was damaged by flak on a sortie to Berlin. On returning it was seriously damaged when the undercarriage collapsed on landing, **Sgt J.R.A.R. Coulombe**, Sgt P.N. Reed RAF, Sgt F. McNeil RAF, Sgt P.E. Bevis RAF, Sgt R.E. Cooke RAF, Sgt K. Loach RAF and Sgt A.W. Thomas RAF safe (R. Allenby). See February 3-4, below.

Monday

18 German forces in Tunisia begin 4 days of attacks on the British 1st Army, which are held off by artillery, including use of aircraft spotting by 651 (AOP) Sqn. which proved in combat that light aircraft, given warning by ground observers, can evade or avoid modern fighters (Pareham & Belfield).

The US Food Administration imposed a ban on sliced bread due to a perceived shortage of wax paper for wrapping it (sliced bread dries out faster than unsliced) (wikipedia). See March 8, below.

18 430 Sqn. Tomahawk AK189 blew a tire on takeoff and badly damaged, **P/O I.M. Duff** safe (H.A. Halliday). See Oct. 11, 1944

18 #5 (Coastal) OTU Hampden I P1222 struck the sea while engaged in low flying, **F/S J. Munro**, **Sgt K.F. Ray**, F/O J.S. Newcomb RNZAF and F/O J.A.C. Watts RAF killed (AL90, www.rafcommands.com).

18-19 407 Sqn. Hudsons flown by W/C J.C. Archer RAF and **F/S J.E.G. Girouard** attack a convoy off Holland (FF Years).

Tuesday

19 First of 4 groups of Canadian PoWs transferred from Hong Kong to work camps in Japan (B. Greenhous).

On this date the maternity ward of Ottawa Civic Hospital was declared extraterritorial (ie, international territory) for the birth to Queen Juliana of the Netherlands of her daughter, Princess Margriet. This was done so that Princess Margriet would inherit the Dutch nationality of her mother. In thanks for the sheltering of the Royal family during the war Queen Juliana in 1945 began the tradition of shipping tulip bulbs to Ottawa in the spring, beginning the annual Ottawa Tulip Festival (wikipedia).

Leningrad, Soviet forces outside of the blockade meet Soviet units advancing from

the city, opening a strip 10 km deep along the shore of Lake Ladoga. Immediately behind the advance construction of a railway across the gap begins, under fire and bombing from German forces (Oxford).

Off Algeria HMS Antelope and HMCS Port Arthur sank the Italian submarine Tritone (RCN Chronology; www.uboaat.net).

- 19 #20 OTU Wellington Ic HD985 XL-R was taking off on a training exercise when an engine failed and the aircraft crashed on a beach in Scotland, **Sgt R.F. Wilkins**, Sgt C.B. Morris RAF, P/O R.V. Say RAF, Sgt A.R. Eastbury RAF, Sgt A.G. Walters RAF and Sgt T.M. Slattery RAF killed.
- 19 #2 Training Command DH.82C Tiger Moth #4137 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

Wednesday

20 Daylight attack on London by heavily escorted fighter-bombers in retaliation for the bombing of Berlin, 39 children and 5 teachers killed and more than 60 injured when a school is hit (D. Hodgson). Retreating force intercepted by Typhoon and Spitfire fighters, losing 6 of the nearly 80 fighters on the attack (ww2total.com Chronology/1943).

- 20 400 Sqn. Mustang I AG589 was shot down in error by an RNZAF Typhoon off the Isle of Wight. The pilot **F/O J.B. Ferris** died, his body was later recovered by a Royal Navy vessel and buried at sea.
- 20 401 Sqn. Spitfires flown by **F/O H.C. Godefroy** and **F/O H.D. MacDonald** intercepted a large formation of Fw 190s which had made an attack on London as they crossed the coast of England and claimed 1 destroyed and 2 damaged (FF Years).
- 20 407 Sqn. Hudson V AM551 RR-C was returning from an attack on a German convoy and disappeared from radar offshore of England, **F/O W.B. Anderson**, **F/O L.W. Birkinshaw**, **WO2 F.T. Mattison** and Squadron Gunnery Leader **F/L O.K. Middleton** missing (407 SH).
- 20 487 Sqn. RNZAF Ventura II AJ171 EG-D, borrowed by 464 Sqn., hit a tree and crashed in England on a low level formation attack training flight, **F/O F.D. Drake** and Sgt G.J. Abrey RAF killed, **Sgt H. Aldridge** injured. Sgt Aldridge, the navigator, was map reading from the upper turret rather than his station in the nose. He was ejected from the wreckage and assisted by a witness to the crash, Mr. C. Follett. Sgt Aldridge was not burned but required reconstructive surgery, and thus became a "mashed" Guinea Pig. An account of the accident and his recovery can be found in R. Donovan's *As for the Canadians*.
- 20 #5 (Coastal) OTU Beaufort I L9828 '213' flew into Collin Mountain in Northern Ireland in fog, **Sgt D.A. Brand** and WO R.J. Buckmaster RAF killed, F/S M. Lewton RAF injured (R. Hayward; www.rafcommands.com).
- 20 #61 OTU Spitfire Ia aircraft P9329 and X4852 flew into a hill in low visibility in a snow

storm killing **Sgt D.L. Moulds** in P9329 and **Sgt H.K. Adams** in X4852 (www.spitfires.ukf.net).

Thursday

21 USAAF bombers in Europe directed to concentrate on U-boat construction targets (Zijlstra).

Cruiser HMS Newfoundland commissioned into the Royal Navy. See July 13-14 and 23, below.

The RCAF/USCG search for the Lockheed Electra missing near Annette Island, Alaska, is called off, the aircraft is believed to have gone down in the sea. Meanwhile the two least injured passengers have re-located the other two to a better camp below the crash site, out of the clouds, where their chances of being spotted are greater, before both headed back to the shoreline (G.P. Liefer). See Feb. 3, below.

Lockheed 18 Lodestar enters service with the RCAF (Griffin CMA).

- 21 99 Sqn. pilot **WO2 N.R. Thompson** died in hospital in Calcutta, India of natural causes.
- 21 179 Sqn. Wellington VIII HX690 lost in the Mediterranean on an anti-submarine patrol from Gibraltar, believed shot down attacking the Italian submarine *Argento*, **Sgt H.E. Beale** MiD RAAF killed, **F/O B.W. Carmichael**, **Sgt J.H. Brown** RAF, **P/O G.E. Harvey** RAF, **F/O J.S. Hustler** MiD RAF and **F/O T.H. Gordon-Glassford** MiD RAAF missing (A. Storr; Lyffe at www.rafcommands.com).
- 21 411 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AA754 collided over the sea with a target towing #3 (Coastal) OTU Lysander IIIA V9797 and both crashed, killing **WO2 J.A. McMillan** in the Spitfire, and **WO W.E. Atkins** RAF and **LAC W. Gilbert** RAF in the Lysander (www.spitfires.ukf.net, malcolm_raf www.rafcommands.com).
- 21 430 Sqn. Tomahawk AH905 force landed after an engine fire and was burned out, **P/O J.A. Lowndes** safe (H.A. Halliday; Buz at www.rafcommands.com).
- 21 #17 AFU, Master DL800 crashed in England, **Sgt M.P. Fahey** RCAF (USA) and **Sgt R.R.F. Swords** RAAF killed (malcolm_raf www.rafcommands.com).
- 21 #55 OTU, Canadian built Hurricane X AF959 became lost from a formation flight in cloud and flew into high ground, **Sgt D.L. Baker** RAF killed. The wreckage was not found until January 27, and while recovery was in progress the wreck of Anson AX145 (lost January 1, above) was discovered nearby (R. Allenby).
- 21 #16 SFTS, Hagersville, Ontario Anson II #7342 was practicing night landings when it was caught in a snowstorm and crashed near the runway, **LAC(P) G.B. Taylor** RCAF (USA) killed.

21-22 After several nights of GARDENING, and daylight attacks by light bombers

without loss, Bomber Command sends 82 bombers to Essen and 70 GARDENING sorties off the Frisian Islands, losing 10 aircraft. At Essen complete cloud cover scattered the bombing (BC War Diaries).

- 21-22 10 Sqn. Halifax II DT566 ZA-X was damaged by flak on a GARDENING sortie, and while evading the guns dragged a wingtip in the sea, but the pilot P/O W. Allan RAF regained control. The bomber had to shut down an engine on the return but landed, P/O Allan and his crew, **F/S C.H. Bullock**, **Sgt W.G. Evans**, Sgt A. Lipshitz RAF, Sgt P.B. Corfield RAF, Sgt W. Robinson RAF and Sgt D.V. Hibbert RAF safe (R. Allenby).
- 21-22 103 Sqn. Lancaster I W4340 PM-A lost without trace, **F/S K.G. Curtis**, **F/O T.T. Lundberg**, F/S E.H. Burgess RAF, Sgt J.S. Hill RAF, Sgt G.H. Anderson RAF, Sgt S.E. Perry RAF and Sgt D.P. Kerr RAF missing.
- 21-22 207 Sqn. Lancaster I W4365 EM-B lost over Germany, **F/S J.R.L. Sterrett**, Sgt J.C. Dangerfield RAAF, F/S R.de C. Darken RAAF, Sgt F.A.K. Gallagher RAAF, Sgt J.T. Howe RAF, Sgt V.J. Wood RAF and Sgt A.R. Sutton RAF killed.
- 21-22 408 Sqn. Halifax II JD764 EQ-A was damaged by flak on a GARDENING sortie but returned to England, **Sgt R.A. Carney**, **F/S J.C. Harty RCAF (USA)**, **F/S B.L. Miller**, **Sgt W.N. Tatham**, **Sgt N.H.A. Taylor**, Sgt J.E. Paterson RAF and Sgt R.W. Stuart (RAF or RCAF?) safe (R. Allenby). See May 4-5, below.
- 21-22 420 Sqn. Wellington III BJ966 PT-R lost without trace on a GARDENING sortie, **Sgt C.A. Dunphy**, **F/S S.J. Gergly**, **WO2 C.W. Hollingshead**, **F/O E.G. Kendel**, **Sgt A.G. Olson** and **F/O R.H. Welsh** missing.
- 21-22 426 Sqn. Wellington III BJ762 OW-O, **Sgt G.S. McMenemy**, was badly damaged when it's undercarriage folded up on landing from a GARDENING sortie, crew safe (R. Koval and R. Allenby). See Sept. 2, below.
- 21-22 426 Sqn. Wellington III Z1599 OW-M was hit by flak on a GARDENING sortie that damaged the hydraulics and rear fuselage, **Sgt G.R. Baker**, **Sgt D.B. Coons**, **Sgt D.P. McLachlan**, **Sgt L. Murphy**, **Sgt G. Walen** and **Sgt M. Zeavin** safe (R. Allenby). See February 26-27 and March 9-10, below.
- 21-22 427 Sqn. Wellington III X3873 ZL-R lost without trace on a GARDENING sortie, **P/O G.R. Hoyt**, **P/O M. Patrick**, **F/L D.A. Shead RAF (Can.)**, **Sgt J.L. Sparling** and Sgt W.J. Oram RAF missing.
- 21-22 429 Sqn. Wellington III BK432 AL-S shot down into the Waddenzee by naval flak on a GARDENING sortie, **F/O I.S. Johnson RNZAF**, Sgt C. Risingham RAF and **F/O I.N. Stirton RAF** killed, Sgt A.G. Dymick RAF and Sgt J. Stuart RAF missing.
- 21-22 466 Sqn. RAAF Wellington X HE153 was hit and damaged on a GARDENING sortie. They were unable to find their drop point and returned with their mines, **F/S G.K. Young**, Sgt C.F. Tozer RAAF, Sgt R. Treacher RNZAF, Sgt I.M.P. Morgan RAF (196 Sqn.), Sgt H.E. Jones RAF and Sgt R.E. Nurse RAF safe (R. Allenby). See March 5-6, below.

Friday

22 Australian and US forces complete reconquest of Papua (CJCA headline) [end of the Port Moresby-Buna campaign].

Last landing grounds inside besieged Stalingrad surrounded, German commander recommends surrender, Hitler refuses permission (Oxford).

Free French under General LeClerc occupy Mizda south of Tripoli after a tough fight (Oxford).

RAF Redhill becomes RCAF Station Redhill, England (RCAF Sqns.).

Daylight attacks were made by 23 Boston, 18 Ventura and 12 Mitchell bombers, the first use of the latter in the RAF, on targets in France and Belgium, for the loss of 5 aircraft (BC War Diaries).

- 22 400 Sqn. Mustang I, **F/L S.M. Knight**, flying search and rescue for the bombers and three escort Spitfires lost in the daylight attacks, found a survivor and orbited his position until failing light and low fuel forced him to leave. On return to England at dusk with descending fog he was fired on by anti-aircraft before landing safely in low visibility, where his Squadron had nearly listed him as missing (FF Years).
- 22 410 Sqn. Mosquito NF.II DZ929, **F/S B.M. Haight** and Sgt T. Kipling RAF, intercept and destroy a Do 217 aircraft over England, the squadrons first confirmed kill (RCAF Sqns.).
- 22 487 Sqn. RNZAF Ventura II AE899 EG-O ditched in North Sea returning from a daylight strike, Sgt B.D. Bridge RAF and Sgt K.J. Teague RAF missing, **F/O K.W. Johns** died of injuries, and F/O S.B. Peryman RNZAF survived.
- 22 #10 OTU Whitley V Z6753 'S' was returning from an anti-submarine patrol (where they had sighted and evaded a Ju 88) but was caught in deteriorating weather and ordered to land at a small airstrip where it overshot it's landing and was written off, **Sgt F.O. Ross**, Sgt B.W.E. Wedderburn RAF, Sgt B.J. Clinging RAF, P/O P. Sandal RAF, Sgt F.C. Fidgeon RAF and Sgt S.H.C. Brown RAF safe.
- 22 #19 OTU Whitley V AD686 'V' lost an engine on a night cross country exercise. Heading for an airfield the remaining engine began to overheat and **Sgt F.B. Solomon** ordered a bail out, he and his crew safe.
- 22 USAAF 25th Ferry Sqn. P-39M 42-4774 force landed near Baker Lake, Yukon, pilot J.P. Donahue rescued (AAIR).
- 22 USAAF 5th Ferry Sqn. P-40M 43-5778 and 43-5779 both crashed taking off at Ottawa, Ontario (AAIR).

22-23 Two OBOE Mosquitos attack Cologne, causing heavy damage, an indication of how the technical advances in bombing were making Bomber Command

more effective (BC War Diaries).

Saturday

23 Stalingrad, Gumrak airfield inside the German enclave captured by Soviet forces
(<http://ww2db.com>).

Eighth Army occupies Tripoli (CJCA headline), German forces in Libya forced into Tunisia.

Using cloud cover #6 Group sent 6 Wellingtons to bomb the town of Esens, located near the North Sea coast, all returned safe after bombing other targets and one also attacked a railway station and train with it's guns, 3 damaged (R. Koval). The rail yards at Osnabruck were also attacked by 4 Mosquito bombers, 1 lost (BC War Diaries)

#164 Transport Sqn. RCAF formed at Moncton, NB, on Lodestar aircraft, with three Digby aircraft and crews on loan from #10 BR Sqn. (RCAF Sqns.).

- 23 417 Sqn. **Cpl H.W. Yates** died in hospital in Egypt of injuries sustained when he was robbed while on leave.
- 23 410 Sqn. Mosquito NF.II HJ919 RA-B crashed into the sea just off the English coast while on a training exercise, **F/S G.G. Mills** and Sgt M. Lupton RAF missing.
- 23 416 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BM245 shot down by flak on a RHUBARB over France, **Sgt J.R. McLeod** PoW (www.spitfires.ukf.net). Sgt McLeod had bailed out of another Spitfire Dec. 4, 1942. As a PoW Sgt McLeod escaped twice, the first time being recaptured with a group of escapee's attempting to steal an aircraft, the second time in 1944 making it to Switzerland where he was awarded a DCM, the only member of the RCAF to receive this award (416 SH).
- 23 416 Sqn. Spitfire Vb EP770 crash landed returning from a RHUBARB over France, **Sgt C.B. Shaw** safe.
- 23 425 Sqn. Wellington III X3872 KW-A was slightly damaged by flak on a daylight sortie, **P/O F.W. Hodge, P/O J.H.T.J. Lemieux, P/O R.A. Livingston, P/O S.L. Murrell RCAF (USA), Sgt R.L. Robinson** and Sgt S.A. Whitby RAF safe (R. Allenby). See January 30 and June 21-22, below.
- 23 425 Sqn. Wellington III BJ652 KW-E damaged by flak on a daylight sortie, **P/O W.C. Davidson, S/L G.A. Roy, Sgt C. Atkins** (RAF or RCAF?) and the rest of the crew safe (R. Allenby). See July 13 below and October 9-10, 1944.
- 23 489 Sqn. RNZAF Canadian built Hampden TB.I AN123 XA-D lost on anti-shiping strike off Norway, **F/S A.G.G. Brown, F/S J. Maguire, P/O W.C. Salmond RAAF** and Sgt J.H. Sheppard RAF missing (H. Moyle).
- 23 #7 EFTS, Windsor, Ontario, DH.82C Tiger Moth #8883 crashed near Windsor on an instrument flying exercise, **P/O H.B. Lawrence** and **P/O M.R. Thompson** killed.

- 23 #10 SFTS, Crane aircraft made a forced landing in a snow storm at Virden, Man., **Sgt D.K. Wilson** slightly injured. See Feb. 8, 1944.
- 23 #34 OTU, Pennfield Ridge, NB, Ventura II AE872 was the lead aircraft in a practice formation when it broke away in a dive to crash at Hills Mountain Bridge near St. Stephens, NB, **P/O P.W. McCarthy**, **P/O B.B. Williams** and P/O G.A. Norriss RNZAF killed.
- 23 unknown unit, ground wireless operator **AC1 A.A. McFee** died in hospital in Canada of natural causes.
- 23-24 221 Sqn. Wellington VIII HX646 shot down at low altitude off of Sicily searching for an enemy convoy, **F/O S.C. Shusterove**, S/L G.F. Jackson RAAF, F/O J.I. Craig RAAF, Sgt R.J. Burns RAAF and Sgt S.G. Vials RAF missing, Sgt F.J. Baker RAF survived and became a PoW (A. Storr).
- 23-24 Bomber Command sends 121 bombers to Lorient and 83 to Dusseldorf plus 4 OTU NICKEL sorties, losing 3 bombers. Cloud cover over Dusseldorf prevented anything but light, scattered bombing (BC War Diaries).**
- 23-24 10 Sqn. Halifax II BB243 ZA-G was hit in a wing and the fuselage by flak over France, **Sgt R.O. Elford**, **Sgt S.A. Moores** RAF (Nfld.), **P/O D.J. Sale**, F/O H.J. Espy RAF (USA), F/O G.E. Heard RAF, F/O R.C. Sawyer RAF, Sgt D.J. Richards RAF and Sgt C.W. Rowley RAF landed safe (R. Allenby). See May 12-13 below.
- 23-24 12 Sqn. Lancaster I ED386 PH-A lost over Germany, **F/S G.E. Campbell**, Sgt T.F. Dimmock RAAF, Sgt R. Percival RAF, Sgt H.D. Dawes RAF, F/S M.W. Baxter RAF, Sgt J.D. Perrett RAF and Sgt A.S. Blagden RAF killed.
- 23-24 408 Sqn. Halifax II DT678 EQ-C lost 2 engines on an operation over France and crash landed on return to England, **Sgt J.D. Blewett**, **F/S W.V. Nuemann**, **P/O C.A. Vogel**, **P/O N.D. Downie**, **Sgt W.A. Ivor**, **Sgt J.V.J.R. Veys** and Sgt K.O. Greig RAAF safe. See May 27-28, below.

Sunday

24 Stalingrad, Stalingradskaya Airfield, the last landing area inside the surrounded German pocket, is recaptured. Now only supplies dropped by parachutes could reach the trapped German forces (<http://ww2db.com>).

End of Casablanca Conference. Agreement to postpone invasion of France to 1944, and demand "unconditional surrender" of Axis countries (See June 1943, below). Churchill presses Roosevelt for re-opening of co-operation in atomic research, unaware that non-cooperation being done by Roosevelt's order. The threat of U-boat attacks on convoys was paramount. Imports to England for 1942 were only two thirds of 1939 levels as wolfpack attacks continued to be more frequent and effective. If this continued the Allies could not use England as a base to launch an invasion, and the country might be forced to

surrender (LH). As part of the measures to address this a conference was planned between all countries and commands involved, and it was made clear that political opinions must not interfere with practical solutions and co-operation (see Washington Convoy Conference, March 1, below). As well a new RAF Directive was issued to Bomber Command to use area bombing on the U-boat bases in the Bay of Biscay, that is, on French ports (already underway). What was not appreciated was the German Navy had foreseen this and built reinforced concrete bomb proof facilities, the construction of which had been observed but uninterrupted by attacks when they were vulnerable. The campaign against them now would ruin the towns attacked and kill many of their citizens for no useful purpose (BC War Diaries). (in the wartime book R.C.A.F. Overseas-The First Four Years is an aerial photo showing the pens at St. Nazaire and the damage caused in the area, it is not commented on that the actual pens appear undamaged). Some thought it would be more effective to transfer these bombers to Coastal Command, attacking the U-boats at sea (and post war analysis indicates they may have been correct), but any dispersal of Bomber Command forces was unacceptable at this time, for many reasons, including political. Bomber Command, and increasing USAAF attacks, would remain the sole offensive weapon of the Allies in northwestern Europe for the next 18 months.

Free French in Libya under General LeClerc reach Ghat on the southern Libyan/Algerian border (Oxford).

- 24 99 Sqn. **F/O W.G. Clark** died of his injuries received Jan. 5, above.
- 24 246 Sqn. Sunderland III DV979 MP-F hit the shore while on approach for landing in Scotland when short of fuel and crashed. At least 9 of the crew survived the initial impact but several were killed when the depth charges exploded. **P/O W.A. Johnston**, Sgt R.J. Jabour RAAF, Sgt E.G. Palmer RAAF, Sgt W.E.C. Heath RAF, Sgt G.C. Major RAF, Sgt H.J. Tasker RAF, Sgt G.C. Phillips RAF, Sgt W. Simpson RAF and Sgt D. Howarth RAF killed, Capt. E.J. Lever SAAF, Sgt G. Hogg RAF and Sgt J.I. Williams RAF survived. A memorial at the crash site on the Isle of Islay was dedicated in 2010 (www.peakdistrictaircrashes.co.uk).
- 24 58 Sqn. Halifax II DT684 crashed just after taking off in England, possibly due to rudder lock making a turn at low altitude, **F/S L.E. Gilpin**, **WO2 S.J. Prince**, **F/O G.R. Pringle**, F/O M.A. Legg RNZAF, F/L J.F.H. Andrews RAF, Sgt A.H.N. Bickley RAF, LAC A.H. Herbert RAF and Sgt A.S. Doull RAF killed (E. Martyn www.rafcommands.com).
- 24 421 Sqn. Spitfire Vb EP202 and EN777 collided in mid-air in Wales, **P/O A.C. Aitken** was killed in EP202, EN777 ditched off shore, pilot safe (www.spitfires.ukf.net, 421 SH).
- 24 #20 OTU Wellington Ic N2769 JM-E lost without trace on a training flight, **F/S O.W.**

- Stone RCAF (USA)**, F/L R.H.B. Field RAF, Sgt R. Webb RAF, Sgt R.C. Evans RAF and Sgt H.A.S. Fraser RAF missing.
- 24 #9 B&G School, Mont Joli, Quebec, Turret Battle I.T stalled on approach and crashed, F/S W.B. Oborn RNZAF badly injured (S. Shail).
- 24 #32 OTU, Patricia Bay, BC, Canadian built Hampden TB.I AN110 crashed making a single engined landing, no casualties (H. Moyle).
- 24 RNor.AF, Little Norway, Toronto Island Airport, Ontario, Douglas 8A-5 (Nomad) crashed, O.H.M. Backer killed (wikipedia).

Monday

- 25 192 Sqn. Wellington X HE231 crashed in England on an air test, **P/O I.M. Wilson**, P/O A.B. Wilson RAF, Sgt A.L. McLachlan RAF and Sgt A. Sephton RAF killed, Sgt G. Bender RAF injured.
- 25 416 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BM204 ditched after engine problems on a CIRCUS escort, **F/L E.P. Wood** rescued.

Tuesday

- 26 In Libya the northern Free French force links up with the 8th Army at Tripoli, over 2,500 km from the base in Chad it left in December, while it's southern arm reaches Ghadames located at the southern tip of Tunisia on the Algerian/Libyan border, blocking German forces from moving south (Oxford).**
- 26 #23 OTU Wellington III Z1695 caught fire and broke up in the air on a BULLSEYE sortie, **Sgt J.S. Cornfield**, **P/O R.P. Love**, **F/O D.R.A. MacDougall**, **Sgt J.J. Snyder**, Sgt T.A.J. Whalley RAF and Sgt B.P. Enright RAF (Eire) killed.
- 26 #52 OTU Spitfire IIa P8208 and IIb P8207 collided in mid-air on a gunnery exercise, the pilot of P8207 made a forced landing, but P8208 dove into the Severn River, **Sgt E.H. Caldwell** missing (www.spitfires.ukf.net).
- 26 #15 SFTS Crane IA #8739 was on a cross country flight to Lethbridge from Claresholm, Alberta, when it crashed 8 miles SE of Claresholm airfield. **Section Officer Rose Jette Goodman** was killed, pilot **P/O P.D. Meyers** and passengers **P/O C. Rainsworth** and **Nursing Sister H. Rainsworth (nee Broad)** injured. The aircraft was given permission to take the newly married couple to Lethbridge to meet the TCA flight for their honeymoon, P/O Meyers was the Best Man and Section Officer Goodman was the Bridesmaid at the ceremony (www.wwiicdnwomensproject.org).
- 26 #34 OTU, Pennfield Ridge, NB, (Yarmouth NS Detachment) Ventura I AE665 lost on a navigation exercise, believed to have crashed into the Gulf of St. Lawrence near Point Escuminac, NB, P/O D.S. Cormack RAAF, Sgt T.M. Hunter RNZAF and P/O S.J. James RAAF missing (#34 OTU Roll of Honour).
- 26 USAAF 5th Ferry Sqn. P-40M 43-5794 and 43-5787 crashed taking off at Ottawa, Ontario (AAIR).

26-27 Lorient again attacked by Bomber Command, 157 bombers with 3 losses, plus 9 Halifax GARDENING sorties to the Gironde River by #6 Group and 18 OTU sorties (BC War Diaries).

- 26-27 424 Sqn. Wellington III BJ714 QB-F lost over France, F/S W.A.L. Masterman, F/S V.F. McHarg and F/S M.E. Putnam killed, Sgt A.G. Ingram, Sgt A.C. Riach and Sgt K.G. Vallis PoW. F/S McHarg was recommended for a Victoria Cross but this was not awarded (H.A. Halliday rafcommands.com).
- 26-27 427 Sqn. Wellington III X3348 ZL-Z crash landed in England returning from an operation over France, Sgt A.P. Deane and P/O D. Mortimer RAF injured, P/O C.M. Taylor RAF, Sgt G.T. Southwood RAF, P/O G.A. Martin RAF and Sgt W. Lumsden RAF safe. See June 22-23, below.
- 26-27 429 Sqn. Wellington III BK163 AL-H lost without a trace, Sgt L.L. Rodgers RAAF, Sgt C. Davies RAF, Sgt D. Lewis RAF, Sgt A.G. Allen RAF and Sgt G. Amos RAF missing. W.R. Chorley notes that Sgt Lewis was only 17 at the time of his death.
- 26-27 429 Sqn. Wellington III Z1696 was engaged by flak and damaged (by a ship?). Although only slightly damaged the bomber had fallen behind while evading and, unable to reach it's target on time, returned to England, Sgt J.S. Jakeman, F/O J.W. Kerr, F/O I.F. MacIntosh, P/O B.F.N. Rawson and F/S Jim Smith RAF safe (R. Allenby). See July 7, below.

Wednesday

27 German forces stabilize defensive line further west of surrounded Stalingrad. Permission given by Hitler to withdraw forces in the Caucasus, but too late, most are cut off and forced into the Taman Peninsula across from the Crimean Peninsula (Oxford).

First attack by US bombers on targets in Germany, 64 bombers of 80 launched attack Wilhelmshaven, losing 3.

- 27 57 Sqn. Lancaster I W4267 crashed in England on a training flight, F/S R.A. Chapman, Sgt W.H. Wood RAF, Sgt R.B. Wetherell RAF, Sgt E.W. Campbell RAF, P/O T.H. Anthony RAF and Sgt S.C. Bradley RAF killed, Sgt Long RAF safe.
- 27 400 Sqn. Biscay detachment Mustang Is flown by P/O J.H. Watlington RCAF (Bermuda) and F/O L.W. Seath shot up trains and a hydro line in France, both returning safe despite F/O Seath flying through the top of a tree after a strafing run (FF Years).
- 27 #21 OTU Wellington Ic P9240 flew into the ground in England on an evening cross country exercise. It is believed they were descending through clouds for a navigation fix. Sgt A.V.M. Buckingham, Sgt C. Clarke RAF, Sgt H.E. Hole RAF, Sgt N.S. Devereux-Mack RAF and Sgt G.B. Tarran RAF killed.
- 27 #9 Construction Maintenance Unit, Vancouver, BC, AC2 S. MacKenzie died in Hospital at Bella Bella, BC, of natural causes.

- 27 #15 EFTS, Regina, Saskatchewan, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4181 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).
- 27 #31 OTU, Debert, NS, Hudson V AM890 spun into the ground on approach to land, **Sgt H.R. Leadley, F/S E. Mark**, P/O D.M. Bennett RAF and P/O E.J. Nash RAF killed (31 OTU/7 OTU Roll of Honour).
- 27 #34 EFTS, Assiniboia, Saskatchewan, DH.82C Tiger Moth #5929 crashed, P/O A.J.F. Mortimer RAF killed.
- 27 **AC2 W.F. O'Connell RCAF (Jamaica)** died of natural causes after being discharged from hospital January 22 as medically unfit, possibly to return to his home (www.rafcommands.com). He is listed as from Jamaica in some sources, but his home was Jamaica, New York, USA (www.findagrave.com).
- 27 USAAF 7th Ferry Group P-39M 42-4775 crashed near Gunn, Alberta after an engine failure, pilot J.A. Roe bailed out (AAIR).

27-28 Bomber Command sends 162 bombers to Dusseldorf, which has light haze over the target. However OBOE Mosquitos were used to mark the aiming points with the new Target Indicators and with Pathfinder back up, turned what might have been another scattered bombing into a heavy attack with the loss of 6 bombers. As well 54 GARDENING sorties were made with 1 loss (BC War Diaries).

- 27-28 50 Sqn. Lancaster III ED486 crashed in England soon after taking off on an operation, **Sgt M.J. Barbe, F/S J. Currie, F/S J.W. Wilson**, Sgt A.L. Kitching RAF, Sgt A.L.W. Cale RAF, Sgt R.P. Edwards RAF and Sgt J.B. White RAF killed.
- 27-28 51 Sqn. Halifax II DT705 MH-S shot down by a night fighter over Holland, **F/S F.H. Barrett**, Sgt J.H. Brooks RAF, Sgt J.M. Iliff RAF and Sgt C.M. Page RAF killed, Sgt J.D. Hardie RNZAF, Sgt G.J.E. Hextall RAF and P/O C.D. Farmer RAF PoW.
- 27-28 51 Sqn. Halifax II DT721 MH-J shot down by a night fighter over Holland, **WO1 L.O. Weakley RCAF (USA)**, Sgt L.J. Hammond RAAF and Sgt J.A. Daragon RAF killed, Sgt P.A. Best RAF, Sgt R. Hough RAF, Sgt C. Street RAF and P/O E.V.J. Purnell RAF PoW.
- 27-28 97 Sqn. Lancaster I W4135 OF-A shot down by flak over Holland, **F/S R.W. Rea** and Sgt R. Muskett RAF killed, Sgt A. Robinson RAF, Sgt R. Harvey RAF, Sgt C.P. Bigg RAF, Sgt A.E. Croome RAF and Sgt K.J. West RAF PoW.
- 27-28 102 Sqn. Halifax II W7918 DY-T hit by flak over the target in Germany, **F/L G.J. O'Hanley** was wounded and left the aircraft, but his parachute failed and he was killed. The aircraft went down in the Waddenzee. The pilot **F/L B.K. Lindsay** RAF missing, Sgt W.A. Bennett RAF killed, **F/O J.M. Colquhoun, Sgt A.F. Turner** and **Sgt R. Thomson RCAF (USA)** PoW. See March 5, 1945. The aircraft had had it's mid-upper turret removed to see if this improved it's speed and performance, thus had only 6 crewmen on board (Sgt Thomson on www.rafcommands.com). See March 5, 1945.

27-28 218 Sqn. Stirling I N6077 HA-V flew into high ground and crashed in Germany returning from a GARDENING sortie, P/O A.E. Gough RAF, P/O K.A. Taylor RAF, Sgt E.J. Forward RAF, Sgt G.C. Layley RAF, Sgt N. Whitehead RAF, Sgt G.L. Banks RAF and Sgt L.C. Ehrhart RAF killed, Sgt W.E. Jackson RAF, the rear gunner, survived, and became a PoW. Post war he immigrated to Canada and has published 2 books about this crew, this loss and his later experiences, "*3 Stripes and 4 Brownings*" and "*Lone Survivor*".

Thursday

28 After having eluded Australian ground and air patrols, and approached Wau from an unexpected direction, the Japanese begin a sudden attack on the base. By this time they are nearly out of food, and need to capture Australian supplies. Under heavy attack the Australian commander calls for reinforcement by air (D. Newton).

28 126 Sqn. Spitfire Vc AB526 missing after scrambling from Malta, F/L J.H. Long killed.

28 614 Sqn. Blenheim V BA812 force landed in North Africa on an operation, F/O J.P. Custance, Sgt D.F. Newcombe and F/O K. Arthur RAF safe (BLME V.2). See August 27, below.

28 411 Sqn. two Spitfire Vb R6897 and Vb AB847 aircraft collided in mid-air and crashed in England, P/O G.F. Brown killed in R6897, P/O C.A. Graham injured and bailed out of AB847 (VoyTech and JohnE at www.rafcommands.com).

28 #14 OTU Wellington Ic Z8896 spun and crashed while landing, possibly due to engine problems, F/S D.J. Farrell, Sgt F.J. Emberson RAF, Sgt R. Badcock RAF, Sgt M. McMillan RAF and Sgt G.G. Nielsen RAF killed.

28 #1659 HCU RCAF Halifax II W1146 'H' crashed in England while letting down in cloud, F/S J.H.A. Beliveau, Sgt R.E. Drago RAF and Sgt J.D. Stone RAF killed, F/S J.R. Askew, P/O E.R.Y.H. Lefebvre, Sgt H. McGeach and Sgt C.L. Pudney RCAF (USA) were injured. Despite their injuries P/O Lefebvre and Sgt Pudney removed everyone from the burning wreckage. Sgt Pudney then made his way over 2 miles of moorland to obtain help. Sadly F/S Askew died that night in hospital from his injuries (R. Allenby). Sgt Pudney was awarded the George Medal for his efforts (www.peakdistrictaircrashes.co.uk). See June 16, below and April 24, 1944.

28 #7 (BR) Sqn., Prince Rupert, BC, Shark floatplane #547 crashed on landing from an exercise, F/O A. Hogg killed.

28 #129 (F) Sqn., Dartmouth, NS, brand new Hurricane XII fighters #5660 and #5663 collided on the ground on the day they were accepted on RCAF strength, both repaired (R.W.R. Walker). See March 13, 1944.

28 #145 (BR) Sqn. RCAF Hudson I #760 crashed near the convoy it was patrolling, P/O R.R. Barnes, F/S J.S. Boyer RCAF (Nfld.), F/S J.E. Ouellette and F/O W.F.C. Snow missing.

28 #1 Radio Detachment, Dartmouth, NS, LAC W.R. Noel was killed when a partially

erected radio tower collapsed.

28-29 #301 FTU, Halifax II DT586 crashed in Spanish Morocco in transit to the Middle East, **Sgt R.E. Allin**, **F/S J.W. Warner**, Sgt U.W. Wallace RNZAF, Sgt R. Fox RAF, Sgt J.A. Garland RAF, Sgt G.A. Brind RAF and Sgt R.C. Rosam RAF killed (myweb.tiscali.co.uk/hphalifax; BLME V.2). This loss is the subject of a Spanish book, *el Bombardero Halifax DT-586 Caído en Ceuta*, 2009, by Luis Oliva Maldonado.

Friday

29 USAAF transport planes begin flying Australian reinforcements into Wau, including artillery, landing under fire from the attacking Japanese and going into action as soon as unloaded (wikipedia, D. Newton). Escorting RAAF Beaufighters attacked targets nearby to suppress Japanese fire. At one point Japanese soldiers reached the edge of the landing area but were driven off (wikipedia).

A new Soviet attack begins designed to encircle German army units in the Donets basin (C. Bergström).

- 29 51 Sqn. Halifax II W1185 MH-V was flying an air test in poor weather when an engine failed. The aircraft swung on landing and struck a hut on a railway line beside the airfield where some track layers were sheltering from the weather, and caught fire, Mr Thomas Edward Potton was killed and three civilians were injured in the hut, **Sgt R.W. Featherstone**, P/O W.A.O. Whitworth RAF, P/O L.G. McCoy RAF, Sgt J.E. Pyall RAF, Sgt A.G.S. Corrs and P/O G. Bond safe (R. Allenby). See February 29-March 1, below.
- 29 118 Sqn. Spitfire Vb EN932 lost in the Channel on a CIRCUS escort, **WO2 A.L. Cross** missing.
- 29 269 Sqn. Hudson III T9464 crashed near the airfield at Kaldadarnes, Iceland, just after taking off on an anti-submarine patrol. **P/O G.W. Ebert**, F/S E.P. Dubois RAAF and F/S D. Mallet RAF killed, Sgt C.O. Hunter RAAF seriously injured (A. Storr).
- 29 407 Sqn. last shipping strike operation, 2 Hudson aircraft sent to attack a convoy, but are unable to locate it due to mist. On this date the Squadron was re-designated a General Reconnaissance unit for anti-submarine work. The squadron had flown 913 shipping strikes, made almost 180 attacks and was credited with 10 ships sunk and 4 damaged as well as 2 shared sunk since September 1, 1941, at the cost of 24 Hudsons, with 91 crew killed or missing and 8 PoW (RCAF Sqns., 407 SH).
- 29 #17 OTU Blenheim I L8718 crashed on approach to land on a night training exercise, **F/S A.A. Mitchell** and Sgt W.R. Deacon RAF killed.
- 29 #22 OTU Wellington X HF650 stalled and crashed on a night training flight, **Sgt W.A. Boundy**, **Sgt W.E. Douglass**, **F/S G.L. Hall**, **F/S J.L. McConnell** and **P/O E.M. Tew** killed.

- 29 #23 OTU Wellington III BK503 crashed making a force landing after an engine failure, **Sgt J.A.R.T. Auclair** and **P/O G. Weston** killed, **P/O W.C. Coleman**, P/O M.A. Clancey RAF and Sgt C.W. Wyer RAF injured. See Oct. 22-23, below.
- 29 #23 OTU, two Wellington III aircraft collided in scattered cloud and crashed, **P/O R.J. Archer**, **Sgt W. Argo**, **F/S K.H. Mount**, **F/S J.A. Wilson** and Sgt W. Adams RAF were killed in X3586, **Sgt R.C. Alderson**, **F/S W.R. Harron**, **Sgt M.J. Kelly**, **F/S R.E. Oswald** and Sgt P. Yarker RAF killed in Z1685. Chorley states F/S Oswald was from the USA, but TSGNO lists him from Windsor, Ontario.
- 29 RCAF Station Gander, **LAC M.L. Polowich** died in hospital of natural causes.
- 29-30 40 Sqn. Wellington Ic HX494, attached to 70 Sqn., shot down by anti-aircraft fire on an operation to Catania, Sicily, **P/O R.B. Carlson**, **Sgt C.S. Carroll RAF (Can.)**, Sgt J.H.P. Evans RAF, Sgt T. Patterson RAF, Sgt R.B. Smith RAF and Sgt R. Stansfield RAF killed, they have no known grave (BLME V.2).
- 29-30 Bomber Command sends 106 bombers to Lorient where they bomb in cloud and icing conditions without marker support with scattered results. Seventeen more GARDENING sorties and 5 OTU sorties were also flown, 6 aircraft lost (BC War Diaries).**
- 29-30 166 Sqn. Wellington III BK159 suffered an engine failure after taking off on an operation. It overshot a single engined landing and came down beyond the airfield where it was destroyed by a fire. Four members of the crew of **F/S R.E. Currie**, Sgt N.A.M. Cawthra RAF, Sgt M. Sutherland RAF, Sgt G.H. Williams RAF and Sgt W. Hindson RAF, were injured. See June 24-25, below.
- 29-30 408 Sqn. Halifax II HR662 EQ-H lost over France, **F/O T.C. Roux** RAF (S. Rhod.), Sgt F.A. Cavadino RAF, **P/O E. Payling** RAF, Sgt J. Rostron RAF, Sgt W.K. Barton RAF, **P/O R.G. Brinkworth** RAF and Sgt J.D. Adam RAF killed. This was the first 408 Sqn. Halifax lost on operations.
- 29-30 419 Sqn. Halifax II DT623 made a wheels up crash landing returning from operations over France, **F/S J.M.B. O'Connor**, **F/L A.P. Cranswick** RAF, Sgt F.E. Johnston RAF, **WO W. McRobbie** RAF, **F/S D. McKenzie** RAF, **P/O J.C. Garton** RAF and **F/S I.L.J. Howard** RAF safe. See also April 28-29, below. W.R. Chorley notes that F/L Cranswick left 419 Sqn. soon after for operations as a Pathfinder, where he became one of the premier bomber pilots in Bomber Command. He was killed July 4-5, 1944, as a Squadron Leader DSO while acting as Primary Visual Marker on an operation over France.
- 29-30 420 Sqn. Wellington III DF615 PT-S lost without trace, **F/S J.C.M. Desrosiers**, **F/O W.D. Marks**, Sgt W.G. Goode RAF, **P/O F. Noon** RAF and **F/O E.J. Stanton** RAF missing (R. Koval).
- 29-30 420 Sqn. Wellington III DF626 crashed in England returning from operation. It had been unable to release its high capacity bomb, and the crew were trying to jettison it when they came under fire from British anti-aircraft guns after flying in error over a

restricted area. The bomb finally came off, still over England, and the bomber flew into high ground (R. Donovan). **Sgt J.D. Bittner RCAF (USA)**, **F/S C.M. Downton**, **Sgt D.R. Sanderson**, **F/S H.H. Sealy** killed, **Sgt P.G.E. Beauchamp** and **Sgt H.R. Ernst** survived with injuries, both became "Guinea Pigs". A Royal Marine Sgt W. West was awarded the BEM for his efforts to save the aircrew (aeroplane gripper www.rafcommands.com). A documentary of Sgt Hank Ernst's experiences and the search for the crash site, called "*Final Flight, the Search for DF626*", was aired on CBC TV Nov. 11, 2004.

29-30 424 Sqn. Wellington III BK436 QB-P was hit by flak that damaged the fuel tanks and put it into a spin over the target, which also caused the loss of the pilot's escape hatch (R. Koval). They managed to return to England despite wind, sleet and rain blowing into the cockpit (FF Years), but found their radio unserviceable. The bomber was abandoned when it ran out of fuel, **Sgt R.M. Buie**, **Sgt H.L. Davis** and P/O K.C.E. Wade RAF injured, **Sgt L.K. Taylor**, **Sgt A.G. Lees** and Sgt H.R. Cook RAF safe. A detailed description of this loss can be found in the *424 Squadron History*. See April 10-11 and June 1, below.

29-30 #16 OTU Wellington III X3890 flew into a hill in England on a night exercise, **Sgt D.B.E. Skinner**, F/S G.L. Hosford GM RAF, Sgt K. Lawson RAF, P/O F.L. Farla RAF and F/S G. Wartnaby RAF killed, Sgt Tait RAF, F/O Boucher RAF and Sgt Adair RAF injured. F/S Hosford had been awarded the George Medal for rescuing a trapped crewman from a burning bomber under enemy fire in June 1942 (in the desert?).

29-30 #21 OTU Wellington Ic W5705 'E' crashed in England returning from a NICKEL sortie over France, **F/S J.W. McCausland**, Sgt P.E. Farren RAF, Sgt F.C.W. Palmer RAF, Sgt G.W. Ayres RAF and Sgt F.A. Morgan RAF killed.

Saturday

30 Tenth anniversary of the German Nazi Party's establishment in power, RAF makes 2 daylight operations by 6 Mosquito aircraft timed to arrive over Berlin to disrupt the celebrations, 3 arriving in the morning as a live radio broadcast speech by Luftwaffe C-in-C Göring was due to start, and the second 3 in the afternoon to disrupt the live broadcast speech planned by Propaganda Minister Goebbels. The first was completely successful, without loss, but one of the Mosquitos was shot down on the second attack (BC War Diaries).

Taking advantage of the weather, and the political anniversary, Wellingtons (19 total, 11 from #6 Group RCAF) and Bostons (17) were sent to targets in Germany and Holland, only 6 managed to bomb and 4 Wellingtons were lost (BC War Diaries).

As part of the celebration Hitler appoints U-boat commander Admiral Dönitz to command of the German Navy (Polsson). This was an indication that Hitler

now favoured the U-Boat service over the surface fleet.

Churchill meets with Turkish leaders (Polsson).

Edmonton, Alberta, recorded a temperature of -52° F (-46.7° C) on this day (J.W. Chalmers).

- 30 243 Sqn. Spitfire Vb ER707 shot down in Tunisia, **F/S J. Lawrence** missing (www.spitfires.ukf.net; www.rafcommands.com).
- 30 248 Sqn. Beaufighter VI EL321 'M' failed to return from operations in the Bay of Biscay, **F/O E.W. Cunningham** and F/O J.G.D.M. Rawden RAF missing (www.rafcommands.com).
- 30 425 Sqn. Wellington III X3872 KW-A, **P/O S.L. Murrell RCAF (USA)**, was attacked by two Bf 109s and set on fire on a daylight sortie. Navigator **P/O R.A. Livingston** extinguished the fire in his compartment and the bomber returned safely and also claimed one of the fighters as damaged (R. Koval and R. Allenby). **Sgt R.L. Robinson**, Sgt B.B. Grey (RCAF?) and one other crewman safe (R. Allenby). For this sortie P/O Murrell and P/O Livingston were awarded the DFC. See June 21-22 below.
- 30 426 Sqn. Wellington III Z1680 OW-R lost on a daylight operation over Germany, **F/S I.G. McLeod**, Sgt H. Riles RAF and F/L A.T. Sprosen RAF killed, **F/O G.D. Fitz-Gibbon**, **F/S J.J. Lemke**, **F/L R.H. Lowe** missing (R. Koval). This operation was an attempt to use heavy cloud cover to attack Hamburg. F/L Lowe had a reputation for always completing his assigned operation and it is felt he pressed on beyond the cloud cover attempting to do this (L. Motuik). F/L Sprosen was the Squadron Navigation Leader.
- 30 427 Sqn. Wellington III BK389 ZL-L lost without trace on a daylight operation to Oldenburg, Germany, **P/O C.J. Bennett**, **F/O H.B. Kent**, **F/S L.W. Phillips**, **F/S C.J. Smith** and **F/S W.W. Wallace** missing.
- 30 466 Sqn. RAAF Wellington X HE154(?) was damaged by flak over Emden, but made a second bomb run and dropped before returning, **F/S L.R. Crowe**, P/O S.M. Wood RAF, Sgt J.G. Chalmers RAF, Sgt A.C. Kneeshaw RAF and Sgt A.D. Pennycord RAF safe (R. Allenby). See April 8-9 below.
- 30 #34 OTU, Penfield Ridge, NB, Ventura II AE953 was taking off from Yarmouth, NS, on a cross country training flight when it swung and ran into rough ground, collapsing it's undercarriage, **Sgt J.S. Titus**, Sgt E.D. Bristow RAF and Sgt H. McLeod RAF safe (www.rootsweb.ancestry.com #34 OTU Accident and Mishap Reports).

30-31 Bomber Command sends 148 bombers to Hamburg, with the first operational use of H2S ground imaging radar for aiming. Most of the bombs are scattered but damage was serious and 58 people were killed on the ground. Four OBOE Mosquitos attacked Ruhr targets and 17 GARDENING sorties were carried

out, 5 bombers were lost (BC War Diaries).

30-31 9 Sqn. Lancaster III ED481 WS-N crashed in England after getting lost and running out of fuel returning from a sortie, **Sgt M. Allan**, **WO2 F.G. Nelson RCAF (USA)**, Sgt W.G. Murton RAF, Sgt G.F. Done RAF, Sgt A.A.F. Williams RAF, Sgt H.S. Jones RAF and Sgt A.W. Burton RAF killed. According to Richard Allenby at his <http://www.yorkshire-aircraft.co.uk> website this aircraft had been delivered only 2 weeks before it's loss, and this was the crews second operation. See also S. Hadaway.

30-31 101 Sqn. Lancaster I ED447 SR-Q shot down by naval flak over Holland, **WO2 F.J. Belanger**, **WO2 R.P. Campbell**, **WO2 G.J. Hutchinson**, Sgt W.E. Debeurier RAF (S. Africa), Sgt J.C. Jacques RAF, Sgt J.L. Barden RAF and Sgt S.D. Wall RAF killed.

Sunday

31 German commander in Stalingrad is captured. Hitler orders troops still fighting to resist to the last man (Oxford).

31 31 Sqn. Douglas DC-3 MA929 lost on a supply sortie from India to Fort Hertz, Burma, **WO2 J.J.J. Casaubon**, F/O H.J.M. Campbell RAAF, WO K.R. Phelps RAAF, Sgt J.O. Nicholls RAF, AC1 T.G. Williamson RAF and F/L M.C. Baugh RAF missing (A. Storr).

31 227 Sqn. two Beaufighter Vlf shot down by flak off the Tunisian coast, part of a flight of four from Malta, EL278 blew up, **F/O J.A. "Red" Rae** and F/O L.H. Hunt RAF missing, X8003 crashed into the sea, **Sgt A.M. Reynolds** and F/S W.O. Goff RAF missing (aviation-safety.net). On Dec. 10, 1942 F/O Rae had been credited with a six-engined Bv 222 flying boat shot down and a second damaged, intercepted while attempting to land reinforcements and supplies in Tunisia.

31 428 Sqn. Wellington X HE173 NA-S crashed in England just after taking off on a training flight, **F/O G. Wood**, F/O N. Gorick RAF and F/S W. Mossop RAF killed, Sgt J. Welch RAF injured (R. Allenby).

31 #2 Flying Instructor School, Scotland, Master AZ319 crashed, **P/O A.E. David** and Sgt C.R. Young RAF killed (AL90 www.rafcommands.com).

31 #7 (Coastal) OTU Wellington VIII HX430 crashed in Ireland on approach to land from a training flight, **F/S B.E. Samuels**, P/O W.W. Milson RAF, Sgt C.B. Berger RAAF, Sgt E. Highfield RAF, Sgt J. Clark RAF and Sgt E. Greenwood RAF killed (A. Storr, D. Burke at www.rafcommands.com).

31 #16 OTU Wellington III X3990 crashed in England minutes after taking off on a bombing exercise, **Sgt S.U. Trowbridge**, Sgt E.J. Guth RAF, Sgt G.F. Priest RAF, Sgt J.F. Eden RAF, Sgt J.H. Beasley RAF and Sgt E. Fowell RAF killed.

31 #31 OTU, Debort, NS, pilot **P/O D.L.T. Wilson** died in hospital of natural causes.

31 #8 SFTS (?), **LAC J.L.P. Boutin** died in hospital in Moncton, NB, of natural causes (www.rafcommands.com).

February 1943

407 Sqn. receives Wellington XI aircraft for training (RCAF Sqns.). 420 Sqn., 424 Sqn., 427 Sqn. begin to upgrade to Wellington X aircraft (RCAF Sqns.). #7 (BR) Sqn. begins to receive Stranraer flying boats in BC (RCAF Sqns.).

In Germany flight training for new pilots had been slowed down in 1942 due to the reduction of available aviation fuel. This was to have been temporary pending the planned capture of Soviet oil fields in the Caucasus. As this had not happened, in this month the training regime was re-structured, eliminating about half of the flight hours flown by a new pilot before being sent to a front line unit. Thus from this time on the quality of Luftwaffe pilots began to recede, while at the same time the training of Allied pilots before becoming operational would improve. The effect of this disparity on achieving air superiority over the Luftwaffe should be kept in mind (C. Bergström). See also June 2, below.

Indian Nationalist Subhas Chandra Bose, his request for help having only been used for propaganda purposes in Germany, leaves for Japan at their invitation, by submarine (Oxford).

Malta Spitfire by Leslie Roberts, about fighter pilot **F/O George Beurling RAF (Can.)**, is published. Within three months it is a best seller (Nolan).

Project Habakkuk, In 1942 it was proposed to build a very large aircraft carrier or floating landing area built of Pykrete, a combination of ice and wood pulp that could be cut like wood, molded like plastic, and was able to withstand high impacts making it almost unsinkable by torpedoes. It would be kept intact by installed refrigeration units onboard. This would be used in the North Atlantic to provide an airbase to fill in the gap in air coverage for anti-submarine aircraft. In order to test the theory a 1/10 scale section of the proposed ship with refrigeration units was built in Patricia Lake in Jasper National Park, using ice instead of Pykrete. This was built on the ice and in April was 'launched' by cutting it free to float on it's own (<http://www.goodeveca.net/CFGoodeve/patricia.html>). See June, 1943.

Monday

1 Fighting at Wau in New Guinea continues, the original base force of 400 Australian soldiers has been increased to over 3,000 by air supply. Attempts to bomb the airfield by Japanese bombers based in Rabaul had been thwarted by low cloud (wikipedia, D. Newton). See February 6, below.

Japanese forces begin final evacuation of Guadalcanal.

- 1 unknown unit, **S/L H.D. Domville MiD RAF (Can.)** was last seen on this date in the Far East as a prisoner of war. See July 30, 1943.
- 1 425 Sqn. Wellington III X3361 crashed in England due to engine failure on a ferry flight having just been collected from #43 MU, Sgt R.C.G. Cater RAF killed, **Sgt G.J. Giguere** died soon after in hospital, **Sgt J.M.G. Perron**, **Sgt D.M. Coates**, **Sgt J.D. Wray**, **Sgt J.V.M. Deschenes**, **Cpl J.A.G. Brouillette**, and **LAC J.A.T. Rioux** injured. See Feb. 3, below.
- 1 #3 (Coastal) OTU Whitley VII Z9135 force landed in a field after both engines failed, **F/O T.E. Bach RCAF (Argentina)** and Sgt G.C. Wright RAF injured, Sgt N. Brook RAF, Sgt A.S. Fox RAF, Sgt W.J. Hargreaves RAF and Sgt R.E.S. Morrish RAF safe (Awards; www.rafcommands.com).
- 1 #11 OTU Wellington Ic X9798 'N' crashed in very bad weather after overshooting the runway on landing from a night exercise, **F/S W.C. Gilpin DFM RAF (Can.)**, P/O A. Cameron DFM RAF, Sgt D. Ryan RAF, Sgt G.H. Brookes RNZAF, Sgt W.E. Hopkins RAF and Sgt T.G. Knope RAF killed, Sgt D.R. Taylor RAF injured.
- 1 #22 OTU Wellington X HF646 landed without flaps and overshot the landing area practicing night circuits, **Sgt R.E. Todd RCAF (USA)** and his crew safe. See March 29-30, below.
- 1 #26 OTU Wellington Ic X9755 crashed attempting a force landing with an engine on fire on a training flight, **F/S C.D. Donald**, Sgt D.A.J. McDonald RAF and Sgt G.E. McGeown RAF killed, Sgt T.H.E. Henwood RAF and Sgt C.D. Hore RAF injured.
- 1 #1659 HCU RCAF Halifax II BB275 'S' crashed in Wales on a cross country training flight, **F/S J.G. Arsenault**, **Sgt J.L. Boivin**, **F/S D.C. Carder**, **Sgt H.F. Gorrie**, **Sgt P. Larsen**, Sgt A.B. Wedderspoon RAF, Sgt J.B.D. George RAF and Sgt T.H. Clapham RAF killed.
- 1 #1661 HCU Lancaster I L7530 flew into rising ground on an overshoot, Sgt H.H. Lloyd RAAF killed, Sgt B.F. Wilmot RAAF, Sgt A. MacDonald RAF, Sgt T.W. Hill RAF and Sgt W.J. Fraser RAF injured, **P/O L. Pietsch** safe. TSGNO states Sgt Lloyd is a Canadian in the RAF from Winnipeg, but Chorley and CWGC state he is a member of the RAAF with parents in Victoria, Australia. A. Storr confirms RAAF.
- 1 #13 EFTS, St. Eugene, Ontario, **LAC(P) G.A. Magee** died of natural causes in the base hospital.
- 1 #31 ANS, Port Albert, Ontario, LAC L.C. White RAF died of natural causes in Canada (H.A. Halliday www.rafcommands.com).
- 1 USAAF 7th Ferry Sqn. P-39L 42-4634 crashed taking off at Edmonton, Alberta, pilot V.R. Sproul (AAIR).

Tuesday

2 Final radio contact with German forces still fighting in Stalingrad. German losses

estimated to be 200,000 soldiers. The Luftwaffe lost 488 aircraft in the Stalingrad campaign (H.W. Neulen), including half of the aircraft engaged in the airlift (wikipedia). Of the 280,000 German soldiers originally surrounded 40,000 wounded were evacuated and some 90,000 have been taken PoW. Only 5,000 of these soldiers returned to Germany, the last in 1955. Soviet losses in the city alone are near 47,000 killed (D. Sommerville).

Russian advance on the Dnieper begins (Oxford). But the Soviet forces are becoming overextended and running into supply problems (C. Bergström).

- 2 221 Sqn. Wellington VIII HX398 lost without trace in Mediterranean on an operation against shipping off Italy, **F/L F.C. Anderson**, **S/L R.H. Bertran DFC**, F/S M.E. Barker RAF, Sgt W.G. Creed RAF, Sgt N. Jones RAF, F/O A.F.J. Duncan RAF and P/O H. Rowson RAF missing (P. Clare, www.ww2talk.com).
- 2 408 Sqn. Halifax II DT682 EQ-F crash landed in England after an engine fire on a transit flight back to it's base, **F/S F.W. Wood**, **F/O T.B. Moore**, **Sgt J.B. Cameron**, Sgt D.A. Allen RAF, F/S L.J. Palmer RAF, Sgt W.R. Shellington RAF and Sgt B.L. Lehew RAF were all injured. See March 27-28, below.
- 2 #31 SFTS, Kingston, Ontario, Harvard II AJ643 and AJ645 were practicing formation flight when they collided in mid-air over Westbrook, Ontario. AJ645 crashed while AJ643 was damaged, P/O A.D. Walford RAF and A/LA M.M. Beachcroft RN FAA were killed, A/LA M.A. Vickers RN FAA injured and F/L P. Paterson RAF safe in this accident (H. Welting, Dakota and others on www.rafccommands.com).
- 2 #39 SFTS, Swift Current, Saskatchewan, Oxford I BG325 crashed when night flying, LAC D.A. Pettigrew RAF killed (D.J. Carter).

2-3 Bomber Command was still trying out the new techniques and on this night sent 161 bombers to Cologne with both OBOE and H2S marking the aiming point, but the marking was poor and bombing was scattered. Thirteen GARDENING sorties and 1 OTU flight were also made, 5 bombers were lost (BC War Diaries).

- 2-3 7 Sqn. Stirling I R9264 MG-L shot down by a night fighter over Holland, **WO2 W.J. Dempster DFM**, F/L B. Martin DFC RNZAF, S/L W.A. Smith DFC MiD RAF, F/S R.N.B. Brooker DFM RAF and F/S F. Quigley RAF killed, **F/S J.P. Bragg RCAF (Nfld.)** and Sgt R.G. Newman RAF PoW. [WO Dempster may be the same as Sgt Dempster who survived a crash landing in a severely damaged 214 Sqn. Stirling Sept. 8-9, 1942.]

This aircraft was equipped with an early H2S radar navigation set, and was the first one so equipped to be shot down, on only the radars second operational use. The set's demolition charges failed and it was recovered and re-conditioned by German intelligence, their first look at centimetric radar, which they had not considered to be

technically possible. Prior to this the RAF had restricted the use of centimetric radar to night fighters over England and Air-to-Surface-Vessel (ASV) units over the sea where they would be unlikely to fall into enemy hands. The heart of the radar, the Cavity Magnetron, was made from a large, shaped, copper chamber which was difficult to destroy, and its capture was anticipated, but losing a repairable set so quickly was bad luck. A German copy of the Cavity Magnetron was quickly reverse engineered, giving them improved radar for night fighters. As well the NAXOS radar detector was developed which could home in on a bombers H2S radars, and was also used by U-boats to detect and avoid searching aircraft using centimetric ASV radar (see March 4, below). As an aside the principal of the Cavity Magnetron had been independently developed earlier in Japan (1933), but the development had not been followed up (K.G. Budge). See March 1-2 below.

- 2-3 44 Sqn. Lancaster I W4819 KM-G collided with 102 Sqn. Halifax W7882 (see below) and crashed in Holland, killing **WO2 E.C. Lawrence**, Sgt F.R.W. Checketts RAF, Sgt P.B. Copp RAF, Sgt L. Cox RAF, Sgt E.G. Harrold RAF, Sgt R. Horden RAF, and Sgt I.C. Traill MiD RAF.
- 2-3 49 Sqn. Lancaster III ED440 EA-L shot down over Holland by a night fighter, **F/O E.J.F. Dunand**, **F/S H.M. Magder**, F/O R.A. Jackson RAF, P/O A.W. Lane RAF, Sgt A.J. Colver RAF and Sgt L.G. Alexander RAF killed, Sgt J.R. McMahon RAF PoW.
- 2-3 50 Sqn. Lancaster III ED488 VN-M shot down by a night fighter over Belgium where it crashed into a swamp, **F/O D.A. Power** killed, F/L J.M. Bousefield DFC RAF and Sgt S.D. Beadon RAF missing, **F/O T.H.L. Church**, Sgt D.N. Clark RAF, Sgt R.A. Holland RAF and Sgt V.J. Mitchell RAF PoW. In 1983 a propellor blade recovered from the crash site was presented to 50 Sqn. by the Belgian Air Force, and a plaque commemorating this crew was mounted near the crash site.
- 2-3 102 Sqn. Halifax II W7882 DY-P collided over Holland with 44 Sqn. Lancaster W4819 (above) and crashed, **Sgt D.H. Watt**, F/S H.A. Ross Thomson RAF, Sgt G. Guerrier RAF, Sgt R.W. Goffin RAF, Sgt H.J. Naylor RAF, Sgt R.F. Lillywhite DFM RAF and Sgt D.V. Gwilliam RAF killed.

Wednesday

3 Bomber Command sent 60 Ventura bombers to various targets in Northwest Europe but only 15 were able to bomb, 2 were lost (BC War Diaries).

In Ottawa the British High Commissioner met with Air Minister C.G. Power to ask for more RCAF airmen with radar training to be seconded to the RAF over the 5,000 agreed to. Minister Power refused the request, as the airmen already sent, all with university educations or equivalent in electrical engineering, were being held at low rank in the RAF, most being only AC1 or LAC. Later the RCAF established a "shadow rank" system for these men, which gave them the "shadow" rank and pay they would have for their skills and

experience in the RCAF, based on their service time and record. Thus a radar mechanic in India could be an LAC on an RAF unit with an RCAF "shadow rank" of Sgt or F/S. The extra pay was banked in Canada pending their return (V. Johnson & R.F. Linden). Note that promotion in the RCAF was based on time in service (and good conduct) as well as merit, while in the RAF promotion was based on merit and quotas, which meant often slow promotions, especially for enlisted ranks and in remote locations. For those engaged in secret work, such as radar, it was often the case that their officers could not establish merit for a promotion as they did not know what these airmen were doing, or if they did could not discuss it when promotions were considered. The "shadow rank" system was evolved to solve this dilemma for RCAF airmen.

Cape Saglek, Labrador, final diary entry by remaining 4 crew of the B-26 bomber that crashed there Dec. 10, 1942. See March, below.

The US Army Transport SS Dorchester enroute from St. John's, Newfoundland to Greenland torpedoed and sunk in the Atlantic with the loss of 672 of the 902 on board (<http://members.iinet.net.au/~gduncan/maritime-1a.html>)

Near Annette Island, Alaska, the two shore bound survivors from the missing Lockheed 10 airliner are spotted by a local fisherman. They had sheltered in a trappers cabin and tried to repair an abandoned boat before being spotted. By that evening the camp of the injured survivors had been found by aircraft and supplies dropped to them (G.P. Liefer). See Feb. 4, below.

- 3 416 Sqn. Spitfire Vb EP493 shot down by German fighters over France on a CIRCUS escort, **F/O R.J. Turp** killed (www.spitfires.ukf.net).
- 3 416 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BL812 'The City of Litchfield' shot down by German fighters over France on a CIRCUS escort, **F/O J.P. Gofton** PoW, wounded. In 1983 a model of this aircraft, made at the former Castle Bromwich factory where the original aircraft was produced, was presented by Jaguar Cars Ltd. and the City of Litchfield to the War Museum in Calais, France. Dr. J.P. Gofton, it's pilot, was a guest at the ceremony (www.spitfires.ukf.net, 416 SH, Don Wilson).
- 3 416 Sqn. Spitfire Vb, BM325 'Canadian Policeman', shot down by German fighters over France on a CIRCUS escort, **F/O J.S. McKendry** PoW (www.spitfires.ukf.net; www.rafcommands.com).
- 3 416 Sqn. Spitfire Vb, possibly BM128?, shot down by German fighters on a CIRCUS escort and ditched on the Goodwin Sands, **F/O J. Rainville** rescued, wounded (416 SH). His account of this fight was published in *The R.C.A.F. - The First Four Years*. Despite ditching, the water was so shallow he sat on his aircraft until spotted, and then had to walk a half mile (with a wounded leg) across the sands and shallows to

- the Rescue launch when it arrived.
- 3 425 Sqn. **Sgt J.M.G. Perron** died in hospital of injuries received in the crash of Wellington III X3361 on Feb. 1, 1943.
- 3 547 Sqn. Wellington VIII HX596 lost off the coast of Wales on a ferry flight, **F/O R.D. Hann**, Sgt P.R. Karena RNZAF and Sgt F.L. Ayley RAF missing (www.rafcommands.com).
- 3? #2 Wireless School, Calgary, Alberta, Fort #3604 damaged beyond repair, no details (R.W.R. Walker).
- 3 #17 EFTS, Amherst, NS, Finch II #4415 crashed near Stanley, NS, **P/O J.L.D. White** and LAC(P) T.D. Colquhoun RAF killed.

3-4 Hamburg was targeted by 263 bombers with H2S marking but icing conditions over the sea forced many to return. Marking was poor and bombing was scattered. German night fighters were very active and 16 bombers were lost as well as 1 of 8 Wellingtons GARDENING off France. There were 4 OTU sorties as well (BC War Diaries).

- 3-4 15 Sqn. Stirling I R9274 LS-B shot down over Holland, Sgt F.T. Lax RAF killed, **Sgt W.R.L. Torrance**, **Sgt R.K. Hempseed**, Sgt A.S. Forbes RNZAF, Sgt G.A. Howard RNZAF, Sgt E.B. Mossman RNZAF, Sgt N.S. Craddock RNZAF and Sgt P.H. Ward RAF PoW.
- 3-4 35 Sqn. Halifax II W7923 TL-D was hit by flak and was damaged beyond repair making a wheels up landing in England, **F/O J.C. Thomas**, **P/O G.H.F. Carter**, **Sgt E.R.R. Terraine**, **Sgt J.H. Barry**, **P/O W.J. Freeman**, Sgt D.C. Young RAF and Sgt R. Martin RAF safe. See Feb. 13-14, below.
- 3-4 75 (New Zealand) Sqn. Stirling I R9250 AA-W shot down over Holland by a night fighter, **F/S E. McDermott**, Sgt D. Clearwater RNZAF, P/O A.J. Scott RNZAF, P/O K.E. Blincoe DFC RNZAF, F/O H. Lowe DFC RAF, F/O D.D. Hayward RAF, Sgt F.A. Boese RAF and Sgt G.W. Cook RNZAF killed.
- 3-4 78 Sqn. Halifax II W7938 EY-U lost over Germany, **F/S H.W. Laughlan**, **F/S J.F. MacDonald**, F/S V.R. Wood RAF, F/O F. Buchanan RAF, F/O F.A. Davies RAF, Sgt W.J. Higgs RAF and Sgt C. Milburn RAF killed.
- 3-4 90 Sqn. Stirling I BF415 WP-S shot down over Holland by a night fighter, **P/O G.D. MacDougall**, Sgt G.C. Adam RAF, Sgt P.J. Egan RAF, Sgt L.H. Jenkins RAF, Sgt C.G. MacTavish RAF, Sgt R.T. Williams RAF, F/O F.A. Parton RAF and P/O G. Stephens RAF killed.
- 3-4 102 Sqn. Halifax II W7921 shot down over Germany by a night fighter, **P/O R.L. Alexander**, Sgt W.S. Thompson RNZAF, Sgt M.W. Lofthouse RAF and Sgt A. Short RAF killed, Sgt B.H. Winnard RAF, Sgt W.B. Haxby RAF and Sgt J.W. Crouch RAF PoW.
- 3-4 106 Sqn. Lancaster I W4770 ZN-O lost over Germany, **F/S J.R.A.R. Coulombe**, Sgt R.E. Cooke RAF, Sgt K. Loach RAF, Sgt P.N. Reed RAF, Sgt A.W. Thomas RAF,

- Sgt F. McNeil RAF and F/O C.G. Jones RAF killed
- 3-4 115 Sqn. Wellington III BK127 KO-D lost over the sea on an operation to Germany, **F/S H.R. McKay, P/O C. Tuma**, Sgt M.A. Pollard RAF, Sgt K. Spooner RAF and P/O F.S. Potter RAF missing.
- 3-4 214 Sqn. Stirling I R9197 BU-V shot down by a night fighter over Holland, **F/O J.I. MacKenzie, WO2 W.M. Murdoch, F/S D. O'Neill, WO2 W.O. Powell, F/S A.H. Theissen**, P/O D.H. Smith RAF, P/O D.G. de Garis RAF and Sgt R.F. Evans killed.
- 3-4 218 Sqn. Stirling I BF406 HA-E shot down over Holland by a night fighter, **WO2 R.J.T. Lynn RCAF (USA), F/S F.C. Stewart, F/S H.W. Traver RCAF (USA)**, Sgt L.J. Dodd RAF, Sgt M.B. Holden RAF, Sgt R.C. Selby RAF and Sgt D.G. Heath RAF killed.
- 3-4 408 Sqn. Halifax II DT680 EQ-D was lost over Germany, pilot **F/L W.A. Black** was killed, **F/S F. Waite, Sgt J.S.A. Aubry, P/O I.G. Imrie**, Sgt S. Eardley RAF, Sgt B.G. Howe RAF and Sgt J.A. Taplin RAF PoW.
- 3-4 408 Sqn. Halifax II returned damaged by flak, **Sgt G.D. Boyer, Sgt F.R. Burke, Sgt G.A. Fletcher, P/O J.D. McBride, Sgt E.A. Sirett**, Sgt K.O. Brice RAF and F/S R.E. Carter (RCAF or RAF) landed safe (R. Allenby). See April 3-4 below.
- 3-4 419 Sqn. Halifax II DT630 VR-T suffered an intercom failure and soon after was attacked by a fighter as it crossed the Dutch coast and shot down, the warnings of the tail gunner being unheard by the pilot (419 SH), **Sgt W.P. Duthie, WO2 L.A.J. Gonnet, WO2 R.H. Hill, P/O J.D. MacKenzie** killed, **Sgt W.N. Garnett, Sgt E.R. Marquand** and F/S R.H. Milton RAF PoW.
- 3-4 426 Sqn. Wellington was hit by flak over the target just after releasing its bomb load, which took out the hydraulic system. With the undercarriage and flaps partially deployed the pilot, **S/L C.S. Dowie DFC**, had a difficult time clearing the coast through heavy flak but managed to return to England and make a safe landing with his crew. S/L Dowie was awarded a Bar to his DFC for this sortie (426 SH).

Thursday

4 RMS Queen Mary and 4 other liner/troop transports leave Egypt carrying 20,000 Australian soldiers back to Australia from the Desert (ww2total.com Chronology/1943). Many would then fight in campaigns against the Japanese.

In the Atlantic convoy SC-118 begins to come under U-boat attack (D. Sommerville). See February 9, below.

A party of US Coast Guard, guided by the two survivors found the previous day, reach the camp of the injured passengers of the missing Lockheed 10, 30 miles NE of RCAF Annette Island, Alaska. Over the next several days the survivors are brought down to safety. The body of the passenger was recovered after the snow had melted, and the missing pilot's body was later

found on the shore, near where the first survivors were spotted, having died at a campsite after putting up shore signals (G.P. Liefer). The wreckage was studied in 2003 to provide information on how a Lockheed 10 would break up in a crash or underwater as part of the search for the missing Earhart aircraft. On the tighar.org/Projects/Earhart a photograph of the wreck can be found.

- 4 9 Sqn. Lancaster III ED496 WS-P crashed and blew up in England on an air test, Sgt C.R. Land RAF killed, **F/S J.T. Levesque**, Sgt R.J. Packer RAF, Sgt H.F. Gullery RAF and Sgt F.V. McGonigal have no known grave.
- 4 279 Sqn. Hudson III V9044 lost off England, **F/S J.J. Gendron**, **WO2 J. Slugoski**, F/S T.I. Evans RAF, F/S D.V. Marchand and Sgt L.J. Preece RAF missing (www.rafcommands.com).
- 4 405 Sqn. Halifax II LQ-G, **F/O W.W. Colledge**, was intercepted by Ju 88 aircraft over the Bay of Biscay but managed to fight them off and return safely in a fight lasting over half an hour (405 SH). This was detailed in *The R.C.A.F. - The First Four Years*, which references the tail gunner P/O J.H. Steward and especially the mid-upper gunner **Sgt E.A. Taylor**. F/O Colledge was awarded a DFC and Sgt Taylor a DFM for this action. See July 1, below and August 19, 1944
- 4 #59 OTU Hurricane I V6989 crashed in England, **Sgt M.A. Dixon** killed.
- 4 #133 (F) Sqn. RCAF, Hurricane XII #5398 FN-L crashed at Pender Island, BC, while on a night flying test, **P/O G.S. Sargent** killed. This aircraft was a Presentation aircraft, named "*March of Dimes*", donated to the Squadron July 16, 1942 by the charitable *March of Dimes for Infant Health* foundation (RCAF Sqns.). *Airforce Magazine* Vol. 29, #1, Spring 2005, has a biography of P/O Sargent, entitled *A Mother's Tears – A Mother's Pride*, by W. Saunders.

4-5 Bomber Command sent 192 bombers to targets in Italy, 188 to Turin and 4 using a 4,000 lb. blast bomb equipped with a proximity fuse to attack the naval docks at La Spezia. Due to clear visibility and good marking (419 SH) the Turin attack caused widespread damage. The results at La Spezia were not reported, but the bomb used was apparently not further developed. As well 128 bombers, mostly Wellingtons, were sent to Lorient using only incendiary bombs which set many large fires, 2 OBOE Mosquitos were attacking the Ruhr and 1 GARDENING sortie off Lorient, a total of 323 sorties. Four bombers were lost, 3 from the Turin attack and 1 over Lorient (BC War Diaries).

- 4-5 50 Sqn. Lancaster III ED527 VN-B crashed in Spanish Morocco on an operation from England to Italy, **Sgt G.M. Bown** RAF (Nfld.), **WO2 L.A. Cumming**, **F/S N.E. Holness**, **Sgt M.S. Napier**, Sgt K.C. Johanson RNZAF, Sgt D. Livingston RAF and Sgt G. Robinson RAF killed.
- 4-5 57 Sqn. Lancaster I ED352 DX-Q lost in France on a sortie to Italy, **P/O A.F.G. Ritch**, Sgt T. Cosford RAF, Sgt D.G. Busby RAF, Sgt E. Atkins RAF, Sgt D. McNeil RAF,

- Sgt E.N. Perkins RAF and Sgt R. Shears RAF killed.
- 4-5 106 Sqn. Lancaster I W4118 ZN-Y "Admiral Prune" flew into high ground in France and exploded after a double engine failure outbound to Italy, F/S F.L. Darlington, Sgt W.E. Baker RAF, Sgt N.B. Johnston RAF and F/O G.R. Powell RAF killed, Sgt D.L. Thompson, Sgt P. Ward RAF, Sgt R.P. Sutton RAF and Sgt J. Picken RAF PoW. Sgt Thompson was badly burned and he was repatriated to become a Guinea Pig, see R. Donovan for details.
- 4-5 427 Sqn. Wellington III BJ668 ZL-X shot down by flak over France, P/O C.M. Parsons RAF, Sgt P. Sandover RAF, Sgt A.M Templeton RAF and Sgt H.F. Davies RAF killed, P/O A. Thompson RAF PoW.

Friday

5 In the fighting on the Donets basin Soviet forces break through German defensive positions, but have taken heavy casualties in the advance and are moving farther from their supporting aircraft bases. They were met with a strong concentration of Luftwaffe bombers, fighters and ground attack aircraft, and fresh armoured units deployed from Germany (C. Bergström).

- 5 112 Sqn. Kittyhawk III FR325 GA-V missing over the desert, Sgt J.G.R. Lecours PoW (<http://raf-112-squadron.org/planelosses.html>).
- 5 279 Sqn. Hudson III T9414 'V' crashed in Scotland, WO2 T.A. Pertus killed, F/S L.A. Burkett, Sgt J.F. Burness, F/O A.A. Henderson and Sgt G.H. Lumley (all RAF?) safe (T. Docherty, www.rafcommands.com).
- 5 #4 EFTS, Windsor Mills, Quebec, DH.82C Tiger Moth #8938 crashed near Sherbrooke, Quebec, killing P/O F.M. Pierce RCAF (USA).
- 5 #9 AOS, St. Jean, Quebec, Anson I #6650 on a test flight collided in the air with Anson I #6196 which was flying a photographic exercise, and both crashed near Chambly, Quebec, killing LAC(N) E.R. Crump, LAC J.C. Bell RNZAF, LAC J.T. Bowler RAF and two civilians, D. Still and A.D. Windsor.
- 5 #14 SFTS, Aylmer, Ontario, Harvard IIb #3094 stalled and crashed pulling out of a dive near London, Ontario, LAC(P) G.J. Taylor RAAF killed (A. Storr).

5-6 GARDENING was undertaken by 19 Stirlings off the Frisian Islands, 2 bombers lost (BC War Diaries).

- 5-6 37 Sqn. Wellington Ic HE132 lost on an operation to bomb shipping in Palermo, Sicily, Sgt I.M. Thomas RAF killed, Sgt L.A.J. Latour, Sgt L.W. Clublely RAF, Sgt G.C. Lake RAF, F/O S. Pearson RAF and F/O A.J. Ross RAF missing (CWGC; BLME V.2).
- 5-6 462 Sqn. RAAF Halifax II W7848 'Y' crash landed in Libya returning from an operation to Palermo, Sicily, F/O R. Moorhouse RAF killed, Sgt W.R. Rich, S/L D.A. Fordham DFC RAF and Sgt R.W. Parsons RAF injured, Sgt E. Loomes RAF and Sgt S. Tucker RAF safe (BLME V.2).

- 5-6 **HMCS Louisburg sunk in the Mediterranean by an Italian torpedo bomber with the loss of 37 seamen. This was the only RCN ship sunk by aircraft attack in the war (B. Barry et al).**
- 5-6 75 (New Zealand) Sqn. Stirling I BK617 AA-D caught fire in the air outbound on a GARDENING operation and crashed into the sea off the English coast, **Sgt R.C. Legge, F/S W.W. Wilson**, Sgt R.E. Redding RNZAF, Sgt A.J.D. Barton RNZAF, Sgt P.P.D. Freeman RNZAF, Sgt H. Dennis RAF and Sgt C.G. Phillips RAF missing.
- 5-6 USAAF C-49K (DC-3) 43-2004 missing on a flight from Fort Nelson, BC to Fort Simpson, NWT, carrying personnel and a military payroll of \$200,000 and also a cargo of gold. The wreck was discovered at Tuchodi Lake near Fort Nelson in 1948, having flown into high ground. Partially covered by landslides the remains of LCol A.R. Mensing, 2Lt C.J. Atwood Jr., PFC R.B. Clark, PFC C.H. Danks, Sgt Allie J. Said, Sgt S.M. Schilsky and Pvt R.J. Shepherd and 4 others were recovered, but there is no record of the recovery of the money or the gold (AAIR; www.goldpanning.ca).

Saturday

6 The clouds over besieged Wau in New Guinea break up, and an air battle begins over the airfield there, USAAF and RAAF fighters engaging with Japanese bombers and fighters. Very few bombers reach the airfield, however, and damage is slight. By this time the Japanese ground forces were beginning to break off, out of food and ammunition, and having taken serious losses (wikipedia). See March 3, below.

In the Netherlands a German officer is fatally wounded, and identified his attackers as students. On this date 600 Dutch university students were arrested and sent to a concentration camp, followed by 1,200 more in following days

- 6 236 Sqn. Beaufighter Ic T4800 ND-C crashed in the mouth of the Humber River in England, **WO1 J.H. Clark** and F/S R. Eadie RAF, missing (aviation-safety.net). This aircraft had been used June 12, 1942 to drop a French Tricolour flag on the Arc de Triumph on a daylight sortie before attacking the German naval headquarters in Paris (www.ww2talk.com). The pilot on that sortie, F/L A.K. Gatward RAF, later commanded 404 Squadron (FF Years, wikipedia)
- 6 #3 FIS, Arnprior, Ontario, DH.82C Tiger Moth #8947 crashed, Sgt L.A. Brown RAF and Sgt B.C. Staunton RAF killed.
- 6 #34 OTU, Pennfield Ridge, NB, **LAC F. McClanaghan** died in hospital of natural causes.
- 6 unknown unit, LAC H.J. Mann RAF killed in Canada in a car accident, in Alberta (www.rafcommands.com)?
- 6-7 RAF Ferry Command Catalina Ib FP309 lost in transit from Bermuda to England, **F/S**

T.C. Judiesch, Ferry Captain S.H. McCawley (USA), Ferry Captain A.E. Bleau (USA), P/O E.D. Markham RAF and Sgt C.S. Rumble RAF missing

6-7 Bomber Command sent 52 GARDENING, 2 OBOE and 3 OTU sorties out for the loss of 3 bombers (BC War Diaries).

- 6-7 199 Sqn. Wellington III BK367 EX-U lost without trace on a GARDENING operation, Sgt L.J. Switzer, Sgt G. Moses RAF, Sgt R.S. Guy RAF, Sgt D.W. Turner RAF and Sgt H.J. Read RAF missing.
- 6-7 424 Sqn. Wellington III BJ658 QB-Q shot down into the Baltic Sea on a GARDENING operation, WO2 E.D. Coates, P/O E.T. Cox, F/S H.M. Duke and Sgt A.E. Booth RAF killed, F/O J.M. Patterson and Sgt F.J. Allen RAF missing.
- 6-7 425 Sqn. Wellington III Z1742 KW-C lost without trace on a GARDENING Operation, F/S F.C. Bitten, F/S A.F. Guillemette, P/O J.A.A. Poirer, Sgt R.B.C. Bloom RAF, Sgt H.J. Martin RAF and P/O A.L. Worsley RAF missing.
- 6-7 428 Sqn. Wellington X HE177 was hit by flak on a GARDENING sortie. The weather was poor and they were unable to find their drop point, so they returned with their mines, Sgt R.M. Buckham, Sgt J.D. Fraser, P/O N.W. Rodin, Sgt A.C. Cox, Sgt D.N. Christie and Sgt J.G. Taylor (RCAF or RAF?) safe (R. Allenby). See April 8-9 and May 21-22, below.

Sunday

7 First train reaches Leningrad along the new rail line. Bombing and shelling of the rail connection continues all summer long, and this requires daily work to repair the rail line and keep the city in contact with the rest of Russia (Oxford).

On the Donets front Soviet troops liberate Kursk (C. Bergström).

417 Sqn. departs Egypt for Libya (RCAF Sqns.).

- 7 413 Sqn., Ceylon, air frame mechanic Cpl J.C. Milner died of asphyxiation due to gas fumes.
- 7 426 Sqn. Wellington III DF620 OW-S was on an air test when an engine throttle jammed wide open. Attempting a landing the other engine failed and the bomber made a heavy landing short of the runway, Sgt A.H. Steen and his crew safe (R. Allenby).
- 7 #26 OTU Wellington Ic HF908 had an engine catch fire just after take-off. The instructor, P/O M.M. Johnston, managed to climb in an attempt to land again, but the engine failed completely and he had to make a crash landing, Sgt E.C.A. Barnes RAF was injured, P/O Johnston, Sgt F.A. Bartlett RAF and P/O W.E. Handy or Sawdy RAF safe (www.rafcommands.com).
- 7 #1604 Anti-Aircraft Co-Operation Flight target tug Henley TT.III L3390 crashed in England after hitting a power line, P/O S. Rogers RCAF (USA) and Cpl A.W. Talbot

RAF killed (malcolm_raf, www.rafcommands.com). This was P/O Rogers second crash in a Henley, see April 17, 1942.

- 7 RCAF Station Gander, Newfoundland, **LAC J.J.T. Berube** was suffering from a medical problem and died of suicide (www.rafcommands.com).
- 7 #1 Manning Depot, Toronto, Ontario, **AC2 J. Currie** died of natural causes in hospital.

7-8 Lorient U-boat base again attacked by Bomber Command, 323 bombers with Pathfinder marking caused heavy damage to the city, losing 4 bombers. As well 2 OBOE Mosquitos were sent to the Ruhr (BC War Diaries).

- 7-8 44 Sqn. Lancaster I ED309 KM-S believed lost over the sea, **F/O J.W. Millar, WO2 H.G. Black, Sgt R.W. Drury, WO2 K.M. Perkins, F/S W.W. Scrimgeour**, Sgt L.H. Curtiss RAF and Sgt A.L. Bond RAF missing. F/O Millar was reported to have been injured in an accident at #15 AFU April 2, 1942. Sgt Perkins had bailed out of a #25 OTU Wellington Sept. 4, 1942.
- 7-8 51 Sqn. Halifax II DT582 was landing from an operation when a tire burst and the aircraft went off the runway, **WO E.P. Acree**, P/O J.B.R. Battle RAF, P/O J.E. Ulrich RAF, F/S D.W. Helps RAF, Sgt G. Steer RAF, Sgt J. Elwell RAF and Sgt F.M. Thompson RAF safe (R. Allenby). See June 4, 1945.
- 7-8 61 Sqn. Lancaster I ED359 QR-F lost over France, **F/S H.D. Lewis**, Sgt C.F. Abraham RAF, Sgt J.B. Hillhouse RAF, Sgt A.R. Parker RAF, Sgt H.L. Williams RAF, Sgt G.E. Young RAF and Sgt K.L. Morgan RAF killed.
- 7-8 408 Sqn. Halifax II HR655 EQ-S lost over France, **Sgt D.M. Brackenridge, F/S J.E.R. Giguere, F/S W.H. Lough, F/S F.J. Sayers, WO2 D.W. Smith, F/S W.H. Cowman** RAF and Sgt R.J.P. Salt RAF killed.

Monday

8 Japanese evacuation of Guadalcanal completed.

First Chindit force begins operations behind Japanese lines in Burma. Developed by the unorthodox British General Orde Wingate, this innovative highly mobile force of British, Indian, Gurka and Burmese soldiers with RAF liaison and communications sections, depended solely on aircraft for supplies and heavy support in attacks. This deprived the Japanese of a fixed enemy to attack, and negated their tactic of cutting off supply lines and weakening an enemy before attacking. As a result of this innovation, transport and aerial re-supply units in India and Burma began to develop to a high degree of efficiency which would affect the future campaigns there. The beginning of what would become, with the post-war development of the helicopter, Air-Mobile warfare. One of the Air Force liaison officers was **F/L K.M. Wheatley, one of three Canadians in the force. F/L Wheatley had previously flown a tour in 17 Sqn. Hurricanes (www.chinditslongcloth1943.com). See April 15, below.**

Soviet forces re-take Kursk (CJCA headline). On this date advancing Soviet units recaptured the city of Belgorod, but now require re-supply by aircraft (C. Bergström).

- 8 185 Sqn. Spitfire Vb EP473 crashed while ditching 20 miles off Malta after a suspected engine failure, **F/S C.J. Carmody** missing.
- 8 418 Sqn. Boston III W8380 was low flying over England when it struck a tree and crashed, killing aero engine mechanic **LAC B. Kapusta**, Sgt L.V. Jackson RAF, Sgt A.J. Adams RAF and LAC C.H.E. Ross RAF. LAC Kapusta was not authorized to be on this aircraft (www.aviationarchaeology.org.uk).
- 8 430 Sqn. Tomahawk IIa AH910 written off after an engine failure and forced landing (H.A. Halliday).
- 8 #10 OTU Whitley V LA784 landed poorly from a night training flight and began an overshoot, but crashed, **F/S F.E. Gullison**, Sgt S.W. Marshall RAF and Sgt O.O. Openshaw RAF killed, Sgt P.G. Cust RAF died of injuries, Sgt F.J. Marriott RAF injured (www.rafcommands.com). F/S Gullison had been injured March 2, 1942 in the collision of 2 Finch aircraft at #17 EFTS, Stanley, NS.
- 8 #126 (F) Sqn. RCAF, Dartmouth, NS, Canadian built Sea Hurricane Ia BW854 BV-X broke formation following an engine failure and attempted a force landing at Pine Lake, NS, but crashed, **WO1 G.R. Woolatt** killed.
- 8 #4 ITS, Edmonton, Alberta, **Sgt W.H. MacDonald** died in hospital of natural causes. Sgt MacDonald was from Edmonton.
- 8 #9 AOS, St. Jean, Quebec, Anson I #6691 was on a navigation exercise when it crashed near Arnprior, Ontario, **F/S J.R.C. Barton**, **LAC(N) B.E. Campbell**, **LAC(OB) S. Endleman** and one civilian **G.R. Handfield** (pilot?) also killed.
- 8 #31 SFTS, Harvard II AJ684 collided in mid-air with Harvard IIb FE437 and crashed, Acting LA H. McNeice RN FAA killed (R.W.R. Walker at www.rafcommands.com). FE437 was damaged.
- 8 #34 OTU, Pennfield Ridge, NB, Ventura II AJ211 crashed near Richibucto, NB, while on a cross country exercise, Sgt H.J. Burnham RAAF, Sgt P.L. Edmond RAAF and Sgt J.E. Hogan RNZAF killed (#34 OTU Roll of Honour).
- 8 USAAF 25th Ferry Sqn. P-39L 42-4626 crashed landing at Edmonton, Alberta, pilot was R.J. Conroy (AAIR).

- 8-9 RAF Ferry Command, Dorval, Quebec, Hudson IIIa FH235 crashed on White Face Mountain, New York State, USA, **F/S R.C. Brooks** and Sgt A.M. Harris RAF killed.

Tuesday

9 Guadalcanal declared secure (CJCA headline). In 6 months of fighting over 1,650 US airmen, soldiers, marines and sailors had died. Japanese forces lost 24,000 killed or missing (wikipedia).

The violent protests in the 'Quit India' campaign were blamed on Gandhi by the authorities, who denied that he had advocated for this. Still imprisoned, he announced and began a fast on this date until the violence ceased (S. Raghavan). It took three weeks, and nearly killed him (Oxford). He was 72 years old at this time.

Bad weather closed down air support over the Soviet advance on the Donets. On this day Hitler was convinced to pull back troops from Rostov to build a reserve to stop the Russian Army, that threatened to encircle them (C. Bergström).

U-boat attacks on convoy SC-118 end as it approaches England. Some 20 U-boats have been engaged in these attacks, sinking 30 of the 63 ships in the convoy (D. Sommerville).

After a long fight HMCS Regina sank the Italian submarine Avario in the Mediterranean. See Aug. 8, 1944.

- 9 #53 OTU Spitfire IIb P8447 crashed in Wales after it hit a tree, **Sgt R.R. Hill** killed (www.spitfires.ukf.net).
- 9 RAF Ferry Command, Liberator LB-30 AL591 crashed 10 miles from Gander, Newfoundland after it ran out of fuel attempting to land in a blizzard on a return ferry flight from England. See Feb. 10 & 11 below.
- 9-10 150 Sqn. Wellington III HF690 attacked and damaged in Mediterranean, **F/S J.D. Baird** died of injuries, **Sgt Mathews**, Sgt Hoaven, F/O Macolm and Sgt Nicholson safe (www.rafcommands.com).

Wednesday

10 Soviet forces take Belgorod (CJCA headline). Poor weather and snowfall stalled the Soviet advance towards Orel, and they were taken under constant attack by Luftwaffe bomber and ground attack aircraft from airfields near to the front, which Russian fighters were unable to counter due to being too far back and beset by snow (C. Bergström).

- 10 #152 OTU, Risalpur, India (now in Pakistan) Canadian built Hurricane I AG128 was making a practice attack on an Audax aircraft on an exercise and flew into the ground, F/O P.W. Lomax RAF killed (www.rafcommands.com).
- 10 270 Sqn. Catalina Ib FP173 'J' crashed off Sierra Leone, **Sgt R.E. Noble** and F/L M.F. Taylor RAF missing, **Sgt S.L. Gray**, Sgt R.B. Aubrey RAF, Sgt F. Donald RAF, F/L K.G. Flintoff RAF, P/O J.A.E. Mallard RAF, Sgt A. May RAF, P/O R.H. McGregor RAF and Sgt A. Spencer RAF injured (www.rafcommands.com).

- 10 #23 OTU Wellington III BK256 suffered an engine failure on a night navigation exercise. The pilot, **F/S G.M. Johnston**, brought the bomber back to its base but the remaining engine cut on approach and he was forced to crash land. He was injured with **Sgt J.R. Archambault** and Sgt R.J. Stone RAF, **Sgt J.S. Armstrong** and Sgt J.G.A. McPherson RAF safe. See June 21-22 and Aug. 17-18, below.
- 10 RAF Ferry Command, Gander, attempts are being made to locate the missing Liberator AL591 but are thwarted by the continuing blizzard. Survivors at the crash site later report hearing the search aircraft, but are unable to signal. See Feb 11, below.

Thursday

- 11 403 Sqn. Spitfire Vb W3619 hit a tree on a RHUBARB over France and returned to England, damaged, **P/O H.D. MacDonald** safe after making a dead stick landing due to a jammed throttle (FF Years). This aircraft had previously served with the USAAF, and after repair was still in use in 1945 when it was issued to the French Air Force (www.spitfires.ukf.net). See Nov. 30, below.
- 11 RAF Ferry Command, the weather cleared at Gander and the wreckage of Liberator AL591 was found, Ferry Captain F.A. Dugan (USA), Sgt J.R. Elding RAF, Ferry Captain G.P.M. Eves (UK), Ferry Captain T.R. Harmes (UK), Sgt H.L.B. Lewis RAF, Ferry Captain R.M. Lloyd (USA), Sgt D.J. Owen RAF, Ferry Captain J. Stagner (USA), **F/S E.H. Kyle**, **F/O R.I. Scott**, Radio Operator F.J. Brown (UK), Radio Operator J.D. Jones (UK), **Radio Operator F. Scrafton**, Radio Operator R. Wadsworth (UK), **Flight Engineer E.G. Longley**, Flight Engineer J.B. Merriman (UK), **Flight Engineer W.I. Wilson** and Lt. Col. L.T. Grove, Royal Engineers, were dead, **Captain R.E. Parker Jr.**, P/O G.N. Abelson RAF and Sgt G.P. Pollard RAF were found alive, but Sgt Pollard died in hospital soon afterwards.

11-12 Bomber Command sent 177 bombers with H2S marking to Wilhelmshaven. There the target was completely obscured by cloud but Pathfinders managed to place skymarkers accurately using the H2S which resulted in a very concentrated bombing. This was the first successful blind bombing using H2S. By chance a naval ammunition store was hit which exploded with heavy damage to the naval dockyard, 3 bombers were lost. Other operations were 2 OBOE attacks on the Ruhr, 36 GARDENING and 5 OTU sorties (BC War Diaries).

- 11-12 57 Sqn. Lancaster I W4384 DX-D lost without trace, **WO1 L.W. Brayford**, **F/S T.E.J. Casey**, Sgt K.T. Dutton RAF, Sgt W. Halliday RAF, Sgt E.W. Inwood RAF, Sgt C.F. Clout RAF and Sgt R.E. Dignum RAF missing.
- 11-12 106 Sqn. Lancaster I LM303 ZN-M shot down over Germany by a night fighter, **F/S R.M. Agnew**, **WO2 V.C. Hayward**, **P/O J.T. Hunt**, F/O W. Henry RAF, Sgt F.C. Kelly RAF, Sgt J. Lee RAF and Sgt K.R. Lees RAF killed.

Friday

- 12 242 (Canadian) Sqn., LAC V.E. "Candy" Syrett RAF (Can.) died in Japan as a PoW. LAC Syrett was the subject of the biography "*Dear Mum*" by Ken Stofer. He was also a Biggs' Boy (K. Stofer).
- 12 405 Sqn. Halifax II, Sgt R.A. Symes BEM RAF, sighted and attacked a U-boat in the Bay of Biscay without result (FF Years).
- 12 #23 OTU Wellington III X3608 was on a night photo exercise when it ran into icing and was abandoned over Wales. The pilot, Sgt A.N.E. White RAF, bailed out too low after ensuring his crew had time to leave and was killed, Sgt J.T. Backsimchuk was injured, Sgt G.L. Sinclair, Sgt D.M.J. Labelle and Sgt Leahy RAF safe. See Aug. 17-18, below.
- 12 #1660 HCU Lancaster I R5676 broke up in the air and crashed in England, Sgt G.W. "Bunny" Kennedy, F/O S.R. Jones RAF, Sgt W.T. Raeside RAF, F/O F.M. Krish RAF, F/O S. Hoy RAF, Sgt J. Westwood RAF, Sgt T.H. Jackson RAF and LAC E.R. Redfern RAF killed (Peter at www.rafcommands.com).

12-13 2 OBOE Mosquitos, 38 GARDENING and 2 OTU sorties were made by Bomber Command (BC War Diaries).

- 12-13 418 Sqn. Boston III AL766 shot down over France on an INTRUDER sortie, F/O P.J. LeBoldus and F/S R.R. Jackson RAF killed, Sgt T.S. McNeil RAF PoW. See Nov. 24-25, below.
- 12-13 427 Sqn. Wellington III BJ778 ZL-A was returning from a GARDENING sortie and was descending through cloud when it flew into high ground, Sgt O.P.E.R.J. Adlam RAF, P/O B. Dunn RAF, Sgt A.C. Clifford RAF, Sgt W.C.I. Jelley RAF and Sgt W. Ball RAF killed (R. Allenby).

Saturday

13 #116 (BR) Sqn. RCAF re-deployed from Dartmouth to Shelburne, NS (RCAF Sqns.).

Bomber Command sent 34 Ventura day bombers to Holland and 22 Boston day bombers to targets in France without a loss (BC War Diaries).

- 13 458 Sqn. RAAF Wellington VIII HX726 overshot when landing in Malta and crashed after aborting an operation due to engine trouble, Sgt P.E.E. Brown, P/O L.H. Gleason, F/O M.M. Kempton, WO2 H.E. Stanley and Sgt E.A. Brown RAF killed.
- 13 #14 AFU Oxford I V3948 crashed in England, P/O D.R.G. Reid and AC2 K.R.H. Jones RAF killed (malcolm_raf www.rafcommands.com).
- 13 #22 OTU Wellington X HF759 crashed attempting an overshoot after a flap failure on approach, P/O S.H. Amys, Sgt R.C. Boulton, Sgt J.G. Campbell, WO2 L.S. Carpenter, P/O M.S. Jacobs, Sgt R. Kennedy, WO2 G.A. Molozzi and F/S L.M. Fleming RAF killed. WO Molozzi had been injured in the landing crash of a #22 OTU Wellington Ic R3229 one year before on Feb. 13, 1942, in nearly identical

circumstances and due to a similar cause.

- 13 #30 OTU Wellington X HE466 flew into mountain in Wales on a training exercise, **F/S E.G. Frezell**, P/O F.K. Thorogood RAF, Sgt C.G. Bennett RAF, Sgt G.N. Rafferty RAF and Sgt E. Towler RAF killed. This accident is detailed on the Peak District air Accident Research website.
- 13 #2 Flying Instructor School, Pearce, Alberta, Crane IA FJ282 crashed after an engine fire east of Champion, Alberta, killing **F/O B.E. Ehnisz**, one crewman bailed out safely.
- 13 #3 SFTS Calgary, Alberta, two Crane I aircraft collided in the landing circuit **P/O E.W. Carlson** and LAC(P) A.A. McDonald RNZAF were killed on #7753, **F/O D.H.J. Chapman** and LAC(P) **G.M. Walkinshaw** were killed in #8126.
- 13 #39 SFTS, Swift Current, Saskatchewan, Oxford I X6967 crashed near Rosetown, Saskatchewan, LAC W.H. Lloyd RAF and LAC C.J. Street RAF killed (D.J. Carter).

13-14 Bomber Command sent 466 bombers to Lorient plus 2 OBOE attacks on the Ruhr and 17 OTU sorties, 7 bombers lost. This was the first time that Bomber Command was able to drop more than 1,000 tons of bombs on a single regular operation (BC War Diaries). See May 23-24, below.

- 13-14 35 Sqn. Halifax II W7885 TL-B hit by flak and abandoned over France, **F/O W.J. Freeman** killed, Sgt D.C. Young RAF PoW, **F/O J.C. Thomas**, **F/O G.H.F. Carter**, **Sgt E.R.R. Terraine** (or Turenne), **Sgt J.H. Barry** and Sgt R. Martin RAF evaded. Ten days before this crew had been in a crash landing in England (www.conscript-heros.com MI-9 files). See Dec. 20-21, below, and Feb. 19-20, 1944.
- 13-14 50 Sqn. Lancaster III ED484 VN-Q lost over France, **F/S W.J. Hogg**, **F/S L.H. Peterson** and F/L E.A. Davies RAF killed, **F/S K.J. Hodgson**, Sgt J.H. McCarthy RAAF, Sgt D.R. Bishop RAF, P/O M.J. Steward RAF and WO J.H. Bailey RAF missing.
- 13-14 75 (New Zealand) Sqn. Stirling I R9316 AA-K hit by flak and abandoned over France, Sgt D. Harding-Smith RNZAF and Sgt R.A. Williams RAF killed, **F/S D.E. Browne**, Sgt K. Gudmunsen RAF, Sgt H. Sawyer RAF and Sgt T.H. Smith RAF PoW, **Sgt L. Willis** evaded.
- 13-14 115 Sqn. Wellington III BK166 KO-C lost over France, **F/O W.M. Currie**, Sgt T.G. Tait RAF, P/O D.J. Rose RAF and Sgt S.J. Gray RAF killed, Sgt L.T. Hooper RAF PoW.
- 13-14 199 Sqn. Wellington III X3870 EX-S lost over France, **F/O R.J. Keyes**, F/O J.M. Bell RAF, Sgt E.K. Jones RAF, Sgt H.E. Woodruff RAF, Sgt G. Easey RAF and F/S W.E. Cain DFM RAF killed.
- 13-14 207 Sqn. Lancaster I W4167 EM-Q was written off after it crash landed at it's base returning from an operation over France, Sgt P. Evison RAF injured, **Sgt W.V. Wallace**, **F/S W.E. Cain**, Sgt M.G. Delatorre RAAF, Sgt R.W.E. Holley RAF, Sgt C.E. Wittner RAF and Sgt L.R. Thompson RAF safe.
- 13-14 418 Sqn. Boston, **F/S B.G. Henderson**, was hit and badly damaged by flak, but then attacked and damaged a train (FF Years).

- 13-14 420 Sqn. Wellington III BK330 PT-K lost over France, **F/O L.G. Gibson**, **F/S D.A. MacDonald**, **F/O F.R.F. Chapman** RAF (Aus.), **Sgt T.V. Hughes** RAF and **Sgt B.W. Somerford** RAF killed.
- 13-14 424 Sqn. Wellington III DF621 QB-O was returning from an operational sortie when it was damaged in a mid air collision with an unidentified aircraft. The pilot **F/S L.W. Forbes** called for a bailout but only two crew did before he recovered control and landed safely, **Sgt (M.M. or N.M.) Duncan** injured when landing, **Sgt J.D. MacGillivray** bailed out safely, **F/S Forbes**, **Sgt A.W. Kimmerly**, **Sgt G. Wood**, **Sgt H.A. Martin** safe (R. Allenby). See April 10-11, below.
- 13-14 428 Sqn. Wellington X, **F/L F.H. Bowden** DFC RAF, had their 4,000 lb. HC bomb fail to release. **F/L Bowden** then circled and his bomb aimer, **P/O R.G. Gutten**, tried to release the bomb manually, without success. They tried again, but finally after an hour and on the sixth attempt the bomb was dropped after **P/O Gutten** chopped it free with an axe (FF Years, H.A. Halliday).

Sunday

14 Soviets re-take Rostov (CJCA headline). Re-taken after German retreat.

Ten Mosquitos were sent to bomb the railway yards at Tours in France, 6 bombed with precision, all returned (BC War Diaries).

- 14 Aircraft Delivery Unit, Middle East, **Blenheim V AZ885** spun and crashed in Nigeria after an engine failure, **WO2 B.L. Sweeny**, **F/S P.D. King** RAF and **F/L M.N. Waugh** RAF killed (BLME V.2).
- 14 406 Sqn. **Beaufighter VI f X7921** crashed in England on a test flight, **F/S H.O.B. Payne**, **Sgt D.F.E. Jenner** RAF and mechanic **LAC E. Smith** RAF killed (aviation-safety.net).
- 14 #24 OTU **Whitley V BD285** force landed due to an engine failure on a transit flight, **Sgt J.J. Roxburgh**, **F/S M.A. Peterson** RNZAF and 1 crewman injured.
- 14 #6 (BR) Sqn. RCAF, **Alliford Bay, BC**, **Stranraer #935** crashed when landing at **Skidegate Channel, BC**, **P/O D.S. MacLennan** killed, accountant **F/L C.W.T. Field** RCAF (USA), **Sgt J.O. Gilmour**, **P/O F.W. McConkey**, aero engine mechanic **Cpl J.P. Sperling** and **P/O L.G. Thompson** missing.
- 14 #118 (F) Sqn., RCAF Station **Annette Island, Alaska**, **Kittyhawk I #1097** written off after an accident, no details (R.W.R. Walker).
- 14 #145 (BR) Sqn. RCAF **Hudson #771** was flying a navigation training flight from **Torbay, Newfoundland** to **Dartmouth, NS**, and crashed near **Dartmouth**. The wreckage was not found until **Nov. 6, 1944**. Crew **F/S R.C. Rolfe**, **WO2 J.R. Stick** RCAF (Nfld.), **P/O T.A. Watterson** and passengers #1 **Landline Maintenance Unit** signals officers **F/L J.T. Hook** RCAF (USA), **F/O W.H. Thompson** and **Lt. E.E. Snell** US Army killed.

14-15 Cologne was the target for 243 bombers which used H2S and skymarkers with scattered results. As well 142 Lancasters were sent to Milan and 4 Pathfinder

Lancasters to the La Spezia docks. Eleven bombers were lost. Total tonnage of bombs dropped by Bomber Command since the wars beginning reached 100,000 tons with these attacks (BC War Diaries).

- 14-15 102 Sqn. Halifax II W7880 DY-J shot down by a night fighter over Holland, **WO2 A.N. Conner**, **WO2 G. Farah**, F/S J.L. Hartshorn RAF, Sgt J.W. Kilyon RAF, Sgt H.A. Cheasman RAF, Sgt F.W. Cox RAF and Sgt A.O. Gilbert RAF killed.
- 14-15 102 Sqn. Halifax II W7922 (?) was waiting it's turn to take-off when an electrical fault released it's incendiary bombs, and the aircraft was destroyed by fire, **P/O H.K. Stinson**, Sgt A. Hodson RAF, Sgt A.W. Bailey RAF, Sgt W.A. Griffiths, ___ R.J. Wiggs(?), ___ J.H. Nightingale, F/S Newton and Sgt G. Richmond safe (R. Allenby). See December 6-7, 1944.
- 14-15 149 Sqn. Stirling I W7638 OJ-R, shot down over Holland by a night fighter, F/S J.G. Gow RNZAF, Sgt P.T.C. Oldham RAF and Sgt W.A. Summerson RAF killed, **F/S C. Loughlin**, Sgt J.C. Brigden RAF, Sgt G.S.S. Reynolds RNZAF and Sgt V.W. Tulley RNZAF PoW (O. Clutten-Brock).
- 14-15 196 Sqn. Wellington X HE169 lost without trace, believed to have been shot down by a night fighter over the North Sea, **WO2 G.G. Clark**, **F/O M.D. Fox**, **F/S J.D. McIntyre**, **F/O T.C.S. Wood** and F/L R.F. Milne RAF (NZ) missing.
- 14-15 408 Sqn. Halifax II DT750 EQ-U was landing on return from an operation over Germany when an engine burst into flames and a second engine lost power. It managed a short climb and 5 crew members bailed out before the pilot, F/L R.H.G. Boosey RAF, made a crash landing, but **F/O J.C. Parker RCAF (USA)** bailed out too low and was killed. F/L Boosey and the remainder of the crew, **Sgt D.C. Horner**, **F/S M. Samuels**, P/O P.R. Quance RAAF, F/O D.W.T. Giblin RAAF and P/O P.E. Mitchell RAF, were safe. F/L Boosey received a DFC which cited his actions on this flight (R. Allenby). See June 20, below.
- 14-15 424 Sqn. Wellington III Z1691 QB-R, Sgt L.G. Wilson, air gunner Sgt W.H. Watson (RCAF?) credited with shooting down an enemy fighter (424 SH, R. Koval, FF Years). Sgt Wilson probably the same as **P/O L.G. Wilson DFC MiD** (Awards).
- 14-15 424 Sqn. Wellington III BK398 QB-W was hit by flak that put a hole in the windshield. The pilot, **S/L J. Comar RAF (Can.)**, had a splinter of the perspex in one eye, but returned and landed in England, **F/O L.R. Nussbaum**, P/O R.W. Thompson RAF and three crew (possibly Sgt G.P. Tarry, Sgt G.A. Smith and F/O J.J. Soumillard) safe. S/L Comar had served in the PPCLI before enlisting in the RAF in 1939. He later transferred to the RCAF and served until 1953 (R. Allenby). See June 28-29, below.
- 14-15 426 Sqn. Wellington III X3420 OW-H shot down over Holland by a night fighter, **W/C S.S. Blanchard**, **F/S J.H. Eveline**, **F/O P.W. Jeanneret**, **F/S A.G. Longwell**, **WO2 K.W. Tutton** and Sgt P.M. Corley RAF killed. W/C Blanchard had been the first commanding officer of the Squadron.
- 14-15 #1651 CU Stirling I BF448 LS-T, attached to 15 Sqn. for experience, lost on operations,

shot down by a night fighter over Holland, **F/S L.L. Gladwin**, **Sgt J.E. Nicholls RAF (Can.)**, F/O W.A.M. Archibald RAF, F/L O.C. Chave RAF, Sgt J.F. Cook RAF, Sgt A.A. Self RAF, Sgt T.F. Stocks RAF and P/O J.N.M. Muir RAF killed.

Monday

15 Soviet forces re-take Kharkov (Oxford). SS troops ordered to defend the city were forced out when the towns citizens rose against them the day before, and they were facing encirclement by advancing Russian forces (C. Bergström).

Germans breach Allies Tunis line (CJCA headline).

Daylight attacks were made on the harbour at Dunkirk (23 Bostons) and the railway shops at Tours (12 Mosquitos) without loss (BC War Diaries).

- 15 413 Sqn. Catalina I Z3149 lost its right propellor during take-off from Koggala, Ceylon, which struck and killed pilot **F/O R.S.E. Greenway**.
- 15 13 Sqn. Blenheim V BA801 'V' was returning from a bombing sortie in Algiers when it blew a tire landing in the evening, swung and lost it's undercarriage, F/O C.J. Hinchcliffe RAF injured, **Sgt S.R. Cromie** and Sgt A.A. Browne RAF safe (BLME V.2).
- 15 229 Sqn. Spitfire Vb EP641 lost over Sicily on a bombing sweep, **P/O S.H. Goodyear RCAF (Nfld.)** killed (FF Years).
- 15 403 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AD231 was hit by flak over France attacking a train on a RHUBARB, **F/O H.A. Westhaver** was seen to bail out successfully (FF Years) but was killed.
- 15 #22 OTU Wellington III HF613 DD-R crashed on high ground in a snowstorm while on a cross country exercise. Icing may have been a factor in this loss. **Sgt R.F. Cairns**, **Sgt W.J. Hackett**, **Sgt D.J. Kester**, **Sgt B.E. Wilkinson** and Sgt W.A. Marwood RAF killed.
- 15 #2 Training Command (#3 Wireless School?) Fort #3631 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).
- 15 USAAF C-46A 41-5189 crashed while landing at Edmonton, Alberta (AAIR, J. Baugher).

- 15-16 23 Sqn. Mosquito out of Malta, **F/O G.L. Shemilt** and P/O E.G. Pullen RAF, shot down a Ju 88 over Sicily, and also reported an enemy convoy which was later attacked by torpedo aircraft (H.A. Halliday and mhuxt, www.rafcommands.com)
- 15-16 Bomber Command sent 6 OBOE Mosquitos to the Ruhr (one of which just missed hitting the Krupps plant at Essen), plus 4 Stirlings GARDENING in the Gironde River and 2 OTU NICKEL sorties with no losses (BC War Diaries).**

Tuesday

16 Soviets re-take Kharkov (CJCA headline).

In Munich, a university student assembly riots over the speech of the Bavarian Gauleiter, which included taunts, personal insults and obscenities directed at them for not being in the military. Many are young veterans, returned to school after being wounded. They overpower police and SS guards and take to the streets, sparking similar demonstrations in other German cities (ww2total.com Chronology/1943).

#14 (F) Sqn. RCAF departs Sea Island, BC for Umnak Island, Alaska under command of RCAF "X Wing", US Alaskan Command (RCAF Sqns.).

- 16 #1 OADU Wellington III HF756 swung taking off in Libya for Egypt and it's undercarriage collapsed, **P/O S.F. Garland**, Sgt L.P. Grace RAF, Sgt P.C.P. Kipling RAF, Sgt J.W.F.S. Liley RAAF and Sgt R. Milbourne RAF safe (BLME V.2)
- 16 402 Sqn. Spitfire IX BS440 lost in the Channel in a fight with German fighters on a RODEO, **F/O O.R. Brown** missing.
- 16 402 Sqn. Spitfire IX BR633 shot down by German fighters near France on a RODEO, **F/O H. Williamson RCAF (USA)** PoW.
- 16 403 Sqn. Spitfire IX BS145 lost off the coast of France due to an oxygen problem on a RODEO, **F/O S.M. Connacher** missing (www.spitfires.ukf.net).
- 16 #7 EFTS RAF, England, DH.82 Tiger Moth DE461 crashed, **Sgt W.D. Williamson** and F/L V.G.W. Engstrom RAF killed.
- 16 #16 OTU air gunner **Sgt G.A. Taylor** was killed when he walked into the moving propellor of Wellington III BK258 during a crew change.
- 16 #1 OTU RCAF, Bagotville, Quebec, Hurricane aircraft #5644 and #5444 collided and crashed between St. Anne and St. Honore, Quebec, killing **F/O L.E.C. Gagnon** in #5644 and **F/O A.I. Gilson** in #5444.
- 16 #6 B&G School, Mountain View, Ontario, Anson II #7582 crashed, **Sgt J. Findlater**, LAC T.J. Goodwin RAF and LAC B.F. Garrad RAF missing.
- 16 #32 EFTS, Bowden, Alberta, DH.82C Tiger Moth #5866 damaged in an accident and not repaired (R.W.R. Walker).
- 16 unknown unit, **Cpl L. Gregory-Allen** died in hospital in Vancouver due to natural causes (www.rafcommands.com).

16-17 For the 8th time this year Lorient was attacked, by 377 bombers. This series of attacks had practically destroyed the city but had not affected the U-boat base in it's concrete bomb proof pens. Other operations included 32 GARDENING sorties off France and 4 OTU sorties, a total of 413 sorties with 1 bomber lost over France (BC War Diaries).

A second team of Norwegian commandos dropped into Norway to support first team dropped last October in the plan to destroy heavy water production (wikipedia).

- 16-17 90 Sqn. Stirling I R9306 WP-J had two engines fail over England returning from an operation over France. The bail-out order was given but only 3 crew were able to leave before the aircraft crashed, **F/O J.S. Brydon**, **F/O N.J.P. Hartney**, **F/S W.C. Morton**, **F/S W.K. Rosenberry** killed, Sgt W.A. Hurn RAF injured, Sgt J.A. Rodger RAF and Sgt E.R. Evans RAF safe. F/O Brydon had force landed a #1651 Stirling Nov 28, 1942.
- 16-17 101 Sqn. Lancaster I ED374 was hit by a falling bomb that went through the fuselage and damaged the controls. The pilot, **P/O H.G. Harrower**, managed to return to his base but on approach to land the control was lost and the aircraft crashed short of the runway and burst into flames. The crew escaped except for the flight engineer, Sgt S.W. Hughes (RAF?) who was trapped in the wreckage. He was rescued by airmen at a nearby dispersal. P/O Harrower and Sgt Hughes were injured, **Sgt H.A. Rideout RAF (Nfld.)**, Sgt B. Duff RAF, Sgt A.W.T. Beveridge RAF, Sgt T. Jenkins RAF and Sgt W.D.G. O'Brien RAF were safe from the crew. For saving the flight engineer S/L G.W.O'N. Fisher DFC RAF was awarded the OBE, P/O F. Hill DFC RAF received an MBE, and LAC A.G. Miles RAF and AC2 H. Fletcher RAF were both awarded BEMs (R. Allenby). See March 20, below.
- 16-17 418 Sqn. Boston, F/L H.D. Venables RAF, attacked and damaged 2 trains on one sortie (FF Years).
- 16-17 424 Sqn. Wellington III DF671 QB-K was damaged by flak over Lorient but returned to England, **Sgt M.I. Cruickshanks**, **F/S W.H.R. Gardiner**, **Sgt B.A. Sorge**, Sgt G.W. Hodges RAF, Sgt C.H. Brown RAF and Sgt V.P. Roberts safe (R. Allenby). See August 31-September 1 below.
- 16-17 427 Sqn. Wellington III Z1676 ZL-S damaged by flak that destroyed the navigation equipment. Lost, the aircraft force landed in Ireland and burned, Sgt J.E. Holloway RAF, Sgt D.E.M. Ross RAF, Sgt D.H. Taylor RAF, Sgt G.C. Slater RAF and Sgt F. Thomas RAF, were interned (R. Koval, D. Burke, www.ww2irishaviation.com). These were the last Allied aircrew interned in Eire as a political decision was made to take further Commonwealth airmen to the border with Northern Ireland and release them (<http://www.secondworldwarni.org>).

Wednesday

17 Soviet units have broken through German lines and are on the cusp of surrounding Army Group South (C. Bergström).

8th Army reaches Mareth Line (CJCA headline) [on the Tunisian border with Libya and now defended by German forces].

17 401 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BM346 crashed in England after colliding with 401 Sqn. Spitfire

Vb W3839 "Kettering District", killing WO1 H.D. Muirhead in BM346 and P/O L. Gilis PAF missing in W3839 (R. Allenby). WO Muirhead had previously been injured in an aircraft crash on Nov. 18, 1942, and had also flown operations on Whirlwind aircraft with 263 Squadron. He had arrived at 401 Sqn. only the day before (D. McIntosh).

- 17 409 Sqn. Beaufighter VIc X7897 crashed on taking off, no details (H. Welting at www.rafcommands.com).
- 17 421 Sqn. Spitfire Vb was hit by flak on a RHUBARB to France and struck a tree before returning to England, F/S D.C. Goudie safe. This was his second sortie of the day, earlier he and Sgt W.J. Kinnaird had claimed 6 railway locomotives damaged (FF Years).
- 17 #58 OTU Spitfire Ia R6606 flew into a hill, Sgt J.V. O'Neill RCAF (USA) killed.
- 17 #15 EFTS, Regina, Saskatchewan, DH.82C Tiger Moth #1186 crashed and written off (R.W.R. Walker).
- 17 unknown unit, air frame mechanic LAC H.F. Lawrence died in hospital in Calgary due to natural causes (www.rafcommands.com).

Thursday

18 Germans halt Russian drive on the Dnieper (Oxford). A sudden thaw and clear weather allowed the Luftwaffe to attack and halt the Soviet advance in the Donets. They were unhindered by Soviet aircraft as they were either too far back, or at forward bases that turned into mud due to the weather change. After taking heavy losses all day the Russians were then attacked by German reinforcements that had just arrived at the front (C. Bergström). If the weather had not changed they might have overrun the airfield at Zaporozhye where Adolf Hitler was visiting what was thought to be a secure headquarters. He was quickly flown out of the region (C. Bergström).

In North Africa German forces open an offensive in Tunisia, attacking and defeating US forces at Kasserine Pass.

Germany's Propaganda Minister Goebbels, perhaps in reaction to the call for unconditional surrender made by the Allies following the Casablanca Conference or the student riots by peace activists, declares "total war" against the Allies.

Arrests made in Munich of members of the White Rose student anti-war movement (wikipedia). See Feb. 22, below.

Bomber Command sends 26 Mosquito bombers to attack the railway yards at Tours again with 1 lost, as well as 12 Venturas to Dunkirk which did not reach the

target (BC War Diaries). Bad weather curtailed fighter operations for the next week (FF Years).

Second prototype XB-29 bomber 41-003 on a test flight catches fire and crashes into a factory in Seattle, Washington, 31 killed (ww2total.com Chronology/1943, <http://www.historylink.org>).

- 18 69 Sqn. Baltimore II AG816 lost in the Mediterranean, P/O R. Nash RAF killed, **WO2 J.L.J. Conway**, **WO2 C.O. Cook** and P/O J.S. Milne RAF missing.
- 18 61 Sqn. Lancaster I W4270 crashed in England following an uncontrolled engine fire in the circuit while on a training flight, **WO2 T.H. Warne**, Sgt G.A. Hitchon RAF, Sgt R.J. Preece RAF, Sgt T.R. Newton RAF, Sgt J.M. Whitehead RAF, Sgt E.J. Loverock RAF and Sgt J. Coaker RAF killed.
- 18 409 Sqn. Beaufighter VI f X7893 lost over Germany on a RANGER sortie, **P/O T.S. Briggs** and **P/O D. McBeath** killed.

18-19 Wilhelmshaven was targeted by 195 bombers with Pathfinder marking but despite having clear visibility and reporting accurate marking most of the bombs missed. Other operations included 89 GARDENING and 9 OTU NICKEL sorties, for a total of 293 sorties with 7 bombers lost (BC War Diaries).

- 18-19 9 Sqn. Lancaster III ED492 WS-W down in Germany, Sgt J.S. Aird RAF, Sgt T.A. Berwick RAF, Sgt R.W. Darlington RAF and Sgt E.J.W. Davis RAF killed, **Sgt H.W. Fullard** (badly injured), Sgt J.A. Jones-Ford RAF and Sgt J. Vaughan RAF PoW. Sgt Fullard had to have his leg amputated and was later repatriated in 1943 (alieneyes and vrajm at www.rafcommands.com).
- 18-19 106 Sqn. Lancaster I R5750 lost, believed off the German coast, **Sgt J.B. Frost**, P/O E.R. Markland RNZAF, Sgt M. Dransfield RAF, Sgt R.S. Greep DFM RAF, F/O P.R.V. Myers RAF, Sgt D.W. Penney RAF and Sgt E. Parry DFM RAF killed.
- 18-19 415 Sqn. Hampden I AE435 GX-U crashed in England taking off, **WO2 P.B. Campbell**, **F/O K.R. Maffre**, **WO2 Z.M. Niblock** and **WO2 R.E. Vokey** killed (415 SH). F/O Maffre and WO Vokey had survived the ditching of a 415 Hampden Oct. 27-28, 1942.
- 18-19 415 Sqn. Hampden TB.I P1157 GX-O was hit by flak on a shipping attack off Holland and ditched, **F/O A.B. Brenner**, **F/S E.L.L. Rowe**, **Sgt A. Glass** and **Sgt E.A. Vautier** were rescued on the 20th by a 277 Squadron ASR Walrus X9526, crewed by F/O L.J. Brown RAF, F/O D.G. Sheppard RAF and F/S W.A. Rance RAF (H. Moyle, COL BRUGGY at www.rafcommands.com, FF Years). See airforce.ca for a detailed account of this rescue and the 415 Squadron History for a description of the heavy damage and ditching. The accuracy of the reported position of the ditching by navigator F/S Rowe despite the navigation equipment being destroyed by the flak hit was noted as part of the reason for the crew being found, as cited in his later

award of a DFC. F/O Brenner had been briefly interned in Portugal, see August 12, 1942.

18-19 419 Sqn. Halifax II DT639 VR-B lost without trace on a GARDENING sortie, **WO2 W.R. Gray**, **WO2 H.T. Jacobsen**, **WO2 B.A. Levasseur**, **Sgt W.A. Robinson**, **F/S R.P. Wilson RCAF (USA)**, Sgt G.A. Lloyd RAF and Sgt J.W. Grant RAF missing.

18-19 426 Sqn. Wellington III was hit by marine flak that damaged its hydraulic and electrical systems and had to return without bombing, **P/O R.G.F. Hunt**, **P/O J.F. Lewis**, **P/O W.M. Maxwell RCAF (USA)**, **F/O J.B. Millward**, Sgt R.C. Taylor RAF and 1 crewman safe (R. Allenby).

18-19 428 Sqn. Wellington X HE505 NA-X, **Sgt V.T. Sylvester**, was attacked by a night fighter. On its third pass the rear gunner set the night fighter on fire and it crashed into the sea (R. Koval). See August 2-3, below.

Friday

19 Soviet forces mop up Donets basin (CJCA headline). This report was out of date, as on this date a reinforced Luftwaffe opened a devastating series of attacks on Soviet troops and their over extended supply lines. Unable to move and short of anti-aircraft ammunition, and with virtually no fighter defences, the Russian advance troops were unable to fight off German Army and SS attacks (C. Bergström).

German forces begin to be airlifted out of the cut-off Taman Peninsula (Oxford). These ground units, which had been forced back into a small pocket after Stalingrad, were taken out to be re-deployed on other fronts. The German defences at the end of the Peninsula, known as the Kuban Bridgehead, were very strong due to the terrain. For some reason Hitler would not withdraw from this location. There was no space for more soldiers or terrain for armoured vehicles, but the region was heavily reinforced by Luftwaffe units that engaged the Soviet Air Forces in heavy fighting prior to the attack at Kursk (C. Bergström).

19 137 Sqn. Whirlwind I aircraft P7114 and P7119 collided on the runway when one was taking off, killing **F/O C.E. Mercer** and Lt N.A. Freeman SAAF.

19 172 Sqn. Leigh Light equipped Wellington VIII MP505 1-B, **F/O N. Bennett**, **Sgt D.M. McLeod**, **F/O J.G.J. Prideaux**, **WO2 C. Harold Smith**, F/O G.B. Alred RAF and F/O G.D.A. Lundon DFC RAF, attacked and sank U-268 in the Bay of Biscay. See March 4, below.

19 #2 (Coastal) OTU Beaufighter VIc T5316 dived into the sea off Yorkshire, **WO2 C.E. Caldwell** killed.

19 #2 (Coastal) OTU Beaufighter Ic T5035 landed short and cartwheeled, tearing off an engine, **WO1 F.J. Morrow** safe (R. Allenby). See April 12, below.

19 #56 OTU Hurricane P3161 crashed practicing low level attacks, killing **F/O R.C. Collins**.

19 #1661 HCU Lancaster I R5850 overshoot on landing and hit an obstruction, **F/S M.S. Kahn** was killed, Sgt B.F. Wilmot RAAF and F/O G.H. Hartley RAF injured, Sgt A. MacDonald RAF, Sgt T.W. Hill RAF and P/O Pietsch RAF safe.

19-20 Bomber Command returned to Wilhelmshaven with 338 bombers which again missed the target due to poor Pathfinder marking. These two failures were later determined to be the result of using out of date maps (GEE maps?) and this was corrected. Two OBOE Mosquitos attacked targets in the Ruhr and again just missed the Krupp plant at Essen. Twelve bombers were lost (BC War Diaries).

19-20 15 Sqn. Stirling III BF457 LS-B lost over Holland, **F/O L.B. Carson**, Sgt A.J. Ellis RAF, Sgt R.F. Fowler RAF, Sgt C.W. James RAF, Sgt R.G. Weaver RAF, F/O D.J. Hopson RAF, F/O E.L.G. Ratcliffe RAF and F/O J. Williams RAF killed. See W. de Jong's page about the Dutch Island of Vlieland at www.626-squadron.co.uk for some information on this loss.

19-20 15 Sqn. Stirling I BF378 LS-T shot down off Holland by a night fighter, **F/O C.R. Long**, Sgt A.H. Borrett RAAF, F/O B.V. Crawford RNZAF and Sgt K.S. Keeble RAF killed, Sgt C.J.J. Wellesley RAAF, Sgt W.H. Macklin RAF and P/O P.T. Howson RAF missing.

19-20 15 Sqn. Stirling I BF411 LS-A lost without trace, **P/O J.C. Monteith**, **F/S D.E. Seeley**, Sgt E.W. Oxenbridge RAF, Sgt B.W. Willbourn RAF, Sgt C.N. Goodchild RAF, Sgt J.G. Ethelston RAF, Sgt J.L. Richardson RAF and F/O P. Brennan RAF missing.

19-20 138 Sqn. Halifax II W1012 NF-Z on a Special Operation BURGUNDY/DIRECTOR 24/BUTTERCUP 2 when it was hit by flak and crash landed in France, **F/S A.F.A. Dawkins**, P/O P. Kingsford-Smith RAAF, F/O R.C. Hogg RAF, Sgt F.R. Jerome RAF, Sgt H.J. Long RAF, Sgt E.J. Ramm RAF, Sgt D. Robinson RAF and Sgt J. Davison RAF all taken PoW. P/O Kingsford-Smith and F/O Hogg evaded for over a month before being captured (R. Tebbutt, harringtonmuseum.org.uk).

19-20 156 Sqn. Lancaster III ED485 lost without trace, **P/O T.E. Case**, **P/O P.Y.C. Tremblay**, **P/O H.W. Welch**, Sgt H.A. McLennan DFM RAAF, Sgt E. Cuthbert RNZAF, Sgt J.W. Denby RAF and Sgt E.P.G. Bayliss RAF missing. All but the RAF members had bailed out of a Wellington Oct. 5-6, 1942, which had then crashed into a village in England. W. de Jong's page about the Dutch Island of Vlieland at www.626-squadron.co.uk has a reference to this loss.

19-20 295 Sqn. Whitley V BD538 lost over France, **WO2 J.E.S. Sasseville**, W/C P.M.V. Lysaght RAF, F/O J.H.C. McIlwrick RAF and Sgt I.W. Arnold RAF killed, rear gunner Sgt J. Bailey RAF PoW. This aircraft was lost in a separate operation for squadrons training in glider and paratroop dropping for airborne operations, to keep them from getting stale during their training by attacking a target in France. There is a memorial to this crew at Vivy, France (airfields man, www.airfieldinformationexchange.org; Lyffe at www.rafcommands.com)

19-20 420 Sqn. Wellington III DF637 PT-F was damaged by flak and then attacked by a night fighter. The rear gunner **WO2 G.J. Beresford** bailed out but did not survive. The pilot, **F/S R.E. Taylor**, managed to fly the damaged aircraft on one engine back to a safe landing in England (D. Parker, R. Koval, FF Years). F/S Taylor was awarded a DFM for this sortie (Awards). See May 27-28, below.

19-20 426 Sqn. Wellington III BJ919 OW-P lost without trace on operations to Germany, **F/S H.R. Bailey**, **WO2 R.W. Ferrier**, **F/S J.O.R. Gauthier**, **F/O C.A. McKinnon**, **F/S R.C. Ramsay** and **F/S F. Ruzycki** missing.

19-20 467 Sqn. RAAF Lancaster I ED525 lost without trace, **F/S H.L. Brown**, **F/O W.K. Komaiko RCAF (USA)**, F/L J.B. Michie RAF, Sgt R. Bailey RAF, Sgt J.S. Turner RAF, Sgt G. McLoughlin RAF and Sgt R.A.J. King RAF missing. W. de Jong's page about the Dutch Island of Vlieland at www.626-squadron.co.uk has a reference to this loss.

Saturday

20 In Mexico a fissure opens in a farmers field, becoming the cinder cone volcano Paricutin. In a week it was 5 stories tall and within a year it stood over 2,000' and had engulfed two villages. It would continue in eruption for 9 years (wikipedia).

20 540 Sqn. Mosquito PR.I W4060 shot down over Norway on a photo reconnaissance sortie, **WO2 D. O'Neil** and Sgt A.D. Lockyer RAF killed (I. Thirsk).

20 USAAF C-70 (Howard DGA-15) 42-53010 crash landed at Dorval, Quebec (AAIR).

20 #1 BFTS (British Flying Training School) flight of AT-6 aircraft on a navigation exercise encountered bad weather over Oklahoma, one force landed but two flew into high ground in the Kiamichi Mountains killing LAC(P) V.H. Cockman RAF, LAC(P) F.R.W. Frostick RAF, LAC(P) M.J.M. Hosier RAF and LAC(P) M.L. Jensen RAF. In 2000 a memorial to these airmen was dedicated near Moyers, Oklahoma, due to the research of a group of elementary school students (T. Broadhurst www.rafcommands.com).

20-21 37 Sqn. Wellington Ic HF847 shot down attacking Palermo, Sicily, where it crashed and exploded, **WO2 E.F. Fournier RCAF (USA)** and WO N.S. Forrester RAAF killed, F/S A.J. Jenner RNZAF, Sgt T.E. Thompson RAF, F/S W.H. Beaver RAF and Sgt J.P. Duffy RAF missing (A. Storr).

20-21 70 Sqn. Wellington III DF687 'K' was landing in Libya from an operation to Palermo, Sicily, when a tyre burst and the aircraft was damaged beyond repair, **F/S R.M. Crosse**, Sgt L. Bernthal RAF, Sgt D.B. Brett RAF, F/S J.W. Crook RAF, Sgt R.F. Mortimer RAF and Sgt M.A.E. Pearson RAF safe (BLME V.2).

20-21 Twenty GARDENING sorties were made by Bomber Command on this night with only one loss (BC War Diaries).

20-21 424 Sqn. Wellington III BK435 QB-U shot down by a night fighter into the North Sea on

a GARDENING sortie, **F/S J.J.C. Arpin**, **P/O W.N. Pleasance**, Sgt I.H.W. Baulf RNZAF, Sgt B.T. White RAF, Sgt L.J. King RAF and Sgt F.J. Skeeles RAF missing.

Sunday

21 Germans break through at Kasserine Pass (CJCA headline).

In the Atlantic convoy ONS-166 comes under U-boat attack (D. Sommerville). See February 25, below.

- 21 405 Sqn. Halifax II DT633 LQ-O crashed in England just after taking off, **Sgt R.V. McLean**, **F/S F.J. O'Donohoe**, **F/S B.F.J. Parker**, **F/S E.H. Sellar**, **F/O C.J. Shagena Jr. RCAF (USA)**, **Sgt B.W. Turner Jr. RCAF (USA)** and Sgt W.J. Hart RAF killed (Hampshire Crashes daveg4otu.tripod.com). This loss is not listed in BCL'43 as the squadron was operating under Coastal Command at the time, but the names of the crew are included on BCL Roll of Honour (W.R. Chorley). Aircraft may have been the one with artwork "*Every Drop Counts*".
- 21 #3 Manning Depot, Edmonton, LAC L.N. Pagan RAAF died in the University of Alberta Hospital of natural causes (A. Storr).
- 21 USAAF 25th Ferry Sqn. P-39M 42-4802 force landed after an engine failure at Watson Lake, Yukon (AAIR).

21-22 In the Donets fighting a Soviet column is directed to advance through the night and attack the German airfield complex at Zaporozhye, but they are detected by aircraft dropping parachute flares 15 km short of their objective (C. Bergström).

Bomber Command attacked Bremen with 143 bombers attacking on H2S using skymarkers through heavy cloud with unreported results. No bombers were lost (BC War Diaries).

Monday

22 At the Featherston PoW Camp in New Zealand a group of nearly 300 Japanese PoWs refused to work, and staged a sit-down in the open yard. A shot was fired which wounded a Japanese officer. The other PoWs either charged their guards or were trying to find shelter, but whatever occurred the guards opened fire, leaving 66 PoWs dead and 94 wounded in less than a minute. A New Zealand soldier was also killed by a ricochet (wikipedia). This incident led to changes at the Camp, and better conditions and improved relations between the prisoners and the guards (wikipedia).

At Zaporozhye every available German aircraft begins non-stop attacks on the advancing Soviet column, which was destroyed. This was just part of the

days fighting in the region, where local air superiority in most of the front allowed Luftwaffe attacks to decimate the Soviet formations. In return Russian daylight attacks were made by Pe-2 and Boston bombers, many of the latter having been supplied through the North West Staging Route through Alberta, the Yukon and Alaska (C. Bergström).

German offensive in central Tunisia halted (CJCA headline).

Arrested members of the White Rose student movement in Germany, including ex-soldiers who were combat veterans, executed by guillotine (wikipedia).

HMCS Weyburn sinks off Gibraltar after hitting a mine (RCN Chronology).

- 22 43 Sqn. Spitfire Vc ES183 flown by P/O J.T. 'Slim' Wills intercepted and shot down a Ju 88 80 miles off the Algerian coast, radioing that to his control. He was not heard from again and is missing (Saunders).
- 22 223 Sqn. Baltimore III AG876 was re-locating to a new airfield but belly landed on take-off in Egypt due to an engine failure, P/O P.L.P. MacDonnell, F/S W.N.B. Bower RAF, Sgt E.F. Maloney RAF and Sgt A. Milligan RAF safe (BLME V.2).
- 22 272 Sqn. Beaufighter VI f X8093 lost off of Sicily, WO2 C.P. Garvey and Sgt C. Thorpe RAF missing.
- 22 RAF Ferry Command Hudson IIIa BW615 crashed at Nashville, Tenn., USA, killing F/O E.W. Hyland, F/S C.B. Simpson, Ferry Captain J.M. Dame and Radio Operator C.C. Lane (NZ).
- 22 #127 (F) Sqn., Gander, Newfoundland, Hurricane XII #5497 TF-Y came down in a swamp near Gander Lake 10 miles from the airfield and was not repaired (R.W.R. Walker).
- 22 RNor.AF, Little Norway, Toronto Island Airport, Ontario, Curtiss 75-A8 (Mohawk) #447 crashed, 2Lt C. Mohr RNor.AF killed (wikipedia; D. Hagedorn & A. Tincopa).
- 22-23 37 Sqn. (attached to 40 Sqn.) Wellington Ic DV569 'F' lost on a sortie to Palermo, Sicily, WO2 J.D. Massey, F/O P.R. Ward RAF, Sgt R. Scott RAF, F/S J.H.G. Nash RAAF and F/S J.T. Lindsay RAF missing (A. Storr; BLME V.2).

Tuesday

23 Fire at an orphanage in Eire kills 1 adult and 35 children (wikipedia).

Landing at Lisbon, Portugal, the Pan-Am Boeing 314 NC16803 Yankee Clipper flying boat dug a wing into the water and crashed carrying among others a USO troupe on a tour. Of the 39 crew and passengers on board 24 died. This aircraft was used on the Trans-Atlantic routes, in summer via Shediac, NB and Botwood, Newfoundland to Ireland, and its loss resulted in a shortage of

Boeing 314 aircraft. As Pan-Am was switching over to land-planes this resulted in them shutting down their flying boat bases in Canada and Newfoundland later in the year (J. Sweet; wikipedia; www.baaa-acro.com).

First operational use of Mosquito bombers modified with bulged bomb bays to carry 4,000 lb. HC "Cookie" bombs (C. Charland www.rafcommands.com).

- 23 #56 OTU Canadian built Hurricane I Z7092 was abandoned after it collided in mid-air with Canadian built Hurricane X AG274, both aircraft crashed, **P/O W.M. Johnson** bailed out of Z7092 and Sgt J.A. Banham RAF safe in AG274 (www.rafcommands.com).
- 23 #1406 Flight [Meteorological Flight?] Spitfire Va P8259 spun into the ground in Scotland during a practice dogfight, **Sgt H.K.M. Thomson RAF (Can.)** killed (AL90 www.rafcommands.com; www.spitfires.ukf.net).
- 23 RAF Ferry Command Mitchell II FR148 missing on a ferry flight to England, **F/O L.E. Triplett**, Ferry Captain D.L. Annibal (USA) and **Radio Operator C.D. Sangstad** missing (in TSGNO as C.D. Sangstad and D.C. Saugstad, CWGC confirms C.D. Saugstad).
- 23 #303 Ferry Training Unit Wellington LA995 shot down [sic] into the sea, Sgt W.V.C. Alston RAF killed, **F/S V.H. Knutson**, Sgt W. Day RAF, Sgt R. Spencer RAF, Sgt G.B. Stewart RAF, Sgt G.W. Turley RAF missing (Paul MacMillan www.rafcommands.com). According to the discussion page on rafcommands on this loss the aircraft struck a cliff on the uninhabited island of Soay in the St. Kilda islands off western Scotland and fell into the sea. This island is isolated and rarely visited. Sgt Alston's body came ashore in the Hebrides in early March. The wreckage was found but not identified in 1952, and was later identified and further investigated in 1978-79, but nothing was found of the missing crew (sapper310 raf.commands.com).

Wednesday

24 Canso aircraft of #5 (BR) Sqn., stripped of non-essential weight, reach embattled convoy ONS-166 700 miles out in the Atlantic, where they damage 2 U-boats and help to blunt the attacks (M. Milner). The weight reduction for increased range program was the initiative of S/L N.E. Small DFC AFC, commanding officer of #5 (BR) Sqn., who had been killed in a crash January 7, above, in one of these weight reduced Canso aircraft.

24 39 Sqn. Beaufort IIa AW359 lost on operations from Malta, **P/O R.J.S. Dawson**, F/S P. Cormier RAF and Sgt R. Pearson RAF missing. One of 3 Beauforts attacking an Italian convoy at night off Sicily, it's fate is unknown.

24 #22 OTU Wellington III DF564 DD-V was practicing night circuits when an instrument broke, giving a false indication of an engine failure, leading to a crash landing which wrote off the aircraft, **Sgt A.E. Hatch** and his crew safe. See May 12-13, below.

- 24 #11 (BR) Sqn. RCAF Dartmouth, NS, Hudson III BW653 was one of 4 Squadron aircraft caught in closing weather and icing conditions. Two landed safe in Charlottetown and a third crashed trying to return to Dartmouth (see below). The crew of BW653 was lost and dropped their load of depth charges, thinking they were over the water, but they landed in a field in the Charlottetown area and one exploded, damaging a house. Still lost the crew set the autopilot and bailed out, landing on ice floes in the Northumberland Strait. The Hudson flew on and came down near Shediac, NB. On the ice the crew managed to find each other and stayed on a large ice flow until spotted and rescued by a ferry five days later, **P/O A.J. Barrette** lost his feet to frostbite, **Acting S/L K.C. Wilson**, **P/O W.A. Richardson RCAF (USA)** and **WO2 J.A. Dobson** safe. S/L Wilson and WO Dobson were MiD for keeping their crew together and alive (Ian M. Macdonald and mrushton at www.rafcommands.com, M. Rushton research).
- 24 #11 (BR) Sqn. RCAF, Dartmouth, NS, Hudson IIIa BW453 crashed in bad weather short of the runway returning from an anti-submarine patrol, **F/S H.C. Johnson**, **Sgt E. MacMillan**, **WO D.R. Rhea** and **F/S M.M. Rowe** killed.
- 24 #1 ITS, Toronto, Ontario, **AC2 R.W. Hosick** died in hospital of natural causes.
- 24 #1 TTS, St. Thomas, Ontario, **AC2 T.D. Mathews** died of natural causes.
- 24 #4 CAC D (Coastal Artillery Co-Operation Flight? Detachment?) Lysander II #459 lost between Sydney and Scoudouc, Nova Scotia, **F/O P. Bosloy** and **WO2 J.J. Slabick** missing.
- 24 #6 Recruitment Centre, **AC2 E.H. Laudrum** was killed as the result of being kicked by a horse while on leave.
- 24 #8 AOS, Ancienne Lorette, Quebec, Anson I aircraft DG893 and #6479 collided in mid-air and crashed near St. Nicholas, Quebec, **Sgt F.R. Hathaway RCAF (USA)** died in DG893, while **F/S R.H. Spurr** and civilian pilot **P. Beck** were killed in #6479.

24-25 Wilhelmshaven attacked again by 115 bombers with very poor results. No bombers were lost over Germany (BC War Diaries).

A 138 Sqn. Hudson flown by W/C C. Pickard RAF landed at Cuisery, France, to pick up a number of Resistance members identified and wanted by the Gestapo. The landing ground was muddy and the Hudson became stuck. It was freed after being towed out by a team of oxen, while the local Resistance kept German forces from locating the aircraft, and took off after nearly 3 hours on the ground. This became the subject of a movie later (name and details not known).

- 24-25 424 Sqn. Wellington X HE369 QB-P crashed on return to base from a sortie over Germany, **Sgt R.S.B. Worley**, **F/S J. Banks RAF** and **Sgt A.A. Wiles RAF** killed, **Sgt W.A. Sparrow**, **Sgt J. Harrison RAF** and **Sgt F.W.N. Trowbridge RAF** injured (R. Allenby). This was the first Wellington X lost by 424 Sqn. See May 27-28 below.

24-25 426 Sqn. Wellington III BK440 OW-V, badly damaged by flak and nightfighter attacks, landed safely with a large part of the fuselage missing, **Sgt J.C. Kennedy, F/S E.A. Whalen**, Sgt L. Thompson RAF, P/O R.G. Wood RAF, Sgt J. Parkinson RAF and F/S P. Forrester (RCAF of RAF?) safe (R. Koval, R. Allenby). See April 16-17, below.

24-25 428 Sqn. Wellington III BK155 was hit by flak and temporarily knocked out of control, **Sgt K.R. Knapp RCAF (USA)** regained control and returned with his crew safely (R. Allenby). See March 5-6 below.

Thursday

25 Kassarine Pass retaken by US Forces.

Battle for convoy ONS-166 ends as the ships approach North America, 14 merchant ships have been lost while 3 U-boats were sunk (D. Sommerville; M. Milner).

25 261 Sqn. Hurricane IIb HL997 shot down over Burma, **Sgt J.V. Willbee** missing (malcolm_raf www.rafcommands.com).

25 458 Sqn. RAAF Wellington LB134 lost in the Mediterranean, **F/S P. King** and **Sgt F.S. Jenkins** killed, **WO2 L.W. Clark**, **Sgt J.F. Kirk**, **Sgt A.F.W. MacLeod**, **WO2 R.A.P. Sheffield** missing. Sgt Jenkins and F/S King's bodies were found by the Italian Coast Guard and buried at sea.

25 403 Sqn. Spitfire IX BS287 crashed in England, **F/O D.J. Edwards** killed.

25 422 Sqn. first Sunderland sortie, W6032 2-H, **F/O P.T. Sargent** and crew, on a training escort to Convoy ONS-169 (RCAF Sqns.).

25 #12 AFU Oxford II N6374 struck a tree and crashed in England, **P/O S.M. Wright** and **Sgt K.W. Wright** RAF killed (malcolm_raf & Henk Welting, www.rafcommands.com).

25 #1444 Flight Wellington III DF683 missing on transit from England to Gibraltar, **P/O R.J.M.F. Reid**, **Sgt P.N. Fellowes** RAF, **Sgt P. Popoff-Rikovskiy** RAF, **Sgt J.G. Potts** RAF and **Sgt M.F. Roberts** RAF missing (Ross Marven at www.hrmtech; www.rafcommands.com).

25 #58 OTU Spitfire Ia R6968 crashed attempting a forced landing in Scotland, **Sgt E.B. Farren** killed.

25 #2 EFTS, Fort William, Ontario, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4323 crashed practising steep turns, **LAC(P) R.N. Graham** killed.

25 #32 EFTS, Bowden, Alberta, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4970 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

25-26 Bomber Command sent 337 bombers to Nurnburg with Pathfinder marking, but the markers arrived late and the bombing was scattered. Six OBOE Mosquitos were operating over the Ruhr as well as 54 GARDENING and 20 OTU sorties for a total of 417 bombers sent out, 9 of which were lost (BC War Diaries).

- 25-26 9 Sqn. Lancaster III ED520 WS-T lost without trace, **WO2 L.A. Bernick**, **WO1 D.C. Hunter**, Sgt R.A. Matthews RAF, Sgt S.F. Essen RAF, Sgt D.C. McIntyre RAF, Sgt E. Wilkins RAF and Sgt A.C. Blaber RAF missing. WO1 Hunter had been injured in the loss of a 408 Sqn. Hampden AD842 on March 9, 1942.
- 25-26 50 Sqn. Lancaster III ED387 lost over Germany, **F/O A.N. Jarvis**, Sgt E.A. Yates RAF and Sgt A.C. McBay RAF killed, Sgt H.C. May RAF, Sgt H.S. Peel RAF, Sgt F.R. Anton RAF and Sgt D. Allan RAF were taken PoW. Sgt Peel died in captivity Feb. 23, 1945.
- 25-26 102 Sqn. Halifax II DT800 DY-P crashed in bad weather in England an hour after taking off on an operation, **F/S I.L. Sanitsky RCAF (USA)**, Sgt C.H. Bray RAF, Sgt T.B. Barfoot RAF, Sgt L.V.W. Herbert RAF, Sgt C.J.D. Smith RAF, Sgt J. Dudley RAF and Sgt E.L. Widgery killed.
- 25-26 106 Sqn. Lancaster I W4886 lost over Germany, **F/L D.J. Curtin DFC & Bar RCAF (USA)**, F/O R.J.F. Windsor RAF, P/O A.F. Lear RAF, Sgt V.E. Jack RAF, Sgt H. Rigby RAF, Sgt K.O. Court RAF and observer Sub Lt(A) P.M. McGrath RNVR killed.
- 25-26 207 Sqn. Lancaster I ED356 EM-W lost over Germany, **Sgt J.S. Fayle**, **WO2 R.S. Hannah**, **F/O M.K. Sexton**, **F/O G.H. Wheeler**, **WO2 P.G. Williams**, F/L W.A.S. Elder AFC RAF, Sgt K.R. Johnson RAF and Sgt K.H. Hogarth RAF killed.
- 25-26 218 Sqn. Stirling I BF450 HA-X lost over Germany, **WO2 G. Matthews**, **WO2 K.I. Young**, Sgt R.E. White RAF and Sgt J.W. Hearn RAF killed, Sgt J.C. Wade RAAF, Sgt L.L. Stuart RAF and Sgt H.V. Werner RAF have no known grave.
- 25-26 467 Sqn. RAAF Lancaster III ED526 PO-J lost over Germany, **WO2 J.L.B. Larin**, **WO2 R.S. Woolley**, F/S M.P. Stewart RAAF, F/L O.G. Rowcroft RAAF, Sgt R.M. Wylie RAF, Sgt E. O'Kane RAF and Sgt R. Wiggins RAF killed.

Friday

26 Bomber Command daylight operations included 60 Venturas to attack the harbour at Dunkirk and 20 Mosquitos attacking naval storage areas at Rennes with the loss of 3 Mosquitos (BC War Diaries). USAAF Spitfires part of escort (Zijlstra).

The first of 3 Spitfire V aircraft went into service in Canada for photo reconnaissance test purposes (Griffin CMA).

- 26 150 Sqn. Wellington III DF728 crashed in Algeria making an early return from a sortie to Tunisia, **WO2 W.D. Boon**, Sgt C. Falkiner RAF, P/O W. Kelly DFM RAF, F/O J.G. Swain DFC RAF and F/S C.L. Earp-Jones RAF killed (BLME V.2).
- 26 253 Sqn. Hurricane IIc HV904 crashed in the sea off the coast of Algeria, **WO2 E.A. Dawson** killed.
- 26 272 Sqn. Beaufighter If X7778 lost in Mediterranean, **P/O E.G.K. Bullen** and **F/S J.K. Glazebrook** missing.
- 26 #1 OADU Blenheim V EH317 had it's undercarriage collapse landing on an incomplete

- runway at Blida, Algeria, from Gibraltar, **F/O T.P. Millar** and his crew safe (BLME V.2).
- 26 105 Sqn. Mosquito FB.IV DZ413 GB-K collided with another 105 Sqn. Mosquito DZ365 GB-V over the target in France, both aircraft crashing. **F/O S. Kimmel RCAF (USA)** and **F/O H. Kirkland** killed in DZ413, while W/C G.P. Longfield RAF and F/L R.F. Millns RAF killed in DZ365.
- 26 125 (Newfoundland) Sqn. Beaufighter VIc X7890 VA-K crashed on a solo test flight, Sgt V.R. Taylor RAF killed (aviation-safety.net).
- 26 196 Sqn. Wellington X HE161 crashed in England on an air test due to a canvas partition in the bomb bay detaching and fouling the elevators, **F/O R.L. Benson**, Sgt G.A.A. Ranken RAF, F/O N. Smart RAF, F/O T.D. Gordon RAF, Sgt D. Herbert RAF and LAC W. Robinson RAF killed (R. Allenby).
- 26 415 Sqn. Hampden TB.I P2065 caught fire and destroyed while refuelling. Another 415 Sqn. Hampden TB.I AE201 was also destroyed and three more damaged when the bomb load exploded (H. Moyle; 415 SH).
- 26 464 Sqn. Ventura II AJ224 was attacking a ship in France when it was hit by flak in the nose which temporarily blinded the pilot and the navigator, S/L I.G.E. Dale RAF and F/O H. Robson RAF. Despite this the aircraft recovered and returned to England where a wheels up landing was made, S/L Dale and F/O Robson injured, **P/O G.W. Forman** and P/O J.M. Quinlan RAAF safe.
- 26 #55 OTU Hurricane I P8813 flew into rising ground in Scotland killing **Sgt R.V. Kennedy Jr. RCAF (USA)**.
- 26 #76 Signals Wing, radar mechanic **LAC J.E. Curtis** was killed when an RAF truck collided with an Army truck in Wales.
- 26 #1658 HCU Halifax II V9988 crashed into trees unable to gain height after take-off when an engine had failed, **Sgt J.I. Drake**, Sgt T.M.L. Dingwall RAF and Sgt E.J. Wood RAF killed, Sgt I.D. Williams RAF and Sgt R.J. Ball RAF injured (R. Allenby).
- 26 USAAF 401st Bomb Sqn., 91st Bomb Group Heavy, B-17F 41-24447 "*Kickapoo*" lost over the North Sea on a mission to Wilhelmshaven, **TSgt W.E. Gilroy USAAF**, 2Lt R.E. Bixler USAAF, 2Lt C. Brandenburg USAAF, SSgt R.A. De Barbrie USAAF, SSgt H.E. Fisher USAAF, TSgt E. Gause USAAF, 1Lt H.O. Green USAAF, SSgt G. Nesemeier USAAF, SSgt A.A. Sullivan USAAF and Capt. J.T. Swais USAAF missing. Born in Colorado TSgt Gilroy had farmed near Weirdale, Saskatchewan (B. Barry et al).
- 26 #113 (BR) Sqn. RCAF, Yarmouth, NS, Hudson III BW634 crashed into Bay of Fundy on an anti-submarine patrol, **Sgt G. Beverley**, **P/O J.L.K. Daly** killed, **P/O J.B. Bond** and **P/O J.N. Treadwell** missing.
- 26 #34 OTU Pennfield Ridge NB, Ventura II AE911 crashed near Minto, NB on a cross country training flight, **Sgt T.M. Otto**, Sgt D.S. Bates RNZAF, Sgt E. Williams RAAF and P/O N.C. Harris RAF killed. The wreckage was not found until November when it was discovered by hunters (www.rootsweb.ancestry.com #34 OTU Accident and

Mishap Reports).

26-27 Bomber Command attacked Cologne with 427 bombers. Poor marking took the bombs off target and it is thought that only ¼ of the bombs dropped fell in the city itself. Nevertheless this caused 109 deaths, more than 150 injured and over 6,000 people bombed out of their homes. Other operations include 2 OBOE Mosquitos to Aachen, 21 GARDENING and 4 OTU sorties with 10 bombers lost (BC War Diaries).

26-27 12 Sqn. Lancaster I W4792 PH-Y lost without trace, **F/S J.D. Correll**, **Sgt W.B. Kenny**, **Sgt J. Bunce RAF**, **Sgt D.A. Travis RAF**, **Sgt C. Petherbridge RAF**, **Sgt T.I. James RAF** and **Sgt R.N. Vaisey RAF** missing.

26-27 15 Sqn. Stirling I R9279 LS-J lost without trace, **F/L V.H. Harris**, **Sgt W.R. Matthews RAAF**, **F/S R. Ashdown** (attached from #1651 CU), **Sgt J. Wratten RAF**, **Sgt P. Rogers RAF**, **Sgt H.R. Jones RAF**, **Sgt W. Shaw RAF** and **Sgt S. Phillips RAF** missing.

26-27 83 Sqn. Lancaster I W4846 OL-S lost over Germany, **WO2 M.D.W. Hambrook**, **S/L S. Robinson DFM MiD RAF**, **Sgt B.A. Hayes RAF**, **P/O D. Norrington DFM**, **F/S J.H. Henderson RAF**, **S/L E.R. Simpson DFM RAF** and **Sgt W.A. Ringe RAF** missing.

26-27 102 Sqn. Halifax II DT779 swung on taking off for a GARDENING operation and crashed, **WO2 J.L. Lee**, **Sgt B.C. White RAF**, **Sgt G.A. Jones RAF**, **Sgt J.N. Underwood RAF**, **Sgt F.M. Traynor RAF**, **Sgt R.A.M. Mather RAF** and **Sgt J.K. Campbell RAF** safe (R. Allenby). See May 29-30, below.

26-27 420 Sqn. Wellington III BK468 PT-R lost over Germany, **F/S B.M. Chamney**, **WO2 H.A. Hansen**, **F/S R.M. Jupe**, **F/S L.E. Kellaway**, **WO2 P.H. Mitchell** killed (R. Koval).

26-27 424 Sqn. Wellington III (BK398 or DF618) QB-B was damaged by flak, **Sgt C.M. Binnie**, **Sgt A.L. Bjarnason**, **Sgt P.G. Heden**, **P/O G.A. Souch**, **P/O F.R. Taylor** and **Sgt R.C. White** landed safely (R. Koval and R. Allenby). See July 28-29, below.

26-27 426 Sqn. Wellington III Z1599 (OW-B or A) was returning with one engine knocked out by flak when it was shot down over Holland by a night fighter, **F/S W.W. Cameron**, **F/O J.P. Monckton**, **F/S H. Rands**, **Sgt R.E. Dean RAF** and **Sgt R. Williams RAF** killed, **F/S H.E. Vey** PoW (426 SH).

26-27 427 Sqn. Wellington III BJ886 ZL-F shot down by a night fighter over Holland, **F/S C.F. Leach RCAF (USA)**, **P/O O.H. Skelton**, **F/S T.C. Smith**, **Sgt W.E. Harwood RAF**, **Sgt H.J. Steel RAF** and **Sgt V.M. Caplin RAF** killed.

26-27 427 Sqn. Wellington III BK268 ZL-C crashed in England returning from an operation, **F/S K.L. Campbell**, **F/S R.H. Lewis**, **Sgt A. Marlow RAF**, **Sgt J.E. Partos RAF** and **Sgt G.R. Taylor RAF** killed, **Sgt K.C. Smith** was injured.

Saturday

27 In Montana 74 miners are killed in a mine explosion (wikipedia).

27 260 Sqn. Kittyhawk IIa FL322 shot down attacking a target in North Africa, **F/O R.S.**

- Kent missing.
- 27 403 Sqn. Spitfire IX BS172 shot down off Dunkirk in a fight with German fighters on a ROADSTEAD sortie, F/L P.T. O'Leary missing.
- 27 612 Sqn. Whitley VII BD683 'B' lost on a anti-submarine patrol, Sgt A. Waterworth RAF and F/O G.D. Wright RAF killed, F/O F.L.S. Wismer, Sgt N. Hallett RAF, Sgt W.H. Young and Sgt C.S. Berger missing (R. McNeill www.rafcommands.com).
- 27 #7 (Coastal) OTU Wellington HX779 was off course and flew into high ground in Scotland, WO2 J.N. Mitton, F/S D.F. Sutterby, F/S W.E. Davis RNZAF, F/S H.G. Brooks RAF and F/S J.M. Wilson RAF killed (www.kintyreonrecord.co.uk).
- 27 #16 OTU Wellington III X3985 crashed in England attempting a go around on a precautionary landing following engine problems on a cross country exercise, Sgt C.E. Vyse, F/O G. Brayshaw RAF, P/O C.H. Nichols RAF, P/O D.O. Moss RAF and Sgt B.C. Burton RAF killed.
- 27 #1656 HCU Halifax II BB258 swung on landing and lost it's undercarriage, P/O H.F. Snar and his crew safe.
- 27 unknown unit, air frame mechanic LAC H.V. Clark died of natural causes at Glace Bay, NS.

27-28 221 Sqn. Wellington HX626 lost on a anti-shipping patrol off Italy, P/O C.A. McCardle and F/O G.F. Davey killed, Sgt C.E. Jamieson, F/O D.N. Cochrane RAF, Sgt G.W. Dempster RAF and F/S A.A. Dey RAAF missing (A. Storr).

27-28 Combined Norwegian commando teams attack the heavy water production plant at Telemark, Norway, destroying special production equipment and the entire supply of German controlled heavy water (over 500 kg). The teams escaped to Sweden and production was disrupted until April (wikipedia). As German research into military uses of atomic energy required heavy water this raid brought their nuclear bomb programme to a halt until more deuterium could be produced (Oxford). See April 20, 1944.

Bomber Command sends 91 GARDENING, 6 OBOE and 2 OTU sorties with the loss of 1 bomber (BC War Diaries).

27-28 408 Sqn. Halifax II DT679 was damaged in the tail by flak on a GARDENING sortie, Sgt J.A. Hammond, Sgt G.I. Pridham, F/O A.A. Stewart RNZAF, Sgt C.T. Hamilton RNZAF, Sgt D.D.P. Leitch RAF, F/O G.H. Lamus RAF and Sgt L.S. Marsden RAF landed safe (R. Allenby). See March 11-12 and June 21-22 below.

27-28 419 Sqn. Halifax II DT615 VR-P was hit by a flak ship on a GARDENING sortie off the North Sea coast, that knocked out an engine, followed by a hydraulic failure, and ditched, Sgt M.F. Gray, Sgt C.F. Wilby, F/S C.O. Hancock, F/O W.J. McNicol, Sgt G.H. Low, Sgt M.S. Braniff and P/O R. Harling all took to the life rafts. They were rescued by naval torpedo boats after 22 hours adrift (Lancaster, C. et al). See June 12-13, below.

27-28 419 Sqn. Halifax II DT619, Sgt J. McIntosh (RCAF?) pilot, was shot up by a fighter aircraft when on a GARDENING sortie off Holland and set on fire, rear gunner **F/S G.I.H. Dunbar** and the flight engineer **F/S B.P. Grogan** killed, navigator **Sgt A.A. Mellin** badly wounded, a shell having hit his leg and badly breaking it. Despite these wounds Sgt Mellin assumed the tasks of the flight engineer and also assisted in putting out the fire until the situation was brought under of control, then resumed his task as navigator to guide the bomber back to England, where it crash landed. Sgt Mellin was awarded a DFM for his actions, promoted, and returned to Canada, but his injuries continued to affect him and he re-mustered to air traffic control duties (Awards, R. Koval). The aircraft was repaired but lost with no casualties in a forced landing Jan. 22, 1944 when flying with #1658 HCU. Sgt McIntosh may be the same as **F/S J.W. McIntosh** lost from this squadron May 4-5, below.

27-28 426 Sqn. Wellington III X3364 was taking off on a GARDENING sortie when it struck a building and crash landed, due to an instrument failure and pilot error, **Sgt L.G. Sutherland** and his crew safe (R. Allenby). See May 23-24 below.

Sunday

28 German armoured units arrive back on the Donets river, having destroyed the Soviet attempt to encircle their Army Group South (C. Bergström). This and further fighting will leave Soviet occupied Kursk to the north in a salient over 100 miles across and 80 miles deep into German occupied areas (D. Sommerville). See July 5, below.

Eighth Army breaks the Mareth Line in Tunisia.

28 136 Sqn. Hurricane badly damaged by Japanese fighters when escorting a bombing attack on the Japanese occupied base at Akyab, Burma, but **WO1 A.J. De Cruyenaere** managed to return safely (C. Shores). See March 15, below.

28 416 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AD560 was on a RHUBARB in poor visibility when it hit the sea and was forced to ditch, **F/S R.W. Lamont** managed to get out and was later rescued by an ASR Walrus, guided by his wingman **P/O B.S. Siddall** (FF Years).

28 #41 OTU Mustang I AG585 crashed in England after multiple bird strikes from a flock of seagulls, **F/O E.W.G. Verley** was pulled injured from the burning wreck by two Air Cadets and merchant seaman J. Thomas (rafcommands.com). See March 1, below.

28 #55 OTU Hurricanes I V6573 and W9170 were in a mid-air collision, **Sgt R.D. Fattig RCAF (USA)** was killed on W9170, **F/S R. Jones** safe on V6573 (www.rafcommands.com).

28 #34 OTU, Pennfield Ridge, NB, Ventura II AE893 crashed at Pennfield Ridge attempting a landing in a cross wind, **P/O F.R. Spafford** and Sgt G.L. Clotworthy RNZAF slightly injured (www.rootsweb.ancestry.com #34 OTU Accident and Mishap Reports).

28-1 As per Air Ministry orders the U-boat pens at St. Nazaire were now priority targeted by Bomber Command, 437 bombers being sent which attacked the port area and destroyed an estimated 60% of the town, U-boats unaffected. It is thought that most of the towns population had left, 29 were reported killed and 12 injured. Five GARDENING sorties were also done off the port, plus 3 OBOE Mosquitos to the Ruhr and 2 OTU sorties, 5 bombers were lost (BC War Diaries).

- 28-1 78 IAP, Soviet Northern Fleet, Canadian built Hurricane X AM356 was hit by flak making a night bombing attack. Damaged, Guards Capt. S. Kurzenkov tried to return to his base directly instead of using designated safe air corridors, and was shot down at low altitude by Soviet anti-aircraft. He bailed out with a damaged parachute at less than 100', and fell into heavy snow with severe injuries. Rescued, he never flew again, but was made a Hero of the Soviet Union, having flown nearly 200 combat missions in the previous year and a half (Y. Rybin, *Soviet Hurricane Aces of World War 2*, Osprey, 2012).
- 28-1 49 sqn. Lancaster III ED467 EA-E lost on a GARDENING sortie off France, **WO2 A.M. Dickie**, **WO2 F.C. Duncan**, Sgt D.W. Belsham RAF, Sgt R. Brookes RAF, Sgt H. Kay RAF, Sgt J.A. Kelly RAF and F/O R.G. McCracken RAF killed.
- 28-1 51 Sqn. Halifax II DT648 MH-K lost an engine over the target. Landing with three engines it swung off the runway, collided with a vehicle, and stopped near the bomb dump where both it and the vehicle were destroyed by fire, the vehicle driver was injured, **F/L F.D. Smith**, **Sgt R.W. Featherstone**, P/O W.A.O. Whitworth RAF, F/S J. Richards RAF, P/O L.G. McCoy RAF, Sgt J.E. Pyall RAF and Sgt A.G.S. Corrs safe (R. Allenby). See June 11-12 below.
- 28-1 83 Sqn. Lancaster I R5913 OL-G lost over France, **WO2 G.H. Corrie**, **P/O S. Danahy DFC**, P/O J. McCartney RAF, F/S C.T. Clifton RAF, Sgt J.H. McKenna RAF, Sgt C.E. Tanner RAAF and F/O F.A.M. Shooter DFM RAF killed.
- 28-1 425 Sqn. Wellington III BJ918 KW-F crashed on take-off due to a loss of power, **Sgt J.H.N. Brousseau**, **Sgt J.H. Moreau**, **Sgt J.D.L. Fontaine**, **P/O T.R.C. Irwin**, **Sgt H.B. Marceau** and P/O D.B.J. Hodgetts RAF safe (R. Allenby). See April 14-15 below.
- 28-1 425 Sqn. Wellington III damaged by flak on a GARDENING sortie but returned, **Sgt J.R.G. Dube**, **P/O R.A. Stutt**, Sgt H.R. Manning, Sgt E.C. Hodgson, Sgt W.D. Pettit and 1 crewman safe (R. Allenby).
- 28-1 427 Sqn. Wellington III X3563 ZL-T went off course returning from an operation over France and was abandoned over Eire, **Sgt M.B. Summers**, **F/S J.C. Grover**, **F/S A.W. Puffer**, **Sgt J.H. Blue**, **Sgt W.W.N. Chalk** and Sgt L.G. Southwood RAF were taken to the border and released (D. Burke, www.ww2irishaviation.com). See Oct. 7-8, below.
- 28-1 427 Sqn. Wellington III BK343 ZL-V came down in the sea off France, **WO2 W.D. Hartney**, **F/S J.A. Kilpatrick**, **F/S J.L. Ward** and Sgt R.W. Radford RAF killed, **F/S**

D.A. Ferguson missing, Sgt E. Allison RAF PoW.

During February #5 (BR) Sqn. Canso aircraft flying from Gander, Newfoundland, had made 4 attacks on U-boats without success (I. Wikene).

March 1943

Montreal Lab of TUBE ALLOYS scientists opens, but inability to obtain access to Canadian uranium threatens to end all work before it begins. Relations with US Manhattan Project at an impasse.

#61 Base RCAF Topcliffe opened in England (RCAF Sqns.)

404 Sqn. re-equips with Beaufighter Xlc aircraft and begins anti-shipping operations (RCAF Sqns.). 407 Sqn. begins to re-equip with Leigh Light equipped Wellington XII aircraft (RCAF Sqns.). 416 Sqn. begins to use Spitfire IX aircraft (RCAF Sqns.). 418 Sqn. begins to re-equip with Mosquito FB.IV aircraft. 426 Sqn. begins to equip with Wellington X aircraft (RCAF Sqns.).

Having tested a long range balloon capable of carrying incendiary bombs a joint Japanese Army and Navy program was planned to launch such balloons from surfaced submarines off the coast of North America (Mikesh).

Around this time 402 Squadron, 411 Squadron and 416 Squadron Spitfire pilots were trained in making carrier deck landings, possibly to be used in the Mediterranean, but the operation was not proceeded with (E. Brown).

In Europe increasing losses of heavy bombers by USAAF due to "head-on" attack tactics of German fighters led to a further tightening of their defensive formations, with the standard flight of 18 bombers being grouped in a compact formation of three flights making 54 bombers in tight formation. This required them to adopt "pattern bombing", that is, dropping on a signal from a lead bomber (a form of area bombing) rather than each dropping independently (Oxford).

During the month ground crew at RCAF Torbay managed to salvage and re-build one of the damaged Spitfire Vb aircraft offloaded in December, ER824. The other two, ER881 and ES117 were used for parts. Spitfire ER824 was successfully test flown by #125 (F) Sqns. commanding officer, **S/L R.W. Norris in March. The aircraft was given the name "Miss Torbay". Others may have flown it, but authorities soon ordered the aircraft repacked and shipped back**

to England, where after overhaul it was briefly issued to 442 Sqn. before becoming a communications aircraft with #12 Group in England. It was sold for scrap in 1948 (St. John's, A History of the Airport, www.spitfires.ukf.net).

Early in the month residents of Hebron, Labrador discover the wreck of B-26 41-17862 "Times Awastin" that force landed Dec. 10, 1943, with the remains of USAAF 1Lt G.C. Hodge Jr., Sgt R. Reyrauch, Cpl. J.J. Mangini and Cpl. F.J. Golm. It turns out that they were only 60 miles from Hebron, but they did not know where they were when they came down. Post war a DEW line station was built at the site and the remains of the bomber were pushed into a pond to make room for the building of a runway.

Monday

1 #163 Army Co-operation (AC) Sqn. RCAF formed at Sea Island, BC, on Bolingbroke IV (for aerial photography) and Harvard II aircraft (RCAF Sqns.). 405 Sqn. returned from Coastal Command to #6 Group RCAF, Bomber Command (RCAF Sqns.). After a long gestation 422 Sqn. become operational with a convoy patrol from Scotland by Sunderland III W6026 2-C, W/C L.W. Skey and crew (RCAF Sqns.).

Washington Convoy Conference on the North Atlantic begins between England, Canada and USA with RAF, RCAF and USAAF/USN airborne anti-submarine representatives attending (Oxford).

- 1 416 Sqn. Tiger Moth was ferrying F/S R.W. Lamont back to his Squadron when it crash landed on a racecourse, F/S Lamont and Sgt C.B. Shaw safe, F/S Lamont's second forced landing in two days (416 SH).
- 1 420 Sqn. Wellington III Z1724 PT-C crashed in England when a wing failed while on a training flight, F/O S. Spector, P/O P.E. Townsend, P/O K.J. Brown RAF, F/S J. Wreakes RAF and P/O E.M. Hollowell RAF killed (R. Allenby).
- 1 #22 OTU Wellington III HF674 LT-F took off on a night training flight, but crash landed when both engines cut out, Sgt P.L.J. Logan, Sgt J.J. March, Sgt A.W. Klauer and Sgt R.L. Swindle RAF injured. See May 4, below.
- 1 #23 OTU Wellington X HE484 was abandoned after an engine and hydraulic failure, P/O W. Harrison and his crew safe.
- 1 #41 OTU F/O E.W.G. Verley died of injuries from the loss of a Mustang the day before.
- 1 #7 AOS, Portage la Prairie, Man., Anson I #6503 crashed, LAC A.D. Marshall RNZAF, F/S D.J. Opie RNZAF and LAC A.B. Spence RNZAF killed. Civil pilot Captain N.W. Androsen was also killed on this date in a crash near Birtle, Man., possibly in the same incident. Captain Androsen had been in training as a pilot with the RCAF but was injured, and became a civilian instructor (B. Barry et al).

- 1-2 Bomber Command sent 302 bombers to Berlin. Pathfinders using H2S had difficulty marking due to inexperience in using the sets over large built up areas and bombing was scattered, but the sheer weight of the bombs dropped made this the most serious attack yet made on Berlin, damaging railroad repair shops, factories and housing. The H2S set captured Feb. 2-3, above, was destroyed when the Telefunken radio works was hit by bombs, but a second set was lost and recovered this night in Holland. Other operations included 6 OBOE Mosquitos over the Ruhr, 49 GARDENING and 4 OTU sorties. A total of 19 bombers were lost from 361 sorties (BC War Diaries).**
- 1-2 9 Sqn. Lancaster III ED490 WS-J crashed after colliding with another bomber on return to its base (Lancaster, C. et al, <http://www.bcar.org.uk/1943-incident-logs>). Sgt E.S. Smithson RAF, P/O L.H. Geach RAF and Sgt K.E.W. Matthews RAF killed, P/O J.H. Moutray DFM RAF (Can.), F/L J.V. Verran RAF, P/O F.T. Johnson RAF and Sgt K.W. Chalk RAF survived, injured. Wireless air gunner P/O Moutray was born in England but was raised near Kamloops, BC. He enlisted in the RAF in 1938 and flew early leaflet operations to Germany and Czechoslovakia in 1939-40, as an AC2, AC1 and LAC before becoming a Sgt and receiving a DFM in June, 1940. He later transferred to the RCAF and retired as F/L Moutray DFM DFC. He is also known as an artist.
- 1-2 15 Sqn. Stirling I W7518 shot down by a night fighter over Holland, F/S A.F.E. Tilley RAF, Sgt W.D. Bowen RAF, P/O H.L. Meller RAF, Sgt D.B. Care RAF and Sgt A.J. Sinclair RAF killed, Sgt J.H. Jones RAF missing, Sgt G.E. Williams PoW.
- 1-2 44 Sqn. Lancaster I W4829 KM-V lost over Germany, F/S B.F. Brown RCAF (USA), Sgt B.F. Forman RAF, Sgt L. Farmer RAF, Sgt D.G.J. Coombes RAF, Sgt L.J. Holleron, Sgt W.E. Toft RAF and Sgt J. Little RAF killed.
- 1-2 51 Sqn. Halifax II BB223 MH-C shot down over Holland by a night fighter, F/S W. Colangelo, Sgt C. Avery RAF, Sgt A. Beauchamp RAF, Sgt A. Howe RAF, F/O J.B. Duncan RAF, F/S J.D. Stenhouse RAF and P/O R.A. Willmott RAF killed.
- 1-2 51 Sqn. Halifax II W7860 had its hydraulics knocked out by flak over Berlin, but returned to make a crash landing in England, WO E.P. Acree RCAF (USA), Sgt H.F. Maughan, Sgt C.D. Hughes RAF, P/O J.E. Ulrich RAF, Sgt G. Steer RAF, Sgt J. Elwell RAF and Sgt J. Roderick RAF safe (R. Allenby). See August 27-28 below and June 4, 1945.
- 1-2 57 Sqn. Lancaster I R5894 DX-T struck power cables and crashed in England returning from a sortie over Berlin, killing F/O J.F. Greenan, Sgt J.B. Mallett, F/S F.W. Music, Sgt H.H. Turkentine RAF, Sgt H.W. Ricketts RAF, Sgt F.C.E. Miller RAF and Sgt R.H.P. Roberts RAF.
- 1-2 61 Sqn. Lancaster I W4920 QR-O lost without trace, P/O H.M. Champion, WO1 J.J. Rooney, Sgt R.K. Hall RAF, Sgt A.L. Brown RAF, Sgt P.J. Folker RAF, Sgt P.W. Garnham RAF and Sgt R. Wrightson RAF missing.

- 1-2 76 Sqn. Halifax II DT556 MP-U shot down over Belgium by a night fighter, **P/O H.B. Moore RCAF (USA)**, **P/O G.G. Stanley**, S/L J.L. Fletcher DFM RAF, Sgt L.A. Trinder RAF and F/L A.T. Wheatley RAF killed, Sgt V.J. Crutch RAF and P/O W.P.A. Blackman RAF PoW, and F/O E.L. Souter-Smith RAF evaded.
- 1-2 103 Sqn. Lancaster I W4880 PM-H lost over Germany, **F/O H.C. Pulley**, **Sgt J.D. Williams**, Sgt R.D. Foley RAF, Sgt R. Frazer RAF, Sgt R.L. Hunt RAF, Sgt P. Smart RAF and F/L G.W. Stanhope RAF killed.
- 1-2 103 Sqn. Lancaster I W4361 PM-N lost without trace, **P/O A.F. Reif**, F/S P.G. Roberts RNZAF, F/S W.F. Austin DFM RAF, Sgt K.H. Chapman RAF, Sgt D.N.D. Waite RAF, Sgt D.E.J. Boland RAF and Sgt E.J. Cook RAF missing.
- 1-2 149 Sqn. Stirling III BK692 OJ-W was coned by searchlights, attacked and damaged over the target, wounding Sgt D.A. Crofts RAF and Sgt R.A. Nunn RAF. Later the bomber was hit by flak and abandoned over France. The pilot, F/L R.E. Richman DFM RAF and Sgt Crofts went down with the aircraft, Sgt Nunn was released on his opened parachute but did not survive, the rest of the crew **P/O R.J. Taylor**, Sgt D.R. Clayton RAF, Sgt H.J. Gillingham RAF and Sgt N. Thornley RAF survived to become PoWs, while Sgt R.H. Hale RAF managed to evade for 9 months before also being taken PoW.
- 1-2 214 Sqn. Stirling I R9145 BU-K was hit by flak over Germany and abandoned. F/O B.F.R. Hotson RNZAF was killed by a splinter as he came down, **F/S J.M. Lyall**, Sgt D.B. Scobie RNZAF, Sgt R.H. Thom RNZAF, Sgt N.G. Etherden RAF, Sgt J.G. Jack RAF and Sgt J.E. Powell RAF were all taken PoW.
- 1-2 408 Sqn. Halifax II DT797 EQ-H shot down by a night fighter over Holland, **WO2 A.W. Cochrane**, **WO2 I.C. Grice**, **WO2 J.H. Higgins**, **WO2 H.K. McCreery**, F/S R. Weiss and Sgt F. MacDonald RAF killed, **Sgt J.Q. Ashmore RCAF (USA)** PoW.
- 1-2 419 Sqn. Halifax II DT641 VR-R shot down over the sea, **Sgt A.D. Cherkinsky** and Sgt J.N. Gray RAF killed, **Sgt A.L. Bateman**, F/S W.G. Francis, **Sgt J. Kowalski**, **F/S A.T. Woodhouse** and P/O A.J. Herriott DFM RAF missing.
- 1-2 424 Sqn. Wellington III DF671 QB-K was hit by flak just before releasing it's mine on a GARDENING sortie, **Sgt W.H. Grigg**, **Sgt G.W. Thompson**, Sgt K.M. Jordan RAF, Sgt J.J.H. Barter RAF, Sgt L.G. Hardy RAF and Sgt F. Bowker returned safely (R. Allenby). See May 29-30 below.

Tuesday

2 Pay-As-You-Go Income Tax Plan started in Canada (CJCA Headlines).

Mussolini announces recall of Italian Army in Russia, decimated by Operation SATURN, Dec. 16, 1942 (ww2total.com Chronology/1943).

- 2 487 Sqn. RNZAF Ventura I AE680 crashed on return to it's airfield after a low level sortie as part of Exercise SPARTAN, a large scale army and air force exercise simulating an invasion, when it struck some trees on approach to land, **F/S J.W.**

Billing, F/S J.R. McCormick and Sgt B.J. O'Donnell killed. A fourth crewman, Sgt Carter, was not on board as he could not find a parachute in time for the flight (TSGNO).

- 2 #115 (F) Sqn., Bolingbroke I #706 crashed at Tofino, BC and destroyed by fire, no fatalities (R.W.R. Walker). This was the test aircraft for conversion of Bolingbroke aircraft to fighter configuration.

2-3 Sixty GARDENING sorties were sent out by Bomber Command on this night with 3 lost, as well as 6 OBOE sorties over the Ruhr. The Krupps factory at Essen was hit by some of the OBOE Mosquitos (BC War Diaries).

- 2-3 77 Sqn. Halifax II DT770 EY-Y was landing from a GARDENING sortie when it overshot, hit the tops of some trees, crashed and burned, F/S A.H. Evans DFM RAF and Sgt R.E.J. White RAF killed, F/O B.W. Ingham RAF and Sgt G.V. Delaroy-Hall RAF badly injured, Sgt F. Short RAF and Sgt R.G. Perrett RAAF injured, Sgt J.B. Brophy and Sgt T. Ellwood RAF safe (R. Allenby).
- 2-3 115 Sqn. Wellington III BK495 KO-N lost on a GARDENING sortie, shot down by a night fighter, F/S A.J. Down killed, Sgt S.G. Hunt RAF, Sgt A. Battram RAF, Sgt K.F. Bartholomew RAF and P/O H.W. Astin RAF missing.
- 2-3 427 Sqn. Wellington III X3390 ZL-W lost on a GARDENING sortie, F/S H.R. Millson killed, F/S W.B. Drake, WO2 T.A. Dutton, F/S L.M. Lymburner, F/S H.S. MacPherson and Sgt R. Clark RAF missing.
- 2-3 429 Sqn. Wellington X HZ260 AL-K ditched off England on a GARDENING sortie, F/L C.S. Campbell DFC, F/O F.W. Bartleet RAF, F/S W. Billington DFM RAF missing, Sgt J.H. Black and Sgt P.G. Rothera RAF were able to get in their life raft. See March 5, below.

Wednesday

3 Allied bombers sink a convoy in the Bismarck Sea (CJCA headline). USAAF and RAAF bombers and torpedo aircraft with RAAF fighter support to suppress anti-aircraft fire, sink 8 transports and 4 destroyers (leaving only 4 destroyers from the convoy), annihilating a Japanese Army force enroute to New Guinea, intended to renew the attack on Wau. The Japanese Navy had counted on bad weather to mask this convoy, but the weather remained clear (Oxford). This was combined with a buildup of Allied airpower and new low level attack methods (skip bombing, as used by 407 Squadron off Holland) on shipping that took the Japanese planners off guard, and marked the beginning of Allied air superiority in the South-West Pacific. This marked the end of Japan's ability to move large military forces in escorted convoys in range of Allied aircraft, future movements being done at night by smaller ships, hiding by day (E. Hammel). It also limited Japanese initiatives as they could no longer withdraw isolated garrisons (B. Kite). In a lifeboat from this action a

complete list of all Japanese Army officers and their units is later recovered, enabling Allied code-breakers to accurately track these units by the names appearing on messages (wikipedia).

Bomber Command sent 10 Mosquitos to attack the molybdenum mine at Knaben in Norway, vital to the production of high quality steel in Germany, 1 shot down by fighters, but the mine was forced to shut down for several months (BC War Diaries, www.rafbombercommand.com).

- 3 143 Sqn. Spitfire Vb EP717 shot down near Sicily by German fighters, P/O L.J. McDougall missing.
- 3 221 Sqn. Wellington VIII HX473 lost in the Mediterranean, Sgt D.C. MacDonald, F/S R.M. Tooze, F/L R.T. Kenyon RAF, F/L N.G.D. Sanford RAF and Sgt T. Towle RAF missing.
- 3 #6 SFTS, Dunnville, Ontario, Yale #3418 crashed near Orillia, WO2 L.H. Dean and F/S J.A. Paterson killed.
- 3 #34 OTU, Pennfield Ridge, NB, Ventura I AE664 crashed just after taking off when an engine cut, P/O P. Newell and P/O J.W. Downing RAF safe (www.rootsweb.ancestry.com #34 OTU Accident and Mishap Reports).
- 3 unknown unit AC2 H. Barer died of natural causes in Canada.

3-4 Hamburg was the target of 417 bombers on this night but again inexperience in H2S marking led to the majority of the bombs falling on the town of Wedel, 13 miles downstream of Hamburg on the Elbe River. Considerable damage was done there, however. Other operations included more hits on the Krupps works by some of the 5 OBOE Mosquitos over the Ruhr, 14 GARDENING and 5 OTU sorties, a total of 441 sorties with 11 bombers lost (BC War Diaries).

The Luftwaffe sent 117 bombers to attack London with scattered results, but use of new anti-aircraft rocket weapons caused a panic, with a crush of people trying to enter an air raid shelter at the Bethnal Green underground station in London which kills 173 people (wikipedia, ww2total.com Chronology/1943).

- 3-4 103 Sqn. Lancaster I W7488 lost over Germany, F/S D.W. Lowther, Sgt A. Greig RAF, F/S J. Mead RAF, Sgt D.W. Perch RAF, Sgt P. Bailey RAF, F/S J.C. Paton RAF, Sgt C.V. Ellen RAF and Sgt N.F. Trigg RAF killed. F/S Lowther had been wounded Jan. 13, 1943. It is possible that this aircraft collided in mid air with 106 Sqn. Lancaster R5731, below.
- 3-4 106 Sqn. Lancaster I R5731 ZN-M lost over Germany, possibly due to a mid air collision as above, F/O R.E. Wesley, Sgt J.H.B. Wright RAF, Sgt G.E. Green RAF, P/O K.H. Ellis RAF, Sgt R.G. Watson RAF, Sgt W.G. Ludbrook RAF and Sgt K.V. Jones RAF killed.
- 3-4 115 Sqn. Wellington III Z1620 KO-T lost over Germany, F/S C.R. Bird, Sgt H.J.F. Gell

RAF, Sgt E. Holdsworth RAF, Sgt D.D. Laidlaw RAF, Sgt P.H. Luscombe RAF killed. See June 14-15, below.

- 3-4 207 Sqn. Lancaster I ED365 UM-U lost over Germany, **WO2 W.E. Cain**, **WO2 W.V. Wallace**, F/S M.G. Delatorre RAF, Sgt P. Evison RAF, Sgt R.W.E. Holley RAF, Sgt L.R. Thompson RAF and F/O B. Johnson RAF killed.
- 3-4 418 Sqn. Boston, **F/L R.J. Bennell AM(US)** shot down a Do 217 over Holland. F/L Bennell had been awarded his US Air Medal for guiding USAAF aircraft to their base in bad weather (FF Years). See March 16, 1944.
- 3-4 419 Sqn. Halifax II DT669 VR-L, P/O J.D. Dickson, claimed 2 night fighters shot down by P/O R.J. Wagner (mid-upper) who shared the second with Sgt J.A. Weeks (rear turret) (R. Koval, FF Years).
- 3-4 424 Sqn. Wellington X MS481 QB-Q had it's 4,000 'Cookie' hang up over the target and was forced to return and land with it and some minor flak damage, **Sgt S.E. Finlayson**, **F/L J.S. McCrae**, S/L W.E. Allison RAF, F/S E.A. Spencer-Matthews RAF, F/S D.R. or D.P. Henderson and F/S A.J. Irvine safe (R. Allenby). See May 27-28 below.
- 3-4 425 Sqn. Wellington III BK344 KW-B lost over Germany, **Sgt J.E. Audy**, **WO2 J.J.B.A. Dugal**, **WO2 W.C. Forbes**, **P/O J.V.L. Gauthier**, **P/O J. Glassberg** and **WO2 J.W.M.E. Lanctin** killed.
- 3-4 428 Sqn. Wellington III BK564 was damaged by flak over Hamburg, Sgt C.R. Pearce RNZAF and his crew safe (R. Allenby). See May 29-30 and June 21-22 below.
- 3-4 431 Sqn. Wellington X SE-Q, Sgt J. Morton RAF, belly landed on return due damage from a night fighter attack on a GARDENING sortie. The rear gunner Sgt Bell claimed damage to the night fighter identified as a Ju 88 (R. Koval, W.E. Heron). See April 14-15, below.

Thursday

4 HMCS St. Croix and HMCS Shediac sink U-87 off Portugal. See Sept. 20, below.

- 4 172 Sqn. Leigh Light equipped Wellington VIII MP505 1-B shot down attacking U-333 in the Bay of Biscay, **F/O N. Bennett**, **Sgt D.M. McLeod**, **F/O J.G.J. Prideaux**, **WO2 C. Harold Smith**, F/O G.B. Alred RAF and F/O G.D.A. Lunden DFC RAF missing (H. Welting www.rafcommands.com). This aircraft and crew had sunk U-268 on Feb. 19, above (uboat.net). This attack on U-333 was undetected by the U-boats radar detector, and prompted Admiral Dönitz to consider that the new centimetric radar was being used by aircraft, which was correct. The NAXOS detector for U-boats, to counter this radar, would not be available until October, which meant U-boats were to remain blind to the new radar for over 6 months (M. Gannon).
- 4 #31 EFTS, De Winton, Alberta, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4200 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).
- 4 unknown unit, **F/O F.C. Allen**, radio technician, was returned from England due to medical problems and medically retired in March, 1942, died Canada having been

in a hospital for a year (www.rafcommands.com).

4-5 Bomber Command sent 27 GARDENING sorties from the coasts of France to Poland on this night plus 6 OBOE Mosquitos and 16 OTU sorties, 2 bombers lost (BC War Diaries).

4-5 100 Sqn. Lancaster III ED549 HW-S crashed in England when landing from a GARDENING sortie, **F/S G.R. Avey**, **F/S R.R. Landry**, Sgt B.T. Hallett RAF, Sgt A.H. Spence RAF, Sgt G.D. Cumberbatch RAF (Barbados) and Sgt J. Robinson RAF killed, Sgt D.S. Davies RAF injured.

Friday

5 First flight of the jet powered Gloster Meteor fighter DG206/G, the world's fourth jet fighter design (wikipedia). This was 8 months after taxiing trials had begun with low powered engines. Flight testing soon revealed instability issues with the aircraft although the various jet engines developed in England were very reliable (B. Gunston).

#119 (BR) Sqn. aircraft drops blood plasma needed in a medical emergency at Ingonish, Cape Breton Island, in bad weather. The next day the patient was medivaced using an Anson aircraft from a landing strip prepared on the ice in North Ingonish Bay (424 SH).

5 73 Sqn. Hurricane IIc HM142 shot down by a Bf 109 fighter on an early morning patrol near Gabes, Tunisia, **P/O R.C. Dolan** missing (Shores, Massimello V.2).

5 73 Sqn. Hurricane IIc HV547 shot down by a Bf 109 fighter on an early morning patrol near Gabes, Tunisia, **F/S D.M. Logan** PoW (Shores, Massimello V.2).

5 92 Sqn. Spitfire Vb ER646 shot down in Tunisia, **F/O D.B.L. McMahon** killed. F/O McMahon had the nickname "Happy" (Shores, Massimello V.2; www.spitfires.ukf.net).

5 429 Sqn., at sea, **Sgt J.H. Black** died in a life raft just hours before Sgt P.G. Rothera RAF was spotted by an ASR aircraft and picked up by an air/sea rescue launch (R. Allenby). Sgt Black, F/O Bartlett and Sgt Rothera had survived previous accidents on November 16 and December 21, 1942.

5 #19 OTU Whitley V Z9319 'F' was on a cross country exercise when it suffered an engine fire. Attempting an emergency landing the aircraft hit a tree short of the runway and crashed, but **Sgt S.G. Matheson** and his crew were safe.

5 #37 SFTS, Calgary, Alberta, LAC J. McNaught RAF killed in a flying accident involving Harvard II AJ986.

5 #7 Manning Depot, Rockcliffe, Ontario **LAW Isabel Luella Young** died in hospital in Montreal of natural causes (www.rafcommands.com; www.wwiicdnwomensproject.org).

5-6 Now that Bomber Command had been built up in size and with new equipment in service it was decided to begin a series of heavy attacks against the industrial targets in the Ruhr Valley. This would use the combination of very accurate OBOE marking and H2S backup by Pathfinder squadrons while allowing heavy attacks to be mounted in the short nights of the summer, which restricted the range at which night operations could be mounted.

Other targets were still attacked in this period (March to July) to ensure that the German defences could not be concentrated, although the Ruhr defences were already the strongest in the world.

One effect was to disrupt the supply of components for aircraft production, which limited the totals of German aircraft produced for a year (wikipedia).

For a description of OBOE operations, and their impact on the bomber offensive, see J.V. Watts.

The offensive opened, inevitably, with an attack on Essen and the Krupps works, 362 bombers (of 442 dispatched) dropped their bombs through haze in a 40 minute period on accurate marking by 8 OBOE Mosquitos with H2S backup, resulting in heavy damage to the Krupps works. Over 450 people were killed on the ground and 14 bombers were lost. Other operations were 7 GARDENING sorties (BC War Diaries). The mounting of this operation, one of the most significant of the war, was written up in great detail by Pathfinder A/C J. Searby DSO DFC RAF (Retd.) who flew on the operation.

- 5-6 49 Sqn. Lancaster III ED431 EA-M lost without trace, **WO2 A.M. Horne DFM**, Sgt J.M. Thom RAF, Sgt D.G. Fairlie RAF, F/S J.H. Prior RAF, F/S K. Bolton RAF, Sgt D.S. Bratt RAF and Sgt F.H.L. Vines RAF missing.
- 5-6 51 Sqn. Halifax II DT654 slightly damaged by flak over Germany, the crew **F/S R.H. Stewart**, F/O Wingrave (RAF?), Sgt H.A. Briggs RAF, F/S D. Axtell RAF, Sgt W.R. McBriar RAF, Sgt D.H. Reid RAF and Sgt F.M. Thompson RAF did not know they had been hit until they had landed (R. Allenby). See April 16-17 below.
- 5-6 51 Sqn. Halifax W7772 was hit by what the crew believed was flak over the target, but after landing was found to be an incendiary bomb that had punched into the wing and was lying loose in the wing structure, **F/S D.J. Cameron**, **F/O R.A. Shonk**, P/O N. Garforth RAF, Sgt A.A. McGregor RAF, Sgt W.R. Morris RAF, Sgt C.G. Carrington RAF and Sgt C. Hounslow safe (R. Allenby). See June 21-22, below.
- 5-6 75 (New Zealand) Sqn. Stirling I BK547 AA-M lost power after take-off and crash landed, **Sgt J.A. Pirie**, P/O R.F. Bennett RNZAF, Sgt A.L. Davidson RNZAF, Sgt C.P.F. Middleton RNZAF, Sgt J.B. Harrison RAF, Sgt E.R. Belford RAF and Sgt R.V. Weavers RAF safe. See May 29-30, below.

- 5-6 76 Sqn. Halifax II BB282 MP-R lost without trace, **P/O E.J. Fry, F/S C.A. Milan, Sgt R.B. Van Buren RCAF (USA)**, Sgt O.J. Trainor RAF, P/O C.G. Hitt RAF, Sgt H.W. Edwards RAF and Sgt H.C. Cope RAF missing.
- 5-6 78 Sqn. Halifax II HR687 was shot down by a night fighter over Holland, F/S J.R. Thompson RAF, Sgt A.E. Blackwell RAF and Sgt E.C.B. Williams RAF killed, **Sgt D.R. Chiswell**, Sgt K.W. Mercer RAF, Sgt O.V. Proctor RAF, Sgt A. Loveland RAF and Sgt A.C. Layshon RAF PoW. See <http://www.teunispats.net/fr-wwii.htm> for details.
- 5-6 83 Sqn. Lancaster I W4827 OL-V shot down into the Dutch IJsselmeer, **Sgt R.O. Fulton**, F/O L.W. Sprackling RAF, Sgt A.D. Dinnis and Sgt J.L. Organ RAF killed, **P/O H.A. Partridge**, Sgt H. Fell RAF and Sgt J.M. Freshwater missing.
- 5-6 90 Sqn. Stirling I R9271 WP-Q lost over Germany, **P/O J.B. Courtney RCAF (USA)**, P/O W.A. Fowlie RAF and Sgt A.M. Mollison RAF killed, but their grave locations are now not known, Sgt M. Renaut RAF, Sgt W.M. Werkendam RAF, Sgt J. Eccles RAF and Sgt E.E. Garnett RAF PoW.
- 5-6 106 Sqn. Lancaster I W4918 ZN-D shot down over Germany, **WO2 J.C.E. Dellar**, F/L W.J. Picken DFC RAF (S. Rhod.), Sgt J.F.L. Wilson RAF, Sgt L.G. Hudson RAF, Sgt J.E. Bonson RAF, Sgt G.C. Powell RAF and Sgt L.A. Leadbitter RAF killed.
- 5-6 199 Sqn. Wellington, Sgt Coupar pilot, bomb aimer **Sgt H.W. Davy**, Sgt Charters and Sgt Barkwell wounded by gunfire (night fighter?) (nephew M.J. O'Toole www.rafcommands.com). See June 23-24, 1944.
- 5-6 214 Sqn. Stirling III BK662 BU-K hit by flak and crashed in the sea off Holland, Sgt W.H. Trotter RAF killed, **F/S A.B. Amirault**, Sgt H.W. Baldock RAF, Sgt P.R. Kimber RAF, F/O H.T. Etienne RAF (St. Lucia), Sgt W. Taylor RAF and Sgt E.A. Wright RAF missing.
- 5-6 419 Sqn. Halifax II DT646 VR-C was hit by flak and then shot down by a night fighter over Germany, F/S J.R. Couper RAF missing, **F/S D.D. Scowen, F/S J.E. Marvel, Sgt J.A. Bennett, F/S W.J. Clark** and Sgt L. Bakewell RAF PoW, **Sgt A.C. Turner** evaded. An account of the loss and Sgt Turner's evasion can be found in the 419 Squadron history.
- 5-6 420 Sqn. Wellington X HE280 PT-V lost over Germany, **F/O D.E. Bennett, WO2 D.G. Culver, P/O R. Graham, F/S H.T.A. Lawson, F/O J.K. MacDonald** and P/O W.G. Lee RAF killed. WO Culver had been slightly injured Nov. 7-8, 1942 in the ditching of a 158 Sqn. Halifax, and then survived the crash of another Halifax Nov. 15-16, 1942.
- 5-6 424 Sqn. Wellington III X3790 QB-H was hit in the tail and elevators by flak over the target, **F/S G.B. Leddy**, Sgt R. Miskimmin RAF, Sgt A.W.A. Burnell RAF, Sgt A. Rudd RAF, P/O A.W.F. Moore and P/O C.J. James safe (R. Allenby). See March 24, 1944.
- 5-6 426 Sqn. Wellington III BK401 OW-M lost without trace, possibly in the IJsselmeer, **F/S W.J.R. Davies, F/S N.F. Paterson, P/O C.R. Trask, F/S G. Walen, F/S R.E. Williams RCAF (USA)** and P/O C.E. Chapman RAF missing.

- 5-6 426 Sqn. Wellington III X3284 OW-X was damaged by flak over Germany but **Sgt G.R. Baker** and his crew landed safe (R. Allenby). See March 9-10 below.
- 5-6 427 Sqn. Wellington III Z1572 ZL-Q, **F/S G.P.C. Vandekerckhove**, evaded an attack by a night fighter reported as damaged by the tail gunner, **Sgt J.J. McLean**, but later had an engine burst into flames. The fire was extinguished, but the propellor broke off. The crew managed to return to England on one engine and land, **F/S Vandekerckhove**, **Sgt J.J. McLean**, **Sgt W.A. Williamson**, **Sgt L.E. Moyler RAF** and **Sgt A.D. Rothwell RAF** safe (R. Koval, FF Years, R. Allenby). See August 31-September 1, below. This aircraft was the subject of a colour photo session when flying with 419 Sqn. which has been widely distributed, and was also the subject of a diecast model by Corgi.
- 5-6 428 Sqn. Wellington III Z1727, **Sgt K.R. Knapp RCAF (USA)**, returned with flak damage that left a 3 foot hole in the fuselage (R. Koval, R. Allenby). **Sgt Knapp** was later commissioned and won the DFC before transferring to the USAAF where he flew Mosquitos and B-24 aircraft. Post war he remained in the USAF and was lost in a B-26 Invader 44-35277 over Korea January 31, 1954 (R. Allenby).
- 5-6 429 Sqn. Wellington III BJ755 AL-Z crashed while taking off for an operation over Germany due to an engine failure, **Sgt E.M. Bell** killed, **F/S R.F. Conroy**, **Sgt G.R. Densmore**, **Sgt J. Burns** and **Sgt J. Boles RAF** injured (R. Koval, R. Allenby). See June 11-12 below and March 24-25, 1944.
- 5-6 466 Sqn. RAAF Wellington X HZ256 collided nearly head on with another aircraft short of the coast. The crew jettisoned their bombs and returned, **F/S G.K. Young**, **Sgt C.F. Tozer RAAF**, **Sgt R. Treacher RNZAF**, **Sgt H.E. Jones RAF** and **Sgt G. Errington RAF** landed safe (R. Allenby). See March 12-13 below.

Saturday

6 #147 (BR) Sqn. RCAF moved from Sea Island to Tofino, BC (RCAF Sqns.).

South of Portugal and west of Gibraltar U-410 attacked the convoy KMS-10 heading to Algeria. The Canadian built freighter Fort Battle River was sunk and the Canadian built Fort Paskoyac was damaged and had to be towed to Gibraltar, and later to England for repairs (www.uboot.net). See March 9, below.

- 6 601 Sqn. Spitfire Vb ER317 lost on operations in the Middle East, **F/S J.E. Robinson** missing.
- 6 608 Sqn. Hudson V AM572 crashed attempting to land in bad weather in Algiers, **F/O A.A. O'Brien** and **F/O R. Williamson RAF** killed, 2 crew survived.
- 6 1 Sqn. Typhoon Ib DN615 collided with Typhoon Ib R8942 in cloud on a patrol and both crashed in England, **F/O G.C. Whitmore** was killed in DN615 and **Sgt H.R. Frazer RAF** was killed in R8942.
- 6 RNAS Sealand Canadian built DH Hornet Moth P6786 force landed with an engine problem. This aircraft had been built in Toronto in 1935 as a seaplane, registered

CF-BFN, but was converted as a land plane after it arrived in England (R. Allenby, <http://www.airhistory.org.uk/dh/p081.html>). It is still flying today in England registered G-AHBL (<http://www.shippingandairlines.co.uk/historic-aircraft/hornet-moth/>).

- 6 #133 (F) Sqn. RCAF, Hurricane XII #5392 FN-K crashed near Nitinat Lake, BC, **F/S R.F. Gainforth** bailed out and walked out of the bush. *BC Times Colonist, Other BC Crashes and Losses* reports parts of the wreck were salvaged in 1963. (daveymac82c www.warbirdinformationexchange.org for the Serial number).
- 6 #36 OTU, Greenwood, NS, Hudson IIIa BW768 crashed into North Mountain near Greenwood on a practice flight, **P/O T.O. Proulx** and S/L R.A. Miles DFC RAF killed.
- 6 USAAF 25th Ferry Sqn. P-39L 42-4624 force landed after an engine failure at Fort Nelson, BC (AAIR).
- 6 USAAF 25th Ferry Sqn. P39N 42-4997 force landed near New Norway, Alberta (AAIR).

Sunday

- 7 112 Sqn. Kittyhawk III FR385 damaged on operations in North Africa, **F/O G.W. Wiley** safe (<http://raf-112-squadron.org/planelosses.html>). See March 10, below.
- 7 #52 OTU Spitfire IIb P8575 was practicing low flying when it hit a pylon and crashed in England, killing **Sgt J.W. Callinan** (www.rafcommands.com).
- 7 #1 Manning Depot, Toronto, Ontario, cook **AC2 W. Murton** died in hospital of natural causes.

7-8 Bomber Command had 20 GARDENING and 2 OTU sorties out with 2 bombers lost (BC War Diaries).

- 7-8 431 Sqn. Wellington X HE202 SE-Z lost on a GARDENING sortie, believed shot down by flak, Sgt D.C. Pitts RNZAF, Sgt R. McHugh RAF, P/O K.D. Tutton RAF, Sgt B.G. Peart RAF and Sgt D.E.H. Dyer RAF PoW.
- 7-8 431 Sqn. Wellington X HE192 SE-L slightly damaged by a flak hit on a GARDENING sortie, Sgt P. Davis RAF, Sgt O.E.R. Davies RAF, Sgt D. McConvell RAF, Sgt J.W. Cant RAF and Sgt B. Clark RAF safe (R. Allenby). See August 5, 1944.

Monday

- 8 **#17 SFTS, Souris, Manitoba, opened (<http://www.bombercrew.com/BCATP.htm>).**

The US ban on selling sliced bread was rescinded as the perceived savings in bread use and wax paper did not occur (wikipedia).

- 8 #17 EFTS, Stanley, NS, Finch II #4754 damaged and written off on a night flight, LAC J.J.W. Bennett RAF badly injured, **S/L W.E. Grant** injured (C. Charland at www.rafcommands.com). See March 21, below.

8-9 Nuremberg was the target of 335 bombers using H2S, but ground haze made

marking inaccurate and the bombing was spread out. Despite this damage was done to railway shops, electrical plants and the MAN diesel works (making U-boat engines). Eight bombers were lost. Other operations included 4 OBOE Mosquitos and 16 GARDENING sorties (BC War Diaries).

- 8-9 7 Sqn. Stirling I BK610 MG-V lost and abandoned just off the English coast out of fuel. The mid-upper gunner, Sgt D.R. Spanton RAF, did not hear the order to bail out, only to discover he was the only person on board with the auto-pilot set. He left after the rest of the crew and came down on land and survived. Sgt G. Bell RAF and Sgt H. Kilvington RAF killed, **WO2 W.W. Freeland**, **P/O L.L.V. Toupin**, Sgt J. Goddard RAF and F/S R.G. Thorne RAF missing after bailing out over the sea (BC War Diaries).
- 8-9 15 Sqn. Stirling III BK697 LS-P lost over France, **F/S A.J. Bagg**, **F/S E.K. Matlock**, **P/O J.G. Ripley**, **F/O L.M. Wadman**, F/S C. Burkill RAF and Sgt J.F. Farrelly RAF killed, **Sgt A.M. Reid** PoW.
- 8-9 75 (New Zealand) Sqn. Stirling I BF437 AA-L lost over Germany, Sgt C.R. Davey RNZAF and Sgt I.J.D. Brodie RAF killed, **WO2 A. Arlen**, Sgt A.E. Howlett RAF, Sgt L.M. Stone RAF, Sgt A.J. Feenan RAF and Sgt A.B. Tarrant RAF missing.
- 8-9 149 Sqn. Stirling I EF328 OJ-R crash landed in England after a multiple engine failure returning from an operation over Germany, **F/S H.I. Stott**, P/O G.T.P. Southall RNZAF, Sgt H. Murray RAF, Sgt D.A. Nicol RAF, P/O R.R. Clifton RAF, Sgt J.K. Dawes RAF and P/O G.P. Read RAF safe.
- 8-9 156 Sqn. Lancaster I W4896 GT-W lost over Germany, **P/O W.R. Affleck**, **WO2 R.D. Strong**, **WO2 R.H. Ward**, **P/O M.E. White** DFM, Sgt C.R. Swift RAF, Sgt J. Neale RAF and F/S J.W.A. Dorsett RAF killed.

Tuesday

Off Algeria Convoy KMS-10 was attacked by U-596 which damaged the freighters Empire Standard and the Canadian built Fort Norman (www.uboot.net).

- 9 683 Sqn. Spitfire PR.IV (Trop.) BS364 lost near Malta on a sortie over Taranto, **Sgt C.R. Peacock** missing (www.spitfires.ukf.net).
- 9 #34 OTU, Pennfield Ridge, NB, Ventura II AE866 force landed on ice covered Shell Camp Lake, near Greenwood, NS, after an engine failed on a low level training flight, **Sgt A.W. Hood**, **Sgt J.R. Low**, F/O V.G. Pettit RAF, Sgt A.W. Hood RAF and Sgt J.D.E. Davies RAF safe. The aircraft was later salvaged and repaired (www.rootsweb.ancestry.com #34 OTU Accident and Mishap Reports, R.W.R. Walker).
- 9 unknown unit, **AC2 R.C. Powell** was killed near Grand Central, BC, while working at a lumber camp while on leave without pay.

9-10 At the neutral Portuguese port of Goa in India 3 German freighters which were being used as a base and radio station to provide information to U-boats

operating in the Indian Ocean were sunk by an SOE attack (ww2total.com Chronology/1943).

Bomber Command sent 264 bombers to Munich where the targeted area was not hit due to winds, but the bombing still inflicted serious damage especially to the BMW aircraft engine plant. Other operations were 8 OBOE Mosquitos over the Ruhr, 62 GARDENING sorties off Germany and 4 OTU flights, a total of 338 sorties with 11 bombers lost (BC War Diaries).

- 9-10 7 Sqn. Stirling I R9149 MG-B shot down by a night fighter over France, pilot **P/O F.M. Tomlinson** held control until his crew had bailed out but went down with the bomber, **Sgt V.A. Fox**, Sgt C. Davies RAF and Sgt J. Jennings RAF PoW, **Sgt J.R. Cox**, Sgt L. Marsh RAF and Sgt G.R. Howard RAF evaded. See April 19, 1945. See *Flypast*, Dec. 2004, for a description of this loss.
- 9-10 61 Sqn. Lancaster I ED703 lost over Germany, **WO2 C.F. Daley**, **P/O G.A. Young**, Sgt F.L.D'O. Walters RAF, Sgt H. McCullough RAF, Sgt A.R. Spencer, Sgt F. Bestwick RAF and Sgt A. Briggs RAF killed.
- 9-10 166 Sqn. Wellington III BK368 AS-P shot down over Denmark on a GARDENING sortie, **P/O J.P. Kavanagh**, **P/O A.L. Weller**, Sgt W. Bullen RAF and F/O D.G. Denslow RAF killed, Sgt J. Sandilands RAF PoW.
- 9-10 207 Sqn. Lancaster I W4172 EM-X shot down by fighters over France, F/S I. Wood RAF, Sgt R.H. Warren RAF, Sgt G.S. Margeston RAF and Sgt G. Mortimore RAF killed, **Sgt W.G. Lishman** PoW, Sgt G.I. Brownhill RAF and Sgt R. Brown RAF evaded.
- 9-10 214 Sqn. Stirling I BF357 BU-Q was taking off on a training exercise when it swung, wiped off it's undercarriage and crashed. This disrupted the take-off from it's base of several Stirlings on operations, but the crew, **F/O C. Wallace**, **Sgt Hunt**, **Sgt M.L. Dickenson RCAF (USA)**, **P/O G.F. Shattock** RAF, Sgt D. Lamming RAF, Sgt Smith RAF and Sgt F. Trinder RAF safe. W.R. Chorley notes that Sgt Dickenson later transferred to the USAAF.
- 9-10 214 Sqn. Stirling III R9358 BU-A was taking off from a short runway due to the accident noted above when it clipped a tree and a house with it's undercarriage, and crash landed. The aircraft caught on fire, and the mid-upper gunner, Sgt J.E. Flack RAF, was trapped in the wreck. He was freed by the efforts of the pilot, **F/S D.C. Moore**, and the Wireless Operator, Sgt L.G. Wright RAF, both of whom were later awarded the George Medal for saving life. All three were injured, as were the rest of the crew, Sgt H.G. Claridge RAF, Sgt J.C. Chalmers RAF, Sgt T.J. Wilson RAF and Sgt H.A. Wilson RAF. This aircraft was the subject of an Airfix plastic model and a 3-view painting.
- 9-10 426 Sqn. Wellington III X3284 OW-X lost without trace on a GARDENING sortie, **P/O G.R. Baker**, **Sgt L.J. Baribeau**, **F/S D.B. Coons**, **F/S D.P. McLachlan**, **WO2 L. Murphy** and **F/S M. Zeavin** missing.

9-10 429 Sqn. Wellington III BK429 AL-Q lost without trace on a GARDENING sortie, **F/S J.N.A.M. Tremblay**, F/O D.I. Cartwright RAF, Sgt J.E.W. Heydon RAF, Sgt R.R. Parry RAF and Sgt K.A. Holbech RAF missing (R. Koval).

Wednesday

- 10 #1412 Meteorological Flight, Sudan, Gladiator II N5831 taxied into a fuel dump and burned, pilot **WO2 C.R. Dixon RCAF (USA)** killed.
- 10 14 Sqn. Marauder I FK154 'K' crashed into the Bay of Algiers, possibly shot down by friendly fire when it broke through the clouds over the port unannounced on a ferry flight, F/S R.A. Clapson RAF killed, **F/S W. Tatlow RAF (Can.)**, Sgt V. Brown RAF, LAC D.V. Bullen RAF, F/L H.M. Siewart RAF, F/S C.V. Walkinshaw RAF, S/L P. Goode RAF, F/L M.T.G. Beacham RAAF, Sgt L.W. Hunt RAF missing (www.14sqn-association.org.uk).
- 10 112 Sqn. Kittyhawk III FR275 shot down in Tunisia, **WO2 R. de Bourke RCAF (USA)** missing.
- 10 112 Sqn. Kittyhawk III FR361 shot down in Tunisia, **Sgt J.H. Oliver** missing.
- 10 112 Sqn. Kittyhawk III FR131 shot down in Tunisia, **P/O R.C.C. Smith** missing.
- 10 112 Sqn. Kittyhawk III FR325 shot down in Tunisia, **F/L R.R. Smith RAF (Can.)** PoW (Allison & Hayward, raf-112-squadron.org).
- 10 112 Sqn. Kittyhawk III 42-45798 GA-D shot down in Tunisia, **F/L G.W. Wiley** PoW. These were 5 of 6 aircraft lost by 112 Sqn. on this date. See March 31, 1944.
- 10 112 Sqn. Kittyhawk III FR292 damaged over Tunisia, **Sgt W.R. Blake RCAF (USA)** safe.
- 10 112 Sqn. Kittyhawk III FR335 damaged, possibly flown by **F/O R.D. "Goose" Guess**, who claimed a Bf 109 shot down on this date (Allison & Hayward, raf-112-squadron.org). See August 4, below.
- 10 10 Sqn. Halifax II W1039 ZA-O lost an engine on take-off on a ferry flight and crashed killing **Sgt A.A. Muirhead**, Sgt G.F. Peck RAF, Sgt W. Browning RAF, Sgt B.G. Hart RAF, Sgt A.N. Boreham RAF and Sgt D.C. Retter RAF.
- 10 #23 OTU Wellington III X3349 flew into the ground on a night training exercise, **Sgt J.V. Ellis**, **WO1 J.W.H. Heard**, **Sgt N. Kulyk**, **P/O R.G. Moorby**, **Sgt W.B. Wallace** and **Sgt J.A. Dixon** RAF killed.
- 10 #1659 HCU RCAF Halifax II W1241 lost control at low level in the landing circuit and crashed, **F/S A.P.M. Aitken**, **Sgt G.E. Clarke**, **F/S R.S. Greengrass**, **F/S A.W. Leckie RCAF (USA)**, **Sgt J.H. McGinn**, **F/O W.G. McLaughlin**, **F/O A.B. Shives** and **F/S L. Taylor** killed.
- 10 RAF Ferry Command, Boston IIIa BZ385 crashed near Goose Bay, Labrador, **Ferry Captain K.W. Quayle**, **P/O A.S. Campbell** RAAF and **Radio Officer A. Befus** killed.

10-11 2 OBOE sorties, 35 GARDENING and 5 OTU sorties were sent out by Bomber Command, 2 were lost (BC War Diaries).

- 10-11 44 Sqn. Lancaster I W4841 KM-W lost over Germany on a GARDENING sortie, **WO2 D.H. Miller**, Sgt J.D. Gayton RAF, Sgt R.D. Kirkup RAF, Sgt W.C. Burgess RAF, Sgt L.A. Quick RAF, Sgt A.J. Taylor RAF and Sgt G. Allen RAF killed.
- 10-11 44 Sqn. Lancaster I ED305 KM-S lost off Denmark on a GARDENING sortie, **Sgt G.R. Black**, Sgt B.T.C. Smith RAF, F/O R.H. Carr RAF, Sgt C.H.D. Cook RAF, Sgt G.S. Love RAF, Sgt C.V. Brown RAF and Sgt A. Healey RAF missing.

Thursday

11 Fighter-bomber attack on Hastings in England (ww2total.com Chronology/1943).

- 11 249 Sqn. Spitfire Vb EP519 lost on a strafing operation in Italy, **S/L M.G. MacLeod** missing (www.spitfires.ukf.net; www.rafcommands.com).
- 11 264 Sqn. Mosquito NF.II DD661 lost on a evening RANGER sortie to France, **F/O A.W.J. Piers RAF (Can.)** and F/S T.B. Hill RAF missing.
- 11 415 Sqn. Hampden TB.I AT114 GX-D lost over the Bay of Biscay, **F/S J.H.M. Kerr**, **F/S J. Reigate**, **F/S J.A. St. Laurent** and Sgt D.T. Hodgson RAF missing. F/S Reigate had been injured Oct. 1, 1942 in the crash of a #5 (Coastal) OTU Hampden (H. Moyle).
- 11 #14 Depot, Regina, Saskatchewan, service policeman **LAC M. Kalik** died in hospital in Winnipeg of natural causes.

11-12 Bomber Command sent 314 bombers to Stuttgart, but apparently while the Pathfinders marked accurately there was a delay in the arrival of the Main Force allowing German decoy Tl's, used for the first time, to divert most of the bombers. Although damage to industrial targets was negligible some 112 people on the ground were still killed in the city's suburbs and 11 bombers were lost. Fourteen bombers were also GARDENING in the Gironde River in France (BC War Diaries).

Newcastle attacked by 50 German bombers (ww2total.com Chronology/1943).

- 11-12 83 Sqn. Lancaster I ED313 OL-B shot down over France returning from an operation over Germany, F/S A. Lynch DFM RAF and Sgt K.W. Chipchase RAF killed, F/S W.E. Barrett DFM RAF and F/S L.E.J. Humber RAF PoW, and **F/L A.M. Ogilvie DFC RAF (Nfld.)**, F/L N.A.J. Mackie DFC RAF and Sgt R. Henderson RAF evaded. F/L Ogilvie was on his 51st operation, and when he returned to England three months later he was awarded a Bar to his DFC, becoming the highest decorated Newfoundlander in the RAF (www.heritage.nf.ca). An account of his evasion with the French Resistance was published as *All The Luck in the World*. F/L Ogilvie was also awarded the French Croix de Guerre, and transferred to a post war career in the RCAF and CAF, retiring as a Colonel (Halliday).
- 11-12 214 Sqn. Stirling III BF469 BU-M shot down over France by a night fighter, **F/S B. Carnell RAF (Nfld.)**, **P/O A. Carruthers RCAF (USA)**, Sgt P.P. Oakes RAF, Sgt E.

- Parker RAF, Sgt B.R. Jennings RAF and Sgt E.L. Eaglen RAF killed, F/S A.J. Tyrell RAF PoW.
- 11-12 405 Sqn. Halifax II W7803 LQ-B lost over France, **Sgt C.O. Henderson**, **P/O B.H. Labarge**, **F/O W.M. Palmer**, **F/L H.G. Shockley**, P/O J. Henderson RAF, P/O F. Holland RAF, P/O W.W. Kirkpatrick RAF and Sgt M.W. McKenzie RAF killed.
- 11-12 405 Sqn. Halifax II BB212 LQ-U was shot down by a night fighter which killed the rear turret gunner, Sgt R. Moore RAF. The remainder of the crew, **F/S G.T. Chretien DFM**, **Sgt A.C. Collin**, **F/S T.E. Carlon DFM**, **P/O J.S. Probert**, **Sgt H.G. Reynolds** and **Sgt A.E. Danes**, were made PoW. W.R. Chorley notes that F/S Chretien and F/S Carlon were both awarded their medals for an action in Oct. 1942 (possibly Oct. 13-14) in which F/S Chretien was wounded.
- 11-12 405 Sqn. Halifax II BB250 LQ-E shot down over France by a night fighter while homeward bound, **Sgt E.G. Lacina** and **F/S R.G. MacDonald** killed, **F/S R.F. Kennett** PoW, **F/S G.L. Spencer**, **Acting S/L L.E. Logan**, **P/O B.C. Dennison**, **F/S E.L. Bulman**, **F/S H.J. Jennings** evaded. Returning to England S/L Logan was again shot down Sept. 27-28, 1943, in one of the first Lancasters lost by 405 Sqn., this time becoming a PoW.
- 11-12 405 Sqn. Halifax II DT745 LQ-V shot down by a night fighter over France, **P/O H.D. Rae**, **F/S W.A. MacDonald**, Sgt H.J. Mason RAF, P/O K.P.C. Money RAF, F/S P. Johnston RAF and F/S J.J. Maguire RAAF PoW, **Sgt P. Dmytruk** and Sgt K.W. Elt RAF evaded. See Dec. 9, below.
- 11-12 405 Sqn. Halifax II W1173 LQ-X, Sgt J. Weber, attacked by a single engined fighter which it shot down (R. Koval).
- 11-12 405 Sqn. Halifax II DT507 LQ-M, Sgt R.A. Symes BEM RAF, was approached several times by a Bf 110 night fighter which they evaded until the last approach when both fired, rear gunner **Sgt R.T. Botkin RCAF (USA)** claimed damage to the night fighter while the Halifax was damaged in one wing (R. Koval, FF Years). See April 4-5 below and October 8-9 below.
- 11-12 405 Sqn. Halifax II LQ-R was damaged by flak, **Sgt J.M. Harrison**, **Sgt L.A. Stinson**, **F/O A.W. Thompson**, **F/L H.D.R.L. Campbell DFC RAF (Can.)**, P/O M.H.J. Hammill RAF, Sgt A.C. Ross RAF, Sgt L. Gray (RCAF or RAF?) and 1 crewman safe (R. Allenby). See April 4, below.
- 11-12 405 Sqn. Halifax II DT560 LQ-W, **P/O C.C. Stovel**, was attacked and damaged by a night fighter that was driven off by the rear gunner, F/S A. Cox RAF, and returned safely. This was mentioned in the award of a DFM to F/S Cox (R. Allenby). See April 8-9 below.
- 11-12 408 Sqn. Halifax II DT781 EQ-D, F/S M. Marment RNZAF, belly landed in England after a night fighter attack knocked out 2 engines, crew safe (R. Koval). F/S Marment received a DFM for this sortie, his navigator **P/O J.R. Price** had this sortie cited in his award of a DFC (FF Years, H.A. Halliday, Awards)
- 11-12 408 Sqn. Halifax II HR656 EQ-T lost an engine outbound, jettisoned it's bombs, but

was shot down by a night fighter over France, F/O A.A. Stewart RNZAF, F/S D.D.P. Leitch RAF and Sgt L.S. Marsden RAF PoW, **Sgt J.A. Hammond**, **Sgt R.D. Davidson**, F/O G.H. Lamus RAF and Sgt C.T. Hamilton RNZAF evaded.

11-12 419 Sqn. Halifax II DT689 VR-N, S/L D.W.S. Clark RAF (NZ), claimed a twin engined night fighter shot down (R. Koval).

Friday

12 455 Sqn. RAAF Canadian built Hampden TB.I P5326 crashed taking off on an air test due to an engine failure, Sgt K.A. Andrew RAAF killed, Sgt Miflin RAF injured (A. Storr).

12 #1661 HCU Lancaster I R5556 crashed in England after an uncontrollable inflight engine fire, **F/S A.E. Hannay**, F/L J. Cowan DFC RNZAF, Sgt A.R. Burgess RAF, Sgt D.W. Lovelady RAF, Sgt E. Hall RAF, F/S H.V. Adams RAF, Sgt S.C. Johnson RAF, Sgt A.E. Clark RAF, LAC K.T. Robson RAF and AC1 L.J. Rogers RAF killed.

12 Transit Unit, Hudson VI FK621 missing enroute from Gibraltar to England when it crashed in Spain just after taking off from Gibraltar. **F/O H.J. Crowe**, Sgt H.E. Ash RNZAF, Sgt R.C.G. Rickett RAAF and F/O B.W. Polson RAAF were buried at sea.

12 Transit Unit, Hudson VI FK722 on a flight from England to Gibraltar crashed into the sea short of the runway at Gibraltar, **F/S P.P. Fahie**, **Sgt G.E. Somerville**, **F/O L.H. York**, F/O F.L.M. Whibley RNZAF and F/O D.R. Tuft RAF missing.

12 #11 EFTS, Cap de la Madeleine, Quebec, Finch II #4561 and #4694 collided and crashed near the airfield killing **Cpl(P) G.A. McKellar**. The three other airmen in the two aircraft survived.

12 #34 SFTS, Medicine Hat, Alberta, LAC M. Fowler RAF was hit by a propellor and died.

12-13 39 Sqn. Beaufort Ila DD928 'C' shot down by flak attacking a convoy off Sicily, **F/O R.W. Wilsdon** and F/S D.G. Blackmore RAF killed, Sgt W.A. Blackmore RAF and Sgt D. McKenzie RAF missing (H. Welting www.rafcommands.com, R. Hayward).

12-13 39 Sqn. Beaufort Ila DD934 'N' lost near Sicily, F/S P.G. Exton RAF killed, **P/O A.M. Feast** and Sgt E. Debenham RAF PoW (H. Welting at www.rafcommands.com).

12-13 Bomber Command returned to Essen with 457 bombers with accurate OBOE marking and Pathfinders, resulting in more heavy damage to the Krupps plant, but losing 23 bombers. Nine GARDENING and 7 OTU sorties were also flown (BC War Diaries).

12-13 7 Sqn. Stirling I BK592 MG-P lost without trace, **F/S D. Neale**, **F/S R.A.W. Sharpe**, F/S D.E. Street RAF, Sgt W.M. Meiklejohn RAF, Sgt D.C. Wilson RAF, Sgt T.E. Hastings RAF and F/S W.S. Berry RAF missing. F/S Sharpe had been interned in Portugal Nov. 18, 1942 after his 161 Sqn. Whitley force-landed there on a transit flight.

12-13 10 Sqn. Halifax II HR692 ZA-R shot down over Holland by a night fighter, **Sgt W.L.G. Thompson**, Sgt L. Barker RAF, F/O R.J. Paul RAF, Sgt K.A. Mills RAF, Sgt L.E. Thomas RAF, Sgt J. Freel RAF and Sgt G.A. Hyatt RAF killed.

- 12-13 10 Sqn. Halifax II was hit several times by flak that knocked out an engine and badly wounded the rear gunner, **Sgt J.A.J. Barsalou**. In spite of wounds he warned of an attacking fighter which was evaded before he lost consciousness. The aircraft returned to England with the rest of the crew **F/S G.A. Vinish**, F/O E.E. Kitchen RAF, Sgt R.A. Walker RAF, Sgt A.M. Black RAF, Sgt R.E. Heap RAF and Sgt A.J. Crouch RAF safe. This resulted in the award of a DFM to Sgt Barsalou, and this sortie was mentioned in the award of a DFC to now commissioned P/O Vinish (R. Allenby).
- 12-13 50 Sqn. Lancaster III ED449 VN-T shot down by a night fighter over Holland, **F/S V.R.D.J. Kissick**, **Sgt F. Ward**, Sgt R. Wilson RAF, Sgt F. Stephens RAF, Sgt R. Heslop RAF, F/S A. Allen RAF and Sgt R.J. Jenkins RAF killed.
- 12-13 76 Sqn. Halifax DT782 MP-J turned back with an engine failure on an operation, but was wrecked when it overshot it's landing at base, **Sgt H.B. Thompson**, W/C D.C. Smith RAF, Sgt P.M.J. Harris RAF, Sgt F. Hart RAF, Sgt S.W. Palmer RAF, Sgt D. Lock and Sgt G. Cranswick RAF safe.
- 12-13 78 Sqn. Halifax II JB803(?) KN-G damaged over Germany by flak but returned, crew believed to be **Sgt J.L. Fulsher**, **Sgt K.E. Johnston**, **Sgt F.C. MacQueen**, **Sgt R.E. Simonson**, **Sgt J.L. Whitney**, Sgt A. Symmons RAF and Sgt W.A. Fleming safe (R. Allenby). See April 30-May 1 and December 18 below and June 16, 1944.
- 12-13 78 Sqn. Halifax II DT774 EY-E shot down by a night fighter and crashed on the edge of the Reichswald on the Dutch/German border. **Sgt F.A. Marean**, **Sgt C.G. Dyer** RAF, Sgt H. Bentley RAF, Sgt W.H. Gosnell RAF, Sgt W.J. McLelland RAF, Sgt B.M. Singleton RAF and Sgt G.E. Benson RAF killed. Sgt Dyer RAF was born in Yorkshire, but was raised in Canada (Allison & Hayward). The crash site was marked by a special memorial plaque erected in 1977. The area of the Reichswald was to become a Canadian battlefield in 1945. After the war the largest Commonwealth cemetery in Germany was established there, containing over 7,600 graves and memorials. This crew, however, are interred in Uden.
- 12-13 83 Sqn. Lancaster I W4928 OL-S lost over Germany, **F/L O.R. Waterbury** DFC, S/L D.A.J. McClure DFC RAF, Sgt J. McFarlane RAF, P/O D.G. Lovell RAF, F/S P.J. Musk DFM RAF, F/L A.F. MacQueen DFC RAF and P/O L.E. Warren RAF killed.
- 12-13 97 Sqn. Lancaster I R5607 OF-X lost over Germany, **WO2 D.C. Plaunt**, **P/O A.J. Smith**, **F/S J.A.J.L. Viau**, Sgt T.L. Williams RAF, Sgt W.C. Burr RAF, Sgt A.W.E. Taylor RAF and Sgt G.W. Dillon RAF killed. WO Plaunt's nephew Andy Thomson, compiled a book based on a collection of the letters his uncle wrote to his parents during the war, *Write Soon and Often*, Friesen Press, 2016.
- 12-13 101 Sqn. Lancaster I W4862 SR-E lost over Germany, **F/O J.R. Kee**, Sgt W. Hynd RAF, Sgt A.D. Slade RAF, Sgt S.G. Smith RAF, Sgt W.E. Greasley RAF, Sgt E. Shaw RAF and Sgt E.A. Steed RAF killed.
- 12-13 102 Sqn. Halifax II HR667 was hit over the target by incendiary bombs from another aircraft, **WO2 W.P. Comrie** RCAF (USA), Sgt W.J. McGrath RAF, F/O D.W.F. Harper

- RAF, F/O W.H. Jenkins RAF, Sgt F.W. Dorrington RAF, Sgt J. King RAF and Sgt M.C.C. Squiers RAF (Kenya) returned safely (R. Allenby). See May 4-5, below.
- 12-13 106 Sqn. Lancaster I R5749 ZN-G exploded over Germany, **F/S E.B. Clampitt**, F/S A.L. McDonald RAAF, Sgt K.R.J. Young RAF, Sgt H.S.F. Bishell RAF, Sgt B.J. Eckett RAF and Sgt R.C.C. Owen RAF killed, F/S R.N. Lindsay RAAF PoW, landing on the Krupps factory (O. Clutton-Brock).
- 12-13 115 Sqn. Wellington III BJ756 KO-Q shot down into the IJsselmeer off Holland, **F/S C.M. Moffatt**, Sgt L.P. Fallon RAF, Sgt W.E. Akrill RAF, Sgt L.G. Collings RAF and Sgt C.J.J.W. Lamb RAF killed.
- 12-13 149 Sqn. Stirling I EF330 OJ-P was shot down by a night fighter over Holland, **WO2 G.W. Miller**, **P/O G.W. Sellers Jr. RCAF (USA)**, P/O L.H. Binning RAF, Sgt J. Misseldine RAF, Sgt V. Page RAF, Sgt W.H. Clayton RAF, F/S F.A. Pearson RAF and Sgt P.H. Skinner RNZAF killed. The bomber crashed into a farm house killing 3 residents there, Joannes Wilhelmus Giezen (51), Wilhelmus Bernadus Giezen (17) and Bernadus Reinerus Giezen (16). WO Miller had survived an accident in a #23 OTU Wellington July 13, 1942.
- 12-13 199 Sqn. Wellington X HE519 EX-X hit by flak and crashed off the Dutch Coast, **WO2 J.G. Richardson**, Sgt D.J. Clifford RAF, Sgt L.M. Jones RAF and Sgt R. Lambert RAF missing, F/O C.M. Kitson RAF PoW.
- 12-13 199 Sqn. Wellington X HZ263 EX-E believed to have come down in the sea off Holland, **F/S R.I. Edwards** killed, Sgt C.R. Townsend RAAF, F/L W.J. King RAF, Sgt D.A. Nunn RAF and Sgt C.F. White RAF missing.
- 12-13 405 Sqn. Halifax II LQ-S, P/O N.D. Daggett, returned safely but heavily damaged on three engines with IFF and hydraulics out, damaged fuel tanks and rudder controls (405 SH). His rear gunner **F/S L.I. Thomas RCAF (USA)** claimed the night fighter that attacked them destroyed (FF Years).
- 12-13 408 Sqn. Halifax II DT790 EQ-S was hit by flak on an operation over Germany. On approach to land 2 engines failed and the bomber crashed near the airfield, **F/O C.O. Hatle**, **Sgt W.G. Kapuscinski**, **F/O A.M. Stockdale**, **P/O W. Richmond**, **Sgt A.A. Tschantre RCAF (USA)** and Sgt S.F. Osmond RAF safe. See April 16-17, below.
- 12-13 420 Sqn. Wellington X HE690 PT-U hit by flak over Holland and crash landed. Sgt A.R. Dawson RAF was killed by the flak shell, **Sgt G.H. Cooke RCAF (USA)**, **Sgt T.S. McKinnon**, Sgt J. Morris RAF and Sgt R.G. Mercer RAF were taken PoW.
- 12-13 424 Sqn. Wellington III BK348 QB-J lost over Germany, **P/O R.G. Caldwell**, **F/O G.J. Cory**, **WO2 A.P. Larson**, **F/S L.A. Parker** and **F/S W.F. Topping** killed.
- 12-13 424 Sqn. Wellington X HE367 QB-F was hit by flak and suffered a radio failure but returned, **Sgt W.W. Tucker**, **P/O H.M. Brown**, Sgt W. Dove RAF, P/O R.G. Crouch RAF and Sgt W.O. Simpson RAF safe (R. Allenby). See April 2 and May 2 below.
- 12-13 424 Sqn. Wellington X HZ272 QB-S damaged lightly by flak, **P/O D. Hackett**, **Sgt N.D. MacDonald**, **Sgt D.F.G. Parker**, F/O A.H. Brook RAF and Sgt M.G. Anderson safe (R. Allenby). See April 8-9 below.

- 12-13 425 Sqn. Wellington III BK340 KW-T shot down by a night fighter over Holland, **Sgt J.G.G.C. Lamontagne**, **F/S A.W. Brown**, **F/S J.A.V. Gauthier**, **Sgt J.R.A. Gouley** and **F/S M.J.A.J. Aumond** PoW. Sgt Gouley and F/S Aumond were very badly wounded and were later repatriated back to Canada. Sgt Lamontagne entered politics after the war, served as the Mayor of Quebec City, an MP, Postmaster General, Minister of Defence and finally as Lt. Governor of Quebec.
- 12-13 427 Sqn. Wellington III BK164 ZL-E, commanding officer W/C D.H. Burnside DFC RAF, was hit by flak that killed navigator **P/O R.J. Heather**, and wounded wireless operator F/S G.F. Keen DFM RAF (who lost a foot). Despite being drenched and choked by anti-icing fluid from the ruptured tank above him the bomb aimer P/O R.J. Hayhurst RAF directed the bomber to the target and bombed. The aircraft avoided two night fighter attacks due to the efforts of the rear gunner, P/O D.B. Ross RAF, while F/S Keen ignored his wounds and tried to fix his radio equipment and help navigate to return to England where it crash landed, rest of crew safe (R. Koval, FF Years). W/C Burnside received a Bar to his DFC, P/O Hayhurst and P/O Ross received the DFC and F/S Keen was recommended for a Victoria Cross but was awarded the CGM for this sortie (FF Years, H.A. Halliday, R. Allenby). See June 19-20, June 22-23 and June 25-26, below.
- 12-13 429 Sqn. Wellington X MS487 AL-T damaged by flak over Germany, **P/O G.H. de Bussac**, **Sgt G.D. Coe**, **F/O W.A. Follows**, **Sgt D.E. Palmatier** and **F/O M.B. Spence** landed safely (R. Allenby). See May 26-27 and June 21-22 below.
- 12-13 429 Sqn. Wellington III X3399 AL-U damaged by flak over Germany, Sgt G.L. Kennedy RNZAF, Sgt A.C.H. McConnell-Jones RAF, Sgt J. Begg RAF, Sgt D.F. Walker RAF, Sgt D.W. Chard RAF returned safely (R. Allenby).
- 12-13 429 Sqn. Wellington X HE160 AL-R damaged by flak over Germany, **F/O O.N.W. Baker**, **F/O R.I. Benner**, F/L A.P.S. Chipling RAF, Sgt F.C. Edmonds RAF and Sgt F.W. Ronald Litson RAF landed safe (R. Allenby).
- 12-13 431 Sqn. Wellington X HE205 SE-X attacked by a night fighter that killed navigator P/O J.T. Clarke RAF and knocked out the hydraulics, pilot F/S R. Hamby RAF managed to return and land safely in England (R. Koval; F. Williston on www.rafcommands.com).
- 12-13 431 Sqn. Wellington X HE379 SE-H slightly damaged by flak, **Sgt P.F. Yellin**, Sgt E.J. Aspden RAF, Sgt D.T. Dudley-Jones RAF, Sgt J.H. Kimber RAF and Sgt R. Davies RAF landed safe (R. Allenby). See March 29-30 and April 16-17 below.
- 12-13 466 Sqn. RAAF Wellington X HZ271 hit by flak over the target that knocked out an engine and wounded the wireless operator, Sgt R. Treacher RNZAF. The bomber returned on one engine, **F/S G.K. Young**, Sgt C.F. Tozer RAAF, Sgt H.E. Jones RAF and Sgt G. Errington RAF safe (R. Allenby). See April 12-13, below.
- 12-13 #23 OTU Wellington III BK346 overshot it's landing returning from a night cross country exercise, Sgt J.T. Kidd (or Kydd) RAF injured, **Sgt C.W. Jackson** and **Sgt H.B. Elhorn** safe (BCL'OTU). However, www.aviationarchaeology.org.uk identifies the

crew as Sgt J. Thompson RAF slightly injured, **Sgt C.W. Jackson**, **Sgt H. Bilhorn**, **Sgt A. McDonald** and Sgt K.T. Alan RAF injured. See April 10-11, below.

Saturday

13 Attempt to assassinate Hitler by putting a bomb on his Fw 200 aircraft on a visit to the Russian front fails when the bomb does not explode (wikipedia).

U-163 sunk by HMCS Prescott in the Atlantic off Spain (RCN Chronology; www.uboat.net).

German manned weather station on Sabine Island, Greenland, detected by the Danish sponsored North-East Greenland Sledge Patrol. Their station at Eskimoaes (Bluie East Five) was then attacked and largely destroyed by German forces from Sabine Island. One member of the patrol was killed by gunfire and two were captured but later escaped, taking with them as their prisoner the German station commander, Lt H. Ritter (wikipedia.de, wikipedia). See May 25, below.

Washington Convoy Conference ends. The RCN representative had made valid arguments that the command structure in the Western Atlantic, with virtually all escorts being provided by Canada but under US command, was flawed. As a result the command of the convoy escort in the region was returned to the RCN (Douglas and Greenhous, J.A. Boutilier et al). The RCAF was given a priority to receive 20 Liberator VLR aircraft to use to help close the mid-Atlantic gap from bases in Newfoundland (Oxford).

The value of aircraft guarding convoys was well known. The submarine of the time was essentially a surface ship with the ability to dive. A U-boat on the surface under diesel power could cruise at 12 knots and could reach 17 knots, much faster than the speed of advance of a convoy which was limited to the speed of it's slowest vessel and required to zig-zag on both sides of it's base course to make torpedo attack difficult. The U-boat was also faster on the surface than many of the escorts, especially the corvette. But underwater it's electric motors gave it a cruise speed of only 2 to 3 knots, and a limited range (D. Syrett).

When engaged in 'Wolfpack' attacks on convoys one surfaced U-boat would tail the convoy during the day and broadcast it's position while others would close in on the location and get ahead of the convoy. At night they would make attacks, often co-ordinated, on the surface, and dive only to break contact if attacked. They would then surface, race ahead and do it again.

Aircraft, however, could patrol far in front of or along the flanks of the convoy, and besides attacking the U-boats, more often would force them to dive, which with their slow underwater speed would often put them out of contact with the convoy. With the deployment of HF/DF on escort ships any U-boat broadcasting the convoys location could be instantly detected, and an aircraft or escort dispatched to attack it or force it to submerge and lose contact. Development of MAC ships (large cargo vessels with flight decks) able to operate Swordfish aircraft from within the convoy, would give the escort on-site air capability to respond to local threats. Very few ships were lost to convoys escorted by ships AND aircraft, but confused policies, national and inter-service rivalries, and complicated command structures had prevented effective deployment of Very Long Range (VLR) aircraft for convoy protection in the mid-Atlantic. The Washington Convoy Conference was a major step in untangling and focusing the Allied anti- U-boat campaign. Until the supply of food and material across the Atlantic, and the safety of moving US troops to England, could be assured, the invasion of Europe from England could not take place (D. Syrett, J.A. Boutilier et al).

As well it was finally recognized that the Canadian escort groups were poorly trained, equipped with obsolete gear and overworked. A decision was made to replace them with RN groups and send the RCN groups to England where they would be re-fitted with the latest anti-submarine equipment, their crews could be properly trained, and they would then be put through the RN anti-submarine training course before being re-deployed back to Canada and Newfoundland (J.A. Boutilier et al). This would greatly increase the effectiveness of the RCN, but took them out of the Battle of the Atlantic for those months when the U-boats were finally defeated.

Finally, as more frigates and destroyers became available to the Royal Navy, it was decided to establish fast units of escorts that would be used in aggressive indirect support of convoys. This recognized that the U-boats were concentrated around detected convoys, and used this to attack the submarines unexpectedly, using HF/DF, aircraft reports and centimetric radar to locate, destroy and disburse the wolfpacks (LH).

- 13 Anti-Locust Flight, #134 Maintenance Unit, Iran, Vincent I K6349 crashed in Iran on an anti-locust sortie. The wreck was not found until June in a mountainous area. **WO2 R.W. Harbottle**, F/S A.D. Edmondson RAF, LAC A.L. Smillie killed. (englandphil www.ww2talk.com, raf-112-squadron.org). This unit was the subject of an article *Locust Killers Fight Famine*, Popular Science, June, 1944.
- 13 199 Sqn. Wellington III BK158 EX-G had it's dinghy deploy in flight over England. The

- dinghy then fouled the elevators and the aircraft went out of control and broke up before crashing, **WO2 A.G. Shorten**, Sgt T.F. Hockley RAF, Sgt L.G. Vaughan RAF, Sgt L. Joice RAF and Sgt A.M. Cormack RAF killed.
- 13 402 Sqn. Spitfire IX BS351 shot down on a RAMROD to France, **P/O D.J. McCrimmon** PoW (FF Years).
- 13 403 Sqn. Spitfire IX BR625 shot down in France on a RAMROD, **F/O C.G. Cumming** killed (www.spitfires.ukf.net).
- 13 403 Sqn. Spitfire IX BS196 shot down in France on a RAMROD, **WO2 R. Dunbar** killed.
- 13 403 Sqn. Spitfire IX BS110 crash landed in England out of fuel returning from a RAMROD, **Sgt H.E. Morrow** safe. In *The R.C.A.F. - The First Four Years* it is mentioned that Sgt Morrow's Spitfire went under power lines, over a road and a ditch, through a fence and ended up in a wood, missing it's wings and tail. At this point Sgt Morrow reported to his section leader on the radio that he was ok, got out of the wreck and strolled casually away! See March 29, 1944.
- 13 403 Sqn. Spitfire IX BR630 crash landed out of fuel in England returning from a RAMROD, **Sgt G.D. Aitken** safe. Sgt Aitken had bailed out of a 403 Spitfire June 2, 1942.
- 13 #14 AFU Oxford V4154 crashed in England, **WO2 S.W. Gunn** killed.
- 13 #6 EFTS, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4969 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).
- 13 #34 OTU, Pennfield Ridge, NB, Ventura II AJ173 crashed into the sea off Port Maitland, NS, while practicing low-bombing and gun attacks, **F/S D.A. Cannon**, **P/O F.H. Lalor**, P/O T.A. Corr RAF and passenger Able Seaman R.H. Falkner RN missing (#34 OTU Roll of Honour).
- 13 RAF Ferry Command Catalina Ib FP116 crashed when landing at Bermuda, possibly due to jammed controls. **Captain C.A. "Duke" Schiller**, **Radio Operator W.B. "Flaps" Collins (Nfld.)**, navigator **Sgt D. Wilkie RAF (Can.)** and Radio Operator J.C. Ford (USA) killed. It is reported that the co-pilot survived when he was flung out of the aircraft but lost an arm from hitting the propellor. Duke Schiller was a famous bush-pilot in Canada and had flown with the OPAS (J.C. Dillon). RO Collins brother, Dr. J. Collins, who served in the Merchant Marine during the war, was later Newfoundland Minister for Health (C.F. Warren et al).

13-14 GARDENING was the purpose of 68 bombers on this night with 3 bombers lost (BC War Diaries).

- 13-14 9 Sqn. Lancaster III ED494 WS-G lost on a GARDENING sortie off Poland, **WO2 H.C. Lewis RCAF (USA)**, Sgt D. Cowie RAF, Sgt R.L. Laycock RAF, Sgt J.I. Mitchell RAF, Sgt R.C. Hitchcock RAF, Sgt R.F. Cunningham RAF and Sgt J.H. Howorth RAF missing.
- 13-14 420 Sqn. Wellington III BK296 PT-J lost without trace on a GARDENING sortie, **F/S J.A. Corbett**, **F/S G.R.D. Hall**, **F/O J.D. MacFarlane**, **F/S C.H. Tidy** and Sgt H.

Reddy RAF missing (R. Koval).

13-14 424 Sqn. Wellington X HE554 QB-M crashed returning from a GARDENING sortie, **P/O G.C.S. Bain**, Sgt E.H. Brown, Sgt A.R. or A.H. Wilson, Sgt J. Miller and Sgt W.D. Blue (crew RCAF or RAF?) safe (R. Allenby). P/O Bain had been a reporter in Toronto before the war and post war resumed this occupation with great success ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Bain_\(journalist\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Bain_(journalist))).

Sunday

14 German SS armoured forces re-take Kharkov and surround Soviet units in the area, which attempted to break out. The Germans then sent units north towards Belgorod, which then came under daily bombing attacks while Soviet armoured forces were built up in that town (C. Bergström).

The largest convoy battle of the war so far began when U-boats began to attack eastbound convoy SC-122 (D. Sommerville).

- 14 135 Sqn. Hurricane IIb HV773 shot down by a Japanese Ki-43 in Burma, **F/O A.M. Morrison** missing. This was one of 3 Hurricanes shot down and 2 damaged from 8 escorting 3 Blenheims on a bombing operation, 1 Blenheim also lost (C. Shores, D. Newton).
- 14 427 Sqn. Wellington X HE278 crashed on taking off on a training flight, **Sgt W.H. Schmitt** and his crew safe. See July 25-26 and August 17-18, below.
- 14 #132 OTU Blenheim V BA107 crashed in Scotland (not in Wales as in TSGNO), **F/O N.B. Burt RCAF (USA)** killed (pers. comm., Jan. 20, 2021; D. Haire, *East Lothian at War*, <https://eastlothianatwar.co.uk>).
- 14 #32 OTU, Patricia Bay, BC, Hampden TB.I P5433 was seen to crash into the ocean in Saanich Inlet while on a night low-level flying test, P/O A.W.J. Hunt RAAF killed, **P/O G.L. Hall**, **Sgt H.S. Piercy** and P/O R.K. Manttan RAAF missing. (B. Barry et al list P/O Hunt as killed this date with #4 SFTS, Saskatoon, and buried there, but A. Storr confirms #32 OTU. Needs further information)

14-15 Bomber Command had a quiet night with 13 GARDENING sorties by Wellingtons (BC War Diaries) but the Special Operations squadrons were very active, losing 4 bombers.

Off Sierra Leone the CP Liner RMS Empress of Canada (21,500 tons) was torpedoed by the Italian submarine Leonardo Da Vinci with the loss of 392 of the 1,346 on board (<http://members.iinet.net.au/~gduncan/maritime-1a.html>). The total lost was increased by an officer who failed in his duty to release and evacuate Italian PoWs from the lower decks. It is reported that when this was discovered by other survivors this officer was thrown overboard (<http://www.canadaatwar.ca/forums/showthread.php?p=3412>).

- 14-15 138 Sqn. Halifax II BB281 NF-O lost over Germany on Operation BRONZE to Czechoslovakia, **WO1 D.C. Lisson**, **WO2 M.T.P. Myers**, S/L C.F. Gibson DFC RAF, F/S J.S. Rigden RAF, F/S A. Stokes DFM RAF, Sgt L.P. Ward RAF and Sgt H.J. Sharood killed, Sgt M.J. Hudson RAF survived but died of his injuries April 11, 1943.
- 14-15 138 Sqn. Halifax II DT620 NF-T shot down off Denmark on Operation SLATE to drop supplies in Poland, **F/S E.S. Masson**, **Sgt D.R. Ross**, Sgt H.R. Harrap RNZAF, F/S L.R. Smith RAF, Sgt C.F. Chambers RAF and Sgt A.C. Sixsmith RAF killed, Sgt T. Mairs RAF missing.
- 14-15 161 Sqn. Halifax V DG245 MA-W lost over Germany on Operation IRIDIUM to Czechoslovakia, **F/O R.W. Taylor DFC & Bar**, F/L A.E. Prior DFM RAF, P/O A.J. Kingham RAF, Sgt F.J. Mowles RAF, F/S G. McWilliam RAF, Sgt J.H. Kempton RAF and Sgt F.D. Bell RAF killed.

Monday

15 Topcliffe Operational Base established in England as part of #6 Group RCAF, with Topcliffe, Dishforth and Dalton as the base stations.

Conversion Training Squadron, Rockcliffe, Ontario, re-designated #1 Refresher Squadron. (RCAF Sqns.).

German counter attack in the Ukraine regains Karkov (LoN). These offensive operations would push back the Soviet Army with great losses, re-taking ground captured in the advances since Stalingrad and stabilizing the German front lines (P. Adair).

- 15 99 Sqn. India, Wellington Ic HE112 collided in mid-air with another Wellington HE131 and crashed in what is now Pakistan after picking up groundcrew from an advanced landing strip, **P/O L.G. Dobson**, **Sgt C.F. Nicholson RAF (Can.)**, Sgt W. Field RAF, LAC K.T. Franklin RAF, LAC H.V. Jopson RAF, LAC F.J.C. Keane RAF, Sgt D.R. McDougale RAF, Sgt S.A. Morris RAF, AC1 A.T. Nottingham RAF, LAC J. Sweeney RAF and F/S C.J. Westcott RAF killed. There were no casualties on the other aircraft which crash landed (malcolm_raf, Henk Welting and Errol Martyn at www.rafcommands.com).
- 15 136 Sqn. Hurricane IIb BM936 was shot down when it was part of a fighter escort protecting Blenheim bombers attacking targets in Burma which were intercepted by enemy fighters, **WO1 A.J. de Cruyenaere** killed (C. Shores).
- 15 607 Sqn. Hurricane II HW270 was shot down escorting Blenheim aircraft on a bombing mission over Burma, **F/O W.B. Gibbs RCAF (USA)** killed.
- 15 15 Sqn. SAAF, Egypt, Blenheim V BA330 'K', swung and damaged beyond repair landing from a convoy escort, **F/S K.B. Barnstable**, 2Lt R.A. Blackburn SAAF and Lt J.G.A. Coutts SAAF safe (P.H. Temple at www.rafcommands.com; BLME V.2).
- 15 #9 AFU Anson landed in the sea, **Sgt B. Buckley** injured. See July 21-22, below.

- 15 #22 OTU Wellington III DF567 LT-K stalled and crashed on it's pilots first night landing, then catching on fire, **Sgt J.S. McLeod** and his crew (possibly including **Sgt J. Delalla**) safe (Lancaster, C. et al).
- 15 #131 (Coastal) OTU Martinet I HP133 flew into hills in heavy mist in County Tyrone, Northern Ireland, **WO2 A.L. Card** and AC1 W.A. Moore RAF killed.
- 15 #7 B&G School, Paulson, Manitoba, **WO2 S. Cohen** died of natural causes in the Deer Lodge Hospital in Winnipeg.

Tuesday

- 16 Under attack the slow convoy SC-122 is overtaken by the faster HX-229, which then merged with it, essentially becoming one large convoy of 90 ships, under attack by 38 U-boats (D. Sommerville).**
- 16 416 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AB148 abandoned over England after a coolant leak, **Sgt H.F. Packard** safe (www.spitfires.ukf.net, 416 SH).
- 16 #122 (K) Sqn. RCAF, Patricia Bay, BC, Bolingbroke IV #9084 crashed at Mill Bay, BC, **WO2 S.A. Switzer** killed, **WO2 W.L. Dion**, **WO1 R.A. Seaker** missing.
- 16 #1 OTU, Bagotville, Quebec, Hurricane crashed on the ice at Lake St. Jean, Quebec, **F/L L.A. Unwin** slightly injured. See Dec. 24, 1944.
- 16 #32 OTU, Patricia Bay, BC, Canadian built Hampden TB.I AN145 was destroyed by fire after it swung on take off and collapsed it's undercarriage, no casualties (H. Moyle).

Wednesday

- 17 Japanese counterattack British and Indian forces advancing along the Arakan coast of Burma (ww2total.com Chronology/1943).**

On this date the withdrawal of German forces from the Rzhev pocket, sanctioned by Hitler, was completed under the cover of heavy Luftwaffe protection from air attack. Before withdrawing from the occupied area 45,000 Soviet citizens judged healthy were taken to Germany as slave labour, and all houses and inhabitable buildings were destroyed, leaving 200,000 elderly, sick and children without shelter in the freezing weather (C. Bergström).

In the early morning in the mid-Atlantic convoy SC-122/HX-229 came under attack by U-338 which sank the freighters Kingsbury, King Gruffydd and Alderamin, and damaged the Canadian built Fort Cedar Lake on her maiden voyage. The Fort Cedar Lake fell behind the convoy and was torpedoed and sunk just before noon by U-665 with no loss of life (www.uboaat.net).

- 17 39 Sqn. Beaufort IIa DD902 'D' on a convoy strike from Malta was shot down by German fighters, **F/S L.J. Lindsey**, **F/L D.I. Fraser** RAAF, **Sgt R.F. Lee** RAF and **Sgt M. Gonigle** RAF (badly injured) taken PoW (L. Rizzotti and COL BRUGGY at www.rafcommands.com; R. Hayward; owenshaw at axishistory.com).

- 17 #13 SFTS, St. Hubert, Quebec, Harvard IIb #3071 crashed, LAC(P) J.H. Manuel RAAF killed. A. Storr states the aircraft crashed near "St Amable Belceil township" in Quebec, possibly either Saint-Amable or Saint-Mathieu-de-Beloeil townships which border each other.
- 17 RAF Ferry Command, Boston IIIa BZ396 crashed at St. Urbain de Chateauguay, Quebec, on a test flight, **Ferry Captain A.E. Dame**, **Navigator G.C. Denton** and LAC W.H. Hale RAF killed.
- 17 unknown unit, **AC2 W.E. Sivier** died in Windsor, Ontario, of natural causes (www.rafcommands.com).
- 17 unknown unit, Sgt P.C. Mercer RAF died hospital in Debert, NS, of natural causes (www.rafcommands.com).

Thursday

18 Soviets evacuate Kharkov (CJCA headline). German forces re-take Belgorod in the Ukraine. This counterattack slowed the Soviet advance (Oxford, LoN), but they sent reserve air units that countered the Luftwaffe power in the region, which in turn had to be sent to counter Soviet attacks on other fronts. The German ground offensive was halted on March 21 when the Spring thaw set in, restricting armoured vehicles to roadways (C. Bergström). See April 21, below.

This counterattack had prevented another German army from being surrounded and destroyed, and in some historians opinion such a loss might have led to a collapse of Nazi Germany in 1943. German air power had made the difference, but the advantage was only temporary (C. Bergström).

On this day #3 Personnel Reception Centre, RCAF, Bournemouth, England, received it's largest draft of newly trained RCAF airmen from the BCATP and ground schools, 4,364. This single draft of airmen was larger than the entire RCAF at the beginning of the war (Manhandled, Gerry Franklyne, Airforce Magazine, Volume 11, #1, 1987).

Much delayed by weather, #14 (F) Sqn. aircraft arrive at Umnak Island, Alaska, 16 days after the main body that came by ship (F.J. Hatch).

- 18 156 Sqn. **F/S E.B. Hadden** was killed when he was struck in the back of the neck by the wing of a taxiing Spitfire in England.
- 18 #1652 Halifax II L9616 GV-D crashed when landing on a training flight, **F/S T.M. Moran** and P/O W.C. Richardson RAF safe. See April 20-21, below.
- 18 RCAF Mountain View, Ontario, wireless mechanic **F/S L.B. Neff** died in hospital in Toronto of natural causes (www.rafcommands.com).
- 18 #36 OTU, Greenwood, NS, Hudson III V9171 struck trees and crashed approaching

the Berwick Bombing Range, P/O H.G. Banks RAF and P/O F.C. Gaha RAAF killed, Sgt J. Moran RAAF and Sgt N.N. Ryan RAAF injured (#36 OTU Roll of Honour, A. Storr).

- 18 Ferry Command, Baltimore IIIa FA354 crashed making an overshoot landing in the Bahamas, P/O D.T. Hollowell and F/S A.F. Atwell badly burned. See March 19, below.

18-19 Luftwaffe bombers sent to attack Norwich, but unsuccessful (ww2total.com Chronology/1943).

Friday

19 After three days of attacks by a wolfpack of U-boats the Battle of HX-229/SC-122 ends with the loss of 22 of the 90 merchant ships escorted by 16 warships, and the loss of 1 of 38 U-boats involved (sunk by a Fortress aircraft of 206 Sqn.) (wikipedia). This was unsustainable, and considered to be the point that the U-boat offensive came the closest to cutting off England from North America (LH).

- 19 13 Sqn. Blenheim V EH313 force landed in Algeria on a sortie to attack the airfield at Bizerta, Tunisia, F/O R.R. Lipsit, Sgt E.C.J. Roney and Sgt C.D.C. Cox RAF safe (BLME V.2). See April 19, below.
- 19 247 Sqn. Typhoon Ib DN444 crashed in England, F/S Q.M. Shippee killed
- 19 410 Sqn. Mosquito NF.II HJ930 crashed in England on return from a patrol, possibly the pilot was dazzled by a searchlight, WO2 B.M. Haight and Sgt O.S. Milburn RAF killed.
- 19 415 Sqn. Hampden TB.I AE418 GX-B crashed in the sea off the English coast approaching to land, F/S W.C.R. Foerster, WO2 W.L. Hurl, F/S R.H. O'Brien and F/O B.A. Johnson RAF killed.
- 19 423 Sqn. Sunderland II W6053 AB-E, F/L C.L. Bradley, escorting Convoy SC-122, sighted a U-boat near a straggling tanker and forced it under. Ninety minutes later a U-boat was sighted again near the tanker and P/O Bradley made an attack which may have damaged it (<http://www.shearwateraviationmuseum.ns.ca/squadrons/423chapter1.htm>).
- 19 #1 Technical Training School, St. Thomas, Ontario, air frame mechanic AC2 H.C. Gilbert died in hospital of natural causes.
- 19 #1 OTU, Bagotville, Quebec, Hurricane XII #5648 crashed at Laterriere, Quebec, while practicing formation flight, P/O H.H. Davison killed (R.W.R. Walker).
- 19 #11 EFTS?, Finch II #4714 damaged at Cap de Madeleine, Quebec, and written off (R.W.R. Walker).
- 19 #111 OTU, Bahamas, Mitchell II FL697 aircraft had an engine catch fire at low altitude flying circuits and crashed, P/O A.J. Daiken killed, P/O B.H. Zdan died of injuries (E. Wiberg).

19 Ferry Command, Nassau, Bahamas, **P/O D.T. Hollowell** died of injuries from the crash of Baltimore FA354 the day before (C.A. Christie; E. Wiberg).

Saturday

- 20 13 Sqn. Blenheim V BB176 'D' missing from a bombing sortie in Tunisia, **F/O L.O. Armstrong**, Sgt R.H. Lawrence RAF and Sgt F.J. Trusler RAF missing (<http://www.cnapg.net/cnapg5greece.htm>; CWGC; BLME V.2).
- 20 24 Sqn. SAAF Boston III HK918 'X' hit by flak attacking anti-tank defences on the Mareth Line, Lt R.L. McCartney SAAF and Lt G.E. Sale SAAF have no known grave, **Sgt H.C. Maine** and Sgt R.J. Stuckey RAF PoW (BLME V.2).
- 20 185 Sqn. Spitfire Vc (Trop.) BR109 GL-W shot down off Sicily, **P/O J.N. Miller MiD** missing. P/O Miller was part of a two fighter sortie over Sicily, and returning to Malta his wingman, F/L H. Withy, had to bail out when his engine seized. P/O Miller was guiding an ASR Walrus to the site when he was attacked and shot down by two Bf 109 fighters (www.spitfires.ukf.net; H.A. Halliday & Laurent Rizzotti on www.rafcommands.com). This may be the same as pilot **F/S J.N. Miller** who was disciplined at #52 OTU in 1942 for extreme low flying over a gunnery range (P. Cornwell).
- 20 249 Sqn. Spitfire Vc BP869 T-W shot down off Sicily while escorting the ASR Walrus that rescued F/L Withy (above), **F/O W.J. Locke RAF (Nfld.)** missing (Laurent Rizzotti, www.rafcommands.com).
- 20 101 Sqn. Lancaster I ED446 SR-N hit a cliff top pill-box making a low pass at a gunnery range and crashed in England on an air test, **Sgt H.A. Rideout RAF (Nfld.)**, Sgt I.H. Hazard CGM RAF, F/O R.H. Thompson RAF (attached from Training Command), Sgt J.F. Bain CGM RAF, Sgt W.E. Williams CGM RAF, F/O W.C. Morris RAF, Sgt L.E.V. Webb RAF and Sgt T. Jenkins RAF killed (R. Allenby). Sgt Hazard, Sgt Bain and Sgt Williams were awarded their CGMs with F/S G. Dove in the same event with P/O F.W. Gates who received a DSO when their Lancaster was set on fire over Milan February 14-15, 1943, and returned to England (<http://www.aircrewremembered.com/hazard-ivan-henry.html>).
- 20 406 Sqn. Beaufighter VI f X8004 swung on landing and lost it's undercarriage, Sgt R.B. Robertson RAF and civilian scientist Mr. Willson of the Telecommunications Flying Unit safe (radar development unit) (www.aviationarchaeology.org.uk).
- 20 423 Sqn. Sunderland II W6011 AB-F, **F/O A.B. Howell**, again over Convoy SC-122, attacked 2 U-boats in 4 hours, for which he received a DFC (<http://www.shearwateraviationmuseum.ns.ca/squadrons/423chapter1.htm>, FF Years).
- 20 RAF Station Silloth, wireless operator air gunner **F/S C.A.J. Gordon RAF (Can.)** died in hospital of natural causes.
- 20 #135 (F) Sqn., Patricia Bay, BC, Hurricane #5416 had an engine failure and crashed into the sea north of the Active Pass (R.W.R. Walker).

- 20 #13 SFTS, St. Hubert, Quebec, Harvard IIb #3104 crashed near Notre Dame de
Pierreville, Quebec, on a navigation exercise, **Sgt H.H. Dotzenroth** killed.
- 20 USAAF 7th Ferry Group A-20B 43-13521 written off after a take-off accident at
Edmonton, Alberta (AAIR).

20-21 In an effort to confirm the analysis by scientists of the advantages to be gained by heavy deployment of the new centimetric radar on anti-submarine attacks in the Bay of Biscay, Coastal Command began a week long Operation ENCLOSE at dusk on this night. For the next week a north to south 'ribbon' of the bay 140 miles wide would be patrolled day and night by all available patrol aircraft. A U-boat travelling across this 'ribbon' would have to come to the surface for several hours to recharge during it's transit to or from it's base. As few centimetric radars were available all other aircraft still equipped with long wave radars were instructed to patrol using them, flooding the area with transmissions, which surfaced U-boats would detect and dive to avoid, increasing their transit time across the patrolled area, and chances of detection by centimetric equipped aircraft (M. Gannon). See March 27-28, below.

Sunday

21 In England a new squadron, 617, is formed for Operation CHASTISE, an attack on hydro-electric dams supplying electricity to factories in the Ruhr using a specially developed bomb (BC War Diaries). Experienced crews are drafted in from other squadrons and begin training on low level night flying, and developing the special attack profile required to make the bomb work. The attack is to be made when the levels of water stored by the dams are at their seasonal high, in about 4 weeks time.

Second attempt to assassinate Hitler fails due to scheduling change. He got bored looking at a display of captured Soviet equipment and left early (wikipedia).

- 21 223 Sqn. Baltimore IIIa FA265 was hit by flak attacking vehicles in Tunisia and made a belly landing on return, **P/O J. McWilliam**, P/O J.B. Kenny RAF, Sgt T.P. Ledgerwood RAF and Sgt J.K. Pridmore safe (BLME V.2).
- 21 #9 Construction Maintenance Unit, construction hand **LAC A. Garonski** drowned near Langara Island, BC, while helping to rescue four airman in a swamped dinghy. Langara Island was later the site of #26 RU(CHL) radar station (G.K. Grande et al).
- 21 #11 EFTS, Cap de la Madeleine, Quebec, **LAC(P) J.L.B. Fraser** died of injuries received March 19 when Finch II aircraft #4714 and #4526 collided over the airfield while under dual instruction and crashed. LAC Fraser was in aircraft #4526 and was the only fatality.
- 21 #17 EFTS, Stanley, N.S., LAC J.J.W. Bennett RAF died of injuries received March 8,

above (KenMacLean and C. Charland on www.rafcommands.com).

- 21 USAAF 7th Ferry Group P-39L 42-4610 damaged in a landing accident at Grande Prairie, Alberta (AAIR).

Monday

22 After being ambushed and losing 4 men in a partisan attack, German SS and Ukrainian soldiers massacre 149 residents of the nearby village of Khatyn, Belarus. Only one adult and two boys survive. This is one of over 5,000 villages in Belarus destroyed in similar events during the war, over 2,200,000 people, a quarter of the population, were killed in these reprisals (wikipedia). It must be noted that a lot of the fighting between Germany and Russia did not take place in Greater Russian territory, but in Poland and the western states of the USSR such as Belarus and especially the Ukraine, with devastating effects on their people and economies (Oxford).

Postwar the remains of the village of Khatyn were preserved as a monument to all the people and villages destroyed. It is believed Khatyn was chosen for this by Stalin in an attempt to confuse it with the Katyn Forest, the scene of the mass execution of Polish officers by the Soviet NKVD.

German armour counter attacks on British forces attacking the Mareth Line on the Libyan-Tunisian border are broken up by anti-tank Hurricanes armed with 40 mm cannons (ww2total.com Chronology/1943).

- 22 417 Sqn. Spitfire fighters on a convoy escort off Libya flown by S/L F.B. Foster, **F/O D.E. Bruce** and P/O J.R. Harmer shot down a He 111 torpedo bomber (FF Years).
- 22 12th Bombardment Group (Medium) USAAF B-25 aircraft shot down in North Africa, **P/O H.T. Rennie** among those killed. P/O Rennie was one of a group of RCAF wireless air gunners seconded to this US group supporting the 8th Army to assist communications as they were trained in RAF radio procedures and could speak "American". Post war his remains were taken and re-interred in the USA with the rest of his crew.
- 22 296 Sqn. Whitley BD422 collided in mid air during a paratroop exercise with Whitley LA827. BD422 crashed but LA827 made a successful crash landing on one main wheel, **Sgt J.J. Kunz**, F/O R.T. Hamer RAF, Sgt H. Sloan RAF, F/S J. Berry RAF and Maj J. Lander safe (H.A. Halliday at www.rafcommands.com). See 13-14 July, below.
- 22 502 Sqn. Halifax II BB314 'B' shot down attacking U-338 in the Bay of Biscay, **WO2 P. Shmigelsky**, P/O L.J. McCulloch RAF, Sgt L. Shepherd RAF, F/S J.S. Henderson RAAF, Sgt H. Hope RAF, Sgt S. Ellam RAF and P/O A.J. Stuart RAF missing, WO H.C. Taylor RAAF was rescued by the U-boat crew (COL BRUGGY www.rafcommands.com).

- 22 880 Sqn. FAA, ship and location unknown, Seafire IIc MB202 damaged at sea when it landed off centre and lost its tail hook. Lt(A) W.H. Martyn DSC twice MID RN (Can.) safe (www.spitfires.ukf.net). See Sept. 12, below.
- 22 #2 EFTS, England, DH.82 Tiger Moth R5203 stalled when performing unauthorized aerobatics at low level and crashed, navigator Sgt O.C. Dunn and pilot Sgt F.J.M. Barber RAAF killed (A. Storr).
- 22 #135 (F) Sqn. RCAF Hurricane XII #5420 collided in mid-air with Hurricane #5417 and crashed into the sea 10 miles south of Sidney, BC, F/S M.A. Beazer reported to have bailed out but was not picked up in time and died (BC Times Colonist, Patricia Bay Aircrash List 2009). #5417 landed safely (R.W.R. Walker).
- 22 R.Nor.AF, Little Norway, Toronto Island Airport, Ontario, Curtiss H75A-8 (Mohawk) #447 crashed and written off landing, 2Lt C. Mohr safe (D. Hagedorn & A. Tincopa).

22-23 Bomber Command returned to St. Nazaire with 357 bombers which made an accurate attack on the port, plus 6 GARDENING sorties off the coast of Holland, 1 bomber was lost (BC War Diaries). Most returning bombers had to divert to alternate airfields due to fog (FF Years).

- 22-23 15 Sqn. Stirling III BK667 LS-H recalled from an operation over France, overshot its landing in England in poor visibility and crashed, Sgt B.J.A. Bessette, F/S J.L. Shiells RAF, Sgt G.K. Compson RAF, Sgt B. Taaffe RAF, Sgt C.B. Perring, Sgt L.A. James RAF, Sgt J. Gould RAF and Sgt D.J.A. Hyde RAF safe. See April 16-17, below.
- 22-23 405 Sqn. Halifax II LQ-P damaged by flak but returned safely. Crew believed to be Sgt E.B. Carleton, P/O N.D. Daggett, F/S F.J. Nickerson, F/S L.W. Rogers, Sgt L.I. Thomas, P/O G.W. Hallam (RCAF or RAF?), Sgt Laing (RAF?) and 1 other crewman (R. Allenby). See January 6-7 and March 15-16, 1945.

Tuesday

- 23 69 Sqn. Baltimore I AG726 crashed in Malta after taking off on a flight test, F/S W.V. Rattee and Sgt F. Heywood RAF killed.
- 23 81 Sqn. Spitfire IX EN141 FL-W shot down off Tunisia, WO2 L.L. Hamelin missing (www.spitfires.ukf.net).
- 23 272 Sqn. Beaufighter If V8259 lost from Malta, WO2 W.J. Dawson and P/O R.R. Grimes missing.
- 23 59 Sqn. Fortress IIa FK209 'J' lost, believed to have been shot down by German Ju 88s, on an anti-submarine patrol, WO1 W.J. Arnold, P/O G. Cojocar, WO2 C.L. Copping, WO2 R.G. Montgomery, WO2 F. Spino, F/O R.J. Weatherhead, F/O W.C. Zapfe and F/O R.A. Phillips RAF missing (59 Squadron History). F/O Weatherhead, F/O Zapfe, WO Copping and WO Spino had been interned in Portuguese Guinea Oct. 2, 1942 after their 200 Sqn. Hudson was lost due to bad weather. R.M. Stitt has a profile of F/O Weatherhead in his book on Coastal

Command Fortresses.

- 23 404 Sqn., a flight of 6 Beaufighters on patrol over the Bay of Biscay intercepted and chased 7 Ju 88 aircraft, F/S V.F. McCallan claimed one damaged (FF Years).
- 23 415 Sqn. Hampden TB.I AT232 GX-A spun and crashed on a test flight, Squadron commanding officer **W/C G.H.D. Evans** and 1 crewman injured (H. Moyle).
- 23 511 Sqn. Liberator II AL587 lost in Bay of Biscay carrying passengers, shot down by German Ju 88 fighters, **F/S C.E. Ferro**, **F/O T.J. Marriott**, **F/O J.S. Renouf**, **F/O O.A. Smith**, **F/O A.H. Bowler RAF (Can.)** (511 Sqn.), **Sgt L.G. Burry RAF (Nfld.)**, F/S W.J. Hough RNZAF, F/O F. Stuart RAAF, F/O J.G. Green RAF (511 Sqn.), Sgt F. Boustead RAF (511 Sqn.), Sgt W.A. Upston RAF (511 Sqn.), F/O R.S. Tedder RAF (511 Sqn.), F/L G.T.R. Francis RAF, Sgt R.P. Marvin RAF, AVM R.P.M. Whitham CB OBE MC RAF, Sgt N.R. Knights RAF, Lt P.S. Skelton RN, Col J.E. Merin or Morin Free French Army, Lt Col L.W. Armstrong-McDonnell Irish Guards missing (Patrick & R. McNeill www.rafcommands.com).
- 23 #2 Torpedo Training Unit, England, Beaufighter VI EL289 spun at low altitude and crashed on approach, killing **F/S C.C. Gamble** and his navigator Sgt E.C. Meredith RAF (www.rafcommands.com). Mention and photo of F/S Gamble in *Aeroplane Monthly* Oct. 2002 in article by his best friend F/S Jack Howe CGM RAF.
- 23 #113 (BR) Sqn. RCAF, Dartmouth, NS, Hudson III BW620 crashed on take-off on a patrol. Ground crew tried to pull the crew from the burning wreck but the depth charges exploded, **F/S A.J. Baillie**, **WO2 R.F. Cavers**, **WO2 M.E. Tarrant** and **F/O C.L. Tripp** of the crew, and two of the five rescuers, aero engine mechanic **AC1 F. Hallek** and **LAC L.E. Briggs**, were killed.
- 23 #3 Wireless School, Winnipeg, Man., Fort #3611 crashed near LaSalle, Man., after taking off, **AC2(WAG) J.T.D. Cummins** and **Sgt E.C. Vance** killed.
- 23 #34 SFTS, Medicine Hat, Alberta, Anson II #8262 crashed when it struck a building low flying over Rose Lynn, Saskatchewan, LAC C.T. Cooper RAF, LAC D.G. Degryse RAF, LAC A.T. Kidd RAF and P/O A.W.K. Grellis RAF killed, LAC P.D.S. Moodie RAF injured (R.W.R. Walker). See March 24, below.
- 23 #41 SFTS, Weyburn, Saskatchewan, Cpl A.W. Watson RAF died in the station sick quarters of natural causes (B. Barry et al; www.rafcommands.com).
- 23 USAAF 7th Ferry Group P-40K 42-10150 damaged in a landing accident at Edmonton, Alberta (AAIR).

23-24 Bomber Command had 45 GARDENING sorties and 21 NICKEL flights on this night with 2 bombers lost (BC War Diaries).

- 23-24 426 Sqn. Wellington, **F/L J.G. McNeill**, landed at a diversion field returning from a GARDENING sortie, second pilot Sgt L.A. Wildin RAF was badly injured by a propeller guiding the aircraft around a damaged section of the taxiway (R. Allenby).

Wednesday

24 Due to the Japanese attack British and Indian forces on the Arakan are forced to fall back from Donbaik, having been unable to advance since early January (W. Fowler).

In Burma the last Chindit columns under General Wingate are unable to re-cross the Irrawaddy River back to Allied lines as a unit, due to very heavy Japanese patrols intent on destroying this force (D. Sommerville). Wingate orders its members to disburse and make their way back individually. This it does, taking several weeks. Although inflicting damage behind the lines and tying down a much larger Japanese force, almost one third of the original 3,000 Chindits became casualties during the operation (D. Sommerville). Originally intended as a deception behind lines to support the attack by regular forces on the Arakan, this Chindit operation accomplished little but was given widespread publicity as an Allied victory at the time (Oxford). See August 24, below.

- 24 74 Sqn., Iran, a flight of 6 Hurricanes with a Blenheim guide being ferried from Tehran to Abadan ran into severe weather over mountains and was dispersed. The Blenheim landed at Abadan, 2 fighters returned to Tehran, and the other 4 force landed, including ___ **K. Besley** who crash landed near Shushtar, all safe. ___ Besley had flown Hurricanes in Murmansk and was later a doctor and retired from the CAF as a Colonel (A.J. Simpson et al).
- 24 415 Sqn. Hampden TB.I AE395 lost off Holland, **F/O C.M. Chambers** missing, **F/O J.D.P. McLeod**, **F/O D.H. Wraith** and **Sgt W.H.E. Haddock** PoW. (F/O J.D. McLeod possibly J.D.P. McLeod in PoW list.)
- 24 #1652 HCU Halifax II BB218 GV-F crashed climbing out for a training flight when an engine burst into flames, Sgt F.H. Thomas RAF, Sgt R.G.A. Platoni RAF and Sgt K.W. Peverley RAF killed, **Sgt S.J. Tibbs RCAF (USA)**, Sgt J.A. Phillips RAF and Sgt G.S. Worboys RAF injured (R. Allenby).
- 24 #34 SFTS, Medicine Hat, Alberta, LAC P.D.S. Moodie RAF died of injuries sustained the day before.

24-25 Luftwaffe bombers seeking targets on the Scottish border lose 8 shot down (ww2total.com Chronology/1943).

24-25 458 Sqn. Wellington FU-U was on an anti-shipping patrol off Sicily and was returning from the search for another Squadron aircraft HX522 FU-K which had had to ditch off Naples following an engine failure, when it was shot down by flak and crashed, **Sgt T.J. Crouch**, Sgt J.G. Shierlaw RAAF, P/O Lambie RAF, Sgt R.W. Mellor RAAF, Sgt F.O. Raymond RAAF and Sgt W.P. Hermansen RNZAF PoW (A. Storr). Sgt Hermansen was badly injured and later repatriated, and Sgt J.G. Shierlaw died in Germany as a PoW. In the other aircraft 3 RAF and 3 RAAF were also taken PoW.

24-25 138 Sqn. Halifax II HR665 NF-L was on Operations ST. JOHN/ST. ANDREW/LEEKS 5/CATARRH 11 over Holland. The aircraft ditched in the IJsselmeer, where agent Mr. Bergman drowned. Agent Mr. Gerbrand was rescued by a fishing boat and was safe, and the crew, **Sgt W.A.A. Floyd**, F/O E. Clow RNZAF, Sgt F. Boyd RAF, Sgt T.W.R. Holmes RAF, Sgt F. Ross RAF, F/S R.D. Alexander RAF and Sgt S.W. Reynolds RAF were made PoW.

Thursday

24 RAF Transport Command formed (CWY).

- 25 #31 ANS, Port Albert, Ontario, Anson I R9720 crashed, Sgt J.E. Bird RAF and LAC G.H. Hicks RAF killed (H.A. Halliday www.rafcommands.com).
- 25 #34 OTU, Pennfield Ridge, NB, Ventura II AE889 encountered bad weather on an exercise and force landed, lost, at Old Orchard Beach, Maine, USA, Sgt T. Scott RAF, Sgt H.B. Harvey RAAF and Sgt H.C. Page RNZAF safe. The aircraft was salvaged with the assistance of the US Army and repaired. (www.rootsweb.ancestry.com #34 OTU Accident and Mishap Reports).
- 25 RAF Ferry Command Baltimore IIIa FA340 bounced and crashed on landing at Nassau practicing circuits, Sgt I.S. Glen RAF killed (E. Wiberg).

Friday

26 In Tunisia New Zealand troops attack and seize the Tebaga Gap, with effective use of co-ordinated fighter, fighter-bomber and bomber attacks on German armoured concentrations at the front ahead of the attack, breaking the Mareth defence line. This included the innovative use of forward air controllers for both fighters and bombers which later became standard for Allied units (B. Kite).

Battle of the Komandorski Islands in the North Pacific, Japanese navy attempts to destroy the blockading US fleet. Japanese and US cruiser forces meet and, after taking damage initially, the larger Japanese ships crippled the US flagship, but break off after several hours of exchanging gunfire as they believe bombers from US bases would soon arrive. However the bombers were unable to sortie due to freezing weather so the battle ended in a stalemate, but does not break the blockade and the Japanese are still unable to reinforce their garrisons on Attu and Kiska (Oxford; B. Coyle).

During this time the Japanese command decided to complete an airfield on Kiska they had begun, hoping to use it to stage bombers that could divert US forces from the south Pacific by bombing North America. Constant air attack in good weather (including from Amchitka where RCAF and USAAF fighter bombers were only minutes away) and the blockade prevented this from

being completed for heavy bombers, and an attempt to land disassembled fighter aircraft to counter the Allied attacks ended when the freighter was sunk (B. Coyle).

#8 (BR) Sqn. moves from Anchorage and detachments in Nome, Alaska to Sea Island, BC (RCAF Sqns.). Despite operating in difficult conditions with extreme weather, poor radio communications and difficulties in getting spare parts, the Squadron had fulfilled all it's assigned tasks since June of 1942 without losing any Bolingbroke aircraft (F.J. Hatch).

- 26 59 Sqn. Fortress II FA698 'V' flew into a hill in England, **WO2 R.S. Sandelin**, P/O D.M. Dunn RAF and Sgt J. Fage RAF were killed, F/L J.L. Heron RAF (Aus.), Sgt A. Kenney, P/O D.H. Mcleran and Sgt J.F. Clark survived (number59.com; R.M. Stitt).
- 26 144 Sqn. Beaufighter VI JL719 lost, **S/L R.A.D. Foster RAF (Can.)** and his navigator Sgt W.F. Wrenn RAF missing (H. Welting & R. McNeill www.rafcommands.com).
- 26 400 Sqn. Mustang Is flown by **F/O H.E. Hanton** and **F/O A.S. Collins** attacked 7 locomotives on a RHUBARB over France (FF Years).
- 26 414 Sqn. Mustang Is flown by **P/O C.H. Stover** and **F/O R.T. Hutchinson** attacked two locomotives and a power transformer station (FF Years).
- 26 502 Sqn. Halifax II HR689 struck a USAAF B-17F 42-29647 aircraft when taking off in England and crashed attempting to land, **P/O S.A. Christie**, **WO2 G.E. Taggart**, **Sgt H.D. Vessey** and **F/O W.V.G. Yeulett RCAF (UK)**, Sgt F.H. Griffiths RAF, F/O A. Hodgson RAF and Sgt N. Lubin RAF killed, one crew survived injured (CWGC; www.rafcommands.com).
- 26 #115 (BR) Sqn. RCAF, Annette Island, Alaska, Norseman IV #2481 crashed into the sea in a snow squall attempting to land at Annette Island, **S/L F.B. Curry**, **F/L I.M. Dowling**, **F/L E.B. Stapleford**, and 3 US civilians, all USO entertainers, Miss M. Gloeckner, Miss A.J. Kaiser and Miss C. Street, were killed, **LAC E.K. McMicheel** missing.
- 26 USAAF 3th Ferry (Group?) P-39N 42-18149 crashed near "Port Deyer" (Port Dover?), Ontario, 1Lt J.R. Anderson USAAF killed (AAIR).
- 26 USAAF C-64B (Norseman) 43-5108 crash landed due to weather near Whitecrest [Whitecourt?], Alberta on a test flight from Edmonton (AAIR).

26-27 After a long pause Bomber Command returned to the Ruhr with 455 bombers sent to Duisburg. Of the 9 OBOE Mosquito markers 5 were forced to return with technical problems and another was lost over the sea. The remaining 3 found heavy cloud cover and the sky marking was not successful, the bombing was widely scattered. Six bombers were lost. Five OTU NICKEL sorties over France had no loss (BC War Diaries).

- 26-27 78 Sqn. Halifax II W7931 EY-J damaged by flak over Holland and abandoned, Sgt J.A. Wilson RNZAF, F/S J.M. Tait RAF and Sgt A. Wilson RAF killed, **Sgt G.R.**

Johnston, Sgt F.E. Lemon RAF, WO S. Hauxwell RAF, P/O R.W. Keen RAF and Sgt R.R.H. Huleatt RAF PoW.

- 26-27 102 Sqn. Halifax II W7920 lost an engine due to flak damage, **Sgt J.R. Flannery**, F/O H.S. Hartley RAF, Sgt F.J. Steer RAF, Sgt L. Lazenby RAF, Sgt J.F. Thomson, Sgt H.J. Hooper and 1 crewman safe (R. Allenby). See April 20-21 below.
- 26-27 109 Sqn. Mosquito FB.IV DK318 HS-B lost over the North Sea on an OBOE marking flight, **P/O F.S. Strouts DFC** and his pilot F/L F.J. Ackland DFC RAF missing. This was the first operational loss of an OBOE equipped Mosquito.
- 26-27 405 Sqn. Halifax II JB875 LQ-S, P/O N.D. Daggett, **Sgt L.I. Thomas RCAF (USA)** fought off a night fighter and left it damaged with an engine on fire. For this he received a DFM (R. Koval, FF Years). Postwar Sgt Thomas returned to the USA, and enlisted in the USAF where the fact he had taken the *Oath of Allegiance to the King* when joining the RCAF caused him some problems as this is illegal under US law (Awards).
- 26-27 408 Sqn. Halifax II HR713 or DT713 was hit by flak that wounded the tail gunner but returned, Sgt E.C. Crook RAF wounded, **F/L R.H.P. Gamble**, **WO2 D.L. Jarrett**, **P/O E.R. Ray**, F/S K.S. McColl RAAF, Sgt A.J. Hawkins RAF, Sgt R.W. Barker RAF and 1 crew safe (R. Allenby). See March 27-28 below.
- 26-27 424 Sqn. Wellington X HE594 QB-C returned after being lightly damaged by flak, **Sgt W.W. Tucker**, Sgt W. Dove RAF, P/O R.G. Crouch RAF, Sgt W.O. Simpson RAF and P/O H.M. Brown (RCAF or RAF?) safe (R. Allenby).
- 26-27 426 Sqn. Wellington III X3696 OW-T or J lost over the North Sea, Sgt E. Hall RAF, Sgt J.J. Reade RAF (Eire), Sgt F. Simpson RAF, Sgt W. Stevenson RAF and Sgt C.D. Reed RAF (Rhodesia) missing.
- 26-27 427 Sqn. Wellington damaged when it hit a tree landing in England, **F/O V.F. Ganderton** and crew safe (R. Allenby). F/O Ganderton finished the war with 427 Squadron as W/C V.F. Ganderton DFC DSO (Awards).
- 26-27 429 Sqn. Wellington X MS487 AL-C (or B) hit by flak and came down in Holland, F/O G. Fox RAF, Sgt A.A. Skelly RAF and P/O P.S. Bastian RAF killed, Sgt J.M. Murray RAF PoW, and Sgt G.H. Murray RAF evaded (R. Koval).
- 26-27 431 Sqn. Wellington X HE503 SE-S lost, presumed over the sea, **WO2 B.V.L. Ducker** killed, **F/L A.M. Hill**, **WO2 J.M. Rogal**, F/L G.H.T. Eades RAF and F/L N.J. Gardner RAF missing.

Saturday

27 The escort carrier HMS Dasher, while anchored in the Firth of Clyde due to engine problems and acting as a training vessel, had a Swordfish crash on the deck which ignites a fuel fire. Soon after the ship explodes and sinks, losing 379 of her 528 crew (wikipedia, <http://members.iinet.net.au/~gduncan/maritime-1a.html>).

27 37 Sqn. Wellington III HF916 was damaged in Libya when it's tail wheel collapsed while

- being taxied, **W/O B.J. MacAuley** and crew safe (BLME V.2).
- 27 92 Sqn. Spitfire Vc ES212 shot down in Tunisia, **P/O J.C. Sails** missing.
- 27 414 Sqn. Mustang I AP185 flew into trees hidden by mist on a hill top in England and crashed, **F/O H.D. Steeves** killed.
- 27 426 Sqn. Wellington was landing from a night flying practice when a tire burst, causing a ground loop and failure of an undercarriage leg, Sgt B.D.C. Cox RAF and his crew safe (R. Allenby).
- 27 430 Sqn. mechanic **LAC G.W. Inman** died in England of natural causes.
- 27 #1 OADU Mosquito NF.II DZ699 lost on a ferry flight from England to Gibraltar, **WO2 J.D. MacNearney** and his navigator Sgt C.A. Partridge RAF missing (CWGC; www.rafcommands.com).
- 27 #9 B&G School, Mont Joli, Quebec, Nomad #3504 was target towing when it collided with Turret Battle I.T P6724. The Battle recovered safely but the Nomad spun and crashed near the airfield killing drogue operator **LAC R.T. Lee** and his pilot **F/S R.H. Parker**.

27-28 Bomber Command sent 396 bombers, all heavy 4-engined types, to Berlin, where the marking was badly off and most bombing was widely scattered. As many as 1 in 4 of the bombs were recorded as duds, which was not known by the crews involved. Despite the poor bombing some military targets were hit, including a troop train, airfields, and by chance, a depot of Luftwaffe secret equipment which was obliterated by bombs when one of the badly placed TIs landed directly in it. This serendipitous achievement apparently impressed German intelligence. Nine bombers were lost. Other operations include 24 GARDENING sorties and 4 OTU flights (BC War Diaries).

As a rough calculation, based on 7 crewmen on the main force and 5 on the other sorties, this single operation involved 2,900 aircrew! That does not include ground crew and support personnel to maintain the aircraft, engines (over 1,600 aircraft engines in this one attack), guns, bombs, radios, radars, maps, parachutes, intelligence, air traffic control, etc, and provide for all their needs such as housing, transport, heat, food, medical, security, entertainment, pay, defence, etc. A contemporary description of RCAF Ground Trades was published by the Winnipeg Tribune, "Better Equipped to earn a Living", August 31, 1943, and re-printed in the Commonwealth Air Training Plan Museum 'Contact' Newsletter Vol. 38, #4, Fall 2019.

In the Bay of Biscay Operation ENCLOSE ends at dawn. In the 1 week period 41 U-boats crossed the 'ribbon' patrolled by 115 Coastal Command aircraft, which had resulted in 22 U-boats sighted, of which 15 were attacked, resulting 1 sunk and in damage to another, a much higher success rate for hours flown

than previously (M. Gannon). See April 5-6, below.

- 27-28 10 Sqn. Halifax II was damaged lightly by flak, **P/O A.W. Parry**, **Sgt H.H.L. McDaniel**, **Sgt D.N. Brennan RCAF (USA)**, F/O A.R. Dawes RAF, Sgt R. Bradshaw, Sgt J.L. Johnson, Sgt A.G. Edwards and 1 crewman landed safe (R. Allenby; PC at www.rafcommands.com).
- 27-28 44 Sqn. Lancaster W4839 I KM-S lost over Germany, **F/S H.H. Clements**, **WO2 F.W. Guild**, **WO2 J.M. Newton**, F/S A.J. Horwood RAF, Sgt L.W.J. Schultz RAF, Sgt R.L. Cole RAF and Sgt G.M. Sheridan RAF killed.
- 27-28 51 Sqn. Halifax III DT580 damaged over Berlin by flak, **P/O F.C. Annand**, F/L R.S. Williams RAF, F/O G. Bond RAF, Sgt A.K. Dean RAF, Sgt A.W. Forbes RAF, P/O S.G. Price RAF and Sgt R.W. Lorenzo RAF landed safely (R. Allenby).
- 27-28 101 Sqn. Lancaster I W4322 lost over Germany, **WO2 R.W.G. Hogan**, **P/O F. Prosperine**, Sgt W. Bell RAF, Sgt P.J. Edwards RAF, Sgt G.E. Moore RAF, Sgt J.S. Priestly RAF and Sgt G. Wilson RAF killed.
- 27-28 156 Sqn. Lancaster I W4895 lost over Germany, **WO2 G.T. Hillman**, Sgt R.J. Wallis RAF, Sgt A. MacKenzie RAF, Sgt F.J. Walder RAF, F/S J.G. Shepherd RAF, Sgt U. Thomas RAF and Sgt S. Poole RAF killed.
- 27-28 158 Sqn. Halifax II HR753 NP-B lost over Germany, **Sgt W.H. Penrose** and F/S H.C. Hibbert RAF killed, Sgt J.B. Kelly RAF, P/O H.B. Pearson RAF, Sgt J.G. Hawkesworth RAF, Sgt R.D. Harding RAF and F/S M.B. Budd RAF PoW.
- 27-28 408 Sqn. Halifax II BB332 EQ-H was damaged by flak on an operation to Germany. With 2 engines out and draining fuel the Halifax diverted to Sweden where it crashed. **Sgt H.L. Grayson**, **Sgt R.E. Hall**, **Sgt F.W. Grant**, **Sgt A.G. Sieben**, Sgt R.H. Batchelor RAF, Sgt H. Wein RAF and P/O R.V. Fisher RAF were interned briefly but returned to England in about a month.
- 27-28 408 Sqn. Halifax II HR713 EQ-F was damaged by flak and attacks by a night fighter, **Sgt J.B. Cameron**, **Sgt J.V.J.R. Veys**, **F/S F.W. Wood**, Sgt J.H. McNess RAF, Sgt R.W. Duncanson RAF, F/S L.J. Palmer, Sgt L.W. Fairbanks and 1 crew landed safe (R. Allenby). See April 3-4 and May 27-28 below.
- 27-28 408 Sqn. Halifax II HR664 EQ-K evaded a night fighter attack but was damaged by flak and crash landed on return to England, **Sgt G.N. Acton**, **Sgt J.I. Labow**, **P/O A.F. Scanes**, Sgt B. Domigan RAF, Sgt E. Troy, Sgt J. Denholme and Sgt J.H. McDonald safe (R. Allenby). See June 25-26, July 13-14 and October 22-23 below.
- 27-28 419 Sqn. Halifax II DT634 VR-E lost an engine after flying through flak, diverted to a secondary target where it was set on fire by a night fighter after dropping it's bombs. The escape hatches were jammed and had to be chopped open to allow **F/S A.H. Taylor**, **F/O G.J. Sweanor RCAF (UK)**, **Sgt M.V. Bishop**, **Sgt J.G. Lanteigne**, Sgt A.T. Budinger RAF and Sgt D. London RAF to bail out at low level (419 SH) to captivity, but the pilot **F/O C.E. Porter MiD** was unable to escape and was killed in the crash.

Sunday

28 8th Army crushes Mareth Line (CJCA headline). British and New Zealand forces break through German defended Mareth Line into Tunisia.

In Naples, Italy, 600 are killed when an ammunition ship explodes (wikipedia).

- 28 172 Sqn. Wellington XII MP506 lost on an anti-submarine patrol, **F/O R.G. MacLean**, **P/O J.J.H. Turnbull**, Sgt L.P.J. Bellaby RAF, Sgt M.W. Metcalfe RAF, Sgt J.P. Redmond RAF and Sgt R.V. Smith RAF (CWGC; www.rafcommands.com). TSGNO states that P/O Turnbull had sunk a U-boat on a previous sortie with **P/O A.F. Hakala**. See April 2, below.
- 28 404 Sqn. Beaufighter IIF T3155 EE-N crashed on landing, **F/O R.C. Field** and navigator Sgt C.F. Taylor RAF killed (404 SH).
- 28 610 Sqn. Spitfire Vc EE739 DW-E missing off France from a fighter RAMROD escorting B-17 aircraft, **F/O G.S. Malton** missing.
- 28 #61 OTU Magister crashed on take-off due to an engine failure, **F/O N.A. Watt** slightly injured. See July 1, below.
- 28 #14 (F) Sqn. RCAF Kittyhawk I AK851 (RCAF #1042) crashed at Fort Glenn, Umnak, Alaska, **P/O J.W. Tomlinson** killed.
- 28 #118 (F) Sqn. RCAF, Annette Island, Alaska, Kittyhawk I #1037 crashed near the airfield in a spin after attempting an upward roll while carrying a bomb, **F/L A. Jarred RCAF (USA)** killed (*BC Times Colonist, Other BC Crashes and Losses*).
- 28 RAF Ferry Command Baltimore IV FA427 crashed and burned at Nassau in the Bahamas, Ferry Captain E.P. Walmsley (USA) and **Radio Officer W.F. Morris** killed, Sgt P.L. Taylor RAAF badly burned (E. Wiberg).

28-29 39 Sqn. Beaufort AW348 'M' failed to return from a shipping attack off Sfax, Tunisia, **F/O R.D. McAdam** and three crew PoW (Shores & Massimello V.3).

28-29 The port area of St. Nazaire was attacked by 323 bombers with OBOE marking, as well as 7 GARDENING sorties off the port and 5 OTU sorties, 2 bombers were lost (BC War Diaries).

Second attempt by Luftwaffe to bomb Norwich fails (ww2total.com Chronology/1943).

- 28-29 77 Sqn. Halifax II DT736 KN-M returned from St. Nazaire damaged by flak, **Sgt R.G. Hume**, Sgt R. Watson RAF, Sgt R.C.M. Douglas RAF, Sgt A.P. Deighton RAF, Sgt J.B. Watt RAF, Sgt T. Pearson RAF and Sgt A. Luke RAF landed safe (R. Allenby). See April 16-17, below.
- 28-29 97 Sqn. Lancaster I ED754 OF-A lost over the sea, F/O R.E. Weight RAF, Sgt E.F. Ball RAF and Sgt L.C.A. Fisk RAF killed, **F/S J. Tongue**, Sgt K.F. Green RAF, Sgt R.J. Whatley RAF and Sgt A. Kemp RAF missing.
- 28-29 408 Sqn. Halifax II was hit by flak that damaged the hydraulics, **Sgt E.A. Biggs**, **F/O**

F.N.S. Cavanaugh, Sgt G.W. Herrington RCAF (USA), Sgt W.A. Kopacz RCAF (USA), P/O H.E. Tanner, Sgt R.H. Holtham RAF and Sgt T.W. Harris RAF landed safe (R. Allenby). See March 29-30 below.

28-29 419 Sqn. Halifax II BB283 VR-O lost over France, F/S R.F. Beckett, Sgt C.St.C. Foster, Sgt J.J. Goldspink, F/S G. McGrath, F/S R.M. McLeod, Sgt D. Ansley RAF and Sgt W.J.S. Boyd RAF killed. A monument to the aircrew was erected at the crash site in 2000 (P. Babin www.rafcommands.com).

28-29 419 Sqn. Halifax II, Sgt G.K. Smallwood pilot, was blown onto it's back by flak over the target. Out of control (possibly blinded by searchlights), Sgt Smallwood ordered a bailout, but rescinded it when he managed to regain control, but the bomb aimer Sgt R.G. Douglas had already left the aircraft and was taken PoW. The rear gunner Sgt R.R. Gourde RCAF (USA) almost joined him (419 SH). See April 28-29, below, and April 19, 1945.

28-29 489 Sqn. RAAF Canadian built Hampden TB.I AN156 XA-K spun into the sea on a night torpedo attack off Norway, F/S A. Grant RAF killed, Sgt W. Nicholson RAF, Sgt F.J. Brotherton RAF and Sgt R. Holloway RAF PoW (R. McNeill [rafcommands](http://rafcommands.com) POW list).

Monday

29 Indian and British armies forced to withdraw from Arakan coast (ww2total.com Chronology/1943).

Advancing 8th Army captures Gabes in Tunisia (ww2total.com Chronology/1943).

29 5 Sqn. Mohawk IV belly landed in India after the engine failed in a fight with Japanese fighters, F/O R. Mendizabal safe (C. Shores)

29 260 Sqn. Kittyhawk IIa FL278 was shot down in Africa while strafing enemy positions, F/S W.B. Stauble has no known grave.

29 682 Sqn. Spitfire PR.XI EN347 was shot down off Sardinia on a photo reconnaissance sortie killing F/L D.M. McKenzie DFC, AM (US).

29 unknown unit, Spitfire PR.IV (Trop.) BS504 lost enroute from Gibraltar to North Africa on it's way to India, F/S G.J. Darling missing (www.spitfires.ukf.net).

29 1 Sqn. Typhoon Ib R7876 believed shot down by a German fighter off France after becoming separated from his wingman, F/O C.L. Bolster missing (P. Caygill).

29 279 Sqn. Hudson III AE519 OS-S crashed into the sea off Cornwall, F/S L.V. Fletcher, F/S H.R. Bacon, WO2 R.M. Long, WO2 E.P. Povey killed, F/O E.G. Gibbs RAF died of injuries the next day (www.rafdavidstowmoor.com).

29 #1 (Coastal) OTU Hudson I T9325 crashed in England after losing power just after taking off on a night training flight, F/O A.H. Fletcher, WO1 J.C. Haist and F/S D.V. Kaye killed (R. Allenby).

29 #5 B&G School, Dafoe, Saskatchewan, Bolingbroke IV.T #9935 suffered an engine fire and crashed into a hay wagon near Humboldt, Saskatchewan, possibly attempting

a forced landing. **LAC(BA) R.R. MacFarlane**, **LAC(BA) C.M. McKenzie** and Sgt E. Walsh RAF (Eire) were killed in the crash as were the two horses pulling the wagon. The wagon's driver was seriously injured (B. Barry et al).

- 29 #34 SFTS, Medicine Hat, Alberta, Harvard II #2881 hit a radio mast in fog and crashed near the airbase, **Sgt H.K. Dexter** killed.
- 29 unknown unit **Cpl R.S. Bezanson** died in hospital in Halifax of natural causes (www.rafcommands.com).

29-30 On this night Bomber Command sent 329 heavy bombers to Berlin and 149 Wellingtons with 8 OBOE Mosquito markers to Bochum, as well as 1 OBOE sortie to Dortmund and 7 GARDENING sorties. Both the major attacks were failures due to poor or intermittent marking. Total sorties were 494 with 33 bombers lost (BC War Diaries).

- 29-30 49 Sqn. Lancaster III ED469 EA-A shot down over Germany by night fighter, **F/O G.F. Mabee**, Sgt J.A. Cross RAF, Sgt W. Carr RAF, Sgt R.W. Brown RAF, Sgt A.S. McLaren RAF and Sgt J.G. Jewell RAF killed, Sgt G.A. Jones RAF seriously wounded and is believed to have been repatriated.
- 29-30 49 Sqn. Lancaster III ED435 EA-K was hit by flak over the target of Berlin where the bail out order was given and part of the crew left before control was regained. Later the bomber was shot down by a night fighter over Holland, **WO2 F.A. McNutt**, Sgt T. Fazakerley RAF and Sgt J. Robertson RAF killed, **P/O A.T.L. Cullum**, Sgt D.W. Fyffe RAF, Sgt E.R. McCracken RAF and Sgt R.C. Link RAF PoW. This crew was on it's first operation. See <http://www.teunispats.net/fr-wwii.htm> for details.
- 29-30 51 Sqn. Halifax II BB224 MH-Q shot down over Holland by a night fighter, **F/S J.P. Young**, Sgt J.M. Taylor RAF, Sgt D.M. Reed RAF, Sgt A. Heptonstall RAF, F/O R.G. Harris RAF and F/O V.J. Dowling RAF killed, Sgt E. Williams RAF PoW.
- 29-30 76 Sqn. Halifax II DT563 MP-O lost over the North Sea, Sgt R.G. Wright RAF killed, **F/S R.W. MacNeill**, **WO2 J. Taylor**, Sgt L.J. Cursley RAF, Sgt F.J. Platt RAF, Sgt T. Edwards RAF and Sgt A.B. Boyd RAF missing.
- 29-30 83 Sqn. Lancaster I R5754 OL-X lost without trace after transmitting it was turning back to base in severe weather, **F/S R.D. McCullagh**, **Sgt A.H. Penner**, F/O N.C. Johnson RAF (Rhod.), Sgt G.T. Still RAF, F/O W.F. Coldwell RAF, Sgt G.B. McFarlane RAF and Sgt D.H. Harper RAF missing.
- 29-30 97 Sqn. Lancaster I W4175 OF-U crashed in England, cause unknown, while circling to land from an operation, **F/S R. Frank**, F/O P.H. Norton RAF, Sgt J.A. Peel RAF, F/O G.C.W. Francis RAF, Sgt W. Standring RAF, F/S F.R. Birtwistle RAF and Sgt W.H. Whiting RAF killed.
- 29-30 102 Sqn. Halifax II JB848 DY-G stalled and crashed avoiding another aircraft, killing **WO2 W.P. Comrie RCAF (USA)**, Sgt W.J. McGrath RAF, F/O D.W.F. Harper RAF, P/O W.H. Jenkins RAF, Sgt F.W. Dorrington RAF, Sgt J. King RAF and Sgt M.C.C. Squiers RAF (Kenya). See

<http://102ceylonsquadron.co.uk/memWilliamComrie.html> for details on this loss and crew

- 29-30 115 Sqn. Lancaster II DS625 KO-W lost without trace, **WO2 J.M. Bradford**, **P/O H.J. Ross**, Sgt F.W. Marshall RNZAF, F/S D.B. Dray RAF, Sgt F.L. Godden RAF, Sgt J. McKenny RAF and Sgt S.P. Shaw RAF missing. This was the first Hercules engined Lancaster II lost by Bomber Command.
- 29-30 158 Sqn. Halifax II HR757 NP-M shot down by flak over Germany, **F/S J.H. Dillon**, **F/S H.V. Tracey**, F/S H.F.R. Stettiner RAF, Sgt T. Dawson RAF, WO H. Holcombe RAF, WO E. Milne RAF and Sgt R.M. Wilson RAF killed.
- 29-30 166 Sqn. Wellington X HE545 AS-H shot down over Holland by a night fighter, **P/O F.L.E. Dupre**, **P/O R.A. Weese**, Sgt J.R.A. Hodgson RAF, F/S S.R. Farley RAF and Sgt D. Keenan RAF killed. This crew had survived the ditching of a #10 OTU Whitley on an anti-submarine patrol Aug. 27, 1942. Observer P/O Dupre had worked as a radio operator in Yellowknife, NWT, before the war. Sgt Hodgson's brother David later published a book about his brothers training and service based on his letters home (*Letters From a Bomber Pilot*, privately published).
- 29-30 196 Sqn. Wellington X HE385 ZO-M shot down over Holland by a night fighter, **F/O L.D. McAllister**, F/O E.R. Culff RAF, Sgt T.A. Dew RAF, Sgt A.C. Veeck RAF and Sgt H.R. Wilmore RAF killed.
- 29-30 196 Sqn. Wellington X HE548 lost without trace, **WO2 H.G. Allen**, Sgt A. Lucas RAF, F/O K.F. Smart RAF, Sgt A.W.E. Wilson RAF and Sgt D. Andrew RAF missing.
- 29-30 207 Sqn. Lancaster I W4931 EM-U was hit by flak over Berlin and then shot down by a night fighter, **Sgt J.E. Taylor**, F/O D.O. Street RAF, Sgt C. Dudley RAF, Sgt B.A. Rawlinson RAF, Sgt G.V. Eld RAF, Sgt W.L. Blake RAF and Sgt B.H. Nutt RAF taken PoW. F/O Street was one of the officers murdered for his part in the Great Escape, April 6, 1944.
- 29-30 218 Sqn. Stirling III BK702 HA-O shot down by flak over Germany, **F/S J.M.H. Fraser**, **P/O W.G. Hoar**, Sgt E.T.R. Howard RAF, Sgt R.E. Jefferys RAF, Sgt W.M. Robertson RAF, Sgt J.E. Turnbull RAF and Sgt R.A. Mears killed.
- 29-30 218 Sqn. Stirling III BK716 HA-J lost without trace, **F/O H.G. Farrington**, **F/S J.F. McCaw**, F/O J.F. Harris RAF, Sgt R. Kennedy RAF, Sgt C.A. Bell RAF, P/O J.M. Campbell RAF and Sgt L.R.J. Shruballs RAF missing. The wreckage of this aircraft was discovered in a lake in Holland in 2008 and was excavated in 2018 (BBC). This was detailed by P. Dirksen & F. Mink. In October 2021 a sculpture, called *Rise*, of a Commonwealth airman sitting on one of the engines recovered from this aircraft, was unveiled in the Almere Resistance Memorial Park in The Netherlands, commemorating the crew of Stirling BK716 and BK710 (*Flypast*, January 2022). See also www.bk716.their-story.org.
- 29-30 408 Sqn. Halifax II DT679 EQ-Q lost over Germany, **F/O F.N.S. Cavanaugh**, **F/S G.W. Herrington RCAF (USA)**, **F/S W.A. Kopacz RCAF (USA)**, **F/O H.E. Tanner**, Sgt E.A. Biggs RAF, Sgt T.W. Harris RAF and Sgt R.H. Holtham RAF killed.

- 29-30 408 Sqn. Halifax II HR654 EQ-R shot down by a night fighter over Germany, **Sgt J.F. Barnes**, **Sgt H. Davenport**, **F/S N.W. Roberts**, Sgt G. Jennings RAF and Sgt R.S.V. Lewis-Staniford RAF (serving as Sgt Lewis) killed, Sgt F.J. Cherry RAF died of his injuries, **P/O A.J. Acheson** PoW.
- 29-30 419 Sqn. Halifax II JB860 VR-J ran into severe icing and had to jettison its bomb load. Returning to its base it overshot the landing and crash landed in a gusting wind, **Sgt W.B.F. Climie**, **Sgt H.B. Ebbers**, P/O L.P. Ainsworth, Sgt A. Simpson, Sgt J.K. Oldman, Sgt S.A. Lagden and **Sgt B.W. Blount RCAF (USA)** safe. See August 22-23, below. (except for Sgt Climie, Sgt Blount and Sgt Ebbers it is not known if the crew was RCAF or mixed RCAF/RAF) (R. Koval).
- 29-30 420 Sqn. Wellington III X3814 PT-P shot down over Germany, **Sgt R.L. Brandow**, **Sgt C.W. Cockady**, **F/S J.M. Greer**, **F/S H.C. Sleep** and Sgt L.G. Jones RAF killed. This was the last Wellington III lost by 420 Sqn. before converting to Mark X Wellingtons (R. Koval).
- 29-30 420 Sqn. Wellington X MS484 PT-V shot down over Holland by a night fighter, **F/S P.E. Barron**, **Sgt S.V. Bradshaw**, **F/O B.A. Grant** and Sgt R. Dyson RAF killed, **F/S A.G. Skiggs** RAF PoW (R. Koval).
- 29-30 426 Sqn. Wellington III BJ762 OW-O "*Happy Valley*" shot down by a night fighter over Holland, **Sgt J.A. Bailey**, **Sgt J.F. Gubb** and **F/S R.E. Todd RCAF (USA)** killed, **Sgt H. Martin** and Sgt J. Taylor RAF PoW. F/S Todd had crashed a Wellington at #22 OTU Feb. 1, above. See <http://www.teunisplats.net/fr-wwii.htm> for details.
- 29-30 427 Sqn. Wellington X HE744 ZL-J lost without trace, **F/S W.M. Bisset**, **Sgt C.A. Boyd**, **F/S D.F. McFadden**, **F/O L.T.E. Sweet** and Sgt A.R. Dove RAF missing.
- 29-30 427 Sqn. Wellington X HE688, Sgt E. Williams, returned damaged after exchanging fire with a Ju-88 night fighter it claimed as damaged (R. Koval and R. Allenby notes on this aircraft's loss March 23, 1944 with #12 OTU).
- 29-30 428 Sqn. Wellington III BK564 NA-R lost over Germany, **P/O J.L.R.V.F. Cartier**, **F/S P.B. Gustavsen** and F/O J.F. Spencer RAF killed, **Sgt D. King** and Sgt H.F. Rhodes RAF were PoW, but Sgt Rhodes died of his injuries April 12, 1943.
- 29-30 428 Sqn. Wellington X HE175 NA-U lost over the North Sea, Sgt J.B. Martyn RNZAF, Sgt J.C. Donaldson RNZAF, Sgt N.S. Farr RAF, Sgt K. Benjamin RAF and Sgt L.W. Hayward RAF missing. This was the first operational loss for 428 Sqn.
- 29-30 429 Sqn. Wellington III BJ920 AL-E lost over Germany, Sgt K.A. Burini RAF, Sgt W.G.J. Aplin RAF, Sgt J.W. Kerr RAF, Sgt W.E. Jones RAF and Sgt R. Dolbear RAF killed (R. Koval).
- 29-30 429 Sqn. Wellington III BK540 AL-C lost over the North Sea, **WO2 D.L. Bain** killed, **F/S E.K. Hart** RAF, Sgt H.D.G. Carty RAF, Sgt R.E. Scott RAF and Sgt W.F. Whitland RAF missing (R. Koval).
- 29-30 429 Sqn. Wellington X HE172 AL-G crash landed returning from an operational sortie, **Sgt W.J. Mullaney RCAF (USA)**, Sgt R.C. Ellison RAF, Sgt W.G. Bailey RAF, Sgt H.E.J. Horton RAF and Sgt E.C. Nicholson RAF safe (R. Allenby). See April 8-9

below.

29-30 431 Sqn. Wellington X HE182 SE-A lost over Germany, believed to have exploded due to flak, **WO2 P.F. Yellin**, Sgt E.J. Aspden RAF, Sgt R. Davies RAF and Sgt J.H. Kimber RAF killed, Sgt D.T. Dudley-Jones RAF was ejected by the explosion and PoW.

29-30 431 Sqn. Wellington X, SE-G, Sgt A.H. Smith RNZAF, was attacked on the bomb run by a night fighter which the rear gunner, Sgt M.L. Buxton RAF, shot down (R. Koval, FF Years). See May 29-30, below.

Tuesday

30 Sailing in ballast from Bone, Algeria to Gibraltar in convoy ET-16 the Canadian built freighter Fort a la Corne and the Norwegian tanker Hallanger were torpedoed and sunk by U-596 (www.uboot.net).

30 18 Sqn. Blenheim V EH318 'F' crashed after take-off in Tunisia, killing **WO2 J.A. Mayne**, Sgt S. Kirk RAF and Sgt L.J. O'Neill RNZAF.

30 #216 Air Ministry Experimental Station (AMES or radar unit), radar officer **F/L W.H. Scotland** was killed in Tunisia when the vehicle he was in ran over a land mine.

30 #1483 (Bombing) Gunnery Flight Wellington III Z1747 crashed in England after structural failure and loss of a wing on a gun camera exercise, **F/S B.C. Harvey RCAF (USA)**, Sgt M.R. Langdale-Hunt RNZAF, F/O B. Neal RNZAF, **F/S K.M. Newland RNZAF**, F/L D.R. Greenup RAF, AC1 R.J. Chitty RAF, Sgt A.L. Laycock RAF, Sgt W.H. Lowey RAF and Sgt J. MacNeall RAF killed. TSGNO lists Sgt Newland as from Calgary, Alberta, but CWGC notes his parents lived in New Zealand. Possibly married to a Canadian?

Wednesday

31 Douglas Dakota (DC-3/C-47) enters service with the RCAF (Griffin CMA).

First flight of Catalina IVb JX270, the first of 235 Catalinas built at the Boeing Canada plant in Vancouver for the RAF (194), RNZAF (34) and RAAF (7) (<http://www.seaislandhome.org/Boeing.html>, http://www.historyofwar.org/articles/weapons_PBY_catalina_RAF_service.html).

Rodgers and Hammerstein's musical Oklahoma! opens on Broadway, where it would run until May 29, 1948, a record at the time of 2,212 performances ([wikipedia](http://en.wikipedia.org)).

31 87 Sqn. Hurricane IIc HW619 lost in Middle East, **F/L A.C. Cochrane DFC RAF (Can.)**, a very experienced fighter pilot who had fought in the Battle of Britain and was credited with 6 German and 1 Italian aircraft destroyed, missing (www.acesofww2.com, malcolm_raf www.rafcommands.com).

- 31 #301 Ferry Training Unit, England, Beaufort I DW914 crashed in England on a fuel consumption test descending through cloud, **WO2 R.W. Wood**, Sgt J. Barton RAF, Sgt L. Fitzgerald RAF and Sgt A.C.M. Mackenzie RAF killed (R. McNeill www.rafcommands.com, R. Hayward).
- 31 #39 SFTS, Swift Current, Saskatchewan, Oxford I X6593 crashed in a collision with Oxford AS689, LAC J.A. Howard RAF and P/O J. Helme RNZAF killed in X6593, the solo pilot of AS689 bailed out and safe (D.J. Carter; COL BRUGGY at www.rafcommands.com).
- 31 USAAF 7th Ferry Group P-39N 42-9311 missing from Fort St. John, BC, not found until June having force landed on a frozen lake, BC, 2Lt J.E Vaughn USAAF survived the landing but died near the crash site (AAIR; J. Baugher, B.W. Smith).

unknown date, 353 Sqn., a formation of three Hudson aircraft was flying at low level over the Bay of Bengal on a bombing sortie to Burma when one struck the surface of the sea. The pilot, (P/O?) **T. Paton**, managed to recover with bent propellor tips and no airspeed or altimeter readings. He turned back, but then decided since his engines were running well to complete the attack. He bombed the target and then flew back to his base in India (S. Shernofsky).

April 1943

US Army reports Port Radium mine behind by 27 tons on deliveries of pitchblende due to flooding and other problems.

402 Sqn. reverts to Spitfire LF.Vc aircraft (RCAF Sqns.). 425 Sqn. and 428 Sqn. begin to receive Wellington X aircraft (RCAF Sqns.). #10 (BR) Sqn. begins to re-equip with VLR (Very Long Range) Liberator anti-submarine aircraft, allocated to the RCAF in the Washington Convoy Conference (above). #6 (BR) Sqn., #7 (BR) Sqn. and #9 (BR) Sqn. RCAF begin to re-equip with Canso A aircraft, #113 (BR) Sqn. begins to re-equip with Ventura GR.V aircraft (RCAF Sqns.). #120 (BR) Sqn., Coal Harbour, BC, re-equips with Canso A aircraft (RCAF Sqns.).

Around this date to assist England economically the Canadian Government assumed full financial responsibility for pay etc. for all RCAF personnel serving overseas as well as the total cost of all RCAF squadrons formed overseas (CCMA). See April 20, below.

As well in this period the National Research Council, after reviewing work on jet engines in England, acquires an early Whittle W.1 engine and sets up the Cold Weather Testing Station in Winnipeg. There they did work related to

operation of jet engines in cold and humid conditions. See July 1, 1944.

The book *The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry is published in English and French in Canada and the USA. It would not be published in France until after the war. See July 31, 1944.

Thursday

1 Twenty-Fifth anniversary of the formation of the RAF was celebrated as circumstance allowed (D. McIntosh).

Last USAAF Spitfire sorties flown from England (Zijlstra). These units and their Spitfires were then transferred to Tunisia.

From agreements made in the Washington Convoy Conference, escorting of convoys across the North Atlantic becomes the responsibility of the RN and RCN, while USN escorts concentrate in the South Atlantic, Africa, Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico and Panama Canal approaches (D. Sommerville). To the RCN this marks it's advent as an independent navy (J.A. Boutilier et al). See April 30, below.

- 1 38 Sqn. Wellington VIII HX689 crashed after a night take-off in Libya, **Sgt R. Holmes RAF (Can.)** and Sgt P. Clegg RAF killed, Sgt L.L.B. Moll RAAF injured, **Sgt Y. Mills**, Sgt J.R. Treagust RAF and Sgt F.D. Waines RAF safe (COL BRUGGY www.rafcommands.com).
- 1 414 Sqn. Mustang I AG525 hit by light flak over France on a RHUBARB and crashed, killing **F/O R.C. MacQuoid**. P/O MacQuoid had been injured during coverage of the Dieppe Raid, Aug. 19, 1942, when his aircraft was heavily damaged by a cannon hit.
- 1 421 Sqn. Spitfire Vb EB177 lost on a cross channel RHUBARB, **WO2 W.J. Kinnaid** killed.
- 1 #14 (F) Sqn. RCAF Kittyhawk I AK982 (RCAF #1065) crashed at Fort Glenn, Umnak, Alaska, killing **WO2 H.G. Anderson**.
- 1 USAAF 7th Ferry Group P-39N 42-9269 and 42-4945 damaged in landing accidents at Calgary, Alberta (AAIR). One of these might be the one referenced by J.M. Bruce in a letter published in *Aeroplane Monthly*, September, 1999, which overshot the runway and ended up blocking a highway.

Friday

2 #1 Instrument Flying School opens at Deseronto, Ontario (<http://www.bombercrew.com/BCATP.htm>).

- 2 172 Sqn. Wellington MP515 lost, **P/O A.F. Hakala**, F/S E.B. Mellor RAF, Sgt S. Brenner RAF, F/S W.A. Lewis RAF, Sgt C.H.C. Stapleton RAF and F/O W.F.C. Rushton RAF

missing.

- 2 424 Sqn. Wellington X HE367 QB-F was on a training flight and overshot it's landing, **Sgt R.C. White** and his crew safe (R. Allenby).
- 2 #16 OTU Wellington III BK246 crashed on a bombing exercise, **Sgt J. Kendrick RAF (Can.)**, F/S A.L. Robinson RNZAF, Sgt H.W. Holden RAF, Sgt P.L. Carey RAF, Sgt J.R. Nesbit RAF, Sgt A. Woodhouse RAF and P/O J.G. Lyon RAF killed. TSGNO states Sgt Kendrick was from Winnipeg but W.R. Chorley points out he may have been born in the UK.
- 2 #9 B&G School, Mont Joli, Quebec, Battle I #1868 belly landed near Van Buren, Maine, USA, in bad weather (S. Shail).
- 2 #15 EFTS, Regina, Saskatchewan, DH.82C Tiger Moth #5922 was waiting it's turn to take off when it was struck by it's sister ship, Tiger Moth #5923. Both were later repaired (R.W.R. Walker). See June 30, 1944.
- 2 #34 EFTS, Assiniboia, Saskatchewan, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4289 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

2-3 Bomber Command sent 55 bombers to St. Nazaire and 47 more to Lorient. Only 1 person was killed on the ground as the towns were almost completely deserted due to previous heavy attacks. Offshore 33 GARDENING sorties were made. One bomber was lost (BC War Diaries).

- 2-3 57 Sqn. Lancaster I W4257 lost over France, **F/S C.W. Dahl**, Sgt A.E. Bagley RAF, Sgt W.G. Barnes RAF, Sgt H.P. Hunter RAF, Sgt R.W. Lea RAF, Sgt K.A. Tester RAF and P/O R.L. Pickup RAF killed.

Saturday

3 In Tunisia German forces facing the 8th Army begin withdrawing to the north (D. Newton).

German fighter bombers attack Eastbourne (ww2total.com Chronology/1943).

Chinese seaman Poon Lim, sole survivor from the SS Ben Lomond, sunk Nov. 23, 1942, rescued off Brazil by fishermen after spending 130 days on a life raft (wikipedia). See Fort Longueuil entry, September 19, below.

- 3 500 Sqn. Hudson V AM828 crashed in Algeria, **F/S J.E. Melville**, **P/O E. Redman**, Sgt B.G. Sherman RAF and Sgt L. Stockbridge RAF killed. This aircraft may have been the one used earlier painted in French markings to secretly transport a French General to Algeria from Gibraltar prior to the TORCH landings (A. Hendrie).
- 3 411 Spitfire Vb BM355 damaged by flak on a ROADSTEAD to Belgium but managed to return to England, **P/O C.S. Pope** safe.
- 3 415 Sqn. Hampden TB.I L4084 went out of control and crashed in England while engaged in a fighter exercise with 2 Typhoon aircraft, **WO2 W.J. MacKay**, **WO2 D.**

- Montgomery, F/S J.D. Scott and F/S J.W. Whipple killed (H. Moyle). WO Montgomery and F/S Scott had survived a crash landing in Eire Oct. 29, 1942.
- 3 416 Sqn. Spitfire IX BR978 shot down over France on a RAMROD, F/O A.M. Watson PoW.
- 3 421 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BL658 stalled avoiding a windsock on take off and crashed in England, F/O H.M. Rogers killed.
- 3 429 Sqn. Wellington III Z1670 clipped high power lines in England and crashed attempting to land while on an air test, Sgt D.M. Smith, F/S D.R. Nelson, F/S W.J. Nicholl, Sgt R.T. Crimmins RCAF (USA), Cpl T.C. Lane, Cpl J.L. Maddox and Cpl H. Butler RAF injured. See May 12-13, July 25-26 below.
- 3 #3 Flying Instructor School, Arnprior, Ontario, Cornell FH740 flew into the ground near Eganville, Ontario, on a cross country training flight, killing P/O E.R. Myles.

3-4 Essen was again the target of Bomber Command who sent 348 bombers there. It was anticipated there would be cloud cover, so the marking aircraft were prepared for skymarking, but in the event the skies over the city were clear. Combined marking by skymarkers and TIs caused some confusion, but the results were very accurate with heavy damaged caused. Other operations were 16 Wellingtons GARDENING off France and 9 OTU sorties, for a total of 377 sorties with 23 bombers lost (BC War Diaries).

- 3-4 10 Sqn. Halifax II DT791 ZA-K damaged by flak over the target, P/O F.N. Prebble, F/L J.R. Wood RAF, Sgt F.W. Beare RAF, P/O K.F. Whynes RAF, P/O C.G. Stepney RAF, P/O C.L. Walshaw RAF and Sgt P.C. O'Kill RAF returned safe (R. Allenby). See April 16-17 below.
- 3-4 51 Sqn. Halifax II DT738 MH-D lost over Germany, Sgt W.G. Richardson RAF (Can.), Sgt J. Rawcliffe RAF, Sgt J.V. Branscombe RAF, Sgt J. Richards RAF, Sgt R.K. Guy RAF, Sgt A. Howarth RAF and Sgt D.B. Ralston RAF killed.
- 3-4 76 Sqn. Halifax II W7805 MP-M lost over Germany, Sgt J.K. Howarth RAF, Sgt W.C. Pitt RAF, P/O P.W. Digby MiD RAF and Sgt F.G. Williams RAF killed, Sgt H.N. Richards, Sgt G.A. Egan RAF and Sgt J.W.S. Blakey RAF PoW.
- 3-4 78 Sqn. Halifax II W7937 abandoned due to an engine failure. Two more engines failed during the evacuation and the pilot, P/O T.N. Foster RAF, did not make it out and was killed. The rest of the crew, P/O J.H. Jamieson, Sgt G.E. Sendall, Sgt W.F. Hodgson RAF, Sgt E.A. Drury RAF, Sgt N.V. Thornton RAF and Sgt C. Wayte RAF PoW.
- 3-4 78 Sqn. Halifax II DT780 lost over Germany, P/O G. Riach RAF and Sgt A.M. Parker RAF killed, S/L B.J. Bouchier, Sgt E.C. Lacey RAF, Sgt W. Ingles RAF, Sgt D.H. Howard RAF, Sgt L.L. Stas RAF and Sgt A. Wright RAF PoW.
- 3-4 78 Sqn. Halifax II JB845 lost over Holland, Sgt R.O.M. Dunlop, F/L T.H.O. Richardson RAF, F/O C.R.C.A. Allberry RAF, Sgt R.J. Kernick RAF, F/O L.R.C. Shadwell RAF, Sgt J. McCormick RAF and Sgt T.H. Webb RAF killed.

- 3-4 83 Sqn. Lancaster I R5626 OL-M lost over Germany, **WO2 L.N. McArthur**, F/L R.B. Hope DFC RAF, Sgt R.G. Pegg RAF, Sgt C.L. Billington RAF, F/S J.S. Keay RAF, Sgt D. Brennen RAF and Sgt W. Billington RAF killed.
- 3-4 83 Sqn. Lancaster I ED334 OL-R shot down by a night fighter over Holland, **WO2 C.M.M. Coghill**, F/S E.L.L. Shandley RAF, F/S L. Fieldhouse RAF, F/S F.W.T. Routledge DFM RAF, S/L F.T. Flower RAF, Sgt D. McEwen RAF and F/O F.A. Southon RAF killed.
- 3-4 102 Sqn. Halifax II HR663 DY-T sustained some light flak damage over the target, **Sgt A.C. Weir**, Sgt W.A. Griffiths RAF, Sgt S.C. Richards RAF, Sgt A. Jenkinson RAF, Sgt B.C.J. White RAF, Sgt J.T. Smith RAF and Sgt J.K. Wilson returned safe (R. Allenby). See April 14-15, below.
- 3-4 102 Sqn. Halifax II W7934 DY-J, **Sgt F.A. Sutherland**, F/S T. McKinley RNZAF, Sgt K. Millar, Sgt M.L. O'Grady, Sgt K.F. Crosby, Sgt N. Shaw and Sgt F. or P. Allibone, returned from a sortie with damaged bomb doors due to an unknown cause (R. Allenby). See April 26-27 below.
- 3-4 156 Sqn. Lancaster I W4894 GT-T believed to have come down in the sea off Holland, Sgt S.E. Crooks RAF killed, **F/S D.L. Robertson**, Sgt G.R. Minns RAF, Sgt R.A. Byass RAAF, F/O G.J. Black RAAF, Sgt N.R. Thurecht RAAF and Sgt R.S. Trigwell RAAF missing. Alan Storr's comprehensive listing of RAAF losses states the wreckage of this bomber was located in the Waddensee in Holland in the 1990's. It appears to have been shot down by a night fighter.
- 3-4 158 Sqn. Halifax II DT635 NP-F lost over Germany, **Sgt B.J. Warr RAF (Can.)**, F/L J.D. Cole RAF, Sgt R. Gowing RAF, P/O R.C. Stemp RAF, Sgt A. Ward RAF, Sgt W.A. Robinson RAF and Sgt C.G. Dawson RAF killed.
- 3-4 158 Sqn. Halifax II DT795 NP-N shot down by flak over Holland, **WO1 F.H. Blake RCAF (USA)**, **WO2 R. Webber RCAF (USA)** and Sgt T.V. Trollope RAF killed, Sgt G.S. Walters RAF, Sgt W.D. Hawkins RAF, Sgt J.C. Jones RAF and Sgt P.H. Eldridge RAF missing. The wreck was partially excavated in 2014, See <http://www.teunispats.net/fr-wwii.htm> for details. WO Webber had been injured and was the sole survivor of a #1 OADU Wellington that crashed in Spain Aug. 28, 1942, and had been released from internment to Gibraltar Dec. 25, 1942.
- 3-4 405 Sqn. Halifax II DT723 LQ-F shot down over Holland by a night fighter, **WO2 W.S. Beatty** missing, **P/O J. Lago**, **F/L J.H. Colwell**, **F/O W.H. Hoddinott**, **F/S H.C. Waugh RCAF (USA)**, **Sgt A.B. Granbois**, **Sgt W.W. Phipps** and **WO1 K.O. Perry** PoW. See Aug. 23, 1943. In captivity F/L Colwell used his tin smithing skills to create useful tools for his fellow prisoners, as well as for those trying to escape. In Stalag Luft III he was known as "*The Tin Man*" (T. Barris). Sgt Phipps was later widely know as "*Weldy*" Phipps, a famous bush pilot who developed the use of oversized low pressure tires for landing in unprepared sites.
- 3-4 405 Sqn. Halifax II DT808 LQ-V shot down over Holland by a night fighter, **WO2 J.W. Halikowski**, **F/L F.E. Luxford**, **WO2 W.J. McAlpine**, **Sgt H.J. McQueen** and **WO2 J.D.**

White killed, F/S E. Bradley and F/L W.L. Murphy PoW. WO McAlpine and F/S Bradley had both been slightly injured Oct. 13-14, 1942 in the crash of a 158 Sqn. Halifax.

- 3-4 408 Sqn. Halifax II DT673 EQ-A (or G, R. Koval) was damaged beyond repair when it had to land with the undercarriage retracted on return from an operation, F/S F.W. Wood, Sgt J.B. Cameron, P/O C. O'Connell RAAF, Sgt R.W. Duncanson RAF, F/S I.J. Palmer RAF, Sgt J.H. McNess RAF and P/O W.A. McIlroy RAF safe (R. Koval).
- 3-4 408 Sqn. Halifax II HR713 EQ-F lost without trace, F/L R.H.P. Gamble, WO D.L. Jarrett, F/O E.R. Ray, Sgt R.W. Barker RAF, Sgt A.J. Hawkins RAF, P/O C.N. Black RAAF and P/O K.S. McColl RAAF missing.
- 3-4 408 Sqn. Halifax II JB866 EQ-T shot down over Holland by a night fighter, Sgt G.D. Boyer, Sgt F.R. Burke, F/S M.G. Church, F/S G.A. Fletcher, F/O J.D. McBride, P/O E.A. Sirett and Sgt K.O. Brice RAF killed.
- 3-4 419 Sqn. Halifax II DT617 VR-G shot down by a night fighter over Holland, F/S B.W. Agar, Sgt S.N. Hall, P/O G.W. Lawry, P/O P.D. Boyd RAF, Sgt J.B. Langley RAF, Sgt L.H. Ransome RAF and P/O H.T. MacDonald RAF killed. See <http://www.teunispats.net/fr-wwii.htm> for details.
- 3-4 419 Sqn. Halifax II DT669 VR-L was attacked by a night fighter that wounded bomb aimer Sgt R. Ross, and the two gunners Sgt L. Wallis and Sgt J. Thompson. The bomber escaped but was forced to jettison its bombs. The pilot, Sgt P. Johnson, returned the damaged aircraft to a safe landing in England (R. Koval).
- 3-4 460 Sqn. RAAF Lancaster I ED369 UV-L was hit by flak short of the target that damaged an engine, the tail and jammed the bomb door hydraulics. Attempts to open the bomb doors failed and marginally controllable the crew considered bailing out, but returned to England where they circled their base until they had reduced their fuel load and landed with the bomb load still intact, F/S K.W. Giles RAAF, F/S R.W. Morgan RAAF, F/S S. Gordon RAAF, Sgt A.W. Delohery RAAF, F/S A.J. Mohr RAF, Sgt E.G. Sutton RAF and it is believed Sgt G.R. Smith safe (R. Allenby).
- 3-4 467 Sqn. RAAF Lancaster III ED524 PO-T lost over the target, Sgt L.T. Fulcher, S/L A.M. Paape DFC & Bar RAF (NZ), F/O H. North RAF, Sgt D.J.R. Robinson RAF (S. Rhod.), F/O T. Dring DFC RAF, Sgt W. Johnson RAF and F/O J.M. Stewart AFM RAF killed.

Sunday

4 Bomber Command sent 60 Ventura bombers to attack targets in Northwest Europe, 2 were lost (BC War Diaries). Part of the escort included the Coltishall Wing, led by W/C H.P. Blatchford RAF (Can.) (Brown & Lavigne). See May 3, below.

- 4 27 sqn. Beaufighter VI EL269 flew into the sea on a shipping strike off Burma, WO2 F.G. Ensor and his navigator Sgt J.A. Clough RAF missing (C. Shores).
- 4 221 Sqn. Wellington VIII HX376 lost in Mediterranean, Sgt C.J. Phelps, Sgt H. Alford RAF, Sgt J. Fox RAF, Sgt C.J.B. Hele RAF, P/O H.G. Chuck RAF, F/S P.J. Groom

- RAF and F/S A. Lowe RAF missing.
- 4 238 Sqn. Hurricane IIc HV589 lost on operations in Middle East, **P/O R.W. Cairns** missing (www.rafcommands.com).
- 4 278 Sqn. Anson I DG809 shot down forty miles SE of Yarmouth, England, while engaged in a search and rescue sortie, **WO L.C. Telford** RAF killed, **F/S J.A.P. Bartlett** RAF (Nfld.), **F/S D.A. Forestell**, F/S G.F. Hogan RAF and F/L P.R. Smith RAF missing (www.rafcommands.com). F/S Forestell had been injured while flying with 418 Sqn. in June 1942, and was the first of three brothers killed in the RCAF during the war. See also March 20 and August 8, 1944.
- 4 403 Sqn. Spitfire IX BS120 shot down on a cross channel RAMROD, **Sgt J.L. Deschamps** killed. This aircraft had been damaged and its pilot wounded August 19, 1942, supporting the Dieppe landings.
- 4 403 Sqn. Spitfire IX BS110 shot down on a RAMROD, **P/O E.L. Gimbel** DFC RCAF (USA) evaded and returned to England.
- 4 405 Sqn. Halifax II JB893 collided on the ground with Halifax II JB906, **F/L H.D.R.L. Campbell** and his crew safe. See May 13-14 and June 11-12, below.
- 4 464 Sqn. RAAF Ventura II AJ169 SB-A was damaged by flak and finally shot down by fighters over the North Sea, **WO2 E.W. Cole** RCAF (UK), Sgt A.L. Lush RAF, F/S W.W. Collens RAAF and Sgt D.F. Fulford RAAF missing.
- 4 487 Sqn. RNZAF Ventura II AE957 EG-M shot down into the sea by flak, **Sgt S.T. O'Connor**, **Sgt R. Steedman**, **Sgt S.E. Weaver** and **Sgt J.A. Williamson** missing.
- 4 #16 OTU Wellington III X3471 crashed in England on a night bombing exercise, **Sgt D.G. Nicoll**, Sgt C.F. Ball RAF, Sgt F.M. Shibko RAF, Sgt F.G. Bower RAF and Sgt G. Haroy RAF killed.
- 4 unknown unit, LAC(P) K.T.L. Wade RAF died in hospital in Montreal, no details (www.rafcommands.com).

4-5 Bomber Command sent 577 bombers, the largest force of regular bombers in the war so far, to Kiel, losing 12. Clouds, high winds and possible decoys diverted the attack and authorities in Kiel reported 26 killed on the ground, with 11 buildings destroyed, none of which were industrial (BC War Diaries).

- 4-5 9 Sqn. Lancaster III ED696 WS-T shot down over Germany by a night fighter, **WO2 T.W. Telfer**, Sgt H.L. Jones RAF, F/O K.E. Fraser RAF, F/O S.M. Hobson RAF, P/O R.E. Raven RAF, F/S J.H.C. Walsh RAF and Sgt E.S. Wood RAF killed.
- 4-5 10 Sqn. Halifax II HR699 ZA-J lost without trace, **F/S W.M. Maisenbacher** RCAF (USA), **F/O J.A. Wann**, P/O N. Bertram RAF, Sgt W.E. Scanlon RAF, P/O H. When RAF, P/O D.C.T. Jagger RAF and P/O E.V. Frankland RAF missing. The 1946 novel "*One of our Bombers is Missing*" by Dan Brennan (ex RCAF (USA) and USAAF) has a dedication to F/S Maisenbacher and 4 USAAF air gunners.
- 4-5 51 Sqn. Halifax II DT686 MH-N lost over Germany, **Sgt G.E. McDonald**, F/S S.G. Adams RAF, Sgt F.H. Austin RAF, Sgt W. Fleming RAF, Sgt J.K.B. Veal RAF, Sgt W.

Woosnam RAF and F/L A.A. Emery DFM RAF killed. W.R. Chorley notes that Sgt Austin was only 17.

- 4-5 405 Sqn. Halifax II DT704 LQ-H lost over Germany, **F/S W.J. Foley, F/S R.E. Goldney, WO2 W.F. Jordan, Sgt H.B.J. Sargent, F/S J.A.C. Taylor, F/O R.J. Wright** and Sgt R.A. Damms RAF killed.
- 4-5 405 Sqn. Halifax II JB875 LQ-S was attacked by a night fighter and shot it down, but was forced to bomb an alternate target due to oxygen problems, P/O R.A. Symes BEM RAF and his crew returned safely (R. Koval). See June 19-20 below.
- 4-5 408 Sqn. Halifax II BB336 EQ-O hit by flak and exploded over the sea, **S/L E.G. Gilmore DFC, P/O M.P. Hall**, F/L J.B. Darroch RAF, F/S P.G. Oyler RAF, F/S J.W.T.M. Smith DFM RAF and Sgt K.W. Haynes RAF missing, **Sgt R.T. Wiggett**, the rear gunner, was blown to shore in his parachute and became a PoW. After the war and a brief return to civilian life he re-joined the RCAF as a fire-fighter.
- 4-5 424 Sqn. Wellington X HZ273 QB-G had a wing damaged by flak over the target, **Sgt L.G. Wilson** and crew possibly **Sgt A.J. Cockaday, Sgt E.A. McQuarrie**, Sgt J.E. Malkin RAF and Sgt J.R. Davis (RCAF or RAF?) returned safely (R. Allenby). See April 14-15, below.
- 4-5 424 Sqn. Wellington X QB-W slightly damaged by flak, **P/O S.K. Atkinson, Sgt W.A. Grant, Sgt D. Harmon, Sgt H.A. Turner** and Sgt Illingworth landed back in England (R. Allenby). See June 22-23 below.
- 4-5 426 Sqn. Wellington III X3699 OW-Q damaged by flak over Germany, which turned on a light in the wing and damaged the rear turret. They were unable to turn off the light, and were attacked by a night fighter that destroyed the hydraulics, dropping the undercarriage and bomb bay doors. Just off the English coast the engines quit and the bomber ditched hard and broke up. Two crew found the overturned dinghy, but were unable to overturn it, and their attempts to paddle it to their other aircrew failed. **F/O D.L. Kennedy** killed, **F/S C.N. Beaton** and **F/L K.M. Walley** missing, **P/O D. Laskey** and **Sgt L.L. Anderson** were rescued by a destroyer in the morning (R. Koval, FF Years). See May 12-13, 1943 and April 27-28, 1944. *426 Squadron History* has details of this loss.
- 4-5 427 Sqn. Wellington X was damaged by flak, **P/O J.J. Beaton, Sgt M.B. Summers, F/S J. Wilde**, Sgt G. Davies RAF and Sgt P.E. Newland RAF returned to England (R. Allenby). See April 28-29, below.
- 4-5 428 Sqn. Wellington X HE432 NA-C came down off the coast of Holland, **F/S L.D. Ryan** and **F/O R.G. Tighe** killed, **P/O W.D. Heslip, F/O H.C. Irwin, F/S K.W. Rosevear** missing.
- 4-5 428 Sqn. Wellington X HE176 NA-F, **Sgt M. Chepil**, claimed a single engined fighter shot down in flames by the rear gunner, P/O E.J. Andrews (R. Koval, FF Years).
- 4-5 429 Sqn. Wellington X HE593 AL-M was forced to abandon it's sortie after one half of the rear turret doors ripped off the turret. R. Allenby notes they may also have had engine problems. **Sgt J. Burns RCAF (USA), F/S R.F. Conroy, Sgt G.R. Densmore**,

- F/S G.A. Nelson and P/O H.A. Tennis safe (R. Allenby). See June 11-12, below.
- 4-5 #5 (Coastal) OTU Canadian built Hampden TB.I AN155 missing on a navigation exercise, believed to have ditched off Ireland, Sgt K. Brown RAF, Sgt A.J. Davies RAF, Sgt H.S. Hobbs RAF and Sgt W.D. Keen RAF missing (H. Moyle; www.rafcommands.com). It is possible it was shot down by a U-boat (Ragnar J. Ragnarsson www.rafcommands.com).

Monday

5 In Tunisia Allied air forces begin Operation FLAX, a fighter offensive to interdict the Axis airlift of troops and supplies into North Africa. See April 18, below (D. Newton).

Operation RAMROD 63, 12 Venturas of 21 Sqn. with heavy fighter escort attacking a ship in Brest were intercepted by German fighters before reaching the target. The fighter escort was placed too high, and the bombers were mauled on the run in, faced heavy flak over the port, then had to run the gauntlet of fighters again on the way out, 4 of the Ventura's were lost.

The Air Ministry directive to target U-boat bases in the Bay of Biscay was rescinded on this date, freeing Bomber Command to focus on it's campaign in the Ruhr (BC War Diaries).

- 5 12th Bombardment Group (Medium), 81st Bomb Squadron USAAF B-25C lost to flak over Tunisia, **WO1 A.L. Rodgers** PoW with 1LT W.K. Smith USAAF and crew (Shores, Massimello V.3). WO Rodgers was one of the group of RCAF wireless air gunners seconded to the USAAF bomber group in Egypt as they could communicate using RAF radio techniques and speak "American".
- 5 21 Sqn. Ventura I AE726 YH-H shot down by flak attacking shipping in France, **WO2 T.C. Dubose** RCAF (USA), **F/S E.A. Norman**, **F/S K.E. Price** and Sgt H.E. Blundell RAF killed. This loss is profiled by G. Saouzanet.
- 5 21 Sqn. Ventura I AE715 YH-X was shot down by Fw 190s attacking a ship at Brest, France and was seen to ditch in the sea. Despite a search the crew was not found, **F/O L.G. Girty**, **F/S B.H. May**, **P/O M.A. McDonald** and **F/S R.C. Milliken** missing.
- 5 21 Sqn. Ventura II AE852 YH-S shot down into the Channel, **F/S J.S. Laidlaw**, **F/S G.B. McKennie**, Sgt E.J. Andrew RAF and Sgt G.C. Garner RAF missing.
- 5 423 Sqn. Sunderland II W6008 AB-H "*H for Harry*", **F/L C.L. Bradley**, made a good attack on a surfaced U-Boat that left debris in the water, but were credited with a "serious damage". F/L Bradley later received a DFC (<http://www.shearwateraviationmuseum.ns.ca/squadrons/423chapter1.htm>, FF Years).
- 5 #33 ANS, Mount Hope, Ontario, Anson I #7050, pilot Sgt H.F. Parker RAF was on a navigation exercise and tried to turn back to base after entering a snowstorm. It

struck the ground with a wing while turning and crashed. LAC(N) M.J. Quinn RAF injured (Chris Charland at www.rafcommands.com). See April 7, below.

5-6 After analysis of the Operation ENCLOSE results, at dusk Coastal Command began a second heavy patrol series over the Bay of Biscay, Operation ENCLOSE II, which repeated the pattern set by ENCLOSE of a heavily patrolled 'ribbon' which U-boats crossing the Bay had to cross. This operation had fewer aircraft but was able to field more equipped with the still undetectable centimetric radars (M. Gannon). See April 12-13, below.

Tuesday

- 6 410 Sqn. Mosquito NF.II DD674 lost on a daylight INTRUDER sortie, **F/L C.D. McClosky** and **P/O J.G. Sullivan** PoW.
- 6 #1658 HCU Halifax II W7856 lost an engine on taking off, and had an engine burst into flames while going around to land, and finally lost it's undercarriage making a hasty cross wind landing, Sgt A.T. Fraser RAAF and Sgt R.N. Brand RAF injured, **Sgt R.F. Glass**, Sgt W. Morse RAF and Sgt H. Edwards RAF safe. See July 9-10, below.
- 6 #1658 HCU Halifax II DT612 collided with a vehicle that crossed the runway as it was landing, **Sgt W.H. Wyatt** and his crew safe. See May 27-28, below.
- 6 SS *Vaalaren* torpedoed off Greenland with the loss of all 38 on board, including **Mrs. Margaret Jean Armstrong**, wife of **P/O J.M. Smeaton RCAF (Brazil)**, who was travelling to England to join the WAAF after taking their son to stay with his grandparents in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (discussion page www.rafcommands.com).
- 6 #5 EFTS, High River, Alberta, pilot under training **LAC E.W.R. Bolton** died of natural causes.

- 6-7 159 Sqn. Liberator II AL526 'G' missing from a Special Operation dropping flares off Burma, **F/L W.M. Struthers**, F/S N.E. Powell RNZAF, F/O J.C. Stevenson DFC RAF, F/S J.A. Beach RAF, F/S C.G. Rich RAF, F/S S.F. Pannell RAF, F/S L.E. Wardill RAF, F/S T.J. Gwynn RAF and F/S W.C. Tassell RAF missing (M. Poole). F/L Struthers, F/O Stevenson, F/S Pannell, F/S Gwynn and F/S Wardill had come down in the desert Nov. 8, 1941 (R.M. Stitt).
- 6-7 40 Sqn. Wellington III HZ207 'J' lost in attacking airfields at Sfax, Tunisia, Sgt R.A. Atterton RAF and F/O P.H. Laycock RAF killed, **F/O A. Ittkin**, Sgt R.J. O'Brien RAF and Sgt A. Kenyon RAF missing (BLME V.2).
- 6-7 Bomber Command sent 47 aircraft on GARDENING sorties off the Biscay ports, losing 2 aircraft (BC War Diaries).**
- 6-7 405 Sqn. Halifax II DT699 LQ-G shot down off the French coast on a GARDENING sortie, **F/O J.H. Edwards**, **Sgt A.D. Gordon**, **F/S R.J. Jones**, **F/S F.D. Roberts**, **F/S R.V. Stuart** killed, **F/S F.R.W. Anderson** and Sgt L.R. Wallace RAF missing. This was the last 405 Squadron loss before they transferred to #8 (Pathfinder) group.

- 6-7 427 Sqn. Wellington X HE743 ZL-X crashed on take-off killing **Sgt A.C. Ash** and Sgt J.K. Dodds RAF. Three RCAF crew were seriously burned, **Sgt H.D. Anderson**, **Sgt G.A. Wilson** and **Sgt J.J. Kerr**, all three became Guinea Pigs and their story can be found in R. Donovan's *As For The Canadians* (R. Allenby). The aircraft wreck stopped and burned beside the station bomb storage area, and both Anderson and Wilson took refuge from the burning aircraft in the bomb dump.

Wednesday

7 To counter US operations in the Solomons a large scale air offensive is begun by the Japanese Navy. On this date Guadalcanal and Tulagi are attacked by 180 aircraft (D. Sommerville). Commander in Chief of the Japanese Navy, Admiral Yamamoto, assumes command of these actions from a headquarters in Rabaul, recognizing that Japanese air forces have fewer aircraft, and in the case of naval units, less skilled pilots, while US and Australian air forces are growing in numbers and skills (D. Newton).

Allied TORCH forces and British 8th Army link up in Tunisia.

Bolivia declares war on Axis powers. After the loss of Malaysia Bolivia provided most of the tin needed by the Allies (Oxford). See December 4, below.

#129 (F) Sqn. RCAF deploys from Dartmouth, NS, to Goose Bay, Labrador (RCAF Sqns.).

- 7 112 Sqn. Kittyhawk III FR137 GA-Z force landed in North Africa on a bombing sortie, **Sgt W.R. Blake** safe (Allison & Hayward, raf-112-squadron.org).
- 7 172 Sqn. Wellington XII MP538 lost, **Sgt A.L. Larnier RAF (Nfld)**, Sgt R.C. Cormacey RAF, Sgt W. Forrester RAF, Sgt D. Hutt RAF, Sgt J.D. Miller RAF, and Sgt E.G.A. Taylor RAF missing (CWGC; www.rafcommands.com).
- 7 #124 (Ferry) Sqn., Battle I #2053 was on a ferry flight when the engine failed. Making a force landing near Ogaki, Ontario, the aircraft flew through trees before stopping, damaged beyond repair (S. Shail).
- 7 RAF Ferry Command Catalina Ib FP138 was shot down off France at the end of a ferry flight from Bermuda, **Radio Officer R.L.G. Browne**, Ferry Pilot H.L. Abrin (USA) and Sgt A. Rodgers RAF killed, Ferry Captain E.H. Stafford, F/O K. Thompson RAF and Sgt H.L. Covert RAF (USA) PoW (H. Welting www.rafcommands.com).
- 7 #33 ANS, Mount Hope, Ontario, LAC M.J. Quinn RAF died of injuries from the crash of an Anson on April 5, above.

Thursday

8 #164 (T) Sqn., Moncton, NB, sends a detachment to Edmonton, Alberta (RCAF Sqns.).

- 8 423 Sqn. Sunderland II, **F/O A.A. Bishop**, was flying at low level due to weather when it found a surfaced U-boat, which it then circled to attack. The U-boat made a dive, and only 1 of 4 depth charges dropped was armed and exploded (<http://www.shearwateraviationmuseum.ns.ca/squadrons/423chapter1.htm>, FF Years).
- 8 #5 AOS RAF, Anson I EG361 "C" (?) flew into a hill in the Lake District, killing **F/O R.A. Duff**, **P/O M.H. Finbow**, Sgt J. Cooney RAF, Sgt W.F. Marshall RAF and Sgt H. Motby RAF (www.rafcommands.com).
- 8 #14 AFU Oxford II AB665 was on a training flight when it collided in mid-air with a #1654 HCU Lancaster I L7545 UG-S, both aircraft crashing. **Sgt J.A. Lemmerick** and **Sgt A.A. Moors** were killed in the Oxford, Sgt J. Wallace RAF, P/O J.H. Wolton DFM RAF, Sgt G.F.M. Walker RAF, Sgt L.R. Upperton RAF, Sgt T. Bailey RAF, Sgt R.F. Davidson RAF, Sgt D.G.G. Martin RAF and Sgt B.G. Pilgrim RAF killed on the Lancaster.
- 8 #10 (BR) Sqn., Dartmouth, NS, flies its last patrol with a Digby aircraft (C. Vincent).
- 8 #1 SFTS, Camp Borden, Ontario Harvard II #2948 was overrun on the runway by Harvard II #2905 making a take-off, **F/O W.R. Welsh** was killed in #2948.
- 8 #31 GRS, Charlottetown, PEI, Anson I W1754 lost, F/O J.R. May RAF, Sgt H.R. Simmonds RAF, LAC F.A. Webb RAF and P/O P.S. Wright RAF missing.
- 8 #31 OTU, Debert, NS, Hudson VI FK408 crashed near Sydney, NS on a navigation exercise, **Sgt T.V. Hyland** and Sgt P.W. Elliott RAAF killed (31 OTU/7 OTU Roll of Honour).

8-9 Bomber Command sent 392 bombers with OBOE marking to Duisburg where clouds covered the target and markers, resulting in scattered bombing in Duisburg and the surrounding towns. Nineteen bombers were lost. GARDENING was undertaken by 27 bombers off France with 1 lost (BC War Diaries).

- 8-9 7 Sqn. Stirling I R9199 MG-F lost without trace, **F/S G.C. Gale**, **F/O A.H. Jackson**, **F/O L.J. Stewart**, P/O G.M.M.L. De Millac RAF, Sgt G.M. Boardman RAF, Sgt R.S. Hamilton-Fox RAF, Sgt V. Walters RAF and Sgt R. Wilson RAF missing. F/S Gale had been injured in the loss of a #14 OTU Hampden Nov. 7-8, 1942.
- 8-9 44 Sqn. Lancaster I ED351 KM-Y lost over Germany, **WO2 E. Strandberg**, F/S I.C. Haines RAF, Sgt S. Richardson RAF, Sgt R.A. Asbury RAF, Sgt R.G. Prince RAF, Sgt F.G. Ward RAF and Sgt L.J. Yeo killed.
- 8-9 75 (New Zealand) Sqn. Stirling III BK770 AA-L crashed in England returning from an operation, **WO2 B.A. Moffatt**, **F/S P.G. Stuart**, WO J.A.E. Walsh RNZAF, Sgt S.A. Curtis RAF, Sgt F.H. Reddicliffe RAF, Sgt J.H. Worthington RAF and Sgt J.W. Scudder RAF killed.
- 8-9 100 Sqn. Lancaster III ED568 HW-T lost over Germany, **F/L J.A. McKinnon**, Sgt S.F.W. Chappell RAF, Sgt R.J.B. Montigue RAF, Sgt R.S. Sweetlove RAF, Sgt H.

- Jenkinson RAF, Sgt C.J. Grimshaw RAF and Sgt M.H. Knowles RAF missing.
- 8-9 109 Sqn. Mosquito FB.IV DZ430 crashed just after take-off killing **F/O C.D. McKenna** and his pilot F/O J. Walker RAF.
- 8-9 156 Sqn. Lancaster ED622 GT-Q lost over Germany, **Sgt J.P.M. Grace RAAF**, **F/S R.G. Younger RAAF (Can.)**, Sgt S.M. White RAAF, P/O N. Ferguson RAAF, Sgt R.H. Flett RAAF, Sgt N.G. Stopford RAF and Sgt A.J. Jackson RAF killed. Sgt Grace was married to a resident of Montreal, and F/S Younger was from or married to a resident of Vancouver.
- 8-9 166 Sqn. Wellington III BK361 AS-F lost on an operation to Germany, Sgt G.S. Barclay RNZAF, Sgt R.W. Hart RAF, Sgt A.H. Conrad RAF and Sgt R.F. Limage RAF PoW, **P/O B.M. Marion** evaded.
- 8-9 166 Sqn. Wellington X HE658 AS-S lost over Germany due to severe icing, **F/O J.E. Hardy**, P/O D.H.W. Morgan RAF and Sgt W. Myerscough RAF killed, P/O P.P. Stevens RAF and P/O C.C. Lee RAF PoW.
- 8-9 199 Sqn. Wellington X HE495 EX-L lost on a GARDENING sortie, Sgt J.W. Green RAF killed, **Sgt J.H. Paquin**, **P/O L.R. Townsend**, Sgt K.A. Pinchin RAF and P/O L.C. Wheeler RAF missing.
- 8-9 218 Sqn. Stirling III BF502 HA-P lost without trace, **Sgt D.L.N. Eggleton RAF (Can.)**, Sgt D.A.S. Tomkins RAF, Sgt J.R. Tait RAF, Sgt A. Ridge RAF, Sgt D.C.L. Guest RAF, Sgt T.R. Davidson RAF and Sgt J. Forrest RAF missing. Sgt Eggleton was an RAF Halton Apprentice.
- 8-9 405 Sqn. Halifax, believed to be Mk. II JB905 LQ-X (or HR809, O. Clutton-Brock), lost an engine just before reaching the target. After bombing the aircraft was hit by flak and the other three engines failed. Four of the crew bailed out, **P/O G.E. Bisson** (second pilot), **Sgt A. Whitteron**, **F/S W.A. Wagner RCAF (USA)** and F/S A. Cox DFM RAF, but the pilot, **P/O C.C. Stovel**, managed to restart the engines and returned safely to England with the rest of his crew, **F/S J.E. Bemister**, Sgt G.J. Horton (RAF or RCAF?) and **Sgt G.J. Richardson**. P/O Bisson, Sgt Whitteron and F/S Wagner were PoW, but F/S Cox was killed. P/O Stovel was awarded a DFC for this (H. Welting, richard.k, T. Dubé & F. Williston www.rafcommands.com). See July 27-28, below.
- 8-9 419 Sqn. Halifax II BB327 VR-Q shot down over the target (419 SH), **F/O A.R. Hickey**, **Sgt P.J. Ireland**, **Sgt J.H. Morris**, **F/S D.C. Way**, Sgt R.J. Amos RAF and Sgt K.H. Godbold RAF killed, **Sgt L.E. Turner** PoW.
- 8-9 420 Sqn. Wellington X MS479 PT-F lost over Germany, **WO2 F. Bemi**, **WO2 D.F. Evans**, **P/O K.W.B. MacDonald**, **WO2 R.G. Rispin** and **F/O W.A. Walkinshaw** killed (R. Koval).
- 8-9 424 Sqn. Wellington X HZ272 QB-S damaged by flak and returned on 1 engine, **P/O D. Hackett**, **Sgt N.D. MacDonald**, **Sgt D.F.G. Parker**, F/O A.H. Brook RAF and Sgt M.G. Anderson safe (R. Allenby). See June 27-28, below.
- 8-9 425 Sqn. Wellington X HE592 KW-Q lost over Holland, **WO2 C.W. Burke RCAF (USA)**,

F/O R.G. Cook, P/O O.E.E. Schulz RCAF (Switzerland), F/S J.F. Smith and Sgt P.A. Smith RAF killed.

- 8-9 428 Sqn. Wellington III DF635 NA-I shot down over the target by a night fighter, P/O R.M. Buckham, F/O N.W. Rodin, Sgt J.D. Fraser, P/O G.C. Fletcher RAF and Sgt T. Whitehead RAF PoW. An account of Sgt Buckham, an artist, and his experiences on the PoW forced march which he captured in drawings and became the basis of his book "*Forced March to Freedom*" McGraw-Hill Ryerson, 1990, can be found at <http://www.rafcommands.com/archive/04240.php> .
- 8-9 428 Sqn. Wellington X HE239 NA-Y was on the bomb run when it was hit by flak that tore off the rear turret and the gunner, Sgt L. Bertram RAF, who was killed. The hit also damaged the rudder and took off all the fabric on the rear of the aircraft. Pilot Sgt L.F. Williamson continued the bomb run and dropped, then discovered that the hydraulics were damaged and he could not close the bomb bay doors. Despite this he and the remaining crew managed to return to a safe landing in England (various). Sgt Williamson received the CGM for this (Awards). The aircraft was repaired and returned to service. A plastic model of this aircraft was produced by Matchbox which included artwork of this event.
- 8-9 429 Sqn. Wellington X HZ303 returned with flak damage, gun and intercom problems, Sgt W.J. Mullaney RCAF (USA), Sgt R.C. Ellison RAF, Sgt W.G. Bailey RAF, Sgt H.E.J. Horton RAF and Sgt E.C. Nicholson RAF safe (R. Allenby). See April 14 and April 20-21 below.
- 8-9 431 Sqn. Wellington X HE502 SE-Q received light flak damage, Sgt G.A. Beattie, Sgt J.A. Begg, Sgt L.E. Cragg, Sgt B.P. Jackson RAF and Sgt J.R. Hill RAF returned safe (R. Allenby). See June 14-15 below.
- 8-9 431 Sqn. Wellington HE197 SE-G was hit by flak over the target, Sgt R.T. Barclay RAF, Sgt K. Dix RAF, F/O A.C. Bonner RAF, Sgt M.C. Jefferies RAF and Sgt H. Sweet RAF returned safe (R. Allenby). See May 25-26 below.
- 8-9 466 Sqn. RAAF Wellington X HE155 HD-H lost without trace, WO2 L.R. Crowe, Sgt S.M. Wood RAF, Sgt A.C. Kneeshaw RAF, Sgt J.G. Chalmers RAF and Sgt A.D. Pennycord RAF missing.

Friday

- 9 249 Sqn. Spitfire Vc (Trop.) BR131 lost on a fighter sweep in the Mediterranean, WO2 W.L. Yaholnitsky reported he was bailing out but a search did not locate him and he was killed.
- 9 #2 Air Delivery Unit Kittyhawk Ia EV359 lost on a delivery flight in North Africa, WO2 J.S. Phelps missing.
- 9 195 Sqn. Typhoon Ib DN424 struck a railway signal arm when engaged in low-flying and crashed, F/S W.A. Dixon killed.
- 9 400 Sqn. Mustang I aircraft flown by F/O D.M. Grant and F/O J.W. Pace on a RHUBARB over France attacked 16 trains in succession along one rail line,

credited with damaging or destroying 12 locomotives (FF Years). See April 9, below.

- 9 489 Sqn. RNZAF Hampden TB.I P1189 shot down by fighters off Norway, **F/O L.N. Selthun** killed, **F/S A.B. McDonald**, F/O D.W. Wheeler RAF and Sgt G.H. Smith RAF missing (H. Moyle)
- 9 #111 OTU Nassau, Bahamas, Mitchell II FR379 'DA' lost on an exercise, **Sgt R.L. Burchell**, **Sgt G. Fenton**, **P/O B.B. Goodman**, **F/O G.W. Schafer**, **Sgt G.W. Tompkins**, **P/O A.B. Waton RCAF (USA)** and Sgt R. Farnsworth RAF missing (M. Poole and others at www.rafcommands.com). An inflated dinghy was later found from this aircraft (E. Wiberg).
- 9 #36 SFTS, Penhold, Alberta, Oxford I X6555 crashed, Sgt K.L. Gover RAF and LAC C.W. Smith RAF killed.

9-10 Bomber Command returns to Duisberg with 104 Lancasters and 5 OBOE Mosquito markers where again cloud cover scattered the bombing, 8 Lancasters were lost. Eight more OTU NICKEL sorties were over France without loss (BC War Diaries).

- 9-10 9 Sqn. Lancaster III ED566 WS-J lost without trace, **WO2 H.L. Huether**, **WO2 W.J. Reid**, Sgt A.R. Hobbs RAF, Sgt R.H. Thomas RAF, Sgt S.J. Argent RAF, Sgt A.R.H. Thompson RAF and Sgt D.N. Bysouth RAF missing.
- 9-10 44 Sqn. Lancaster I R5898 KM-G shot down by a night fighter over Holland, Sgt W. Smith RAF, P/O J.H. Salt RAF, Sgt L.J. Nash RAF and Sgt S. Dixon RAF killed, **Sgt J.W. Wardlaw**, Sgt A.M. Cowe RAF, Sgt J.T. Broughton RAF and Sgt H. Waite RAF PoW.
- 9-10 101 Sqn. Lancaster III ED618 SR-X Bar attacked by a night fighter over Holland and exploded, **WO1 J.D. Steele**, F/O N.J. Ritchie RAAF, F/S S. Grundy RAF (S. Africa), F/S M.J. Bennett RAF, Sgt J. Hence RAF, Sgt D. Gould RAF, Sgt W.D. G. O'Brien RAF and the pilot of the night fighter, Lt. O. Köstler, killed. At <http://www.teunispats.net/fr-wwii.htm> it is pointed out that this Lancaster was lost on it's first sortie, and only had 19 hours total flight time.
- 9-10 207 Sqn. Lancaster I ED554 EM-Q shot down by a night fighter over Holland, **WO2 H.A. Healey**, Sgt R.E. Dampier RAF, Sgt R. Bishop RAF, Sgt D.E. Whitaker RAF, Sgt W.L. Whitehouse RAF, F/S A.R. Lewis RAF and F/S C.W. Kleynhans RAF (S. Rhod.) killed. A propellor from this crash was used in a monument in 1998 at Jisp, Netherlands, which commemorates this crew, the crew of a 51 Sqn. Halifax and the crew of a USAAF B-24, all of which came down near this village during the war (J.W. MacFarlane, Air Force Magazine, Vol. 37, #4, 2014).
- 9-10 418 Sqn. Boston III W8325 lost on an INTRUDER sortie over France, after colliding with a German Do 217 on a training flight. Both aircraft crashed, **F/O H.D. Baker**, **F/O D.J. McKay**, Sgt G. Blakeley RAF and S/L H.D. Venables DFC RAF were killed in the Boston and Lt W. Held, Uffz W. Scharfl and Gefr E. Wörmann were killed in

the Dornier (H. Welting, www.rafcommands.com).

Saturday

10 8th Army captures Sfax (CJCA headline) [Tunisia].

- 10 47 Sqn. Beaufort Ia DE112 'R' spun and crashed after take-off in Libya, **P/O H.K. Barber**, Sgt A.B. Dix RAF, Sgt E.S. Blanchard RAF and Sgt A.B. Drew RAF killed (R. Hayward).
- 10 221 Sqn. Wellington Ic HX727 lost off Sicily on a shipping reconnaissance, **F/O D.C. Fennah**, **Sgt R.M. Mayberry**, Sgt J. Douglas RAF, Sgt J. Wright RAF, F/S W. Horning RNZAF and WO A.J. Milner RNZAF missing (E. Martyn).
- 10 242 Sqn. Spitfire Vb ER888 lost off Malta, **P/O J.F. Dockrill** bailed out but was not rescued and is missing.
- 10 56 Sqn. Typhoon Ib R8799 shot down into the sea by flak off Holland, **P/O R.S. Birks RCAF (USA)** missing.
- 10 400 Sqn. Mustang Is flown by **F/O E.I. Hall** and **F/O J.M. Robb** attacked three locomotives and three barges on a low level RHUBARB (FF Years).
- 10 410 Sqn. Mosquito NF.II DZ743 missing on a dawn RANGER over Holland, having flown into trees strafing a parked locomotive, **F/O R.M. Bull** and **F/O J.E. Leach** killed. See <http://www.teunispats.net/fr-wwii.htm> for details.
- 10 415 Sqn. Hampden TB.I P1151 GX-P shot down by flak attacking the Italian blockade runner *MV Himalaya* in the Bay of Biscay, **WO2 G.A. Cline**, **WO2 A.M. Kelly**, F/O W.B. Keown RAF and F/S J.M. Ryan RNZAF missing (H. Moyle; 415 SH).
- 10 415 Sqn. Hampden TB.I GX-Z, W/C G.H.D. Evans pilot, was hit by flak attacking the Italian blockade runner *MV Himalaya*, which damaged an engine and set the fuselage on fire. Rear gunner Sgt E.H. Smith RNZAF managed to extinguish the flames but received burns to his hands and face. He received a DFM for this action. Three other 415 Hampdens were damaged in this attack (FF Years; 415 SH).
- 10 #11 OTU Wellington Ic X9615 struck a runway lighting pole taking off on night circuit training and crashed, Sgt H.W. Allen RAF killed, **Sgt F.W. Bourne** and WO T.W. Burke RNZAF injured.
- 10 #81 OTU Whitley V LA771 'P' stalled and crashed on take off, Sgt W. Berry RAF killed, Sgt L.H. Garnham RAF died of his injuries two days later, **Sgt B.H. Stedman RCAF (USA)** and Sgt G.B. Whalley RAF injured.
- 10 #301 FTU Halifax II BB322 left England for Gibraltar but ran short of fuel and force-landed in Spain, **Sgt E.P. Holter**, Sgt R.S. Barratt RAF, P/O K.P.M. Cran RAF, Sgt G.L. Goldsborough RAF, Sgt H.E. Mate RAF, Sgt W.R. Muncaster RAF and F/O W.A. Pullar RAF interned. They were released in June (BLME V.2).
- 10 Central Gunnery School, Sutton Bridge, England, Wellington Ia N2865 collided in mid-air with a CGS Spitfire Ila P7677 and both crashed, **F/O J.A. Town**, F/O R.R. Hely RAAF, F/L T.C. Stanbury RAF, F/S E. Cooke RAF, F/S C. Harrison RAF and Sgt

- C.R. Archer RAF were killed on the Wellington, the pilot of the Spitfire, F/O E.H. Griffith RAAF, was injured but managed to bail out (A. Storr).
- 10 #1661 HCU Lancaster III ED823 crashed in England after striking high tension power lines on a navigation exercise, **F/S R.D. Lewis**, F/S L.W. Lean RAAF, Sgt F. Dunkin RAAF, F/O E. Lambert RAF, Sgt H.U. Oxspring RAF, Sgt W.S.L. Graham RAF and Sgt W.G. Stephenson RAF killed. A monument to the crew was dedicated April 10, 2011 (*Aeroplane Monthly* June 2011).
- 10 USAAF 383rd B HQ flight L-2B 43-60 (Cub) crashed near Edmonton, Alberta, pilot J.S. Johnson USAAF killed
- 10-11 142 Sqn. Wellington III HF800 QT-O lost over Sicily, **F/S A.J. Burwell**, F/S J.W. Campbell RAAF, F/S M.F. Lay RAAF, F/S W.J. Larcombe RAAF and Sgt E.A. Raby RAF killed (A. Storr; <http://www.aviationarchaeology.org.uk>; BLME V.2).
- 10-11 Frankfurt was the target of 502 bombers but complete cloud cover scattered the bombing, 21 bombers were lost. Seven GARDENING and 4 OTU sorties also flown on this night (BC War Diaries).**
- Also on this night Soviet Il-4 night bombers, usually engaged in tactical operations against railways and airfields, opened a series of attacks on German cities in Prussia, beginning with Königsberg (C. Bergström).**
- 10-11 7 Sqn. Stirling I R9275 MG-Y lost over Luxembourg, **P/O E.A. Allen**, **F/O P.G. Freberg DFC**, **WO2 H.E. Nesbitt**, P/O R.H. Genesis DFM RAF, F/O T.J. Ryder RAF, F/O F.A. Terry RAF and F/S F.N. Barley RAF killed. F/O Freberg had been shot down Sept. 10-11, 1942 in another 7 Sqn. Stirling and evaded, arriving in Gibraltar Oct. 21, 1942.
- 10-11 50 Sqn. Lancaster III ED478 VN-G turned back with a technical fault and came down in the North Sea after jettisoning its bomb load, **WO2 F.G. McGrath**, Sgt R.F. Wilson RAF, Sgt R. Coulson RAF, F/S P.L. Mansfield RAF, P/O A. Cheetham RAF, Sgt C. Birtles RAF and Sgt A.H. Jeffery RAF missing.
- 10-11 57 Sqn. Lancaster III ED766 DX-P lost over Germany, **WO2 R.G. Griffin**, **WO2 G.R. Holm**, **WO2 L.J. LaLonde**, **WO1 J.H. Lemon**, **P/O D.O. McMahon**, Sgt H.J. Coombes RAF and Sgt R.H. Roberts RAF killed.
- 10-11 75 (New Zealand) Sqn. Stirling III BF455 AA-Y was damaged by flak over the target and then engaged in a running fight with night fighters. The aircraft ditched out of fuel short of the English coast where the crew, **Sgt R.E. Tod**, **Sgt R.D. Tod** (twin brothers), F/S C. Rothschild RAF, Sgt E. Grainger RAF, Sgt G. Samson RNZAF, Sgt J.L. Richards RNZAF, Sgt H.E. Moss RAF and Sgt W.A. Hardy RAF, took to their life rafts. They were later rescued by a Walrus ASR aircraft. See June 22-23, below.
- 10-11 100 Sqn. Lancaster III ED760 HW-L lost over Germany, **F/S W. Bodley**, **F/S C.F. Rimmer**, Sgt F.A. Partridge RNZAF, Sgt P. Plowright RAF, Sgt N.F. Hallett RAF, Sgt J.D. Law RAF and Sgt W.H. Hargreaves RAF killed.

- 10-11 115 Sqn. Lancaster II DS604 KO-B lost over France, **Sgt M.A. Lambert**, **WO2 C.M. Smith**, Sgt D.S. Andrew RAF, Sgt L.C. Fitt RAF, Sgt E.V. Hudson RAF, Sgt A.B. Thomas RAF and Sgt V.R. Wilson RAF killed.
- 10-11 166 Sqn. Wellington III X3334 AS-W lost over Germany, **F/S M.R. Dixon**, F/S A. Urquhart RAF, Sgt W. Kinninburgh RAF, Sgt H.E. Williams RAF and Sgt R.G. Edwards RAF killed.
- 10-11 166 Sqn. Wellington III BK459 AS-T lost over France, **F/S T.E. Richardson**, P/O R. Brown RAF, F/O F.D. Clarke RAF, F/O J.M. Everill RAF and Sgt J.R. Gurdon RAF killed.
- 10-11 405 Sqn. Halifax II was damaged by flak returning from an operational sortie, **F/O H.T. Huston**, **Sgt W.H. King**, **Sgt L.D. Kohnke**, **Sgt H.C. McLean**, Sgt J.A. Phillips RAF, Sgt V.A. Knight RAF and Sgt R.A. Andrews RAF safe (R. Allenby). See July 3-4 and July 15-16, below.
- 10-11 420 Sqn. Wellington X HE422 PT-Q lost and abandoned over the English coast, pilot **F/O C.W. Jackson** kept the aircraft in the air until his crew had bailed out, but fell in the sea and drowned. **Sgt H.B. Elhorn**, **Sgt A.H. MacDonald**, **Sgt K.T.P. Allan** and Sgt J.T. Kydd RAF safe (R. Koval). F/O Jackson, Sgt Elhorn and Sgt Kydd had been involved in a crash of a #23 OTU Wellington March 12-13, above. Sgt MacDonald was reported as injured. It is noted in www.aviationarchaeology.org.uk that the abandoned bomber flew 150 miles on autopilot before it ran out of fuel and crashed in England. See Nov. 6, below.
- 10-11 424 Sqn. Wellington X HE159 QB-P crashed in England due to an engine problem after taking off on an operation. The order to bail out was given but only the rear gunner **Sgt A.G. Lees** was able to escape, **WO2 R.M. Buie**, **F/S A.W. Kimmerly**, **P/O L.K. Taylor** and P/O R.W. Thompson RAF were killed in the crash. Sgt Lees landed very close to the burning wreck and made several attempts to rescue his crew members but the fire was too fierce. Sgt Lees, WO Buie and P/O Taylor had bailed out of a 424 Sqn. Wellington Jan. 29-30, above.
- 10-11 426 Sqn. Wellington X HE652 OW-H shot down by a night fighter over Belgium, **P/O J.G. Budreau**, **P/O J. Hehir RCAF (USA)**, **P/O J.H. Sammet**, Sgt G. Levins RAF and Sgt D.A.W. Weller RAF killed. There is a memorial to this loss in the Belgian village of Chimay (letter, *Airforce Magazine*, Fall 1996).
- 10-11 426 Sqn. Wellington X HE866 hit by flak, **P/O L.A. Merrifield** and his crew safe (R. Allenby).
- 10-11 427 Sqn. Wellington was badly damaged by flak, pilot **Sgt F.J. Higgins** managed to bring his bomber back for a safe landing. For this he was awarded a DFM (R. Allenby, Awards). See May 28 below.
- 10-11 429 Sqn. Wellington X HE636 AL-Q lost over Germany, WO D.W. Jefferis RAF, P/O L.S. Knott RAF, WO S.N. Beckett RAF, F/S A.G. Lewis RAF and F/S K.D. Franklin RAF killed (R. Koval).
- 10-11 431 Sqn. Wellington X HE213 SE-F ditched off the Channel Islands, Sgt A. Holden

RAF killed, **F/S G.A. Booth** missing, Sgt W.E. Bidmead RAF, Sgt E.A. Odling RAF and Sgt L.C. Bolke RAF PoW.

10-11 431 Sqn. Wellington X was damaged by numerous flak hits, Sgt G.R.Y. Wood RAF, Sgt E.L. Gummer RAF, Sgt I.E. Mobley RAF, Sgt A. Cresswell RAF and one crew believed to be **Sgt S. Bamford** safe (R. Allenby, W.E. Heron). See May 12-13, below.

Sunday

11 417 Sqn. relocates from Libya to Tunisia (RCAF Sqns.).

Bomber Command sent 8 Mosquitos to attack engineering works and railway shops in the Netherlands, 2 lost (BC War Diaries).

First flight of the Piasecki PV-2, the second successful US helicopter, which made several improvements in design (wikipedia).

11 152 Sqn. Spitfire Vb ER939 was taxiing onto the runway at its base in Tunisia when it was hit by another Spitfire JG868 that was taking off, **P/O L.G. Wallace** killed.

11 232 Sqn. Spitfire Vc JK318 shot down in North Africa, **F/L G.J. Lynes RAF (Can.)** taken PoW but later escaped. Post war he was a test pilot and was killed in 1955 in the crash of a CF-100 (Allison & Hayward; Brian and John E at www.rafcommands.com).

11 232 Sqn. Spitfire shot down just after destroying a Ju 52 in North Africa, **F/L C.F. Sorensen RCAF (Denmark)** PoW (M. Planthin at www.rafcommands.com).

11 139 (Jamaica) Sqn. Mosquito FB.IV DZ470 XD-N was damaged by flak and then shot down by fighters on a daylight operation, **F/O J.H. Brown** and **F/O G. Pounder RAF** killed.

11 #26 OTU Wellington III BJ879 was practicing night circuits when it hit the station's water tower and crashed, **Sgt J.L. Belanger**, Sgt C.J. Fox RAF, Sgt F.B. McHugh RAF and **P/O D.E.J. Bint DFM RAF** killed. There is an historic marker now at the crash site (ComanderChuff www.ww2talk.com).

11 #301 FTU, Ferry Command Hudson VI FK714 landed at Lisbon on a ferry flight, **F/O L.H. Bennett**, **F/O B.E.A. Vye** and **Sgt J.R.P. Hogan** were briefly interned before being released (www.conscript-heroes.com MI-9 files; www.warrelics.eu). See Sept. 27, below.

11-12 150 Sqn. Wellington III HZ189 was hit by flak illuminating a landing ground in Tunisia. Pilot **Sgt J.C. Leckie** ordered a bail-out then crash landed the bomber. All the crew except the tail gunner, Sgt N.T.E. Hewitt RAAF, were found safe the next day by an army patrol, but Sgt Hewitt had broken his ankle and took 3 days to reach the crash site, where he was picked up by a further patrol (BLME V.2). See April 30, below.

11-12 Forty six bombers were sent on GARDENING off Holland and France, 2 lost (BC

War Diaries).

- 11-12 418 Sqn. Boston?, S/L P. Burton-Gyles sighted and shot down an unidentified German aircraft over France and chased a second (FF Years).
- 11-12 425 Sqn. Wellington X HE491 KW-B (or U) lost on a GARDENING sortie off Denmark, **F/O E. Kitt RCAF (USA)** killed, **F/S E.R. Carvajal RCAF (USA)**, **F/O G.W. Elliott**, **F/O R.J. Howard** and Sgt B.W.A. Perry RAF missing (R. Koval).
- 11-12 #23 OTU Wellington III BJ786 was on a night navigation exercise when it suddenly dove into the ground, **F/S A.A. Dorzek**, **Sgt R.A. Killham**, **F/S A.N. MacLellan**, **F/S F.E. Rogers**, **F/S D.H. Smith** and **F/S J.O.T.A.A.G. Toupin** killed. W.R. Chorley notes that the pilot F/S Rogers was only 17 at the time of his death.

Monday

12 Allied forces occupy Sousse in North Africa (D. Newton).

- 12 152 Sqn. Hurricane KX126 crashed in the harbour of Sousse in North Africa, killing **F/O J.M. Hogg**, who was attached to 152 from 32 Sqn.
- 12 180 Sqn. Mitchell II FL676 crash landed in England, **P/O H.M. Wygle**, **Sgt R.E. Manser**, **Sgt C.G. Kernaghan** and Sgt J.K. Fulton RAF safe. See May 26, below.
- 12 #304 Ferry Training Unit Beaufighter VIc JL589 missing from a navigation exercise, **WO1 F.J. Morrow** and his navigator Sgt L.A. Pestell RAF missing or killed (www.rafcommands.com).
- 12 RAF Ferry Command, Baltimore IIIa FA314 crashed near Georgetown, St. Vincent Island, enroute to Trinidad, **Ferry Captain L.D. Faulkner**, Sgt D.W. Perry RAF and Sgt G.J.H. Carter RAAF killed (A. Storr).
- 12 #1 SFTS, Camp Borden, Ontario, Harvard II #2556 crashed, Sgt C.V. Smith RAF killed. (This was the second fatal accident involving this aircraft, see Oct. 15, 1941).
- 12 #32 SFTS, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Oxford II AS930 crashed, LAC M.P. O'Connor RAF killed.
- 12 USAAF C-64A (Norseman) 43-5119 damaged in a landing accident at Fish Lake, Yukon (AAIR).
- 12 USAAF 25th Ferry Sqn. P-39N 42-9578 damaged in a take-off accident at Watson Lake, Yukon (AAIR).

12-13 The Coastal Command Operation ENCLOSE II ended at dawn over the Bay of Biscay. Only 25 U-boats crossed the patrolled 'ribbon' during this period, but 11 were spotted, 4 were attacked and again 1 had been sunk and 1 badly damaged. The clear success led to the tactics being expanded as more aircraft equipped with centimetric radar became available (including 407 Squadron RCAF now operational on Leigh Light Wellingtons), and a new Operation, DERANGE, began with a wider patrol area, and no limit on it's time (M. Gannon). See April 27, below.

Tuesday

13 German radio announces discovery of mass graves of Polish officers executed by the Soviets at the Katyn Forest near Smolensk, the beginning of a large propaganda effort designed to split the Allies and to mask criticism of German atrocities (wikipedia). The Katyn Forest graves were excavated and documented in detail by the Germans, who discovered the bodies of 4,000 Polish officers executed by the Soviet NKVD there, 11,000 others remain unaccounted for. This is the best documented Soviet mass murder carried out under Stalin, of which there were hundreds.

- 13 60 Sqn. India, Blenheim IV V5445 exploded in mid-air on an operational flight, **WO2 D.G. MacLeod**, F/O M. Duncan RAF and WO R.P. West RAF missing (C. Shores).
- 13 204 Sqn. Sunderland III JM669 lost off Port Etienne, West Africa, **F/O W.H.N. Pearce**, F/O H.L. Beesley RAF, WO E.L. Watts RAF, Sgt G.G. Ambler RAF, Sgt E.F. Crossman RAF, Sgt L.E. Jones RAF, Sgt E.W. Lord RAF, Sgt A.S. Penney RAF, Sgt E.B. Smith RAF, Sgt R. Smith RAF missing (H. Welting www.rafcommands.com).
- 13 489 Sqn. RNZAF Hampden TB.I P1257 lost on a daylight torpedo operation off Norway, **WO2 F.M. Holobow**, Sgt I. Griffiths RNZAF and F/S W.J. MacErlich RNZAF killed, F/O A.E.B. Barnard RAF missing (H. Moyle).
- 13 #13 OTU Blenheim I L8379 'B' was taking off when an engine failed, the pilot, F/O D.G. Mossman RAF, retracted the undercarriage to keep from overrunning the airfield, he and **P/O E.R. Semple**, were unhurt.
- 13 #32 OTU, Patricia Bay, BC, Canadian built Hampden TB.I AN121 crashed inverted into the sea after completing a practice bombing, killing **Sgt D.D. MacGillivray**, P/O J.S. Peterkin RAF and Sgt R.T. Barrow RAAF, and injuring Sgt K.E. Thompson RAF (A. Storr, H. Moyle).

13-14 Bomber Command sent 211 bombers to attack the port at La Spezia in Italy, 4 were lost. Of note is that 3 damaged aircraft were able to land in North Africa where they were later repaired and returned to England. As well, 6 Mosquitos carried out a series of nuisance raids on Hamburg, Bremen and Wilhelmshaven. These non-OBOE sorties were designed to keep German defences on widespread and continuous alert every night. The Mosquitos, with their high speed, were almost impossible to intercept. Later modifications would double the bomb load, and the Mosquito force would grow into it's own special Bomber Command section, the Light Night Strike Force (BC War Diaries).

- 13-14 12 Sqn. Lancaster III ED714 PH-K lost over France, **F/S E.A. Appelgate**, **F/S E.H. Bakeman RCAF (USA)**, **F/O E.F. Dynarski RCAF (USA)**, Sgt W.E.F. Clark RAF, Sgt C.N. Clay RAF, Sgt J.L.A. Mulligan RAF and Sgt F.G. Sayers RAF killed.
- 13-14 103 Sqn. Lancaster I W4828 PM-G lost over France, **WO1 J.W. Toon**, Sgt G.W. Houlston RAF, Sgt S. Moseley RAF, Sgt A.M. Munn RAF, F/L E.C. Lee-Brown RAF,

F/S J.J. O'Brien DFM RAF and P/O J. Smart RAF killed.

13-14 400 Sqn. Mustang I AP259 SP-R, **F/O D.M. Grant**, on the Squadrons first night RHUBARB, joined the circuit of an enemy airfield in France and shot down a Do 217, the Squadrons first confirmed victory (RCAF Sqns, FF Years). See September 28, 1943.

Wednesday

14 After a week of heavy land based and carrier aircraft attacks in the Solomons and New Guinea the Japanese Navy halts it's air attacks, having taken heavy losses while inflicting only moderate damage to Allied bases and shipping (D. Sommerville). Japanese evaluations, however, claim heavy damage to Allied air forces, naval units and cargo ships, and believe they have done enough to prevent any further advances in the theatre in the immediate future (D. Newton).

- 14 411 Sqn. Spitfire Vb EN907 went down over France on a RHUBARB, **F/L J.G. Banford** killed.
- 14 411 Sqn. Spitfire Vb P8175 shot down over the English Channel on a RHUBARB, **F/L W.T. Johnstone** was last seen in his dinghy, but was lost and is missing.
- 14 411 Sqn. Spitfire Vb EP489 shot down over English Channel while part of an ASR flight looking for pilots shot down on the RHUBARB, Squadron commanding officer **S/L D.G.E. Ball** missing.
- 14 429 Sqn. Wellington X HZ303 stalled and crashed from low level into the village of Huntington on an air test in England, **F/S J.R.E. Clark**, P/O H.W.G. Gray RAF, F/S L.A. Walker RAF, F/S C. Marr RAF, and F/O W.J. Whittaker RAF killed from the aircrew, and on the ground Miss Jane Raby Freer, Mrs. Henrietta Morley and Miss Clara Jane Pickard were killed in two houses that were demolished (R. Allenby).
- 14 #1 (Refresher) Squadron, Rockcliffe, Ontario, Harvard IIb #3065 caught fire in the air and crashed at East Templeton, Quebec, killing **LAC(P) F.H. Grinstad**.
- 14 #1 Technical Training School, St. Thomas, Ontario, aero engine mechanic **AC2 J.A. Zakem** died in hospital of natural causes.
- 14 #2 Wireless School, Calgary, Alberta, Fort #3593 crashed near Delacour, Alberta, **Sgt T.J.H. Doolan** and **LAC(WAG) A.A. Lunke** killed.

14-15 Stuttgart was attacked by Bomber Command with 462 bombers. Initial marking was accurate but the bombing began to move back from the aiming points along the line of approach, an effect later called "creepback". This night the bombing came back over the neighbouring towns of Munster, Muhlhausen and Bad Canstatt, an industrial centre. An air raid shelter with French and Russian prisoners was hit, causing the deaths of 300 PoWs. About the same number of Germans citizens and soldiers were killed as well, making this the highest number killed in Germany in a single attack to date. Twenty three

bombers were lost (BC War Diaries).

In Prussia around 65 Soviet bombers were operating, attacking scattered targets including Danzig (C. Bergström).

German bombers attack Chelmsford in England (ww2total.com Chronology/1943).

- 14-15 7 Sqn. Stirling I R9278 MG-E shot down over France by a night fighter, P/O J.R.T. Taylor DFC RAF, Sgt A.H. Smith RAF, S/L R.H. Lunney RAF, WO D. Ness RAF and Sgt T. Morley RAF PoW, **F/S D.K. Nolan** and Sgt F.G.A. Weight RAF evaded.
- 14-15 7 Sqn. Stirling III BK769 MG-G lost over Germany, **WO2 L.W. Bartman, P/O A.L. Foster**, F/S F.J. Britton RAF, Sgt L.F. Harris RAF, Sgt R.V. Jennings RAF, Sgt G. Wade RAF and S/L R.W. McCarthy RAF (NZ) killed.
- 14-15 7 Sqn. Stirling III BK709 MG-P shot down by a night fighter over Germany, **F/S H.E. Budd, P/O M. Mank RCAF (USA), F/S J.T.R.J. Roy, Sgt H.D. Oke**, Sgt R.R. Fox RAF, Sgt P. Wadding RAF and Sgt A. Walker RAF killed.
- 14-15 76 Sqn. Halifax II DT698 MP-W was attacked by night fighters, one of which, a Ju 88 was claimed shot down by the rear gunner, **Sgt W.W.A. Wanless**. Badly damaged the bomber was written off making a flap-less crash landing at a fighter airfield in England where Sgt M.F. Weir RAF died of wounds received in the attack. The rest of the crew, Sgt Wanless, Sgt J. Carrie RAF, Sgt R. Huke RAF, Sgt G.B. Thomason RAF, Sgt E.L. McVitie RAF and Sgt S.M. Davis RAF, were safe. See August 23-24, below.
- 14-15 90 Sqn. Stirling III BF462 WP-P shot down by night fighters over France, **WO2 R.B. Blake**, Sgt S.F. Gould RAF, Sgt S. Hammond RAF, Sgt H. Noar RAF, Sgt R.J. Palmer RAF and Sgt E.A. Shaw RAF killed, P/O R.J. Beldin RAF PoW.
- 14-15 102 Sqn. Halifax II HR668 was damaged over France outbound and was forced to return early on 3 engines, **Sgt A.C. Weir**, Sgt W.A. Griffiths RAF, Sgt W.C. Marsh RAF, F/S J.G.H. Mansell RAF, Sgt B.C.J. White RAF, Sgt J.T. Smith RAF and Sgt J.K. Campbell RAF safe (R. Allenby). See April 20-21, below.
- 14-15 106 Sqn. Lancaster III ED752 ZN-H lost over France, S/L J. Latimer DFC RAF, Sgt G.W. Hancock RAF, Lt(A) G. Muttrie RNVR, Sgt H. Buxton RAF and Sgt W.T. McLean RAF killed, **P/O J.A. Burns**, F/L L.C.J. Brodrick RAF and Sgt H. Jones RAF PoW.
- 14-15 149 Sqn. Stirling III BF500 OJ-M lost over France, **F/S T.W. Foran, WO2 R.R. Stover, F/O L.G. Vallance, P/O D.B. White**, Sgt A.J. White RAF, Sgt E. Farnen RAF and Sgt K.S.A. Payne RAF killed. WO Stover had survived an accident in a #23 OTU Wellington July 13, 1942.
- 14-15 149 Sqn. Stirling III BK759 OJ-X lost over Germany, **P/O E.M. Merritt**, P/O T.G. Ogle RAF, Sgt V.J. Upson RAF, Sgt D. Lenahan RAF, Sgt L. Jones RAF, F/S W. Stephen RAF and Sgt H. Waters RAF killed.
- 14-15 214 Sqn. Stirling I EF331 BU-H shot down over France by a night fighter, **F/S E.H.**

- Ingram, Sgt H.C. Dent RAF, Sgt R.E. Dutton RAF, Sgt T. Shepherd RAF, Sgt J.W. Williams RAF, P/O L. Powell RAF, and F/O E.H. Scott RAF killed.
- 14-15 408 Sqn. Halifax II BB311 EQ-L shot down over France by a night fighter, Sgt J.J. Courtney RAF killed, P/O L.E. Usher RCAF (USA), Sgt R.E. Dressler, P/O G.M. Parkinson, Sgt I.R. MacDonald, Sgt W. Reed and P/O R.H. Jay PoW. See *Flypast*, Dec. 2004, for a description of this loss, which reports that P/O G.M. Parkinson and Sgt I.R. MacDonald evaded and almost reached Spain before being captured.
- 14-15 408 Sqn. Halifax II JB909 EQ-G was shot down by a night fighter over France, the pilot P/O I.C. Mackenzie RAAF stayed at the controls to allow his crew to escape and also steered the failing bomber clear of the village of la Neuville, but was killed. The rest of the crew were safe, Sgt L.W. McKenzie, F/S J.S. Murray, F/O A. Playfair RAF, Sgt T.J. Coupland RAF, P/O C. O'Connell RAAF and P/O W.A. McIlroy RAF were taken PoW and Sgt W.L. Canter evaded. After the war the villagers of la Neuville erected a memorial to P/O Mackenzie. See April 22-23, 1944.
- 14-15 415 Sqn. Hampden TB.I torpedo bombers flown by P/O P.N. Harris RAF and Sgt K.C. Wathen RAAF claim two ships damaged off the Dutch coast (FF Years, <http://www.415sqn.com/hampdon-crews.html>). The Norwegian *MV Borga* was sunk and the Swedish *MV Tom* was damaged (415 SH).
- 14-15 418 Sqn. Mosquito, W/C J.H. Little RAF (Can.), Squadron commanding officer, shot down a German aircraft landing in France while under fire from flak (FF Years). See June 12, below.
- 14-15 420 Sqn. Wellington X HE550 PT-G shot down over France by a night fighter, F/O S. Brown and P/O J.A. Simpson killed, Sgt H.N. McKinnon RAF PoW, S/L F.V. Taylor and F/O G.C. Crowther evaded. There is a reference to this aircraft in *Aeroplane Monthly*, Oct. 1990, and in *Flypast*, December 2004.
- 14-15 420 Sqn. Wellington X HE863 PT-C shot down over France by a night fighter, WO2 W.G. Blight, WO2 P.J. Cozens, F/S L. Dutton, F/S S.G. Giffin and F/S J. Paplowski killed (R. Koval). [Aircraft crews and serial numbers as determined by W.H. Chorley. R. Koval's #6 Group "Daily Operations" page has them reversed. Chorley identifies HE550 as aircraft 'G', but the website as 'C'.].
- 14-15 424 Sqn. Wellington X HZ273 QB-G lost on an operation to Germany, Sgt A.R. Harrison, F/S F. Rath, Sgt E.A. McQuarrie, Sgt A.J. Cockaday and Sgt J.E. Malkin RAF PoW. W.R. Chorley notes Sgt Cockaday was repatriated in Oct. 1944, no details.
- 14-15 425 Sqn. Wellington III X3763 KW-L lost over France, F/O J.O.L. Desroches DFC, F/O J.A.T. Doucette DFC, F/O G.P.H. Ledoux, WO2 P.P. Trudeau, Sgt A. Jones RAF and Sgt D. Vollans RAF killed. On May 8-9, 1993, a memorial wall was dedicated at Mussey-sur-Marne cemetery, with the names of 110 Allied airmen buried there, including this crew (*Legion*, April 1993). This aircraft was the subject of an Airfix model kit, based on a series of air to air photographs taken when it was marked as KW-E. The artwork of that kit showed the bomber under attack by Bf 109 aircraft in

daylight, which might refer to the sortie of November 6, 1942 for which F/O Doucette was awarded his DFC.

- 14-15 425 Sqn. Wellington X HE733 KW-S "S-Savard" lost on an operation to Germany, **Sgt R.B. Dingman**, **P/O H.E. Garland**, **P/O T.R.C. Irwin**, Sgt C.A.F.W. Griffin RAF and Sgt E.C.M. Guyatt RAF PoW. P/O Irwin had just returned from leave, and rushed to make the flight with his crew even though another crewman had been assigned to the flight. See *Flypast*, Dec. 2004, for a description of this loss. P/O Garland was involved in The Great Escape, March 24-25, 1944 (<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/harold-garland-was-one-of-the-last-survivors-of-the-great-escape/article1413705/>).
- 14-15 428 Sqn. Wellington X HE176 NA-F shot down over Germany, pilot **WO2 W.S. Harris** held control until his crew bailed out but was killed, **Sgt R.T. Sutton**, **Sgt J.L. Warren**, **P/O D.H. Ferry** and **F/S T.H. White** were PoW.
- 14-15 431 Sqn. Wellington X HE374 SE-X was hit by flak and night fighters before reaching it's target. Severely damaged the bomber diverted to Switzerland where the crew, **Sgt R.A. McEwan**, Sgt J.V. Avery RAF, Sgt W.H. Shields RAF, Sgt W. Boddy RAF and Sgt J.C. Cash RAF, bailed out and were interned. They were repatriated June 29, 1943, in exchange for the release of German internees. Ironically Sgt McEwan, now a commissioned Pilot Officer, was killed June 28-29, 1944, over France one year to the day after his repatriation. This was the first Bomber Command aircraft lost over Switzerland. See also *Aeroplane Monthly*, Oct. 1990 for reference to this loss.
- 14-15 431 Sqn. Wellington X HZ357 SE-S shot down by a night fighter over Germany, Sgt L. Denby RAF, Sgt W.A.W. Hunter RAF, Sgt J.G. Adam RAF and Sgt J.J. O'Hagan RAF killed, P/O A.J. McDonald RNZAF PoW.
- 14-15 431 Sqn. Wellington X HE201 SE-T, Sgt J. Morton RAF, claimed 2 twin engined night fighters destroyed, they returned with slight damage, Sgt Morton, Sgt D.F. Rands RAF, Sgt R. Holmes RAF, Sgt G.S. Milner RAF and Sgt T. Bell (Sgt J.A. Bell RAF?) safe (R. Koval, R. Allenby, W.E. Heron). See Nov. 25-26, below.
- 14-15 431 Sqn. Wellington X HE394 SE-V damaged over the target by flak, **Sgt G.A. Beattie**, **Sgt J.A. Begg**, **Sgt L.E. Cragg**, Sgt B.P. Jackson RAF and Sgt J.R. Hill RAF returned safe (R. Allenby).

Thursday

15 First production Boeing B-29 comes off the Wichita plant production line.

As a result of the Washington Convoy Conference the first Consolidated Liberator bombers are delivered to the RCAF for conversion to VLR aircraft (Griffin CMA).

- 15 194 Sqn. Hudson VI FK411 crashed in India just after taking off, F/S A.E Britten-Jones RAAF and F/S A Brown RAF killed, **P/O J.R. Curtis**, P/O F.J. Andrew RAF, P/O E.L.

- Herring RAF and Sgt F. Gloster RAAF injured (A. Storr). See February 16 and April 9, 1943.
- 15 First Chindit Force, **F/L K.M. Wheatley** was taken PoW around this date, but escaped(www.chinditslongcloth1943.com). See April 27, below.
- 15 119 Sqn. Sunderland III DP176 made a forced landing in the Bay of Biscay after it shed a propellor which hit and took off a second propellor, **F/O K.R. Waters**, F/L L.J. Davies RAF and Sgt T. Galloway RAF missing, F/L J.V. Gibson, F/O P.R. McIntosh, F/O K.T. Every, P/O R.H. Tierney, Sgt A.A. Thompson, Sgt V. Lower, Sgt H.T. French, Sgt A.W. Parker and LAC E. Owen were rescued the next day (pondskater theflyingboatforum). This was the first Sunderland completed at the dispersed factory at Lake Windermere in the Lake District.
- 15 #55 OTU Canadian built Hurricane X AF984 crashed in Scotland, **WO2 W.M. Hicks** killed.
- 15 #1654 HCU Manchester I L7294 crashed attempting to land with an engine failure, **Sgt W.H. Eager**, Sgt T.D. Viggers RAF, Sgt H.T. Petts RAF, Sgt T.H. James RAF, Sgt F.R. Stone RAF, Sgt G.E. Huntington RAF and Sgt A. Jones RAF injured. See Dec. 16, below.
- 15 #130 (F) Sqn. RCAF, Kittyhawk I #1054 crashed and written off at Saguenay, Quebec (now called Bagotville) (R.W.R. Walker).
- 15 #133 (F) Sqn. RCAF, Hurricane XII #5387 FN-D broke away from a formation training flight without explanation and crashed 30 minutes later near the Boundary Bay, BC, airfield, killing **Sgt E.E. Grissom RCAF (USA)** (R.W.R. Walker).
- 15 #32 OTU, Patricia Bay, BC, Canadian built Hampden TB.I AN133 swung on landing and collapsed it's undercarriage, no casualties (H. Moyle).
- 15 RCAF Yarmouth?, aero engine mechanic **Sgt C.G. Dixon** drowned at Chebogue Harbour, Yarmouth, NS.
- 15 USAAF 25th Ferry Sqn. P-39N 42-9258 crashed near Whitehorse, Yukon, 2Lt F.G. Garyson killed (AAIR).
- 15 USAAF 476th B HQ flight C-45 (Expeditor) damaged at Aishihik, Yukon (AAIR).
- 15-16 37 Sqn. Wellington X HF811 was illuminating an airfield in Tunisia when it exploded over the target, **F/S G.D. Cline**, F/S L.W. Baldwin RAF, Sgt W.F. Biggs RAF, F/O D.C. Payne RAF, F/S J.G. Baker RAF and F/O A.W. Marsden-Levy RAF have no known grave (BLME V.2).
- Friday
- 16 104 Sqn. Wellington HX668 lost over Tunisia, **WO2 A.R. Twiss RCAF (USA)**, **F/S W.J. Watters**, Sgt L. Lewis RAF, F/O M.A. Harland RAAF and F/L D.B. Panting RAF killed.
- 16 412 Sqn. Spitfire Vc shot down off France, **W/C P.G.St.G. O'Brian DFC RAF (Can.)** bailed out and rescued (FF Years).

- 16 487 Sqn. RNZAF Ventura II AE877 was landing after being recalled from a daylight operation when an undercarriage leg collapsed and the aircraft was damaged beyond repair, **Sgt H.W. Toombs**, **Sgt J.C. Lynass**, Sgt J.W. Lowe RAF and Sgt A.E. Downs RAF safe. See May 3, below.
- 16 #34 SFTS, Medicine Hat, Alberta, Cornell I FJ654 crashed, LAC J.H. Evans RAF and Sgt J.R. Mason RAF killed.
- 16-17 104 Sqn. Wellington Ic HX668 'S' lost over Tunisia, **WO2 A.R. Twiss RCAF (USA)**, **F/S W.J. Watters**, Sgt L. Lewis RAF, F/O M.A. Harland RAAF and F/L D.B. Panting RAF killed (BLME V.2).

16-17 Bomber Command sent 327 Lancasters and Halifax bombers to attack the Skoda armament works at Pilsen, Czechoslovakia. Thirty six bombers were lost. The target was untouched, most of the bombing was expended in error on an asylum building several miles from the target. An additional attack was made on Mannheim by 271 bombers where marking was accurate and damage was heavy. Eighteen bombers were lost from this attack. With 11 OTU NICKEL flights the total number of sorties dispatched was 609, with 54 lost. Many came down in the sea short of fuel where their crews were rescued (BC War Diaries). (A personal account of this long range attack was written by Sgt W.R. Laws DFM, Aeroplane Monthly, Feb. 1978).

A further Soviet bomber attack was made against Danzig. German night fighter units have been deployed to Prussia to counter these (C. Bergström).

The Luftwaffe sent 30 fighter bombers to make a night attack on London, but only 2 bomb the target, 3 more land in error in England (ww2total.com Chronology/1943).

- 16-17 10 Sqn. Halifax II DT791 ZA-K was hit by flak that knocked out one engine, and crossing the enemy coast was hit again and lost a second engine. The bomber flew to England on 2 engines and crash landed, **P/O F.N. Prebble**, F/L J.R. Wood RAF, Sgt F.W. Beare RAF, P/O K.F. Whynes RAF, P/O C.G. Stepney RAF, P/O C.L. Walshaw RAF, Sgt P.C. O'Kill RAF and Sgt Rooney injured (R. Allenby).
- 16-17 12 Sqn. Lancaster I W4366, **F/S J.A. McKay** bailed out and was taken PoW, circumstances unknown. O. Clutton-Brock notes he may have broken his hip landing.
- 16-17 15 Sqn. Stirling III BF474 LS-H lost over France, **P/O K.M. Piche RCAF (USA)**, **F/S B.J.A. Bessette**, Sgt J. Gould RAF, Sgt D.J.A. Hyde RAF, Sgt L.A. James RAF, Sgt J.P. Lacy RAF, P/O C.B. Perring RAF and P/O J.L. Sheills DFM RAF killed. Sgt Bessette, F/S Shiells, Sgt Perring, Sgt James, Sgt Gould and Sgt Hyde had all survived a crash of a 15 Sqn. Stirling March 22-23, above.

- 16-17 35 Sqn. Halifax II W7873 TL-M hit by flak and abandoned over France, **F/S J.R. Martyn**, F/S C. Bourne RAF, P/O G. Cruikshank RAF and Sgt J.W. Young RAF killed, F/L W.R. Owen RAF PoW, F/S W.G. Allen RAF and F/S D.R. Bradley RAF evaded.
- 16-17 49 Sqn. Lancaster III ED427 EA-O lost without trace, **P/O B.E. Watt**, F/O A.V. Bone RAF, Sgt R.N.P. Foster RAF, Sgt C.W. Yelland RAF, Sgt R.J. Rooney RAF, Sgt R.C. White RAF and Sgt R. Cope RAF missing. In 2012 research led to the discovery of the wreckage near Frankfurt, the bomber having been shot down by flak on the return journey. The remains of two crew had been found after the crash and interred in an undiscovered location. In 2012 the remains of 5 crewmen were discovered and given a military funeral (www.telegraph.co.uk).
- 16-17 51 Sqn. Halifax II DT561 MH-K lost over Germany, **WO2 F.G. McCardle**, Sgt E.W. Cox RAF, Sgt S.J. Briffett RAF, Sgt R.C. Burt RAF, Sgt W.A. Rodgers RAF, Sgt L.R. Bray RAF and Sgt R.A. McLaren RAF killed.
- 16-17 51 Sqn. Halifax II HR784 lost over France, **P/O R.H. Stewart**, F/S D. Axtell DFM RAF, P/O W.R. McBriar RAF, Sgt D.H. Reid RAF, F/O T.C. Robinson RAF and P/O F.M. Thompson RAF killed, WO W.R. Keirnan DFM RAF PoW.
- 16-17 75 (New Zealand) Sqn. Stirling I BF451 AA-Z lost over France, believed to have been shot down by a night fighter, **WO2 J.O. Way**, P/O K.H.G. Groves RNZAF, Sgt R.C. Stone RNZAF, Sgt L.C. Cameron RAF, Sgt T.G. Shergold RAF, Sgt R.L. Pierson RAF, Sgt R.F. Wanstell RAF and Sgt L.L. Everden RAF killed.
- 16-17 75 (New Zealand) Sqn. Stirling III W7469 AA-O lost over Germany, **WO2 R.J. Barnes**, P/O K.F. Debenham RNZAF, Sgt D.M.T. Watts RAF, Sgt P.B. Pearson RAF, Sgt J.L. Marlow RAF and Sgt J.J. Davis RAF killed, Sgt D. Wainwright RAF PoW.
- 16-17 76 Sqn. Halifax II DT575 MP-Y lost over France, **Sgt L.N. Jonasson**, **F/S F.O. Ross**, Sgt S.H.C. Brown RAF, Sgt B.J. Clinging RAF, Sgt F.C. Fidgeon RAF, Sgt J. Strachan RAF and Sgt B.W. Wedderburn RAF killed.
- 16-17 76 Sqn. Halifax II JB800 MP-U lost over Germany, **F/S F.A. Robb**, Sgt G.C. Wright RAF, P/O H.E. Smith RAF, Sgt A.N. Cooper RAF and P/O J.F. Webb RAF killed, Sgt A.G.C. Read RAF and Sgt D.B. Wombwell RAF PoW. Sgt Read was killed as a PoW April 19, 1945, when the column of prisoners he was in was strafed by Allied fighters in error.
- 16-17 76 Sqn. Halifax V DK165 MP-E lost over Germany, **Sgt A.R. Ross**, Sgt K.E. Webb RAF, Sgt S. Braybrook RAF, Sgt K.R.G. Williams RAF, Sgt J. Kay RAF and F/S G. Brown RAF killed, Sgt L.B. Mitchell PoW. This was the first Halifax V lost on a Main Force operation. See also Jan. 15-16 above, 161 Sqn.
- 16-17 77 Sqn. Halifax II HR714 KN-K damaged by flak over the target of Mannheim, **Sgt R.G. Hume**, Sgt R. Watson RAF, Sgt R.C.M. Douglas RAF, Sgt A.P. Deighton RAF, Sgt J.B. Watt RAF, Sgt T. Pearson RAF, Sgt A. Luke RAF and F/O A.W. Thomas returned safe (R. Allenby). See April 20-21 below.
- 16-17 77 Sqn. Halifax II JB852 KN-G was hit by flak over the target, **Sgt E. Fedi**, F/O D.P.

Puddephatt RAF, Sgt M.J.H. Brookes, Sgt J.I.P. Morgan RAF, Sgt L.W. Bolton RAF, Sgt G.S. Walton RAF and Sgt R.A. Halestrap RAF returned safely (R. Allenby). See September 6-7, below.

- 16-17 78 Sqn. Halifax II DT773 shot down over Germany by a night fighter. F/L A.P. Dowse DFC RAF (Eire) stayed at the controls until the crew escaped and but was killed, **F/S R. Des Jardins** or **Desjardins**, Sgt P. Langsford RNZAF, Sgt T.T. Slater RAF, Sgt H.E. Thompson RAF, Sgt A.W. Hoare RAF and F/O A.N. Orr RAF PoW (PC www.rafcommands.com). Sgt Thompson was severely wounded, and had to have a leg amputated. He was later repatriated.
- 16-17 83 Sqn. Lancaster I R5622 OL-C lost over Czechoslovakia, **F/O N.M. McLellan**, **Sgt A. Podolsky**, P/O F.C. Milton RAF, F/S R. Beaven DFM RAF, F/O W.B. Wells RAF, F/S J. Rodgers RAF and Sgt M. Kleinhorn RAF killed.
- 16-17 83 Sqn. Lancaster I R5484 OL-W lost over France attempting to return on 2 engines, pilot **P/O G.A. McNichol** killed, but his crew **F/O H.H.F. Beaupre**, **P/O T.W. Lewis RCAF (USA)**, **Sgt C.E. Hobbs**, WO G.C. Mott RAF, F/S G.S. MacFarlane RAF and Sgt H.R. Willis RAF bailed out to become PoW.
- 16-17 90 Sqn. Stirling III BK725 WP-M attacked by a night fighter and crash landed in France, P/O P.D. White RAF PoW, **Sgt W.E. Phillips**, Sgt A. Smith RAF, P/O S.F. Everiss RAF, P/O D.G. Ross RAF, Sgt E.G. Gaisford RAF, Sgt J.B. Ford RAF and Sgt W.J. Fitzgerald RAF evaded.
- 16-17 100 Sqn. Lancaster III ED563 HW-G lost over Germany, **F/S I.S. Brown**, **F/S P. Rudick**, F/S P.V. Monk RAAF, Sgt D.K. Atkinson RNZAF, Sgt N. Vanston RAF, Sgt J. Rutter RAF and Sgt R.F. Clutterbuck RAF killed.
- 16-17 100 Sqn. Lancaster III ED564 HW-H lost over Germany, **F/S W.H. George**, F/L R.E. Milliken RNZAF, Sgt T.E. Jones RAF, Sgt W.H. Walton RAF, Sgt R.E.J. Hunt RAF, Sgt G.J. Good RAF and Sgt M. Whitby RAF killed.
- 16-17 101 Sqn. Lancaster I ED379 SR-F lost over Germany, **F/S J.H. Fitch**, Sgt C.K. Menzies RAAF, P/O T.M. Taylor RAAF, Sgt H.A. Upton RAF, Sgt H. Evans RAF and Sgt J. Monks RAF killed, Sgt L. Green RAF PoW. Sgt Menzies brother, Sgt S.K. Menzies RAAF, had been killed February 1942 in the Dutch East Indies (Dean www.rafcommands.com).
- 16-17 103 Sqn. Lancaster I W4848 PM-L lost over Germany, **F/O A.H. Gipson**, Sgt J.O.B. Mooney RNZAF, P/O F.J. Hudson RAF, Sgt V.J. Merefield RAF and Sgt R.W. Harley RAF killed, Sgt S. Biggs RAF and **Sgt H.J.D. Rowse RAF (Can.)** PoW (R. McNeill www.rafcommands.com).
- 16-17 156 Sqn. Lancaster I W4930 lost over France, **F/S L.E. Corley RCAF (USA)**, Sgt H.B. Gonce RAF (USA), P/O M.C. Anastassiades RAF (Cyprus), Sgt M.M. Muirhead RAF, Sgt J.G.K. Dean RAF, Sgt H.D. Rowe RAF and Sgt J. Boyd RAF killed.
- 16-17 158 Sqn. Halifax II HR758 NP-Y lost over Germany, shot down by a night fighter, F/O B.P. Jay RAAF and P/O K.A. Barrett RAF killed, **Sgt C.D. Fawcett**, Sgt F.E. Holmes RAF, Sgt G.D.W. Scholes RAF, Sgt A. Ford RAF and Sgt R. Newdick RAF PoW.

See rs1800's entry on the www.rafcommands.com discussion page on this loss for details.

- 16-17 166 Sqn. Wellington X HE862 AS-L ditched in the sea off France due to engine problems, F/O S.J. Lupton RAF and Sgt W.F. Whitfield RAF missing, **Sgt J.P. Merton RCAF (USA)** was injured and died soon after the ditching, F/O R.A. Lord RAF and F/O E.G. Hadingham RAF were later rescued. Sgt Merton was the brother of the philosopher and Trappist monk Thomas Merton.
- 16-17 196 Sqn. Wellington X HE469 ran out of fuel and was abandoned over England returning from an operation over Germany, **Sgt A.M. Long**, W/C A.G. Duguid RAF, P/O E.H. Swain RAF, P/O F. Darbyshire RAF and Sgt J.F. Ray RAF safe. See July 5-6, below.
- 16-17 214 Sqn. Stirling III BK653 BU-A attacked by single engine fighters and crash landed in France, Sgt E.M. Lee RAF killed, Sgt C.G. Walton RAF and Sgt G.B. Gallagher RAF PoW, **F/O D.E. James**, Sgt W.G. Grove RAF, Sgt J. Hall RAF, F/S J.A. Smith RAF and Sgt R.W. Adams RAF evaded (www.conscript-heroes.com MI-9 files).
- 16-17 218 Sqn. Stirling III BF514 HA-X lost over France, **F/S E.J. Longstaff RCAF (USA)**, **Sgt D.E. Roberts**, Sgt F.J. Knight RAF, F/O K.S. Bird RAF and P/O D.F. Howlett RAF killed, Sgt L.W. Canning RAF and Sgt W. Hamilton RAF evaded.
- 16-17 263 Sqn. Whirlwind I P6995 lost on a NIGHT RHUBARB to France, **F/O E. Brearley** killed.
- 16-17 408 Sqn. Halifax II BB343 EQ-X lost over France on a sortie to Czechoslovakia, **Sgt H.W. Fill**, **WO2 J.J.A. Guay**, **F/S L.G. Haines**, **Sgt I. MacDonald**, **Sgt F.R.J. Pilon**, Sgt R.H. Winter RAF and Sgt A.P. Gielly RAF killed.
- 16-17 408 Sqn. Halifax II JB925 EQ-R crashed in Germany, **F/S J.W. Gibson**, **F/L C.O. Hatle**, **Sgt W.G. Kapuscinski**, **P/O T.H. O'Connell**, **Sgt H. Richmond**, **Sgt A.A. Tschantre RCAF (USA)**, P/O L.H. Holmes RAF and Sgt S.F. Osmond RAF killed. P/O O'Connell had been injured September 8, 1941 during training with #4 SFTS. F/L Hatle, Sgt Kapuscinski, Sgt Osmond, Sgt Richmond and Sgt Tschantre had all survived a crash of a Halifax March 12-13, above.
- 16-17 408 Sqn. Halifax II DT752 EQ-W shot down over Belgium by a night fighter, **Sgt C.D. Heming**, **Sgt W. Kwasney**, **Sgt H.G. Machell**, **F/O J.R.L. Sergeant**, Sgt G.M. Hill RAF, Sgt F.R. Cocks RAF and Sgt D.F. Gargrave RAF killed. B. Barry et al notes that F/O Sergeant's remains were not found (identified?) until 1948. A monument to this aircraft is located at the crash site near Nassogne, Belgium.
- 16-17 408 Sqn. Halifax II JB854 EQ-D came down in France, **Sgt S. Archie**, **WO2 R. Birchall**, **Sgt A.C. Cantley**, **Sgt G.C. Heming**, **Sgt S.J. Jorgenson**, **Sgt D. Zaleschuk** and Sgt R.W. Mason RAF killed. **Sgt C.D. Heming** lost in Halifax DT752 above, and **Sgt G.C. Heming** lost in this aircraft, were not related, and the loss of these two airmen, the only RCAF casualties of the war with this surname, on the same night and from the same squadron, is one of the co-incidences that just give historians grey hairs! Sgt Archie's family name was Achtymeczuk (B. Barry et al). Sgt Zaleschuk's

brother also served in the RCAF in the war and after. He was killed in a CF-100 accident in 1955 as **S/L G.J. Zaleschuk** (B. Barry et al).

- 16-17 408 Sqn. Halifax II DT769 EQ-J was attacked by a Ju 88 night fighter which was evaded, but over Czechoslovakia was hit by flak that took off the astrodome, **P/O A.O. Smuck** and his crew returned safe (R. Allenby). See July 13-14, below.
- 16-17 408 Sqn. Halifax II DT673 EQ-A was returning from an operational sortie and crashed when landing when the undercarriage malfunctioned, **Sgt J.B. Cameron**, **F/S F.W. Wood**, P/O C. O'Connell RAAF, Sgt R.W. Duncanson RAF, Sgt J.H. McNess RAF, P/O W.A. McIlroy RAF and F/S I.J. or L.J. Palmer (RCAF or RAF?) safe (R. Allenby).
- 16-17 409 Sqn. Beaufighter VI f V8454, **P/O D. Grant**, was on a Night INTRUDER and was hit by flak attacking a train which wounded navigator PO E.V. Domone DFC RAF, whose leg had to amputated after landing (N.L.R. Franks; aviation-safety.net).
- 16-17 420 Sqn. Wellington X HE682 PT-T was attacked by a night fighter and exploded over Belgium, **F/S L.M. Horahan**, **F/S J.E. Isaacs RCAF (Nfld.)**, **F/S L.K. Plank** and Sgt H.S. Radford RAF killed, **Sgt K.T.P. Allan** PoW.
- 16-17 425 Sqn. Wellington X HE475 KW-E crashed in Germany, **F/S J.M. Leblanc** and P/O H. Gray RAF killed, **Sgt P.J. Bujold**, Sgt W. Harris RAF and Sgt W.F. Redding RAAF PoW.
- 16-17 426 Sqn. Wellington X HE591 OW-R shot down by a night fighter over France, **WO2 J.C. Kennedy**, **F/S E.A. Whalen**, Sgt J. Parkinson RAF, Sgt L. Thompson RAF and F/O R.G. Wood RAF killed.
- 16-17 426 Sqn. Wellington III BK505 was damaged by flak, **Sgt J.H. Evans**, **Sgt R.A. Henry**, **F/L J.G. McNeill**, **Sgt H.M. Smith** and P/O J.D.B.V. Reffitt RAF returned safe (R. Allenby). See August 21, 1944.
- 16-17 427 Sqn. Wellington X HE547 ZL-D lost over Germany, **F/S S. Tomy** killed, **Sgt W. Ostaficuik**, Sgt G.W. Hall RAF, Sgt A.T. Symons RAF and Sgt A.F. Johnson RAF PoW.
- 16-17 427 Sqn. Wellington X HE745 ZL-E crash landed returning from operations over Germany, **Sgt P.K. Chambers**, **F/S R. Moore**, **F/S B.L. Owen**, **Sgt H.L.A. McCormick** and **Sgt B.H. Garroutte** all slightly injured. See July 3-4, below.
- 16-17 427 Sqn. Wellington damaged by flak over Mannheim, **Sgt J.D. Hamilton**, **Sgt J.J. Reansbury**, **Sgt G.L. Tyrone RCAF (USA)**, Sgt N.G. Whiting RAF and Sgt G.D. Sharp RAF returned safe (R. Allenby). See June 22-23, below.
- 16-17 429 Sqn. Wellington III BK162 AL-B shot down by a combination of flak and a night fighter over France, **F/L G.A. Lunn**, **F/S D.S. Ritchie**, F/S G. Gill RAF, S/L F.A. Holmes DFC RAF and F/O J. McMaster RAF killed, Sgt J.R. Milne RAF evaded. This was the last Wellington III lost on Main Force operations.
- 16-17 431 Sqn. Wellington X HE379 SE-H lost in Germany, Sgt M.R. Hadland RAF killed, **P/O W.E. Paton**, **Sgt R.G. Rudd**, Sgt H. Sutterby RAF and Sgt P.F. Cartwright RAF PoW.

16-17 460 Sqn. RAAF Lancaster I W4939 UV-L was hit by flak over Czechoslovakia, F/S K.W. Giles RAAF, F/S R.W. Morgan RAAF, F/S S. Gordon RAAF, Sgt A.W. Delohery RAAF, F/S A.J. Mohr RAF, Sgt W.B. Brimelow RAF and it is believed **Sgt G.R. Smith** returned safe (R. Allenby).

16-17 466 Sqn. RAAF Wellington X HE501 HD-J lost over France, **WO2 G.K. Young**, P/O C.F. Tozer RAAF, Sgt G. Errington RAF, Sgt H.E. Jones RAF and Sgt R.K. White RAF killed.

Saturday

17 #14 (F) RCAF Sqn. detachment arrives at the forward airstrip at Amchitka, Alaska (442 SH).

USAAF daylight attack by 115 bombers on aircraft factories at Bremen, losing 16 bombers and 48 damaged, but inflicting heavy damage (Zijlstra).

Two 411 Spitfires led by **P/O D. Matheson provide an escort for the Gloster E.28/39 W4046 jet on it's first cross country flight to a demonstration before PM Churchill, and escort it back April 20th, having been sworn to secrecy (411 SH). See December 1, below.**

Convoy HX-233 was attacked by U-628 that damaged the Canadian built freighter Fort Rampart on it's maiden voyage from Vancouver to England with general cargo and lumber. Damaged, the Fort Rampart fell behind and later was again attacked and damaged by U-628. After midnight it was again torpedoed by U-226 and sank with the loss of 6 crew. The corvette HMCS Arvida picked up 47 crew and 3 passengers (www.uboaat.net).

17 112 Sqn. Kittyhawks FR338 and FR517 GA-R collided taxiing in after landing, **F/S W.D. Brown** and F/O E. Ross RAF safe (Allison & Hayward, raf-112-squadron.org). See April 19, below.

17 56 Sqn. Typhoon Ib DN478 had an engine failure off the Dutch coast, **F/O E.N. Cluderay** bailed out but was not found by air-sea rescue and is missing.

17 418 Sqn. Boston III W8278 destroyed by fire in a taxiing accident, crew safe (H.A. Halliday www.rafcommands.com).

17 #23 EFTS, Davidson, Saskatchewan, Cornell I FH951 crashed into the bank of a creek in a low flying area south of Girvin, Saskatchewan, **LAC(P) H.A.F. Smith** and **Sgt J.G. Sullivan RCAF (USA)** killed.

17 RCAF Station Coal Harbour, BC, **LAC G.C. Ady** died of injuries sustained in a truck accident.

17-18 400 Sqn. Mustang I AG528 hit by flak and abandoned over France on a NIGHT RHUBARB, **F/L M.B. Pepper** PoW (L. Viton and H. Welting at

www.rafcommands.com; FF Years). Possibly marked as 'SP-B'
(<http://www.cbrnp.com/profiles/quarter2/mustangs.htm>).

17-18 409 Sqn. Beaufighter VI/V8718 lost on a flight over occupied territory, P/O B.M. Harker and Sgt V.I. Williams RAF missing.

Sunday

18 Based on decoded radio messages 16 USAAF P-38 fighters with modified drop tanks make an extreme long distance interception from Guadalcanal and shoot down 2 Japanese naval bombers being used as transports, killing Japanese Naval C-in-C Admiral Yamamoto and many of his staff (wikipedia). Although the transport planes were escorted by 6 armed naval A6M fighters they were meant as an honour guard to the Admiral, as no land based Allied fighter had ever penetrated so far into Japanese controlled areas before, and they were caught off guard and outnumbered. One P-38 was lost.

Operation FLAX, on this date over 100 transport aircraft attempting to fly supplies into the Axis area of Tunisia are intercepted over the sea by USAAF and Commonwealth fighters, and nearly half are shot down (D. Sommerville, D. Newton).

Beginning of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising in Poland (wikipedia).

#14 (F) Sqn. makes it's first operational sortie with 4 Kittyhawk I aircraft attacking targets on Kiska from Amchitka as part of a US attack (RCAF Sqns.).

18 409 Sqn. Beaufighter VI/V X8259 was on a training flight and camera gun exercise, hit and damaged by Beaufighter X8142 in error, Sgt H.F. Pearce and his navigator landed safely (aviation-safety.net).

18 #1 Torpedo Training Unit Hampden I AT125 crashed into the sea after a mid-air collision with a Wellington LB237, Sgt R.S. Cordingley RAF killed, F/S J.B. Reid and Sgt E. Vevers RAF missing (Margaret www.rafcommands.com). The Wellington landed safely (H. Moyle).

18 #1659 HCU RCAF Halifax II R9448 'L' spun out of control practicing 2 engine flight and crashed in England, possibly a victim of rudder over-balance, S/L H.S. Hill DFC, WO1 R.L. Locker, F/S H.D. Messier, F/S E.W. Pitt, WO E.A. Clyde RAF, Sgt J.L. Gunn RAF, Sgt F.O. Bonham RAF and F/O B.T. Davies RAF killed (R. Allenby).

18 unknown unit, AC2(P) H.C. Amero RCAF (USA) died in hospital in Montreal of natural causes (www.rafcommands.com).

18 #1 SFTS, Camp Borden, Ontario, Harvard IIb #FE587 crashed through ice near Christian Island, Georgian Bay, killing LAC(P) J.A. Johnston RCAF (USA).

18 #31 GRS, Charlottetown, PEI, Anson I R9599 lost Sgt K.K. Bell RAF, P/O C.J. Hamment RAF, P/O J.F.L. Wise RAF and LAC R. Wilkes RAF missing (C. Charland

www.rafcommands.com).

18-19 221 Sqn. Wellington X HX487 lost in the Mediterranean, **F/O D.M. Swanson**, S/L M. Foulis DFC & Bar RAF, F/O G.W. Pain DFC RAF, F/O L.E. Thompson RAF, Sgt T.H. Page RAF and Sgt A. Penlington RAF missing (H. Welting www.rafcommands.com).

18-19 221 Sqn. Wellington VIII LB115 lost in Mediterranean, **WO2 C.R.D. Hurley**, **P/O J.R. Gaudet**, F/L R.I. Fraser RAF, Sgt B.W. Miller RAF, Sgt W. Morton RAF and F/S W. Scott RAF missing (H. Welting www.rafcommands.com).

18-19 Bomber Command returned to La Spezia with a force of 178 bombers and 8 GARDENING aircraft, plus 10 more GARDENING sorties in the Bay of Biscay and 5 OTU sorties, 1 bomber lost (BC War Diaries).

18-19 156 Sqn. Lancaster I W4849 GT-G believed lost in the sea off the French coast, Sgt A.K. Eley RAF killed, **F/S N.O. Robinson**, Sgt G.S. Cooper RAF, Sgt R. Harrison RAF, Sgt K. Coulson RAF, Sgt J.J. Vaulkhard RAF and Sgt D.R. Edwards RAF missing.

Monday

19 Further mass flights of transports to Tunisia suffer heavy losses to Allied fighters (D. Sommerville).

405 Sqn. RCAF joins #8 (Pathfinder) Group, Bomber Command, as the RCAF's only Pathfinder Squadron (CCMA, RCAF Sqns.).

19 13 Sqn. Blenheim V EH312 crash landed in Algeria on a sortie to attack the airfield at Bizerta, Tunisia, **F/O R.R. Lipsit**, **Sgt E.C.J. Roney** and Sgt C.D.C. Cox RAF safe for the second time (BLME V.2). See April 19, below.

19 112 Sqn. Kittyhawk III FL882 GA-H damaged and written off in combat, **WO W.D. Brown** safe (Allison & Hayward, raf-112-squadron.org).

19 417 Sqn. Spitfire Vb (Trop.) ER345 shot down by enemy fighters escorting Kittyhawk aircraft in the Western Desert, **F/O D.E. Bruce** missing (www.spitfires.ukf.net).

19 417 Sqn. Spitfire Vb ES135, ER634 and Vb (Trop.) ER343 shot down by enemy fighters escorting Kittyhawk aircraft, **F/O G.C. Armstrong**, **F/O L.C. Grant** and **F/O J.M. Riley** taken PoW (www.spitfires.ukf.net; 417 SH; www.rafcommands.com).

19 417 Sqn. Spitfire Vb, **F/O B.N.M. de Larminat RCAF (Argentina)** was returning from the above fight in a damaged aircraft, discovered and attacked two Ju 87 aircraft, claiming one probably destroyed (417 SH).

19 417 Sqn. Spitfire Vb, **F/O E.W. Mitchell**, claimed damage to a Bf 109 before being attacked and forced to break off (FF Years).

19 404 Sqn. first shipping victory, Beaufighter IXc, **F/S K.S. Miller** and Sgt J. Young RAF credited with damaging a vessel off Norway on a coastal reconnaissance (RCAF Sqns.).

- 19 416 Sqn. Spitfire IX BR635 written off when it retracted it's wheels too soon taking off, P/O R.M. Cook injured (ww.spitfires.ukf.net, 416 SH).
- 19 430 Sqn. Mustang I AP181 crashed after a mid-air collision with 602 Sqn. Spitfire AR430, below, F/O G.F.R. Jackson RCAF (USA) killed.
- 19 602 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AR430 crashed in England after a mid-air collision with 430 Sqn. Mustang AP181, above, F/O F.G. Willis killed.
- 19 #22 OTU Wellington III DF743 LT-L was on a cross country flight carrying 2 Belgian Special Air Service paratroopers for air experience when it crashed in England, F/O H.B. Elliott, Sgt A.E. Lightheart, F/S J.O. Munro, Sgt W.C. Scott, Sgt A.A. Chambers RAF, Private E. Battaille and Private F. De Pauw were killed.
- 19 #55 OTU ex-RCAF Hurricane I #319 written off in a crash landing, P/O G.L.C. Jaspis RAF (Belgium) safe (C. Vincent; ettrick40 and others at www.rafcommands.com).
- 19 #1663 HCU Halifax V DG352 hit a tree trying to go around from a poor three engined landing, S/L R.P. Wilkin DFC MC (Czech.) MiD, Sgt R. Sykes RAF and their crew safe (R. Allenby). See September 19-20, below.
- 19 #45 Delivery Group, RAF Ferry Command Baltimore IIIa FA330 lost on a delivery flight from Natal, Brazil to Ascension Island, F/O J.D. Grant, Ferry Captain J.G. Durham (USA) and Radio Operator H.A. Picher missing.
- 19 #31 OTU, Debert, NS, Hudson V AM773 lost on an anti-submarine patrol, Sgt P.M. Burns RAAF and Sgt A. Longstaff RAF killed, Sgt J.A. Gillis and P/O J. Howard-Bangs RAF missing (31 OTU/7 OTU Roll of Honour).
- 19 #9 SFTS, Centralia, Ontario, Anson II #7353 was engaged in flight training when it crashed near Seaforth, Ontario, killing F/S S.O. Cunningham and LAC G.W. Tarbath RAF.
- 19 #10 EFTS DH-82C Tiger Moth #8491 crashed near Curran, Ontario, Sgt H.G. Baggs killed, student LAC T.G. Stahlbrand badly injured (Tony Broadhurst at www.rafcommands.com).
- 19-20 410 Sqn. Mosquito NF.II DZ694 lost on a RANGER patrol over Germany, WO2 W.J. Reddie and Sgt K. Evans RAF missing.

Tuesday

**20 Canada pays cost of maintaining airmen overseas (CJCA headline)
[announcement].**

In England use of church bells for services again permitted (K. Farrington).

- 20 287 Sqn. Oxford I HN177 stalled and crashed at Croydon, England, killing WO2 W.D. Bates RCAF (Nfld).
- 20 412 Sqn. Spitfire Vc EE686 VZ-R force landed in Cornwall after an engine failure, pilot injured (www.rafdavidstowmoor.org).

20-21 Stettin was attacked by a force of 339 bombers that accurately attacked and burned out the centre of the city where it's industrial heart was located, destroying or damaging many of the industrial buildings there, 21 bombers were lost. On the ground 586 people were killed. The Heinkel works at Rostock were also attacked by 86 Stirlings with the loss of 8; bombing was scattered by a smoke screen. Other operations included 11 Mosquitos on a diversion raid on Berlin, 18 GARDENING and 3 OTU sorties with 1 Mosquito lost (BC War Diaries).

Soviet bombers made an attack on Tilsit which left fires and over 100 killed, their most successful attack so far (C. Bergström).

20-21 7 Sqn. Stirling I R9261 MG-M shot down over Denmark by a night fighter, **S/L W.A. Blake RAF (Can.)**, **F/S L.J. Krulicki**, **WO2 J.S. Marshall**, **P/O E.R. Vance**, Sgt D.C. Farley RAF, Sgt J. Lees RAF and **F/L C.W. Parish RAF** killed, **Sgt D.V. Smith** evaded and returned to England via Sweden.

20-21 10 Sqn. Halifax II JB930 ZA-H shot down by flak over Denmark, **F/L T.B. Baker RCAF (USA)**, Sgt F. Glover RAF, Sgt R.S. Burr RAF, Sgt D.E. Taylor RAF, Sgt R. Bell RAF, Sgt E.J. Phillips RAF and Sgt R.E. Everett RAF PoW (H. Welting & Amrit, www.rafcommands.com).

20-21 35 Sqn. Halifax II JB785, was struck by incendiaries dropped by an aircraft coned by searchlights and under attack by flak above them, some of which struck the aircraft into the interior and set the cockpit, navigation and flight engineers positions, and the pilot's clothing, on fire. The pilot, **P/O W.S. Sherk DFC RAF**, ordered a bail-out, and while the wireless operator **F/O G.G. McGladrey** fought the flames and the flight engineer **Sgt D.G. Bebensee** worked to free the controls. Tail gunner **F/S E.T. Woonton** and bomb aimer **F/S M.S. Keon** bailed out, but the order was cancelled when the pilot regained control and the fires were extinguished. Most of the navigation equipment was destroyed, but navigator **F/O R.G. Morrison** worked out a course that brought the badly damaged bomber back to England and a safe landing for the crew including mid-upper gunner Sgt G.F. Murray. **F/S Woonton** and **WO2 Keon** were taken PoW, and **P/O Sherk** received a bar to his DFC, **F/O McGladrey** and **F/O Morrison** each received a DFC, and Sgt Bebensee a DFM (O. Clutton-Brock; <https://35squadron.wordpress.com>). See July 13-14, below.

20-21 57 Sqn. Lancaster I W4254 lost without trace, **F/O R.F. Collins**, Sgt R.V. Emerson RAF, Sgt D. O'Louchlin RAF, **P/O F.R.H. Tate RAF**, Sgt H.C. Fazakerley RAF, Sgt K. Norris RAF and Sgt K.R.A. Whitcombe RAF missing.

20-21 57 Sqn. Lancaster I ED770 lost over Poland, **F/S T.A. McDowell**, **F/L I.S. Jenks RAF**, Sgt J. Bryant RAF, Sgt A.J. Britton RAF, Sgt A. Smithdale RAF, Sgt L. Turvey RAF and Sgt G. Cooper killed.

20-21 61 Sqn. Lancaster I W4795 lost over Germany, **P/O J.L. Rossignol RCAF (USA)**, Sgt P.T. Smith RAF, Sgt G. Fellows RAF, Sgt T.C.J. Grist RAF, Sgt J.F. McNeill RAF and

- Sgt M.C. Burgoine RAF killed, Sgt W.J. Jackson RAF has no known grave.
- 20-21 77 Sqn. Halifax II HR714 KN-K lost over Denmark, **F/S R.G. Hume**, Sgt R.C.M. Douglas RAF, Sgt A. Luke RAF, Sgt T. Pearson RAF, Sgt R. Watson RAF, Sgt J.B. Watt RAF and Sgt R.C.M. Deighton RAF killed.
- 20-21 77 Sqn. Halifax II DT793 was over Denmark returning to England when it was damaged by naval flak, **F/S T.M. Moran**, Sgt J.D. Mahony RAF (Eire), Sgt L.A. Stimpson RAF, P/O G.C. Fenton RAF, Sgt R.G. Miles RAF, Sgt W.A. Pasqual RAF and Sgt J.T. Murray RAF returned safe (R. Allenby). See May 12-13, below.
- 20-21 83 Sqn. Lancaster I ED312 OL-F was damaged by a night fighter. Losing fuel it diverted to Sweden and attempted to land, but was unsuccessful and ditched off the coast, **P/O C.P. McDonald**, Sgt T.J. Parrington RAF, P/O V.W.J. Nunn RAF, Sgt C.M. Paley RAF, Sgt M.A. Coles RAF, **F/S C.J. Ford** RAF (wounded) and **F/O J.F. Crebbin** DFC RAF interned. They were soon returned to England. See Sept. 29-30 below.
- 20-21 90 Sqn. Stirling I BF442 WP-K lost, believed over the Baltic Sea, **P/O C.L. Maunder** killed, **F/S C. McKerns**, P/O R.F. Elliot RNZAF, Sgt B.L. Neal RAF, Sgt C.B. Barrott RAF, Sgt A. Chadwick RAF and Sgt N.L. Fauvel RAF missing.
- 20-21 90 Sqn. Stirling III BF508 WP-S crashed off the Danish coast, **Sgt C.D. McKelvie** RAF (Can.), **F/L A.S.W. Prioleau** RAF and Sgt D. Stowe RAF were killed and Sgt H. Munnery RAF, Sgt W.T. Leathley RAF, Sgt R.H. Dunstan RAF and Sgt M. Leonard RAF missing.
- 20-21 102 Sqn. Halifax II DT747 lost over Denmark, **Sgt A.C. Weir**, Sgt T.S.E. Bennett RNZAF, Sgt W.A. Griffiths RAF, Sgt J.T. Smith RAF, Sgt W.C. Marsh RAF, Sgt J.K. Campbell RAF, Sgt A. Jenkinson RAF and Sgt B.C.J. White RAF killed.
- 20-21 102 Sqn. Halifax II HR712 shot down by flak over Denmark, **F/S G.H. Bartman**, Sgt F.W. Day RAF, Sgt G.L. Doidge RAF, Sgt J.B.M. Irving RAF and Sgt A.F. Warner RAF killed, Sgt P.R. Olliver RAF and Sgt G.S. Meldrum RAF PoW.
- 20-21 102 Sqn. Halifax II W7920 was damaged in the controls over Germany, **Sgt J.R. Flannery**, **F/O H.S. Hartley** RAF, Sgt W.H. Hughes RAF, Sgt T.A. Hicks RAF, Sgt L. Lazenby RAF, Sgt J.F. Thomson and Sgt H.J. Hooper returned safe (R. Allenby).
- 20-21 419 Sqn. Halifax II JB912 VR-B shot down by a night fighter, mid-upper gunner **F/S D.A. Watkins** DFM RAF killed, **P/O T.E. Jackson**, **Sgt J.F. Westerman** RCAF (USA), **Sgt C.J. Sebastien**, **F/S J.M. Carlton**, **P/O J.R. Fry**, **Sgt T.M. Crandell** and Sgt E. Jury RAF PoW.
- 20-21 429 Sqn. Wellington X HE414 AL-H crash landed in England after being damaged by flak on a GARDENING sortie, **Sgt W.G. Bailey**, **Sgt W.J. Mullaney**, Sgt R.C. Ellison RAF, Sgt H.E.J. Horton RAF and Sgt E.C. Nicholson RAF safe. See June 11-12, below (R. Koval).

Wednesday

21 A German offensive in the Kuban Brigehead at the tip of the Taman Peninsula,

designed to re-open a German advance on the Caucasus, was proceeding slowly under strong Luftwaffe protection. It had been planned to make a breakthrough on April 20, Hitler's birthday, but the Soviet air forces were heavily reinforced from reserve units and, using new tactics, took the Luftwaffe by surprise and stopped the attack on that day. On this date the Soviet aircraft outnumbered the Luftwaffe and their fighter groups held back German fighters, allowing their bombers and ground attack aircraft to inflict very high casualties on the German ground forces. Fighter losses were high as the Soviet fighters (LaGG-3, La-5, Yak-1, Yak-7B, P-40 and P-39) were outclassed by the Bf 109G, and the pilots were not as experienced, but the temporary halt to the planned German offensive was actually permanent, although neither side could know this at the time (C. Bergström).

A later Soviet ground offensive pushed the Germans back to a stronger defensive line where they were able to hold, due to a temporary increase in support by the Luftwaffe in the region, but by early June ground fighting had petered out on this front. However it was in this fighting that the Soviet air forces had learned the methods and tactics that would defeat the Luftwaffe (C. Bergström). See July 5, below, and the battle of the Kursk Salient.

After a series of daylight attacks without loss over northwest Europe, 3 of a force of 11 Venturas were lost attacking the railway yards at Abbeville, France (BC War Diaries).

Westbound Convoy ONS-5 departs England for Halifax (wikipedia). Over Convoy HX-234 south of Greenland VLR Liberator coverage was provided by a 120 Sqn. aircraft flying at extreme range from Iceland and recovering at Goose Bay, Labrador, the first shuttle convoy escort. It sighted and attacked 1 U-boat but the depth charges failed to release (D. Syrett).

- 21 69 Sqn. Baltimore II AG806 missing from operations in the Mediterranean, **Sgt R.F.C. Porter**, F/S S.G. Cottrell RNZAF, F/S E.H. Lankshear RNZAF and F/S E. Waters RAF missing.
- 21 21 Sqn. Ventura I AE692 YH-K shot down by fighters after bombing a rail yard in France, **P/O W.A. Lyttle** killed, **P/O F.J.M. Ashdown**, **F/S D.J.K. Wallace** and Sgt R.H. Wells RAF have no known graves.
- 21 #1 (Coastal) OTU Hudson V AM807 went down in the sea off England, **F/S J.C. Eyre** and **F/S W.M. Spafford**, F/O R.A. Dorsett RAF and F/O C.P. Ellis RAF missing (www.rafcommands.com).
- 21 #5 (Coastal) OTU Beaufort Ia EK973 suffered an engine fire and crashed in Scotland, **F/O W. Raets** and Sgt S. Pitcher RAF killed, **P/O A.R. Elliott** injured (R. Hayward; www.rafcommands.com). See Aug. 14, 1944.

- 21 #56 OTU Hurricane I V6938 crashed practicing low flying, **Sgt A.H. Leuty** killed.
- 21 #111 OTU, Nassau, Bahamas, Mitchell II FL184 'BB' crashed into the sea, **P/O J.R. McLean**, **P/O J. Vallance** and F/O J.E. Tickler RAF missing. Wreckage and a dinghy were recovered that day, location of crash localized but not found (E. Wiberg).
- 21 **LAC(WAG) J.F. Kedrosky** was discharged as physically unfit in February 1942 and died in hospital in Renfrew, Ontario of natural causes (www.rafcommands.com).

21-22 Luftwaffe attack on Aberdeen results in 125 killed when an air raid shelter is hit (ww2total.com Chronology/1943, wikipedia).

- 21-22 *MV Amerika*, a 10,000 ton ship with a crew of 87 and with 53 RCAF officers on board as passengers, part of HX-234, was torpedoed by a U-boat off the coast of Greenland, 49 crew and 37 airmen were lost, 38 crew and 16 airmen were picked up by the corvette *HMS Asphodel* after spending 4 hours in a damaged lifeboat. Lost at sea include pilots **F/O J.W. Borum RCAF (USA)**, **P/O A.C. Clipsham**, **P/O H.H. Healy**, **F/O J.H. Hetherington**, **P/O R.S. Jardine**, **P/O E.M. MacDonald**, bomb aimers **P/O L.L. Bradley**, **P/O E.W. Bray**, **P/O S.W. Dean**, **P/O B.G. Fife**, **P/O F.G. Gibson**, **P/O D.V. Jackson**, **P/O M. Johnson**, **P/O F.B. Keys**, **P/O T.W. Kidd**, **P/O D.P. Lamont**, **P/O A.S. MacDonald**, **F/O R.S. McCloskey**, **P/O J.E. Moore**, **P/O H.F. O'Connell**, **P/O R.K. Ollis**, **P/O G.W. Pidduck**, **P/O T.J. Ritchie**, **P/O J.N. Rombough**, **P/O W.A. Scott**, **P/O W.O. Slack**, **F/L E.B. Thompson**, **P/O J. Tyler**, **P/O J.H. Warren**, navigators **P/O D.M. Clarke**, **P/O R.B. Clarke**, **P/O C.A. Harding**, **P/O A.J. Mosser**, **P/O R.W. Mosser**, **P/O A.H. Pearson**, **P/O K.B. Woods** and observer **P/O J.J.B. Martin**. Note that P/O's A.J. and R.W. Mosser were twin brothers. F/L Thompson had been a flying instructor at Trenton and Captain of the 1942 Dominion Rugby Football League Grey Cup champion *RCAF Hurricanes*. P/O Ollis's brother, **Gunner L.E. Ollis RCA**, was killed in Holland March 5, 1945.
- 21-22 407 Sqn. Wellington XII 2-S, **F/L D.G. Pickard** and crew, in it's new anti-submarine role, made the Squadrons first attack on two U-boat in the Bay of Biscay (407 SH, FF Years).

Thursday

22 Air Cadet Corps Officers made a component of the RCAF. Nearly 400 Air Cadet Squadrons were formed in Canada during the War, with over 30,000 Cadets enrolled (CCMA).

In the morning the first of four 120 Sqn. Liberators from Iceland began patrolling over HX-234 in series, sighting 9 U-boats but attacks failed when depth charges would not release. Three of these recovered in Goose Bay. This unexpected air cover caused the U-boat pack to lose contact with the convoy (D. Syrett).

#164 (T) Sqn. RCAF sends a detachment to Rivers, Manitoba, for parachute dropping trials (RCAF Sqns.).

The Canadian National liner RMS Lady Nelson was repaired in the USA and converted to a hospital ship to serve in the Mediterranean. Although referred to as HMCS Lady Nelson or HMCHS Lady Nelson, the ship was not part of the RCN but was chartered from Canadian National by the Canadian Government. She completed 30 trips to Canada returning wounded and injured Canadian servicemen (J. Boileau; www.uboaat.net; www.bedequemuseum.ca). See June 1945.

- 22 13 Sqn. Blenheim V BB158 'J' was taking off on an early morning bombing sortie in when a tyre burst and the undercarriage collapsed, **F/O R.R. Lipsit, Sgt E.C.J. Roney** and Sgt C.D.C. Cox RAF safe for the third time (BLME V.2).
- 22 18 Sqn. Boston III Z2292 overshot a landing in Algeria on a ferry flight, **F/O P. Opruk, Sgt R. Bowkett RAF, Sgt P.R. Davies RAF and F/O R.D.E. Richardson RAF** safe (BLME V.2). See May 9, below.
- 22 72 Sqn. Spitfire IX EN311 RN-G was missing on a sweep near Tunis, force landed, **WO W.S. Hunter** slightly injured and PoW (alieneyes and edbeau99 at www.rafcommands.com; www.spitfires.ukf.net).
- 22 430 Sqn. Mustang I AM255 crashed in England in poor visibility, **F/O R.B. Reed RCAF (USA)** killed.
- 22 190 Sqn. Catalina Ib FP269 'A' crashed in the Faroe Islands, **F/S D.S. Beare, F/S J.N.G. Finlayson, Sgt K.A.M. Harker, WO2 P. Illingworth, P/O M.J. McDonald, F/S T.C. Mulligan, F/S A.E. Hayden RAF, Sgt G.S. McCutcheon RAF and Sgt D.W. Sommerville RAF** killed.
- 22 540 Sqn. Mosquito PR.IV DZ473, **F/L W. White** and F/L R. Prescott RAF, was on a photo reconnaissance sortie over Germany and inadvertently took photographs of the rocket facility at Peenemünde, which gave images of unidentified objects on the ground (M. Bowman). See June 12, 1943.
- 22 #14 AFU Oxford I BG208 struck a telegraph wire making a low approach to land, **Sgt H.F. Puder** and F/O J.H. Barnes RAF killed (www.rafcommands.com).
- 22 #147 (BR) Sqn. RCAF, Tofino, BC, Bolingbroke IV #9038 crashed just after take-off on a night flying exercise killing **F/S R.W. Murray**.
- 22 #2 ITS, Regina, Saskatchewan, air frame mechanic **AC2 M.R. Maksymetz** died in the Station Sick Quarters of natural causes (www.rafcommands.com).
- 22 #7 SFTS, Fort MacLeod, Alberta, Anson II aircraft FP719 and #7472 collided on the approach making night landings, LAC(P) G.P. Burcher RAAF was killed in FP719 and LAC(P) W.J. Crott RAAF in #7472 (A. Storr).

22-23 Soviet night bombers targeted Insterburg, but did not find the city, losing 2 Il-4

bombers (C. Bergström).

Friday

23 Due to bad weather in Iceland escort over HX-234 was delayed, but when Liberators arrived they forced several U-boats to submerge and sank one before returning to Iceland (D. Syrett).

British built Mosquito T.III aircraft enters service with the RCAF in Canada (Griffin CMA).

- 23 153 Sqn. Beaufighter VI f V8446 lost in Mediterranean from Algeria on a search, **F/O J.E.J.A. Robert** and F/O E.A. LeGrand RAF missing (COL BRUGGY www.rafcommands.com; aviation-safety.net).
- 23 64 Sqn. Spitfire Vb W3572 crashed into the sea 3 miles off Scotland, **F/O L.J. Ashburner** missing.
- 23 547 Squadron Wellington VIII HX743 lost off France, **F/O D.B. Henderson** killed, **WO2 A.E. Prime**, F/O R.C. Deere RAF, Sgt B.Y. Ginn RAF, Sgt T.H. Hornbrook RAF, and Sgt R. Ronald RAF missing.
- 23 #55 OTU Canadian built Hurricane X aircraft AG264 and AG275 collided and crashed in the Lake District in England in poor visibility, killing F/S H.M. Atherton RAAF in AG264 and F/S L.T. Cook RAAF in AG275 (www.aircrashsites-scotland.co.uk, www.yorkshire-aircraft.co.uk). The wreckage of AG264 has been often visited by hikers in the Lake District.
- 23 #1 Manning Depot, Toronto, Ontario, **AC2 N.H.C. Wyman** died in hospital in Toronto of natural causes (www.rafcommands.com).
- 23 #34 OTU Pennfield Ridge, NB, Ventura II AE878 made a force landing at Springhaven, NS, but burst into flames killing **Sgt K.G. Calvert**, Sgt J.E. Franckeiss RAF and Sgt K.R. Self RAAF.

Saturday

24 In Warsaw SS soldiers are reducing the Ghetto, blowing up or burning buildings, executing Jews who fight them and shipping others captured to death camps (D. Sommerville).

Convoy HX-234 was under escort by USN PBY aircraft from Iceland during the day, forcing the U-boats to break off (D. Syrett).

During the winter it had been decided to return the Stearman PT-27 aircraft to the USAAF, as without their canopies and heaters they could not be used in Canadian winters. The last of these aircraft was struck off strength on this date (Griffin CMA).

In New York a ship loading torpedoes caught on fire and threatened to explode, but was towed away from the ammunition loading dock and intentionally sunk by a New York Fire Department fire fighting boat (wikipedia).

- 24 233 Sqn. Hudson IIIa FH350 ditched near Gibraltar, **Sgt J.M. Main**, Sgt W.B. McCallum RAF and F/S J.S. Mackie RAAF were killed and buried at sea, F/O I.B. Brown RAF and Sgt J.C.W. Thomson RAF missing.
- 24 415 Sqn. Hampden I AT244 GX-M was in a mid-air collision with a Spitfire Vb BM354 and crashed, pilot **P/O J.C. Donald** killed, Sgt C.A. Brown, Sgt A. Glass (RCAF or RAF?) and 2 Air Cadets were injured. The Spitfire landed safely.
- 24 #23 OTU Wellington X HE206 had a heavy landing practicing circuits and was burnt out, **F/S A.L. Olsson**, F/O R.C. Henderson RAF, WO C.H. Balfort RAAF, Sgt J. Doyle RAF and Sgt E.J. Weston RAF injured, **Sgt J.O. Koivu**, **Sgt K.M. Pulham** and Sgt J.A. Williams RAF safe. See March 26-27, 1944.
- 24 #8 (BR) Sqn. RCAF, Sea Island, BC, Bolingbroke IV #9072 crashed in the Fraser River west of Mission, BC, aero engine mechanic **F/S D.J. Casselman**, **P/O J.G. Evernden**, air frame mechanic **Cpl J.E. Irving** and **Cpl W. Sentell** killed.

Sunday

25 Soviet Union severs relations with Polish government in exile over discovery of the Katyn Forest Massacre, claiming Poland was acting in collusion with Germany by accusing the USSR of the murders (Polsson).

- 25 14 Sqn. Marauder Ia FK371 lost on a reconnaissance sortie north of Sicily, **WO1 F.L. Trovillo**, F/O D.G. Bentham RAF, F/O J.L. Mouatt RAF, F/S T.C. Bullock RAF, F/S J.S. Patman RAF and Sgt C. Warburton RAF missing (www.14sqn-association.org.uk).
- 25 18 Sqn. Boston III AL296 'D' was attacking troop concentrations in Tunisia when it was attacked by a fighter and crash landed between the lines. **Sgt W.F. Enman**, Sgt C.G. Baker RNZAF, Sgt H.F. Palmer RAF and Sgt B. Roblin RAF made their escape crawling through a field, over a barbed wire fence and through a minefield in a wadi before being picked up by British soldiers. On the way back to their squadron their vehicle then rolled down an embankment, with minor injuries. See July 8, below.
- 25 145 Sqn. Spitfire IX EN156 lost, **P/O B.E. Anderson** killed, Tunisia (www.rafcommands.com).
- 25 417 Sqn. Spitfire Vc ER854 shot down off North Africa on an air sea rescue search, **F/O A.E. Pourbaix** missing (www.spitfires.ukf.net).
- 25 417 Sqn. Spitfire Vc AR555 hit a Hurricane taking off in Tunisia and flipped over (www.spitfires.ukf.net).
- 25 137 Sqn. Whirlwind I P7058 SF-G lost over Belgium attacking a train, **F/O J.R. Rebbetoy** killed.
- 25 #29 OTU Wellington III X3816 crashed in England 15 minutes after taking off on a night cross country flight, **F/O D.R. McLean**, Sgt V.A. Rice RAF, Sgt G. Dunn RAF, Sgt

- J.G.P. Adams RAF and Sgt J. Riley RAF killed.
- 25 #13 SFTS, St. Hubert, Quebec, Harvard II #3823 crashed at Phillipsburg, Quebec, for unknown reasons, **F/O P.A. Gaudet** killed.

Monday

26 #14 (F) Sqn. RCAF flies its first all Canadian operation in the Aleutians, 12 Kittyhawk aircraft attack a radar installation on Kiska Island (RCAF Sqns.).

In India the Moslem League conference demands creation of a separate Moslem state, to be called "Pakistan" (ww2total.com Chronology/1943).

Longstop Hill finally captured in Tunisia (ww2total.com Chronology/1943).

- 26 #5 METS (Middle East Training School) Beaufort I N1011 5-R crashed in the circuit at Shallufa, Egypt, **WO2 E.D.R. Botten**, F/S C.M. Thompson RAF and WO R.B. Worthington RAF killed (www.rafcommands.com).
- 26 #135 (F) Sqn. RCAF Hurricane XII #5410 crashed off Galiano Island, BC, **F/S W.P. Aucoin RCAF (USA)** missing.
- 26 #14 SFTS, Aylmer, Ontario, Harvard IIb #3066 crashed following a bad night landing, student safe (M.L. McIntyre).
- 26 #35 EFTS, Neepawa, Manitoba, DH.82C Tiger Moth #1266 was supposed to be engaged in dual instruction, but the instructor decided to buzz one of the units trucks engaged in recovery of a crashed aircraft. After several passes the instructor Sgt J. Steel RAF misjudged and hit the truck, badly injuring himself and a civilian on the crash crew, another was slightly injured and 5 were safe (Halliday, H.A., Unnecessary Accidents). See April 30, below.

26-27 178 Sqn. Liberator lost over the target on an operation to Bari, Italy, **WO2 T.E. Lavallee**, **F/S R.E. Powis**, Sgt G.H. Austin RAF, F/L H.M.D. Magill RAF, Sgt J.N. McHarrie RAF, Sgt A.D. McKilligan RAF, Sgt J. Stephen RAF and Sgt D. Weight RAF killed (BLME V.2).

26-27 Bomber Command sent 561 bombers to Duisburg with very poor results. However the size of the operations now meant that even failed attacks led to widespread damage. Eight OTU sorties were also made. Seventeen bombers were lost (BC War Diaries). This operation was also 405 Squadron's first operation as a Pathfinder unit, 11 Halifax aircraft dispatched, 1 lost.

26-27 15 Sqn. Stirling III BK657 LS-C shot down over Holland by a night fighter, the crew bailed out but Sgt G.C. Whittaker RAF died of his wounds before he was found. Sgt H.L. Phillips RAF was also wounded and repatriated in 1945. The rest of the crew, **F/S K.L. Bearnese**, P/O R. Watson RAF, Sgt W.A. Spencer RAF, Sgt W.A. Dyson RAF and Sgt H.L. Phillips RAF were taken PoW, Sgt C.M.M. Mora RNZAF evaded.

26-27 75 (New Zealand) Sqn. Stirling I BF517 AA-O was attacked and badly damaged by a

night fighter that knocked out an engine, killed the rear gunner Sgt B.A. Rogers RAF, wounded the mid-upper gunner, Sgt J. Watson, and the wireless operator P/O J. Symons. The pilot, P/O P.J.O. Buck RNZAF ordered all excess equipment jettisoned and the bomber returned to make a safe landing in England, rest of crew F/L E.R.M. Appleton, F/O A. Minnis and Sgt J. Jones safe. P/O Buck was awarded a DFC for this and P/O Symons also received a DFC for staying at his station and assisting in getting the aircraft back despite his wounds (COL BRUGGY www.rafcommands.com).

- 26-27 76 Sqn. Halifax V DG423 MP-H shot down by a night fighter over Holland and crashed near the Carlton Hotel in Amsterdam, being used at the time as the local Luftwaffe headquarters. The hotel and a number of houses were destroyed in the resulting fire, the largest in Amsterdam's history at that time. Sgt C.C. Strain, Sgt D.G. McNab RNZAF, Sgt J. Wood RAF, Sgt F.N. Slingsby RAF, P/O N.D. Fleming RAF, Sgt B.F. Keable RAF and Sgt J. Clegg RAF killed as well as 13 people on the ground (<http://www.reguliers.net/history.htm>). This was mentioned by Anne Frank in her diary (<http://www.basher82.nl/Data/Amsterdam/mcnab.htm>).
- 26-27 77 Sqn. Halifax II JB911 KN-X damaged by flak over Germany, F/S F.R. Polston RCAF (USA), P/O E.J. Canton RAF, Sgt J.W. Holmes RAF, F/O P.A. Jousse RAF, Sgt L. Huxley RAF, Sgt B. Hallam RAF (S. Rhod.), Sgt J. Myers and Sgt R. Godwin returned safe (R. Allenby). See May 27-28 and June 24-25, below.
- 26-27 102 Sqn. Halifax II JB918 DY-T missing, presumed lost at sea, F/S J.G. Grainger, Sgt K. Oatridge RAF, Sgt W. Foley RAF, Sgt H. Beck RAF and Sgt T.A. Wells RAF killed, Sgt F.G. Harris RAF and Sgt W.A. Willis RAF missing. W. de Jong's page about the Dutch Island of Vlieland at www.626-squadron.co.uk states F/S Grainger is buried on the Island.
- 26-27 102 Sqn. Halifax II DT703 was returning from the target when it was caught by search lights, hit by flak and set on fire. The crew, Sgt F.A. Sutherland, F/S T. McKinley RNZAF, Sgt K. Millar, Sgt M.L. O'Grady, Sgt K.F. Crosby, Sgt N. Shaw and Sgt F. or P. Allibone, put out the fire and returned safely (R. Allenby).
- 26-27 115 Sqn. Lancaster II DS609 KO-M shot down over Germany, P/O E.A. Foster DFC, P/O H.B. Minnis DFC, Sgt W.C. Snook RAF, Sgt W.A. Timms DFM, Sgt C.E. Thorne RAF, Sgt L.G. Webster RAF and Sgt N. Law DFM killed.
- 26-27 156 Sqn. Lancaster I W4140 GT-K lost over the target, Sgt D.H. Waugh, F/S L.H. Watters RAAF, Sgt S.C. Brown RAF, P/O L.E. Lindsey RAF, Sgt C.N. Bonar RAF, Sgt R.E. Funnell RAF and Sgt B.P. Ashcroft RAF killed.
- 26-27 158 Sqn. Halifax II HR737 NP-U lost over Germany, F/O C.W. Gebhard, P/O A.E. Taylor, Sgt E.G. Goodfellow RAF, Sgt E.W.J. Bennett RAF, Sgt H.L. Barnes RAF and Sgt F.C. Brownlow RAF killed, Sgt R.H. Barnes RAF was also killed but his grave could not be relocated after the war and he is commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial.
- 26-27 196 Sqn. Wellington X MS491 crash landed when an engine failed on approach to land

- returning from an operation, **Sgt R.C. Bullivant**, P/O W.H. Mallinson RAF, P/O E.J. Weston RAF, Sgt J.S. Checketts RAF and Sgt W. Walls RAF safe.
- 26-27 207 Sqn. Lancaster I W4171 EM-J lost over Belgium, **Sgt J. Gillespie**, Sgt I.B. Jones RAF, Sgt G.J. Glare RAF, F/O B.P.M. Hyland RAF, Sgt B.B. Jones RAF, Sgt W.A. Hollett RAF and Sgt F.W. Davies RAF killed.
- 26-27 405 Sqn. Halifax II JB920 LQ-F shot down over Germany, **WO2 T.L. Bentley**, P/O D.E. Crockatt, P/O C.B. Dixon, P/O J.R. Marriott, **Sgt I.A. Penner**, **WO2 S. Sleeth** MiD RCAF (USA), **F/S J.L. Stordy** and P/O F.E. O'Hare RAF killed. This was 405 Squadrons first loss as a Pathfinder Squadron.
- 26-27 420 Sqn. Wellington X HE693 PT-P (or -W, R. Koval) shot down over Holland, **F/S F.J. Duffy**, **F/S O.K. Glascock**, **Sgt R. Mucklow**, **F/S E.L. Newburg** and Sgt K.B. Cooke RAF killed.
- 26-27 420 Sqn. Wellington X, **Sgt R. MacKenzie**, was struck by flak just after releasing it's bombs, which set one engine on fire. The fire was extinguished, but the propeller would not feather. The crew just managed to reach an airfield in England before running out of fuel, where they made a hard landing avoiding construction equipment, had the undercarriage collapse, went off the runway, through a fence and over a road before stopping, all safe on their first operation (Lancaster, C. et al).
- 26-27 426 Sqn. Wellington X HE867 OW-T was attacked by a night fighter over Germany that knocked out the rear turret, hydraulics and intercom, stripped the fabric off the left stabilizer, damaged the left wing, aileron and engine, and the bomb bay doors (R. Koval). The bomb load could not be dropped or jettisoned (FF Years). Returning to England the damaged aircraft was abandoned over a practice bombing range, W/C L. Crooks DFC RAF (the Squadron Commanding Officer) and **P/O L.H. Power** injured, **Sgt J.A. Thomson**, **Sgt G.F. How**, **P/O D.W. Simpson** and **F/L F.P. Marsh** safe (R. Allenby). See May 13-14 and August 17-18, below.
- 26-27 427 Sqn. Wellington X HE771 with a 420 Sqn. crew crashed in England returning from an operation over Germany, **Sgt C.D. Alder** killed, **Sgt J.P. Bishop**, **Sgt G.W. Bedford**, **Sgt L.D. Annis**, Sgt G.E. Hall RAF and Sgt E.A. Shaul RAF injured. See Jan. 14, 1944. [The R. Koval "Daily Operations" site gives this aircraft's code as PT-F, but if it was borrowed from 427 Sqn. as per Chorley it may have been ZL-F].
- 26-27 428 Sqn. Wellington X HZ365 NA-U lost over Germany, **F/S L.R. Coutts**, **WO2 W.C. Hencke Jr.** RCAF (USA), **F/S J.A. Smith** RCAF (Dom. Rep.) and Sgt R.W. Stockton RAF killed, Sgt P.H. Snow RAF PoW.
- 26-27 429 Sqn. Wellington X HE737 AL-B lost an engine outbound but continued on to bomb the target (R. Koval). On the return journey it was attacked by a night fighter over Holland and belly landed on an airfield (IPMS Canada Random Thoughts, Vol. 8, No. 9), **F/L C.M.S. Awad**, F/O L.H. Larkins RAF and Sgt K.E. Rabbitt RAF killed, **F/O S.M.N. Pozer**, S/L J.C. Cairns DFC RAF and **F/S R.T. Lang** RAF PoW.
- 26-27 429 Sqn. Wellington X HE382 AL-Y lost over Holland, **WO2 S. Hanan** RCAF (USA), **F/S F.S. Lane**, **WO2 F.H. Purchase**, Sgt M.P. Brown RAF, Sgt E.G. Litchfield RAF

and Sgt G.K. Thompson RAF killed (R. Koval).

26-27 431 Sqn. Wellington X HE476 SE-Z crash landed in England due to a fuel shortage returning from an operation over Germany, **Sgt J. Reynoldson**, **Sgt L.R. Cudmore**, **Sgt G.J. Crebbin**, **Sgt L.C. Main** and Sgt G.S. Storey RAF safe (R. Koval, R. Allenby). See Oct. 3-4, below.

Tuesday

27 Due to the increase in radar guided attacks undetected by their METOX sensors on surfaced U-boats travelling across the Bay of Biscay at night Admiral Dönitz ordered his U-boats to travel underwater at night. During the day they were to remain on the surface and fight off attacking aircraft using anti-aircraft guns, which were increased in number to assist this (D. Syrett, M. Gannon). This was a direct result of the increasing attacks using centimetric radar under operations ENCLOSE, ENCLOSE II and DERANGE. The German U-boat command believed this aggressive tactic would result in aircraft declining to attack the U-boats (M. Gannon), but this did not happen. Combats between Coastal Command aircraft and armed, surfaced U-boats would escalate in the coming months. See the end of August, below.

404 Sqn. makes its first escort operation for torpedo bombers which attacked a German convoy off Norway, 2 Beaufighters damaged, pilot F/O R.A. Schoales wounded by a cannon shell that came through the canopy and exited through the armour plate behind the pilot, destroying the fire extinguisher and drenching F/O Schoales with fluid. The aircraft also took a cannon shell through one engine and was further damaged when one of its own cannon shells exploded in the breech, yet managed to fly back to Scotland (404 SH, FF Years). Later armed with rockets these torpedo escort missions would become 404's main operational role.

27 First Chindit Force, **F/L K.M. Wheatley** was taken PoW for the second time. He was taken to Rangoon Jail (www.chinditslongcloth1943.com). See April 29, 1945.

27 426 Sqn. air frame mechanic **LAC F. Langdale** was struck by a propeller while servicing an engine on a Wellington and died of his injuries (R. Allenby).

27 #9 SFTS, Centralia, Ontario, Harvard II #3022 written off after a crash at Uplands, Ontario (R.W.R. Walker).

27 #34 SFTS, Medicine Hat, Alberta, Harvard IIb FE461 crashed, LAC L.E. Genower RAF and Sgt W.S. Stanbury RAF killed.

27-28 458 Sqn. RAAF Wellington VIII HX677 FU-S was on a shipping patrol off Italy and located and reported an enemy convoy before being lost, F/O M. Tuckwell RAF killed, **P/O R.W.J. Hudson**, Sgt K.T. Bates RAF, Sgt J.R. Hunter RAF, Sgt W.S. Lees RAF, Sgt G. Lyle RAF and Sgt T.E. Musto RAF missing (A. Storr).

27-28 The largest GARDENING operation of the war so far was undertaken off France and Holland by 160 bombers that laid 458 mines in coastal waters with the loss of 1 aircraft. Four OTU NICKEL sorties were also made (BC War Diaries).

27-28 407 Sqn. Wellington XII, F/O C.D. Cross, attacks a U-boat without result in the Bay of Biscay (FF Years).

27-28 #19 OTU Whitley V LA841 ZV-E dove into shallow water off Scotland on a night cross country, **Sgt E.S. Blake**, Sgt J.S. Grocock RAF, Sgt D.B. Griffiths RAAF, Sgt E. Mitchell RAF, Sgt D. McLachlan RAF and Sgt A.G. Debenham RAF killed (A. Storr).

Wednesday

28 Convoy ONS-5 comes under attack by a wolfpack of U-boats in the Atlantic Ocean (D. Syrett).

#161 (BR) Sqn. RCAF formed at Dartmouth, NS, on Digby aircraft (RCAF Sqns.).

28 221 Sqn. Mediterranean, Wellington AD593 was on a shipping strike from Malta when it was hit by flak over Sicily and flew into a cliff on the shoreline where the bomb load exploded. A local resident buried the remains of the crew on the beach but they could not be located after the war and **WO1 A.L. Keith**, Sgt A.W. Brighurst RAF, F/S A.M. Sutherland RAF, F/S J.C. Paroissien RAAF and Sgt G. Lyle RAF are listed as missing (Amrit, www.rafcommands.com).

23 417 Sqn. Spitfire Vb ER134 AN-Y, **P/O J.S. Bushe**, shot down a MC.202 into the sea off Rosa el Mesh, Tunisia (R.V. Smith, FF Years).

28 #3 (Observer) AFU Anson I N5379 hit a hill in England in bad weather, **F/S W. Sprowell**, **Sgt K.R. Stratton**, Sgt W.M.R. Lloyd RAF, Sgt E.F. Banks RAF and Sgt K.A. Hammond killed (thorne83 www.rafcommands.com).

28 #41 OTU Mustang I AG502 crashed in Wales, **F/O J.E.L. Cantin** killed.

28 #55 OTU Hurricane I P3901 flew into terrain in England, **F/S P. Skoblack** killed (R. Allenby).

28 #33 EFTS, Caron, Saskatchewan, Cornell I FH874 crashed, LAC S.O. Nethercot RAF and P/O R.H. Nicholls RAF killed.

28-29 The waters off Germany and Denmark were seeded with 593 further mines by a force of 207 bombers. Low cloud brought many bombers to a low level where flak managed to shoot down 22 of them, the highest loss on a GARDENING operation of the war. Six Mosquitos flew over Wilhelmshaven dropping flares and acting as decoys to divert the defences from GARDENING bombers off the port, without loss (BC War Diaries).

Soviet night bombers again attacked Königsberg in Prussia, including a 4-engined Pe-8 that dropped a 5,060 kg (11,155 lb) bomb on the docks there. In early May this short series of attacks was ended and the night bombers returned to

attacking railroad and highway transportation (C. Bergström).

- 28-29 12 Sqn. Lancaster III ED408 PH-A lost on a GARDENING sortie, **F/O B.V.L. Veira DFC RCAF (St. Kitts, BWI)**, Sgt G. Elsworthy RAF and P/O J.L. Haddow RAF killed, Sgt C.W.S. Downes RAF, F/S W.E. Freeman RAF, Sgt R.C. Grant RAF and Sgt E.A. Pye missing.
- 28-29 61 Sqn. Lancaster I W4898 lost on a GARDENING sortie in the Baltic, WO M.de B. Collenette DFM RAF, Sgt J. Norman RAF and P/O I.R. Robertson RAAF killed, **P/O R.D. Mix, Sgt F.G. Moore**, F/S N.R. Gyles RAAF and Sgt A.W. Bond RAF missing.
- 28-29 75 (New Zealand) Sqn. Stirling III BF467 AA-W shot down by flak over Denmark on a GARDENING sortie, **F/S J.A. Ramsay**, WO E.R. Jenkins RNZAF, P/O D.L. Thompson RNZAF, F/S J.M. Williams RAAF, Sgt C. Abbot RAF, Sgt J.T. Glendinning RAF and Sgt G. Phillips RAF killed. F/S Ramsay had been injured Aug. 1, 1942 in the loss of a #14 OTU Hampden.
- 28-29 90 Sqn. Stirling I BF346 WP-G shot down off the German coast on a GARDENING sortie, **P/O W.G. Monk** killed, **S/L R.S. May RAF (Can.)**, Sgt N. Marshall RAF, Sgt K.G. Horne RAF, Sgt L. Hainin RAF, P/O G.F. Heathcote-Peirson RAF and Sgt B.H. Reeve RAF missing.
- 28-29 158 Sqn. Halifax II HR773 NP-A lost without trace on a GARDENING sortie, **Sgt W.G. Dent, WO2 W.E.E.B. Priddin**, F/S J.D.D. Mackie RNZAF, P/O R.D. Roberts DFM RAF, P/O A.R. Schofield RAF, Sgt E.J. Culley RAF and Sgt M.A. Gibson RAF missing.
- 28-29 166 Sqn. Wellington X HZ278 AS-N shot down by flak on a GARDENING sortie off Denmark, **F/O L.M. Clark RCAF (USA), P/O J.A. Dalton, F/S D.E. Giles, F/S H.A. MacEachen** killed, **Sgt H.R. Fisher** PoW.
- 28-29 196 Sqn. Wellington X HE170 shot down by a night fighter over Denmark on a GARDENING sortie, **Sgt F.C. Swain RAF (Can.)**, Sgt A. Wheatley RAF, Sgt E.G. Quick RAF, Sgt G.R. Burgess RAF and Sgt E.D. Curling RAF killed.
- 28-29 207 Sqn. Lancaster I W4945 EM-Z shot down over Denmark on a GARDENING sortie, **Sgt G. Tyler**, WO K.R. Rees RAF, P/O P.A.K. Mockford RAF, Sgt T.E. Ellingham RAF and F/O L. Foulds RAF killed, Sgt S.W. Cowham RAF and Sgt A.W. Cochrane RAF missing.
- 28-29 419 Sqn. Halifax II JB923 VR-Q lost without trace on a GARDENING sortie, **WO1 J.G. Acker, Sgt J.A.L. Allan, F/S J.W. Carley, F/S R.R. Gourde RCAF (USA), F/S L.J.C. Murphy, WO2 J.M.B. O'Connor** and **WO2 G.K.A. Smallwood** missing. WO O'Connor had been in a crash landing Jan. 29-30, above.
- 28-29 419 Sqn. Halifax II JB862 was hit by flak that damaged the hydraulics on a GARDENING sortie, **P/O W.G. Elliott, Sgt J.A. Farrel, P/O E.E. Kennedy, Sgt J.W. McIntosh, Sgt G.D. Menzies, P/O H.M. Metcalfe** and Sgt G. Sandfield RAF returned safe (R. Allenby). See May 4-5 below.
- 28-29 427 Sqn. Wellington X HE681 was on a GARDENING sortie but was unable to locate it's drop point. After jettisoning it's mines it was damaged by flak, **P/O J.J. Beaton**,

- Sgt M.B. Summers, F/S J. Wilde, Sgt G. Davies RAF and Sgt P.E. Newland RAF landed safe (R. Allenby). See October 7-8, below.
- 28-29 428 Sqn. Wellington X HE543 NA-D lost on a GARDENING sortie, P/O C.R. Balcer, Sgt R.A. Parkinson RAF, P/O G. Meakins RAF and Sgt K.P. Garnett RAF killed, Sgt W. Collier RAF missing.
- 28-29 428 Sqn. Wellington X HE728 NA-B lost at sea on a GARDENING sortie, F/S W.M. Manson killed, F/S J.V. Agate, WO2 K.E. Radcliffe, Sgt H.V. Smith-Jones and Sgt I.P.D. Rushton RAF missing.
- 28-29 429 Sqn. Wellington HE635 AL-C was unable to find it's drop point, so returned with it's mines where it overshot it's landing, P/O R.W. Hale, P/O M. Rabinovitch, Sgt L.J. Boyes, P/O J.A.E. Lancaster RAF and F/S A.L. Thom RAF safe (R. Allenby). See November 25-26 below.

Thursday

- 29 Maj. Gen. Salmon dies in air crash (CJCA headline). Maj. Gen. H.L.N. Salmon MC & Bar was in charge of the Canadian component of Operation HUSKY, the planned invasion of Sicily. He was killed in the crash of a 24 Squadron Hudson, below.**
- 29 USAAF 12th Bombardment Group (Medium) USAAF B-25C 41-13190 aircraft was destroyed landing in Tunisia when a hung up bomb dislodged and exploded, killing P/O F. Robertson and possibly 2Lt E.W. Ditzel USAAF, 2Lt P.J. Guesser USAAF survived(?) (paulmcmillan at www.rafcommands.com). P/O Robertson was one of the group of RCAF wireless air gunners seconded to the USAAF bomber group in Egypt as they could communicate using RAF radio techniques and speak "American". TSGNO notes P/O Robertson had been awarded the US Air Medal with 2 Oak Clusters.
- 29 24 Sqn. Hudson IIIa FH307 stalled and crashed on approach to RAF Chivenor, making a refuelling stop on it's way to Tunisia with high ranking officers for planning the invasion Sicily, killing aircrew F/L G.L. MacIntyre DFC RAF (Can.), F/O F.R. Ford RAF, WO P.F. Laver RAF and AC1 H.J.A. Newton RAF, and passengers Maj Gen. H.L.N. Salmon MC & Bar, Lt Col C.F.G. Finlay RCASC, Lt Col G.G.H. Wilson RA, Rear Adm P.J. Mack DSO RN and Capt Sir Thomas L. Beevor RN (R. Palmer). F/L MacIntyre was a pre-war officer who had flown a tour of operations with Bomber Command and a second in Coastal Command before coming to 24 Squadron, the RAF VIP transport squadron.
- 29 407 Sqn. Leigh Light Wellington XII MP618 2-S failed to return from an anti-submarine patrol, returning early due to engine problems it was seen to crash at sea off the shore of England, F/O A.A.S. Flemington and F/S S.C.F. Summers killed, F/O J.R. Cornwall, P/O J.D. Fergusson, F/L G. Low (Squadron gunnery leader) and F/O J.P. Wheeler missing (407 SH). According to one of the ground crew the aircraft returned but was unable to land due to a problem with the approach lighting. It

circled out to sea but did not return when the problem was fixed. He further notes that the rear gunner F/O Wheeler was known as "Pliers" to the ground crew as he always carried a pair with him (pers. comm. A.D. Squires).

- 29 RAF Ferry Command Hudson IIIa FH365 stalled and crashed at Nassau in the Bahamas, Ferry Captain R.V. Anderson (USA), Ferry Captain A. Harris (UK) and Radio Operator G.S. Thomson (UK) killed.
- 29 RCAF Station Arnprior, Ontario, **LAC B.B. Black** died in the station Hospital of natural causes (www.rafcommands.com).

29-30 150 Sqn. Wellington III HF700 was returning from a sortie to Tunisia when it flew into a mountain in Algeria, **Sgt J.C. Leckie DFM**, P/O J.D. Aitchison RAF, Sgt M.T. Dilworth RAF, Sgt K.A. Price RAAF and Sgt G.T. Powell RAF killed (BLME V.2).

29-30 458 Sqn. RAAF Wellington VIII LB169 was lost on an anti-shipping patrol off Sicily from Malta, **WO2 R.M. Westman** and F/S R.D. Armour RAAF killed, **WO2 G.J. Banks**, **Sgt G.A.D. Cameron RCAF (UK)**, **WO2 J.R. Grasley**, **WO2 N.A. Stelter** missing (A. Storr).

Friday

30 #61 Base RCAF Topcliffe designated #6 Group RCAF (Training) Base (RCAF Sqns.).

Operation MINCEMEAT, a body carrying the identification of a Major of the Royal Marines acting as a military courier, equipped with an inflated mae-west life jacket and locked briefcase attached by handcuffs which contained false information on Allied invasion plans, is released by a British submarine off Huelva, Spain. Other material is released as appropriate "wreckage" and an announcement was made that a Hudson aircraft had been lost off Spain. The Spanish military gave German agents access to the documents when the body was recovered and as a result German reinforcements were sent to Sardinia, Corsica and especially Greece, where they were held in place for weeks after the Allied invasion of Sicily (wikipedia). As a result of this deception accurate plans of future operations that would fall into German hands would often be initially disregarded as fakes. A Liberator from 612 Sqn., flown by **W/C W.G. Thompson RAF (Can.)**, acting as a "search plane" monitored the debris and body laid by the submarine from sunrise until they were picked up by fishermen (Allison & Hayward). See May 11, below.

Canadian Northwest Atlantic Command established, giving the RCN control over Canadian and US anti-U-boat operations on the east coast north of 40° N, and as far east as 47° W. **Rear Admiral L. Murray RCN** appointed Commander in Chief of Western Atlantic Command, the only Canadian to command a theatre of war in the Second World War (Oxford). RCAF Eastern Air Command and

USN anti-submarine aircraft were also included in this Command for operational control (R. Goette).

- 30 #320 MU, **Cpl M.F. Fortune RAF (Can.)** died in hospital in India (now Pakistan) of natural causes (www.rafcommands.com).
- 30 #35 EFTS Neepawa, Man., Sgt J. Steel RAF died of injuries received April 26, above.

30-1 Essen and the Krupps plant were again targeted by Bomber Command which sent 305 aircraft. Marking was OBOE dropped skymarkers over the cloud covered target and the Krupps works were damaged, as well as other parts of the city. Towns nearby were also hit. Twelve Pathfinder aircraft made an H2S training attack on Bocholt. Thirteen bombers were lost (BC War Diaries). A personal description of this operation with details of problems caused by changes in forecasts can be found in the 419 Squadron History.

- 30-1 7 Sqn. Stirling I R9263 MG-D shot down over Holland by a night fighter, **P/O E.C. Hallding, WO2 L. Nutik, F/S H. Sobel**, Sgt A.E. Emms RAF, Sgt N.A. Peachy RAF, P/O G. Wragge RAF killed, Sgt F.A. Painter RAF PoW.
- 30-1 44 Sqn. Lancaster III ED783 KM-F shot down by a night fighter over Holland, **P/O W.A. Rollings**, Sgt J.B. Browne RAF, Sgt H.C. Ellis RAF, Sgt R.L. Le Page RAF, Sgt S.S. McClellan RAF, Sgt R. Williams RAF and P/O L.J. Ellis RAF killed. See <http://www.teunispats.net/fr-wwii.htm> for details.
- 30-1 51 Sqn. Halifax II HR733 lost over Germany, **WO2 W.R.H. Hewitt, F/S H.P. Spencer**, Sgt D.R. Wilson RAF, Sgt H.A. Briggs RAF and Sgt C.H. Longley RAF killed, Sgt J.W. Peacock RAF and Sgt L. Allen RAF PoW.
- 30-1 77 Sqn. Halifax II JB783 KN-N shot down over Holland by a night fighter, **Sgt L. Dubetz**, Sgt A.R. Camburn RAF, Sgt R.E. Hawkins RAF, Sgt T.T. Jardine RAF and Sgt J.K. Hendry RAF killed, Sgt N.A. Fearneyhough RAF and Sgt A.J. Butlin RAF PoW.
- 30-1 77 Sqn. Halifax II JB803 KN-G shot down by a night fighter over Holland into the IJsselmeer, **F/O A.E. Parsons, F/S T.D. Scarff**, Sgt I.D. Crawford RAF, Sgt L. Hannam RAF, Sgt R. Shepherd RAF and Sgt G. Watson RAF killed, Sgt W.R. Louth RAF missing. The area of the crash is now reclaimed (ie, drained) land.
- 30-1 77 Sqn. Halifax II JB856 KN-H was returning from the target when it was hit by flak that knocked out an engine, **Sgt D.A. Clarke, P/O D.S. Smart**, Sgt R.J. Daffey RAF, Sgt J. Henderson (RAF?), F/O J. Naylor RAF, F/O T.C. Treadwell RAF and Sgt F.A. Sparks (RAF?) returned safe on 3 engines (R. Allenby). See June 21-22 and May 27-28 below.
- 30-1 102 Sqn. Halifax II JB869 DY-H was taxiing to take off on an operational sortie when it struck a vehicle, **F/O J.D. Erzinger**, Sgt W.B.J. Happold RAF, Sgt J. Brownlie RAF, Sgt D.R. McGregor RAF, Sgt G.S. Bowles RAF, F/O J. Baxter RAF and Sgt T.H. Jones were prevented from taking off (R. Allenby). See May 12-13 below.
- 30-1 106 Sqn. Lancaster I ED451 lost over Germany, **Sgt J.G. Alderson**, Sgt S. Abel RAF,

P/O V.A. Nono RAF, Sgt S. Plaskett RAF, Sgt C.M. Harrower RAF, Sgt A.L. Barber RAF and Sgt D. Brown RAF killed.

30-1 405 Sqn. Halifax II DT741 LQ-P shot down over Germany by a night fighter, **F/O W.A.G. Hardy** and F/L H.P. Atkinson RAF killed, **P/O R.M. Reilly, Sgt G.L. MacCallum RCAF (USA), Sgt N.H. Weiler, Sgt G.K. Collopy, F/S F.R. O'Neill and F/O E.P. Nurse RCAF (Nfld.)** PoW. F/O Nurse co-ordinated the sports in The Wooden Horse Escape, see Oct. 29, 1943 (T. Barris). This loss was the subject of an article, *Their plane went down – how this WW2 Canada crew survived*, Alex Murray, BBC, May 5, 2023.

In April #2 Flying Instructor School, Vulcan, Alberta, shuts down and begins operations in May at Pearce, Alberta (<http://www.bombercrew.com/BCATP.htm>).

May 1943

#8 (BR) Sqn. and #145 (BR) Sqn. begin to re-equip with Ventura GR.V aircraft, #164 (T) Sqn. begins to add Dakota aircraft to their operations (RCAF Sqns.). 416 Sqn. exchanges it's Spitfire IX aircraft with 421 Sqn.'s Spitfire Vb and Vc aircraft (RCAF Sqns., 416 SH). 427 Sqn. begins to re-equip with Halifax B.V aircraft (RCAF Sqns.).

The Air Cadet program had 23,000 Cadets in 315 squadrons across Canada by this month (Airforce Magazine, Spring 1991).

At a meeting in Malta deputy Air Officer Commander-in-Chief for the RCAF **AVM W.A. Curtis** discussed the use of Canadians serving in the RCAF with British Under Secretary of Air H.H. Balfour, in which the latter made the comment that Canadians were good fighters but were not suited to command squadrons or wings, which AVM Curtis, angered, challenged. This led to a program to find and promote RCAF members to command positions in RCAF units (C.P. Stacey, quoted by L.C. Morrison). Postwar, on the formation of NATO the RCAF decided they would operate in the region commanded by the USAF and not in the RAF Germany sector, and ever since has aligned it's policies with the USAF and North American air defence. There were other good reasons for this decision, but resentment of the treatment of the RCAF in matters of command during the war may have contributed to the change (R. Goette). Without dwelling on it this was not an uncommon belief in the British military at large during the war regarding Dominion and Colonial Commonwealth soldiers, and should be considered when looking at promotion patterns of RCAF and RAF (Can.) in RAF squadrons and units (although remembering these forces had different promotion policies), while recognizing that the

RCAF had had limited resources to use on staff training between the wars. See Nov. 22, below. This also reflected the international opinion of Canadians as fighters and tough adversaries, formed during the First World War.

During this month Dutch Catholic Bishops circulated a pastoral letter condemning the deportation of Dutch Jews. In retaliation the Germans began arresting and deporting Dutch Catholics (Oxford).

During April #5 (BR) Sqn. Cansos had made one attack on a U-boat, without result (I. Wikene).

Saturday

1 432 Sqn. RCAF formed in England as a Bomber unit on Wellington X aircraft, the first new squadron to be formed in #6 Group (CCMA, RCAF Sqns.).

Convoy ONS-5 scattered by bad weather south of Greenland. Three 120 Sqn. Liberator aircraft from Iceland reach the area, one cannot find the convoy and recovers in Goose Bay (D. Syrett).

In Vancouver Kitsilano Beach was 'attacked' by landing of soldiers from landing craft firing blank ammunition as part of War Bond Drive (<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/second-world-war-vancouver-1.5273708>).

1 404 Sqn. Beaufighter Xlc JM124 was part of an escort for torpedo bombers attacking shipping off Norway when it was intercepted by enemy fighters, F/O S.J. Flannery and F/O B.J. Wright missing. Five other Beaufighters were lost by 254 Sqn. and 143 Sqn. (H. Welting and dg, www.rafcommands.com).

1 #9 AFU Anson I AX407 missing on a night navigation exercise, F/S S.P. James RAF killed, Sgt V.J. Deering, LAC R.E. Baker RAF, LAC G.I. Buckman RAF and Sgt W.J. Ouseby RAF missing (www.aero-web.org; www.rafcommands.com).

1 #3 RD, AC2(WAG) G.H. Irvine died in hospital in Vancouver of natural causes (www.rafcommands.com).

1 #33 ANS, Hamilton, Ontario, F/O P. Scott AFC RAF died in Canada of natural causes (CWGC; www.rafcommands.com).

1-2 Thirty GARDENING sorties were made off the coast of France, 1 was lost (BC War Diaries).

1-2 149 Stirling III BK696 OJ-L was on a GARDENING sortie off France and was damaged by a combination of flak and fighters. With a knocked out compass and leaking fuel the bomber was abandoned over England, F/S N.K. Sunderland injured (twisted ankle), F/S J. Giacomelli, Sgt J.G. Barker, P/O J.L. Blair RNZAF, Sgt W.F. Johnson

RAF, Sgt A.G. Davidson RAF and Sgt R. Zambra RAF safe (E. Martyn at www.rafcommands.com).

Sunday

2 Darwin in Australia is attacked by 25 Japanese Navy land based bombers, escorted by about 27 A6M fighters. A force of 33 RAAF Spitfires engaged them, claiming 6 to 10 aircraft destroyed and others damaged but losing 14 (and 2 pilots) to the nimble Japanese fighters (D. Vincent). Light damage was done to the port and only 1 soldier was killed on the ground (wikipedia). It is thought that many of these losses were caused by attempting to dogfight with the Zeros, which outmanoeuvred the Spitfires. Better tactics reduced the losses on later encounters.

#111 (F) Sqn. RCAF re-deploys a detachment of 8 aircraft to Umnak Island, Alaska for operations against Japanese forces on Kiska Island (RCAF Sqns.).

Daylight bombing sorties by Bomber Command were made by 12 Boston and 12 Ventura aircraft to steelworks in Holland, and 7 Mosquitos bombing railway works in France without loss (BC War Diaries). This was the usual pattern of these attacks, usually strongly escorted or, in the case of the Mosquitos, at very high speed.

2 424 Sqn. Wellington X HE692 overshot it's approach and crashed into trees in Wales on a training cross country flight, hospital assistant **LAC P. Piotrofsky**, Sgt W. Dove RAF, P/O R.G. Crouch RAF and Sgt W. Simpson RAF killed, **P/O H.M. Brown** and **Sgt W.W. Tucker** survived.

2 USAAF 72nd Ferry Sqn. A-20G 42-53703 damaged in an accident at Edmonton, Alberta (AAIR).

Monday

3 #119 (BR) Sqn. deploys from Sidney, BC, to Mont Joli, Quebec (RCAF Sqns.). #160 (BR) Sqn. RCAF formed at Sea Island, BC, on Canso A aircraft (RCAF Sqns.).

413 Sqn. helps re-establish flights from India to Australia using a modified BOAC Catalina Ib FP244/G-AGFM 'Altair Star'. First flight to Australia departs Ceylon this date flown by squadron commanding officer **W/C J.C. Scott, reaching Perth in 34 hours of non-stop flight (RCAF Sqns.).**

#2 Flying Instructors School opened at Pearce, Alberta (C. Simonsen), where the strong winds that forced the closure of #36 EFTS could be used for advanced skills training.

#19 SFTS opens at Vulcan, Alberta (<http://www.bombercrew.com/BCATP.htm>).

In Iceland the first USAAF bomber to complete 25 missions in Europe, B-24D 41-23728 "Hot Stuff", flew into high ground on an overshoot landing in bad weather. The aircraft had completed 31 missions before it was ordered to be flown back to the USA for publicity use. Thirteen crew and passengers were killed and one survived with injuries. Among the passengers killed was Lt. Gen. Frank M. Andrews USAAF. Unknown to him he was being recalled to Washington to be promoted, and to take over the position of Supreme Allied Commander in Europe to plan the invasion of France (Monument of Gen. Andrews and the crew of B-24 "Hot Stuff", Warbird news, April 6, 2018). See also May 17, below and January 15, 1944.

RAMROD 16, a daylight raid on a power station near Amsterdam by Ventura bombers. In Holland there was a heightened state of alert due to a planned political speech by the German Governor of The Netherlands which was by bad luck right under the intended route of the bombers (Brown & Lavigne), and there was also a conference on air defence at Amsterdam, which had led to a number of senior German fighter pilots visiting with their fighters and wingmen. The 12 bombers on the operation were protected by 5 squadrons of Spitfires, 3 at low level and 2 at high level. The high level fighters (including an RCAF Squadron), on their first escort of this type, made the error of climbing too early and were detected by German radar. In England the German alert was monitored by radio intercepts and the decision was made to recall the high level escort as they would be short of fuel, but to allow the undetected bombers and low escort to proceed. It was thought to be an acceptable risk, but the planners did not know of the higher alert level. The veteran German fighter pilots, already scrambled from an airfield within sight of the target, decimated the bomber formation as it crossed the coast. Of the 12 Venturas dispatched 1 had turned back early with an engine problem, 11 crossed the Dutch coast and only one of these returned to England, where it was too badly damaged to repair.

Of the 10 Ventura's shot down only one managed to bomb the target. It's pilot, S/L L.H. Trent DFC RAF (NZ), was later awarded the Victoria Cross for this action. Onboard another Ventura only 2 crew, F/O R.A. North RAF and Sgt W. Stannard RAF, survived, but both in remarkable manners, one without a parachute, and their stories can be found in I. Mackersey's book "Into the Silk". Only one RAF fighter was lost on this day, flown by **W/C H.P. "Cowboy" Blatchford RAF (Can.), Coltishall Wing Leader, as below.**

This action illustrates the daily cut and thrust of daylight operations over the Channel, and how quickly decisions had to be made, and what happened when they were wrong.

To conclude the story S/L Trent was one of the Great Escapers. He was one of the last group to leave the tunnel before it's discovery and was almost immediately detected by German guards and quickly re-captured. Thus he remained in Luftwaffe custody and spent time in the camps "cooler", but was not one of those that fell into the hands of the Gestapo, and he survived the war, later leading a squadron of RAF nuclear "V-Bombers" as a W/C. According to W.R. Chorley the pilot of the single returning Ventura, F/L A.V. Duffill RAF, was later the Managing Director of the Humbrol Paint company, a familiar name to plastic modellers around the world. Finally, as noted below, a lake in the NWT was named for **W/C Blatchford**. It is located 50 miles NE of Yellowknife, NWT. By coincidence fifty miles to the NW of Yellowknife was the crash site of a Ventura bomber, built in May 1943, used as a photo mapping aircraft postwar (Spartan Aerial Services CF-FAV/ex-RCAF #2195, of #149 (BR) Sqn., RCAF Station Annette Island, Alaska) which had belly landed there in 1953. Recovered in 1988 it was being restored to fly by a group at the City Centre Airport in Edmonton, Alberta. This airfield (closed in 2013) was originally named Blatchford Field, for Mayor Kenneth Blatchford, Peter Blatchford's father, and is where he learned to fly.

Convoy ONS-5 again scattered in bad weather. Unable to refuel at sea escorts with low fuel reserves are ordered to Newfoundland and Iceland beginning in the afternoon (D. Syrett).

- 3 104 Sqn. Wellington II Z8524 took off in Libya for an air test when the elevator jammed. Pilot F/O H.A. Langton RAF managed to return with difficulty and made a hard landing which collapsed the undercarriage, he and his crew **Sgt C.F. Cameron**, Sgt C.W. Beresford RNZAF, Sgt J.G. Wiggins RAF and passengers AC1 R.U. Sheppard RAF and AC1 J. Weddell RAF safe (BLME V.2). See 13-14 August below.
- 3 257 Sqn. Spitfire Vc EN971 HP-B shot down off Holland by Fw 190 aircraft, **W/C H.P Blatchford DFC MiD RAF (Can.)**, Coltishall Wing Leader, missing. W/C Blatchford was involved in one of the first RAF fighter actions of the war on Oct. 17, 1939, served as a Spitfire PRU pilot during the Battle of France, and became an ace during the Battle of Britain where he led a squadron in attacking the only Italian daylight bombing raid made, Nov. 11, 1940. He was the son of the Mayor of Edmonton for whom Blatchford Field airport was named. A lake in the NWT, 50 miles NE of Yellowknife, which he helped to survey as a university student in the 1930's, is named in his memory (Brown & Lavigne).

- 3 487 Sqn. RNZAF Ventura I AE798 EG-D shot down over the sea near Holland, **WO2 H.W. Toombs** killed, **F/S J.C. Lynass**, Sgt J.W. Lowe RAF and Sgt A.E. Downs missing. This crew had had a crash landing April 16, above.
- 3 487 Sqn. RNZAF Ventura I AE780 EG-S shot down over Holland, **F/O E.G. Thornber**, F/O S. McGowan RNZAF and Sgt C.R. Smith RNZAF killed, Sgt I.F. Urlich RNZAF PoW. As described in the book "*No. 2 Group RAF*", Sgt Urlich was the turret gunner and was wounded in the attacks. F/O Thornber and F/O McGowan pulled him out of the turret, attached his parachute and pushed him out of the aircraft. They might have survived if they had not taken time to do this.
- 3 #22 OTU Wellington III HF810 crashed attempting an emergency one engined landing while on a night cross country exercise, **Sgt S.R.W. Laine** and his crew safe. See Jan. 27-28, 1944.
- 3 Central Flying School, Trenton, Ontario, Harvard II #2875 crashed near it's base, F/L D.T. Everett RAAF killed.

Tuesday

4 During daylight hours Canso aircraft from #5 (BR), flying at extreme range, patrol around Convoy ONS-5, making three attacks on U-boats and sinking one (below). The convoy remains unattacked during the day (D. Syrett).

First training drops for Canadian parachute troops at Camp Shilo, Manitoba (below).

Bomber Command sent 12 Venturas to Abbeville and 6 Mosquitos to attack power stations in Holland, no bombers lost (BC War Diaries).

- 4 #319 MU Beaufort Ia DW941 crashed in India when attempting a forced landing after an engine failure, **WO2 J.S. Measor** killed.
- 4 69 Sqn. Baltimore II AG725 crashed on Malta killing **Sgt V.L. Boyd**, Sgt T.J. McMahon RAF, F/O K.W. Johnson RAF, and F/O C.M. McLure RAF.
- 4 #59 Repair and Salvage Unit, #244 Wing, Spitfire Vc AR494 spun and crashed on approach to landing in Tunisia, **WO2 O.P. Downey** killed (www.rafcommands.com). WO Downey had flown with 450 Sqn. RAAF (<http://450squadronraaf.smugmug.com>).
- 4 174 Sqn. Typhoon Ib EK186 crashed in England after structural failure, **F/O J.W.B. Reynolds DFC** killed. See July 29, 1942 for a detailed summary of the likely cause.
- 4 235 Sqn. Beaufighter VI JL817 LA-L shot down off Norway, **F/S H.F. Swan** and Sgt D.W. Hagan RAF missing (R. McNeill www.rafcommands.com). There was an investigation postwar into this loss as information was received that this crew had been captured, but without result (J.P.R. Mason).
- 4 407 Sqn. Wellington XII, **F/O B.W. Pritchard**, makes a night attack on a U-boat west of the Scilly Islands without result (FF Years). See August 13, below.
- 4 429 Sqn. Wellington X LN438 QB-A was written off after a heavy landing from a fighter

affiliation exercise caused an undercarriage to collapse, crew believed to be **Sgt R.E. Murray, Sgt R.B. Paul, Sgt G.I. Phillips, Sgt J.G. Stuffco** and F/S R.E. Moden RAF safe (R. Allenby).

- 4 #22 OTU Wellington X HE217 stalled in a turn in the landing circuit and crashed when returning from a night cross country flight, **Sgt C.R.S. Blenkorn, Sgt K.C. Bourne, F/S J.W. Freeman, Sgt K. Hodgson, F/S A.W. Klauer** and **Sgt E.H. Park RCAF (USA)** killed. F/S Klauer had been injured March 1, above.
- 4 #5 (BR) Sqn. RCAF Canso A #9747 'W' attacks and sinks a U-boat in Atlantic on a convoy patrol, **S/L B.H. Moffit** pilot. After the attack another U-boat was sighted, but the aircraft was unable to attack it (I. Wikene). The first attack was believed to have sunk U-630, but later analysis indicates it heavily damaged U-209, which was instructed to return to France but disappeared May 7, likely due to the damage received (M. Gannon).
- 4 #5 (BR) Sqn. RCAF Canso A 'E', **F/L J.W.C. Langmuir** attacked U-438 but missed with it's depth charges. The Canso then attacked the U-boat with guns from the front turret manned by **WO C. Hazlett** and side guns while the German crew stayed on the surface and fought back before finally diving (I. Wikene, M. Gannon).
- 4 #164 (T) Sqn. detachment Rivers, Man., Lodestar #552 flown by **F/L D. Daniels** carries out the first paratroop drop in Canada, a stick of 10 paratroopers (RCAF Sqns.).

4-5 During the night multiple U-boat attacks sink 7 ships from Convoy ONS-5 (M. Gannon).

The first major attack on Dortmund was made by 596 bombers. Despite poor back-up marking and decoy fires half of the force dropped accurately and heavy damage was done to the city and port area. Nearly 700 were killed on the ground (including 200 PoWs), and 31 bombers were lost plus 7 more that crashed in England due to bad weather closing in. Eight H2S sorties and 24 OTU NICKELS were also made (BC War Diaries).

- 4-5 7 Sqn. Stirling III BK773 MG-T shot down into the IJsselmeer by a night fighter, **P/O W. Holden**, Sgt R.W. Conuel RAF, Sgt J.B.J. Hook RAF and Sgt T.W. Hunt RAF killed, Sgt J. Avery RAF, Sgt P.E.C. Flood RAF and Sgt A.J. Phillips RAF missing.
- 4-5 76 Sqn. Halifax V DK134 MP-Y believed to have been shot down by a night fighter and came down in Holland, **F/S D.B. Brown**, P/O J.I.M. Bell RAF, Sgt A.E. Bumstead RAF, Sgt H.M. Farrington RAF, Sgt H.J. Hamlyn RAF, Sgt D.J. Marshall RAF and Sgt B. Thompson RAF PoW, Sgt A. Forster RAF was helped to evade, but was captured in Antwerp. Despite beatings he denied he had been helped. The family that had aided him came under suspicion, but they too denied they had helped him, and so no arrests were made (Bertil www.rafcommands.com).
- 4-5 78 Sqn. Halifax II JB915 shot down by a night fighter over Germany, Sgt B. Legg RAF killed, **P/O B.A.G. Campbell**, S/L J.H.B. Chapple RAF, P/O H.J. King RAF, Sgt E.K.

- Blackwell RAF, Sgt R. Hillary RAF and F/O E.W. Barnes RAF PoW.
- 4-5 83 Sqn. Lancaster I R5629 OL-J lost over the target, **F/O O.M. Cornish**, Sgt J.R. Leigh RAF, W/C J.R. Gillman RAF, Sgt F.J. Cleasby RAF, Sgt T. Griffith RAF, Sgt F. Johnson RAF, Sgt D.H. Rock RAF and F/O P.R. Smith RAF killed.
- 4-5 101 Sqn. Lancaster I W4863 SR-G crashed into a tree when landing in haze, **F/S M.D. Davis RCAF (USA)**, Sgt J.R. Browning RNZAF, Sgt J.H. Stretton RAF and Sgt R. Allison RAF killed, F/S J.R. Rays RAAF, Sgt S.L. Granville RAF and Sgt L.G. Hogben RAF injured.
- 4-5 101 Sqn. Lancaster I W4888 SR-P shot down by a night fighter over Holland, **F/O W.T. Lewis DFM**, **F/S G.W.F. Reynolds**, Sgt A.H. Clark RAF, Sgt J.M. Hadfield RAF, Sgt A.J.L. Lyon RAF and F/O N.J. Stanford RAF killed, P/O R.D. Paterson RAF PoW. See <http://www.teunispats.net/fr-wwii.htm> for details.
- 4-5 101 Sqn. Lancaster III ED835 SR-T crashed attempting to land after being badly damaged by flak on an operation to Germany, F/S G. Hough RAF, Sgt H.C. Hooper RAF and F/O F.W. Gates DSO RAF killed, **Sgt W.D.G. Merlin**, **P/O C.L. Outhouse**, F/O S.N. Beason RAF and Sgt P.A. Ratcliffe RAF injured.
- 4-5 102 Sqn. Halifax II HR667 DY-O shot down over Holland by a night fighter, **F/S K.H. Buck** and Sgt G. Rose RAF killed, S/L J.B. Flowerdew RAF, Sgt P.E. Tiller RAF, P/O D.E. Grant RAF, P/O H.G.R. Chiverton RAF and Sgt J.G.S. Dutton RAF have no known grave. F/S Buck had survived the ditching of a #12 OTU Wellington in the 1,000 Bomber raid of May 30-31, 1942. A memorial to this crew was dedicated May 4, 2003 at Westergeest, Holland (www.isle-of-wight-memorials.org.uk).
- 4-5 102 Sqn. Halifax II DT703 DY-M returned safely after being hit by flak, **Sgt D. Zander**, Sgt J.A. Chappell RAAF, Sgt G. Lee RAF, Sgt K.M. Ramsden (RAF?), Sgt L.G. Smart RAF, Sgt J. Savukevitch RAF (serving under the name 'Harris') and Sgt J.J. Jones RAF safe (R. Allenby). See August 30-31 below.
- 4-5 156 Sqn. Lancaster III ED877 hit by flak over the target and put out of control. It broke up in the dive throwing F/L A.G. Lang DFC RAF and Sgt J.L. Clark DFM RAF clear and they were taken PoW. The rest of the crew, **P/O R.J. Lee**, F/L E.M. Gray DFC RNZAF, F/S D.G. Ridings RNZAF, Sgt N.H. Wood RAF and F/S F.M. Venn RAF killed.
- 4-5 166 Sqn. Wellington X HE923 AS-R lost over Holland, **F/S G.E. Armstrong**, **Sgt J.T. Macksimchuk**, **F/S E.N. Moore**, **F/S A.P. Uditsky** and Sgt T.A.S. Buchanan RAF killed.
- 4-5 166 Sqn. Wellington X HE244 AS-D lost over Holland, **F/S T. Lafontaine**, **F/S H.J. Salisbury**, Sgt J.A. Beedim RAF, Sgt A.I. Stark RAF and Sgt D. High RAF killed.
- 4-5 218 Sqn. Stirling III BF505 HA-Z shot down by a night fighter over Holland, **F/L W.L. Turner**, Sgt W.N. Forth RAF, Sgt F.N. Robinson RAF, Sgt H.W. Sawkings and F/S G.A. Hinshelwood RAF killed, Sgt J.L. White RAF, P/O P.S. Beck RAF and F/S J.M.J. Smith RAF were PoW.
- 4-5 405 Sqn. Halifax II JB897 LQ-T crash landed attempting to land from an operation

when it ran out of fuel and flew into trees near the airfield, **F/O W. Weiser**, Sgt T. Geary, **F/O G.B. Ellwood**, **P/O R.E. Baker**, Sgt **F.D. Mayou**, **F/S L. Colburn** and **F/O H.C. Banks** safe (crew RCAF or RAF?). The property where the Halifax came down was an estate where King Peter of Yugoslavia was in residence during the war (405 SH).

- 4-5 405 Sqn. Halifax II JB904 LQ-E shot down by a night fighter over Germany. Pilot **P/O J.W. Lennox** held the aircraft for 5 crew to bail out, but he and the rear gunner Sgt **B. Moody** RAF were killed, **Sgt J.L. Prieur**, Sgt **A.T. Knight** RAF, **P/O J.J.B. Graham** RAF, Sgt **F.V. Roberts** RAF and Sgt **A.A.A. Adlam** RAF PoW.
- 4-5 405 Sqn. Halifax II JB957 LQ-A returned after being damaged by flak and crash landed in England, **F/S R.A. Carney**, **P/O J.C. Harty** RCAF (USA), **Sgt F.E. MacKay**, **F/S B.L. Miller**, **Sgt W.N. Tatham**, **Sgt N.H.A. Taylor** and Sgt **J.E. Paterson** RAF safe. See June 11-12, below (R. Allenby).
- 4-5 408 Sqn. Halifax II HR658 EQ-V lost without trace, **Sgt J.C. Archer**, **WO2 R.V. Clitheroe**, **Sgt W.C. Ellard**, **F/O W.A. Grant**, **F/S G.A. Johannesson**, **F/S M.R.E. Metcalfe**, **WO2 D.C.R. Nault** missing.
- 4-5 408 Sqn. Halifax II JB898 EQ-Q shot down by a night fighter over Holland, **P/O R.O. Blackhall**, **Sgt K.E. Emmons** and **P/O A.J. Sutton** killed, **P/O F.H. Scythes** RAF (Can.), **F/S C.B. "Soggy" Norton**, **Sgt C.L. Horn**, Sgt **G.I. Semper** RAF and Sgt **K.E. Godfrey** RAF PoW. See <http://www.teunispats.net/fr-wwii.htm> for details. Sgt **Semper** escaped from prison to Sweden in April, 1945 (www.conscript-heroes.com MI-9). **P/O Scythes** had joined the RCAF on the outbreak of the war but found he was flying multi engined aircraft when he wanted to fly fighters. He somehow managed to be kicked out of the RCAF, then joined the RAF in Canada hoping to fly fighters, but still ended up on bombers in an RCAF squadron (Allison & Hayward). **F/S Norton** had played with the Ottawa Rough Riders before the war. See also **D. Black** 2009.
- 4-5 419 Sqn. Halifax II DT794 VR-Y (or -V, R. Koval) lost over the target, **F/O W.G. Elliott**, **F/S J.A. Farrel**, **F/O E.E. Kennedy**, **F/S J.W. McIntosh**, **Sgt G.D. Menzies**, **F/O H.M. Metcalfe** and Sgt **G. Sandfield** RAF killed.
- 4-5 419 Sqn. Halifax II W7817 VR-A was attacked by a night fighter as it left the target area in Germany killing air gunner **Sgt F.T. Stanley**. The aircraft was abandoned over Holland and the crew **F/O C.J. Vaillancourt**, **Sgt A.S. Morrison**, **Sgt A. Jaynes**, **Sgt J.L. Peck** RCAF (USA), **P/O G. Grimshaw** RAF and Sgt **N.M. Douglas** RAF were taken PoW (R. McNeill www.rafcommands.com PoW list). See <http://www.teunispats.net/fr-wwii.htm> for details.
- 4-5 428 Sqn. Wellington X HE864 NA-D shot down over Holland by a night fighter, **F/S D.W. Johnson**, **F/S J. Prosnick** killed, **Sgt J.L. Boyd**, **Sgt D.E. Thomson** and **Sgt J.J. Levasseur** PoW (O. Clutton-Brock; www.rafcommands.com). See <http://www.teunispats.net/fr-wwii.htm> for details.
- 4-5 428 Sqn. Wellington X HE727 NA-K lost over Holland, shot down by a night fighter and

crashing in a peat bog, WO1 R.B. Moulton killed, F/S J.E.A. Thibaudeau and F/S J. White missing, Sgt G.C. Carter and Sgt H.H. Hoddinott RAF PoW. In 2002 the wreck was excavated and the remains of F/S Thibaudeau and F/S White were discovered and later re-interred in a military ceremony (H. Welting www.rafcommands.com). A very beautiful memorial to the aircrew can be found at Wilnis near the crash site (<http://en.tracesofwar.com>). The people of Wilnis who witnessed the crash believe WO Moulton stayed in the burning bomber and guided it away from the village at the cost of his life (J. Pinto, *CBC As It Happens*, Feb. 20, 2015), and all three airmen killed are buried there (<http://en.tracesofwar.com/article/58857/Canadian-Memorial-Wilnis.htm>).

- 4-5 428 Sqn. Wellington X HE319 NA-Y was lightly damaged by flak, Sgt A.R(?) Brock, Sgt N.M. Bush, WO A. Harrison, Sgt E.F(?). Freeman RAF and Sgt G.J. North RAF landed in England (R. Allenby). See May 29-30 below.

Wednesday

5 Five more ships were lost from Convoy ONS-5 during the day. A VLR Liberator from 120 Squadron in Iceland was able to patrol over them briefly (D. Syrett). In Newfoundland fog kept most aircraft grounded and one was lost trying to take-off (see below).

- 5 412 Sqn. Spitfire Vb EE666 was hit by flak that exploded the cannon shells in one wing on a shipping reconnaissance off France, but returned to England despite a large hole in the wing, F/S E.J.V. Levesque safe (FF Years). See June 7, below.
- 5 #22 OTU Wellington X HF630 crashed in England on a night cross country flight due to an engine failure, Sgt J.E.L. Burgess, F/O J. Cherkinsky, F/S A.A.F. Hall, WO1 F.R. Santo killed, Sgt G.E. Foster injured.
- 5 #59 OTU Canadian built Hurricane X AG111 HK-G was part of a flight of Hurricanes that "bounced" a flight of Spitfires from #57 OTU. In the mock dogfight that followed it collided in mid-air with Spitfire IIa P7902 and both aircraft crashed, F/S H.A. De Freitas AFM RAF (Trinidad) was killed in the Hurricane and Sgt F. Hulton RNZAF was killed in the Spitfire (www.rafcommands.com, www.caribbeanaircrew-ww2.com).
- 5 #5 (BR) Sqn. RCAF Sqn. Canso A #9807 crashed and exploded soon after take-off from Gander, Newfoundland for an anti-submarine patrol over Convoy ONS-5, F/L B.A. Casey MiD, F/O J.R. Cleeland, P/O J.H. Millar, WO1 A.F. Morrice, aero engine mechanic Sgt J.B. Stallwood and passenger F/L J.P. Barsalou were killed.
- 5 #3 SFTS, Calgary, Alberta, LAC(P) H.D. Petersen was proceeding to his assigned aircraft when he was struck by the propellor of another and was killed.
- 5 USAAF 20th AS Sqn. B-17E 41-9064 force landed near Goose Bay, Labrador (AAIR).

5-6 As night fell Convoy ONS-5 ran into fog. Throughout the night centimetric radar allowed the escorts to fight off the U-boats attempting to attack the convoy,

while the U-boats, lacking any radar and only able to detect metric radar frequencies, were unable to properly see their targets and became the hunted. Four U-boats were sunk by the escort forces (M. Gannon). In the early hours of the morning an RN Escort Support Group arrives from St. John's to help, followed by an RCN group later, and by the end of the day Admiral Dönitz calls off the attacks. Thirteen merchant ships were lost from the 43 that sailed, but the German Navy lost 6 U-boats sunk, 1 missing and 7 damaged of the 40 engaged in the battle (M. Gannon). The defence of ONS-5 was the largest convoy battle of the Battle of the Atlantic (wikipedia, D. Syrett). Due to concentrating all available U-boats on one convoy, six other convoys had been allowed to cross the Atlantic in both directions unmolested (M. Gannon).

Thursday

- 6 21 Sqn. SAAF Baltimore IIIa FA115 'M' hit by flak and crashed in Tunisia, **F/O W.W.H. Cornelius**, Capt A.G.M. Budd SAAF and Lt J. Sadler SAAF killed, F/S C.R. Woods SAAF and observer Major A.T.A. Wallace MC Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment missing (J. Baugher; www.rafcommands.com; BLME V.2).
- 6 #111 (F) Sqn. aircraft (Kittyhawk or P-40K?) lost off Umnak Island, Alaska, squadron Commanding Officer **W/C R.E.E. Morrow DFC** bailed out but was struck and injured by the tailplane, which knocked him unconscious but also deployed his parachute. Landing in the water he managed to swim to shore (F.J. Hatch).
- 6 #2 Wireless School, Calgary, Alberta, Fort #3602 destroyed by fire (R.W.R. Walker).
- 6 #3 SFTS, Calgary, Alberta, Crane I #8166 struck a hill near the airfield while on a night solo flying exercise, killing **LAC(P) G.L. MacKenzie**.
- 6 #32 OTU, Patricia Bay, BC, Canadian built Hampden TB.I AN114 was damaged in a heavy landing, injuring P/O W. Marsden. The aircraft became a ground instructional airframe (H. Moyle).
- 6 #39 SFTS, Swift Current, Saskatchewan, Oxford II BM718 crashed when night flying, LAC D.D. Ashcroft RAF and P/O L.G. Gray RAF killed (D.J. Carter).

- 6-7 #29 OTU Wellington III BK411 flew into a hill in low cloud, possibly trying to establish it's position, while on a night cross country exercise, **F/S A. Darby**, Sgt W. Mason RAF, Sgt R.A. Page RAF, P/O M.J. Meatyard RAF, Sgt W.G. Hutchinson RAF, Sgt S.M. Marfleet RAF and Sgt R.E. Stephens RAF killed.

Friday

7 Tunis and Bizerte fall to Allies (CJCA headline).

#10 (BR) Sqn. RCAF re-deployed from Dartmouth, NS to Gander, Nfld. (RCAF Sqns.). There the Squadron's VLR Liberator aircraft played an important role in filling

in the mid-Atlantic gap of air coverage. Prior this the buildup of VLR Liberators had been slow, and only 17 others were operational in Iceland and Northern Ireland with the RAF on this date (D. Syrett). See below.

First of 6 Fairey Albacore biplane torpedo bombers enters service with the RCAF (Griffin CMA).

- 7 608 Sqn. Hudson VI FK691 failed to return from operations in the Mediterranean, **F/O H.V. Coulter**, **WO2 J.H. Johnston**, **Sgt R.A. Newton** and **WO E.C. Smith** missing.
- 7 #306 Ferry Training Flight Beaufort Ia DW992 was on a ferry flight from England and ran out of fuel on approach to its destination in Morocco. The aircraft stalled and crashed, killing **WO2 G.R. Grant** and Sgt G.W. Quayle RAF. [R. Hayward states the aircraft was attempting a forced landing out of fuel in Algeria.]
- 7 59 Sqn. Liberator V FL971 'J' was on a special maritime patrol, and was last heard signalling its intention to divert to another airfield. **F/S J.H.S. Joannette**, S/L W.W. Cave RAF, **F/S P.G. Polkinghorne** RAF, Sgt B. Sainthouse RAF, Sgt G. Tsitselis RAF, P/O H.J. Summers RAF and **F/O P.R. Galbraith** RNZAF missing (N.L.R. Franks). This was one of four 59 Sqn. VLR Liberators sent on a long range escort for the troopship *RMS Queen Mary*. They ran into unexpected bad weather with very high winds. Of the four only one (**F/L E.E. Allen**) managed a safe emergency landing in England, the above aircraft was lost, one crash landed at an airstrip in Eire, and the fourth was abandoned over England due in part to problems with the ground control, who did not appreciate how critical their fuel situation was. As a result of an enquiry into these losses changes were made in radio procedures for guiding returning long range aircraft (E.E. Allen). Losing 3 special VLR Liberators on one operation was a serious blow to planned anti- U-boat operations as fighting in the mid-Atlantic reached a critical point.
- 7 197 Sqn. Typhoon Ib DN407 spun into the ground in England, **F/S J.R. Hill** killed.
- 7 412 Sqn. Spitfire Vb EE747 hit by flak and exploded attacking shipping off the French coast, **F/O L.W. Jones** killed.
- 7 #32 SFTS, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Oxford I #1523 crashed, P/O N.H. Keel RAF and LAC L. Soper RAF killed (B. Barry et al; www.rafcommands.com).
- 7 USAAF Canadian built UC-64A (Norseman) 43-5123 damaged in an accident at Presque Isle, Maine, USA (<http://www.norsemanhistory.ca/>).
- 7-8 70 Sqn. Wellington HZ247 'Z' returned early from a sortie to Tunis with engine trouble. It crashed and burned on approach to land near LG 8 in the desert, **WO1 I.I. Kliman**, **F/S A.R. McFarlane** RAAF, Sgt J.C. Comyn RAF, Sgt B. Sherry RAF and Sgt G. Poppleston RAF killed, **F/S D.A. Smith** RAF survived (A. Storr; Col Bruggy www.rafcommands.com; BLME V.2).

Saturday

8 German and Italian forces are retreating to Cape Bon, but heavy attacks on shipping and air transports by Allied aircraft have left them nearly out of supplies and with no way to evacuate to Sicily (D. Newton).

- 8 243 Sqn. Spitfire Vc ER807 lost over Tunisia, probably to enemy action, P/O G.O. McKay killed (www.rafcommands.com).
- 8 272 Sqn. Beaufighter If X7750 shot down off Sicily, P/O R.A. Cossette RCAF (USA) and Sgt R.G. Fletcher RAF missing (www.rafcommands.com).
- 8 272 Sqn. Beaufighter VI EL529 abandoned north of Malta, pilot P/O F.A. Duquette and his navigator F/S A.W. Johnson RAF missing (www.rafcommands.com).
- 8 272 Sqn. Beaufighter VI EL274 shot down off Italy, P/O D.W. Frazee and Sgt J.G. Steele RAF missing.
- 8 #20 OTU Wellington Ic DV949 JM-K suffered engine problems on a night cross country flight and the pilot, Sgt J.H. Watson RAF, ordered the crew to bail out over the Hebrides. He then force landed on a beach on the islands, he and the crew, Sgt A. Woodward, Sgt E.H. Burgess RAF, Sgt T. McKenzie RAF, Sgt R. Harrington and 2 others, were all safe.
- 8 #164 (T) Sqn. RCAF Lodestar #557 aircraft crashed near Gander, Nfld., WO2 C.N. Allan, wireless operator LAC A.G. Sewell and P/O W. Svendsen killed.
- 8 RAF Ferry Command Ventura II AJ164, Ferry Captain Sheldon Luck, was making a flight from Goose Bay, Labrador to Gander, Newfoundland, carrying 12 passengers including Newfoundland Ranger John J. Hogan who was going on leave. During the flight a faulty cabin heater began pouring smoke into the cabin and four of the passengers, not knowing what was happening, bailed out of the aircraft before the crew could prevent them. Cpl M. Maley RAF and LAC F.A. Moore RAF were never found, but Cpl E. Butt RAF and Ranger Hogan landed safely about 35 miles east of Hawke's Bay on Newfoundland's Great Northern Peninsula (G.A. Pauls). See May 9, below. (Oddly Cpl Maley is remembered on the Ottawa Memorial, while LAC Moore is remembered on the Runnymede Memorial in England, CWGC).
- 8 #1 Manning Depot, Toronto, Ontario, LAC(WAG) G. Harper was killed enroute to #2 Wireless School, Calgary, Alberta when he fell from one train into the path of another near Dryden, Ontario
- 8-9 104 Sqn. Wellington II W5418 'G' lost in Tunisia, P/O G.H. Dunn, Sgt J. Flux RAF, Sgt J. Jones RAF, Sgt H. Stripp RAF, Sgt J.W.G. Reeve RAF and F/O L.W. Vinden RAF killed.
- 8-9 #10 AOS, Chatham, NB, Anson I #6689 was forced to make an emergency landing in a river near Bathurst, NB, due to bad weather. LAC(N) L.K. Marlowe RCAF (USA) was killed in the landing. He was the only casualty.
- 8-9 #10 AOS, Chatham, NB, Anson I #6105 was forced to make an emergency landing off the coast of Fox Island, Miramichi Bay, NB due to bad weather, Sgt B. Stromberg

was killed, he was the only casualty. The aircraft was salvaged later but written off (R.W.R. Walker). According to WO1 W.B. Morrison in Lancaster, C. et al unforecast fog moved into the region and caught the training aircraft off-guard. A third aircraft may also have had to make a forced landing.

Sunday

9 #5 (GR) Sqn. RCAF redeploys from Gander to Torbay, Nfld. (RCAF Sqns.).

A defecting Luftwaffe crew from Norway lands a Ju 88 night fighter in Scotland, equipped with the latest German radar equipment.

- 9 18 Sqn. Boston III Z2166 'Z' was taking off on a anti-shipping sortie Algeria when an engine cut and the aircraft was damaged beyond repair when it ran into a ditch, **F/S T.N. Bain, F/O P. Opruk, F/O D.R.L. Wilson** and Sgt W.R. Oak RAF safe (BLME V.2). See June 6, below.
- 9 252 Sqn. Beaufighter VIc EL474 failed to return from a convoy escort during the Dodecanese Islands campaign, **WO1 K.W. Clark** and F/S J. Talbot RAF missing. (R.C. Nesbit in his book *Armed Rovers* refers to WO Clark as "Clarke").
- 9 58 Sqn. Halifax GR.II HR743 'N' lost on an anti-submarine patrol in the Bay of Biscay attacking U-666, **Sgt H.S. Butler** killed, Sgt T.E. Hamley RAF, Sgt R.Y. Herd RAF, F/S J.A. Hoather DFM RAF, Sgt E. Rabjohn RAF, Sgt A. Simpson RAF and Sgt J. Somerville RAF missing (www.maritimequest.com).
- 9 400 Sqn. Mustang I, **F/O H.A. Blue**, attacked two locomotives and returned safe to England with a badly damaged aircraft after hitting a cable evading flak (FF Years).
- 9 400 Sqn. Mustang I, **F/O D.M. Grant** attacked and damaged seven locomotives and four dispersed fighter aircraft (FF Years).
- 9 #77 Wing, **P/O H.B. Tucker RCAF (USA)** died in England in hospital of injuries sustained in a fall from a window April 24 (www.rafcommands.com).
- 9 RAF Ferry Command, after camping out all night in a tent made from his parachute with supports made using the clasp knife given to him from a survivor of the *Truxton* and *Pollux* disaster the previous year, **Ranger Hogan** climbed a hill, from which he could see the coast and recognized land marks, establishing where he was. He began to hike back to the coast. On the way he encountered footprints and followed them to find Cpl Butt, who had lost his rubber overshoes in the jump (leaving him with only normal shoes), and had landed in water and frozen his feet. Ranger Hogan assisted the Corporal and they continued to seek assistance (G.A. Pauls). See May 15, below.
- 9 USAAF 6th AS Sqn. B-24D 42-40335 damaged in a landing accident at Gander, Nfld. (AAIR).

Monday

10 #113 (BR) Sqn. moves from Yarmouth to Sydney, NS (RCAF Sqns.).

U-403, shadowing convoy HX-237, is spotted and attacked by a Swordfish HS338 'M', Lt(A) G.L. Hodgson RNVR, from the escort carrier HMS Biter. Forced under, it reports to U-boat headquarters that it had been attacked by a wheeled aircraft, the first indication to the German Navy that aircraft carriers were being deployed in the mid-ocean air gap (M. Gannon, <http://www.royalnavyresearcharchive.org.uk>).

- 10 #10 (BR) Sqn. begins operations from St. John's, Newfoundland, with Liberator VLR aircraft, **F/L J.F. Green** and **F/L A.L. Imrie** flew the first sortie (H.A. Halliday).
- 10 #34 OTU, Pennfield Ridge, NB, Ventura I AE668 swung when landing in a cross wind and lost it's undercarriage, F/L J.S. Watters RAF, Sgt P. Croudin RNZAF, Sgt D.J. Sampson RNZAF, Sgt K.S. Nunn RAAF and civilian meteorologist **Mr. D.E. Page** were safe (www.rootsweb.ancestry.com #34 OTU Accident and Mishap Reports).
- 10 USAAF 16th Photo Mapping Sqn. AT-7B [Expeditor] 42-43482 damaged at Norman Wells, NWT (AAIR).
- 10 USAAF 25th Ferry Sqn. A-20G 42-53584 damaged at Fort St. John, BC (AAIR).

Tuesday

11 In the Arakan coast Indian army units are forced to retreat from Maungdaw, ending the first Commonwealth campaign to re-capture Burma (D. Newton).

Churchill in Washington (CJCA headline). At Washington in the lead up to the TRIDENT Conference Churchill again urges co-operation on atomic research.

The intention of the Allies to invade Sicily was inadvertently leaked by US Secretary to the Navy Knox in a public statement, however the false material from Operation MINCEMEAT indicating to German intelligence that Sardinia would be the next invasion target was so strong they believed the leak was a clumsy attempt to mislead them (wikipedia).

In one of a continued series of low-level hit and run attacks on English seaside towns by Luftwaffe fighter bombers, 18 Fw 190s made a surprise morning attack on Great Yarmouth, killing 49 and injuring 41 on the ground, including 28 of 30 women of the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS) who were killed by a bomb during an exercise parade (BC1 www.rafcommands.com). See May 23, below.

US Army avoids heavily manned Kiska Island and lands on farther Attu Island in the Aleutians with battleship and carrier support. This marks the introduction of the small Escort Carrier to the Pacific (Oxford). The Japanese were surprised, but a prepared defence-in-depth, and the severe weather, disrupts the plan to

complete the invasion in 3 days (B. Coyle).

- 11 238 Sqn. Hurricane IIc BP155 attempted a belly landing in Egypt, but overturned, killing F/O J.E. Rylands.
- 11 400 Sqn. Mustang Is flown by F/O J.A. Morton and F/O H.E. Walters attacked 5 locomotives on a RHUBARB over France (FF Years).
- 11 #3 B&G School, MacDonald, Manitoba, target tug Battle TT.I #1886 collided in mid-air with Turret Battle I.T #1736, both aircraft were damaged but managed to land safely (S. Shail).
- 11 #12 EFTS, Goderich, Ontario, DH.82C Tiger Moth #3936 damaged beyond repair (R.W.R. Walker).
- 11 #31 Personnel Depot RAF, Moncton, NB , LAC R. Batchelor RAF died of natural causes (www.rafcommands.com).
- 11-12 #2 (Coastal) OTU Hudson V AM859 landed heavily in a cross wind from a navigation exercise and lost it's undercarriage, F/O P.H.W. Johnston, Sgt A.A. Heighington, Sgt F. Walsh and F/O R.H. Stanwell RAF all slightly injured (R. Allenby). See August 27 below.

Wednesday

12 German resistance in Tunisia ends. 250,000 German and Italian troops taken prisoner.

In Washington DC the TRIDENT Conference begins between Roosevelt and Churchill (wikipedia).

The Canadian built freighter Fort Concord carrying grain, military stores and 4 aircraft on deck had become separated from convoy HX-237 in fog on May 6, and had proceeded to rendezvous points without success. In the early morning it was torpedoed in mid-Atlantic by U-456 with the loss of 37 crew. The story of it's loss and the survivors is detailed on www.uboaat.net. See below.

Patrolling near convoy HX-237 86 Sqn. Liberator 'B' out of Northern Ireland drops a US developed "Mark 24 Mine" (RCAF code name "Z-Bomb"), the world's first acoustic torpedo, which tracks and damages U-456. The submarine dives and sinks later in the day avoiding escort ships (Oxford, <http://uboaat.net>).

413 Sqn., modified BOAC Catalina FP244/G-AGFM returns to Ceylon from Australia (RCAF Sqns.).

- 12 268 Sqn. Mustang I AM142 crashed into trees while low flying, killing F/O R.H. Hurton.
- 12 #22 OTU Wellington X HE218 crashed in England after an engine failure approaching

to land from a night cross country exercise, **Sgt J.H. Collett**, **F/S D.E. Elliot**, **WO1 M.J.S. Kerby** and **Sgt J. Piket** killed.

- 12 #133 (F) Sqn. RCAF, Boundary Bay, BC, Hurricane XII #5383 crashed 1 mile from the airfield returning from a patrol killing **F/S E.B. Monypenny**.
- 12 #1 OTU, Bagotville, Quebec, Hurricane XII #5624 lost in a snow storm, believed to have crashed or attempted to land on an ice covered lake and broken through, **Sgt K.H. Green** RAF missing. This Hurricane had been tested on skis with Test & Development Establishment at Rockcliffe before issued to #1 OTU (R.W.R. Walker). It had been received by #1 OTU just days before it's loss, and might not yet have had it's compass properly swung (corrected) which might have contributed to the loss (Lee Walsh, www.rafcommands.com).
- 12 #35 EFTS, Neepawa, Manitoba, LAC R.W. Carlier RAF died of natural causes (www.rafcommands.com).
- 12 USAAF C-46A 41-5200 damaged in a landing accident at Edmonton, Alberta (AAIR).

12-13 Bomber Command returns to Duisburg with 572 bombers, and with accurate marking heavily damage the steel works and other facilities there. At the port, the largest inland one in Germany, 21 barges and 13 ships are sunk and 60 more damaged. On the ground 273 people are recorded as killed. The cost was 34 bombers lost (BC War Diaries).

- 12-13 12 Sqn. Lancaster III ED476 PH-N lost over Germany, **Sgt R. Bell** RAF, **Sgt E.D. Harrison** RAF and **Sgt D.H. Williams** RAF killed, **F/S R.D. Fraser**, **Sgt I.H. Alexander** RNZAF, **Sgt E. Rome** RAF and **Sgt J.A. Stephens** RAF missing.
- 12-13 35 Sqn. Halifax II DT801 TL-A shot down over the Dutch-German border, **P/O R.C. Sawyer** RAF and **Sgt D.J. Richards** RAF killed, **Sgt R.O. Elford**, **Sgt S.A. Moores** RAF (Nfld.), **F/O G.E. Heard** RAF and **Sgt C.W. Rowley** RAF PoW, **F/L D.J. Sale** evaded to Spain from Holland, without assistance (R. Allenby). F/L Sales evasion was the subject of an article in the Canadian Warplane Heritage Society newsletter *Flightlines*, November/December 2018 issue. See Dec. 20-21 below and March 20, 1944.
- 12-13 50 Sqn. Lancaster I W4762 shot down by a night fighter over Holland and crashed in the IJsselmeer, **P/O F.B. Huntley** DFM RAF, **Sgt M. Bates** RAF, **Sgt C.W. Priestley** RAF, **Sgt E. Hough** RAF, **Sgt A. Stott** DFM RAF and **Sgt F.C. Greening** RAF killed, **P/O H.M. Ivatt** missing.
- 12-13 51 Sqn. Halifax II DT645 MH-B Bar crashed in Holland, **Sgt M.H. Nesbitt**, **Sgt E.W. Thomson** RAF, **Sgt B.A. Bunting** RAF, **Sgt E.F. Kinerman** RAF, **Sgt C.L. King** RAF, **Sgt W.J. Merrigan** RAF and **F/S D.C. Smith** RAF killed. **Sgt Thomson's** parents lived in Canada (W.R. Chorley).
- 12-13 51 Sqn. Halifax II JB806 MH-J Bar was damaged by flak before being shot down over Belgium by a night fighter, **Sgt P.L.M.D. de Bourbon** RCAF (USA), **Sgt B. Brown** RAAF, **Sgt A.L.G. Knight** RAF, **Sgt W.B. Henderson** RAF, **Sgt J.D. Rae** RAF, **Sgt**

- K.A. Goodchild RAF and Sgt W.E. North-Lewis RAF were PoW.
- 12-13 51 Sqn. Halifax II DT637 returned from an operational sortie but was diverted to another airfield. Enroute an engine had to be feathered, and making a 3 engine landing the aircraft was badly damaged, **Sgt K.D. Murray**, Sgt D.W. Thompson RAF, Sgt J.C. Harris-Ward RAF, Sgt A.S. Russell RAF, Sgt G.S. Sharpe RAF, Sgt F.S. Godden RAF and Sgt G. Jones RAF safe (R. Allenby). See August 31 - September 1 below.
- 12-13 51 Sqn. Halifax II HR749 was damaged slightly by flak over the Dutch coast, **Sgt J.J.R.T. Godin**, **P/O W. Inverarity**, F/O T.W.A. Hutton RAF, F/O W.H.L.S. Way RAF, F/O P. Barber RAF, Sgt D.R. Perrin RAF and Sgt R.J. Child RAF landed back in England (R. Allenby). See June 28-29, below.
- 12-13 51 Sqn. Halifax II JB792 was hit by flak on the run into the target, but bombed and returned, **Sgt A.M. Davidson**, **Sgt K. MacEachern**, **Sgt G.J.S. McMillan**, F/O A.D. Andrew RAF, F/O W. Auld RAF (S. Africa), Sgt T. Kidger RAF and P/O A.E. Thomas RAF safe (R. Allenby). See June 11-12 below.
- 12-13 57 Sqn. Lancaster I ED329 shot down over Holland by a night fighter, **F/S C.L. Gerding**, F/O V.A. Wilson RAF, Sgt S. Laughlin RAF, P/O J.D. Wallace RAF, Sgt R.B. Loverseed RAF and Sgt A. Steel RAF killed, Sgt P.G. Kehl RAF PoW.
- 12-13 57 Sqn. Lancaster I ED778 lost over Holland near the border with Germany, **WO2 A.L. Home**, **F/S M.G.T. Levins**, **P/O H.C. MacNeil**, **WO2 H.A. Sheehan** and Sgt T.J. Gregory RAF killed, **F/S G.B. Leach** and Sgt N. Rees RAF PoW. WO Sheehan was the first of 3 brothers lost in Bomber Command, see Oct. 2-3, 1943 and April 27-28, 1944.
- 12-13 61 Sqn. Lancaster I W4269 lost over Holland, **WO2 W.J. Reid**, **P/O J.V.O. Wood**, Sgt P.H. Alderton RAF, Sgt S. Lupton RAF, Sgt R.E. Sloan RAF, Sgt C.D. Whitehall RAF and Sgt J. Thomas RAF killed.
- 12-13 77 Sqn. Halifax II DT632 KN-Z shot down over Germany, **WO2 T.M. Moran**, Sgt J.D. Mahony RAF, Sgt L.A. Stimpson RAF, F/O F.A. Clark RAF, Sgt R.G. Miles RAF, Sgt W.A. Pasqual RAF and Sgt J.T. Murray RAF killed. WO Moran had made a crash landing in a #1652 HCU Halifax March 18, above.
- 12-13 77 Sqn. Halifax II W1157 KN-U damaged by flak over the target, **Sgt R.E. MacDonald**, Sgt N.R. Holledge RAF, Sgt A.H. Gurry RAF, Sgt W. Cooke RAF, F/O G.C. Fenton RAF, Sgt F. Danby RAF and Sgt D.H. Clinch RAF returned to land in England (R. Allenby). See June 19-20 below.
- 12-13 77 Sqn. Halifax II JB788 KN-N was slightly damaged by flak, **Sgt R.H. King**, Sgt L.A. Foster (RCAF?), Sgt H. Taylor RAF, Sgt S. Richardson (RAF?), Sgt J.J. Stephens, Sgt J. Swallow and Sgt D.M. Boyd returned to England (R. Allenby). See June 21-22 below.
- 12-13 90 Sqn. Stirling III BK661 WP-O lost without trace, **P/O J. Gedak**, Sgt S. James RAF, Sgt D.H. Robinson RAF, Sgt A.V. Edwards RAF, Sgt L. Urry RAF, Sgt S. Owen RAF and Sgt T.G. Matthews RAF missing.

- 12-13 90 Sqn. Stirling III BF523 WP-G shot down over Holland and crashed into the IJsselmeer, **F/S W. Morey**, Sgt R.S. Shaw RAF, Sgt B.A. Bacon RAF, Sgt W. Murray RAF, Sgt E.W. Eke RAF, Sgt A.J. Buxton RAF and Sgt C. Green RAF killed. See <http://www.teunispats.net/fr-wwii.htm> for details.
- 12-13 102 Sqn. Halifax II JB799 DY-E lost in the North Sea, **Sgt C.G. Gowen**, **P/O M.Q. Moffatt**, Sgt C.H. Hurlle RAF and P/O G. Davies RAF killed, **F/O J.D. Erzinger**, Sgt D.F. Moon RAF and Sgt W.J. Holman RAF missing.
- 12-13 207 Sqn. Lancaster I ED418 EM-G lost over Germany, possibly a victim of a night fighter, **WO2 W.A. McNair**, WO W.D. Hawkes RAF, Sgt E.S. Tompkins RAF, Sgt H.R. Dick RAF, Sgt A.W. Whiteoak RAF, Sgt G.R. Nipper RAF, Sgt J. Smith RAF and F/L A.D. Coldcott DFM RAF killed.
- 12-13 207 Sqn. Lancaster I W4938 EM-A lost over Germany, **F/S S.L-N. Whitehead**, F/O F.A. Alp RAF and Sgt T.H. Skelton RAF killed, F/O D.W.H. Evans, Sgt S.L. Goodwin RAF, Sgt R.C. Meyer RAF, Sgt S. Ogden RAF have no known grave.
- 12-13 218 Sqn. Stirling III BK705 HA-K came down in the North Sea after being hit by flak, Sgt J. Fitton RAF killed, **P/O R.J. Bryans**, **F/S K.L. Garman RCAF (USA)**, Sgt F.B. Holmes RAF, Sgt J.R. Thompson RAF, Sgt J. Davies RAF and Sgt K.G. Money RAF missing.
- 12-13 419 Sqn. Halifax II JB791 VR-X shot up over Germany and following several fires breaking out in the wings (419 SH) is believed to have exploded while the crew was bailing out, killing the pilot **WO1 G.A. McMillan MiD**, and injuring Sgt W.H.D. Alison RAF, who later died in hospital, **Sgt W.J. Klein**, **Sgt W.J. Howell**, **Sgt A.R. Wallace**, **Sgt H.G. Bees** and P/O H. Enever RAF PoW.
- 12-13 419 Sqn. Halifax II JB861 VR-C shot down over Holland by a night fighter, **WO2 J. Palmer**, **F/S R.E.L. Ratelle**, **Sgt W.A. Simonett**, **F/S R.C. Weedy**, F/O T. Brown RAF, Sgt A.J. Gearing RAF and Sgt H. Walsh RAF killed.
- 12-13 419 Sqn. Halifax II landed downwind and overshot the runway returning from an operation. It struck some tree stumps and broke in two, **P/O T.D. Dickson** and the crew in the forward half, and rear gunner Sgt J.A. Weeks in the tail, safe (419 SH). The aircraft was later salvaged and repaired. P/O Dickson stayed in the RCAF and was a captain on Comet jet transports (the RCAF was the first air force in the world to operate jet transports) when he died as a S/L in 1953 after contracting polio (419 SH).
- 12-13 419 Sqn. Halifax II JB929 VR-J, Sgt R. Harrison pilot, was attacked by a night fighter which disabled the rear turret and wounded **Sgt E. Morgans** (R. Koval). Sgt Harrison and Sgt Morgans may be the same as **P/O R.S. Harrison** and **P/O E.A. Morgans** lost in the same 434 Squadron crew August 22-23, below.
- 12-13 426 Sqn. Wellington X HE157 OW-N lost over Holland, **F/O H.R. Drake**, **WO2 K.F. Fighter**, **F/S D.C. Maxwell**, **F/O G. McMillan** and Sgt E.W. Betts RAF killed.
- 12-13 426 Sqn. Wellington X HE905 OW-V hit by flak over the target and damaged, the crew bailed out over Belgium, **F/O D.G. Fraser** killed, **Sgt I.R.A. Runciman**, **F/O G. Miller**,

P/O D. Laskey and Sgt D.H. Pennock RAF PoW, F/S O.W. Forland evaded. F/O Fraser had been interned with his then crew when the #1 OADU Blenheim they were flying to Algiers to support the TORCH landings made a forced landing in Spain on November 17, 1942. They were released at Gibraltar Jan. 15, 1943. P/O Laskey had been rescued from a ditched Wellington April 4-5, 1943.

- 12-13 426 Sqn. Wellington X HE632 was hit by flak just after bombing, Sgt L.R. Fadden RCAF (USA), Sgt S. Gaunt RCAF (USA), Sgt A.T. McCormick RCAF (USA), Sgt L.C. McCracken and Sgt J.H. Jones (RCAF?) landed safe, where it was found one of the bombs had hung up and was still in the bomb bay (R. Allenby). See May 13-14 below.
- 12-13 428 Sqn. Wellington X HE321 NA-Z shot down over Germany by a night fighter, F/O R.L. Baumgarten, F/S A.E. Hatch, F/S C.C. Hildreth, F/S D.R. Horwood and Sgt W. Leven RAF killed. F/S Hatch had crashed a #22 OTU Wellington Feb. 24, above.
- 12-13 428 Sqn. Wellington X HE656 NA-A lost, and came down off the French coast, F/O L.A. Dingley RCAF (USA), P/O P.G. Kelly, Sgt E.E. Lundy, F/S W.E. Mann, F/O W.W. O'Brien killed.
- 12-13 429 Sqn. Wellington X HE913 AL-L shot down over Holland by a night fighter, Sgt D.O. Broughton, Sgt A.F. Halsted RAF, P/O P.J. Dunger RAF, P/O S.A. Willoughby RAF and Sgt C. Taylor RAF killed. Sgt Broughton had survived the crash of a #22 OTU Wellington Oct. 13, 1942 (R. Koval).
- 12-13 429 Sqn. Wellington X HE423 AL-O shot down over Holland by a night fighter, WO2 R.T. Crimmins RCAF (USA), P/O H.A. Tennis, WO2 J.S. Vose, P/O B.A.A. Geale RAF and Sgt J. Piggott RAF killed. WO Crimmins had been injured April 3, above, in the crash of a Wellington (R. Koval).
- 12-13 429 Sqn. Wellington X HE572 AL-A was coned by searchlights but escaped with light damage, Sgt R.B.J. Pierce RCAF (Eire), Sgt J.E. Pendleton RAF, Sgt D. Collins RAF, P/O G. Jarvis RAF and Sgt R.C. White RAF landed back in England (R. Allenby). See July 3-4, below.
- 12-13 431 Sqn. Wellington X HE440 SE-Y crashed on the German-Dutch border, Sgt G.R.Y. Wood RAF, Sgt E.L. Gummer RAF, Sgt I.E. Mobley RAF, Sgt A. Cresswell RAF and Sgt T.H. Smith RAF killed (R. Koval).

Thursday

13 Docks in France were attacked by 18 day bombers, 1 lost (BC War Diaries).

- 13 98 Sqn. Mitchell II FL197 crashed into the sea off France, killing P/O G.A. Calder and Sgt F.P.C. Goser RAF, F/O I.W. Tweddell and Sgt J. Gale RAF PoW. While a PoW F/O Tweddell received textbooks and material from the University of Saskatchewan so he could continue his studies in engineering (T. Barris).
- 13 403 Sqn. Spitfire IX BS104 lost over France on a RAMROD, F/S W.G. Uttley killed.
- 13 404 Sqn. Beaufighter attacked and damaged a Ju 88 off the coast of Norway on a shipping strike, but was in turn damaged in the canopy, engines and hydraulics, F/O

- G.C.D. Bell DFM and F/O W.R. White managed to return to their base safely (FF Years, Awards).
- 13 416 Sqn. Spitfire IX BS430 DN-N "*Canadian Pacific*" hit by flak on a RAMROD escort for B-17s over France, Squadron Commander S/L F.H. Boulton DFC bailed out wounded and became a PoW. He was repatriated a year later due to his wounds (416 SH).
- 13 416 Sqn. Spitfire IX BR626 was damaged over France on a RAMROD, F/S C.W. McKim radioed that he was wounded and made it to the sea and ditched, but was not seen again (416 SH).
- 13 423 Sqn. Sunderland III W6006 AB-E, F/L J. Musgrave and crew, flying in support of convoy HX-237, shared sinking of U-753 with *HMCS Drumheller* and *HMS Lagan* and a Swordfish from *HMS Biter* (D. Syrett; www.uboa.net; www.canmilair.com; RCN Chronology).
- 13 #81 OTU Whitley EB338 crashed on an evening cross country due to engine failure Sgt G. Belec killed, Sgt N.J. Prime RNZAF, F/O E.J. Bull RAF, Sgt T. Kennedy RAF, Sgt S. Otty RAF and Sgt E.F. Harris injured.

13-14 Bomber Command sent 442 bombers to Bochum, and another 168 to Pilsen. Decoys distracted much of the attack at the former and at Pilsen the Skoda works again escaped heavy damage. Twelve Mosquitos attacked Berlin, 8 GARDENING and 12 OTU NICKEL sorties were made for a total of 642 sorties with 34 aircraft lost (BC War Diaries).

- 13-14 9 Sqn. Lancaster III ED589 WS-P shot down over Holland by a night fighter, Sgt J.C. Owen RAF and Sgt J. Buntin RAF killed, F/S W.R. MacDonald, Sgt G.H. Saxton RAF, Sgt D.C. Ferris RAF, Sgt R.M. Morris RAF and Sgt J. Reddish RAF have no known grave. See <http://www.teunispats.net/fr-wwii.htm> for details.
- 13-14 10 Sqn. Halifax HR965 was hit by flak and fell out of control over it's target. When control was regained it was discovered air gunner WO2 A.F. McCoy RCAF (USA) had bailed out. The aircraft returned to England but WO McCoy is missing and has no known grave.
- 13-14 12 Sqn. Lancaster I W4366 PH-R lost over Germany, F/S J.R. Richmond, Sgt F.W. Morgan RAAF and Sgt K. Foster RAF killed, Sgt G.T. Spiece, Sgt G.L. Fountain RAF, Sgt K.J.G. Walker and Sgt R. Maginnis RAF PoW.
- 13-14 15 Sqn. Stirling III BK704 LS-Z was coned by searchlights and hit by flak. The bomber exploded killing the pilot, S/L C.C.J. Bowyer RAF, but the crew, F/O W.G.M. Olivier, Sgt E.E. Warner RCAF (USA), P/O D.C. Smith RAF, Sgt H.C. Cooper RAF, Sgt J.B. Craggs RAF, Sgt T.P. Hanrahan RAF and Sgt C.E. Keik RAF, were able to bail out and were taken PoW (O. Clutton-Brock).
- 13-14 44 Sqn. Lancaster I W4305 KM-G shot down over Germany by a night fighter, Sgt W.E. O'Halloran, Sgt P. Stephens RAF, Sgt E.L. Orchard RAF, Sgt R. Dewey RAF, Sgt N.E. Taylor RAF and Sgt D. Cram RAF killed, Sgt J.G.M. Olding PoW.

- 13-14 50 Sqn. Lancaster III ED693 lost over Germany on an operation to Czechoslovakia, **WO2 W.B. Nichol** and Sgt W.A. Roberts RAF were killed, **Sgt W.G. Pickens RCAF (USA)**, Sgt C. Taylor RAF, P/O M. Hall RAF, Sgt J.G. Hanby RAF, F/O T. Royds RAF and Sgt W.A. Roberts RAF PoW.
- 13-14 57 Sqn. Lancaster I W4944 shot down over Germany by a night fighter, **P/O M.E. Barker**, **F/S A.D. Monaghan**, Sgt F.E. Lee RAF, Sgt W.M. Ewing RAF, Sgt L.J. Beech RAF and Sgt F. Butterfield RAF killed, Sgt J.D. Robertson RAF PoW.
- 13-14 57 Sqn. Lancaster III ED667 DX-W shot down by a night fighter over Holland, Sgt F.L.R. Gilliver RAF and Sgt R.F. Williams RAF, the mid-upper and rear gunners, were killed, but the rest of the crew survived, **Sgt S.H. Allison**, Sgt R.S.J. Betteridge RAF, F/S J.A. Redgrave RAF and Sgt E.C.F. Saville RAF PoW, P/O J.B.M. Hays RAF evaded.
- 13-14 78 Sqn. Halifax II DT777 EY-T lost over Germany, Sgt L. Jakes RAF killed, **Sgt W.J.H. Perry**, Sgt G.E. Clay RAF, Sgt J.F. O'Reilly, Sgt L.D.E. Marriott RAF, Sgt E.A. Coates RAF and Sgt C. Leverett RAF PoW
- 13-14 78 Sqn. Halifax II JB924 EY-M shot down over Holland by a night fighter, **WO2 J.M. Farrell**, **F/S A.A. Kew**, Sgt D. Baxter RAF, Sgt R.D. Matches RAF, Sgt E. Pritchard RAF, P/O R.E. Bragg RAF and F/L R. Grey RAF killed, Sgt H.E. Gell RAF PoW.
- 13-14 102 Sqn. Halifax II W7935 DY-Y ditched off England on an operation to Germany, **F/S A.M. Sargent RAF (Can.)**, Sgt C.R. Webb RAF, Sgt A. Campbell RAF, F/O J.R. Bullock RAF, Sgt M. Galloway RAF, Sgt H.D. Newbury RAF and Sgt J.C. Smith RAF were rescued by an MGB. See May 23-24, below.
- 13-14 102 Sqn. Halifax II JB964 DY-G shot down by a night fighter over Germany, Sgt V.H. Hatchard RAF (NZ), Sgt W.T. Lee RAF, Sgt S. Brown RAF, Sgt J. Leedham RAF and Sgt J.S.W. Fowles RAF killed, **Sgt J.A. Coughlin** and F/O F.A. James RAF PoW.
- 13-14 106 Sqn. Lancaster I R5611 shot down over Holland on a sortie to Czechoslovakia, **F/S W.H. Hill**, **WO2 D.S. Mitchell**, Sgt E.G.R. Beacham RAF, Sgt L.A. Dunmore RAF, Sgt D. Grey RAF, Sgt F.J. Howell RAF and Sgt R.W. Littlefair RAF killed.
- 13-14 138 Sqn. Halifax II BB328 NF-U lost over France on Special Operation PHYSICIAN 10/ROACH 6, **F/S J.P. Keating**, Sgt D.F. West RAF, Sgt J. Woods RAF, Sgt K. Hubbard RAF, Sgt D.A. Ball RAF and F/O T. Noble RAF killed.
- 13-14 149 Sqn. Stirling III BF479 OJ-E shot down by a night fighter over Belgium, **WO2 R.C. Ferguson**, **F/S H.P. Fudge RCAF (Nfld.)**, Sgt J.E. Butt RAF, Sgt N.H. Frank RAF, Sgt E. Hazelden-French RAF, F/O L.C. Martin RAF, F/O G.R. Royde DFC RAF and Sgt H.A.J. Berry RAF killed.
- 13-14 149 Sqn. Stirling III BK726 OJ-Z shot down by a night fighter over Germany, **P/O H.E. Forsyth**, **WO2 Y.J.B. Guepin**, **F/S D.F. McDonald**, Sgt J.J. Ryan RAF, P/O D.E. Sharpe RAF, Sgt L.P. Barnett RAF and Sgt W. McCall RAF killed.
- 13-14 166 Sqn. Wellington X HZ280 AS-Q was hit by flak and then attacked by a night fighter. The bomber ditched in the IJsselmeer in Holland, **F/S W.N. Partridge** and **F/O W.**

- Wahl killed, P/O H.W. Newby, Sgt S.A.H. Davis RCAF (St. Kitts) and Sgt J.A. Wright PoW. Sgt Wright had been seriously wounded by the night fighter attack and he was later repatriated. See <http://www.teunispats.net/fr-wwii.htm> for details.
- 13-14 218 Sqn. Stirling III EF367 HA-G crashed into station buildings attempting to land from an operation over Germany, Sgt S.G. Cleveland RCAF (USA), Sgt D. Wurr RAF, Sgt J.P.V. Hargest RAF, Sgt T.A. Jamieson RAF and Sgt J.S. Howard RAF killed, Sgt T.J. Nicholls RAF and P/O E.G. Pierce RNZAF injured.
- 13-14 405 Sqn. Halifax II JB966 LQ-D lost over Holland, shot down by a night fighter, F/O H.D. Beattie, F/S R.E. Hart and Sgt S.B. Hawley RAF killed, F/O J.S. Hawtin, Sgt R. Ferguson RCAF (USA), Sgt J.D. Gibson and Sgt K.W. Clarke RAF PoW. See <http://www.teunispats.net/fr-wwii.htm> for details.
- 13-14 408 Sqn. Halifax II JB931 EQ-O shot down off the Dutch coast by a night fighter, S/L H.D.R.L. Campbell DFC RAF (Can.), Sgt J.M. Harrison, P/O L.A. Stinson and P/O A.E. Horne DFM RAAF killed, F/O A.W. Thompson, P/O M.H.J. Hammill RAF and Sgt A.C. Ross RAF PoW. W.R. Chorley notes that P/O Horne had previously served with 405 Sqn. and may have been on his second tour.
- 13-14 408 Sqn. Halifax II JB969 EQ-D, F/L D. Harriss, was attacked by a Bf 110 night fighter which it claimed shot down (R. Koval).
- 13-14 408 Sqn. Halifax II, F/O C. Smith pilot, was forced to dive to very low level to escape flak when it was "coned" by searchlights. On recovery it was found the mid-upper gunner, Sgt R. Elmes RAF, had bailed out. The aircraft returned safely, Sgt Elmes was taken PoW (R. Koval).
- 13-14 408 Sqn. Halifax II JD107 EQ-Y evaded an attack by a Ju 88 night fighter before being damaged by flak, F/L A.C. Mair, Sgt T.H. Skebo, F/O W.R.E. North MiD RAF, P/O A.W. Douglas RAF, Sgt W.G. Philpot RAF and 2 crew safe (R. Allenby). See June 19-20 and November 26-27, below.
- 13-14 419 Sqn. Halifax II JD113 VR-Z was hit by flak over the target and then attacked by a night fighter over Holland which left it on fire, F/S W.Le R. Bovaird, F/S W.H.S. Buckwell, F/S A.E. Hurteau and F.W. Walkerdine killed, F/O R.W. Lowry, Sgt W.J.N. Duggan and Sgt W.M. Reid were PoW.
- 13-14 419 Sqn. Halifax II DT672 VR-D lost over Germany, F/S W.H. Bowden, Sgt O.J. Haralson, F/S L.D. McEwen, F/O E.B. Ruto RCAF (USA), Sgt G. Adams RAF, Sgt E. Kurring RAF and Sgt F.S. Neal RAF killed.
- 13-14 426 Sqn. Wellington X HE697 OW-M shot down over Holland by a night fighter, F/S J.P.O. Ethier, Sgt A.F. Hopley, Sgt T.F. How, Sgt J.A. Thomson and Sgt J.P.O. Hudspith RAF killed. Sgt Thomson and Sgt How had bailed out of a damaged Wellington April 26-27, above.
- 13-14 426 Sqn. Wellington X HE243 OW-E lost without trace, P/O J.B. Pettigrew, P/O R.E. Wagner RCAF (USA), Sgt E.W. Delaney RAF (NZ), Sgt S.E. Herbert RAF and Sgt E.D. Dwelly RAF missing.
- 13-14 426 Sqn. Wellington X HE320 was caught by searchlights and damaged by flak. They

jettisoned their bombs over Krefeld and returned to England, **Sgt K.H. Masterson**, **F/S L.A. Rivest**, **Sgt L.G. Sutherland**, Sgt W. Dunkersley RAF and Sgt S. Jepson RAF safe (R. Allenby). See May 23-24, below.

13-14 426 Sqn. Wellington X HE323 badly damaged over the target, but **Sgt L.R. Fadden RCAF (USA)**, **Sgt S. Gaunt RCAF (USA)**, **Sgt A.T. McCormick RCAF (USA)**, **Sgt L.C. McCracken** and Sgt J.H. Jones (RCAF?) returned safe (R. Allenby). See May 23-24, below.

13-14 429 Sqn. Wellington X LN439 AL-N lost over Germany, probably shot down by flak, **Sgt A.E. Atkinson**, **F/S D.I. Havard**, **F/S W.J. Reid** and **F/S F.R. Windibank** killed, **Sgt N.R. McKinley** PoW (R. Koval).

13-14 431 Sqn. Wellington X HE183 SE-J lost without trace, **F/O D.J. MacMillan**, S/L T.B. Marshall RAF, Sgt A.E. Quaife RAF, F/O D.S. Gooderman RAF and F/O D. Coales RAF missing.

13-14 467 Sqn. RAAF Lancaster III ED543 PO-H lost over Germany, **F/S B.L. Haley**, Sgt W.G. Berry RAF, Sgt H.W. Cox RAF, Sgt B.G. Hickling RAF, Sgt M.B. Squires RAF, F/O E.F.H. Heard RAF and Sgt K.E. Mahoney RAAF killed.

Friday

14 In the afternoon German Naval operations against convoys HX-237 and SC-129 were suspended after losing several U-boats, when the escort carrier HMS Biter was observed heading to the latter's defence. Certain deployment orders issued by the German command raised suspicions with the USN that security had been broken, and they undertook a forensic examination that came to focus on the British convoy code as the source (D. Syrett).

In Greenland the German captured station of Eskimoneas is attacked and destroyed by USAAF bombers from Iceland to prevent it's further use.

First fully successful use of the "Mark 24 Mine" "Fido" or "Z-Bomb", an air droppable acoustic torpedo, by a USN PBY aircraft to destroy U-657 off Greenland (wikipedia, uboat.net).

First of 8 Walrus amphibians enters service with the RCAF (Griffin CMA).

14 18 Sqn. Boston III AL775 'C' damaged landing in Tunisia on a ferry flight, WO J.A. Brown RAF injured, **F/S J.W. Borden**, Sgt H. Reynolds RAF and Sgt A. Taaffe RAF safe (BLME V.2).

14 116 Sqn. Oxford II W6590 crashed in Wales, **WO2 D.D. MacLean** killed.

14 245 (N. Rhodesia) Sqn. Typhoon Ib DN599 MR-D 'Hey There Mabel' ditched after an engine failure, **P/O R.H. Milne** rescued by a ASR Walrus. In his book Mr. Milne noted that this was a patrol to counter hit and run fighter-bombers. These patrols had been at very low level off the English coast and there had been several losses

due to engine failures. Just before this patrol took off an order was received to increase the patrol height to 1,000 ft. above the sea. This extra height gave P/O Milne the time to make his exit. He had just finished painting the nose art of a maple leaf in fall colours with the name underneath on this aircraft. See Aug. 19, 1944.

- 14 404 Sqn. Beaufighter on a shipping strike off Norway attacked and probably destroyed a Bv 138 flying boat escorting a German convoy, but was hit by flak that set one engine on fire. At that point it was attacked by two Fw 190 fighters which it drove off. The fire was extinguished and the aircraft flew back to base and made a wheels up landing, **F/L J.T. McCutcheon** and F/L J.L. Moore safe (FF Years).
- 14 #2 Flying Instructor School RAF Oxford II X7126 crashed in Scotland, **F/O P.B. Robertson RCAF (USA)** and F/O H.S. Shearer RNZAF killed (www.rafcommands.com).
- 14 #2 Wireless School, Calgary, Alberta, DH.82C4 Menasco Moth II #4848 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).
- 14 #4 AOS, London, Ontario, pilot **Sgt W.J. Brown** fainted at the controls of Anson I #7064. Navigator under training **LAC K.G. Spooner** took command, and with the other students attempted to get the unconscious pilot out of the cockpit. During this process the pilot regained consciousness and froze on the controls placing the aircraft in a descent. LAC Spooner took over the second controls and held the aircraft level while ordering the other other three students to bail out, which they did. Soon after the aircraft crashed into Lake Erie, killing **Sgt Brown** and **LAC Spooner**, **Sgt D.A. Nelson** missing. For his actions to save others LAC Spooner was awarded a posthumous George Cross (CCMA). His citation can be found in TSGNO.
- 14 unknown unit, engineer **S/L C.H. Bell** died in Canada of natural causes.
- 14-15 400 Sqn. Mustang I aircraft flown by **F/O D.M. Grant** and **F/L H.P. Peters** attacked 6 locomotives on a night RHUBARB (FF Years).

Saturday

15 4th Victory Loan raises \$1,308,716,650 (CJCA headline).

414 Sqn. begins making long range patrols from England over the Bay of Biscay with Mustang I fighters to protect anti-submarine patrols from German fighters (FF Years).

420 Sqn., 424 Sqn. and 425 Sqn. ground parties enroute to Tunisia from England by ship (RCAF Sqns.).

RAF Biggen Hill shoots down it's 1,000 enemy aircraft. Two enemy fighters are shot down within seconds of each other, 611 Squadron commander **S/L E.F.J.**

Charles DSO DFC & Bar RAF (Can) and 341 (Free French) Squadron commander Commandant R. Mouchotte share a lottery prize of £150 for the 999th and 1,000th victories (Allison & Hayward). A Corgi model was produced of S/L Charles aircraft with the markings celebrating this event. See July 25, below.

Lancaster R5727, modified at Victory Aircraft as the first Lancaster transport and registered CF-CMS, is flown back to England for new engines and fuel tanks. The original work of Victory Aircraft on this and later Lancaster XPP transports was developed into the postwar Lancastrian airliner (J. Stroud). See June 22, below.

Final operations by #14 (F) Sqn. over Kiska, #111 (F) Sqn. took over operations there (440 SH). In their time at Amchitka #14 (F) Sqn. had flown 190 sorties over Kiska, usually dive bombing (H.A. Halliday).

- 15 607 Sqn. Hurricane IIb HV430 crashed attempting to land with a glycol leak in India, P/O G.W. Paul killed (www.rafcommands.com).
- 15 39 Sqn. Beaufort IIa DD936 'N' lost on a night shipping search off the coast of Italy. Night fighters were reported in the area by other Beauforts (R. Hayward). WO2 F.J. Payne, WO E.D. Chalmer RAAF, Sgt J.E. Taylor RAF and Sgt W.G. Farrell RAF missing (A. Storr).
- 15 #70 OTU, WO1 H.C. Ferguson died and buried at sea of natural causes while being transported to Egypt for medical examination (www.rafcommands.com).
- 15 403 Sqn. Spitfire IX BR986 lost over France in a fight with German fighters on a CIRCUS operation, F/O W.T. Lane killed.
- 15 403 Sqn. Spitfire IX BS246 shot down over France during a fight with German fighters on a CIRCUS operation, F/L L.B. Madden killed on his first sortie (FF Years).
- 15 421 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AB973 shot down off the French coast on a CIRCUS in a fight with German fighters, P/O C.D. Myers killed.
- 15 544 Sqn. Mosquito PR.IV DZ494 lost, possibly on a PR sortie, pilot F/L J.H. Loder RAF killed and P/O T.J. Hughes missing (aviation-safety.net).
- 15 #5 AFU Master I N7843 force landed and flipped over in England, P/O S.T. George safe (www.aviationarchaeology.org.uk)
- 15 #5 (Coastal) OTU Beaufort Ia DX134 crashed in Ireland on a map and air rescue exercise, F/S R.K. Holmes RCAF (USA), Sgt W.W. Kirby RAAF, Sgt G. Taylor RAF and Sgt J.R. Parkes RAF killed (A. Storr).
- 15 #21 OTU Wellington Ic DV598 force landed after taking off on a transit flight when both engines overheated on the climb out, P/O C.J. Clayton, F/S G.W. Roberts RAF and 2 crew injured.
- 15 #55 OTU, Canadian built Hurricane I Z7049 was damaged in a forced landing in England after an engine failure, Sgt W.H. Reese safe (R. Allenby).

- 15 RAF Ferry Command, in Newfoundland **Ranger Hogan** and Cpl Butt found and spent the night in an abandoned cabin. Cpl Butts frozen feet were quite badly swollen by this time (G.A. Pauls). See May 17, below.
- 15 #1 Manning Depot, Toronto, Ontario, air frame mechanic **AC2 L.J. Whorwood** died in hospital in Hamilton, Ontario of injuries inflicted by a hit and run driver.
- 15 #1 PC, RCAF Station Rockcliffe, Ontario, Canadian built Mosquito B.VII KB305 flipped on it's back when landing killing aero engine mechanic **Sgt F.M. Dickinson** and **S/L G.V. Miscampbell**.
- 15 #2 Bombing & Gunnery School Mossbank, Saskatchewan, **LAC G.E. Park** died in hospital of natural causes.
- 15 #31 OTU Debert, NS, Hudson VI FK468 lost without trace on a navigational exercise, **Sgt H.H. Carter**, **Sgt R.C. Horsley**, **Sgt W.L. McDowell** and Sgt E.R. Dixey RAF missing.
- 15 USAAF 51st Fighter Sqn. P-39D 41-6807 damaged landing at Whitehorse, Yukon (AAIR).

- 15-16 142 Sqn. Wellington III DF709 missing in a sortie to Sicily, **Sgt J.P.D. Leclerc**, F/O D.M.A. Banton RAF, Sgt G.J. Evans RAF, Sgt C. Ray RAF and Sgt A.E. Whittall RAF missing.

Sunday

- 16 German SS troops end the Warsaw Ghetto uprising with the death of 13,000 people, some 58,000 survivors were killed later in concentration camps. The resisting Jews had killed less than 20 of the soldiers, and wounded about 30 (wikipedia).**
- 16 #1 ASC Spitfire Vb EP668 crashed on take off from an airfield in Algeria, killing **WO2 A.W. Otto**. WO Otto had been slightly injured just over a year before by an enemy aircraft while flying Spitfire Vb (Trop.) AB340, no further details.
- 16 150 Sqn. Wellington III DF729 force-landed and was destroyed by fire in Algeria on an air test when it was unable to un-feather an engine, **Sgt J.P. Lee** and his crew safe (BLME V.2)
- 16 608 Sqn. Hudson V AE641 crashed in Algiers, **F/O R.W. Haven RCAF (USA)**, **F/O W.W. Nichol**, **F/O C.L. Stevens** and F/O G.A.L. Broderick RAF killed.
- 16 #1 OADU Boston III W8337 landed wheels up in Gibraltar after the hydraulics failed on a ferry flight from England, **F/S R.H. Story** and his crew safe (BLME V.2).
- 16 295 Sqn. Halifax V DG390 crashed in England following an engine failure on a short flight expected to last 10 minutes between airfields, **F/O M.W. Collins**, **F/O D.J. Smith**, F/O P.S. Thomas RAF, Sgt B.N. Stephenson RAF, as well as Sgt F.J. Davies, Sgt R.D. Sunter and Sgt R.H. Borton (all members of the 1st Wing of the Glider Pilot Regiment) were killed (H. Welting www.rafcommands.com, #38 Group Roll of Honour <http://www.raf38group.org>, <http://www.winkton.net>). This Squadron was

- preparing for an operation to tow Horsa gliders from England to North Africa for the upcoming invasion of Sicily.
- 16 412 Sqn. Spitfire Vc EE665 damaged when landing from an operation over France when the pilot, **F/O L.W. Powell**, had neglected to lower his flaps (VoyTech at www.rafcommands.com). See June 17, below.
- 16 455 Sqn. RAAF Canadian built Hampden TB.I AN148 was on a torpedo exercise when it had an engine fail at low altitude, spun and crashed into the sea, F/S G.V. Courtney RAAF, F/O A.C. Smith RAF, Sgt J.A. King RAF and F/S C.H.A. Smith RAAF missing (A. Storr).
- 16 #8 OTU Spitfire Ia X4326 hit high ground in Scotland and crashed, killing **F/O J.D. McDonell**.
- 16 #1 SFTS, Camp Borden, Ontario, **LAC(P) K.B. Dewar** died of injuries received May 9 when Harvard IIb #3045 crashed on an armament practise flight.
- 16 #9 B&G School, Mt. Joli, Quebec, Battle I #1993 written off after a crash (R.W.R. Walker).
- 16 USAAF 7th Ferry Sqn. P-39N 42-18624 written off in a force landing at Watson Lake, Yukon (AAIR).

16-17 Operation CHASTISE, the Dam Busters Raid. Attack on German hydro-electric dams by 19 modified Lancaster bombers using specialized bombs developed by Wellington designer Barnes Wallis. Four dams were attacked and 2 were breached by the squadron for the loss of 8 bombers. Flooding downstream of the dams caused direct damage to property and industrial facilities, as well as disrupting water levels in the canal system, affecting transportation. Over 1,200 people downstream of the dams, including 500 conscripted foreign workers, are believed to have been drowned. Water distribution was disrupted by damage to pumping stations and water rationing in the region was in place until the winter. As well hydro-electrical power for production in the Ruhr was reduced until the dams could be re-built, new generators built and the reservoirs refilled the next spring. To have caused equal damage to the German industrial infrastructure by bombing alone would have taken thousands of sorties and months to accomplish, with high cost of life to both sides (J. Sweetman).

Squadron Commanding Officer and attack leader W/C G.P. Gibson RAF was awarded the Victoria Cross and 34 other aircrew were decorated for this attack (BC War Diaries). Twenty nine of the 133 aircrew on this operation were Canadian. See F.C. Williams, Airforce Magazine, Vol. 9, No. 4 for a photograph of the surviving Canadian aircrew on this operation. Thirteen Canadian airmen were killed, 1 missing and 1 PoW from the dams attack.

Other operations on this night were 9 Mosquitos to Berlin, Cologne, Dusseldorf and Munster, 54 GARDENING sorties and 4 OTU sorties with 1 GARDENING aircraft lost (BC War Diaries).

- 16-17 617 Sqn. Lancaster III (Special) ED865 AJ-S strayed off course and overflew an airfield in Holland where it was shot down by flak, **WO2 J.L. Arthur**, **WO2 J.G. Brady**, **P/O L.J. Burpee DFM**, Sgt G. Pegler RAF, Sgt T. Jaye RAF, P/O L.G. Weller RAF and Sgt W.C.A. Long RAF killed.
- 16-17 617 Sqn. Lancaster III (Special) ED925 AJ-M was damaged by flak and the blast of its bomb which overshot the Mohne Dam and landed on the powerhouse below. The bomber crashed into high ground near the target, **Sgt C. Brennan RAF (Can.)**, **F/O K. Earnshaw**, F/L J.V. Hopgood DFC & Bar RAF, Sgt J.W. Minchin RAF and P/O G.H.F.G. Gregory DFM RAF killed, **P/O J.W. Fraser** and P/O A.F. Burcher DFM RAAF PoW. See F.C. Williams for an account of P/O Fraser's and P/O Burcher's bailouts. As well their experiences were detailed in K.C. Ogilvie et al.
- 16-17 617 Sqn. Lancaster III (Special) ED934 AJ-K was shot down into the Waddensee by flak returning from its attack on the Sorpe Dam, **F/S J. McDowell** killed, **P/O V.W. Byers**, Sgt A.J. Taylor RAF, F/O J.H. Warner RAF, P/O A.N. Whitaker RAF, Sgt J. Wilkinson RAF and Sgt C.M. Jarvie RAF missing. P/O Byers life and loss is detailed in K.C. Ogilvie et al.
- 16-17 617 Sqn. Lancaster III (Special) ED937 AJ-Z was badly damaged by its own weapon attacking the Eder Dam. Attempting to return to England it was shot down over Germany by flak, **WO2 A.P. Cottam**, **F/O R.A. Urquhart DFC**, S/L H.E. Maudslay DFC RAF, Sgt J. Marriott DFM RAF, P/O M.J.D. Fuller RAF, F/O W.J. Tytherleigh DFC RAF and Sgt N.R. Burrows RAF killed. F/O Urquhart had been wounded on a sortie in 1942, and had participated on both of the daylight attacks on Le Creusot and Milan in October of that year, all of which can be found in the citation for his DFC (B. Barry et al). F/O Urquhart life and loss is detailed by Robert Owen in K.C. Ogilvie et al.
- 16-17 617 Sqn. Lancaster III (Special) ED864 AJ-B lost over Germany after flying into high power lines at low level, **F/S F.A. Garbas**, **WO2 A. Garshowitz**, **P/O F.A. Wile**, F/L W. Astell DFC RAF, Sgt J. Kinnear RAF, F/O D. Hopkinson RAF and Sgt R. Bolitho RAF killed.
- 16-17 617 Sqn. Lancaster III (Special) ED927 AJ-E was tasked with attacking the Sorpe Dam but flew into high power lines at low level and crashed in Germany, **F/O H.S. Glinz**, F/L R.N.G. Barlow DFC RAAF, F/O C.R. Williams DFC RAAF, P/O S.L. Whillis RAF, F/O P.S. Burgess RAF, P/O A. Gillespie DFM RAF and Sgt J.R.G. Liddell RAF killed. The special UPKEEP bomb developed for this operation was recovered intact from the wreckage and examined by the Luftwaffe. W.R. Chorley notes that a biography of F/O Williams, "*An Airman Far Away*", Kangaroo Press, 1993, was written by Eric Fry. In 2013 a memorial plaque for the aircrew was installed at the crash site (www.telegraph.co.uk).

16-17 617 Sqn. Lancaster III (Special) ED887 AJ-A, deputy leaders aircraft, dropped its weapon on the Mohne Dam and then escorted aircraft to the attack on the Eder Dam. Outbound it was shot down by flak on the Dutch coast and crashed into the sea, **F/O V.S. MacCausland**, S/L H.M. Young DFC & Bar RAF (USA), Sgt D.T. Horsfall RAF, F/S C.W. Roberts RAF, Sgt L.W. Nichols RAF, Sgt G.A. Yeo RAF and Sgt W. Ibbotson RAF killed.

Monday

17 USAAF sent 198 heavy bombers to attack U-boat bases in France, losing 5 shot down and 1 interned in Spain (Zijlstra). On this operation the crew of B-17 "Memphis Belle" becomes the second USAAF crew to complete a tour of operations (25 missions) in Europe (see May 3, above). The aircraft and crew are returned to the US for a publicity tour (wikipedia).

USAAF B-26 bomber attack loses 10 of 11 sent on an unescorted low level attack to Holland. As a result of this USAAF low level attacks were discontinued, and the squadrons were re-trained to fly at medium levels with fighter escort (Zijlstra).

Caen airfield was attacked by 12 Venturas without loss (BC War Diaries).

Realizing that convoy SC-130 had been located by a wolfpack of U-boats additional escorts are sent from St. John's, Newfoundland (D. Syrett).

The town of Hebertville, Quebec, is devastated by a grass fire that destroyed 50 buildings and left 270 people homeless (www3.gendisasters.com).

- 17 #24 OTU Whitley V BD204 force landed on mudflats off England after losing an engine on a navigation exercise, **Sgt J.A. Inverarity** and Sgt J.W. Clark RAF injured, the latter seriously. See June 7-8, 1944.
- 17 RAF Ferry Command, survivors **Ranger Hogan** and Cpl Butt found a second cabin, where they were forced to stay due to the Corporal's frozen feet and the spring melt. They were then some 6 miles from Hawke's Bay, but trapped by high water on the river they had followed (G.A. Pauls). See May 9, below.
- 17 #128 (F) Sqn. RCAF, Harvard II #2891 missing near Sydney, NS, on an instrument check flight, **P/O J.B.N. Roy** and **F/S J.E. Whelan** missing. These were the only two fatalities suffered by this Squadron. An investigation after the loss showed the radio and instruments on the aircraft had not been properly serviced (C. Charland www.rafcommands.com).
- 17 USAAF 7th Ferry Sqn. P-39N 42-18646 damaged landing at Whitehorse, Yukon (AAIR).

17-18 215 Sqn. Wellington BB456 'D' shot down over Burma by a Japanese night fighter on an operation to Meiktila, **F/L J.A. Guest**, F/S J.W. Wilmore RAF, WO C.L. Edwards RAAF, F/S J.B. Whyte RAAF, WO A. Barnes RAAF and F/S R. Cross RAF have no known grave (A. Storr, C. Shores).

17-18 Bomber Command had 3 diversionary Mosquitos over Germany and 6 GARDENING sorties off France with the loss of 1 Stirling (BC War Diaries).

Cardiff in Wales was attacked by 89 Luftwaffe bombers (ww2total.com Chronology/1943).

17-18 410 Sqn. Mosquito NF.II DD713 missing on a night RANGER over Germany, **F/O H.O. Bouchard** and P/O W.S. Fyfe RAF killed.

17-18 410 Sqn. Mosquito NF.II DZ683 hit by flak and made a crash landing in England on return, **P/O C.F. Green** injured, Sgt E.G. White RAF safe (aviation-safety.net).

17-18 415 Sqn. Hampden TB.I L6055 GX-D shot down by flak attacking shipping off the coast of Holland, P/O K.C. Wathen RAAF killed, F/O J.M. Crawford RAF, Sgt I.M. Sykes RNZAF and Sgt J.H. Steward RAF missing (H. Moyle, R. McNeill at www.rafcommands.com).

17-18 415 Sqn. Canadian built Hampden TB.I AN153 GX-B shot down by flak on a shipping attack off Holland, **WO2 G.B. Jackson** and **WO2 L.E. McGee** killed, **WO2 E.J. Ramey** and F/O L.G. Burgess RAF missing (R. McNeill www.rafcommands.com). Three other 415 Sqn. Hampdens claimed hits on ships on this night, by F/L W.H. Adams, P/O P.N. Harris RAF (GX-M) and Sgt W.G. Pilkington (GX-H) (FF Years). The *Ernst Von Brieson* and the minesweeper *M 345* were sunk (414 SH).

Tuesday

18 Off Algeria convoy KMS-14 was attacked by U-414 that sank the freighter Empire Eve and damaged the Canadian built freighter Fort Anne (www.uboaat.net).

Convoy SC-130 is in contact with U-boats (known by HF/DF intercepts), which are prevented from attacking due to clear skies and moonlight (D. Syrett) and aggressive actions by it's escort (M. Gannon).

18 #7 (Coastal) OTU Wellington VIII HX735 on a navigation exercise was lost off the Hebrides Islands, Sgt W. Mycock RAF and Sgt J. Burns RAF killed, **F/O P.B. Code**, P/O D.C. Stone RAF, Sgt F.R. Bradbury RAF and F/O W. Lawrence RAAF missing (A. Storr).

18 #32 OTU, Patricia Bay, BC, Canadian built Hampden TB.I AN135 ditched off Stuart Island, Washington State, USA, after an engine failure practicing solo low flying, Sgt J. Birch (RCAF? RAF?) rescued by US Coast Guard cutter (*BC Times Colonist, Patricia Bay Aircrash List 2009*, H. Moyle).

18 #32 OTU Patricia Bay, BC, Canadian built Hampden TB.I AN113 broke it's back after an engine cut on taking off at Sidney, BC, Sgt P.H. Griffiths injured. There is a photo

of this loss in TSGNO.

- 18 #33 EFTS, Caron, Saskatchewan, Cornell II #10626 crashed, Sgt G.A. Shearer RAF and LAC T.K.J. Simpson RAF killed.
 - 18 #35 EFTS Neepawa, Man., DH.82C Tiger Moth #4001 crashed, LAC J. Seddon RAF killed.
 - 18 USAAF 7th Ferry Group P-39N 42-18578 crashed at Keho Lake near Lethbridge, Alberta, pilot R.W. Peters killed.
- 18-19 162 Sqn. Wellington Ic DV931 was lost without trace from an electronic data gathering sortie of Lampedusa, Pantelleria and Sicily, **Sgt A.D. McKim**, Sgt J.W. Bousfield RAF, P/O C.A. Cheese RAF, Sgt A.L. Eastwick GM RAF, F/S C.L. McCarthy RAF, F/S J.D. Muir AFM RAF, Sgt D. Parry RAF and F/L H.D. Van der Linden RAF (S. Africa) missing (CWGC; BLME V.2).

Wednesday

19 In the early morning a VLR Liberator from 120 Sqn., flying at extreme range from Iceland, arrives over convoy SC-130, locates a U-boat ahead of the ships, and attacks it with acoustic torpedoes. It then sights 5 more U-boats but can only make mock attacks to force them to dive, then mark the location with smoke which allows escorts to engage them until the convoy is past (D. Syrett).

A second 120 Sqn. Liberator takes over the escort, attacks one U-boat and forces 6 more to submerge. The escort force from St. John's arrived and swept behind the convoy, sighting 3 U-boats and sinking one, while the convoy escort sinks a third. Three more Liberators provided cover in shifts during the daylight, making 3 more attacks on U-boats without result, but forcing the submarines to lose contact with the ships (D. Syrett).

In the Atlantic the Canadian barquentine Angelus, sailing from Barbados to Halifax with a cargo of molasses, was shelled and sunk by U-161. All 10 crew abandoned ship in a lifeboat but only 2 were found alive by a US destroyer 5 days later (RCN Chronology; www.uboat.net).

Britain pledges to fight the Japanese to the end (CJCA headline) at the Washington TRIDENT Conference.

USAAF has 183 heavy bombers over German ports with 6 lost as well as 27 on a diversion to Holland, total 211 bomber sorties (Zijlstra).

- 19 1 Sqn. Typhoon Ib R7863 hit by flak over France and crashed, **P/O E.A. Glover** PoW. Postwar P/O Glover rejoined the RCAF and as an exchange pilot flying F-86 (Sabre) fighters in Korea was credited with 3 MiG-15 destroyed and 3 probables,

- earning a DFC June 12, 1953 (*Airforce Magazine*, Winter 1992).
- 19 295 Sqn. Halifax GT.V DK122 crashed in England, F/O F. Hilton RAF, Sgt P.J. Phipps RAF and Sgt F.W. Wilson RAF killed, F/O E.B. Blackburn RAF, **F/O R.M. Reisner** injured (Henk Welting www.rafcommands.com). See May 20, below.
- 19 421 Sqn. Spitfire IX BS385 crashed after structural failure in a dive, the pilot was thrown clear (www.spitfires.ukf.net).
- 19 #14 AFU Oxford I V4022 crashed in England after an engine failure, **F/S J.G. O'Gorman** killed.
- 19 #19 OTU **F/O G.J. Butler** drowned in a boating accident in Scotland.
- 19 #38 Wing Hudson IIIa FH168 crashed after take-off in England on a flight to Gibraltar when an engine failed, passenger A/C Sir Nigel St.V. Norman CBE RAF killed, crew **P/O A. Rotenburg** died of his injuries, F/L R.H. Jesse and F/S G. Russell as well as passengers W/C R.W. Hurst, S/L E.W. Armstrong and Cpl H.A. Palmer injured (www.rafdavidstowmoor.org; www.rafcommands.com).
- 19 #310 FTU Wellington HZ437 spun and crashed in England after an engine failed, **P/O R.K. Van Cleaf**, Sgt R. Allan RAF, Sgt S.R. Barnes RAF and P/O H.G.A. Thompson RAF killed.
- 19 RAF Ferry Command, after providing a store of wood for a fire in the cabin for Cpl Butt, **Ranger Hogan** attempted to reach Hawke's Bay by land, but finds the river too high. He returns to the cabin. Over the next weeks they tried several times to make a raft to cross the river, but were unsuccessful (G.A. Pauls). See May 22, below.
- 19 USAAF Canadian built UC-64A (Norseman) 43-5124 damaged in an accident at Presque Isle, Maine, USA (<http://www.norsemanhistory.ca/>).
- 19-20 489 Sqn. RNZAF Hampden TB.I P2084 XA-O missing from a shipping reconnaissance, **F/S J.R. Keeping** killed, **WO1 G.J. McEachern**, F/S E.M. Whitsed RAF and F/S R.W. Easton RAF missing (H. Moyle).

Thursday

20 Canada and USA sign commercial arbitration act (CJCA headline).

Over convoy SC-130 the first 120 Sqn. Liberator to arrive in the morning attacked 1 U-boat and forced 4 others to dive. The next sighted 4 U-boats ahead of the convoy, attacking 2 and sinking U-258. That evening the German command called off further attacks on SC-130, having lost 4 U-boats without sinking any ships. The VLR Liberators of 120 Squadron, plus USN PBY patrols from Iceland, played a major role in this success (D. Syrett). See May 24, below.

- 20 295 Sqn. pilot **F/O R.M. Reisner** died of injuries received the previous day, and F/O E.B. Blackburn RAF died of his injuries June 2 (www.rafcommands.com).
- 20 407 Sqn. Wellington XIV MP614/G crashed in Cornwall, 6 crew safe (www.rafdavidstowmoor.org). The 'G' suffix to the aircraft serial indicated it was

- equipped with secret equipment that required it be guarded 24 hours a day.
- 20 #1 SFTS, Camp Borden, Ontario, Harvard IIb FE561 crashed, LAC R.K. Genge RAF killed.
- 20 #45 Group, RAF Ferry Command, Baltimore IV FA520 crashed in Georgetown, British Guiana, killing **WO2 F.A.R. Milbury** and **WO2 H.D.G. Ward**.

20-21 Bomber Command sent 3 Mosquitos to Berlin, 23 GARDENING and 5 OTU sorties without loss (BC War Diaries).

- 20-21 100 Sqn. Lancaster III ED824 HW-E returned from a GARDENING sortie early with engine problems and crash landed in England, **Sgt A. Franciscone**, **Sgt C.W. Smith**, **Sgt C.E. White** RAF, **Sgt J. Martin** RAF, **Sgt L.C. Dowdell** RAF, **Sgt H.C. West** RAF and **Sgt S. Bashford** RAF safe.

Friday

21 USAAF loses 13 of 133 bombers over German ports (Zijlstra).

The Mississippi River floods, breaking through levies on this day. Over 150,000 are homeless until the waters recede (D. Sommerville).

- 21 55 Sqn. Baltimore IIa FA310 was damaged and not repaired after it made a hard landing on a training flight in Tunisia, pilot **F/O H.C. Leach** safe (BLME V.2).
- 21 #8 OTU Spitfire Ia X4839 lost on a navigation exercise in poor visibility, **F/S L.A. Wearn** missing (www.spitfires.ukf.net).
- 21 #52 OTU, Fighter School, RAF, Spitfire Vb EP763 GK-P crashed in an authorized low-flying exercise, **F/O E.J. Ross** killed (paulmcmillan.com).

21-22 Bomber Command sent out 104 GARDENING sorties off Holland and France, plus 4 Mosquitos to Berlin, 4 GARDENING aircraft lost (BC War Diaries).

- 21-22 428 Sqn. Wellington X HE899 NA-B lost without trace on a GARDENING sortie, **F/S P.H. Brand**, **F/S E.K. Edwards**, **F/S R.E. Hagan**, **F/S C.N. Magnusson** and **F/S W.C. Sutton** missing.
- 21-22 428 Sqn. Wellington X HE177 NA-G overshot it's landing returning from a GARDENING sortie and crashed in England, **F/O A.B. Douglas**, **F/S S.D. Frewen**, **F/S A.J. Grenon**, **F/S A.J. Simpson** killed, **Sgt A.J. Howes** injured. W.R. Chorley notes that bomb aimer F/O Douglas had been a pharmacist before the war.
- 21-22 431 Sqn. Wellington X HE200 SE-P lost without trace on a GARDENING sortie, **Sgt R.A. Buck** RAF, **Sgt R.A. Williams** RAF, **Sgt H.C. Williams** RAF, **Sgt A.G. McManus** RAF and **Sgt A.J. Marshall** RAF missing.
- 21-22 #26 OTU Wellington III BJ669 overshot the runway making a one engined landing while on a BULLSEYE operation, **Sgt D.A. Knight**, **Sgt G.P. Slade** RAF and 4 RAF injured.
- 21-22 #111 OTU, Bahamas, Mitchell II FR365 'CD' failed to return from a navigation exercise.

Nothing found after a search (E. Wiberg). **Sgt E.W. Durrant RAF (Can.)**, **Sgt M. Gedelian**, **Sgt H.W. Guinter** and **P/O E.D. Todd**, F/S T.W.V. Atkins-Tallentire RAF, F/O A.G. Cleary RNZAF and F/O J.E. Thomas missing (www.rafcommands.com).

Saturday

22 Large Luftwaffe attack on the railroad yards at Kursk has mixed results after interception by Soviet fighters (C. Bergström). See June 2, below.

22 RAF Ferry Command, Mitchell II FL209 ran out fuel due to pilot error and crashed near Montreal, Quebec on a training flight, S/L C.R. Elgar RAF and Radio Operator M. Koshuta (USA) killed (J. Baugher).

22 **Newfoundland Ranger J.J. Hogan** declared missing (G.A. Pauls). See June 1, below.

Sunday

23 #117 (BR) Sqn. RCAF deploys back to North Sydney from Dartmouth, NS (RCAF Sqns.).

Two Italian SM.75GA aircraft, airliners extensively modified for long range, take off from Rhodes to bomb the USAAF airfield at Gura in Eritrea (H.W. Neulen).

487 Sqn. RNZAF which had suffered so badly over Holland May 3, above, resumes operations with 12 Venturas attacking a power station at Zeebrugge, Belgium. The bombers miss the power station but hit the railway yards beside it, no losses (BC War Diaries).

Premier William Aberhart of Alberta dies unexpectedly on a visit to Vancouver, BC. He is succeeded by his former student and fellow radio Bible lecturer Ernest Manning. Manning served as Alberta's premier for 25 years, and was the only Social Credit politician appointed to the Senate (wikipedia).

23 608 Sqn. Hudson VI FK715 crashed after take-off in Algeria, **Sgt R.G. Carter RAF (Nfld.)**, **Sgt J.L. Johnston**, F/S F.G. Addis RNZAF, LAC S. Goddard RAF, Sgt B. Grimes RAF, F/S F.D. Thomson RNZAF and LAC N. Wood RAF killed.

23 USAAF Canadian built UC-64A (Norseman) 43-5139 written off in a ground-loop in Montana, USA (<http://www.norsemanhistory.ca/>).

Metropole Hotel Attack, Bournemouth, England

23 #3 Personnel Reception Centre, RCAF, Bournemouth, England, hit by bombs during a "hit and run" raid on the town by 26 German Fw 190 fighter bombers that killed 128 people, 51 of whom were military (P. Caygill). Killed in the Metropole Hotel were **F/S W.G. Abbott**, **F/S G. Assaf (408 Sqn.)**, **Sgt D.R. Chalmers**, **Sgt R.R. Courtney RCAF (UK)**, **LAC E.O.M. Gilbert**, **Sgt A.C. Matheson (#12 OTU)**, **Sgt F.J. Matier**, **Sgt R.F. Pelrine**, **F/S J.L. Soos (408 Sqn.)**, **Cpl W.G. Wood**, **Sgt R.C. Woods**, **F/S C.B.**

Crabbe RAAF, F/S R.F. Franklin RAAF, F/S A.J. Kerrigan RAAF, F/S J.F. McMahon RAAF, F/S V.L. Pope RAAF, LAC R. Crawshaw RAAF, Sgt N.M. Gray RAAF, LAC J. Howlett RAF, AC2 A.J.P. Lohoar RAF and AC1 J.J. Morrissey RAF (details from J.R. Stevens).

- 23 #5 (Coastal) OTU Beaufort la DW995 was seen to crash into the sea off Northern Ireland on a navigation exercise, **F/O W.I. Post**, F/S C.H. Brumby RNZAF, Sgt N.T. Sparrow RAAF and Sgt J. Booth RAF missing (A. Storr, R. Hayward).
- 23 #1 Bombing & Gunnery School, Jarvis, Ontario, engineer **S/L B.W. Watkins** died in hospital of natural causes.
- 23 #32 OTU, Patricia Bay, BC, Canadian built Hampden I AN142 crashed near the airfield making an emergency landing after an engine failure, Sgt R.J. Hughes RAAF, Sgt A.R. Marlow RAF and P/O C.J. Davis RAAF killed, Sgt C. Bishop RAAF badly injured. See May 27, below. (*BC Times Colonist, Patricia Bay Aircrash List 2009*, A. Storr).

23-24 The size of attacks by Bomber Command went up again as 826 Main Force, Pathfinder and OBOE aircraft were sent to Dortmund. The total bomb load exceeded 2,000 tons, doubling the record set just over three months before, as more squadrons began operating Lancaster and Halifax heavy bombers. Industrial facilities were heavily hit, as well as 2,000 homes destroyed, over 600 people were killed or missing on the ground, 38 bombers were lost. Bomber Command would not need to target Dortmund again for a year after this attack (BC War Diaries).

- 23-24 10 Sqn. Halifax II W1217 ZA-Z shot down by a night fighter into the IJsselmeer, **Sgt G.D. Nisbet**, F/O J.W.T. King RAF, Sgt H.G. Ashton RAF, Sgt A. Hall RAF, Sgt C.J.J. Hine RAF, Sgt E.C. Church RAF and Sgt R.F.F. Baggaley RAF killed.
- 23-24 15 Sqn. Stirling III BF482 LS-R shot down by flak over the target in Germany, **P/O W.Q. Johnson** killed, **F/O H.N. Lyons**, Sgt H.G.C. Waite RAF and Sgt M.J. Flaherty RAF missing, **Sgt R.O. Leonard**, Sgt C.F. Ryall RAF, Sgt S.D. Hirst RAF and Sgt N.R. Elford RAF PoW.
- 23-24 44 Sqn. Lancaster III ED723 KM-U lost without trace, **P/O F.A. Doherty**, **P/O J.L. Drysdale**, Sgt J.F. Lester RAF, F/O W.A. Marsden RAF, F/S H.W.E. Hyett RAF, Sgt S. Jones RAF and Sgt A.S. Bushill RAF missing.
- 23-24 49 Sqn. Lancaster III ED813 EA-W lost over Germany, P/O T.G.H. Lewis RAF, P/O R. Christy RAF, Sgt G.R. Evans RAF and Sgt R.H. Ancell RAF (Argentina) killed, F/O I.W. Thomas RAF, Sgt J. Grant RAF and P/O I.C. Duthie RAF PoW. In an article in *Our Canada* magazine, November, 2012, on F/O Thomas it notes he had married a Canadian during his training in Canada. After the war he emigrated here and was employed by the CNR designing railway bridges across the country. He is listed as a Canadian by Allison and Hayward in their *Canadians in the RAF* and this has led to an erroneous listing in O. Clutton-Brock's *Footprints on the Sands of Time* as

well, and confusion with Sgt W.I. Thomas RAF who was PoW from 218 Sqn. June 25-26, 1943.

- 23-24 51 Sqn. Halifax II HR835 lost over Germany, **F/S W. Brown**, Sgt L.A. Wright RAF, Sgt C. Newman RAF, Sgt J.D. Minton RAF, P/O J. Cookson RAF, Sgt J.L. Edwards RAF and Sgt J. Jones RAF killed.
- 23-24 51 Sqn. Halifax II HR836 shot down over Holland by a night fighter, **F/S H.G. Freeman**, **F/S M.E. Zapfe**, Sgt A.M. Black RAF, Sgt H.J. Gibbs RAF, F/O T.H. Green RAF, F/O J.E. Rigby RAF and Sgt A.E.P. Rochester RAF killed. A monument now marks the crash site, dedicated May 4, 2009 (Powell River's Unsung Heros Of World War II, Powell River Museum).
- 23-24 51 Sqn. Halifax II HR844 was lost on an operation to Germany, **Sgt G.F.D. Neumann**, Sgt R.R. Mascall RAF, Sgt C. Rands RAF, Sgt D. Shepherd RAF, Sgt F.J. Clancy RAF, Sgt C.D. Willcox-Jones RAF and Sgt W. Fry PoW. Sgt Clancy was repatriated later.
- 23-24 76 Sqn. Halifax V DK169 MP-M was damaged by flak and then attacked by a night fighter, rear and mid-upper gunners **F/S H.A. Crouse** and P/O J.W. Coleman RAF are believed to have been killed in the fighter attack. The rest of the crew, Sgt C.H. Cousins RAF, Sgt J. Parr RAF, P/O A.W.L. Pruce RAF, Sgt J.F. Hughes RAF and Sgt A.G. Dale RAF, baled out over Holland and became PoW. See <http://www.teunispats.net/fr-wwii.htm> for details.
- 23-24 78 Sqn. Halifax II W7926 EY-P radioed that it had an engine on fire before crashing into the Waddenzee, but **Sgt F. Churchard**, Sgt B.W.T. Horn RAF, Sgt R.F. Cumming RAF, Sgt G. Irving RAF, Sgt W.H. Allely RAF, Sgt D.R. Wilcox RAF and Sgt G.J.U. Stevens RAF had bailed out and became PoW.
- 23-24 78 Sqn. Halifax II JD160 was hit by flak and abandoned over Germany, Sgt F.M. Chaffey RAF was hit descending in his parachute by a shell splinter and died, but **Sgt J.O. Mander**, Sgt G.H. Tinniswood RAF, P/O P.H. Bear RAF, P/O R. Donnan RAF, Sgt G.J. Wallace RAF and Sgt E.F. Harries RAF PoW.
- 23-24 101 Sqn. Lancaster I W4919 SR-A shot down by a night fighter and came down just inside the Dutch border, **Sgt O.H. Sibson**, **F/S L.G. Smith**, F/S J.H.T. Hayes RAAF, Sgt W.R. Cook RAF, Sgt P.G. Eames RAF, Sgt J. Park RAF and Sgt J.W.C. Evans RAF killed.
- 23-24 102 Sqn. Halifax II JD112 DY-H shot down over Holland by a night fighter, Sgt A. Campbell RAF, F/O J.R. Bullock RAF, Sgt H.D. Newbury RAF and Sgt J.C. Smith RAF killed, **F/S A.M. Sargent RAF (Can.)**, Sgt C.R. Webb RAF and Sgt M. Galloway RAF PoW. This entire crew had been rescued after ditching a Halifax May 13-14 above.
- 23-24 166 Sqn. Wellington X HE290 AS-J shot down by a night fighter over Holland, **F/S J.R. Stewart**, Sgt F.V.G. Alloway RAF, Sgt E.S. Morris RAF, Sgt H.B. Thompson RAF and Sgt R.F. Williamson RAF killed.
- 23-24 199 Sqn. Wellington X HZ582 shot down over Holland by a night fighter, **WO2 R.M.**

- Costello RCAF (USA)**, Sgt H.W. Austin RAF and Sgt A. Herbert RAF killed, Sgt D.R. Keavers RAAF and Sgt J.P.E. Last RAF PoW.
- 23-24 214 Sqn. Stirling III BF478 BU-G believed to have been lost off the Dutch coast, Sgt R.V. Street RAF killed, **P/O J.W. Evans**, Sgt Z. Goldfinger RAF (Palestine), Sgt V.N. Walker RAF, Sgt R.C. Child RAF, Sgt H. Ward RAF and Sgt E.D. Ager RAF missing.
- 23-24 218 Sqn. Stirling III BK706 HA-Y lost over the target, Sgt G.S. Wishart RAF and Sgt C.E. Bryant RAF killed, **Sgt G.B. Leadbeater**, F/O J. Phillips RAF, Sgt M.L.S. Drabble RAF, Sgt D.A.F. Paveley RAF and Sgt W.G. Kirby RAF have no known grave.
- 23-24 405 Sqn. Halifax II JB896 LQ-C lost without trace, **WO2 G. Banescu**, **F/O F.P. Harrison**, **F/S R.W. Jennings**, **WO1 J. Martin**, **F/S R.C. McRae**, F/O M. Gluck RAF and Sgt S. McGlory RAF missing.
- 23-24 405 Sqn. Halifax II LQ-M, **F/O M.E. Tomczak**, was coned by search lights on the return trip and shot up by flak which damaged the aircraft and badly wounded **F/O A.P. McCracken** in the legs (T. Barris, *M for Mother, Airforce Magazine*, Vol. 39, #4, March, 2016). See July 25-26, below.
- 23-24 408 Sqn. Halifax II JB841 EQ-K lost over Germany near the target, **F/S E.H. Alderson RCAF (UK)**, **F/O J.M. Colvin** killed, **Sgt J. Hooper**, **P/O T.R. Livermore**, **Sgt D. Slobotsky**, **P/O H. Uretzky** and Sgt F. Thompson RAF missing (R. Koval).
- 23-24 408 Sqn. Halifax II sustained light damage by flak, **Sgt M.R. Ledgett**, **P/O J. Macready**, **Sgt K.N. Reid**, **Sgt T.F. Thould**, **Sgt W.M. Vanzant**, Sgt B. Gray RAF and Sgt A.M. Lloyd RAF landed in England (R. Allenby). See August 27-28, below.
- 23-24 419 Sqn. Halifax II BB384 VR-L crashed short of landing returning from an operation when it ran out of fuel due to damage caused by falling bombs over the target (419 SH, R. Koval). The aircraft struck the bank of the River Tees and bounced over the river to land on the far bank (letter, *Airforce Magazine*, March, 1982), **F/O P.G. Weedon**, **F/O R.K. Shields** and crew Sgt C.W. Nevins, F/O P. Campbell, Sgt M. Wigelsworth, Sgt S. Poole and Sgt D.G. Plyley (RCAF and/or RAF) safe.
- 23-24 419 Sqn. Halifax II JB862 VR-U shot down by flak and night fighters over Germany after an engine failed, **F/S G.R. Gowling**, **WO2 A.S. Green**, **F/S J.F.J.P. Prieur**, Sgt A.J. Brockway RAF, Sgt M.A. Harrison RAF and F/O D. Gartery RAF killed, **Sgt F.A. Dunn** was knocked unconscious, but recovered to find himself alive, trapped in the wreckage. He managed to crawl free and leave the crash site, but was taken PoW (419 SH). WO Green had wrecked a #1659 HCU Halifax Jan. 15, above.
- 23-24 426 Sqn. Wellington X HE281 OW-D lost over Holland, **WO2 K.H. Masterson**, **WO2 L.A. Rivest**, **WO2 L.G. Sutherland**, Sgt W. Dunkerley RAF and Sgt S. Jepson RAF killed.
- 23-24 426 Sqn. Wellington X HE995 OW-R damaged by flak on a sortie to Germany with hydraulics and intercom out and a fire in the forward fuselage, the bail out order was given and bomb aimer **Sgt L.R. Fadden RCAF (USA)** and rear gunner **Sgt L.C. McCracken** parachuted out to become PoW before the draft from the open escape

hatch extinguished the fire and control was regained by the pilot, **Sgt S. Gaunt RCAF (USA)**, and the aircraft was able to return to England, navigator Sgt A.T. McCormick taking turns navigating and watching a Bf 110 night fighter that followed them while wireless operator Sgt J.H. Jones (RCAF?) worked on repairing the intercom, one crewman was slightly injured in the crash landing they made (R. Koval, R. Allenby). Sgt Gaunt received the DFM for this sortie. He later transferred to the USAAF (426 SH). See August 27-28, below.

23-24 429 Sqn. Wellington X HZ312 damaged in an aileron by flak, **Sgt F.R. Christenson**, F/S K.P. Mills RAF, Sgt E. Gwynne RAF, Sgt J.F. Johnson RAF, Sgt J. Boles RAF and Sgt R.J. McIntyre landed back in England (R. Allenby). See June 22-23 and October 22-23 below.

23-24 431 Sqn. Wellington X HE198 SE-D was hit by flak leaving the target and the rear gunner reported they were on fire. After attempts to extinguish the fire by diving the pilot F/L C.H. Hall RAF and the rear gunner Sgt C.A. Warne RNZAF bailed out and were taken PoW (W.E. Heron). It is not known if a bail order was given, but the bomb aimer, Sgt S.N. Sloan RAF, took over the controls and was able to return to England where he made a safe landing (BC War Diaries, R. Koval, H. Welting at www.rafcommands.com). Sgt Sloan was awarded the Conspicuous Gallantry Medal for this, commissioned, and sent to be trained as a pilot. He returned as a bomber pilot and post war was a pilot in the King's Flight and a test pilot. His other crewmen were also decorated, the wireless operator F/O J.B.G. Bailey RAF receiving the DFC and the navigator Sgt G.C.W. Parslow RAF the DFM. See June 21-22, below.

23-24 431 Sqn. Wellington X, F/S P. Davis RAF, was attacked and damaged by a night fighter, which wounded the bomb aimer Sgt B. McConvell RAF. The crew managed to return to England and a successful belly landing, F/S Davis injured (R. Koval, R. Allenby).

23-24 432 Sqn. Wellington X HZ272 QO-W, **Sgt F.T. Dingwall**, was struck by flak that hit the navigator, **Sgt L.G. Collins**, in the head, fracturing his skull. Despite this and blood loss he remained at his station and navigated the aircraft back to its base, collapsing after a safe landing had been made. He, Sgt Dingwall, **Sgt J.D.E. Lachappelle**, **Sgt W. Leadley** and Sgt F.J. Naylor RAF safe. For this he was awarded a DFM (R. Koval, FF Years, R. Allenby). See May 29-30 below.

23-24 460 Sqn. RAAF Lancaster III W4984 AR-J shot down over Holland by a night fighter, **Sgt F.W. Ralph RCAF (USA)**, F/S B.M.T. Davis RAAF, Sgt K.D. Dyce RAAF, F/S J.S. Biffen RAAF, F/S C.S. Wright RAAF and Sgt E. Rowlands RAF killed, F/S C. Goldthorpe RAAF PoW.

Monday

24 Due to recent losses Admiral Dönitz withdraws U-boats from the North Atlantic temporarily (Oxford). After reviewing recent engagements with convoys, on

this date Admiral Dönitz orders U-boats in the Atlantic to cease operations against Allied convoys, and sends them to other areas such as the Caribbean, pending development of new weapons, tactics, and devices such as the NAXOS centimetric radar detector and the snorkel, which would allow submarines to run at higher speeds and charge their batteries using their diesel motors while submerged. German losses of 41 U-boats in this month compared to an Allied loss of 58 ships in the Atlantic was unsustainable (D. Newton).

This marked the victory of the Allies in the Atlantic, and the increased number of convoys reaching England intact meant logistic security required for an invasion of France from England had been achieved.

The two specially modified Italian SM.75GA bombers return to Rhodes, one having bombed the target, the other having to divert to bomb Port Sudan, landing after 23 and 24 hours in the air (H.W. Neulen).

- 24 407 Sqn. Wellington XII, P/O E.L. Shuttleworth and F/S N.C.G. Luther piloting, made 2 attacks on a U-boat off Cap Finisterre (FF Years). See June 30, below.
- 24 455 Sqn. RAAF Hampden I AT132 UB-K collided in mid-air with 235 Sqn. Beaufighter Ia JL502 on a torpedo exercise and both crashed into sea off Scotland, F/S H.R.J. Downing and F/S A. Wheatcroft RAF killed and F/S J.S. Freeth RAAF and F/O I.H. Whitson RAAF missing from the Hampden, and P/O W.R. Taggart and P/O S. Sabin RAF missing from the Beaufighter (CWGC; aviation-safety.net). F/S Downings cremated remains were returned to Canada, circumstances unknown, and he is interred in Vernon, BC, the only Canadian Airman lost overseas officially in the CWGC register (J. Boileau).
- 24 #3 Training Command, Montreal, Quebec aero engine mechanic Cpl J.A.R. Pellerin died of natural causes.

Tuesday

25 After a previous attempt from the Bluie East II airstrip in Greenland was washed out by weather, the German manned weather station at Sabine Island was bombed and largely destroyed by 4 USAAF bombers (2 B-24 and 2 B-17) flown from Iceland led by Col. Berndt Balchen (wikipedia.de, S. Grant). See June 6, below.

- 25 422 Sqn. Sunderland III DD846 2-O lost off the Irish coast, WO2 R.B. Bryers RCAF (USA), F/O J.W. Clarke RCAF (USA), F/S W.G. Hopps, F/O E.F. Paige DFC, Sgt D.A. O'Dowd RAF, Sgt R. Sherwood RAF and Sgt D.H. Richardson RAF killed, WO2 W.R. Thompson, Sgt J. Hird RAF, Sgt D. Purvis RAF and Sgt J. Rowe RAF missing (J. O'Loughlin). F/O Paige had been awarded his DFC when flying with 407 Squadron (FF Years).

- 25 602 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AA757 LO-V had it's engine cut and crashed into the sea off France during a dog fight on a CIRCUS operation, **P/O J.A. Guy** missing (www.spitfires.ukf.net).
- 25 #1659 HCU RCAF Halifax II W7704 was wrecked when the undercarriage collapsed on landing, **Sgt L. Chapman** and **WO2 Sommerville** safe. See July 25-26, below.

25-26 Dusseldorf was the target of 759 bombers, but double cloud layers, difficult skymarking and probably decoy fires caused scattered bombing and very little damage was done. Twenty seven bombers were lost (BC War Diaries).

- 25-26 7 Sqn. Stirling III EF361 MG-B "*Ale 'itler*" lost over Germany when it was caught in the explosion of a 77 Sqn. Halifax JB837 (below), **P/O J.F.E.G. Berthiaume**, **Sgt W.J. Hills**, Sgt E. Broadhead RAF, Sgt A. Brotherton RAF, Sgt W. Denham RAF, Sgt N. Lagna RAF and Sgt A.L. Fisher RAF killed (PC www.rafcommands.com, which notes the aircraft may have carried a /G suffix as EF361/G and may have been MG-B²).
- 25-26 15 Sqn. Stirling I BK611 LS-U "*Te-Kooti*" was hit by flak over Germany and minutes later jettisoned it's bomb load. In the confusion the mid-upper gunner **Sgt E.I. Seabolt** bailed out and was taken PoW. The bomber attempted to return to England but crash landed in Holland, Sgt J.O. Wilson RAAF, Sgt R.W. Pittard RAF and Sgt P. Arnott RAF killed, P/O B.E. Cooper RAF, Sgt S.J. Maxted RAF and Sgt A.W. Edgeley RAF PoW.
- 25-26 15 Sqn. Stirling III BF534 LS-L lost over Germany when it was caught in the explosion of a 77 Sqn. Halifax JB837 (below), **F/S C.T. Smith**, **F/O I.S. Thomson**, Sgt D.P. O'Riordan RAF, P/O R.E. Newman RAF, Sgt H.J. Morris RAF, Sgt T.C.L. Orchard RAF and Sgt L.R. Smith RAF killed.
- 25-26 51 Sqn. Halifax II HR853 lost over Holland, **F/S A.C. Worden**, Sgt A. Brown RAF, Sgt W.J. Chambers RAF, Sgt W.P. Davies RAF, Sgt C.A. Richardson RAF, F/S J.C. MacPhedran RAF and Sgt S. Busby RAF killed.
- 25-26 51 Sqn. Halifax II HR747 lost an engine returning from an operation. They overshot the landing, but when attempting an overshoot the hydraulic system failed. With the undercarriage down and unable to climb a forced landing was made in field where the bomber collided with trees and stopped in a ditch, **Sgt M.L. Hutchins RCAF (USA)**, Sgt R.J. Cribb RAF, P/O D.J. White RAF, F/O W.J.A. Nicholson RAF, Sgt G.E. Lloyd RAF, Sgt D.O. Samuels RAF and Sgt P.E.M. Gosling RAF were slightly injured (R. Allenby). See May 27-28 below.
- 25-26 77 Sqn. Halifax II W7813 KN-C lost over Belgium, possibly shot down by a night fighter, **Sgt D.R. Gilchrist**, Sgt L.W. Rees RAF, Sgt E.V. Pass RAF, Sgt H. Roots RAF, Sgt H.W. Moore RAF, Sgt J.R. McLeod RAF and Sgt C.H. Sherwood RAF killed.
- 25-26 77 Sqn. Halifax II JB837 KN-D attacked by a night fighter over Germany and exploded, the explosion bringing down two Stirling bombers (above), **Sgt J.F.R. Laurence**, **Sgt D.W. MacFarlane**, Sgt R. Lewis RAF, Sgt W.R.L. Codd RAF, Sgt J.H. Waterston

- RAF, Sgt J.W. Richardson RAF and Sgt J. Kershaw RAF killed.
- 25-26 90 Sqn. Stirling III EH876 WP-J shot down by a night fighter off the Dutch coast, P/O C.F. O'Connell RAF killed, **WO2 M.G.K. East**, **WO2 E.S. Pollon**, **P/O G.W. Young DFC**, F/S C.L. Saunderson RNZAF, Sgt W.H. Bryant RAF, F/S J.L. Poulter RAF and Sgt R. Wadsworth RAF missing. WO East had been injured in the loss of a #14 OTU Hampden Nov. 7-8, 1942.
- 25-26 100 Sqn. Lancaster III LM320 FZ-C shot down over border of Holland and Germany by flak, **P/O H.N. Petts**, S/L P.R. Turgel DFC RAF, Sgt I.A. Wynn RAF, P/O G. Russel RAF, P/O J.M. Marnoch RAF, P/O D. Harvey RAF and Sgt J. Hudson RAF killed.
- 25-26 101 Sqn. Lancaster III ED660 SR-U Bar shot down over Holland by a night fighter, **Sgt A.S. Thomson**, Sgt V.J.S. Tindale RAF, Sgt E. Shackleton RAF, Sgt A.T.M. Wright RAF, Sgt D.L. Berresford RAF, Sgt B.C. Ainsworth RAF and Sgt C.W. Bates RAF killed.
- 25-26 166 Sqn. Wellington X HE235 AS-H lost without trace, **F/S E.A. Sproule**, Sgt R. Batterbee RAF, Sgt A.J. Railton RAF, Sgt J.T. Francis RAF and Sgt K. Mackintosh RAF missing.
- 25-26 192 Sqn. Wellington X HE228 DT-C was on a Special Duties flight collecting radio signals intelligence when it was shot down by a night fighter over Holland, the pilot F/S G. Bell RAF was killed in the crash but his crew, **Sgt D.G. Bergey**, P/O G. Barrett RAF, P/O T.W.S. Wilson RAF, Sgt A.W. Heywood RAF and Sgt J. Thomson RAF, bailed out and were taken PoW.
- 25-26 207 Sqn. Lancaster III W5001 EM-J attacked by a night fighter and blew up over Holland, **F/O W.C. Reynolds**, Sgt P. Falkingham RAF, P/O G.E. Hopson RAF, Sgt S.A.J. Cook RAF, Sgt A.W. White RAF and Sgt W.F. Hayllar RAF killed, W/C T.A.B. Parselle RAF and Sgt R.E.H. Hood-Morris were taken PoW. Post war W/C Parselle RAF, who was blown out of the aircraft still strapped into his seat, became Commandant of RAF College Cranwell.
- 25-26 218 Sqn. Stirling III EH887 HA-Z shot down by a night fighter over Germany, **F/S J.C. Lamond**, P/O C.F. Blanchard RNZAF, Sgt N.S. Collins RAF, Sgt A.W. Fincham RAF, Sgt W.J. Ledbury RAF, Sgt J.P. Roughan RAF and Sgt D.C. Maynard RAF killed, Sgt F.W. Bennett RAF PoW.
- 25-26 405 Sqn. Halifax II HR806 LQ-D crashed taking off on operations due to engine failure, **F/O T.A. Fillingham**, **F/O D.M. Clarke**, P/O J.S. McMenemy, Sgt A.C. Sondergaard, P/O H.W. Fulton, P/O L.M. Holtby and F/S H.R. Welch (RCAF or RAF?) injured. See June 11-12, below. P/O J.S. McMenemy possibly same as **P/O G.S. McMenemy**, see Sept. 2, below?
- 25-26 426 Sqn. Wellington X HE590 OW-P shot down by a night fighter over Belgium, **WO2 D.L. Beatty**, **P/O S. Pennington DFM**, **P/O N.C. Swan**, **P/O J.K. Watson**, **Sgt R.E. Talman** and Sgt E. Thomas RAF killed.
- 25-26 426 Sqn. Wellington X HE431 hit by flak over the target that damaged the undercarriage. Despite this **Sgt L.G.E. Burnett**, **P/O A.J. Gibson**, **P/O D.H. McKay**,

- P/O W.L. Shaw, Sgt J. Williams and P/O E.G. Farr RAF landed safe (R. Allenby). See August 23-24 and August 31-September 1 below.
- 25-26 428 Sqn. Wellington X HZ476 NA-A lost over Belgium, P/O F.G. Baker, WO2 W.E. Douglas, F/O R.G. Madge, WO1 W.G. Pepper, F/S N.J. Waters and Sgt K.G. Higgs RAF killed.
- 25-26 429 Sqn. Wellington X HE859 was hit by flak short of the target that punctured a tire and caused the life-raft to deploy. The tethered life-raft set up severe vibrations, so the crew jettisoned the bombs and returned. There they were held until all other aircraft had landed. When they landed the bomber veered off the runway and nosed over, Sgt R.E. Murray, Sgt R.B. Paul, Sgt G.I. Phillips, Sgt J.G. Stuffco and F/S R.E. Moden RAF safe (R. Allenby).
- 25-26 431 Sqn. Wellington X HE990 SE-Z shot down by a night fighter over Holland, P/O A.C. Bonner RAF, Sgt M.C. Jefferies RAF and Sgt H. Sweet RAF killed, Sgt R.T. Barclay RAF and Sgt K. Dix RAF PoW.
- 25-26 467 Sqn. RAAF Lancaster III ED695 PO-J shot up and set on fire just off the Dutch coast, outbound to England. Aircraft turned back and crash-landed in Holland. Gunners F/S A.F. Birkbeck and P/O K.R. Langhorne RAF killed, possibly by the night fighter attack. F/O R.S. Giddey RAAF, Sgt S.G. Keirs RAAF, P/O P.R. Collins RAF, Sgt W.V. Morris RAF and Sgt R.J. Awaan RAF PoW.
- 25-26 467 Sqn. RAAF Lancaster III ED768 PO-N shot down over Belgium, F/S J.M. Parsons RNZAF, Sgt B. Spencer RAF and Sgt T. Chalmers RAF killed, Sgt J.F. Selman, Sgt J.P. Egan RAF, Sgt N.J. Vaulkhard RAF and Sgt R.A. Hunt RAF PoW.

Wednesday

26 The last Canadian built Avro Anson II aircraft is delivered to the RCAF, by Victory Aircraft, Malton, Ontario. Total built were 1,832, including 50 for the USAAF which served as AT-20 trainers. Production of the improved all wood Anson V begins.

- 26 180 Sqn. Mitchell II FL969 lost over the sea on a training flight, F/S R.E. Manser killed, F/S C.G. Kernaghan, F/O H.M. Wygle and Sgt J.K. Fulton RAF missing. This crew had had a crash landing April 12, above. F/O Wygle's brother, Brien Wygle, also served in the RCAF as a pilot in Burma, later earned an engineering degree from the University of British Columbia after the war, and became a test pilot and later Vice-President for Flying Operations for Boeing Aircraft. He flew as pilot for the first flight of the Boeing 737 and was co-pilot for the first flight of the Boeing 747. He passed away in 2020 (obituary Brien Singleton Wygle).
- 26 #2 Flying Instructor School, Pearce, Alberta, Cornell I FH659 crashed 7 miles west of Barons, Alberta on a flight test after a major inspection, killing aero engine mechanic LAC W.G. Koehler and Sgt R.A. Ridgeway RAAF.
- 26 #1 Manning Depot, LAC W. Williams was medically discharge April 25 and died in hospital in Toronto the next day (www.rafcommands.com).

26-27 unknown unit, possibly an AFU, airman (possibly pilot and a Sgt) **L. Tremblay** was very badly burned in the crash of an aircraft, no further details. His story can be found in R. Donovan's *As For The Canadians*.

Thursday

27 Washington [TRIDENT] conference ends (CJCA headline).

Meat rationing in Canada announced (CJCA headline).

Bomber Command sent 14 Mosquitos deep into Germany to bomb the Zeiss optical factory in Jena. Eleven reached the target and bombed but 3 Mosquitos were lost on the way in and 2 more crashed on return to England (BC War Diaries).

Headquarters of Bomber Command begins planning for a series of attacks on a single target, selecting the port city of Hamburg. See July 24-25, below.

An explosion while bombing up B-17s in England kills 19 USAAF airmen, injures 34 and destroys 4 aircraft (Zijlstra).

- 27 104 Sqn. Wellington II W5462 'F' was on a transit flight to a new base and crashed on approach when an engine cut, **F/S R.J.F. Boyer** and Sgt J. Stone of the aircrew were injured, crew, **F/S Harper RAF**, **Sgt P.R. Hartley RAF**, **F/S P. Holmes RAF**, **F/O Lees RAF** and **Sgt J. Stone RAF**, as well as passengers **F/S Campbell RAF**, **AC Furnell RAF**, **AC1 Hill RAF**, **AC2 Leighton RAF**, **Sgt Moon RAF**, **Sgt Pike RAF** and **F/O Stevens RAF** safe (BLME V.2).
- 27 283 Sqn., Mediterranean, Walrus I W2734 crashed attempting a sea landing to rescue a pilot, **P/O N.W. Peat** and **Sgt F. Bettridge RAF** missing.
- 27 139 (Jamaica) Sqn. Mosquitos FB.IV aircraft DZ381 XD-W and DZ602 XD-R collided over Germany avoiding flak, **F/L H.R. Sutton DFC** and **P/O J.E. Morris RAF** were killed in DZ381, and **F/O F. Openshaw RAF** and **Sgt A.N. Stonestreet RAF** in DZ602 (R. McNeill www.rafcommands.com).
- 27 235 Sqn. Beaufighter VI EL404 'Y' lost off Norwegian coast, **F/L G.H. Carson** and **P/O A. Armstrong RAF** missing (R. McNeill www.rafcommands.com).
- 27 277 Sqn. Defiant N1625 crashed while on a transfer flight, **WO1 A. Irvine** killed.
- 27 609 Sqn. Canadian built Hurricane X AG265, used as a non-operational general purpose aircraft, damaged after it swung on landing and it's undercarriage collapsed, **Sgt R. Bavington (RAF (Aus.) or RAAF?)** safe (Snapper at forum.keypublishing.com, www.609wrsquadron.co.uk). Typhoon squadrons had these Hurricanes issued to them to provide initial training for new pilots before their first flight on the heavier Typhoon (P. Cornwell).
- 27 #18 AFU Oxford I EB783 was engaged in authorized low flying when it struck a tree

and crashed, killing P/O W.G. Mackie, P/O L.C. Mollet and WO2 J.M. Whittaker (www.rafcommands.com).

- 27 #2 B&G School, Mossbank, Saskatchewan, Lysander TT.III #1567 written off in a crash (R.W.R. Walker).
- 27 #31 EFTS, De Winton, Alberta, DH.82C Tiger Moth #3901 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).
- 27 #32 OTU, Patricia Bay, BC, Sgt C. Bishop RAAF died of the injuries sustained May 23, above. (*BC Times Colonist, Patricia Bay Aircrash List 2009* says there were 4 crew on this aircraft).
- 27 #32 OTU, Patricia Bay, BC, Canadian built Hampden I AJ991 overshot a night landing at Tofino, BC, Sgt G.A. Webster RAF injured, Sgt K. Rawlin RAF, Sgt H.E. Hollitt RAAF and Sgt L.R. Goghlan RAAF safe (H. Moyle).
- 27 #1 TTS(?), AC2 R.M. Boe died of pneumonia at St. Thomas, Ontario (B. Barry et al).

27-28 Essen was attacked by 518 bombers which bombed on skymarkers over the cloud covered target. Bombing was scattered and damage was small given the size of the operation, but "small" at this time still meant 488 buildings recorded as destroyed, 196 people killed and 547 injured in Essen, as well as damage in at least 10 other surrounding towns. Twenty three bombers were lost. Other operations were 23 GARDENING and 19 OTU sorties with 1 minelayer lost (BC War Diaries).

- 27-28 51 Sqn. Halifax II HR789 MH-Z lost over Germany, F/S E.J. Cotton, Sgt A. Aitken RAF, P/O A.B.P. Wilson RAF, Sgt J.H. Mastin RAF and Sgt D.J. Smith RAF killed, Sgt F.J. Prothero RAF and Sgt W.F. Turner RAF PoW.
- 27-28 51 Sqn. Halifax II HR783 was hit multiple times by flak but the crew, Sgt M.L. Hutchins RCAF (USA), Sgt C.A. Chambers RNZAF, F/O A. Trott RAF, Sgt D. Rowbotham RAF, Sgt A.W. Stevens RAF, Sgt S. Wood RAF and Sgt A. Roberts RAF returned safe (R. Allenby). See June 12-13, June 24-25 and July 3-4, below
- 27-28 76 Sqn. Halifax V DK147 MP-A was shot down by a night fighter over Germany, Sgt H. Anderson RAF and F/O E.F. Campbell RAF killed, P/O D.S. Ross, P/O H. Langlois, Sgt R. Jones RAF, Sgt G.J. Beckford RAF and Sgt W.G. Styles RAF PoW. Chorley notes that P/O Ross and Sgt Styles were both badly hurt and Sgt Styles was later repatriated.
- 27-28 77 Sqn. Halifax II JB911 KN-X, on the run-in to the target pilots Sgt R.F. Smith and Sgt G.N. Cockcroft RAF, and other crew members, reported that just before bombing they sighted a very large cigar shaped object that accelerated upwards and vanished from sight at a high speed (<http://www.project1947.com/fig/1943a.htm>, <http://www.uk-ufo.org/condign/histfoo3.htm>). They were damaged by flak after bombing but returned to England, Sgt Smith, Sgt Cockcroft, Sgt A.J. Page RAF, Sgt H. Cork RAF, Sgt R.C.C. Jones RAF, Sgt G.E. Jones, Sgt F.S. Jones and Sgt F.H. Pollock safe (R. Allenby). See June 11-12 below.

- 27-28 77 Sqn. Halifax II JB856 KN-H was badly damaged over the target by flak, **Sgt W.R. Farrell**, **Sgt K.E. Lees**, Sgt R.J. Caseley RAF, Sgt F.E. Ryder RAF, Sgt C.R. Boyd RAF, Sgt W.J.H. Webb RAF and F/S W. Wright RAF returned safe (R. Allenby). See August 2-3 below.
- 27-28 77 Sqn. Halifax II BB284 KN-T was hit over the target by flak that damaged an engine, a wing, control surface, the automatic pilot and intercom. They returned to England where **Sgt E.C. Honey**, Sgt B. Hallam RAF (S. Rhod.), Sgt W.R. Martindale RAF, Sgt A.T. Hitchings RAF, Sgt T.S. Crowcroft RAF, Sgt G.C.M. Purves RAF and Sgt R.T. Worrall RAF landed safe (R. Allenby). See June 22-23, below.
- 27-28 100 Sqn. Lancaster III ED821 HW-A shot down over Holland by a night fighter, **F/O S.A. Bishop**, F/S A.E. Chapman RAAF, Sgt P.M. Cosgrove RAF, Sgt J.P. Fitchett RAF and Sgt E. Short RAF killed, F/S L.A. Townrow RNZAF died of injuries April 24, 1944, and P/O J. Bolderson RAF PoW.
- 27-28 102 Sqn. Halifax II JD149 DY-H was signalling for assistance just before it was attacked by a night fighter and crashed into the Waddensee, **P/O S. Zareikin RCAF (USA)**, F/O R.N. Fewtrell RAF, F/O H. Entwistle RAF, F/O J.D. Jeffery RAF, Sgt J.L.S. Lowings RAF, Sgt K.J. Smith RAF and Sgt T. Heslop RAF killed.
- 27-28 109 Sqn. Mosquito FB.IV DZ432 HS-N was shot down by a night fighter on a OBOE marking operation over Rotterdam, **P/O R.H. Logan** killed, **F/S C.K. Chrysler** PoW (R5KDT at www.rafcommands.com). This was the first OBOE Mosquito lost over enemy territory.
- 27-28 109 Sqn. Mosquito B.IX LR503 HS-F makes it's first operational OBOE sortie (www.dunrobincastle.com). See April 10 and May 10, 1945.
- 27-28 158 Sqn. Halifax II HR775 NP-V shot down over Holland by a night fighter, **Sgt R.R. Mantha**, **F/S W.H. Wyatt**, Sgt J.L. Atha RAF, Sgt W.J. Erdbeer RAF, Sgt G. Henderson RAF, Sgt J. Simmons RAF and Sgt R.A. Tilbury RAF killed. See <http://www.teunispats.net/fr-wwii.htm> for details. F/S Wyatt had been involved in an accident with a #1658 HCU Halifax April 6, above.
- 27-28 405 Sqn. Halifax II HR807 LQ-G shot down by flak over the target, **F/S J.Y. Houston**, **F/S G.E.J. Lebihan**, **F/O G.S. Wilson** and Sgt J. Holmes RAF killed, **P/O L.S.P. Dalton**, **Sgt C. Maracle** and **Sgt C.F. Sovereign** PoW.
- 27-28 408 Sqn. Halifax II DT674 EQ-A shot down over Germany by a night fighter, **WO2 J.N.P.E. Comeau** and **Sgt J.V.J.R. Veys** killed, **Sgt J.D. Blewett**, **WO2 W.V. Neuman**, **F/O C.A. Vogel**, **Sgt W.A. Ivor** and F/S K.O. Greig RAAF PoW.
- 27-28 419 Sqn. Halifax II JD158 VR-D, F/O C. MacIntosh, were attacked three times by a night fighter, and then was hit by flak, but managed to return and land safely on 2 engines (R. Koval).
- 27-28 426 Sqn. Wellington X HE417 hit by flak over the target that damaged the tail, navigators position, one engine and propeller but returned to land in England, **Sgt G.V. Andrew**, **F/O R.J. Dunphy**, Sgt F.J. Stuart RAF, F/O A.J. Rudman RAF and Sgt W.F. Duerr (RCAF or RAF?) safe (R. Allenby). See October 20-21 below,

- 27-28 428 Sqn. Wellington X HZ485 NA-G lost without trace, **F/O A.F. Beaton**, **F/S G.G. Hart**, **F/S G.C.P. O'Hara**, **F/S D.H. Thompson** and Sgt K.G. Chilvers RAF missing. F/S Thompson had survived two accidents in Whitley aircraft with #10 OTU, July 17 and Sept. 27, 1942. (see discussion page on this loss on the www.rafcommands.com site).
- 27-28 428 Sqn. Wellington X MS481 NA-Q damaged over the target by flak, losing an engine. Crossing the Dutch coast the aircraft was hit in the tail and dove several thousand feet but managed to return to England where it ditched off shore when the remaining engine faltered. Four survivors, **Sgt W. Lachman**, **Sgt J.C.E. Jette**, **Sgt E.R. Marchand** and Sgt R. Askew RAF were picked up but **F/S A.F. O'Rourke**, the rear gunner, is believed to have drowned when the rear turret broke off the aircraft (possibly off Holland) and is missing (R. Koval, FF Years). See June 11-12, below.
- 27-28 431 Sqn. Wellington X damaged by flak, **F/O H.H.V. Wilkinson** RAF, **F/O R.L.H. Ball** RAF, **Sgt K. Lomas** RAF, **Sgt R.L. Jenkins** RAF and **P/O N. Walker** landed back in England (R. Allenby). See May 29-30 below.
- 27-28 431 Sqn. Wellington X damaged by flak, **P/O W.D. Eaglesham** RAF, **Sgt H.T. McAusland** RAF, **F/O L.C. Long** RAF, **Sgt J.H. Burrow** RAF and **Sgt B.H. Stephenson** RAF landed back in England (R. Allenby). See June 11-12 below.
- 27-28 432 Sqn. Wellington X HE294 QO-P lost without trace, **P/O R.G. Allan**, **WO2 A.G. Bailey**, **F/O J.A. Farnham**, **P/O R.M. Murray** and **P/O R.E. Taylor** DFM RCAF (USA) missing. P/O Taylor had been involved in a ground accident May 15, 1942. P/O Murray was included in a display of RCAF Airmen from Penticton at the Cities Museum & Archives in 2021, which noted he had flown a tour of 25 operations with 420 Squadron and was on his second operation with 432 Squadron.
- 27-28 432 Sqn. Wellington X HE638 QO-F hit by flak over the target that knocked out an engine. Pilot **P/O J.J.N. Rivard** returned to England on 1 engine where on landing the working engine burst into flames, crew safe (R. Allenby).
- 27-28 432 Sqn. Wellington X damaged by flak, **Sgt W.A. Sparrow**, **Sgt N. Goldie** RAF, **Sgt G. Liddle** RAF, **Sgt F.W. Noel Trowbridge** RAF and **Sgt C.K. Killick** RAF landed back in England (R. Allenby). See June 24-25, below.
- 27-28 432 Sqn. Wellington X damaged by flak, **Sgt D.R. Kelly**, **Sgt W.H.D. Meaden**, **Sgt J.D. Barker**, **Sgt W. West** and **Sgt K. Ward** landed back in England (R. Allenby). See May 29-30 below.

Friday

28 A daylight attack was made on a power station in Zeebrugge by 12 Venturas, losing 1 (BC War Diaries).

- 28 67 Sqn. Hurricane IIc HV606 made an emergency wheels up landing in Japanese occupied territory. Other Squadron pilots saw **P/O J.M. Drake** exit the aircraft and retrieve maps and rations before leaving the crashed aircraft (Roy Nixon www.rafcommands.com, C. Shores). He was later captured by Japanese forces.

See Dec. 26, 1944.

- 28 #113 MU Kittyhawk III FR221 crashed near Tripoli, Libya, killing **P/O R.A. Matthews**.
P/O Matthews had been wounded in combat June 12, 1942.
- 28 21 Sqn. Ventura II AJ444 was taking evasive action on a daylight attack in Belgium
when it collided with Ventura AE686 YH-H and crashed into the sea. Aircraft AE686
managed to return to England, damaged, but **F/O D. Pratt**, F/O A.C.M. Griffin RAF,
Sgt F.A. Morris RAF and Sgt F. Miller RAF missing from AJ444.
- 28 #307 FTU Boston III AL750 crashed attempting a single engine landing after an engine
failed on a training flight, **F/S G.J. Rankmore**, F/S H.E. Tyas RAF and Sgt E.F.J.
Oliver RAF killed and F/S M.N. Williams RAF died of injuries.
- 28 #1 OADU Ferry, Boston III AL670 ran short of fuel on a ferry flight from England to
Gibraltar and landed undamaged in Spain, **Sgt J.H. Watson**, F/S S.S. Seymour
RAAF, F/S A.S. Murray RAF and Sgt W.C.J. Baker interned. The airplane was
destroyed when a Spanish Air Force pilot attempted to fly it out from its landing site,
and was either killed or badly injured (www.conscript-heroes.com MI-9 files; D.
Sadler via www.rafcommands.com; BLME V.2).
- 28 #1659 HCU RCAF Halifax II W1273 swung off the runway and lost it's undercarriage,
P/O M.O. Fredrick, **F/S F.J. Higgins DFM** and **Sgt J.D. Hamilton** were safe. See
June 22-23 and June 25-26 below.
- 28 #1 Flying Instructors School, Trenton, Ontario, Harvard IIb FE553 crashed, killing **P/O**
K. Ford RCAF (USA) and P/O F. Hopkinson RAF.
- 28 #2 SFTS Uplands, Ontario, Harvard II BW185 crashed, **P/O W.G. Baker** killed.
- 28 #12 SFTS, Brandon, Man., Crane I #8098 crashed on a night flying exercise, Sgt W.G.
Kendall RAAF, LAC(P) R.T. Ingley RNZAF and LAC(P) T.F. Osborne RNZAF killed.
See #12 SFTS loss July 25, 1942.
- 28-29 #45 Group, RAF Ferry Command, Hudson FK742 crashed at Reykjavik, Iceland, **P/O**
G.D. Hay, **P/O D.E. Woodfield**, LAC W. Tunney RAF, Sgt L.C. Medhurst RAF, P/O
J.B. Taylor RNZAF and P/O A.F. Lavery RAF killed.

Saturday

29 Stalin dissolves the Communist International (CJCA headline). The discovery and publicity of the Katyn Forest Massacre may have played a role in this decision, which was a public renunciation of the stated aim of the USSR to bring about a world wide Communist revolution. Privately these activities continue.

USAAF sets new record of 279 bombers to targets in France with 14 lost (Zijlstra).

Publication of Norman Rockwell's painting "Rosie the Riveter" (wikipedia).

Final Japanese defenders of Attu make a mass attack on US forces, overrunning command and medical units, but are wiped out after a night of confused fighting. Most were unarmed or had only bayonets tied to sticks, and many had previously been wounded. Seriously wounded Japanese soldiers unable to participate committed suicide before the attack began.

- 29 27 Sqn. Beaufighter VI EL387 lost making an attack on a train in SE Asia, 177 Sqn. crew **F/O D.G. Sturrock** and Sgt J. Heywood RAF killed (C. Shores).
- 29 #9 (O)AFU Anson I LT985 landed short of fuel at Dublin, Eire, but was refuelled and returned, **P/O H.L. Kemp**, P/O E.B. Churchill RAF and P/O Jones (RAF?) safe (D. Burke, www.ww2irishaviation.com). See Feb. 24-25, 1944.
- 29 #18 AFU Oxford I ED199 crashed in England after take-off, **F/S S. Rosenstein** killed.
- 29 #23 OTU Wellington III X3704 was engaged in a public relations flypast in England which included a performance by the RCAF band when it shed a wing and crashed, killing **F/O G.S. Hynam DFC RCAF (USA)**, Sgt P.E. Zoeller RAF, Cpl H. Allan RAF, AC2 G.R. Band RAF and AC2 W.A. Gravell RAF. One civilian, Mrs. O.M. Berry, was injured on the ground.
- 29 #31 EFTS, De Winton, Alberta, DH.82C Tiger Moth #5804 crashed and written off (R.W.R. Walker).
- 29 #34 OTU, Pennfield Ridge, NB, Ventura II AE678 crashed making an attempted forced landing near Digdeguash, NB, following an engine failure possibly due to a fuel management error, pilot Sgt A.E.E. Rogers RAAF killed, Sgt L.A. Ellis RAAF injured (#34 OTU Roll of Honour, A. Storr). A. Storr notes Sgt Ellis was killed as a F/O with 180 Sqn. March 21, 1945.

29-30 Bomber Command sent 719 bombers to Wuppertal, the first attack on this target. Lack of experience by fire and rescue crews, as well as many of their officers being out of town for the weekend, combined with the wooden construction of the buildings, led to uncontrolled fires that destroyed 1,000 acres (404.7 hectares or 4 sq. km.) of the city. According to Middlebrook 5 of the 6 largest factories in the town were destroyed as well as 211 other industrial buildings, nearly 4,000 homes, 71 industries, plus 1,800 homes damaged, this representing a loss twice the size of what any previous attack on other targets had done. The estimated death toll was 3,400 killed on the ground, 5 times larger than had died in any previous attack. Bomber Command lost 33 bombers, and none from the 3 OTU sorties flown (BC War Diaries).

- 29-30 35 Sqn. Halifax II HR793 TL-J was shot down by a night fighter over Holland, S/L P. Johnston DFC RAF and Sgt F.J. Jarvis RAF killed, **P/O R. Wood**, **Sgt A.W. Cowan**, F/S B.T. Royall RAAF, F/S E.A. Roede RAF, F/O R.G. Houston RAF and Sgt M.T. Byrne RAF PoW. W.R. Chorley notes that P/O Wood landed poorly and broke his leg, and that he was older than the usual crewman (having lied about his age to re-join the RCAF in 1939 he was 38 years old, not the 33 on his records). His son,

F/S D. Wood, joined the RCAF in Canada on the same day his father was taken PoW, and later flew a tour of operations in 1944 as a gunner (*Airforce Magazine*, Vol. 8, No. 2, 1984). Sgt Cowan is also referred to in error as 'Gowan' in some sources, but Cowan is correct according to O. Clutten-Brock.

- 29-30 35 Sqn. Halifax II HR833 TL-F shot down by a night fighter over Belgium and exploded, **WO1 J.L. Lee**, F/L W.A. Tetley DFC RAF, F/S H.J. Ross RAAF, Sgt V.S. Platt RAF and Sgt F.M. Traynor RAF killed, P/O J.C. Goodson RAF and Sgt G.A. Jones RAF PoW. WO Lee, Sgt Traynor and Sgt Jones had been involved in a take-off accident in a 102 Sqn. Halifax Feb. 26-27, above.
- 29-30 44 Sqn. Lancaster III EE123 KM-K shot down by a night fighter over Holland, **F/O P.G. Holt**, Sgt I. Tucker, Sgt D. McColl RAF, Sgt W. Young RAF, Sgt R.T. Stoddart RAF and Sgt H. Robinson RAF killed, Sgt D.E.D. Kimpton RAF PoW.
- 29-30 75 (New Zealand) Sqn. Stirling III BK776 JN-B lost over Germany, **F/S J.A. Pirie**, P/O R.F. Bennett RNZAF, F/S R.F. Norman RNZAF, WO S.L. Kavanagh RNZAF and F/S F.A. Bandy RAF killed, F/S A.L. Davidson RNZAF, Sgt C.P.F. Middleton RNZAF and Sgt J.B. Harrison RAF PoW. F/S Pirie, P/O Bennett, Sgt Harrison, F/S Davidson and Sgt Middleton had all been involved in the crash landing of another Stirling March 5-6, above.
- 29-30 77 Sqn. Halifax II JB863 KN-V lightly damaged by flak over the target, **Sgt A.R. Currie**, **Sgt W.H. Ledger**, Sgt S.H.A. Nicholson RAF, Sgt F.G. Hawthorne RAF, Sgt T.W.C. Luther RAF, Sgt F. Danby RAF and Sgt J. Gardner returned to land in England (R. Allenby). See June 21-22, below.
- 29-30 106 Sqn. Lancaster I R5677 ZN-A "*Admiral Chattanooga*" lost over Germany, **Sgt L.T. Delorme**, Sgt H.R.B. Whyatt RAF, Sgt R.F. Coverdale RAF, Sgt E.W. Cosnett RAF, Sgt M.W. Moore RAF, Sgt A.W. Chapman RAF and Sgt J. Leadbetter RAF killed (<http://www.lancaster-archive.com>).
- 29-30 115 Sqn. Lancaster II DS627 KO-R shot down over Belgium by a night fighter, **P/O C.K. Coker**, Sgt R. Adair RAF, Sgt K.G. Berry RAF, Sgt J. Currie RAF, Sgt C.R. Fleming RAF, Sgt H.G. Thomas RAF and Sgt A.R. Tickner RAF killed.
- 29-30 149 Sqn. Stirling III BF507 OJ-S shot down over Germany by a night fighter, P/O A.W. Flack RNZAF killed, **WO2 H. Sponsler RCAF (USA)**, **WO2 R.W. Stanley**, Sgt H. Lloyd RAF, P/O J. Shepherd RAF, Sgt F.C. Detley RAF and Sgt T.B. Morris RAF missing.
- 29-30 158 Sqn. Halifax II HR717 NP-E lost over Belgium, possibly shot down by a night fighter, **WO2 J. Cooper**, **F/S W.M. Ellis**, **F/O W.C. Luther RAF (Nfld.)**, F/O D.R. Woodroffe RAF, Sgt F. Dykes RAF, Sgt H. Simpson RAF, and Sgt H.D. Young RAF killed.
- 29-30 158 Sqn. Halifax II HR840 NP-R was shot down over Holland by a night fighter, **WO2 S.J. Marugg**, Sgt C.K. Surgey RAF (Uruguay), Sgt C. Strand RAF, Sgt E.S. Coster RAF and Sgt W. George RAF killed, Sgt G.T. Ayton RAF and Sgt K.G. Cottrell RAF PoW. Sgt Cottrell was badly injured.

- 29-30 408 Sqn. Halifax II JB969 EQ-D, **F/S A.R. Grubert**, was attacked by a night fighter. When the fighter attacked a second time it was shot down in flames by the rear gunner, **Sgt B.D. Boynton**. Sgt Boynton was awarded a DFM for this action (R. Koval, FF Years, Awards). See July 9-10, below.
- 29-30 419 Sqn. Halifax II JB793 VR-X (or -Z, R. Koval) shot down over Belgium by a night fighter, **Sgt L.R. Lamoure**, **F/S R.M. Ricketts**, **F/S F.E. Winegarden** and Sgt E. Hall RAF (Eire) killed, **Sgt R.M. Mingay**, **Sgt S.G. Ward** and **P/O F.H. Hubbs** PoW. W.R. Chorley notes that the survivors may have evaded capture for several months, and that there is a monument to Sgt Hall where his body was found, placed by the local villagers.
- 29-30 419 Sqn. Halifax II JB805 VR-B shot down over Belgium, **F/S E.L. Armstrong**, **WO2 P.S. Johnson**, **F/S T.W. Peets**, **F/S D.J. Shtitz**, Sgt C.P. Baker RAF, **F/S G.F. Humphreys** RAF and **F/S R.S. Metcalf** RAF killed.
- 29-30 426 Sqn. Wellington X HE868 was hit by flak returning from the target, **Sgt J.H. Evans**, **Sgt W.F. Griffin**, **P/O R.A. Henry**, **F/L J.G. McNeill**, **Sgt H.M. Smith** and **F/O J.D.B.V. Reffitt** RAF landed safe (R. Allenby). See August 17-18, December 20-21 below and August 21, 1944.
- 29-30 426 Sqn. Wellington X HZ481 was damaged by flak before reaching the target, but bombed and returned, **Sgt C.A. Griffiths**, **F/S G. Sparks**, Sgt P. Allwell RAF, Sgt R.H. Filbey RAF and Sgt J.S. Morton (RAF?) safe (R. Allenby). See January 2-3, 1944.
- 29-30 426 Sqn. Wellington X HE469 had it's hydraulics and turret damaged by flak just after bombing, **F/L D.T. French**, **P/O J.P. Greco**, **P/O A.J. Miles**, **P/O J.A. De Rosenroll** and **Sgt D.D. Salmon** RCAF (UK and USA) landed safe (R. Allenby).
- 29-30 427 Sqn. had three Wellington X bombers flown by **P/O G.A. Gagnon**, **P/O A.M. Fellner** and **F/S B.G. Crew** damaged by flak (R. Koval). See June 12-13, June 25-26 below and January 5-6, 1945.
- 29-30 428 Sqn. Wellington X HE319 NA-Y lost without trace on an operation to Germany, **Sgt H. MacMillan**, **F/S J.G.A. Marshall**, **WO2 F.L. Shellnut** RCAF (USA), Sgt David Crawford Smith RAF and Sgt J.F. Langley RAF missing.
- 29-30 428 Sqn. Wellington X LN424 NA-E lost on an operation to Germany. The bomber was set on fire and a bailout ordered, following which the pilot, **Sgt J.A. Ferguson**, made a successful force landing and was made PoW with the rest of his crew, **F/S J. Dywan**, **F/O G.F. Tallman**, **Sgt J.G. Sylvester** and **F/S David Cruikshanks** Smith RAF. (Note two RAF with same name and initials on this and aircraft above. O. Clutton-Brock notes that **F/S D.C. Smith** RAF from this aircraft was later awarded a DFM).
- 29-30 429 Sqn. Wellington X HZ471 AL-M lost without trace, **WO2 W.S. Anglin**, **F/S R.G. Bailey** RCAF (USA), **F/S I.S. Levitt**, **F/O B.A. Richmond** and Sgt E.W. Collman RAF missing (R. Koval).
- 29-30 429 Sqn. Wellington X HE914 lightly damaged by flak and returned, crew Sgt H. Wilton, Sgt K.M. Moore, Sgt K.R. Welte, Sgt W. Meyer and Sgt W.A. Marshall safe

(R. Allenby).

- 29-30 431 Sqn. Wellington X HE203 SE-B shot down by a night fighter over Holland, F/S A.H. Smith RNZAF, Sgt J.H. Bloxwich RAF, Sgt A. Spence RAF, Sgt B. King RAF and Sgt M.L. Buxton RAF killed (R. Koval).
- 29-30 431 Sqn. Wellington X HE394 SE-V damaged in a wing and fuel tanks by flak, F/O H.H.V. Wilkinson RAF, F/O R.L.H. Ball RAF, Sgt K. Lomas RAF, Sgt R.L. Jenkins RAF and P/O N. Walker landed in England. Most of this crew were lost in a 10 Sqn. Halifax JB974 in October (R. Allenby).
- 29-30 432 Sqn. Wellington X HE553 QO-S flew into the top of a hill on return to England from an operation over Germany, F/L L.E. Blight and P/O F.T. Dingwall killed, Sgt D. Harmon, Sgt W. Leadley, Sgt J.D.E. Lachappelle and Sgt F.J. Naylor RAF injured (R. Allenby). See January 1-2, 1944.
- 29-30 432 Sqn. Wellington X LN435 QO-J lost over Holland, F/S G.W. Thompson and Sgt L.G. Hardy RAF killed, Sgt W.H. Grigg, Sgt K.M. Jordan RAF and Sgt J.J.H. Barter RAF PoW.
- 29-30 432 Sqn. Wellington X HE688 QO-V, Sgt W. Meaden, claimed a Ju 88 night fighter destroyed by rear gunner Sgt D.R. Kelly (R. Koval). See June 11-12, below.
- 29-30 432 Sqn. Wellington X MS485 QO-T was hit by a flak burst that damaged a propeller, deformed the fuselage structure and stripped off some fabric, but Sgt D.C. Baker, Sgt C.N. Hurl, Sgt G.W. Thompson, Sgt J. Black RAF and Sgt J. Taylor RAF returned and landed safely (R. Allenby). See October 8-9, below.

Sunday

30 US retakes Attu Island in the Aleutians with very high US casualties (1,800 killed, wounded or suffering cold related injuries from a force of 11,000), due to terrain, extreme weather and tough Japanese resistance by less than 3,000 defenders (only 28 were taken PoW) (Oxford, R.J. Mitchell). It did not help that the US troops used in this Arctic setting had been specially trained and equipped for desert warfare, and were given no training in operations in the sub-Arctic conditions of the Aleutians (B. Coyle). This was the largest land battle fought in North America during the war.

Soon after construction of an airfield on Attu begins, and on nearby Shemya Island, a very small but rocky, flat topped Island, where an airfield large enough to base B-29 bombers within range of northern Japan was planned (B. Coyle). See July 11, below.

- 30 48 Sqn. Hudson VI FK417 crashed was on a night ASR search out of Gibraltar, and was circling a dinghy when it flew into the water F/O R.C. Cornelius RAF killed, F/S R.D. Adgey and P/O E.F. Daniel RAF missing, F/O F.H. Coughlin in the turret was thrown clear and survived, injured (H.A. Halliday at www.rafcommands.com).
- 30 #10 OTU Whitley V Z9440 'N' was on an anti-submarine patrol when it sighted and

attacked U-459, a heavily armed "milch-cow" or supply submarine, returning to port from a re-supply patrol. The Whitley did not drop all its depth charges on the first run, and the rear guns jammed, but the pilot, Sgt L.O. Slade RAF, returned for a second attack, in which his aircraft was hit and damaged. With one engine out he was forced to ditch the aircraft where he and his crew, **Sgt W.J. Wood**, **P/O B.A. Russell**, Sgt W.F. Wicks RAF, Sgt G.F. Dimmock RAF and Sgt G.W. Vines RAF, were picked up by a Spanish fishing boat. They were taken to Spain and briefly interned before being returned to England. A **F/O B.A. Russell** was killed Jan. 21-22, 1944, possibly the same officer in this incident. See July 24, below.

30 RAF Ferry Command Baltimore IIIa FA227 crashed at Nassau, Bahamas, when an engine cut taking off on a test flight, Ferry Pilot H. Chouteau Jr. (USA), Observer J.P. Lynes and **Radio Officer C.J. Somerville** killed (CWGC).

30 #135 (F) Sqn. RCAF, Patricia Bay, BC, Hurricane XII #5419, **F/O R.H. Pallen**, crashed into the sea near Sidney Island BC after a mid-air collision with Hurricane XII #5418 flown by **F/S T. E. Jackson**, killing F/O Pallen. F/O Pallen had been injured in a flying accident Jan. 4, 1942 at an SFTS in England. F/S Jackson landed safely with a damaged propellor. His Hurricane #5418 was repaired, and was later deployed to shoot down Japanese Balloon Bombs. Post war it was sold surplus, but was one of those preserved by Harry Whereatt in Saskatchewan, and was later purchased by Stan Reynolds of Wetaskiwin, and restored. It is now on exhibit at the Reynolds-Alberta Museum in Wetaskiwin, Alberta (O'Malley et al).

30 #4 SFTS Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Crane I #8055 dived into ground near Clark's Crossing, Saskatchewan, during a weather test, **F/O R.J. Cameron**, **P/O J.T. Dingle** and civilian **A.C. Longman** killed. See #12 SFTS loss July 25, 1942.

30-31 407 Sqn. Leigh Light Wellington XII MP542 2-C lost on an anti-submarine patrol, **WO1 G.E. Greenwood** killed, **WO1 H.G. Collins**, **P/O R.G. Fowlie**, **WO2 P.S. Grindley**, **WO1 J.C. Harrison**, **F/S A.C. McNabb** missing.

Monday

31 Zoot Suit Riots in Los Angeles between servicemen and Hispanic youth. Other similar riots later break out across the US. The roots of the riots were racial but some newspapers and politicians blamed communists (wikipedia).

This was the last date the daylight bombers of #2 Group RAF operated under Bomber Command. On June 1 they were transferred to the new 2nd Tactical Air Force (TAF) working up for the planned invasion of Europe. On its final day with Bomber Command it sent 12 Venturas to Zeebrugge, 12 Venturas to Caen airfield, 6 Venturas to attack the docks at Cherbourg, 12 Mitchells to a shipyard at Flushing, Holland, and 12 Bostons to France (but they were unable to reach their target). One Mitchell was lost (BC War Diaries).

413 Sqn. modified BOAC Catalina FP244/G-AGFM makes second Ceylon-Australia flight flown by *F/L R.W. Fursman (RCAF Sqns.)*.

- 31 218 Sqn. Stirling I EF365 HA-U crash landed in England after an engine failure, *Sgt J.S. McDonald*, P/O D.R. Rich RAAF, Sgt H. Hill RAF, Sgt F. Fawcett RAF, Sgt B. Kermonde RAF, Sgt A.J. Hall or Small RAF and Sgt S.H. Burrows RAF safe. See June 21-22, below.
- 31 402 Sqn. Spitfire Vc AB371 shot down by German fighters on a CIRCUS, *F/O J.G. Torney* bailed out but rescued, injured.
- 31 403 Sqn. Spitfire IX LZ955 shot down on a CIRCUS to France, *P/O G.R. Brown* missing.
- 31 #10 AFU Anson DJ239 crashed after a mid-air collision with an #18 MU Wellington XIII HZ637, *F/S M.H. Cornell RCAF (USA)*, *P/O A.I. MacRae*, Sgt G.B.T. Wymer RAF, Sgt T. Green RAF and Sgt J.T. Sutherland RAAF killed on the Anson, *F/L W.J. Calver* RAF and civilians Mr. J.C. Gurdler, Mr. C.P. Neave and Mr. A. Welsh killed on the Wellington (A. Storr; COL BRUGGY www.rafcommands.com).
- 31 #28 OTU Wellington Ic R1282 crashed on take off for a transit flight, *P/O J.W. O'Hara* and his crew safe. See Aug. 14-15, below.
- 31 #60 OTU Mosquito T.III HJ881 collided in mid-air with a #61 OTU Spitfire Ia X4930, one of a formation of 4, and crashed in England, *F/L G.W. Mason* and WO V.A. Clouder AFM RAF were killed in the Mosquito, as well as the pilot of the Spitfire, *F/S J.F.C. McPherson* RAAF (www.spitfires.ukf.net, A. Storr).
- 31 #9 B&G School, Mont Joli, Quebec, Turret Battle I.T #1960 was circling the pilot's home when it hit some wires, then a house before crashing on the wharf at East Court, Quebec, killing *Sgt J.W.M. Brochu* (S. Shail).
- 31 #15 EFTS, Regina, Saskatchewan, DH.82C Tiger Moth #5027 crashed (R.W.R. Walker).
- 31-1 178 Sqn. Liberator II AL582 undershot its landing in Libya returning from a bombing sortie to Siciy, *F/S J.M. Charbonneau*, F/O P.G. Brown RAF, Sgt W.A. Caudle RAF, Sgt D.F. Chalk RAF, P/O E.J. Hudson RAF, Sgt I.E. Kirkby RAF, F/S J. Smith RAF and Sgt J.B. Webster RAF safe (BLME V.2).

June 1943

407 Sqn. begins to receive Leigh Light equipped Wellington XIV aircraft (RCAF Sqns.). 428 Sqn. begins to re-equip with Halifax B.V aircraft (RCAF Sqns.). #163 (AC) Sqn. RCAF adds Hurricane XII aircraft to it's roster, until November, then returns to Bolingbroke aircraft (RCAF Sqns.).

#61 Base RCAF (Linton-on-Ouse, East Moor and Tholthorpe) established.

The Indian Nationalist Subhas Chandra Bose arrives in Tokyo from Germany, where he is placed in charge of the Japanese supported Indian political and military units (Indian National Army) (Oxford).

During the month Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov met German Foreign Minister Ribbontrop at the German occupied town of Kirovograd to seek a way to end the war between them, but German demands for Russian territory quickly ended the discussion. That, and the reaction of the other Allied countries (which with Russia had proclaimed they would only accept Germany's 'Unconditional Surrender' at the Casablanca Conference in January) when they heard about this, ended any further meetings (LH).

In this period the German Luftwaffe made a series of strategic night bombing raids on Soviet production centres, but these were not very effective and were ended to provide air support for the planned offensive on the Kursk Salient (Oxford). See July 5, below.

At sea the Royal Navy code for convoys, being read by the German Navy since December, 1941, was changed, making interception of convoys by U-boats more difficult. The realization that the codes had been broken was due to a USN evaluation of intercepted orders to U-boats, despite German efforts to mask this (D. Syrett).

Project Habakkuk, having encountered difficulties with keeping the ice cool enough not to melt without providing further steel to cover it, which was seen as impractical, the refrigeration units on the scale model of the proposed Pykrete aircraft carrier in Patricia Lake in Jasper National Park were removed, and the "ice ship" was abandoned, floating around the lake until late in the summer before sinking. Further development of the idea was ended by expense and the pending availability of the Azores for basing patrol aircraft as well as the deployment of more escort carriers, VLR aircraft and the development of MAC ships, or Merchant Aircraft Carriers, freighters built with flight decks able to launch Swordfish as patrol aircraft while sailing in a convoy (<http://www.goodeveca.net/CFGGoodeve/patricia.html>; wikipedia).

Using the Flight Refuelling Limited tanker equipment from Gander, Newfoundland, and the receiver equipment from England, **W/C H.C. Johnson RCAF (UK)** and British Air Ministry representative **P.R. Allison** direct a USAAF B-24 tanker to refuel a B-17 receiver on 7 successful demonstration flights (R.K. Smith).

During this month **WO R.M. Stone RAF (Nfld.)** was taken PoW, details and date unknown (www.rafcommands.com).

Tuesday

1 Production of heavy water by Cominco at Trail, B.C. begins.

In the Bay of Biscay a former KLM Douglas DC-3 airliner G-AGBB Ibis (ex PH-ALI) operating a scheduled BOAC service Flight 777 from Lisbon to England is intercepted and shot down by Ju 88 aircraft, killing 4 crew and 13 passengers including the British actor Leslie Howard. There was speculation that the Germans thought Churchill was on board this aircraft, or that Howard was targeted either as a spy or for his efforts supporting the war effort in neutral countries. However this was the third time the same aircraft on the same route had been attacked, and it is likely it was attacked again on this occasion in error as a suspected military aircraft. After this loss BOAC DC-3's were repainted with black undersurfaces and flew this route at night. Ground crew from 407 Squadron had been waiting to meet the flight and re-fuel it (pers. comm A.D. Squires).

As noted in the losses below (and this is only those with Canadian involvement) German long range fighter activity over the Bay of Biscay increased sharply, perhaps as an attempt to counter the increasingly effective patrols by Coastal Command given the high losses of U-boats in the last month.

RAF Army Co-Operation Command disbanded, 400, 414 and 430 Squadrons transferred to 2nd Tactical Air Force (RCAF Sqns.).

First Canadian built Mosquito enters service with the RCAF (Griffin CMA).

- 1 11 Sqn. Blenheim IV Z7912 was leading a formation of three on a bombing sortie in Burma when it ditched in a river due to engine problems, Squadron commanding officer **W/C A.W. Pennington-Legh RAF (Can.)**, F/L R.J. Ingram DFC RAAF and F/L B. Burnley DFC RAAF came ashore but were murdered by villagers nearby. They have no known grave (A. Storr, C. Shores). When this was reported the village responsible was bombed by Squadron Blenheims. W/C Pennington-Legh had flown one of the first three Hurricanes to reinforce Malaysia from the Middle East in January 1942 (Shores, Cull & Izawa).
- 1 58 Sqn. Halifax II BB257 'B' lost on a Coastal Command sortie, possibly shot down by long range German fighters, **P/O J.R. Bickerton**, **WO2 L.E. Daw**, **F/O J.A. Thain**, **F/S S.F. Miller RAAF**, **F/L F.W. Gilmore RAF**, **Sgt C.W.H. Makin RAF** and **Sgt B.W. Wyatt RAF** missing (N.L.R. Franks).
- 1 420 Sqn. air and ground crew detached to the Middle East, flying Wellington aircraft

consigned to #1 Overseas Aircraft Delivery Unit from England to Algeria, two of which were intercepted and shot down over the Bay of Biscay by Ju 88 fighters. In Wellington X HE561 fitter LAC T.R. Brookes, WO2 H.L. Davis, P/O R.S. Hollowell, F/O G.H. Hubbell, P/O W.R. King, fitter Cpl J.F. MacKenzie and F/S A.T. Sodero missing. In Wellington X HE963 F/S K.M. Gillies, F/O P.J.M. Greig, electrician Cpl A.C.J. Coates, aero engine mechanic LAC J.B. Leitch, F/O G.S. McCulloch, F/S G.D. McDougall and F/S J.C. Nicol missing (BLME V.2; www.rafcommands.com). WO Davis had bailed out of a 424 Sqn. Wellington Jan. 29-30, above. P/O Hollowell's brother, P/O D.T. Hollowell, had died March 19, above, in the loss of a Ferry Command Baltimore in Nassau, Bahamas.

- 1 430 Sqn. goes operational on this date with Mustang I aircraft beginning RHUBARBS over France by F/L N.S. Clarke and F/O T.M. Pethick, attacking two freight engines (FF Years). See June 2, below.
- 1 #1 OTU Bagotville, Quebec, Hurricane XII #5678 crashed after a mid-air collision, killing P/O S.S. Buckley.
- 1 Newfoundland Ranger J.J. Hogan officially presumed dead (G.A. Pauls). See June 25, below.

1-2 Bomber Command sent 33 GARDENING sorties off Holland and France without loss (BC War Diaries). RCAF Wellington equipped 420 Sqn. departs England for North Africa to form part of #331 (Medium) Bomber Wing RCAF.

- 1-2 196 Sqn. Wellington X HE163 took off on a GARDENING sortie but came down in a force landing some 20 minutes later after an engine caught fire, Sgt N. Butts, F/O J.L. Deans RAF, P/O A.E. Bothwell RAF, P/O J.R. Vickers RAF and F/S S.A. Hurrell RAF safe (R. Allenby).

Wednesday

2 UN set up permanent food body (CJCA headline). This was the result of United Nations Conference on Food and Agriculture, the UNs first conference, requested by President Roosevelt and held at Hot Springs, Virginia, from May 18 to June 3, 1943. This UN body became the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, established as a permanent agency of the UN Oct. 16, 1945 at meetings held in Quebec City, and later headquartered in Rome, Italy (wikipedia).

Luftwaffe bombers began a planned day-long series of attacks on the vital Soviet railyard in Kursk, but are held off with heavy casualties inflicted by Russian fighters. Besides failing to destroy this important railhead this was the last time the Luftwaffe would attempt large scale daylight bomber attacks in Russia. It also affected planning for the attack on the Kursk Salient, as it was decided not to open the offensive with attacks on the enemies airfields by

Luftwaffe bombers, stepping back from the Blitzkrieg model used since the beginning of the war (C. Bergström). See July 5, below.

Losing the ability to make large daylight bombing attacks indicates that the Luftwaffe had lost the technology advantage which they had held against it's enemies at the beginning of the war.

As part of the build-up to the planned Luftwaffe night attacks on Russian production centres, and in an attempt to deceive Soviet defences, a high altitude daylight reconnaissance was flown over Moscow on this date by a Ju 88. It was intercepted by MiG-3 fighters, one of which rammed it and both crashed, the Ju 88 coming down on the historic battlefield of Borodino (C. Bergström). See also May 12-13, 1944, Halifax MZ629.

- 2 400 Sqn. Mustang I AG661 shot down on a RHUBARB, F/L W.H. Gordon evaded.
- 2 400 Sqn. Mustang I AM256, possibly SP-Y, shot down on a RHUBARB over France, F/O R.W. Clarke killed.
- 2 430 Sqn. Mustang I aircraft, F/L F.H. Chester and F/O A.J. Alliston, attacked 3 more locomotives, electric power poles and two boats in a morning RHUBARB (FF Years).
- 2 430 Sqn. Mustang I AM200 shot down by flak over France on a RHUBARB, F/O T.M. Pethick killed.
- 2 #3 SFTS, Calgary, Alberta, Crane I #7996 dived into the ground while practicing night circuits killing LAC(P) L.E. Harmon. See #12 SFTS loss July 25, 1942.
- 2 #4 Wireless School, Guelph, Ontario, LAC(WAG) J.A. Gaudet, AC2(WAG) F. Holyday and AC2(WAG) C.V. Ward were killed in a car accident near Breslau, Ontario.
- 2 #4 Staging Unit, Watson Lake, Yukon Territory, Sgt F.C. Hawes drowned in Watson Lake, no details.

- 2-3 #24 OTU Whitley V Z6639 was on a cross country exercise when it flew into a hill very close to an Observer Corps site in Broadway Tower (a hill top "folly" in the Cotswolds), F/S H.G. Hagen, F/S D.H. Kelly, Sgt R.S. Phillips RAF and Sgt D.A. Marriott RAF killed. Duty Observers A. Lowe and E. Hollington managed to rescue one airman, rear gunner Sgt G.E. Ekins RAF, from the burning wreckage but he died soon afterwards of his injuries. A plaque on the Observer site commemorates this crash.

Thursday

- 3 70 Sqn. Wellington X HF726 was taking off in North Africa for an operation to Pantelleria but aborted the take-off and was damaged beyond repair, Sgt J.W. Band RAF injured, F/S N.F. Anderson, WO R.L. Devine, Sgt Bailey RAF, F/S Bartlett RAF and Sgt Gray RAF safe (BLME V.2).

- 3 117 Sqn. Hudson VI FK386 missing in transit from England to Gibraltar, believed shot down by German long range fighters, **F/L J.B. Buckley RCAF (UK)**, F/O E. J. McSherry RNZAF, F/O D.V. Edwards RAF and passengers G/C R.G. Yaxley DSO MC DFC RAF, W/C H.F. Burton DSO DFC and Bar RAF, W/C E. Paul MiD RAAF, W/C P.T. Cotton DFC RAF, S/L O.V. Hanbury DSO DFC and Bar RAF, S/L J.K. Young MBE RAF and W/C J. Goodhead RAF missing (www.landinportugal.org, CWGC).
- 3 423 Sqn. Sunderland III, F/O H.C. Jackson, sighted 3 U-boats in the Bay of Biscay and forced them to dive (FF Years).
- 3 #10 OTU Whitley V BD414 'J' lost without trace on an anti-submarine patrol over the Bay of Biscay, **F/O D.T. Dorward**, **F/S E.H. Neilson**, **P/O H.D. Pepper**, F/S D.F. Bavin RAAF, Sgt C.A. Richardson RAF and P/O C.A. Nicholls RAF missing.
- 3 #20 AFU Oxford II V3821 collided in mid-air with Oxford I X3821, **F/O J.S. Banks DFM**, WO D.J. Innes-Smith RAF were killed in V3821, **F/S L.A. Boire** and F/S J. Brooke RAF were killed in X6871 (www.rafcommands.com).
- 3 1830 Sqn., FAA, Corsair JT116 crashed taking off from Quonset Point NAS, Rhode Island, USA, when the propellor struck the ground **Lt(A) J.E. Gaunt RCNVR** killed (FAA Museum NAP Data, www.naval-history.net).
- 3 RCAF Station Gander Newfoundland, clerk **LAC F.C.G. Gadsby** died in hospital of natural causes (www.rafcommands.com).
- 3 #2 Manning Depot, Brandon, Man., **AC2 O.A. Lamont** died of exhaustion at a sports parade.
- 3 #11 SFTS, Yorkton, Saskatchewan, **Leading Air Woman Elsie Phylis James** died of natural causes in hospital in Winnipeg following an operation (www.wwiicdnwomensproject.org).
- 3 #34 OTU, Pennfield Ridge, NB, Ventura II AE942 crashed into the Bay of Fundy, **Sgt F.J. Stiles**, Sgt R.F. Brier RNZAF, Sgt F.R. Carter RNZAF and P/O S.N. Langdale RNZAF missing (#34 OTU Roll of Honour).
- 3-4 #26 OTU Wellington X HE746 crashed attempting a landing after an engine failure on a night navigation exercise, **Sgt J.C. Kent**, Sgt L.A. Southam RAF, Sgt H. Parker RAF and Sgt G.W. Mullis RAF killed, **Sgt H.J. Newel** seriously injured. A propellor from this crash and a memorial plaque are on display at the Dumfries and Galloway Aviation Museum (W.R. Chorley).

Friday

**4 Reliable intelligence about German rocket experiments reaches England (Polsson).
See June 12, below.**

A military coup occurs in Argentina (wikipedia).

417 Sqn. begins escorting bombers for six days, attacking the Island of Pantelleria (417 SH, wikipedia, D. Sommerville).

- 4 10 Sqn. WO2 J.L. Johnson died in hospital in England of natural causes.
- 4 402 Sqn. Spitfire Vc AA980 shot down into the sea off Holland by flak from an E-boat while on a ROADSTEAD off the Dutch coast killing W/C L.S. Ford DFC & Bar. W/C Ford was the Digby Wing Leader and an Ace, being credited with 6 air victories. See W. de Jong's page about the Dutch Island of Vlieland at www.626-squadron.co.uk for some information on W/C Ford.
- 4 402 Sqn. Spitfire Vc damaged by flak from an E-boat on a ROADSTEAD but returned to England, WO W.N. Shepherd wounded.
- 4 402 Sqn. Spitfire Vc hit in the armoured windscreen by flak from an E-boat, which made forward vision impossible, W/C L.V. Chadburn DFC managed to return for a safe landing in England (Lancaster, C. et al, Awards).
- 4 #7 AFU Master II W9038 hit the roof of a farm building and crashed in England, P/O A.T. Hinton RCAF (USA) killed (mackz www.rafcommands.com).
- 4 #57 OTU Spitfire Ia X4896 was involved in a collision on the runway, Sgt D.H. Matheson killed.
- 4 #32 OTU, Patricia Bay, BC, Canadian built Hampden TB.I AN100 crashed at sea on a navigation exercise, Sgt W.F. Barker RAF, Sgt J. Ralph RAF, Sgt G.W. Maddrell RAAF and Sgt G.C. Senger RAAF missing (*BC Times Colonist, Patricia Bay Aircrash List 2009*).
- 4 #32 OTU, Patricia Bay, BC, Anson I #6974 crashed into a house at Qualicum Beach, B.C., following a wing failure, P/O J.H. Schwab, P/O J.H. Briggs RAF, P/O G.H. Gould RAF and Sgt K.C. Huard RAF killed (*BC Times Colonist, Patricia Bay Aircrash List 2009, R.W.R. Walker*).
- 4 RCAF Vessel MV Haida, LAC D.A. Jones drowned at Port Alberni, BC while swimming with other airmen.
- 4 USAAF B-17F 42-3278 damaged at Gander, Nfld. (AAIR).
- 4 USAAF P-36G 42-109003 (ex- RNor.AF H75A-8 465) damaged taking off from Toronto Island Airport, Ontario, after it's engine failed, Capt J.H. Brown Jr. USAAF safe. This was one of the aircraft sold back to the USAAF and overhauled at Toronto, to be provided to Peru under Lend-Lease. However after this accident it was used to provide spare parts for the other Peruvian fighters (AAIR; D. Hagedorn & A. Tincopa).

4-5 First Luftwaffe strategic night bombing attack on the GAZ vehicle works in Gorkiy (now Nizhny Novgorod) by 168 He 111 and Ju 88 bombers, using pathfinder and master bomber techniques, inflicted very heavy damage for the loss of 6 bombers. Two further attacks over the next 2 nights brought production of light armoured vehicles and trucks here to a halt, but the planned disruption of T-34 tank production did not occur due to faulty intelligence as their

production was at another factory at Gorkiy (C. Bergström).

Saturday

5 424 Sqn. and 425 Sqn. Wellington X aircraft begin to depart England for Tunisia to form #331 Wing RCAF to support landings in Sicily (RCAF Sqns.).

5 608 Sqn. Hudson V AM735 missing in Mediterranean, **F/S R.W. Billing** missing.

5 27 IAP and 78 IAP, Soviet Northern Fleet, lost 9 Hurricanes from 50 from attacks by German fighters while defending a barge and naval ships taking needed artillery pieces to besieged Soviet forces on the Rybachiy Peninsula, including Canadian built Hurricane XI aircraft BW959 and BW984 (Y. Rybin, *Soviet Hurricane Aces of World War 2*, Osprey, 2012).

5 330 (Norway) Sqn. RNor.AF Sunderland II W6052 lost, **Sgt H.E. Eddy, WO1 L.P. Edwards**, radio mechanic **Cpl. R.S. McDonald, Sgt A.J.W. Schmok**, Sgt S. Allen RAF, F/O S. Jebson RAF, P/O N.F. Lester RAF, Sgt A.T.J. Murray RAF, Sgt J.H. Pritchard RAF, Sgt J.J. Walker RAF and Sgt J.W. Waring RAF missing (CWGC; www.rafcommands.com).

5 425 Sqn. Wellington X HE268 KW-K was shot up by a long range fighter over the Bay of Biscay in transit to Tunisia, **Cpl R.F. Larche** and **Sgt L.G. French** were wounded. Pilot **P/O R.J. Lacerte** diverted to Portugal where he, **Cpl Larche, Sgt French, Sgt W.J. Brislan, LAC L.A. Dufresne, F/O B.L. Shaw** and **Sgt F.W. Wright** bailed out and were interned. The crew were released at the end of July (RCAF Sqns.; www.conscript-heroes.com; www.csn.ul.ie). See July 28, below.

5 612 Sqn. Wellington GR.XII MP656 crashed in England on a training flight, possibly due to an engine failure on approach, **WO2 D.Y. Turnbull**, W/C J.S. Kendrick RAF, F/S G.E. Garrett RAAF and F/O P. Millington RAF killed, F/L R. Neale RAF and Sgt H.B. Trethewey RAF injured (A. Storr).

5 Air Transport Auxiliary Lysander TT.IIIa V9814 was unable to be properly trimmed, landed heavily and took off it's undercarriage on a ferry flight due to having ballast removed by a previous pilot, **First Officer Helen Marcelle Harrison-Bristol ATA** safe (R. Allenby).

5 #31 OTU, Debert, NS, Hudson VI FK409 lost on a navigation exercise, **P/O A.B. Haddow, P/O V.E. Mayhew, P/O J.J. McCarry, P/O J.L. Summerwill** and **P/O C. Ursel** missing. P/O Summerwill and P/O Ursel were newly graduated WAGs and had accepted an invitation to join the flight to observe operations (R.W. Hamilton, *Flight into Yesterday*).

5 RCAF Station Gander, Newfoundland, administration **F/S C.A. Richie RCAF (USA)** died of natural causes.

5 unknown unit, Hurricane crashed in the Fraser River doing aerobatics, **F/S J.A. Leslie** survived (*BC Times Colonist, Other BC Crashes and Losses*).

Sunday

6 First party of German weathermen evacuated from bombed station on Sabine Island in Greenland by a Do 18 flying boat to the polar exploration ship Schwabanland offshore (wikipedia.de, wikipedia). See June 17, below.

#3 AOS, Pearce, Alberta, closes on this date

(<http://www.bombercrew.com/BCATP.htm>).

- 6 113 Sqn. Blenheim V BA916 crashed in a spin in India attempting to land from an operation, **WO1 L. Ward**, Sgt G.N. Theobald RAF and F/S R.A. Gilchrist RNZAF killed (C. Shores).
- 6 18 Sqn. Boston III AL492 was shot down by German fighters on a sortie to bomb Pantelleria, **F/S T.N. Bain**, **F/O P. Opruk**, **F/O D.R.L. Wilson** and Sgt W.R. Oak RAF missing (BLME V.2).
- 6 272 Sqn. Beaufighter VIc EL472 lost off Malta, **F/O T.A. Herron** and his navigator Sgt R.J. Hawksley RAF missing (www.rafcommands.com).
- 6 21 Sqn. Mitchell II FV907 struck a Ventura II AE856 aircraft on take-off and crashed, killing **F/S M.G. Gordon**, **F/S L.J. O'Connor** and **F/O J. Rogers**, Sgt Hewitt survived (<https://www.flickr.com/photos/43688219@N00/14051573592>).
- 6 412 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AD295 had an engine fire and landed short making a deadstick landing, hitting trees which took off the undercarriage and ending up in a field, **F/O W.A. Bishop** safe (www.spitfires.ukf.net; FF Years; D. McIntosh). F/O Bishop was the son of **AM W.A. Bishop VC DSO MC DFC**.
- 6 414 Sqn. Mustang I AP172 was shot down on a naval escort patrol off the Scilly Islands, the aircraft was seen to strike the water when in combat with a German fighter, **F/O L.A. Doherty** missing. His wingman, **F/O R.T. Hutchinson**, fought off attacks by 3 Fw 190 fighters for twenty minutes before they broke-off. Despite being low on fuel F/O Hutchinson resumed his escort, and landed with only a few minutes of fuel when finished (FF Years).
- 6 617 Sqn. Lancaster III EE145 KC-T was landing from a training flight but hydroplaned on wet grass and lost it's undercarriage, **WO2 P.E. Pigeon**, F/L J.L. Munro DFC RNZAF, Sgt F. Appleby RAF, F/O G. Rumbles DFC RAF, Sgt J.H. Clay RAF, Sgt H. Howarth RAF and F/S H.A. Weeks RAF safe.
- 6 #30 OTU Wellington III BJ801 lost without trace over the North Sea on a navigation exercise, **Sgt L.B. Hewer**, **F/S E.R. Swindells**, F/S E.S. Smith RAF, Sgt R.E. Gill RAF, Sgt J.E. Plummer RAF and Sgt R.E.P. West RAF missing.
- 6 #3 Bombing & Gunnery School, MacDonald, Man., LAC C. Hubert RAF (Belgium) died, hit by a propellor. A second airman lost his arm in this accident (K.B. Cothliff).
- 6 #19 SFTS, Vulcan, Alberta, **AW1 Dora Marion Bamsay** died in the station hospital of natural causes (www.rafcommands.com).
- 6 #33 SFTS, Carberry, Manitoba, LAC C.R. Coopey RAF died in hospital after an operation (www.rafcommands.com).

Monday

- 7 259 Sqn. Catalina Ib FP275 'E', borrowed by 209 Sqn., stalled making a night landing at Lake St. Lucia, South Africa, **F/O D.T. Alexander** (259 Sqn.), F/L D.W. Foster RAF, Sgt K.G. Gambell RAF, Sgt K.G. Griffiths RAF, F/L J.A.B. Kennedy RAF, Sgt E. Lynch RAF (259 Sqn.), Sgt H.D.G. Shaw RAF and Sgt E. Stevens RAF (259 Sqn.) killed (COL BRUGGY & R.J. Ragnarsson www.rafcommands.com).
- 7 283 Sqn. wireless air gunner **WO1 R.B. Hodges** was killed in Tunisia when the squadron camp was attacked by an enemy fighter.
- 7 406 Sqn. Beaufighter Vlf X8261 crashed in Wales on a searchlight training exercise, **F/S W.I. Hereford** and Sgt J.W.E. Robinson RAF killed (aviation-safety.net).
- 7 412 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AA746 shot down making a ground attack on a RHUBARB over France, **WO1 E.J.V. Levesque** killed. WO Levesque had landed a flak damaged Spitfire May 5, above.
- 7 412 Sqn. Spitfire Vc AR521 went down in the English Channel on a RHUBARB, **F/S R.H. McLean** missing.
- 7 412 Spitfire Vc EE769 hit by flak attacking a train on a RHUBARB over France and ditched in the Channel where the pilot, **P/O R.W. Thatcher**, was rescued by an ASR Walrus. See May 11, 1944. A 276 Sqn. ASR Spitfire II P8674 AQ-J searching for P/O Thatcher was shot down over the Channel, the pilot, Sgt A.V. Dorman RAF, survived for 7 days in his life raft before coming ashore in the Channel Islands, where he was injured in the surf and became a PoW (Roy Nixon, www.rafcommands.com).
- 7 #56 OTU Hurricane P5458 spun into the ground in England killing **F/S J.C. Nabors RCAF (USA)**. F/S Nabors had been slightly injured June 2, 1942 in the forced landing of Finch II #4459 near Pressisville, Quebec.

Tuesday

8 *The Japanese battleship Mutsu is destroyed at anchor in the Inland Sea of Japan in an accidental explosion with the death of over 1,100 sailors (wikipedia).*

After several days of poor weather Soviet air forces attempted to take out the German night bomber force gathered on forward bases, but repeated reconnaissance flights had given their intentions away and the bombers were not damaged (C. Bergström).

- 8 244 Sqn. Blenheim V AZ998 crashed on takeoff in Iran, **WO1 J.E. Cosford**, Cpl W. Lavin RAF, LAC A. Crichton RAF and Sgt R.W. Fitzsimmons RAF killed (www.rquirk.com).
- 8 104 Sqn. Wellington II W5564 'H' was hit by a flak ship and damaged attacking Pantelleria. The aircraft was forced to ditch, Sgt R.O.C. Harris RAF killed, F/S L.R. Brennan RAAF, Sgt F.E. Bobby RAF, Sgt D.J.A. Robson RAF and F/S T.W.R. Jones

- RAAF missing, **P/O F.E. McLaren** rescued by an RN vessel after 12 hours in the water (A. Storr; BLME V.2).
- 8 402 Sqn. Spitfire Vb EP394 was shot down attacking a train on a RHUBARB to Holland, it was last seen flying northwest towards the coast of Holland, **F/O R.H. Dose RCAF (USA)** missing (www.spitfires.ukf.net, FF Years).
- 8 #26 OTU Wellington III BJ833 crashed in England on local flying practice, **Sgt E.H. Palava**, F/S J.F. Calvesbert RAAF and Sgt G. Fall RAF killed.
- 8 USAAF A-20G 42-53929 damaged at Fort Nelson, BC (AAIR).

8-9 A Soviet rubber producing plant south of Moscow was attacked and heavily damaged by over 100 He 111 bombers for the loss of 3, while 160 Soviet bombers (including Lend-Lease B-25s) attacked their bases (C. Bergström).

Wednesday

9 413 Sqn. modified BOAC Catalina FP244/G-AGFM completes second round-trip to Australia from Ceylon (RCAF Sqns.).

- 9 202 sqn. Catalina Ib FP214 crashed after hitting a hill near Algeciras, Spain, when taking off from Gibraltar, **F/O E.R. Free**, **WO1 A.R. Webster**, F/S H.S. Brown RAF, Sgt K.B. Cooper RAF, Sgt G.E. Noble RAF, Sgt M.L.V. Watson RAF, P/O G.E.F. Johnston RAF and P/O G.W. Tibbetts RAF missing, Sgt A. Bibby RAF and Sgt G.T. Davies RAF survived (G. Smith Jersey Roll of Honour).
- 9 421 Sqn. Spitfire IX EN180 and BS306 collided over England, Spitfire EN180 crashed, **F/O J.D. McFarlane RCAF (USA)** safe, while **F/O F.J. Sherlock** made a wheels up landing (www.spitfires.ukf.net; C. Charland and dmjc66 at www.rafcommands.com).
- 9 619 Sqn. Lancaster III EE113 missing on an air test, **F/S J.H. Bambridge**, Sgt F.W. Shirley RAF, Sgt W.J. Douglas RAF, Sgt W.A. Robinson RAF, Sgt J.J. Wemyss RAF, Sgt P. Fox RAF, Sgt D.M. Gray RAF, Sgt P.J. Cook RAF and instrument mechanic F/S A.P. Price RAF missing.
- 9 #9 EFTS, St. Catharines, Ontario DH.82C Tiger Moth #3956 crashed, LAC K.F. Jeeves RAF killed.
- 9 #34 OTU, Pennfield Ridge, NB, AC1 F.L. Senciall RAF died in the Station hospital from complications following surgery (#34 OTU Roll of Honour, www.rafcommands.com).
- 9 USAAF 71st HQ Sqn. YC-64 (Norseman) 42-5045 damaged taking off at an airport in Newfoundland (AAIR).

Thursday

10 Again Soviet bombers attempted to destroy some of the German night bomber force, but suffered high casualties and further attempts were curtailed (C. Bergström).

As landing craft approached the Italian Island of Pantelleria the garrison of 12,000 surrendered (Oxford). This followed 6 days of intense bombing by the USAAF and RAF following a plan designed eliminate it's strong defensive capability. This was seen as a major step in the invasion of Sicily as it's airfield could be used for support of the landings.

#116 (BR) Sqn. RCAF deploys to Botwood, Nfld. from Shelburne, NS (RCAF Sqns.).

- 10 269 Sqn. Hudson IIIa FH377 flew into a hill in bad weather in Iceland, killing **F/S J.J. Hill**, F/O J. Coles RAF, F/S F.G. Crofts RAF and F/S L. Franklin RAF.
- 10 #5 (Coastal) OTU Hampden I AD938 crashed in England on a training flight, **P/O Brockett** safe (H. Moyle).
- 10 unknown unit, AC1 S.F. Proudley RAF was killed in Canada in a car accident.

10-11 German bombers again attacked the Soviet GAZ works (C. Bergström).

Six OTU NICKEL sorties over France, 1 lost (BC War Diaries).

- 10-11 #24 OTU Whitley V BD442 lost over France on a NICKEL sortie, **Sgt W.T. Seaman**, Sgt L.F. Cook RAF, Sgt W.H. Cox RAF, Sgt J. Monteith RAF and Sgt D.L. Williams RAF killed, Sgt J. Dawson RAF PoW.

Friday

11 Italian garrison on Pantelleria Island surrenders (CJCA headline).

Largest single attack by USAAF bombers in Europe so far, 252 sent to Bremen but diverted to Wilhelmshaven due to cloud cover, 218 bomb the target, 8 lost, 62 damaged (Zijlstra, www.b24.net).

- 11 205 Sqn. Catalina Ib FP255 'U' ditched at sea in the Indian Ocean, not found, **F/O C.A. Mayhew**, WO E.J.T. Altham RAF, Sgt J.E. Beedles RAF, Sgt E.E. Coker RAF, F/O M.G. Curtis RAF, Sgt W. Dunn RAF, Sgt R.L. Johnson RAF, F/L J.C. Lowe RAF, Sgt K.A. Maddock RAF, F/O R. Rust RAF, Sgt A.F.R. Stanton RAF, F/O H.L. Walmsley RAF and F/O J.E. Wilson RAF missing (CWGC; COL BRUGGY at www.rafcommands.com).
- 11 40 Sqn. Wellington III HF697 'T' was taking off in the early morning in Tunisia as part of what would turn out to be the final bombing operation to the Island of Pantelleria, but swung and struck 37 Sqn. Wellington X HE660. The resulting fire also consumed 2 more 37 Sqn. Wellington X aircraft, HE861 and HZ108. Of the crew of HF697 **WO1 N. Kennedy**, Sgt S. Underwood RAF, F/S D.McN. Hall RAF and Sgt I.A. Roy RAF were killed and the tail gunner Sgt R.A. Powell RAF survived, injured (BLME V.2).
- 11 104 Sqn. Wellington II W5376 II was shot down over the Mediterranean island of Pantelleria, **WO2 G.D.G. Morrison**, **F/O B.B. Reid**, Sgt P. Koek-Koek RAF, F/S

- P.A.R. Eason RAF, Sgt H.J.T. Bennett RAF and Sgt R.L. Sowerby RAF killed (COL BRUGGY www.rafcommands.com).
- 11 295 Sqn. Halifax V EB132 flew into the ground England in fog, **WO1 J.N. Hansen RAF (Can.)**, **F/O W.A.B. Stokes**, F/O A.D. Gardner RAF and F/S F.C. Schultz RAAF killed, F/O B.L. Tomkins RAF and Sgt E.J. Rogers RAF injured (#38 Group Roll of Honour <http://www.raf38group.org>, A. Storr).
- 11 415 Sqn. Hampden TB.I AT243 GX-N crashed after a mid-air collision with Hampden TB.I AT250 GX-K on a training flight, mechanic **LAC E.J. Dockendorff**, **WO2 E.H. Johnston**, F/S F.U. Batchelor RAF and F/O S. Viatkin RAF were killed. Aircraft AT250 landed safely.
- 11 430 Sqn. Mustang I AP171 crashed in England, **F/O S.P.R. Brouillette** killed.
- 11 #17 AFU Master aircraft AZ733 and DL713 collided in mid-air flying in formation and crashed; **P/O R.J. Burrill** was killed and F/S W. Lynn RAF survived in AZ733, Cpl(P) R.V. Jupp RAF was killed in DL713 ([alclark www.rafcommands.com](http://alclark.com)).
- 11 #22 OTU Wellington III HF813 crashed practicing night circuits when an engine failed, killing **F/O E.J.K. Leclaire** and Sgt J.T. Anderton RAF.
- 11 #52 OTU Spitfire Ia AR221 flew into a hill in bad visibility, **F/O J.W. Grant** killed.
- 11 #10 SFTS, Dauphin, Man., Crane I #8738 crashed on take-off while practicing night circuits, killing **F/O J.R. Munn**. See #12 SFTS loss July 25, 1942.
- 11 #4 ITS, **AC2 R.L. Main** died in hospital in Edmonton, Alberta of natural causes.
- 11 USAAF 7th Ferry Group, A-20G 42-53897 damaged landing at Fort St. John, BC (AAIR).

11-12 German night bomber force begins 4 nights of attacks on the oil refinery complex at Saratov, inflicting heavy damage but with increasing losses to Soviet night flying fighters (C. Bergström).

Bomber Command sent 783 bombers to Dusseldorf. The attack was accurate until an OBOE Mosquito back-up marker accidentally dropped its TI's 14 miles away which fooled many bombers to drop on open countryside, but this was still the most damaging attack of the war for Dusseldorf. From Middlebrook and Everitt, some 42 war industries were put out of action and 35 were damaged, 20 military establishments were hit and 8 ships and barges sunk. Nearly 1,300 people were killed on the ground and 140,000 people were rendered homeless. As well a smaller attack was made on Munster by 72 bombers using H2S for marking to attack the railway facilities there. Three Mosquitos also attacked Duisburg and 2 went to Cologne, as well as 23 OTU sorties, for a total of 883 sorties with 44 lost (BC War Diaries). Five of the bombers were shot down by a prototype He 219 making the types first operational sortie as the Luftwaffe's first purpose designed night fighter. It crashed on landing, however, due to a technical fault (Bateson).

- 11-12 7 Sqn. Stirling I R9286 MG-C lost over the sea, **WO2 J. Harrington**, F/O E.P. Deville RAF, F/S T.J. Bainbridge RAF, F/L W.M. Theobald DFC RAF, F/S J.L. Wilson RAF, F/S J.M. Davies RAF and F/S H. Humphreys DFM RAF missing.
- 11-12 12 Sqn. Lancaster I W4791 PH-W shot down by flak over Holland, **F/S K.B. Davidson**, Sgt W.R. Berry RAAF, Sgt A.A. Gill RAF, Sgt W.E. Cunliffe RAF, Sgt L. Stephenson RAF, F/S H. Shepherd RAF and F/S F.N. Pink RAF killed.
- 11-12 12 Sqn. Lancaster I ED357 PH-S shot down into the IJsselmeer, possibly by a night fighter, Sgt D.M. Thomson RAAF, Sgt J.L. Osborne RAF, Sgt W.M. Ward RAF and Sgt D.N. Campbell RAF killed, Sgt K. Bowes missing, and **Sgt W.T. Pingle** and **Sgt C.W.A. Sparling** PoW. See <http://www.teunispats.net/fr-wwii.htm> for details. W.R. Chorley notes that a propellor from this aircraft is now mounted outside the town hall of Dronten, The Netherlands, a town built in reclaimed polder. The area where the wreckage of ED357 was found when the polder was drained is now a suburb, named 'Lancasterdreef', with streets named for the aircrew (Vapour Trails, *Airforce Magazine*, Spring, 1981).
- 11-12 15 Sqn. Stirling III BF571 LS-U shot down into the Waddenzee by flak, Sgt R.E. Allen RAF killed, **Sgt L.W.J. Dawson**, Sgt S. Wright RAF, Sgt A.C. Lake RAF, Sgt H.C. Relph RAF, Sgt W.S. Champ RAF and Sgt T.K. Fowler RAF missing.
- 11-12 35 Sqn. Halifax II DT805 TL-Y shot down over Holland by a night fighter, pilot F/L S.G. Howe DFC RAF killed, but his crew **F/S F.W. Barry**, P/O H.A. Jamieson RNZAF, F/S A.H. Munday RAF, P/O W.H. Burgess RAF, F/L G.P. Watts RAF and F/S G.M. Buchan RAF bailed out and became PoW.
- 11-12 51 Sqn. Halifax II HR852 MH-D shot down by flak on an operation to Germany, **Sgt K. MacEachern**, **Sgt H.L. Levere**, **Sgt R.W. Featherstone**, Flight Officer D.S. Roberts USAAF, F/S K.J.S. Harvey RAF, Sgt G.A. Galliers RAF, Sgt G.L. Dunn RAF and Sgt R. Linnitt RAF PoW.
- 11-12 51 Sqn. Halifax II HR838 MH-Q was damaged by flak over the target on the bomb run, **Sgt J.S. Campbell**, **Sgt A.N. Gott**, WO R.E. Leeper RAF, Sgt J.A. Weller RAF, P/O J.W. Bibby RAF, Sgt R.C. Harris and Sgt D.H. McKenzie returned safe (R. Allenby). See June 12-13 below.
- 11-12 76 Sqn. Halifax V DK170 MP-C shot down by a night fighter over Holland, **F/S K.W. Lawson**, Sgt C.K. Burton RAF, Sgt J. Domnitz RAF, Sgt J.J. Pawsey RAF, Sgt D.B. Tibble RAF and Sgt A.J.N. Wilson RAF killed, Sgt J.A. Lobban RAF PoW.
- 11-12 77 Sqn. Halifax II JB911 KN-X was damaged in the tail by flak, **Sgt R.F. Smith**, Sgt A.J. Page RAF, Sgt H. Cork RAF, Sgt G.N. Cockcroft RAF, Sgt R.C.C. Jones RAF, Sgt G.E. Jones, Sgt F.S. Jones and F/S F.H. Pollock returned safe (R. Allenby).
- 11-12 78 Sqn. Halifax II HR684 lost over Germany, **Sgt P. Hollyer**, F/S J.M. Gavagan RAF, Sgt A.E. Hayes RAF, Sgt J.L. Jeal RAF, P/O J.B. Binns RAF and Sgt T.A. Davies killed, Sgt L. Booth RAF PoW.
- 11-12 83 Sqn. Lancaster I R5686 OL-G lost over the sea off Holland, S/L J.E. Swift DFC RAF and Sgt J.J. Anderton RAF killed, **F/O C.G. Miller**, **WO2 C.A. Nash**, Sgt N.

- Greenwood RAF, F/L C.V.J. Geary RAF and F/O D.O. Thomas RAF missing.
- 11-12 100 Sqn. Lancaster III ED786 HW-P shot down by a night fighter into the Oosterschelde in Holland, W/C R.A.I. Harrison RAF, P/O L.J. Collins RAF, P/O G. McVitty RAF, Sgt J.H. Mitchell RAF, Sgt W.G. Watts RAF and Sgt F.H. Martin RAF killed, **S/L J.R. Manahan DFC RAF (Can.)** and Sgt R.E. Longster RAF have no known graves. S/L Manahan had flown 42 operations in Wellingtons with 148 Sqn. in the Mediterranean in 1941. The Oosterschelde was declared a National Park in 2002.
- 11-12 100 Sqn. Lancaster III ED976 HW-S shot down by a night fighter over Holland, **F/S J.W. Lake**, Sgt W.F. Bradley RAF, Sgt E.N. Cummings RAF, Sgt G. Glover RAF, Sgt A.B. Magill RAF and F/O C.B. Fleming RAF killed, **Sgt L.A. Stephenson** PoW.
- 11-12 103 Sqn. Lancaster I ED914 PM-Z shot down over Holland by a night fighter, **F/S A. Cook**, F/O W.J. Harding-Haydon RAF, Sgt R. Watkinson RAF and Sgt E. Russell RAF killed, Sgt P.J. Scholes RAF, Sgt K.W. Woodcock RAF and Sgt G. Price RAF PoW. See <http://www.teunispats.net/fr-wwii.htm> for details.
- 11-12 115 Sqn. Lancaster II DS647 KO-N shot down by a night fighter over Holland, **WO2 K.L. Spring**, Sgt A.D. Bulmer RAF, F/S P.A. Chapman RAF, F/S A.M. Johnson RAF, F/S A.S. Spires DFM RAF, S/L D.P. Fox DFC RAF and Sgt P.F. Nixon RAF killed.
- 11-12 199 Sqn. Wellington X HZ277 EX-Q lost without trace, **F/S C.R. Andrews**, Sgt W.H. Bellhouse RAF, Sgt P.E.K.D. Merry RAF, Sgt W.E. Jackson RAF and Sgt L.R. Barrow RAF missing.
- 11-12 405 Sqn. Halifax II HR797 LQ-A was damaged over Holland by flak and ditched close to the shore of England. **Sgt W.N. Tatham**, the flight engineer, had attempted to put out the fire in the fuselage despite the risk of the oxygen containers exploding, and suffered severe burns to his hands. It is possible that **F/O T.A. Fillingham** bailed out over Holland but he and **WO1 N.H.A. Taylor** are missing. The tide took the life rafts and survivors back to Holland where Sgt Tatham, **P/O J.C. Harty RCAF (USA)**, **P/O B.L. Miller**, **P/O F.E. MacKay**, **WO2 J. Somerville** and P/O J.E. Paterson RAF were made PoW. WO Somerville was badly wounded and was later repatriated after having a leg amputated. P/O Harty, Sgt Tatham, F/S Miller, Sgt Paterson, Sgt Taylor and Sgt McKay had survived a crash landing May 4-5, above, and F/O Fillingham had been injured May 25-26, above, in the take off accident of a 405 Sqn. Halifax. Sgt Tatham was awarded a DFC for his attempts to put out the onboard fire and for continuing to give his crewmen first aid in the life raft despite his own injuries. B. Barry et al notes that he died in 1952 as a result of his wounds.
- 11-12 408 Sqn. Halifax II JB972 EQ-Q hit by flak and crashed in Germany, **WO2 A.E. Fowell**, **P/O A.G. Grant** and **F/S J.M.R. Lang** killed, **P/O R.E. Carter**, **F/L T.B. Moore**, **Sgt M.R. Laloge** and Sgt K.R. Stentiford RAF PoW. Sgt Lang's brother, **F/O F.H. Lang**, was also killed just 1 year later on June 13, 1944. P/O Grant had played professional hockey in Scotland prior to enlisting in the RCAF (wikipedia).
- 11-12 408 Sqn. Halifax II JB893 EQ-U damaged by flak, **Sgt R.B. Jackson**, **Sgt W. Kerlake**,

- Sgt R.E. McComb, F/O A.J. Whiston, Sgt R.A. Thornton RAF, Sgt T.D. Mayne RAF and Sgt G. Harle returned to England (R. Allenby). See July 13-14, below.
- 11-12 408 Sqn. Halifax II JD164 EQ-K had an engine catch fire short of the target. The engine was shut down and the fire extinguished before the bomber continued to the target, bombed and returned on 3 engines, Sgt R. Burns, Sgt A.A. Patton, Sgt D.L. Petteys, Sgt H. Maule, Sgt G.A. Phillips, Sgt R.J. Scofield and Sgt L.W. McNally(?) safe (R. Allenby). See November 26-27 below, March 30-31 and December 11, 1944.
- 11-12 419 Sqn. Halifax II JD143 VR-A hit by flak. Pilot F/O W.J. Boyce tried to crash land the aircraft with the wounded Sgt D.E.C. Chambers RAF on board but he, Sgt Chambers, WO2 H.A. Tripp were killed. The remainder of the crew, Sgt R.M. Hall, Sgt J.D. Gray, F/O G.L. Buck RAF, F/O D.I. Black RAF and Sgt D.N. Stewart RAF parachuted out and were PoW.
- 11-12 426 Sqn. Wellington X HZ261 OW-L lost without trace, P/O N.D. Hayes, F/S D.A. MacKenzie, F/O J.L. Rawson, F/S D.G. Richardson and F/S C.E. Schamehorn missing. This was the last Wellington lost by 426 Sqn.
- 11-12 428 Sqn. Wellington X HE322 NA-J swung on take-off, crashed, and the bomb load exploded, killing F/S J.C.E. Jette, F/S J.E.R. Marchand, F/S M.P. Scullion and Sgt R. Askew RAF. Sgt W. Lachman survived with injuries. Sgt Lachman, F/S Jette, Sgt Askew and Sgt Marchand had survived a ditching May 27-28, above. This was the last Wellington lost by 428 Sqn.
- 11-12 429 Sqn. Wellington X HE593 AL-Z shot down over Holland by a night fighter, WO2 J. Burns RCAF (USA), P/O G.R. Densmore, Sgt G.A. Leitch, F/S G.A. Nelson killed (R. Koval). Pilot F/S R.F. Conroy evaded, returned to operations, and was killed March 24, 1944 in the loss of 429 Halifax LV914. Ironically he was the only fatality, having stayed at the controls to allow his crew to escape.
- 11-12 429 Sqn. Wellington X HF542 AL-O shot down by a night fighter over Holland, F/S D.E. Campbell, F/O R.P. Davies, F/S A.J. MacLachlan killed, WO2 L.P.R. Taillefer and F/S R. Zeidel missing (R. Koval). The Dutch group "Aircraft Research Group Achterhoek" excavated the crash site in Oct. 2004.
- 11-12 429 Sqn. Wellington X HZ355 AL-G shot down by a night fighter over Belgium, Sgt R.C. Ellison RAF killed, Sgt W.G. Bailey, Sgt W.J. Mullaney, Sgt H.E.J. Horton RAF and Sgt E.C. Nicholson RAF evaded, but Sgt Mullaney, Sgt Horton and Sgt Nicholson and the Belgian family of Lucien Collin were betrayed. They became PoW, but M. Collin was executed June 30 (R. Allenby, various). Only Sgt Bailey evaded successfully. This crew had survived a crash landing April 20-21, above.
- 11-12 429 Sqn. Wellington X HE470 damaged by flak, F/O D.S. Milne, Sgt E.A. Eames RAF, P/O E.F. Lapham RAF, Sgt H.V. Holmes RAF and Sgt W.H. Wright RAF returned to England (R. Allenby). See June 21-22 below.
- 11-12 431 Sqn. Wellington X HE184 X SE-M lost over the sea, Sgt W.D. Eaglesham RAF, Sgt B.H. Stephenson RAF and P/O L.C. Long RAF killed, Sgt J.H. Burrow RAF and F/S

H.T. McAusland RAF missing.

- 11-12 431 Sqn. Wellington X HE392 SE-L shot down by a night fighter off the Dutch coast, **F/S E.S. Rheahme** killed, **WO2 J.G. Breen**, **F/O C.A. McDougall**, Sgt J.R. Bell RAF and S/L W.E. Mulford RAF missing. In 1991 the wreckage of this aircraft was recovered with the missing members of the crew who were identified and laid to rest in the Bergen op Zoom Cemetery June 16, 1993.
- 11-12 431 Sqn. Wellington X HF543 SE-P returned and landed safely at another airfield from an operation over Germany, but while taxiing ran into 427 Sqn. Halifax V DK192, both aircraft being damaged. The Halifax was repaired but the Wellington was struck off. Crew Sgt H.H. Apperley RAF, F/O W.E. Coleman RAF, P/O A. Perman RAF, Sgt B.C. Trew RAF and Sgt G. Lilley RAF safe (R. Koval).
- 11-12 432 Sqn. Wellington X HE729 QO-U lost without trace, **F/L L.A. Bourgeois**, **F/O G.A. McClintock**, **F/S D.S. McRae**, **F/S J.A.M. Philpott** and **P/O H.D. Warner** missing.
- 11-12 432 Sqn. Wellington X, pilot **Sgt W.H.D. Meaden**, air gunner **Sgt D.R. Kelly** was killed when he left the aircraft after they had returned safe from Dusseldorf and walked into a moving propeller (R. Koval, R. Allenby). Sgt Kelly had claimed a Ju 88 shot down on May 29-30, it was confirmed the day before his death.
- 11-12 619 Sqn. Lancaster III ED978 PG-B shot down over Belgium by a night fighter, **Sgt W.C. Anderson**, **Sgt R.E. Chisholm**, F/O S.E. Harris RAF, Sgt R. Evans RAF, Sgt D.E. Inggs RAF and Sgt J.H. Henderson RAF PoW, F/L C.O. Taylor RAF evaded.
- 11-12 #30 OTU Wellington III BK559 became lost over France on a NICKEL sortie. Running short of fuel the order to bail out was given, but it was found the pilot, F/S T.G. Dellar RAAF, had no parachute. **F/S D.M. Davis** elected to stay with him while the crew bailed out. F/S J.G. Perfect RAF, Sgt D.W. Bartholomew RAF and F/S H.J.D.G. Adams RAF PoW, Sgt B.C. Reeves RAF evaded (R. Tebbutt). F/S Davis and F/S Dellar are believed to have died in the crash near Versailles, but F/S Davis is buried near Marseilles in the south of France. The reason for this is unknown but W.R. Chorley in BCL'OTU speculates that he may have survived the crash and been killed as an evader. A. Storr also states F/S Davis evaded and was killed trying to cross the border into Spain.

Saturday

12 #111 (F) Sqn. RCAF detachment at Umnak Island ends.

An RAF Air-Sea Rescue Swordfish from Malta force lands, lost, on the Island of Lampedusa, Italian garrison of 4,000 surrenders to the pilot, F/S S. Cohen RAF (ww2total.com Chronology/1943; BBC Witness; BLME V.2).

540 Sqn. Mosquito PR.IV DZ473, F/L R.A. Lenton RAF, returned to Peenemünde on a photo reconnaissance sortie which gave the first clear images of the unidentified objects spotted earlier, identifying them as the V-2 rocket (M.

Bowman). See Jan. 22, 1944.

King George VI begins a visit to troops in Tunisia and North Africa (D. Sommerville).

- 12 86 Sqn. Liberator III FK266 'G', F/O A.C.I. Samuel, attacked U-645 north of the Azores, but was forced off and then damaged and set on fire by flak and returned to its base (in Iceland?), wireless operator **F/O J.W. James** was the only fatality (u-boat.net).
- 12 198 Sqn. Typhoon Ib DN587, **P/O C.R. Abbott** baled out over the sea and rescued after having engine trouble (FCL'42-43).
- 12 Queen's University Air Squadron, Belfast, DH.82A Tiger Moth X5045 aircraft crashed in Ireland, **F/O D. Williams** (410 Sqn.) and Lt(A) G.L. Werts RNVR (RNAS HMS Daedalus) killed (DaveW via H. Welting www.rafcommands.com).
- 12 412 Sqn. Spitfire Vb EE720 was shot down off the French coast, **F/O H.E. Holbrook** missing.
- 12 418 Sqn. Mosquito FB.VI HJ733 TH-A had an engine cut on take-off for a night flying test, hit a tree and crashed, Squadron commanding officer **W/C J.H. Little DFC RAF (Can.)** and WO D.H. Styles DFM RAF killed (www.dehavilland.ukf.net; H.A. Halliday www.rafcommands.com). The operation that night would have been W/C Little's 100th (418 SH). He had previously flown operations on Blenheims and Spitfires. WO Styles is referenced in *The R.C.A.F. - The First Four Years*.
- 12 487 Sqn. RNZAF Ventura I AE833 was shot up by flak, wounding **WO2 L. Kirstine**, who died in hospital shortly after the aircraft landed.
- 12 #28 OTU Wellington Ic R1324 missing over the North Sea on an air-sea search, Sgt W.A. Drew RAF killed, **F/S D.G. Bird RCAF (USA)**, **Sgt J.D. Halvorsen RCAF (USA)**, F/O D.E. Paul RAF, P/O J.E. Norris RAF and Sgt G. Swan RAF missing.
- 12 #5 EFTS, High River, Alberta, Cornell I FH756 crashed near the airfield, **LAC(P) G.W. Lindsay** and **P/O G. Sinclair** killed.
- 12 #13 SFTS St. Hubert, Quebec, three Harvard aircraft were flying in formation when there was a mid-air collision, **LAC(P) S.W. Blake** was killed in Harvard II BW191 and **LAC(P) J.W. Field** in Harvard II BW192.
- 12 #34 EFTS, Assiniboia, Saskatchewan, Cornell I FH953 crashed, LAC N.H. King RAF and Sgt P.P. Tye RAF killed.
- 12 #34 SFTS, Harvard II #2533 crashed, LAC J. Sabik RAF (Czech.) killed.
- 12 #34 OTU, Pennfield Ridge, NB, Ventura GR.V FN977 crashed at the US Navy Air Station at Quonset Point, Rhode Island, USA, on a Ferry Flight, **WO1 T.H.C. Burley** killed, Sgt D.W.J. Odlum (RCAF?) injured, and a US soldier, Cpl. S. Wishbone, was seriously injured at his Anti-Aircraft post (#34 OTU Roll of Honour)
- 12 unknown unit, armorer **AC2 W.H. Beasley** died in an accident while bombing up an aircraft in Canada.
- 12 unknown unit, **Cpl R.J. Kelly** died hospital in Toronto of natural causes (www.rafcommands.com).

12-13 Bochum was the target for 503 bombers which made an accurate attack through cloud cover with OBOE skymarking, losing 24 bombers. A low, bright moon may have illuminated the bomber stream against the cloud and caused some of these losses (419 SH). Off Holland and the Biscay Ports 34 GARDENING sorties were made without loss (BC War Diaries).

- 12-13 9 Sqn. Lancaster III ED558 WS-N shot down over Holland by a night fighter, **F/S H.G. Watson** and WO H.E. Wood RAF killed, Sgt C.E. Clayton RAF, P/O F. Archer RAF, F/O T. Mellard RAF, F/S J.L. Crawford RAF and Sgt W.R. Barker RAF PoW.
- 12-13 50 Sqn. Lancaster III ED429 hit by flak and exploded over Germany, **Sgt J. Aitken RAF (Can.)**, Sgt J.M. McCrossan DFM RAF, Sgt J.T. Wilkinson DFM RAF, Sgt D.M. Buchan RAF, Sgt J.K. Morgan RAF and Sgt H.R. Stone RAF killed, Sgt G.L. Stewart RAF PoW.
- 12-13 50 Sqn. Lancaster III ED472 shot down by a night fighter over Germany, **P/O M.R. Felson**, F/O V.W. Ferguson RNZAF, F/S A.J. Weber RAF, Sgt M.C. Carter RAF, F/S F. Norman RAF, Sgt R.C. Kerley RAF and F/S R. Goldstraw RAF killed.
- 12-13 50 Sqn. Lancaster III ED828 VN-S "Sammy - The Donkey Serenade" shot down by a night fighter over Holland, **F/O M.D.S. Hicks**, **F/O A. Smith DFC**, Sgt A. Hunter RAF, F/S A.J. Mills RAF and F/L P.J. Stone DFC RAF killed, P/O W.J. Glenn DFM RAF and P/O W.T. Bateson DFM RAF PoW (<http://www.lancaster-archive.com>).
- 12-13 51 Sqn. Halifax II DT568 MH-F shot down over Holland by a night fighter, **Sgt M.L. Hutchins RCAF (USA)**, F/O E.R. Midgley RAF, Sgt A. Roberts RAF, Sgt A.W. Stevens RAF, Sgt S. Wood RAF, F/O A. Trott RAF killed and Sgt C.A. Chambers RNZAF PoW.
- 12-13 51 Sqn. Halifax II DT513 MH-D was hit by flak over the target and damaged, **Sgt J.C. Lang**, P/O W.T. Irwin RAF, P/O J.J. Dawkins RAF, P/O R.T. Watkinson RAF, Sgt W.J. Watson RAF, Sgt J. Dixon RAF and Sgt J.F. Gordon RAF returned safe (R. Allenby).
- 12-13 51 Sqn. Halifax II HR838 MH-Q was damaged for the second night in a row by flak, **Sgt J.S. Campbell**, **Sgt A.N. Gott**, WO R.E. Leeper RAF, Sgt J.A. Weller RAF, P/O J.W. Bibby RAF, Sgt R.C. Harris and Sgt D.H. McKenzie returned safe (R. Allenby). See July 3-4 below.
- 12-13 57 Sqn. Lancaster III ED668 lost without trace, **P/O C.J. Challenger**, Sgt K.B. Dowding RAF, Sgt G.A. Ayres RAF, Sgt T.M.A. Burgess RAF, Sgt W.G. Redman RAF, Sgt J.L. Hyam RAF and Sgt S.E. Tuck RAF missing.
- 12-13 83 Sqn. Lancaster III ED603 OL-L crashed in the IJsselmeer, Holland, **F/S A.G. Fletcher**, F/O E.A. Tilbury RAF, WO H.E. Howsam RAF and F/O G.R. Sugar RAF killed, P/O A.B. Smart DFM RAF, F/S R.E. Moore DFM RAF and P/O C.F.J. Sprack DFM RAF missing. See <http://www.teunispats.net/fr-wwii.htm> for details. The wreckage location was found by chance in 1996, and in 2023 an operation to drain the area of the wreck reported discovering the possible remains of the missing

aircrew (*Remains found in search for crew of British bomber shot down by Nazis*, Guardian, September 7, 2023). These were identified and burial is planned (*WW2 bomber crew's remains identified 80 years after plane shot down over Netherlands*, Guardian, November 24, 2023).

- 12-13 101 Sqn. Lancaster III ED987 SR-A Bar lost without trace, **F/S W.D. McMurachy**, **F/S E.J. St. Germain**, F/S N.H. Lavin RNZAF, Sgt R.G. Claydon RAF, Sgt A.M. Law RAF, P/O D.C. Goodwin RAF and Sgt R.V. Fielding RAF missing.
- 12-13 102 Sqn. Halifax II JB868 DY-T lost over the sea, Sgt A.C. Woodley RAF and Sgt A.E.J. Gibbs RAF killed, **P/O R. Quevillon**, Sgt R.R. Hale RAF, Sgt A.E. Muir RAF, F/O E.D. Wilcock RAF, Sgt W.A. Hobbis RAF and Sgt W. Hallows RAF missing.
- 12-13 102 Sqn. Halifax II was on a sortie to Bochum but somehow ended up over Essen by themselves. They bombed that city, one of the most heavily defended in Germany, but in return were hit in the rudder and 2 engines, **Sgt J. Lynch**, **P/O M. Shvemar**, **F/O L.W. Somers** and their crew returned, safe (R. Allenby). See June 24-25 below.
- 12-13 103 Sqn. Lancaster III ED916 PM-J shot down over Holland by a night fighter, **F/L B.G. Milner** and Sgt F.N. Jay RAF killed, **F/S B.M. Godden**, P/O G.D.J. King RAF, Sgt C.S. King RAF, F/O R. Hemingway RAF and Sgt G.W. Backhurst RAF PoW. See Aug. 31-Sept. 1, below.
- 12-13 408 Sqn. Halifax II JB790 EQ-V shot down by a night fighter over Germany, **P/O F.L. Milburn** and Sgt T. Leith-Ross RAF killed, **F/L G.R. Large**, **Sgt A.F. Rayment**, **Sgt N. Bainblatt**, **Sgt J.R. Forest** and **Sgt D.H. Hutchinson** were taken PoW, but F/L Large died in captivity, see April 16, 1945.
- 12-13 419 Sqn. Halifax II DT616 VR-K shot down on an operation over Germany by a night fighter that attacked diagonally using the moon's illumination, **Sgt B.D. Kirkham**, **Sgt R.J. Hamilton**, **Sgt H.A. Taylor**, **Sgt J.A. Mills**, **Sgt D.L. Gray**, Sgt D.B. Whittaker RAF and Sgt F.J. Callaghan RAF bailed out of the burning bomber at high altitude and were taken PoW (419 SH).
- 12-13 419 Sqn. Halifax II VR-R BB323, pilot **F/S M.F. Gray**, were able to spot 2 night fighters approaching them in the moonlight. Rear gunner **P/O R. Harling** shot one down in flames (419 SH, Lancaster, C. et al). See July 13-14, below.
- 12-13 419 Sqn. Halifax II, **Sgt C.M. Coutlee** pilot, was attacked by a night fighter. Rear gunner **Sgt W.H. Barnes** returned fire and sent the attacker into the sea in flames (419 SH). See August 27-28, below.
- 12-13 427 Sqn. Halifax V DK183 ZL-S shot down by a night fighter into the sea off the Dutch Island of Texel, **P/O G.W.R. Dalton**, **Sgt A. Dixon** and **P/O B.L. Tedford** killed, Sgt J. Imms RAF died of injuries, **P/O A.M. Fellner**, **P/O W.A. Thurston** and **P/O G.S. Huston** PoW (R. Koval).
- 12-13 460 Sqn. RAAF Lancaster I W4316 AR-Q "Queenie" lost over Holland, Sgt D.C.P. Lundie RAAF, Sgt A. Gordon RAAF, Sgt R.O. Vaughan RAF, Sgt L.F.C. Day RAF, P/O C.W.R. Young RAF, Sgt D.A. Thomas RAF and Sgt A. Gordon RAF killed, **Sgt J.C. Cornish** PoW, wounded (CATP Museum *Contact* Newsletter, Vol. 31, #4,

November 2014). There is a monument erected in 1996 beside the water where this bomber crashed (<http://www.teunispats.net/fr-wwii.htm>).

Sunday

13 434 Sqn. formed in England as a bomber unit on Halifax B.V aircraft (RCAF Sqns.).

A USAAF bomber mission returning from Bremen was surprised over the North Sea by German Ju 88 night fighters which shot down 8 into the sea. Many defending gunners had begun to strip and clean their guns believing the aircraft were safe. Including 18 already lost in this hard fought mission and 4 more on another this brings USAAF bomber losses on this day to 30 of 162 dispatched, the worst USAAF bomber losses to date (Zijlstra).

- 13 129 Sqn. Spitfire Vb EP747 ditched due to engine problems after a combat while escorting bombers, **Sgt W.J. Brooks RAF (Can.)** missing.
- 13 228 Sqn. Sunderland III DV967 was shot down attacking a group of U-boats in the Bay of Biscay, **F/O R.J. Agur, WO2 V.M. Goldstone, F/O A.K. MacDougall, F/S R.A. Shaw, Sgt A. Carmichael RAF, Sgt D.M. Davies RAF, Sgt J.W. Fraser RAF, F/O D.F. Hill RAF, F/O L.B. Lee RAF, P/O G.F. Lough RAF and Sgt R.E.J. Smith RAF** missing. U-564 was damaged in the attack and unable to submerge. It began to return to port escorted by U-185. See June 14, below. Information from R. McNeill, www.rafcommands.com and <http://uboat.net/boats/u564.htm>.
- 13 410 Sqn. Mosquito NF.II DZ753 KP-F shot down by German fighters over the Bay of Biscay, **F/O R.B. Harris** and **F/S E.H. Skeel RAF** missing (N.L.R. Franks).
- 13 426 Sqn. Wellington X HE375 was on a training flight and was damaged when it overshot the landing, **P/O D.R. De Bloeme** and his crew safe (R. Allenby). See November 23-24, below.
- 13 #56 OTU Canadian built Hurricane X AG241 crash landed in Scotland following an engine failure, **F/S A.E. James RAAF** injured (A. Smart www.rafcommands.com).
- 13 USAAF 423rd BS, 306th BG(H), B-17F 42-5218 "*Sky Wolf*" shot down, **2Lt J.J. Van Troyen USAAF (Can.)** killed. He is buried in the Netherlands. 2Lt M.F. Pitts USAAF was also killed, 7 crew PoW (J. Baugher, www.usaafdata.com).
- 13 #14 (F) Sqn. RCAF, Alaska, pilot **F/L D.W. Wakeling AM (US)** died of a self inflicted gunshot wound at Elmendorf Field, Alaska (www.rafcommands.com).
- 13 #36 SFTS, Penhold, Alberta, Oxford I T1181 crashed, **LAC P.J. Stuart RAF and LAC D.B. Young RAF** killed.

13-14 Thirteen Mosquitos made nuisance attacks on Berlin, Dusseldorf and Cologne as well as 30 GARDENING and 8 OTU sorties without loss (BC War Diaries).

Luftwaffe attack on Grimsby dropping anti-personnel "Butterfly" bombs and incendiaries. The "Butterfly" bomblets were intended to inflict casualties on

fire fighting services, but many civilians returning to their homes after the bombing were killed or injured by them. It took a month to find all the bodies of the 99 killed due to the need to clear the sites of these bomblots (wikipedia: Baedekker Raids; Grimsby).

13-14 149 Sqn. Stirling III BF531 OJ-M was landing from a BULLSEYE exercise but swung off the runway and took off it's undercarriage, **F/S L.B. McCallum**, Sgt I.A. Mears RNZAF, F/O A.R. Porter RAF, WO A.J. Hart RAF, Sgt D.C. Foster RAF, Sgt P. Butterworth RAF, Sgt A. Derbyshire RAF and Sgt B.S. Swainston RAF safe.

Monday

- 14 242 (Canadian) Sqn. AC1 J.S. Cummings RAF died on Ambon as a Japanese PoW.
- 14 #897 AMES [Radar Unit], Algeria, **F/O T.H. Rennie** died of natural causes in hospital.
- 14 220 Sqn. Fortress Ila FK212 'V' lost over the Bay of Biscay, believed shot down by a Ju 88 after attacking U-600 and U-615, **WO1 W.M. Comba**, F/L C.F. Callender RAF, Sgt G. Davison RAF, Sgt S.M. Frost RAF, F/S J.W. Harbridge RAF, Sgt G.S. Patterson RAF, F/S C.P. Probst RAF, F/O J.W. Verney RAF (S. Africa) and F/S E. Wright RAF missing (uboaat.net, N.L.R. Franks, R. McNeill at www.rafcommands.com).
- 14 264 Sqn. Mosquito NF.II DD643 lost from an anti-shipping strike in the North Sea, **WO P.D. Hendra RAF (Can.)** and Sgt K.P. O'Dowd RAF missing.
- 14 415 Sqn. Hampden TB.I X2961 GX-S missing over the Bay of Biscay on an anti-submarine patrol, possibly shot down, **F/O A.B. Clegg**, **F/O G.K. Crummy**, **S/L J.G. Stronach** and **WO2 W.A. Trask** missing (H. Moyle, N.L.R. Franks).
- 14 #1 TTU, Beaufort I DW923 crashed, Sgt H.F. Hunter RAF and Sgt D.S. McDonald RAAF killed, **F/S D.K.H. McDonald RNZAF** and Sgt T.E.V. Doherty RAF missing (www.rafcommands.com). Allison & Hayward state F/S McDonald was raised in Winnipeg and New Zealand.
- 14 #3 (Coastal) OTU Wellington VIII HX444 missing on a navigation exercise, **F/S R.G. Jacobs**, F/S R.J. Green RAF, Sgt R.A. Thomas, Sgt R. Robertson RAF, Sgt W. Tomlinson RAF and Sgt E.J.H. Hopkins RAF missing (R. McNeill www.ww2talk.com).
- 14 #10 OTU Whitley V BD220 'G' found the damaged U-564 and it's escort in the Bay of Biscay. Unable to submerge U-564 was sunk but it damaged the bomber, which was unable to regain England before ditching. After three days in their life raft the crew, **F/L A. Kingsley**, WO A.J. Benson DFM RAAF, WO R.L. Rennick RAAF, F/L T.J.J. Lees RAF and F/S G.T. Graves RAF, were picked up by a French fishing boat which took them back to France and a PoW camp.
- 14 #17 AFU Master II AZ811 struck high tension power cables and crashed in England, **P/O J.C. Greenwood** killed.
- 14 #59 OTU, Canadian built Hurricane X AF956 crashed after an engine failure on take-off, Sgt M.S. Kemp RAF killed (Col Bruggy at www.rafcommands.com).

- 14 #1449 Flight Canadian built Hurricane X AM295 abandoned over the sea off the Scilly Islands, Sgt D.A.K. Forester RAF killed (www.rafdavidstowmoor.org; www.rafcommands.com). #1449 (Fighter) Flight was tasked with defending the Scillies from German aircraft, and was one of the last Hurricane units in front line service in England (www.military-history.org/articles/war-zone-four-hundred-years-of-military-history.htm).
- 14 #6 EFTS, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4085 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).
- 14 #6 SFTS, Dunnville, Ontario, two Harvards were making an illegal formation take-off with the intention of doing some stunting. Harvard II #3186 was crossing underneath the other aircraft when they collided. The upper aircraft's propeller entered the front cockpit just as the student in the front cockpit, **Sgt C.W. Hill**, leaned forward, and the blades passed behind him, cutting his shoulder straps and parachute harness, his shirt and cutting the skin on his back. Both aircraft separated, the rear cockpit of #3186 was crushed down, trapping the instructor **P/O W. Bouton**. They managed to land safely, the crew of the upper Harvard, **F/S J. Buchanan** and **LAC(P) H. Becker** were also safe (W. Tuggle).
- 14 #16 SFTS, Hagersville, Ontario, Anson I #6191 stalled and crashed making a single engine approach, killing **LAC(P) H.J. Lee**.
- 14 #32 OTU, Patricia Bay, BC, Canadian built Hampden I AJ992 lost on a training exercise near Cape Flattery, **P/O C. Sugden RAF (Can.)**, F/O G.C. Douglas-Home RAF, Sgt E.R. Ritchie RAAF and Sgt A.S. Lynch RAAF missing.

14-15 Bomber Command sent 203 bombers to Oberhausen where OBOE skymarking gave an accurate attack through cloud cover, as well as 2 Mosquitos to Cologne, and 29 GARDENING sorties, 18 bombers lost (BC War Diaries).

- 14-15 49 Sqn. Lancaster III ED434 EA-T shot down over Holland by a night fighter, **F/S W.L. Chatfield**, Sgt J.R. Coulsey RAF, Sgt V. Horsley RAF, Sgt P.A. Toms RAF, F/O A.S. Whittaker RAF killed, Sgt R. Frost RAF and Sgt H.C. Hitchcock RAF PoW.
- 14-15 49 Sqn. Lancaster III ED453 EA-G lost over Germany, **F/S S.D. Bird**, WO N. Nixon RAF, Sgt C. Wilde RAF, Sgt N.W. Fyfe RAF, Sgt R.T. Moore RAF, Sgt E. Dangerfield RAF, Sgt F.R. Fowler RAF and Sgt R.K.B. Muir RAF killed. F/S S.D. Bird's twin brother, **F/S C.R. Bird**, had been killed March 3-4, above. The brothers are mentioned in H.D. Bracken.
- 14-15 75 (New Zealand) Sqn. Stirling I BK646 AA-N was on a GARDENING sortie off France and was shot down by flak and night fighters, F/O J.L. Edwards RAF killed, Sgt E.G. Dunnett RNZAF, Sgt B.W. Rawlinson RNZAF, Sgt E.A.F. Jones RAF, Sgt T. Maxwell RAF PoW, **Sgt J.G.F. Sansoucy** and P/O R.G. Kirby RAF evaded.
- 14-15 100 Sqn. Lancaster III ED973 shot down over Holland by a night fighter, **F/S E.B. Stevenson**, Sgt R.E.S. Weddell RAF, Sgt A. Boydell RAF, Sgt A.R. Veitch RAF, Sgt W. Cram RAF, Sgt G.A. Mason RAF and Sgt D.G.M. Ofield RAF killed.

- 14-15 103 Sqn. Lancaster III ED612 PM-J lost over Germany, **F/S E.W. O'Connell**, F/L A.M. Brown RAF, Sgt E.H. Morley RAF, P/O H.F. Lewis RAF, Sgt J. Greenway RAF, Sgt J. Cliffe RAF and Sgt J.H. Saville RAF killed.
- 14-15 106 Sqn. Lancaster I R5551 ZN-V crashed in Holland trying to belly land after being attacked by a night fighter, **P/O D.S. Brown**, Sgt E.C. McMillan RAF, Sgt R.A. Beaton RAF, P/O E.G. Seall RAF, Sgt F.J. Stoker RAF, Sgt K. Wilcock RAF and Sgt A.G. Ballantyne RAF killed, **P/O R. Pegg** had bailed out and was taken PoW.
- 14-15 106 Sqn. Lancaster III ED649 ZN-X lost over Germany, **F/S J.V. Sweeney**, F/O H.D. Oates RAF, Sgt J. Hindley RAF, P/O R.H. Parr RAF, P/O D.L. Stevenson RAF, Sgt R.A. Martin RAF and Sgt R.E. Bell RAF killed.
- 14-15 431 Sqn. Wellington X HE502 SE-Q was caught by searchlights and flak on a GARDENING sortie off France, **Sgt G.A. Beattie**, **Sgt J.A. Begg**, **Sgt L.E. Cragg**, P/O B.P. Jackson RAF and Sgt J.R. Hill RAF returned safe (R. Allenby).
- 14-15 460 Sqn. RAAF Lancaster III EE167 shot down over Holland by a night fighter, F/S G.R. Cope RAAF, F/O H.L. Gordon RAAF, Sgt D. Douuds RAAF, Sgt D.H. Crouc RAAF and Sgt D.S. Finlason RAAF killed, **Sgt W.R. Matheson** and Sgt E. Booth RAF PoW.
- 14-15 619 Sqn. Lancaster III ED980 shot down by a night fighter over Holland, **F/S R.H. Van Camp**, P/O K. McCulloch RAF, Sgt R.E. Tofts RAF, F/O H. Forshaw RAF, Sgt N.C. Richards RAF, Sgt L. Timms RAF and Sgt P.J. Ruane RAF killed

Tuesday

15 Canadian Government Trans-Atlantic Air Service (CGTAS) started (CJCA headline) (announcement of formation?). See June 22, below.

417 Sqn. in Tunisia relocates to Malta to support the landings in Sicily (RCAF Sqns.). #128 (F) Sqn. deploys to Torbay, Nfld. from Sydney, NS (RCAF Sqns.).

- 15 414 Sqn. Mustang I AM167 missing over the sea, believed near the Scilly Islands, **F/O R.W. Potts** missing (Rob Philips www.rafcommands.com).
- 15 #53 OTU Spitfire IIa P7985 crashed out of control in England in bad weather killing **F/O R.J.C.A. Dupraz**. Despite extensive excavation the aircraft was not recovered, and F/O Dupraz is listed on the Runnymede Memorial as missing (www.spitfires.ukf.net).
- 15 #1 B&G School, Jarvis, Ontario, Anson II aircraft #7339 collided in mid air with Anson II #7566 while engaged in practice bombing, both crashed near Willow Grove, Ontario, **LAC(BA) J.H. Kearney**, **F/O E.B. Norbury**, **LAC(BA) H.P. Samuel** and **LAC(BA) J.A. Smith** were killed in #7566, and **LAC(BA) A.R. Hayes** and **LAC(BA) F.E. Innes** were killed and **LAC(BA) J.A. Holgate** was injured in #7339. See June 18, below.
- 15 #7 EFTS, Windsor, Ontario, DH.82C Tiger Moth #3971 crashed after a mid-air collision with DH.82C Tiger Moth #5909 over the airfield, **LAC(P) L.T. Jackson** and **P/O J.H.**

Williams killed.

- 15 #7 SFTS, Fort MacLeod, Alberta, LAC(P) G.M. Philpott died in the station hospital of natural causes.
- 15 #10 EFTS, Pendleton, Ontario, DH.82C Tiger Moth #8899 and #4134 collided in the air and crashed near Fournier, Ontario, killing Sgt A.L. Dube in #8899 and F/S R.M. Estey in #4134.

mid-June, After discussions with Portugal, Britain invokes the Treaty of Windsor (signed with Portugal in 1386), and requests use of airfields in the Azores (Polsson). Part of this involved supplying modern aircraft to Portugal in return, including Spitfires, Hurricanes and Blenheims (solrac www.rafcommands.com). See August 15 and October 12, below.

15-16 458 Sqn. RAAF Wellington LB195 was on an anti-submarine patrol from Tunisia near a convoy when it went off the radar, WO2 T.P. Scandiffio, Sgt J.R. Cousins RAF, Sgt E.B. Bottomley RAF, Sgt B.L. Pottage RAF, Sgt J.D. Reynolds RAF and F/S J.E. Flecknow RAAF missing (A. Storr).

15-16 Six Mosquitos attack Berlin without loss (BC War Diaries).

Wednesday

16 413 Sqn. modified BOAC Catalina FP244/G-AGFM makes third and final RCAF flight to Australia from Ceylon, F/L P.A.S. Rumbold pilot (RCAF Sqns.).

In Ottawa Madam Chiang Kai-Shek addresses Parliament (ww2total.com Chronology/1943).

- 16 405 Sqn. Halifax II HR832 crashed in England after being struck by lightning on a training flight, causing the aircraft to break up in the air, F/O R.E.G. Agassiz, F/O W.C. Davies, F/O L.W.A. Frewin RAF, F/L C.D. Lawson RAF, Sgt N. Holliday RAF and Sgt A. Faulkner RAF killed, F/S C.L. Pudney GM RCAF (USA) was found alive in the wreckage but died of his injuries soon after. F/S Pudney had been injured Jan. 28, above, in the loss of a #1659 Halifax, for which he was awarded the George Medal for his actions to save the lives of the survivors. The award was not gazetted, however, until July 13, 1943.
- 16 427 Sqn. Halifax V DK140 ZL-Z was damaged beyond repair when it swung on landing to avoid a group of airmen and lost its undercarriage, F/S E.A. Johnson RAF and Sgt R.L. Henry safe (R. Allenby). See Aug. 29, below.
- 16 #12 OTU Wellington III Z1721 'W' crashed and exploded just after taking off on a training flight, P/O T.W. Adam, F/O G.B. Booth RCAF (USA), F/S H.P. Griffith RAAF, Sgt F.J. Welsby RAF and Sgt K.E. Troake RAF killed.
- 16 #34 EFTS, Assiniboia, Saskatchewan, Cornell I FH948 crashed, LAC C.K. Popple RAF and Sgt L.A. Willson RAF killed.

16 USAAF 80th Ferry Sqn. C-64A (Norseman) 43-5151 crash landed near Montreal, Quebec (AAIR).

16-17 Bomber Command sent 222 bombers to Cologne with H2S support, losing 14. Cloud cover over the target meant skymarking, but this was poor and late, and although the force was over the city, only half bombed the target with scattered results, the remainder turned back without dropping. Other operations were 3 Mosquitos to Berlin and 4 OTU sorties (BC War Diaries).

16-17 9 Sqn. Lancaster III ED487 WS-D shot down over Belgium by a night fighter, **F/S D.G. Tremblay**, Sgt P. Hall RAF, Sgt H.F. Poynter RAF and Sgt D. Webster RAF killed, Sgt J.A. Aldersley RAF, Sgt H. Popplestone RAF and Sgt C.J. Sinclair RAF PoW.

16-17 49 Sqn. Lancaster III ED785 lost, **F/S M.E. Bunn**, F/O R.C. Blythe RAF, Sgt J. Burnside RAF, Sgt H. Buttery RAF, Sgt G.S. Underlin RAF, S/L G.G. Storey RAF killed, Sgt W.H. Waring RAF missing, **Sgt M.G. Webb** PoW.

16-17 61 Sqn. Lancaster I W4789 lost on an operation to Germany, Sgt C.T.O. Dudley RAF killed, **F/O J.P. Laurin**, **F/S R.S. Morley**, P/O A.W. Pullan RAF, Sgt B.S. Bridge RAF, F/O J.R.H. Bell RAF and Sgt J. Nuttall RAF missing and Sgt P.F. Cottle RAF PoW.

16-17 83 Sqn. Lancaster III ED907 OL-H was shot down over the target in Germany by a night fighter. Pilot **P/O C. Murray** held the aircraft so the crew could abandon, but he and rear gunner **F/O J.G. MacKay** were killed. Sgt D. Chapman RAF, Sgt J. Holt RAF, Sgt F.W. Brown RAF, Sgt K.F. East DFM RAF and Sgt R.D. Prichard RAF escaped and were made PoW. P/O Murray had been injured Nov. 30, 1941 at #4 SFTS, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, in the collision of two Cessna Crane aircraft.

16-17 156 Sqn. Lancaster III shot down over Belgium, possibly by flak, **F/S E.J. Monk RCAF (Brazil)**, S/L J.C. Mackintosh RAF, Sgt R.F.A. Dobson RAF and F/S P. Woodcock RAF killed, Sgt R.C. Drinkwater RAF, Sgt E.E. Weare RAF and Sgt L.G. Ledamun RAF PoW. TSGNO states P/O Monk was slightly injured in the crash of a Wellington March 22, 1943.

16-17 156 Sqn. Lancaster III EE122 lost over Germany, **P/O J.R. Wright**, Sgt E.G.G. Fisher USAAF, Sgt R.B. Miller RAF, Sgt H.F. Sheppard RAF, Sgt H. Love RAF, Sgt J. Tweedie RAF and Sgt J.A.G. Dawe RAF killed.

16-17 400 Sqn. Mustang I, **F/O D.M. Grant** attacked 4 trains on a night RHUBARB (FF Years).

16-17 460 Sqn. RAAF Lancaster III W5007 AR-O crashed in England attempting to land on an operation over Germany, **Sgt W. Brodie**, F/S N.O.B. Flitcroft RAAF, F/S L.M. McDonnell RAAF, F/S J.C. Plummer RAAF, Sgt D.S. Gent RAF, Sgt D.J. Straith RAF and Sgt R.T. Harman RAF killed.

16-17 467 Sqn. RAAF Lancaster III ED737 PO-F was shot down over Germany by a night fighter, F/O G.H. Joseph RAAF, F/O A. Smith RAF, Sgt N.M. Turnbull RAF, Sgt R.L. Godden RAF and Sgt K.M. Taylor killed, **Sgt E.V. Doan**, F/S J.F. Binnie RAAF and Sgt E. Lancake RAF PoW.

Thursday

17 BBC warns civilians living near factories in occupied Europe engaged in supporting German war effort to evacuate the areas (ww2total.com Chronology/1943), one of a series of similar warnings broadcast in early June (D. Sommerville). See June 19-20, below.

Remainder of German weathermen evacuated from bombed station on Sabine Island in Greenland to the Schwabenland by flying boat (wikipedia.de). A single member of the party, Lt Dr. Sensse, who was on a dog sled reconnaissance patrol at the time of the evacuation, was captured in mid-July when the USCG ship Northwind managed to reach the site. During it's time there destroying the station it was interrupted by a Junkers long range aircraft which was driven off by anti-aircraft fire (S. Grant).

- 17 #4 FCU Beaufighter TF.X JM271 crashed attempting a take-off from a road at Bahrain, Iraq, **F/O B.L.P. Pollock** killed (aviation-safety.net).
- 17 403 Sqn. Spitfire IX BS474 damaged over France by German fighters on a RODEO, **F/O K.P. Marshall** safe.
- 17 412 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AR522 was shot down in error by a 414 Sqn. Mustang while on a convoy patrol, **F/O L.W. Powell DFC** missing.
- 17 414 Sqn. Mustang I AP206 shot down by Spitfires in the same incident above, **F/O F.L. Vaupel** missing.
- 17 421 Sqn. Spitfire IX LZ996 shot down during a cross channel sweep, **S/L P.L.I. Archer DFC RCAF (Barbados)** killed. He had just been appointed commanding officer of 421 Squadron. S/L Archer was an ace and had been twice wounded flying Spitfires with 92 Sqn. July 9 and August 21, 1941.
- 17 421 Sqn. Spitfire IX BS319 shot down by German fighters on a RODEO, **F/O J.E. McNamara** missing.
- 17 #132 OTU Blenheim IV V5492 crashed attempting a forced landing while on fire, **F/O C.P. Meredith Jr. RCAF (USA)** killed (www.rafcommands.com).
- 17 #6 SFTS, Dunnville, Ontario, administration **F/L A.M. Dunstan** died of natural causes.
- 17 #41 SFTS Harvard IIb #3056 crashed near Pacific Junction, Saskatchewan, **LAC(P) L.R. Babkirk** and **P/O R.L. Bisson** killed.
- 17 #32 SFTS, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Oxford II AS368 crashed, LAC **R.W. Glasscock** RAF and Sgt **A.D. Jenkins** RAF killed.

17-18 Berlin, Cologne and the Ruhr were visited by Mosquitos on this night without loss (BC War Diaries).

- 17-18 12 Sqn. Lancaster I W4374 PH-D crashed in England on approach to land from a BULLSEYE exercise, **F/S E. Salmers**, Sgt **J.B. Lindup** RNZAF, Sgt **J.G. Lewis** RAF and Sgt **E. Lax** RAF killed, Sgt **R.A. Collins** RAF, Sgt **C.B. Anderson** RAF and Sgt **F.**

Mills RAF injured, P/O R.D. Spence RAF and Sgt C.W. Young may have been on this aircraft and were safe.

17-18 408 Sqn. Halifax II HR808 was damaged beyond repair when it swung and crashed making a landing with jammed rudder controls on a training exercise, **P/O R.B. Smith** and his crew safe.

17-18 #1663 HCU Halifax V DG421 was practicing night circuits when it swung on landing and lost it's undercarriage, **F/S D.W. Milliken**, F/O K.A. Clack DFM RAF, Sgt A.J. Salvage RAF and Sgt A.W. James (RAF?) safe (R. Allenby, R. Milliken). See August 10-11 below.

Friday

18 To avoid confusion from this date forward British Radio Direction Finding (RDF) technology renamed US term RADAR.

18 73 Sqn. Hurricane IIc HV487 lost over Tunisia, **WO2 P.H. Cashen** killed (www.rafcommands.com).

18 83 Sqn. Lancaster I ED439 OL-N crashed in England on a training flight, **F/S R.A. Taylor**, P/O M.K. Cummings RAAF, Sgt H.W. Luker RAAF, Sgt F.W. Wilcox RAF, Sgt J. Roughley RAF, Sgt H.W. Cheshire RAF, Sgt N. Woodcock RAF, Cpl T.J. Bond RAF and Cpl F.N. Sloss RAF killed. A memorial to this crew was unveiled in 2013 in the church at Screddington in England close to the crash site (*Airforce Magazine* Vol. 37, #3, 2013).

18 #1 B&G School, Jarvis, Ontario, **LAC(BA) J.A. Holgate** died of injuries received in the collision and crash of two School Ansons on June 15, above.

18 #4 B&G School, Fingal, Ontario, LAC L.D. Bland RAF died in hospital in St. Thomas, Ontario, from natural causes (www.rafcommands.com).

18 #23 EFTS, Davidson, Saskatchewan, Cornell I aircraft FH797 and FH790 collided in mid-air and crashed near the airfield killing **LAC(P) H.J. McCrea** and LAC(P) C. Tudor RAF.

18 #31 GRS, Charlottetown, PEI, Cpl F. Sharp RAF died in hospital in Charlottetown of natural causes (www.rafcommands.com).

18-19 50 Sqn. Lancaster I W4932 crashed in England on a night bombing exercise, **F/S J.W. Feagan**, **WO2 T.J. Shields**, **F/S N.G. Smith**, Sgt J.E. Hill RAF, Sgt R.D. Landers RAF, Sgt D.H. Nicholls RAF and Sgt W.N. Lancaster RAF killed.

Saturday

19 Just after one o'clock in the afternoon at RAF Snaith a bomb being fused in the bomb dump exploded and set off several other bombs, some armed with time delays. The area was deemed too dangerous to enter, and the danger from time delayed explosions closed a nearby rail line. The next morning the site was assessed by a bomb disposal officer from a Tiger Moth aircraft, but safe

access to the site was not possible until June 26, at which time the bodies of 10 RAF armourers were recovered, 8 more were never found (R. Allenby).

- 19 78 IAP, Soviet Northern Fleet Air Forces, Canadian built Hurricane IIb AM274 '23' was shot down attacking a German convoy to Petsamo, Jr Lt J.I. Maslennikov made a forced landing on the Rybachiy Peninsula where he was later rescued by Soviet troops (<http://www.jneaircraft.com/am274/history/>). In 1995 this was one of several Hurricanes recovered from the Arctic and shipped to England. After work in the USA it is now being restored to fly in Belgium (http://members.madasafish.com/~d_hodgkinson/hawker-guide-RW.htm).
- 19 402 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AD462 shot down by flak attacking a passenger train in Holland on a RHUBARB, **F/O W.C. Lawrence RCAF (USA)** missing (FF Years).
- 19 #6 SFTS, Dunnville, Ontario, Harvard II #2963 was flying alongside the ferry SS *Canadiana* when it had an engine failure and crashed into Lake Erie, LAC W.C. Smith RAF killed (<https://www.sachem.ca/news-story/7270276-recovering-plane-lost-in-lake-erie-over-70-years-ago/>). The wreckage was re-discovered and has been investigated by the Canadian Harvard Aircraft Association as part of its research into aircraft lost in the Great Lakes.
- 19 #31 ANS, Port Albert, Ontario, LAC R.T. Whitehead RAF accidentally drowned.
- 19 USAAF C-48B (DC-3) 42-38325 missing from Whitehorse, Yukon, pilot G.E. Enger and 2 crew killed (AAIR; aviation-safety.net).

19-20 Bomber Command sent 290 bombers to attack the Schneider arms factory and the adjacent steelworks at Le Creusot, France, and a further 26 bombers to attack the electrical station nearby at Montchanin. This was a complicated plan where Pathfinders were to drop flares to enable Main Force bombers to identify their targets visually. The force of Pathfinders was then to fly on to mark the power station. The Main Force bombers were to make two bomb runs each, dropping their bombs from comparatively low altitudes to ensure accuracy. The bomb aimers, used to bombing bright TIs and out of practice on visual bombing, had difficulty identifying their target as it was obscured by smoke. The marking for the power plant went down at a nearby factory in error, and although some bombers identified and attacked the power plant target they missed it. [compare this operation to the plan used June 20-21 below]. Two bombers were lost on this operation. Other operations were 6 Mosquitos to Cologne, Duisburg and Dusseldorf and 12 GARDENING sorties in the Gironde River, with 1 Lancaster lost (BC War Diaries).

418 Squadron began using bombs on INTRUDER sorties to attack trains and damage rail tracks and signals. Other targets included freight yards and bridges as well as the usual airfields (FF Years).

- 19-20 10 Sqn. Halifax II JD109 ZA-Y lost over France, **F/S J.E. Lewis, Sgt G.W. Rockwood**

- RAF (Nfld.), Sgt J. Watson RAF, Sgt H.C.W. Nash RAF, Sgt W.J. McKay RAF, Sgt W.G. Brown RAF and Sgt J. Sutcliffe RAF killed.
- 19-20 77 Sqn. Halifax II JB863 KN-V crashed just after take-off on an operation to France, F/S R.E. MacDonald, F/S N.R. Holledge RAF, Sgt A.H. Gurry RAF, F/S W. Cooke RAF, F/O A.W.S. Young RAF, Sgt F. Danby RAF and Sgt D.H. Clinch RAF killed. R. Allenby notes the cause of the accident was believed to be an engine failure, and that the crash site was not completely cleared of explosives until 1950.
- 19-20 115 Sqn. Lancaster II DS668 KO-R shot down by a night fighter over France returning from a GARDENING sortie to the Gironde River. The crew baled out but the pilot, F/O D.F.P. Brown RAF, fell into the Loire River and was drowned, the remainder Sgt A.S. Davidson, P/O C.N. Pitchford RAF, Sgt R. Gould RAF and Sgt L. King RAF PoW, Sgt C.F. Trott RAF and Sgt A.H. Sheppard RAF evaded. Sgt Davidson returned to Canada after the war and died of meningitis in 1947. (Note: Sgt Davidson is identified as RAF by W.R. Chorley).
- 19-20 408 Sqn. Halifax II JD107 EQ-Y shot down over France by a night fighter, P/O D.C. Horner, F/L M. Samuels, P/O P.R. Quance RAAF and Sgt J. Denholm RAF killed, Sgt H.A. Brown, Sgt R.J.J. Ball and P/O R.A. Symes BEM RAF PoW. P/O Horner, F/L Samuels and P/O Quance had survived bailing out of a 408 Sqn. Halifax Feb. 14-15, above. Sgt Brown may have been injured, see July 11, 1945.
- 19-20 408 Sqn. Halifax II JB858 EQ-S was damaged by flak, Sgt G.N. Acton, Sgt D. Aiken, F/O F.C. Culbert, Sgt J.B. Dallyn, Sgt J.D.B. Hunter, Sgt B.R. Milligan and P/O R.B. Wright RAF landed back in England (R. Allenby). See June 25-26 below and May 22-23, 1944.
- 19-20 427 Sqn. Halifax V DK186 ZL-L was crossing the French coast outbound when it was damaged by flak that also wounded the mid-upper gunner, F/L J.E. Durocher, in the foot. They returned and landed in England, F/L Durocher, F/O A.M. Stockdale, W/C D.H. Burnside DFC and Bar RAF, F/O R.J. Hayhurst RAF, P/O R. Vollum RAF, P/O D.B. Ross RAF and F/S E.J. Solman RAF safe (R. Allenby). See June 25-26 below.

Sunday

20 417 Sqn. begins operations over Sicily from Malta (417 SH).

King George VI visits Malta (D. Sommerville).

A fight at the Packard Motor Plant in Detroit, Michigan, USA, making Merlin engines under licence for RAF, RCAF and USAAF, escalates into race riots. White workers were opposed to the promotion of qualified black workers into more skilled jobs. Thirty four people were killed in the riots. President Roosevelt declared an emergency and US Army troops were brought in to restore order (Oxford).

20 403 Sqn. Spitfire IX BR637 shot down near France on a CIRCUS, F/O J.C. Elliott

- missing.
- 20 403 Sqn. Spitfire IX LZ899 shot down over France on a CIRCUS, P/O F.C. McWilliams killed.
- 20 403 Sqn. Spitfire IX BS383 shot down over France on a CIRCUS, Sgt K.D. Windsor evaded (www.conscript-heroes.com).
- 20 #10 OTU Whitley VII LA814 'L' was on an anti-submarine patrol over the Bay of Biscay and was seen to be shot down attacking a submarine by another #10 OTU Whitley which had also attacked the same submarine, and by several Halifax aircraft of 358 Sqn. that were arriving at the scene. The crew of F/O C.M. Bingham, F/O A.B.C. Durnell, F/S H. Martin RAF, Sgt W.I. Ertle RAF, Sgt R.W. Warhurst RAF and P/O F.W.E. Tomlins RAF are missing. The submarine was possibly the Italian boat *Barbarigo*, converted to a cargo submarine and outbound for Japan, which went missing sometime after June 16.
- 20 #24 OTU Whitley V EB349 crashed in England on a training flight, P/O J.M. Brown killed, Sgt A.J. Loman RAF and one other injured.
- 20 #26 OTU Wellington X HE753 was practicing engine out procedures when it suffered an engine failure and force landed, P/O C.D. Woodley and his instructor WO R.F.D. Huband RAF safe. See June 7-8, 1944.
- 20 #81 OTU Whitley V EB402 was on a cross country exercise when it suffered a partial engine failure. Unable to maintain height the pilot Sgt E.T. Jones ordered a bail out. One of the crew, Sgt R.H. Hanson RAF, fell into the River Dee and drowned, while P/O E.N. Hooke was injured, but the rest, Sgt Smith RAF, Sgt Lofts RAF and Sgt Johnson RAF, were safe. Meanwhile Sgt Jones attempted to land the crippled bomber, but landed long and was forced to retract the undercarriage to avoid a crash, wrecking the aircraft.

20-21 Bomber Command sent a force of 60 Lancasters to attack the Zeppelin factory at Friedrichshafen, engaged in the production of early warning radar used to detect bombers. This innovative attack would use a single airborne leader, similar to what had been done ad hoc in the Dams attack, who would orbit the target and send corrections to the bombing force to keep the attack concentrated (a practice later called a Master Bomber), Pathfinder marking, and included a time and distance run from a known point, a technique which had been developed as a specialty by #5 Group. This resulted in hits on the factory, a small target, by about 10% of the force (considered a good attack) as well as other damage to factories surrounding it. Finally to thwart alerted night fighters waiting on their return route, the force continued south and recovered in North Africa, the first "shuttle raid". No bombers were lost. Other operations were 5 Mosquitos to Berlin and Dusseldorf, 15 GARDENING and 3 OTU sorties, also without loss (BC War Diaries).

Monday

- 21 118 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AR325 was hit by flak attacking enemy shipping off the Dutch coast. Pilot **F/O H.G. Handley** was seen to bale out but he was too low. His parachute failed to fully open and he was killed.
- 21 #2 Manning Depot, Brandon, Manitoba, air frame mechanic **AC2 H. Soltys** died in hospital of natural causes.
- 21 #14 SFTS, Aylmer, Ontario, Harvard IIb #3126 crashed into Lake Erie at the Yarmouth bombing range, LAC(P) C.D. Litzow RAAF killed (A. Storr). The wreckage was not recovered (R.W.R. Walker).
- 21 USAAF L-2B 43-56 crashed on a sandbar in the Liard River near Watson Lake, Yukon (AAIR, J. Baugher).

21-22 Final German strategic night bombing attack in the lead-up to the Kursk offensive, 101 bombers attacked the GAZ works at Gorkiy. Despite having destroyed their target the production of Soviet T-34 tanks (the main objective) was not affected. The bombed plant began producing vehicles again within weeks. The bomber groups gathered for this series of attacks was then disbursed for the planned attack on the Kursk Salient. In this same period Soviet night bombers had been directed to attack the German railways bringing supplies and troops forward, flying over 9,000 sorties in the 3 months prior to the Kursk battle, which with attacks by partisans led to shortages as the date of the battle approached. In particular aircraft fuel was affected and to solve this fuel for tactical units supporting the army was limited (C. Bergström).

Krefeld was attacked by 705 bombers that used good visibility and marking to make an almost perfect attack, destroying the centre of the city. Over 1,000 people were killed and 4,500 injured, 72,000 people lost their homes. Industrial damage is not known. The clear weather and late moon also aided night fighters and 44 bombers were lost on what was the shortest night of the year over Europe. Other operations were 1 Mosquito to Hamborn and 15 OTU sorties without loss (BC War Diaries).

- 21-22 15 Sqn. Stirling III BK815 LS-V lost over Belgium, possibly shot down by flak, **F/O R.J. Hunter**, P/O E.F. Curtis RAF, F/S F.D. McQuillan RAF, Sgt R.T. Davis RAF, Sgt A.F. Stephens RAF, P/O E.N. Billington RAF and Sgt J.P. Martin RAF killed, **Sgt A.E. Waugh** PoW.
- 21-22 35 Sqn. Halifax II W7878 TL-J lost over the North Sea off Holland, F/O M.W.P. Clarke RAF, Sgt C.M. Harcombe RAF and Sgt H.R. Fink RAF killed, **F/S J.G.P.E. Richer**, Sgt F.M. Mazin RAF, Sgt B.J. Dowse RAF and Sgt A.C. MacLeod RAF missing.
- 21-22 35 Sqn. Halifax II BB361 TL-V believed to have been lost over the North Sea, **WO2 N.T. Macaulay** killed, **P/O J.W. Andrews**, Sgt R.M. Scott RAF, Sgt D.J. Jones RAF,

- Sgt F.V. Barnard RAF, Sgt R.A. Muldoon RAF and Sgt W.D. Robertson RAF missing.
- 21-22 35 Sqn. Halifax II HR685 TL-X shot down by a night fighter on an operation to Germany, **F/L T.H. Lane DFC**, F/S A.P. Balson RAAF, F/S F.J. Rogers RAF, F/L P.M. Jackson RAF, WO G.W. Darling RAF, F/S R.F. MacDonald RAF and F/O D.R. Alexander RAF PoW. F/L Lane, then a Sergeant, had been injured June 5, 1942 in the crash of an #1652 CU Halifax.
- 21-22 35 Sqn. Halifax II HR799 TL-R shot down over Holland by a night fighter, F/S H.J. Krohn RAAF and F/S W.G.L. Brown RAF killed, **F/S A.D. Hutchinson**, **Sgt J.H. Graham**, P/O W.H. Hickson RNZAF, Sgt F.S. Maltas RAF, Sgt P.N. Croft RAF and Sgt J.F. Dowsing RAF PoW (goofy and whickson at www.rafcommands.com).
- 21-22 51 Sqn. Halifax II JD244 MH-K was damaged by flak over the target and came down in a forced landing in Belgium, **Sgt R.H. Masters**, Sgt F.J.H. Heathfield RAF, Sgt D.G. Keane RAF, P/O H.J. Dothie RAF, Sgt W.A. Poulton RAF, Sgt W.C. Beresford RAF and Sgt R. Cooper RAF PoW.
- 21-22 51 Sqn. Halifax II HR869 MH-Z was attacked by a Ju 88 which forced them to jettison their bomb load, but was driven off probably shot down. A second night fighter attack forced them to a low level where they were damaged by flak before escaping back to England, **Sgt D.J. Cameron**, **Sgt H.F. Maughan**, F/O T.R. Dobson RAF, Sgt L.F. Merricks RAF, Sgt A.A. McGregor RAF, Sgt D.W. Kemp RAF and Sgt C.G. Carrington RAF landed safe (R. Allenby). See July 27-28, below.
- 21-22 77 Sqn. Halifax II W1157 KN-U lost without trace, **WO2 F.O. Turner**, Sgt M.J. Fitzgerald RAF, Sgt R. Forster RAF, Sgt G. Wood RAF, F/O R.C. Bishop RAF, Sgt J.M. Dalton RAF and Sgt J.J. MacPherson RAF missing.
- 21-22 77 Sqn. Halifax II JD205 KN-Y shot down over Holland by a night fighter, **F/S A.R. Currie**, **WO2 R.H. King** killed, **Sgt D.A. Clarke**, Sgt J. Gardner RAF, Sgt S.H.A. Nicholson RAF and Sgt F.G. Hawthorne RAF PoW, P/O A. Hagan RAF captured but escaped and evaded ([lancaster www.rafcommands.com](http://lancaster.rafcommands.com)).
- 21-22 83 Sqn. Lancaster III ED997 OL-R shot down over Holland by a night fighter, **F/S G.C. Wickson**, F/L D.W.C. Fletcher RAF, Sgt E. Lidster RAF, F/S L.A.C. Angell RAF, Sgt A.E. McWilliam RAF, Sgt L.V. Tanner RAF and Sgt R. Metcalfe RAF killed.
- 21-22 90 Sqn. Stirling III EE887 WP-T shot down over Holland by a night fighter, **Sgt D. Gillis RAF (Can.)**, **Sgt R.R. Law**, P/O H.N. Peters RAAF, Sgt E. Bradshaw RAF, Sgt D.J. Davies RAF, Sgt B.A. Abraham and Sgt A.S. Andrews RAF killed.
- 21-22 100 Sqn. Lancaster III ED556 HW-B lost over Holland, **P/O J.R. Thurlow**, Sgt R.H. Pyle RAF, Sgt C.E. Thompson RAF, Sgt K.E. Walters RAF, Sgt A. Jarman RAF, Sgt S. Maisner RAF and Sgt G.C.W. Norton RAF killed.
- 21-22 101 Sqn. Lancaster I ED650 SR-L lost over Germany, **F/L W.J. Sibbald DFC**, Sgt D.H. Brook RAF, Sgt A.C. Keightley RAF, Sgt G. Hopkin RAF, Sgt T.E.W. Latter RAF, Sgt N. Ellis RAF and Sgt K. Henson RAF killed. Wireless air gunner F/L Sibbald was the squadrons Signals Leader.

- 21-22 218 Sqn. Stirling III BK722 HA-G shot down over Holland by flak, P/O D.R. Rich RAAF, Sgt B. Kermonde RAF and Sgt S.H. Burrows RAF killed, **Sgt J.S. McDonald**, Sgt H. Hill RAF, Sgt F. Fawcett RAF and Sgt A.J. Small RAF PoW. This crew had survived a force landing May 31, above. See also March 19, 1945.
- 21-22 405 Sqn. Halifax II JD124 LQ-P lost over Germany, **P/O F.W. Hodge**, **P/O J.H.T.J. Lemieux**, **P/O R.A. Livingston DFC**, **F/L S.L. Murrell DFC RCAF (USA)**, **P/O A.W. Nichols BEM**, **F/S R.L. Robinson**, **P/O E.D. Rowe** killed. P/O Nichols earned his medal when he was a Sergeant, with Sgt R.A. Symes RAF, November 26, 1942 when they saved the life of a trapped crewman from burning wreckage following the crash of the aircraft they were flying (Awards).
- 21-22 408 Sqn. Halifax II BB375 EQ-T was shot down by a night fighter over Holland and fell into the Lek River. **P/O J.P. Dockerill**, **Sgt G.M. McLean**, **P/O J.E. Monahan**, **P/O C.C. Reichert** and **Sgt W. Searle** missing, **P/O J.C.B. Russell** and **Sgt G.I. Pridham** were taken PoW. P/O Reichert was recommended for a Victoria Cross but this was not awarded (H.A. Halliday www.rafcommands.com). Sgt Pridham was severely wounded in the attack and had to have his leg amputated in captivity. He was repatriated May 28, 1944. His statement of the events of the loss appears in TSGNO. In 1985 he was contacted by a Dutch group who had located the wreckage. They had recovered one of the engines and it has been displayed as part of a striking memorial in Lopik, The Netherlands, since 1986.
- 21-22 408 Sqn. Halifax II DT772 EQ-E lost over Holland, **F/S J.R. Archambault**, **P/O G.E. Bisheff**, **F/S J.C. MacDonald**, **Sgt C.L. Sebelius**, **Sgt W.D. Walsh**, Sgt D. "Brooke" RAF (France) and Sgt M.D. Shakespeare RAF killed. Sgt "Brooke" was the *nom de guerre* for D. Blum, whose parents were still in occupied France. F/S Archambault had been injured Feb. 10, above, in the loss of a #23 OTU Wellington.
- 21-22 408 Sqn. Halifax II JD209 EQ-B shot down over the target in Germany, **P/O N. Kellner**, **WO2 A.B. Lewis**, **P/O J.G.A. Patry** and Sgt D. Rudge RAF killed, **Sgt J.H.W. Bishop**, **Sgt E. Moorcroft** and Sgt G.A. Freeman RAF PoW. P/O Patry had survived the crash of a #23 OTU Wellington Sept. 27, 1942. A photograph of their communal grave appears in S. Hadaway's book *Missing Believed Killed*.
- 21-22 419 Sqn. Halifax II W1271 VR-P "*Kiwi*", being operated by a 428 Sqn. crew, lost over Holland, **Sgt J. Holland**, Sgt C.R. Pearce DFM RNZAF, F/S W.T. Ellis RNZAF, F/S E.L. Robson RNZAF, Sgt G.J.D. Thompson RAF, Sgt W.J. Randall RAF and Sgt J. Galloway RAF killed (R. Koval). This aircraft had been damaged Sept. 14, 1942, while being operated by 102 Sqn., when **F/S G.H. Rowe** had been fatally injured.
- 21-22 429 Sqn. Wellington X HF981 AL-T shot down over Holland by a night fighter, **WO2 W.H. Calder**, **F/O J.L.F. Lown**, **F/S A.S. Rhodes**, **F/S A.J. Sieffert** and **WO2 J.K. Wood** killed (R. Koval).
- 21-22 429 Sqn. Wellington X HZ517 AL-M shot down by a night fighter over Holland, **WO2 G.D. Coe**, **P/O G.H. de Bussac**, **F/O W.A. Follows**, **WO2 D.E. Palmatier** and **P/O M.B. Spence** killed R. Koval.

- 21-22 429 Sqn. Wellington X HZ519 AL-L ditched off the Dutch coast, 3 crew, **F/S J. Kopchuk**, **F/S J.P.G. O'Reilly**, **F/S C.F. Orlinski**, were later found dead in the aircraft's dinghy and buried in Holland, **F/S W.G. Parkinson** and **F/S E.A. Star** missing (R. Koval).
- 21-22 429 Sqn. Wellington X HZ520 AL-Z shot down over Holland by a night fighter, **F/O D.S. Milne** and **F/S H.V. Holmes** RAF killed, **F/S E.A. Eames** RAF, **F/O E.F. Lapham** RAF and **Sgt W.H. Wright** RAF PoW (R. Koval).
- 21-22 431 Sqn. Wellington X HF518 SE-J lost without trace, **WO2 H.S. Fawns**, **F/O B.S. Fudge**, **F/O J.B.G. Bailey** DFC RAF, Squadron commanding officer **W/C J. Coverdale** MiD RAF and **P/O G.C.W. Parslow** DFM RAF missing. **F/O Bailey** and **P/O Parslow** had been decorated after returning in a 431 Wellington flown by its bomb aimer **Sgt Sloan** RAF May 23-24, above.

Tuesday

22 USAAF makes it's first attack on the Ruhr Valley, making an accurate attack on a synthetic rubber plant with 235 B-17 aircraft while 42 more acted as a diversion attacking Antwerp, an RAF Mitchell CIRCUS attack on Rotterdam with RCAF fighter support and 21 more B-17s also acting as decoys, plus heavy fighter escort by over 30 Allied fighter squadrons to the limit of their range, losing 20 bombers (Zijlstra; D. McIntosh).

Lancaster R5727, first used as the pattern aircraft for Canadian Lancaster production and now converted to carry passengers and registered CF-CMS, makes the first CGTAS flight from Montreal to Prestwick in 12 hours and 26 minutes, pilot TCA **Captain R.F. George (<http://www.bombercommandmuseum.ca>; J. Stroud).**

Prototype German centimetric radar, based on captured examples of H2S, successfully tested (Oxford).

- 22 400 Sqn. Mustang I AG641 SP-B lost on an INTRUDER sortie over France, **F/O J.H. Watlington** RCAF (Bermuda) bailed out and became a PoW. He was repatriated in May 1944 (<http://www.bermuda-online.org/aviation.htm>).
- 22 423 Sqn. Sunderland III, **F/L J. Musgrave**, was attacked over the ocean by a Fw 200 which wounded 3 crew and damaged the flying boats hull, turrets and controls before it could find cloud cover. It returned to a safe landing in England (FF Years).
- 22 #1 Air Armament School Hampden (originally built as a Hereford) TB.I N9096 GX-Y swung on landing in fog from an anti-submarine patrol and struck 415 Squadron Hampden TB.I X3061, destroying both. The bomb load then exploded damaging a third Hampden TB.I X3115 beyond repair. The crew of N9096, **Sgt A.F. Hildebrandt**, **F/S W. MacCausland**, **Sgt N.S. Hastings** and **Sgt W.K. Mailman** (RCAF or RAF?), were safe (H. Moyle; wartimes.ca; www.rafcommands.com).
- 22 #10 OTU Whitley EB334 'F' crash landed in Cornwall due to bad weather closing their

- airbase when they returned from an anti-submarine patrol over the Bay of Biscay, **F/O P.A. Shelton**, **Sgt M.D. Tymchuk**, **Sgt E.C. Ecclestone**, Sgt F. Healey RAF, Sgt J.M. Hughes RAF and Sgt J. Sneddon RAF safe. See Sept. 27-28, below.
- 22 #301 FTU, England, navigator **F/O J.C. Fraser** was on leave when he accidentally fell from an hotel window in London, England, later dying of his injuries in hospital (www.rafcommands.com).
- 22 #45 Delivery Group, RAF Ferry Command Boston IIIa BZ272 left Dorval, Quebec and crashed at Lake Perron, Labrador (or near Mingan, Que), after an inflight fire. Lt. F.W. Svensen (RNor.AF), **P/O J.E.W. Birkett RCAF (UK)** and **WO2 W.J. Thurlow** may be buried at the crash site as the latter two are listed on the Ottawa Memorial (K. Larsson).
- 22 RAF Ferry Command Marauder I FK129 lost at sea off Puerto Rico, **Radio Officer P.A.V. Vickery**, WO R.E. Mudie RAAF, Ferry Captain B.C. Miller (USA) and Ferry Captain L.L. Burchfield (USA) missing. CWGC notes that RO Vickery was a 1939 Golden Gloves boxing champion.
- 22 #1 Central Navigation School, Rivers, Manitoba, Anson I #6888 crashed in Lake Manitoba, **F/S H.A. Daubner Jr.**, LAC E.P. Bagster RAF, LAC P. Stewart RAF and Sgt B.J. Skinner RNZAF killed.
- 22 #17 SFTS, Souris, Manitoba, air frame mechanic **LAC C.E. Gauthier** drowned at Riverside Park, Manitoba.
- 22 #41 SFTS, Weyburn, Saskatchewan, Harvard II AJ916 crashed, LAC W.E.L. Evans RAF killed.
- 22 unknown unit, Sgt J. Copley RAF drowned in Canada, buried at Rivers, Manitoba.

22-23 Mülheim was the target for 557 bombers from Bomber Command which made an accurate attack on well laid markers through thin haze. Again a large fire was started and the fire and rescue services were overwhelmed. The town was at one point cut off by road from it's neighbours and with the telephones out only runners could carry messages for assistance to nearby Oberhausen, which was also hit by bombs as marking accuracy diminished. Post war it was estimated that 64% of the town, including industries, housing, schools, churches, hospitals and other public buildings, was destroyed. On the ground 578 people were killed and 1,174 injured in both Mulheim and Oberhausen, while Bomber Command lost 35 aircraft. Other operations were 8 Mosquito bombers to Berlin and Cologne and 26 OTU sorties with 1 OTU loss (BC War Diaries).

- 22-23 10 Sqn. Halifax II BB324 ZA-X lost at sea off the Dutch coast, **F/S J.F.K. Crowe**, Sgt J. Conway RAF, Sgt F. Holmes and Sgt F.T. Nuttall RAF killed, **F/S T.L. MacAskill**, Sgt R.M. Pinkerton RAF and Sgt W. Waring RAF missing. (CWGC lists Sgt Waring as lost June 26, 1943.)
- 22-23 15 Sqn. Stirling I EF348 LS-N badly damaged by a night fighter and then shot down in

a second attack, crashing just over the Dutch border in Belgium, Sgt J.W. Newport RAF and Sgt W.C. MacAulay RAF killed, **Sgt J.J.G. Damboise**, Sgt D.S.P. Roberts RAF and Sgt T. Mosedale RAF PoW, P/O D.I. Turner and Sgt A.F. Kellett RAF evaded.

- 22-23 51 Sqn. Halifax II HR834 was hit by incendiary bombs and had a high explosive bomb bounce off its wing leading edge on the bomb run. After bombing it was damaged by flak but returned to England, **Sgt W.J. Crozier**, Sgt A.F. Gregory RAF, Sgt H. Gardner RAF, Sgt D. Rowbotham RAF, Sgt S.J. Passey RAF, Sgt S.T. Pitt RAF and Sgt T. Brownless RAF safe (R. Allenby). See July 3-4, below.
- 22-23 75 (New Zealand) Sqn. Stirling III EH889 AA-Z shot down by a night fighter into the IJsselmeer, **WO2 R.D. Tod**, **WO2 R.E. Tod DFM**, F/L T.F. McCrorie RAF, P/O W. Stuckey MiD RAF and Sgt R.A. Kennedy RAF killed, Sgt E. Grainger RAF and Sgt J.L. Richards RNZAF missing. See <http://www.teunispats.net/fr-wwii.htm> for details. WO2 R.D. Tod and WO2 R.E. Tod were twin brothers. They, Sgt Richards and Sgt Grainger had survived the ditching of a Stirling April 10-11, above.
- 22-23 76 Sqn. Halifax V DK224 MP-Q Bar shot down by a night fighter over Holland, all the crew managed to bail out but Sgt R. Huke RAF was killed when his parachute failed, **Sgt R.H. Hammett**, G/C D.E.L. Wilson RAAF (Station Commander of Holmeon-Spalding Moor, on the aircraft as an observer), P/O J. Carrie RAF, Sgt G.B. Thomson RAF, Sgt R.W. Hibbs RAF, Sgt E.L. McVitie RAF and Sgt S.M. Davies RAF PoW.
- 22-23 77 Sqn. Halifax II JD213 KN-V believed lost over the sea, F/S E.A. Simms RAAF, F/S D.H.R. Kelly RAF and Sgt T. Ogle RAF killed, **F/S O.D. Thompson**, Sgt J. Westbarn RAF, Sgt T.W.C. Luther RAF and Sgt J. Fitzsimmons RAF missing.
- 22-23 77 Sqn. Halifax II JD167 KN-Z was damaged in a wing and an engine over the target, **Sgt E.C. Honey**, Sgt B. Hallam RAF, Sgt W.R. Martindale RAF, Sgt A.T. Hitchings RAF, Sgt T.S. Crowcroft RAF, Sgt G.C.M. Purves RAF and Sgt R.T. Worrall RAF returned safe (R. Allenby). See September 27-28 below.
- 22-23 97 Sqn. Lancaster III ED928 OF-B was attacked by a night fighter and exploded over Utrecht, The Netherlands, the wreckage falling into a residential area. **P/O G.W. Armstrong**, **WO2 J.J.B.S.P.H. David**, F/S J.J. Mansfield RAF, Sgt D.E. Williams RAF and P/O S. Blackhurst RAF, as well as several civilians on the ground, were killed, Sgt E. Bellis RAF and P/O S. Blackhurst RAF PoW (<http://www.basher82.nl/Data/soestbergen/WilliamsDavid.htm>).
- 22-23 103 Sqn. Lancaster I ED773 PM-U lost on a sortie to Germany, **F/O D.M. Grant RAF (Nfld.)**, **F/S W.L.C. Moran RCAF (USA)**, **F/L A.E. Spurr**, P/O E. Griffiths RAF, Sgt A.E. Ponsford RAF and F/O W.H. Wood RAF killed and Sgt J.W.M. Jones RAF missing.
- 22-23 158 Sqn. Halifax II JD259 NP-R lost over Belgium, **Sgt O.W. Todd**, F/S L.E. Cavanagh RAAF, Sgt R.J. Sage RAF, Sgt T.R. Forster RAF, P/O D.V. Elliott RAF, Sgt W.R. Green RAF and P/O R.A.C. Maund RAF killed.

- 22-23 161 Sqn. Halifax V DG405 MA-Y was engaged in supporting Operations ST. PAUL, HARROW and CATARRH in the Netherlands and was lost in the IJsselmeer, **F/S M.H. Moore**, Sgt N. Blanchard RAF, Sgt C.W. Hartin RAF, Sgt G. George RAF, Sgt F. Groom RAF and Sgt R.D. Pryde-Watson RAF killed, P/O R.G. Higgins RAF and Sgt G.N. Cochrane missing. See <http://www.teunisplats.net/fr-wwii.htm> for details.
- 22-23 207 Sqn. Lancaster I ED692 EM-W lost over Germany, Sgt S. Payton RAF and Sgt G.A.H. Male RAF killed, **F/O W.H. Flatt**, F/O G. Kleinburg RAF (USA), F/O P.G. Herrin RAF, Sgt P. Mills RAF and Sgt R. Bradshaw RAF missing.
- 22-23 214 Sqn. Stirling III EH882 BU-O crashed in Essen, **WO2 R. McNeil**, F/L W.J. Hein RAF, Sgt G.M. Phillips RAF and Sgt K.S. Gillard RAF killed, Sgt G.S. Graveson RAF, Sgt P.E. Goldsmid RAF and Sgt S.G. Morrison RAF PoW.
- 22-23 218 Sqn. Stirling III BF572 HA-K lost over the North Sea, **Sgt G. Labuik**, F/S J.B.H. Smith RAAF and Sgt W.H. Davies RAF killed, **Sgt R.H. Cramm RAF (Nfld.)**, Sgt G.E. Rose RAF and Sgt C.R. Minns RAF missing, F/S P.W. Farr RAF PoW. W.R. Chorley states that Sgt Cramm was a native of New Zealand who enlisted in Rhodesia and whose parents later emigrated to Newfoundland, although he is listed on the *Newfoundland Roll of Honour*.
- 22-23 418 Sqn. Boston III W8394 lost over France on a night INTRUDER, **P/O E.Q. Findlay**, **F/O D.A. Carmichael** and **WO2 J.W. Robertson** killed.
- 22-23 427 Sqn. Halifax V DK139 ZL-P "*Pampers*" lost over Germany, **WO2 C.P. Bearisto**, **P/O G.A. Cadmus RCAF (Argentina)**, **WO2 A.D. Deane**, **P/O M.M. Meyer**, **F/O G.T. Vicary**, Sgt S.T. Booth RAF and F/O A.J. Manning RAF killed. The name of the aircraft was a reference to the Argentine homeland of P/O Cadmus. WO Deane had been injured Jan. 26-27, above.
- 22-23 427 Sqn. Halifax V DK141 ZL-C shot down by a night fighter over Holland, **F/S P.J.A. Dennis**, **F/S J.D. Hamilton**, **WO2 J.J. Reansbury**, **F/S G.L. Tyrone RCAF (USA)**, Sgt G.D. Sharp RAF and Sgt N.G. Whiting RAF killed, **Sgt J.A. Spencer** PoW (R. Koval). F/S J.D. Hamilton had been in an accident with a #1659 HCU Halifax May 28, above.
- 22-23 427 Sqn. Halifax V DK191 ZL-K lost over Holland, **F/O B.M. Gracie**, **F/S H.P. Heximer**, **F/S N.F. Notley**, **F/O A.A. Pariseau**, **F/O N.D. Reid AFC**, Sgt P.B. Robinson RAF and Sgt D. Mann RAF killed (R. Koval).
- 22-23 427 Sqn. Halifax V DK225 ZL-J shot down over Holland by a night fighter, **F/S G.L. Tucker**, P/O E.R. Strang RNZAF, F/S D.H. Northcoat RNZAF, F/L K. Webster RAF, P/O A.E. Humphreys RAF and Sgt C. Sampson RAF killed, Sgt T. Mitchell RAF PoW (R. Koval).
- 22-23 427 Sqn. Halifax V DK184 ZL-G was damaged by flak over the target, **F/O A.M. Stockdale**, **P/O G.M. Thornton**, S/L C.H. Earthrowl RAF, F/O R.J. Hayhurst RAF, Sgt R.N. Dobney RAF and 2 crew landed safe in England (R. Allenby). See June 28-29, below.
- 22-23 427 Sqn. Halifax V landed with minor flak damage, **F/S H.W. Campbell**, **P/O B.G. Crew**,

- Sgt W. Powell, F/S R.L. Skillen, Sgt W.P. Sutor, Sgt H. Nelson RAF and 1 crew safe (R. Allenby). See January 5-6, 1945.
- 22-23 429 Sqn. Wellington X HF457 AL-H shot down by a night fighter over Belgium, F/S J.O. Hills, P/O W.A. Sneath and Sgt J.T. Hindley RAF killed, P/O R.G. Clarke and P/O A.B. Drummond-Hay PoW (R. Koval). O. Clutton-Brock reports that P/O Drummond-Hay landed in his parachute in a German flak battery!
- 22-23 429 Sqn. Wellington X HZ312 AL-F lost over Germany, P/O J.O.R. Bonenfant, WO1 J.C.A. Laberge, F/O J.S. MacIntyre, W/C J.L. Savard DFC and WO J. Allen RAF killed. W/C Savard was the Squadron commanding officer, and was 22 at the time of his death (R. Koval).
- 22-23 429 Sqn. Wellington X HZ354 was damaged by flak, Sgt C.E. Monty, F/S T.S. Heyes RAF, Sgt A. Lewis RAF, Sgt T.E. Banks RAF and Sgt R.A. Impey RAF landed in England (R. Allenby).
- 22-23 431 Sqn. Wellington X HE394 SE-V shot down over Germany, F/L D.A. Hine RAF, F/O H.D. Quilter RAF, P/O R.E. Mercer RAF, Sgt E. Batty RAF and Sgt A.E. Wilkes RAF killed.
- 22-23 432 Sqn. Wellington X HE352 QO-V was damaged by flak, Sgt W.H.D. Meaden, Sgt J.D. Barker, Sgt W. West, Sgt K. Ward and possibly Sgt R. Alexander returned to England (R. Allenby).
- 22-23 432 Sqn. Wellington X was damaged by flak over Germany, Sgt S.K. Atkinson, Sgt W.A. Grant, Sgt H.A. Turner, P/O A.W. Chubb RAF and P/O R? Rawsthorne landed safe (R. Allenby). See September 27-28 and December 16-17, below.

Wednesday

- 23 413 Sqn. Sgt J. Alexander was found unconscious on the runway of RAF Koggala, Ceylon and died of a fractured skull (www.rafcommands.com).
- 23 153 Sqn. Beaufighter VI f V8648 crashed into the sea NE of Bone, Algeria, WO1 G.L. Linklater and Sgt L.V. Anthony RAF missing (CWGC; aviation-safety.net).
- 23 #2 (Coastal) OTU Beaufighter VI f EL401 lost on a navigation exercise over the North Sea, F/O C.R. Thomas and his navigator Sgt A. Clarke RAF missing (H. Welting www.rafcommands.com).
- 23 #55 OTU, two Hurricane aircraft practicing formation flight collided in mid-air and crashed, killing F/O W.D. Graves in IIb BE489 and F/S P.M. Clark RAAF in IIa Z2687 (www.rafcommands.com).
- 23 #41 SFTS, Weyburn, Saskatchewan, Harvard IIb FE349 crashed, LAC A.E. Taylor RAF killed.

23-24 The Lancaster force in North Africa bombed La Spezia in Italy with 52 bombers before crossing the Alps and returning to England, as well 3 Mosquitos bombed Cologne, 2 more bombed Duisburg and 30 GARDENING sorties were off France, all without loss (BC War Diaries).

Thursday

24 #125 (F) Sqn. RCAF returned to Sydney, NS from Torbay, Nfld (RCAF Sqns.).

- 24 403 Sqn. Spitfire IX BS396 shot down on a RAMROD over France, **Sgt D.F. Small** PoW.
- 24 541 Sqn. Spitfire PR.XI MB792 lost on a photo-reconnaissance to Kiel, Germany, probably crashing in the North Sea, **WO2 R.M. Lawrence** killed (www.rafcommands.com).
- 24 #10 OTU Whitley V BD281 was making a mock attack on a bridge on an army co-operation exercise when it crashed after hitting a tree, **Sgt B.T. Scammell RAF (Nfld.)**, F/S B.P. Horrobin RNZAF, F/S P.L. Denman RAF, P/O H.D. Belsher RAF, Sgt D. Lingard RAF, WO W.J. Stevens RAF and Sgt E.H. Elgar RAF killed.
- 24 #15 AFU two Oxford I aircraft collided in England, **Sgt J.H. Brown** killed in V3955 and **Sgt D.H. Benson RCAF (USA)** killed in LX168 (www.rafcommands.com).
- 24 #6 EFTS, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, DH.82C Tiger Moth #1160 written off after a crash (R.W.R. Walker).
- 24 #14 SFTS, Aylmer, Ontario, Harvard II #2946 crashed near Corinth, Ontario, killing **LAC(P) W.C. Mawatari**. LAC Mawatari was Japanese Canadian (J.H. McQuiston), one of the few who were able to join the Air Force in spite of the internments.
- 24 #45 Transport Group, Dorval, Quebec, Ferry Command Hudson VI FK442 crashed between St. Adolphe de Howard and Otereke, Quebec, killing **Sgt E.L. Barrett**, P/O **D.M. McLennan** and Sgt P.A. Naylor RAF.

24-25 Bomber Command returned to Wuppertal with 630 bombers which bombed on accurate marking on the undamaged half of the city. Although creepback occurred and some bombers dropped on other targets the remaining half of the city was devastated with about 170 industrial buildings destroyed and about 50 more damaged, 3,000 homes destroyed and 2,500 heavily damaged. About 1,800 people on the ground were killed, and Bomber Command lost 34 bombers. Other operations included 4 Mosquitos to Duisburg, 4 bombers GARDENING in the Gironde River and 7 OTU sorties without loss (BC War Diaries).

24-25 7 Sqn. Stirling III EF392 MG-N believed lost at sea off the coast of Holland, F/S S.J. Barnes RAF killed, **F/S N.R. Morrison**, S/L J.R. Savage RAAF, WO F.J. Haines RAF, F/S G.H. Cox RAF, Sgt S.A. Errington RAF, Sgt A.A. Caley RAF and Sgt D.R. Spanton RAF missing.

24-25 7 Sqn. Lancaster III ED595 MG-Q "*Himself King*" shot down over Holland by a night fighter, W/C R.G. Barrell DSO DFC and Bar RAF, F/L F. Hilton DFC RNZAF and WO E.G. Pointer DFM RAF killed, **F/L J.A. Emery**, P/O S.G. Keatley RAF and WO J.A. Pearson DFM RAF PoW, P/O H.J. Hudson DFM RAF evaded (<http://www.lancaster-archive.com>).

- 24-25 50 Sqn. Lancaster III ED712 lost over Germany, **Sgt W. Pearson**, Sgt J.A. Brock RAAF, Sgt T.W. Page RAAF, Sgt R.H. Cookson RAF, Sgt L.L. Seal RAF killed, Sgt B. Veall RAF and Sgt T.G. Wilkinson RAF were also killed but they have no known graves.
- 24-25 51 Sqn. Halifax II JD250 MH-R shot down into the sea off Holland by a night fighter, **F/S R.E. Murdock**, F/O J.N. MacKenzie RAF and P/O A.J. Fitchett RAF killed, **F/S W. Andrews**, Sgt W. Blackie RAF, P/O C.A. Johnson RAF and Sgt R.W. Stevenson RAF missing.
- 24-25 51 Sqn. Halifax II HR783 hit by flak over the target, **Sgt C.M. Johnson**, P/O C.A. Lambert RAF, P/O J.A. Wilkins RAF, Sgt J.C. Moore RAF, Sgt P.A. Newland RAF, Sgt E. Watson RAF and Sgt G.A. Warren RAF returned to England (R. Allenby). See July 3-4, below.
- 24-25 76 Sqn. Halifax V DK166 MP-D shot down over Germany by flak, **F/L G.H. Cheetham** and Sgt G.I. Simpkin RAF killed, Sgt E. Harper RAF missing, Sgt R.H. Evans RAF, P/O J.D. Dank RAF, Sgt K.R. Newton RAF and Sgt J.M. Sweeney RAF PoW.
- 24-25 77 Sqn. Halifax II DT807 KN-R was hit by flak over the target that jammed the mid-upper turret, **F/S F.R. Polston RCAF (USA)**, P/O E.J. Canton RAF, Sgt J.W. Holmes RAF, F/O P.A. Jousse RAF, F/S L. Huxley RAF, F/S J. Myers, F/S R. Godwin and 1 crewman returned safe (R. Allenby). See October 3-4, below. On his website Mr. Allenby notes that air gunner F/S Polston had served in the US Navy before joining the RCAF.
- 24-25 77 Sqn. Halifax II JB850 KN-B was hit by flak short of the target that wounded the pilot F/S E.J. Clinch RAF and set the bomb bay on fire. The bombs were jettisoned and the fire controlled, and they flew back to land in England, F/S E.J. Clinch, **Sgt D.W. Duffton**, Sgt M. Griffiths RAF, F/S H.C. Hoyne RAF, Sgt M. Gray RAF, Sgt F.J. Gallantree RAF, Sgt A.J.W. Saxty RAF and 1 crewman (second pilot) safe (R. Allenby). See August 12-13 and September 22-23 below.
- 24-25 97 Sqn. Lancaster III LM327 OF-B lost without trace, **S/L J.P. McMillan**, F/L J.L. Moore DFC RAF, F/S R.A. Kerckhove RAF, P/O W.J. Stephen DFM RAF, F/S A. Tomlinson RAF, Sgt J.W. Darroch RAF and Sgt L.L. Davis RAF missing.
- 24-25 102 Sqn. Halifax II JB782 DY-W was lightly damaged by flak, **Sgt R.L. Collins**, **Sgt M.L. McClay**, Sgt E.T.S. Rowbottom RAF, Sgt J.K. Keele RAF, Sgt A.R. Pearce RAF, Sgt R.H. Day RAF and Sgt R.V. Wallace RAF landed back in England (R. Allenby). See August 31-September 1 below.
- 24-25 156 Sqn. Lancaster III EE127 GT-X lost without trace, **Sgt R.F. Worthington**, WO L.F.J. Brown RAAF, Sgt I.H. Bradley RAF, F/S A.V. Newall RAF, Sgt J. Malpass RAF, Sgt R. Gilbert RAF and Sgt C. Easton RAF missing.
- 24-25 166 Sqn. Wellington X HF594 AS-Q shot down over Belgium by a night fighter, **P/O R.E. Currie**, Sgt N.A.M. Cawthra RAF, Sgt F. Needham RAF, Sgt G.H. Williams RAF and P/O N.B. Touzel RAF killed. P/O Currie, Sgt Cawthra and Sgt Williams had been on a 166 Wellington that crash landed Jan. 29-30, above.
- 24-25 218 Sqn. Stirling III BF501 HA-N shot down by a night fighter over Belgium, **WO2**

J.W.D. Hoey, Sgt P.E. Collingwood RAF, Sgt R.L. Edgoose RAF, Sgt A.W. Erne RAF, Sgt T.E. Lloyd RAF, Sgt L. Thomson RAF, F/S L. de Botte RAF and F/S R.F. Garrod RAF killed.

24-25 405 Sqn. Halifax II HR816 LQ-C shot down by a night fighter on an operation to Germany, **F/S J.W. Kucinsky RCAF (USA)** and **Sgt C.W.P. Price** killed, **Sgt W. Kingsley**, Sgt P.C. Andrews RAF, Sgt G. Jones RAF, Sgt F. Bowker RAF and Sgt G.C. Tisbury RAF PoW.

24-25 419 Sqn. Halifax II JD147 VR-C was attacked by a night fighter and set on fire. The bombs were jettisoned and the aircraft turned for England. **F/O R.O.E. Goodwin** and **Sgt J.B. Johnson** died trying to extinguish the fire. Over Holland the pilot, **S/L B.N. Jost DFC**, called for the aircraft to be abandoned but he perished in the crash. F/S A.W.A. Bruce RNZAF, Sgt E.B. Pope RAF, F/S L. Barker RAF and Sgt R.E. Austin RAF PoW.

24-25 419 Sqn. Halifax II JD214 VR-U force landed in Holland after being shot up by single engined fighters, **Sgt G.V. Neale**, **Sgt R.S. McLachlan**, **Sgt W.N. Jaffray**, **Sgt D.E. Kenwell**, **Sgt W.P. McLeod**, Sgt R.A. Cleaver RAF and Sgt P.J. Griffiths RAF taken PoW.

24-25 419 Sqn. Halifax II JD248 VR-K (or -H, R. Koval) manned by a 428 Sqn. crew shot down over Holland by a night fighter, **F/O R.J.L. Fowler**, **F/S M.P. Kimber**, Sgt R. Whitfield RAF, Sgt P. Stephenson RAF, P/O W.A. Donnelly RAF, Sgt C. Gorton RAF and Sgt J.E. Dean RAF killed.

24-25 427 Sqn. Halifax V DK135 ZL-B lost over Holland and crashed into a polder, **F/O M. Shvemar** and Sgt W.G. Arthur RAF killed (R. Koval). **F/O L.W. Somers** and **Sgt J.H. Walton** were originally posted as missing but their remains were discovered in 1967, Sgt F.C. Ashby RAF remains missing. **P/O V.M. White** and Sgt L.A. Bone RAF PoW.

24-25 427 Sqn. Halifax V DK186 ZL-L "*London's Revenge / Lana Turner*" was damaged by flak, **Sgt C.L. Bernier**, **Sgt E.A. Perdue**, **P/O G.M. Thornton**, S/L C.H. Earthrowl RAF, F/O J.P.M. Greening RAF, F/O A.J.F. Clark RAF and Sgt R.N. Dobney RAF returned to England (R. Allenby). See January 20-21, 1944 and February 20-21, 1945.

24-25 429 Sqn. Wellington X HZ521 AL-W lost on an operation to Germany, **F/S C.W. Keay**, **F/S S.H. Hicks**, **F/S E.B. Peart**, **WO1 L.F. O'Leary** and Sgt J.M. Meech RAF killed (R. Koval).

24-25 429 Sqn. Wellington X LN281 AL-V, **P/O K.M. Johnston**, crashed on landing and badly damaged due to a flat tire, crew **Sgt H.W. Clarke**, **Sgt F.W.R. Frost**, **Sgt J.A.M. Lortie** and Lt J.C. Elliott USAAF safe (R. Koval, R. Allenby). See July 25-26 below.

24-25 429 Sqn. Wellington X JA111 damaged by flak over the target and was unable to bomb as the load hung up. On the return flight the crew managed to get rid of the bomb load manually and landed in England, Sgt R.A.W. Kettel RAF, Sgt A.E. Willey RAF, Sgt P.M. Vann, Sgt S.B. Tucker and Sgt W. Richardson safe (R. Allenby).

- 24-25 431 Sqn. Wellington X HF604 SE-B, P/O J.R. Valentine RAF, was attacked by night fighters 4 times, leaving the rear gunner, Sgt C. Cheesewright RAF, badly wounded. During evasive maneuvers the wireless operator WO W.H. Jewels RAF bailed out and was taken PoW after several weeks of evading (R. Koval at www.rafcommands.com; W.E. Heron; O. Clutton-Brock). The remainder of the crew returned to England, making an emergency landing. See Feb. 19-20, 1945.
- 24-25 432 Sqn. Wellington X HF572 QO-J lost over Holland, **Sgt W.A. Sparrow**, Sgt N. Goldie RAF, Sgt G. Liddle RAF, Sgt F.W.N. Trowbridge RAF and Sgt C.K. Killick RAF killed.
- 24-25 432 Sqn. Wellington X HZ518 QO-A crashed in the sea off the coast of Holland, **F/S M.R. Deverell**, **F/O J.R.G. Gingras**, **F/S J.M.C Lagace** killed, **F/S J.J.C. Mercier** and Sgt M.P. Tobin RAF missing.
- 24-25 620 Sqn. Stirling III BK800 QS-Z shot down over Germany by a night fighter, **F/O R.J. Burke**, F/S R.P. Reynolds RAF, Sgt J.D. Cresswell RAF, Sgt J. Garbutt RAF, Sgt J. Lindley RAF and Sgt P.J. Court RAF killed, F/O J.F.A. Needham RNZAF PoW.

Friday

- 25 114 Sqn. Boston crashed after an engine failure over Tunisia, **WO2 G.R. Acheson** killed, pilot Sgt A.J. Keep RAF badly injured, Sgt J. Cummings RAF and Sgt S.J.W. Poulson injured (BLME V.2). WO Acheson had had to bail out of a 114 Sqn. Blenheim Dec. 5, 1942.
- 25 126 Sqn. Spitfire IX BS557 lost on a sweep over Sicily, **F/S J.A. Leckie** missing (www.spitfires.ukf.net).
- 25 12 Sqn. Lancaster III ED968 PH-P Bar shed a wing over England and crashed on a training flight, **F/S J.S. Rennick**, **F/S P. Soluk**, Sgt H.G. Yeo RAF, Sgt C.W. Robinson RAF, Sgt M.R. Aston RAF, Sgt G.A. Hiddleston RAF and Sgt R. Sneesby RAF killed.
- 25 RAF Ferry Command, survivors **Newfoundland Ranger J.J. Hogan** and Cpl E. Butt were found at their cabin by a survey party in a boat, both alive, after 52 days on the land. Without supplies or tools beyond his knife and some matches plus some snare wire from the cabin, Ranger Hogan had trapped small game and gathered berries and other produce to keep them alive. The next day the group travelled downstream 4 miles by boat, and Ranger Hogan walked the remaining 2 miles with the survey party as they carried Cpl Butt to Hawke's Bay. They then went to Port Saunders where a Norseman aircraft with a doctor was sent from Gander to treat them (Cpl Butt lost both his big toes due to the freezing) (G.A. Pauls). Ranger John Hogan was promoted to Corporal and awarded the *King's Police and Fire Service Medal for Gallantry* for this feat. After Confederation with Canada he became a member of the RCMP and retired as a Staff Sergeant. He passed away in 1977. The *Hogan Trail* at Hawke's Bay, Newfoundland, was built and named in his honour, and the place where he landed by parachute was named 'Mount Hogan' (The Hogan Trail, home.ca.inter.net, G.A. Pauls).

- 25 #15 EFTS, Regina, Saskatchewan, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4100 crashed on landing approach, **LAC(P) A.L. Dyker** killed.
- 25 #32 EFTS, Bowden, Alberta, Cornell III #14412 crashed, LAC S. Harris RAF and F/L T.F. Procter RAF killed.
- 25 #34 OTU, Pennfield Ridge, NB, Ventura II AJ186 crashed near Falmouth, NS, while on a low-level navigation exercise, possibly due to fuel starvation, **P/O J.C. Loucks**, **P/O G.W. Cowie RNZAF**, **P/O C.A. Griffiths RNZAF** and **Sgt A.C. Mulcahy RAAF** killed (#34 OTU Roll of Honour). In 2023 a memorial was dedicated to the crew near the crash site (CBC *Summerville memorial to honour deaths of 4 Allied airmen* July 25, 2023).

25-26 Bomber Command sent 473 bombers to attack the oil facilities at Gelsenkirchen for the first time since 1941. The target was cloud covered and OBOE marking failed due to equipment failures. Dusseldorf nearby received many of the bombs dropped, and towns as far as 30 miles away suffered casualties. Thirty bombers were lost. A bright display of Aurora Borealis over cloud may have contributed to the losses (419 SH). As well 33 bombers were GARDENING off Holland and France with 1 bomber lost (BC War Diaries).

- 25-26 15 Sqn. Stirling III BK699 LS-E shot down off the Dutch coast, **F/S D.E. Campbell** killed, **P/O M.A. Chapman** twice MiD RAF, **Sgt T.E. Warbey** RAF, **P/O R.F. Pavely** DFM RAF, **F/O A. Woodward** RAF, **Sgt J. Condron** and **Sgt A.K. Smith** RAF missing.
- 25-26 51 Sqn. Halifax II JD261 MH-J shot down by a night fighter over Holland, **F/S K.R. Wood**, **F/O D.H.V. Davis** RAF, **Sgt J. Roberts** RAF, **Sgt A.H. Hawes** RAF, **F/O D.G. Howse** RAF, **Sgt A.D. McFarlane** RAF and **Sgt A.W. Fairmaner** RAF killed.
- 25-26 78 Sqn. Halifax II JB928 EY-S shot down by a night fighter over Holland, the pilot **F/O M.H. Oddie** RAF was killed but his crew, **Sgt T.L. Roberts**, **Sgt A.D. Gillespie** RAF, **Sgt A.J. Hutchinson** RAF, **P/O P. Daulby** RAF, **F/S A.J. Guy** RAF and **P/O D.W. Lusty** were taken PoW.
- 25-26 101 Sqn. Lancaster III LM318 SR-Y lost over Germany, **Sgt W.A. Bush** RAF (Can.), **Sgt H.K. Smith** RAAF, **Sgt F.L.I. Hill** RAAF, **Sgt G. Hay** RAF, **Sgt F. McLeay** RAF, **Sgt B.L. Scott** RAF and **Sgt T.D. Millns** RAF killed.
- 25-26 103 Sqn. Lancaster I W4827 PM-W lost over Holland, **P/O J.H. Addison** and **Sgt R.L. Hollywood** RAF killed, **F/L A.H. Langille**, **P/O C.E.L. Grant** RAF (Br. Guiana), **P/O C.B. Reynolds** RAF, **P/O D. Towers** RAF and **Sgt G.J. Wallis** RAF PoW. Of interest, **P/O Addison** was from Sidney, BC and **F/L Langille** was from Sydney, NS. **P/O Cy Grant** was well known in England after the war as an actor, as a Calypso singer on the BBC, and as a writer and poet. He was also the main organizer for a project that traced and remembered wartime aircrew from the Caribbean, and for the *Bomber Command Memorial* that now stands in London (<http://www.caribbeanaircrew-ww2.com/>). He passed away in 2010. See May 12-13, 1944, aircraft LW682.

- 25-26 106 Sqn. Lancaster I R5572 lost over Holland, **F/S C.H. Sinclair**, **WO2 L.F. Sparling**, Sgt J.A. Francis RAF, Sgt S. Cowgill RAF, Sgt E.W.H. Browne RAF and Sgt J.G.V. Williams RAF killed, **Sgt E.W. Davidson** PoW. This crash site has been excavated twice, the latest in Jan. 2005 by *Aircraft Research Group Achterhoek*(www.arga-nl.nl).
- 25-26 106 Sqn. Lancaster I W4256 ZN-V lost over Holland, **F/O J.E.D. Craigie**, Sgt J.F. Bates RAF, Sgt E.C. Crook RAF, Sgt G.W.B. Enright RAF, Sgt E.T. Harding RAF, Sgt S.G. White RAF, and **F/S M.B. Watt** RAAF killed.
- 25-26 106 Sqn. Lancaster III EE125 lost without trace, **F/S A.W. Dickison**, S/L A.M. Young RAF, Sgt J.R. Hayle RAF, Sgt P.E. Bevis RAF, **F/S C.L. Mallett** DFM RAF, Sgt G.H. Peel RAF and **F/O J. Bell** DFM RAF missing.
- 25-26 115 Sqn. Lancaster II DS666 KO-J lost without trace, **F/O G. Davidson**, Sgt F.L. Beeston RAF, Sgt A. Corn RAF, Sgt E. Green RAF, Sgt R.F. Rashley RAF, Sgt C.M. Sibbald RAF and Sgt A. Worsdale RAF missing.
- 25-26 196 Sqn. Wellington X HE412 shot down over Holland by a night fighter, **P/O N.B. Smythe** RAF (Jamaica), **P/O G.W. Pollard** RAF, Sgt G.H.W. Peach RAF and Sgt R.A. Barlow RAF killed, **Sgt E.H. Sandell** RAF (Can.) PoW.
- 25-26 408 Sqn. Halifax II JB858 EQ-S shot down by a night fighter over Germany, **P/O G.N. Acton**, **P/O D. Aiken**, **F/O F.C. Culbert**, **P/O J.D.B. Hunter**, **F/S J.F. Male**, **P/O B.R. Milligan** and **P/O J.H. McNess** RAF killed, Sgt R.B. Wright RAF PoW.
- 25-26 427 Sqn. Halifax V DK135 ZL-R shot down over Holland by a night fighter, the crew bailing out but **P/O G.A. Gagnon** came down in a canal and drowned, **F/O R.J. Frost**, **Sgt C.R. Page**, **Sgt J.R. Hooley**, **Sgt A.A. McKinnon**, **Sgt C.R. Munson** and Sgt K.A. Shannon RAF PoW (R. Koval).
- 25-26 427 Sqn. Halifax V DK190 ZL-F shot down by a night fighter over Holland, **P/O H.G. Froude**, **WO2 F.J. Higgins** DFM, **WO2 W. Kashmar**, **F/O G.T. Matynia**, **WO2 R.R. Stickney**, **WO2 A.K. Young** and Sgt F.J. Hunter RAF killed (R. Koval). WO Higgins had been in an accident with a #1659 HCU Halifax May 28, above.
- 25-26 427 Sqn. Halifax V DK144 ZL-U was taking off for an operation when the pilot noticed he had no brake pressure. He aborted the take-off, but swung off the runway, and collapsed the undercarriage attempting to avoid a collision, Squadron commanding officer **W/C D.H. Burnside** DFC & Bar RAF and his crew safe (R. Koval, RCAF Sqns., R. Allenby).
- 25-26 427 Sqn. Halifax V ZL-Z was damaged by flak, **Sgt H.A. Jackson**, **F/O W.E. Moyle**, **F/S G.B. Whyte**, **F/S E.A. Johnson** RAF, **F/O H.J.S. Kemley** RAF, **F/O J.W. Moore** RAF and Sgt N.J. Huxley RAF landed safe (R. Allenby, who identifies this aircraft as DK140, but W.R. Chorley notes this aircraft as written off June 16 in an accident). See September 6-7 below and July 25-26, 1944.
- 25-26 429 Sqn. Wellington X, **Sgt D.M. Smith**, attacked by a night fighter that wounded the bomb aimer **F/S D.R. Nelson** and wireless operator Sgt R.T. Abbott RAF (St. Vincent, West Indies), and set the aircraft on fire. The fire was put out by a dive and

the bomber returned to make a crash landing in England. Sgt Smith received a DFM for this sortie (R. Koval, FF Years). See July 25-26, below.

Saturday

26 413 Sqn. modified BOAC Catalina FP244/G-AGFM completes third round-trip to Australia. With the information from these three flights the operations were handed to QANTAS (RCAF Sqns.). Postwar this Catalina, now named "Altair Star", was sunk with 3 others off Australia as part of the Lend-Lease terms.

26 608 Sqn. Hudson VI FK535 lost an engine, spun, and partially recovered before crashing in Algeria, **F/O A. Drysdale, F/O H. Gulbraa**, F/S E.A.K. Dettma RAAF and F/S C.F. Beitz RAAF killed (A. Storr).

26 403 Sqn. Spitfire IX MA467 collided in cloud with Spitfire IX MA564, Squadron Commander **S/L H.C. Godefroy DFC & Bar** safe in MA467, **F/O R.D. Bowen** bailed out from MA564, and broke an arm when landing (FF Years).

26 415 Sqn. Hampden TB.I P1313 was returning from an anti-submarine patrol and force landed wheels-up on a FAA airfield when it ran out of fuel, Sgt K.T. Ashfield [RCAF?] and his crew (Sgt G.N. Brown, Sgt J.S. Buchanan and Sgt B.W. Forbes?) safe (H. Moyle; 415 SH; www.415sqn.com).

26 #1659 HCU RCAF Halifax II V9984 crashed landed after an engine failure, **F/L M.S.F. Schneider** and **P/O J.W. Richardson** safe. See July 9-10 and Oct. 8-9 below

26 #34 SFTS, Medicine Hat, Alberta, Harvard II #2718 crashed, LAC J.R. Wright RAF killed.

26-27 205 Group sent 29 bombers from Tunisia on this night, 15 to Naples while #331 Wing of 3 RCAF bomber squadrons begins operations, 14 Wellingtons from 420 and 425, attacked the airfield at Sciacca, Sicily, 1 loss (D. Parker).

26-27 425 Sqn., North Africa, Wellington X HE977 'X' missing on an operation to Sicily, **F/O R.R. Dunphy, F/S E.R. Ferris, F/O T.F. Hall, F/S C.T. Hele, WO2 R.V. Millar** missing (BLMS V.2).

26-27 425 Sqn., North Africa, Wellington X was attacked over the target by a night fighter that wounded the wireless operator, but was claimed destroyed by the rear gunner, **F/S J.P. Goyette** (FF Years).

26-27 Bomber Command sent 4 Mosquitos to Hamburg, 3 to Duisburg, 16 GARDENING and 14 OTU sorties with one loss (BC War Diaries).

26-27 418 Sqn. Mosquito, **S/L C.C. Moran** and Sgt G.V. Rogers RAF shot down an He 111 and a Ju 88 over its airfield in France, then bombed a radio transmitter before locating and damaging a train, an effort that was referenced in *The R.C.A.F. - The First Four Years*. See September 22-23, below.

26-27 432 Sqn. Wellington X HF568 QO-Y lost without trace on a GARDENING operation, **WO2 L.J. Davidson, WO1 W.W. Horn, Sgt L.G. McKenzie, F/S F.H. Schull** and **F/S G.D.W. Tate** missing.

26-27 #12 OTU Wellington III BJ965 'J' made a forced landing in England following an engine failure, **F/O F.S. Taylor** killed, Sgt W.S.H. Menzies RAF died July 2 of injuries, **Sgt W.J. Matthews**, Sgt E.J. Warren RAAF, P.O. G.M. Roberts RAF, Sgt D. Rainton and Sgt Menzies RAF injured (R. Allenby).

Sunday

- 27 255 Sqn. Beaufighter VI/V8523 flew into hills and crashed in Algeria on a delivery flight, **P/O E.W. Scroggs** killed (<https://aviation-safety.net>).
- 27 295 Sqn., Operation BEGGAR, Halifax GT.V EB135 lost in transit from England to North Africa towing a Horsa I glider LG833, believed shot down over the Bay of Biscay by long range German fighters, **P/O W.R.L. Horne**, **F/O J.A. Smith**, **WO1 M. Travale**, Sgt R.B. Minchin RAF, Sgt J. Stretton RAF and F/S C.H. West missing as well as the 3 Army crew on the Glider (possibly Staff Sgt D.S. Casselden, Sgt M.A.C. Chandler and Sgt H. Norris, all listed as missing from the Glider Pilot Regiment on this date on the CWGC website) (#38 Group Roll of Honour <http://www.raf38group.org>; Peter Clare ww2talk.com; <http://www.aircrewremembered.com/hopgood-john.html>).
- 27 143 Sqn. Beaufighter XI JL948 HO-H shot down off Holland, **F/O J.B. Mann Jr. RCAF (USA)** and his navigator Sgt G.E. Wilson RAF missing (CWGC; <https://aviation-safety.net>).
- 27 #3 B&G School, MacDonald, Manitoba, Battle I #1806 crashed and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

27-28 424 Sqn. begins operations from North Africa, as part of 13 Wellingtons #331 Wing RCAF sent to San Giovanni, Italy, part of 60 Wellington sorties sent by 205 Group on this night. One aircraft released it's 4,000 lb. bomb on take off with nobody noticing on the ground or in the aircraft, and flew it's sortie right to the target before it was discovered they had no bomb to drop (424 SH). A following 424 Sqn. Wellington HE735 struck the bomb when taking off and was destroyed (R.W.R. Walker), no casualties. 1 bomber lost from the Wing (D. Parker).

27-28 420 Sqn. Wellington X HE370 lost on an operation to Sicily, **F/O A.C. Collins**, **F/O L.C. Foster**, **P/O R.L. Leroux**, **P/O T.E.J. Tucker** and **F/O K.D. Wilson** missing (B. Barry et al).

27-28 424 Sqn. Wellington X HE735 'S' damaged beyond repair when it struck a 4,000 bomb that had dropped off the previous aircraft taking off, **P/O D. Hackett**, **Sgt N.D. MacDonald**, **Sgt D.F.G. Parker**, F/O A.H. Brook RAF and Sgt M.G. Anderson safe (R. Allenby; BLME V.2 - which states that the bomb fell off this aircraft after a tyre burst). See January 30 and May 26, 1944.

27-28 Bomber Command had 30 GARDENING aircraft off Holland, France and the Gironde River plus 4 OTU sorties with 1 loss (BC War Diaries).

- 27-28 101 Sqn. Lancaster I ED377 SR-Q shot down over France by a night fighter on the crews first operation, a GARDENING sortie. **F/O F.S. Buck**, Sgt H.T. Clarke RAF, Sgt K.B. Coulter RAF, Sgt G.W. Fuller RAF, Sgt K.W. Gadsdon RAF and Sgt K.D.S. Mordecai RAF were killed, Sgt J.N. Sparkes RAF evaded.
- 27-28 418 Sqn. Mosquito made a single engined belly landing at it's base from a night INTRUDER after hitting an obstruction in flight over France, **F/O G. Labrum** and **Sgt A.L. Smith** safe (418 SH). This flight was mentioned in *The R.C.A.F. - The First Four Years*.

Monday

28 #160 (BR) Sqn. RCAF moved from Sea Island, BC to Yarmouth, NS (RCAF Sqns.). 400 Sqn., 414 Sqn. and 430 Sqns. re-designated from Army Co-operation to Fighter Reconnaissance (FR) duties (RCAF Sqns.).

- 28 458 Sqn. RAAF Wellington TB.VIII LA993 crashed near LG-106, Egypt, after an engine caught on fire at low altitude, **WO2 D.J. Somers**, F/O D.J. Carter RAF, Sgt H.J. Ferrier RAF, Sgt F.W. Machin RAF, Sgt F. O'Neill RAF, Sgt J. Shutt RAF and Sgt H. Taylor RAF killed (www.rafcommands.com).
- 28 #22 OTU Wellington X HE643 DD-L attempted an emergency down-wind landing following an engine failure on taking off for a navigation exercise, but went out of control and crashed into two #24 OTU Whitley V aircraft (EB350 & EB352), **Sgt W.R. Barclay**, **F/S F.E. Gladwin**, **F/O P.D. Lidster** and **F/S W.G. Mitchell** killed, Sgt L. Hirst RAF injured.
- 28 #31 Bombing & Gunnery School, Picton, Ontario, Anson II #7207 crashed, Sgt R.C. Brown RAF and Sgt W.C. Rodger RAF killed.
- 28 #111 OTU Nassau, Bahamas, Mitchell II FR382 'DD' aircraft lost over the ocean, a damaged life raft and an oil slick found by searching aircraft (E. Wiberg), **Sgt A.J. Beaulieu**, **Sgt C.E. Ogren**, **P/O W.L. Stinson**, **Sgt T. Wallace**, Sgt C.L.H. Snart RAF, Sgt J.B. Keayes RAAF and Sgt A.W. Torrens RAAF missing (A. Storr).

28-29 205 Group, Tunisia, sent 76 aircraft to attack the ferry terminal and rail yards at Messina in Sicily, 4 lost (D. Parker).

- 28-29 424 Sqn. Wellington X HE272 'F', lost without trace attacking Messina, Sicily, **WO1 H.E. Mayer**, **F/O L.R. Nussbaum**, **F/S W.R. Roberts**, F/O K. Marsland RAF and Sgt A.C. Whiteman RAF missing (R.W.R. Walker; BLME V.2).
- 28-29 424 Sqn. Wellington X HE273 QB-B, missng attacking Messina, Sicily, **F/S L.A. Ferguson**, **P/O P.J.H. McManus**, Sgt J. Canning RAF, F/O W.H.J. Pickard RAF and Sgt S.D. Rollinson RAF missing (R.W.R. Walker; BLME V.2).
- 28-29 425 Sqn. Wellington X MS492 'F' was returning from an operation to Messina, Sicily and ditched out of fuel off Sfax, Tunisia, **WO2 F.G. Maher** missing, **F/O D.C. Fairley**, **WO1 J.N. Junker**, **Sgt D.K. McMillan** and **Sgt V.A. Saunders** were rescued by a USN craft after 11 hours (BLME V.2).

28-29 Bomber Command sent 608 aircraft to attack Cologne. The operation was staged despite a mixed weather forecast and only 6 of 12 OBOE markers were able to mark the target, which turned out to be obscured by cloud, and the markers were late, but this was the most damaging attack Cologne would sustain during the war with 43 factories, 6 military facilities and over 6,300 other buildings destroyed, and some 15,000 damaged. On the ground over 4,300 residents had been killed, far higher than any previous bombing attack. In addition an estimated 10,000 people were injured and 230,000 rendered homeless. Twenty five bombers were lost, which may have been in part due to a intense Aurora Borealis display over the cloud base that illuminated the bombers. Other operations included 4 Mosquitos to Hamburg and 6 Stirlings doing GARDENING on the Gironde River without loss (BC War Diaries).

- 28-29 10 Sqn. Halifax II DT783 ZA-Q shot down over Holland by a night fighter, **F/S H. Erickson, F/S P.L. Rakoczy RCAF (USA), F/S J.G. Sweeney**, Sgt A. Bailey RAF, Sgt H. Pape RAF, P/O S. Peate RAF and F/O H.H. Pearson RAF killed.
- 28-29 12 Sqn. Lancaster III EE195 GZ-B believed lost off the Dutch coast, **F/O H.C. Treherne, F/S M.P. Noble RAF (Rhod.), S/L F.J. Knight RAF, Sgt E.F. Lawrence RAF, Sgt F.D. Ayerst RAF, F/S F. Birkin RAF and Sgt J.R. Boxall RAF** killed.
- 28-29 12 Sqn. Lancaster III EE199 PH-U crashed just after taking off on an operation, **Sgt C.N. Roy**, Sgt G.W. Addinsall RAAF, Sgt L.F. Jefferies RAF, Sgt J. Irwin RAF, P/O E.B. Oldham RAF, Sgt W.T. Seward RAF and Sgt J.A.M. Seaton RAF safe. See July 9-10, below.
- 28-29 35 Sqn. Halifax II HR812 TL-F shot down by a night fighter over Belgium, **Sgt L.E. Carey**, P/O G.T. Beveridge RAF, Sgt F.C. Compton DFM RAF and Sgt W. Hughes RAF killed, Sgt S.K. Gordon-Powell RAF, Sgt N.C. Billett RAF and Sgt R.J. Taylor RAF PoW. Sgt Gordon-Powell first evaded before capture, and then made several escape attempts before succeeding in 1945 (Linzee www.rafcommands.com).
- 28-29 35 Sqn. Halifax II HR850 TL-A shot down over the target by flak, pilot **F/L N.A. Cobb DFC** killed but his crew **P/O C.H. Bulloch DFM, F/S W.P. Trask DFM, F/O L. Whiteley RAF, Sgt R.H. Baldwin DFM RAF, F/O D.A. Codd RAF, F/O M.A. Sachs RAF and F/S J.E.S. Matthews DFM RAF** PoW.
- 28-29 51 Sqn. Halifax II HR839 LK-L shot down over Belgium by a night fighter, **WO2 A.E. Vidal**, P/O J.P. Tay RAF, Sgt A. Smith RAF, Sgt A.C. Redshaw RAF, P/O J.L.R. Houlston DFM RAF and Sgt W.C. Butler RAF killed, P/O T.H. Popley RAF PoW, Sgt D.R.G. Eldridge RAF evaded.
- 28-29 51 Sqn. Halifax II HR749 MH-J hit by flak short of the target but finished the bomb run, **Sgt J.J.R.T. Godin, P/O W. Inverarity**, F/O T.W.A. Hutton RAF, F/O W.H.L.S. Way RAF, F/O P. Barber RAF, Sgt D.R. Perrin RAF, Sgt R.J. Child RAF and Sgt D.J.E. Price returned to England (R. Allenby). See July 29-30, 1944.
- 28-29 76 Sqn. Halifax V DK150 MP-E lost over Germany, **Sgt J.C.R. James**, Sgt D. Coles RAF, Sgt R.J. McAulay RAF, P/O K.E. Moon RAF, P/O H.W. Chester RAF, Sgt L.J.

- Glover-Price RAF and Sgt R.B. Twitchen RAF killed.
- 28-29 76 Sqn. Halifax V DK151 MP-K was attacked by a night fighter that wounded the navigator Sgt J.C. McDougall RAF, before being driven off. The sortie was abandoned and the bomber returned to England, Sgt McDougall was taken to hospital, **Sgt J.E. Cameron**, Sgt W.P. Ward RAF, P/O P. Carling RAF, Sgt G.R. Elks RAF, F/O E. Hyett RAF and Sgt J.E.H. Morton RAF safe (R. Allenby). See August 27-28, below.
- 28-29 78 Sqn. Halifax II JB907 lost over Holland, believed to have been shot down by a night fighter, **F/S R.W. Townsend**, Sgt P.W.J. Rendle RAAF, Sgt L. Howarth RAF, Sgt G.J. Samuel RAF, Sgt C.A. Morris RAF, Sgt T.I.L. Dagg RAF and Sgt F. Hill RAF killed.
- 28-29 100 Sqn. Lancaster I ED362 HW-K shot down by a night fighter over Holland, **F/S R.D.W. Moulton**, **P/O P.J. Pascoe**, Sgt H.H. Gentle RAF, Sgt J. Reffin RAF, Sgt F. Wheeldon RAF and P/O C.B. Wood RAF killed, Sgt R.G. Storr RAF PoW.
- 28-29 102 Sqn. Halifax II JB894 DY-X damaged by flak, **Sgt C.G. Dupueis**, Sgt R.G. Amos RAF, Sgt B.P. Dowthwaite RAF, Sgt J.R. Fradley RAF, Sgt D.H. Brown RAF, Sgt E.J. Williams (RAF?) and Sgt W.H.J. Smith RAF landed in England (R. Allenby). See January 20-21, 1944.
- 28-29 149 Sqn. Stirling III BF483 OJ-C lost without trace, **Sgt R.J. Cockshott RAF (Can.)**, F/S A.B. Parton RNZAF, F/O R.J. Peattie RNZAF, F/S T.T.R-A-H. Tomoana RNZAF, Sgt R.K. Scott RAF, Sgt J. Douglas RAF and Sgt R.A. Cooper RAF missing.
- 28-29 149 Sqn. Stirling III BK703 OJ-K shot down by a night fighter over Holland, **F/S C.V. Howden**, F/O W.R. Booker RAF, Sgt K. Broadhurst RAF, Sgt D.W.B. Channing RAF, Sgt R. Franklin RAF, Sgt A.D. Hall RAF and Sgt C.D. Herbert RAF killed.
- 28-29 207 Sqn. Lancaster I ED569 EM-B lost over Holland, **F/O P.C.D. Russell**, Sgt W.W.R. Cook RAF, Sgt J.T. Lloyd RAF, Sgt A.W. Richardson RAF, Sgt D. Scragg RAF, Sgt V.H.J. Watkins RAF and F/O F.E. Fielding RAF killed.
- 28-29 419 Sqn. Halifax II JD215 VR-B shot down by a night fighter over Holland, **F/O D.R. Agnew**, **F/O H.W. Fowler AFM**, **F/S W.A. Hood**, **F/O W.B. Mayes RCAF (USA)**, **F/S W.G. Otterholm**, **F/L A.C. Raine** and Sgt J.E. Dickson RAF killed. F/L Raine was the Squadron Signals Leader.
- 28-29 427 Sqn. Halifax V EB148 ZL-S was attacked and damaged over Holland and forced to turn back to England after jettisoning its bomb load (R. Koval). It crashed in England soon after crossing the coast, **P/O W.E.P. Soeder** and **F/S W. Newcombe** were injured, **F/L V.F. Ganderton**, **Sgt F.B. Carleton**, Sgt J. Morrison RAF, Sgt K. Hignett RAF and Sgt F.J. Thompson RAF safe. See March 30-31, 1944.
- 28-29 427 Sqn. Halifax V DK184 XL-G (ZL-G?), F/L C. Tubman, was hit by flak and damaged in a wing and bomb doors, but landed safely in England (R. Koval). See August 23-24, below.
- 28-29 427 Sqn. Halifax V DK189 coded SL-D (ZL-D?), **P/O D.M. Arnot**, was attacked by a single engined fighter that damaged the hydraulics, flaps, controls and radios. They continued to the target where they found the bomb load could not be dropped or

jettisoned due to damage. They managed to return safely to England (R. Koval, FF Years). See January 21-22, 1945.

28-29 429 Sqn. Wellington X HE350 damaged by flak over the target, **Sgt L.E. Ford**, **Sgt L.S. Lafoy**, **Sgt J.S. Stokes**, **Sgt M.F. Tupper** and **Sgt F.H. Turcotte** landed back in England (R. Allenby).

28-29 429 Sqn. Wellington X HE992, **P/O J.W. Astbury**, **Sgt H.A. Floren**, **Sgt H. (Gamberg?)**, **Sgt N. Johnston** and **Sgt N. Leone** returned with minor damage (R. Allenby). See July 3, below.

28-29 431 Sqn. Wellington X HE443 SE-O lost over Germany, F/S J. Parker RAF, Sgt G.M. Hacker RAF, F/O C.H. Ashworth RAF, Sgt R.H. Willshire RAF and Sgt D.P. Kelly RAF killed.

28-29 467 Sqn. RAAF Lancaster I ED363 PO-E shot down over Holland by a night fighter, **WO2 T.W.J. Copeland**, Sgt G.R.S. Cayless RAF, Sgt H.H. Mooney RAF and Sgt J.G. Hole RAF killed, Sgt R.I. Gates RAAF missing, Sgt E. Pike RAF and Sgt B.H. Dolby RAF PoW.

28-29 619 Sqn. Lancaster III ED979 shot down over Holland by a night fighter, **F/S J.H.W. Walker**, Sgt T.P. Murphy RAF, Sgt J. Adsetts RAF, P/O E. Harper RAF, P/O A. Mackay RAF, Sgt N.E. Rivers RAF and Sgt R.A. Grace RAF killed.

28-29 #23 OTU Wellington III BK408 was abandoned over England on a BULLSEYE sortie after an engine failure, **Sgt W.P. Loring**, **Sgt D.H.D. Grover**, **Sgt G. Svearson**, **Sgt J.E.J. Page**, Sgt R.A. Hanks RAF and Lt D.G. Scoular (Army?) safe. See March 26, 1944.

Tuesday

29 A meeting of the British Defence Committee reviews all known information about the rocket research station at Peenemünde and recommends that it be attacked heavily by Bomber Command at the earliest opportunity. As it is beyond OBOE range for marking it is proposed to attack during a moonlight period to assist in making an accurate attack. Until then no further Photo Reconnaissance flights over Peenemünde are to be flown to avoid alerting the Germans (wikipedia). See July 15, below.

29 143 Sqn. Spitfire Vc AR560 shot down by flak NE of Corniso, Sicily killing **P/O G.P. Bray**.

29 416 Sqn. Spitfire Vb spun and crashed from very low level when landing, **Sgt W.H. Palmer** injured (416 SH).

29 #22 OTU Wellington III X3888 dragged a wingtip into the sea on a low firing exercise and crashed, **F/O R.F. Ready** killed, Sgt J.H. Cartlidge RAF and 3 crew injured.

29 #56 OTU Canadian built Hurricane X AG171 dove into the ground killing P/O P.S. Gates RAF (H. Welting and AL90 at www.rafcommands.com).

29 #59 OTU Hurricane P3715 crashed in England, **WO2 D.M. Flack** killed.

29 #1659 HCU RCAF Halifax II DT553 lost an engine on take-off from RCAF Station

Topcliffe and could not gain flying speed. It crashed 2 miles off the runway, P/O R.E. Nutter and Sgt R. Crookes RAF were killed, F/L D.J. Corcoran injured, P/O D.E. Larlee, P/O L.C.E. Webley, Sgt Venier RAF and Sgt Holdsworth RAF safe (R. Allenby). See also Aug. 31-Sept. 1, below and May 8-9, 1944.

- 29 #5 SFTS, Brantford, Ontario, Anson II #11415 crashed near Glenmorris, Ontario, possibly due to structural failure, killing LAC(P) W.A. McIntosh, LAC(P) D.G. McQueen and P/O G.H. Ross.
- 29 #9 Repair Depot, St. Jean, Quebec, LAC C.R. Butters died in hospital in Quebec City from post-operative complications (www.rafcommands.com). LAC Butters had been injured by a propeller Jan. 10, 1943.
- 29 #34 EFTS, Assiniboia, Saskatchewan, Sgt S.W.G. Hill RAF died, no details (B. Barry et al).

29-30 205 Group attack Messina for the second night (FF Years).

29-30 425 Sqn. Wellington X MS496 'Q' lost in Mediterranean on an operation to Messina, Sicily, F/S J.P.E. Balderston, F/O R.B. Brown, F/S J.S.D. Caulderwood, Sgt S.J. McIlrath and Sgt J.H. Muir RAF missing (BLME V.2).

29-30 407 Sqn. Leigh Light Wellington XII 2-S, S/L R.Y. Tyrell RAF and crew, on patrol over the Bay of Biscay intercepted by 5 German long range fighters. The crew managed to fight them off, claiming 1 destroyed by tail gunner Sgt R.W. Johnson (407 SH, FF Years).

29-30 407 Sqn. Leigh Light Wellington XII MP754 2-H lost without trace over the Bay of Biscay on an anti-submarine patrol, WO2 B.W. Gavin, F/O C.C. Hebden, WO1 N.C.G. Luther, WO2 P.I. McLaughlin, WO2 R.N. McLean and F/O E.L. Shuttleworth missing.

Wednesday

30 One year after the successful Italian flight from Europe to Japan the completed Tachikawa A-26 Long Range aircraft leaves Tokyo for Singapore on it's first attempt to fly to Germany (T. Gywnn-Jones). See July 7, below.

US forces make a series of landings around New Georgia in the Solomons to bring the Japanese airfield at Munda Point under artillery fire, followed by landings a few days later on New Georgia to advance to the heavily defended airstrip (E. Hammel). See August 6, below.

#132 (F) Sqn. moves from Tofino to Boundary Bay, BC. #133 (F) Sqn. moves from Boundary Bay to Tofino (RCAF Sqns.).

- 30 162 Sqn. Wellington Ic T2878 'A' had an engine failure on a communications flight in Libya, and caught fire on landing, F/O J.W. Mathers, F/S J. Hughes RAF, Sgt J. Jarvis RAF, Sgt B. Keeble RAF and F/S R. Seidel RAF safe (BLME V.2).

- 30 #1 ADU (Air Delivery Unit) Hudson VI FK618 crashed at Khartoum, Sudan, **WO1 J.E. Sendall**, Sgt C.M. Adams RAF, Sgt G.S. Antrobus RAF, Captain M.F. Attwell BOAC, Sgt A.L. Carruthers RAF, F/O J.I. Douglas RAF, Sgt J.S. Eason RAF, F/S P. Misiag PAF, F/O C.St.J. Nichols RAF, F/S C.G. Pay RAF, F/O G.R. Pinkney RAF, F/S H. Ross RAF, Sgt V. Wade RAF, F/L J.J. Wojciechowski PAF, F/S A. Wright RAF and F/S G.J. Yule RAF, were killed (J. Larder & H. Welting www.rafcommands.com).
- 30 3 Sqn. Typhoon Ib EJ961 QO-H shot down by flak off France on an ROADSTEAD, **F/O R.M.H. Purdon** killed.
- 30 400 Sqn. Mustang I aircraft flown by **F/O F.E. Hanton** and **F/O A.S. Collins** on a morning RHUBARB discovered 14 locomotives and attacked 10 of them (FF Years).
- 30 414 Sqn. Mustang I aircraft, **F/O R.T. Hutchinson** and **F/O G.W. Burroughs** flew a RHUBARB in the Pas de Calais that attacked 5 locomotives (FF Years).
- 30 430 Sqn. Mustang I flown by **F/L P. Bissky** and **F/O J.A. Lowndes** on a RHUBARB found no trains or aircraft on airfields to attack, so they attacked railway sheds, an electrical pylon and an army truck, then a train they found on their exit, followed by a barge towing tugboat on the Seine River and a second small engine and finally a power sub-station before returning to England (FF Years).
- 30 430 Sqn. Mustang I AM196 flew into the water evading a fighter attack off France on a RHUBARB, killing **F/O R.G. McKessock**. He was one of two on this sortie which had attacked 3 locomotives, **F/L N.S. Clarke** returned safely (FF Years).
- 30 #2 Training Command, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4302 damaged and written off, no details (R.W.R. Walker).
- 30 #7 B&G School, Paulson, Manitoba, cook **LAW Sarah Josephine Foran** died in hospital in Winnipeg of natural causes following an operation (www.wwiicdnwomensproject.org).
- 30 #31 GRS, Charlottetown, PEI, LAC N. Yaffe RAF died, hit by a propellor.
- 30 unknown unit, **Cpl A. Laughland** died in hospital in Edmonton, Alberta of natural causes.

31 *Fictitious date used for the Bomber Command attack described in Len Deighton's novel "Bomber".*

June 30 - July 1 205 Group Wellingtons attack Cagliari in Sardinia (FF Years).

July 1943

410 Sqn. begins to receive Mosquito FB.VI aircraft (RCAF Sqns.). 426 Sqn. begins to re-equip with Hercules powered Lancaster II aircraft (RCAF Sqns.). 431 Sqn. begins to re-equip with Halifax B.V aircraft (RCAF Sqns.). #11 (BR) Sqn. RCAF begins to receive Liberator aircraft (RCAF Sqns.).

A request to Canada from the Soviet government for the supply of 7.5 tons of Uranium ore from the Eldorado Mine is turned down by the Federal Government (www.schudak.de).

By this month Canadian Red Cross Parcels for PoWs in Europe were being shipped at a rate of 80,000 per week. Half of this was going to general distribution to any PoW, while the rest were being sent specifically to Canadian and Australian servicemen held prisoner in Europe (O. Clutton-Brock). Prisoners held by Japan did not receive these parcels due to Japans policies.

Thursday

1 #149 (TB) Sqn. re-designated Bomber Reconnaissance, and begins to re-equip with Ventura GR.V aircraft (RCAF Sqns.).

In the Soviet Union some 18,500 aircraft have been built, and 4,300 provided by the USA, Britain and Canada under Lend-Lease and CMA since the beginning of the war with Germany. Losses of 17,700 in the same period have allowed the Russian Air Forces to build up to a combat strength of 8,300. From now on Lend-Lease aircraft would be useful, but not critical, for Soviet air power (Oxford).

Romanian General Antonescu meets with Mussolini and proposes Italy, Hungary and Romania could act together to withdraw from the war. Together they could face Hitler and force this unilaterally. Mussolini, however, hesitates (D. Sommerville).

- 1 414 Sqn. Mustang Is flown by **F/O R.T. Hutchinson** and **F/O G.W. Burroughs** were on a RHUBARB but ran out of cloud. Returning they found and attacked a locomotive and power lines (FF Years).
- 1 416 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BL655 "*Hurlingham*" spun out of cloud and crashed in England, **F/O N.A. Watt** killed. F/O Watt had been injured March 28, above. In 1989 the wreckage of this fighter, a presentation aircraft sponsored by the British Patriotic Fund in Argentina, was re-located and excavated, and a portion is now on display in a museum in England.
- 1 430 Sqn. Mustang Is, **F/L P. Bissky** and **F/O R.B. Moore** on a photo reconnaissance over the Cherbourg peninsula shot up an electrical pylon (FF Years).
- 1 #3 Flying Instructor School RAF Oxford X6858 crashed in England, **F/L W.W. Colledge DFC** and **F/L K. Munro DFC** and **Bar RAAF** killed. F/L Colledge had survived the loss of a #10 OTU Whitley P5004 June 25, 1942.
- 1 #126 (F) Sqn. RCAF Hurricane XII #5692 was seen to crash into Fatham Harbour, NS, **Sgt G.T. Prassus** killed.
- 1 #34 EFTS, Assiniboia, Saskatchewan, Cornell I FH976 stalled and spun from a low

climbing turn doing unauthorized low flying and crashed near Willows, Saskatchewan, LAC C.W. Taylor RAF and Sgt R.J. Vizor RAF killed (R.W.R. Walker).

- 1 USAAF C-64B (Norseman) 42-53521 damaged in a take off accident at Fort Fitzgerald, Alberta (AAIR). R.S. Grant notes that this aircraft become lost in smoke from forest fires enroute from a weather station to Fort Smith, NWT, and landed on the Slave River after several hours in the air. It was damaged when it struck a mud-bar, and the pilot, J. Jensen (USAAF) headed the aircraft towards the shore. Passing under some trees his flight engineer E.E. LeClerc (USAAF?) attempted to grab them from the top of the wing but was knocked into the river by the momentum of the aircraft and the current, and drowned. The pilot and aircraft were found by a freight tug and barges a few hours later and towed to Fort Fitzgerald.
- 1 350th Sub Depot USAAF, Colorado Springs, Canadian built F-8 43-34927 (Mosquito B.VII KB316) damaged taking off, pilot Lt B.K.Moyers USAAF safe, aircraft used for ground instruction (aviation-safety.net).

1-2 205 Group, Tunisia, sent 50 bombers to Palermo, Sicily and Cagliari, Sardinia without loss (D. Parker).

Friday

- 2 185 Sqn. Spitfire IX EN404 missing on operations south of Sicily, **WO1 J. Lowry** missing.
- 2 620 Sqn. Stirling I EF394 was in a mid-air collision with another 620 Squadron Stirling III BK724 QS-Y over Chedburgh, England, while on a fighter affiliation exercise. **F/S R.E. Atkinson**, Sgt W.M. Coopey RAF, Sgt R.W. Hewitt RAF, Sgt D.M. Thomson RAF, Sgt R.H. Richards RAF, Sgt R.G. Lancelott RAF, LAC H. Rooney RAF and AC1 T.A. McLoughlin RAF were killed on EF394, and on BK724 **F/S T. Corless** RAF, Sgt R.C. Young RAF, Sgt G.L. Turville RAF, Sgt W. Shearer RAF, LAC C.S. Forster RAF, LAC J.A. MacDonald RAF and AC1 A. Haigh RAF were killed, Sgt J. McCanlish RAF injured, Sgt F. Waite RAF and Sgt K. Halstead were safe.
- 2 #23 OTU Wellington III X3366 crashed on take off due to a burst tire, **P/O J.G. White** and **F/O J.H. Emmerson** RAF safe. See March 30-31, 1944.
- 2 #29 OTU Wellington III X3801 flew into rising ground in foggy conditions after being diverted to another airfield, **F/S W.R. Willard**, **F/S J.H.G. Kirby** RAF, **F/O D. Lister** RAF and Sgt C.F.A. Rivers RAF killed, 1 crew injured.
- 2 #29 OTU Wellington III BK437 crashed attempting to land at a diversion airfield due to fog, **Sgt J.H. Elliott**, Sgt E.P. Shorten RAAF, **P/O N. Harland** RAF, Sgt A.C. Croft RAF and Sgt F.C. Butler RAF injured.
- 2 RCAF Station Flight Rockcliffe, Anson II #7158 and #10 EFTS, Pendleton, Ontario, DH.82C Tiger Moth #8971 crashed near Pendleton after a mid-air collision, killing **WO2 J.M. Brownie** and **F/O D. Harker** in the Anson, and **F/S V.A.J. Poulin** and **Sgt**

R.F. Shattock in the Tiger Moth.

- 2 #5 Manning Depot, Lachine, Quebec aero engine mechanic AC2 H.B. Whitman died in hospital in Quebec City of natural causes (www.rafcommands.com).
- 2 USAAF 25th Ferry Sqn. B-25D 41-30562 belly landed at Edmonton, Alberta (AAIR).
- 2 USAAF 90th Ferry Sqn. P-39Q 42-19871 crashed at Squanga Lake, Yukon, after an engine failure, pilot John W. Gaines bailed out (AAIR).

2-3 205 Group attacked Olbia in Sardinia, 1 RCAF Wellington ditched off Tunisia, crew rescued (FF Years).

- 2-3 425 Sqn. Wellington X HE970 'C' became lost returning from an operation to Sardinia and ditched off Sfax, Tunisia, Sgt M. Ball and Sgt J.S.J. Denis badly injured, Sgt J.D. Little, Sgt J.C. Morris and Sgt H.N. Osmond were slightly injured (BLME V.2).

2-3 Bomber Command had 5 Mosquitos bombing German cities and 32 GARDENING sorties, no losses (BC War Diaries).

- 2-3 429 Sqn. Wellington X HE992 was landing from a GARDENING sortie off Brest where it had evaded searchlights and flak. On landing a tire burst and the aircraft lost its undercarriage, P/O J.W. Astbury, Sgt H.A. Floren, Sgt H. Gamberg, Sgt N. Johnston and Sgt N. Leone safe (R. Allenby). See January 14-15, 1944.

Saturday

3 #10 (BR) Sqn. RCAF Liberator #587 'B' attacks U-420 in Atlantic with a "Z-Bomb" (acoustic torpedo), seriously damaging it so that it had to return to Europe for repairs (R.W.R. Walker). See Oct. 26, below.

- 3 21 Sqn. SAAF Baltimore III AG877 'J' shot down by fighters off Sicily and Favignana Island after being hit by flak, one of 4 of a group of 12 attacking the airfield at Trapani-Milo, P/O C.L. Cleland, WO1 J.E. Morrison and Lt. A.G.T. Oakes SAAF missing, Lt T. Sachs SAAF was wounded and PoW, later found in hospital by US forces (BLME V.2).
- 3 USAAF 381st Bomb Sqn., B-25C 42-32422 ditched in the Mediterranean off Sardinia after being hit by flak, Flight Officer H.A. Houghtaling USAAF (Can.) and 4 USAAF airmen, 1Lt G. Anderson, SSgt J. Gawron, Sgt R.L. Turville and SSgt W.J. Van Kosky missing/killed (B. Barry et al [states lost 1944], <http://usaafdata.com>, <http://57thbombwing.com>).
- 3 #19 OTU Whitley LA877 'W' crashed in Scotland on a bombing practice flight, Sgt K.P. Gemmel, F/S D.J. Gillies, Sgt D.C. Hunt RAF, Sgt E.A. Deacon RAF and Sgt R.N. Cowie RAF killed.

3-4 205 Group, Tunisia, sent 35 Wellingtons to Trapani, Sicily and 25 to Cagliari, Sardinia, but bad weather forced both groups to attack Trapani. 3 NICKEL sorties were also sent over Rome by 420 Sqn. (D. Parker, FF Years).

- 3-4 420 Sqn. Wellington X HE259, Sgt Mason, had to return early from a NICKEL

operation (D. Parker).

3-4 420 Sqn. Wellington X HZ571 force landed out of fuel in Tunisia returning from a NICKEL sortie over Rome, not repaired, S/L J.P. McCarthy and his crew Sgt R. Griffiths, P/O A.F. Hemsley, F/O R.D. Long and P/O J.K. Staunton (RCAF or RAF?) safe (BLME V.2).

3-4 Bomber Command returned to Cologne with a force of 653 bombers to attack the undamaged part of the city, making an accurate attack on well placed OBOE markers with Pathfinder backers-up which destroyed 20 factories, as well as 2,200 homes. On the ground nearly 600 were killed, 1,000 injured and 72,000 were rendered homeless. Thirty bombers were lost from this force. Other operations included 4 Mosquitos to Duisburg and 4 to Hamburg, plus 16 Stirlings GARDENING off the Frisian Islands, 2 Stirlings were lost (BC War Diaries).

This night also saw a new tactic introduced by the Luftwaffe as a counter to the sudden effectiveness of the RAF bomber campaign. German night fighter defences had been developed into structured continuous lines of "boxes", equipped with radar, each of which could control a night fighter assigned to it. A bomber flying into the box would be detected and the night fighter steered to the point where it could "see" the bomber on it's own radar, or visually, at which point it would make it's attack. A bomber stream was designed to overwhelm this "line defence" by providing too many targets in a short period of time for the ground controllers to attack them all. To counter this roving fighter tactics were being developed. One of these was Wilde Sau, or Wild Boar, using bomber pilots already trained in night flying and navigation, flying single engined Bf 109 or Fw 190 fighters. On the ground visual and radio navigation beacons were established to assist the ground control to guide the fighters to the bomber stream. The fighters would orbit a specified beacon while the ground controllers analyzed the attack and gave updated directions to the Wilde Sau aircraft in a "running commentary" to direct them to the targeted city. Flak defences over cities being attacked were then instructed to restrict the height they could set their shells to explode, above that Wilde Sau fighters would attack bombers outlined by searchlights or fires.

The first operational use of these tactics was over Cologne on this night where they reported great success, claiming 12 bombers destroyed. However the city flak units also claimed 12 bombers, and there were only 12 wrecks found in the area (BC War Diaries)! For more detail on Luftwaffe tactics see J. Svejgaard. His site also includes many useful diagrams that help explain the evolving tactics of the bombing campaign and the German defences.

- 3-4 9 Sqn. Lancaster III ED689 WS-K crashed into the Rhine River, **WO2 G.F. Dohaney** and Sgt A.F. Backler RAF killed, **F/O J.B. Reeves RCAF (USA)**, F/L J.A. Wakefield DFC RAF, Sgt T.G. Porter RAF, Sgt J.E. Owen RAF, Sgt H.J. Hawkridge RAF and Sgt H.L. Wilson RAF missing.
- 3-4 12 Sqn. Lancaster I W4958 PH-B lost on an operation over Germany, **F/S S.E. Eversfield** and Sgt L.S. Capp RAF killed, Sgt N.E. Hill RAF, Sgt J.E. Foy RAF, Sgt S. Whitelock RAF, Sgt S. Barham RAF and Sgt L.H. Everton RAF missing, Sgt C.W. Young RAF PoW (H. Welting www.rafcommands.com).
- 3-4 12 Sqn. Lancaster III ED820 PH-A shot down over Belgium by a night fighter, **F/S M.E. Combres**, **F/O A.R. Herron**, Sgt D.R. Baird RAF, Sgt A.L. Baseley RAF, Sgt T.E. Edmondson RAF and Sgt M.L. Green RAF killed, Sgt H. Williams RAF PoW.
- 3-4 15 Sqn. Stirling III BF579 LS-V shot down by a night fighter on a GARDENING sortie, Sgt J. Eccles RAF was found and buried at sea, **F/S J.A. Davie**, **F/S V.H. Shea**, Sgt J. Hall RAF, Sgt J.J. Close RAF, Sgt F.A. Dalton RAF and Sgt W.H. Dickinson RAF missing.
- 3-4 15 Sqn. Stirling III BK648 LS-J lost over Germany, **F/L L.W. Hunt**, Sgt G.W. Barber RAF, Sgt C.L. Chalker RAF, F/S H.C. Dillingham RAF, Sgt D.O. Humphries RAF, Sgt R.H. Warrell RAF, Sgt M.L.C. Criswick RAF and Sgt S.W. Munn RAF killed.
- 3-4 51 Sqn. Halifax II HR783 was hit in a wing tank by flak but bombed the target and returned to England despite the fuel loss, **Sgt C.M. Johnson**, P/O C.A. Lambert RAF, P/O J.A. Wilkins RAF, Sgt L.J. Collop RAF, Sgt P.A. Newland RAF, Sgt E. Watson RAF and Sgt G.A. Warren RAF safe (R. Allenby). See July 27-28, below.
- 3-4 51 Sqn. Halifax II HR838 was struck by flak just before bombing that cracked the windshield, **Sgt W.J. Crozier**, Sgt A.F. Gregory RAF, Sgt H. Gardner RAF, Sgt D. Rowbotham RAF, Sgt S.J. Passey RAF, Sgt S.T. Pitt RAF and Sgt T. Brownless RAF returned to England (R. Allenby). See August 2-3 and August 10-11, below.
- 3-4 78 Sqn. Halifax II JD203 EY-Z was heavily damaged over the target in Germany and the crew was ordered to bail out when they reached England before the pilot and flight engineer made a forced landing. The bomber was written off, but **P/O J.G.R. Castle**, **F/S L.A. Mallory**, S/L P. Bunclark DFC DFM RAF, F/S E.F.C. Matthews RAF, Sgt J.S. Moore RAF, Sgt K.T. Dixon RAF and F/L D. Bradford DFC RAF were all safe. See Aug. 23-24, below.
- 3-4 102 Sqn. Halifax II BB428 DY-Q lost over Germany, **F/O R. Hodgeson**, F/S R.G. Jenkins RAF, Sgt A.E. Garlick RAF, Sgt J. Peck RAF and Sgt W. McConnell RAF killed, Sgt J. Galloway RAF and Sgt L.C. Watson RAF PoW.
- 3-4 149 Sqn. Stirling III BF530 OJ-B shot down by a night fighter over Belgium, P/O G.A. Cozens DFM RAF, Sgt R.F. Hathaway RAF, Sgt P. Hodgkinson RAF, F/O E.G. Redman DFC RAF, Sgt W.J. Williams RAF and P/O L.W. Curtis RAF killed, **F/O J.J. Needham RCAF (USA)** PoW and **F/S R.A. Hodge RNZAF** evaded. F/S Hodge was married to a Canadian. While he was evading in Occupied Europe his wife received a telegram that he was missing, believed killed. See March 17, 1944.

- 3-4 158 Sqn. Halifax II HR734 NP-P shot down over Belgium by a night fighter, **Sgt C.W. Preston**, Sgt E.D.C. MacKintosh RAF, Sgt F.H. Walton RAF and Sgt D. Lock RAF killed, Sgt C.E.H. Carey RAF, Sgt J. Redman RAF and Sgt V.G.A. Moss RAF PoW.
- 3-4 166 Sqn. Wellington X HF595 AS-Y lost over Belgium, **F/S W.H. Pym**, S/L A.A. Cookson RAF, F/S J.C. Clark DFM RAF, F/S W. Scarlett DFM RAF, P/O R.S. Rich RAF killed.
- 3-4 214 Sqn. Stirling III EE882 BU-J lost without trace on a GARDENING sortie, possibly shot down by a night fighter, **F/S A.R. Dixon**, Sgt R.G. Armsworth RAF, Sgt A.L. Warren RAF, Sgt F.E. Pilkington RAF, Sgt R. Mailey RAF, Sgt H.A. Clark RAF, and Sgt F.W. Morrell missing.
- 3-4 405 Sqn. Halifax II HR813 LQ-H lost over Belgium, **P/O J. Rankin Jr. RCAF (USA)** killed, **P/O F.W. Frudd**, **Sgt G.K. Harrison**, **Sgt H.A.M. Clee**, **P/O R.B. Smith (RAF (Can.)?)**, **P/O L.M. Anderson** and **P/O J.I. Anderson** PoW (O. Clutton-Brock).
- 3-4 405 Sqn. Halifax II, Sgt J.A. Phillips RAF, was attacked by a single engined fighter near the target that jammed the elevators, but was driven off by the tail gunner, **Sgt L.D. Kohnke**. They continued to the target but were unable bomb as the bomb bay doors were unable to open due to further damage. Despite these handicaps Sgt Phillips managed to return to a safe landing in England where he was awarded a DFM (FF Years, H.A. Halliday). See August 2-3, below.
- 3-4 408 Sqn. Halifax II JB796 EQ-C lost over France, **F/O A.B. Foster**, **F/S R.M. Hicks**, **P/O A.E. Kelly**, **Sgt A.R. Warnick**, Sgt T. Riley RAF, P/O J.C.M. Taylor RAF killed, **Sgt P.E. Cote** PoW.
- 3-4 408 Sqn. Halifax II JB913 EQ-F shot down over Belgium by a night fighter, **Sgt T.N. Brown**, **Sgt R.H. Speller**, F/O V.W.G. Foster RAF, F/O T. Lowery RAF and Sgt R. Evans RAF PoW, **Sgt E.B. Dungey** and **Sgt A.T. Bowlby** evaded.
- 3-4 408 Sqn. Halifax II JD174 EQ-A was damaged in one wingtip by flak over the target, **Sgt B.D. Boynton**, **Sgt H.L. Grayson**, **F/O J.E. Marier**, **F/L H.T. Miles DFC**, **Sgt S.C. Shepherd**, **F/O D.B. Young** and Sgt P.M. Hughes RAF returned to England (R. Allenby). See July 9-10 below.
- 3-4 408 Sqn. Halifax II was hit by gun fire from another Halifax and slightly damaged, **P/O H.B. Lancaster**, **Sgt J.H.C. McClung**, **Sgt G.V.V. Reid**, **Sgt J.J. Stefanчук**, Sgt F.G. Leahy RAF, Sgt J.W. Sturgess RAF and Sgt W.R. Bryans RAF landed safe (R. Allenby). See June 9-10, below.
- 3-4 419 Sqn. Halifax II JD159 VR-Y attacked by Bf 109 aircraft over Belgium, damaged and set on fire, with two injured on board, the crew was ordered to bail out by the the pilot, **P/O A.H. Bell**, who tried to land the aircraft with the wounded but was unsuccessful. He died in the crash with **F/S J.A. Anderson** and **P/O W.B. Taylor**, the others, **Sgt J.D.H. Arseneault**, **F/S R.O. Williston**, **F/S G.E. Aitken**, Sgt A.S. Simpson RAF and Sgt J.F. Graham RAF were PoW.
- 3-4 429 Sqn. Wellington X LN296 AL-P shot down by a night fighter over Belgium, **F/S J.P. Bishop**, **F/L F.A. Reynolds**, F/L R.H. Brinton RAF, Sgt P.G. Rothera RAF and F/S

- E.C. Blackman RAF killed (R. Koval).
- 3-4 429 Sqn. Wellington X HE992 was heading outbound when a fire broke out onboard. The crew, **Sgt R.B.J. Pierce RCAF (Eire)**, Sgt J.E. Pendleton RAF, P/O D. Collins RAF, F/O G. Jarvis RAF and Sgt R.C. White RAF put out the fire and returned to their base early (R. Allenby). See August 30-31 below.
- 3-4 429 Sqn. Wellington X JA111 was attacked and had it's astrodome damaged by night fighters, **Sgt T.B. Fjeldsted**, **Sgt F.W.B.G. Hingston**, F/S J.C. Lochhead RAF, Sgt R.A. Impey RAF and Sgt R. Goatham returned safe (R. Allenby). See August 2-3, below.
- 3-4 431 Sqn. Wellington X LN284 SE-Q shot down by a night fighter over Germany, P/O A.McL. Penman RAF, Sgt N.H. Apperley RAF, Sgt V.G.Trew RAF and Sgt G.A. Lilley RAF killed, **F/O R.C. Sutherland** PoW. This was the last Wellington lost by 431 Sqn. before they converted to Halifax aircraft.
- 3-4 432 Sqn. Wellington X HE630 QO-B ran out of fuel returning from a sortie and crashed in England, hitting a house, **P/O J.W. Baker**, **F/S G.E. Lewis RCAF (USA)** and Sgt J. Holmes RAF killed, P/O E.W. Bovard RAF and Sgt D.K. Ryan RAF injured.
- 3-4 432 Sqn. Wellington X HF493 QO-C hit by flak over Europe and damaged. The bomb aimer, **Sgt A. Dabous**, bailed out and was taken PoW (R. Koval). The aircraft managed to return to England but was unable to land due to fog and was abandoned, **Sgt J.D. Bell**, **Sgt R.C. Burgess**, Sgt W. Calderwood RAF and Sgt J.D. Rufford RAF safe (R. Allenby). See September 24, below.
- 3-4 432 Sqn. Wellington X HZ481 QO-W shot down over Belgium, **WO2 P.K. Chambers RCAF (USA)**, **WO2 B.H. Garoutte RCAF (USA)**, **WO2 L.H.A. McCormick**, **F/S R.F. Moore**, **F/S B.L. Owen** killed. All this crew had been slightly injured April 16-17 in the crash landing a Wellington. WO2 Chambers had previously had to force land a #1659 HCU Halifax Dec. 3, 1943.
- 3-4 432 Sqn. Wellington X LN285 QO-K lost over France, **F/S W.E. Armstrong**, **F/O G.R. Bousfield**, **F/S D.A. Hogg**, **P/O W.H. Taylor** and Sgt F.B. Jackson RAF killed.
- 3-4 432 Sqn. Wellington X HF494 QO-S hit by flak, **S/L W.A. McKay**, **Sgt P.J. Power** and possibly, **Sgt L.F. Cook**, F/O R.(?)A. Watts and F/O J. Bennett landed back in England (R. Allenby). See September 27-28 and November 16 below.

Sunday

4 511 Sqn. Liberator II (LB-30) AL523 crashes on take-off from Gibraltar, General Sikorski, Premier of Poland, one of those killed (CJCA headline).

U-boats sink 3 ships with Canadian soldiers enroute to the invasion of Sicily with the loss of 58 men. As well some 500 vehicles and many artillery pieces are lost, which will hamper the mobility of the Canadian Army after the landing (www.schudak.de).

#126 Fighter Wing RCAF formed as part of the 2nd TAF, with 401 Sqn., 411 Sqn. & 412 Sqn. (D. Nijboer).

Final day of operations over Kiska by #111 (F) Sqn. (440 SH).

- 4 18 Sqn. Boston III Z2205 'J' shot down over its target in Sicily, **F/O E.K. Campbell**, F/S S.T. Dobson RNZAF and Sgt J. McClean RAF killed, **F/O A.E. Hannah** PoW (BLME V.2).
- 4 223 Sqn. Baltimore IIIa FA190 damaged by flak over it's target in Sicily and force landed in Tunisia, **WO2 A.J.C. Mower**, Sgt R.H. Gardener RAF, F/S D.R. Sibley RAF and F/S P.H. Walker RAF safe (BLME V.2).
- 4 404 Sqn. Beaufighter IXc JM133 EE-K 'K for Katie' lost escorting a torpedo attack off Norway, **P/O J.M.G. Lalonde** and **F/O J.R. Rumbel RCAF (USA)** missing (404 SH, FF Years).
- 4 411 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AD802 shot down over France on a RAMROD, **F/O J.R. Spaetzel** killed.
- 4 411 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BM422 damaged in combat with German Fighters on a RAMROD to France, **Sgt D.H. Stewart** injured.
- 4 USAAF 351st Sqn., 100th BG(H), USAAF, B-17F 42-30051 "Nevada Wildcat" shot down by fighters after losing 2 engines over the target, Capt. R.C. Pearson and his crew bailed out, 9 PoW, 1 evaded. Capt. Pearson had joined the RCAF and completed a tour in England before returning to Canada as an instructor, where he transferred to the USAAF (MPFaley www.rafcommands.com).
- 4 #9 OTU Beaufighter TF.X JM223 flew into a hill in bad weather in Scotland, **F/O H. Carver Jr. RCAF (USA)** and F/O R.A. Sedgley RAF killed (aviation-safety.net).
- 4 #18 AFU Oxford DF300 caught fire in the air, **Sgt R.K. De Marsch** bailed out and safe (www.aviationarchaeology.org.uk).
- 4 #26 OTU Wellington X HE337 was landing from a night flight when it overshot the runway and caught fire, **Sgt J. Gibson**, **Sgt H. Bennis**, Sgt R.J. Donald RAF and Sgt J.E. Maddox RAF injured.
- 4 #56 OTU Hurricane V7081 collided in formation with another Hurricane and crashed, **F/O L.F. Le Chien** killed.
- 4 #1659 HCU Halifax II W1092 ground looped on taking off when a tyre burst and was written off, **F/S R. Stewart** and Sgt L. Pitt RAF safe.
- 4 #9 RD, St. Jean, Quebec, aero engine mechanic **LAC H.E. Gray** died in hospital of complications from an operation (www.rafcommands.com).
- 4 #31 OTU, Debert, NS, Hudson with a crew of 1 RAF, 1 RAAF and 2 RCAF sights and attacks a U-boat, which they claim as damaged, the only known attack by this training unit (I. Wikene).
- 4 unknown unit, **AC2 J.T. Brodie** died in a car accident in Canada (www.rafcommands.com).

4-5 205 Group, Tunisia, send 60 Wellingtons to bomb Catania harbour in Sicily and the airfield at Villacidro, Sardinia, to disrupt attacks on Allied convoys moving towards Sicily. The weather interfered with both operations. One 420 Wellington X MS478 was destroyed on the ground by a fire (D. Parker; BLME V.2).

Monday

5 Originally planned for April, the long postponed German offensive on the Kursk Salient begins, the largest tank battle of the war. German forces north and south of the Kursk Salient, separated by 100 miles, attacked in an attempt to "pinch" it off and surround the Russian soldiers there. Over 2,000,000 men, 6,000 tanks and armoured vehicles, and 5,000 aircraft have been positioned for this operation by the German and Soviet forces. Both sides knew the offensive was coming and the Russian Army had been preparing a series, or layers, of defensive positions to meet it, a defence in depth. The attack had been delayed by Hitler to allow greater use of the new Panther tank (a new design based on the Soviet T-34) (D. Sommerville) although the German commanders relied on the heavy Tiger tank (whose thick armour could not be penetrated by the Soviet anti-tank shells) to lead the break-through (A. Beevor).

Warned of the timing of the attack by a prisoner the air offensive opens in the early morning with a mass pre-emptive attack by Soviets on German airfields using dive bombers and ground attack aircraft (Passingham & Klepacki). Soviet artillery shelled the forming up areas of the German attack, disrupting it and causing heavy casualties (D. Newton). This begins one of the largest air battles of the war, with several thousand aircraft fighting over the battle zones as each side tried to gain air superiority (A. Beevor; C. Bergström).

The bulk of the Soviet airmen were newly trained, many making their first combat sortie on this day, and they suffered very heavy losses. This was forced on their leaders due to the need to provide cover their ground forces from the Luftwaffe (C. Bergström). See July 6, below.

403 Sqn. becomes part of #127 Wing RCAF.

- 5 2 Sqn. Mustang I AG611 was on a shipping reconnaissance off the coast of Holland when it was intercepted by German fighters. The aircraft returned to England but crashed attempting to land, **F/O W.R. Butt RAF (Nfld.)** killed.
- 5 #10 OTU Whitley V BD359 'X' lost on a patrol over the Bay of Biscay, **Sgt L.G. Stewart**, **F/S K.R. Clarke RAAF**, **Sgt N. Allen RAF**, **Sgt H.J.J. Neve RAF** and **F/O J.F. Newman RAF** killed, **Sgt E.W. White RAF** missing. This loss is profiled by G.

Saouzanet.

- 5 #1665 HCU Stirling I BF339 'G' swung on taking off and hit a vehicle and buildings before coming to rest, **Sgt N.F. Cook**, F/O L.G. Kennett RAF, Sgt S.L. McGarrigle RAF, P/O H.T. Ramsden RAF and Sgt G.J. Line RAF injured, P/O Cubby RAF and Sgt Sanders RAF safe.
- 5 #3 Training Command DH.82C Tiger Moth #4134 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).
- 5 #7 EFTS, Windsor, Ontario, DH.82C Tiger Moth #3977 damaged beyond repair (R.W.R. Walker).
- 5 #11 SFTS, Yorkton, Saskatchewan two Crane I aircraft on separate night navigation exercises collided in mid air and crashed near Mehan, Saskatchewan, killing **LAC(P) R.T. Creber** in Crane #4000 and **LAC(P) J. Zora** in Crane #7742.
- 5 #35 SFTS, North Battleford, Saskatchewan, Oxford I AT460 crashed, Sgt L.S. Hodgkins RAF and LAC T. Robinson RAF killed.

5-6 Through the night, as on most nights through the Kursk battle, Soviet heavy bombers attacked the German formations, while light biplanes kept up harassing attacks on transportation, supply, artillery and front line positions. The Luftwaffe copied these tactics, but never in large numbers (C. Bergström).

205 Group, Tunisia, sent 60 Wellingtons to attack the airfield complex at Gerbini, Sicily, over a 4 hour period. The weather was bad and only half the force was able to identify and bomb their targets (D. Parker). One Wellington lost.

- 5-6 40 Sqn. Wellington X HE793 'Y' shot down over Sicily, **WO2 M.G. Petz RCAF (USA)**, Sgt W. Dench RAF, P/O R.J. Herbert RAF, F/O H.E. Kessock-Philip RAF and Sgt J. Richardson RAF (CWGC; BLME V.2)

5-6 Bomber Command had only minor operations on this night, 4 Mosquitos to Cologne, 4 more to Hamburg, 34 GARDENING and 18 OTU sorties, 2 bombers lost (BC War Diaries).

- 5-6 466 Sqn. RAAF Wellington X HF601 lost off the French coast on a GARDENING operation, **P/O A.M. Long**, W/C J.J. Owen MiD RAF, F/O E.H. Swain RAF and P/O J.F. Ray RAF killed, F/O F. Darbyshire RAF (attached from 196 Sqn.), missing. P/O Long, F/O Swain, P/O Ray and F/O Darbyshire had bailed out of a 196 Sqn. Wellington April 16-17, above.

Tuesday

6 The heavy fighting on either side of the Kursk Salient continues, where German forces struggle to make a breakthrough unaware that successive Soviet defensive lines have been built up for miles to the rear. Heavy rain in the region limits air support at times (D. Sommerville). The heavy air battles

continued as each side supported it's ground forces with attacks on tanks and infantry, with varying degrees of success. Daily analysis of tactics by Soviet air forces was reported and made available to pilots which resulted in improvements of tactics each day (C. Bergström). As well the Soviets stubborn defence on the ground holds up the German infantry, leaving them unable to support successful armour penetrations (A. Beevor). When engaged in attack, however, use by the Luftwaffe of new antipersonnel cluster bombs decimates Russian infantry support, leaving their armour vulnerable to anti-tank attacks (C. Bergström). See August 7-8, 1944.

240 IAP pilot Ivan Kovhedub, having spent 2 years as a flight instructor, claimed his first victory on the Kursk front on this day flying an La-5, the first of 62 victories which made him the highest scoring Allied fighter pilot of the war.

In the Indian Ocean east of Durban, South Africa, the Canadian freighter Jasper Park with general cargo out of Calcutta was sunk by torpedo and shelling by U-177, the first Canadian Park ship lost in the war (RCN Chronology; www.uboa.net). See May 7, 1945.

Discussions in New York and later in Ottawa between Canadian Government and US General Groves, in charge of the Manhattan Project, clears the tangle of US Army's demand for uranium oxide, allowing some for research in the Montreal TUBE ALLOYS Lab.

- 6 424 Sqn. Wellington X HE971 QB-G aircraft which had just been bombed up and fuelled for an operation suddenly burst into flames and had it's bomb load explode at it's dispersal in Tunisia. A second Wellington HZ371 QB-E was caught in the rain of debris and also caught fire. Squadron personnel rushed to put out the flames and aero engine mechanic **LAC Snelling** started a third undamaged Wellington and taxied it clear of the area, while flight engineer **F/O Doehler** and air frame mechanic **Sgt Campbell** brought out a fourth. The second aircraft also blew up before the fire was brought under control, aero engine mechanic **LAC N.L. Bardgett** killed, **LAC H.J. Allen** and **LAC D.A. Whyte** and two others, **Sgt W.E. Kelso** and **LAC R. Takvor**, seriously injured (424 SH; BLME V.2). See July 7, below.
- 6 415 Sqn. Hampden I GX-T, F/S H.R. Clasper RAF, attacked by a Ju 88 while on an anti-submarine patrol but returned (H.A. Halliday www.rafcommands.com). Crew possibly Sgt D.J. Cartridge, Sgt M.L. Parker and Sgt A.D. Donald (<http://www.415sqn.com/HamptonCrews/Crews.htm>).
- 6 #22 OTU Wellington III HF629 was taking off when the automatic mixture controls failed and an engine cut, pilot **F/S J.L. Sills** raised the undercarriage to prevent the aircraft running off the airfield and it was written off. See Sept. 6-7 below.
- 6 #34 SFTS, Medicine Hat, Alberta, Harvard IIb FE916 crashed, LAC J.R. Allen RNZAF

killed.

6 #36 SFTS, Penhold, Alberta, Oxford II #1515 written off after a crash (R.W.R. Walker).

6-7 #331 Wing provided 16 RCAF bombers to a force of over 60 Wellingtons sent to various targets on this night (D. Parker).

6-7 142 Sqn. Wellington X HE760 QT-N shot down on operations over Sicily, **WO2 C.H. Pratt**, Sgt T. Armstrong RAF, Sgt B.D.C. Cox RAF, Sgt M.H. Galt RAF, and Sgt J.E. Potts RAF missing (<http://www.aviationarchaeology.org.uk>; BLME V.2). WO2 Pratt had been injured May 17-18, 1942 in the crash of a #19 OTU Whitley.

6-7 #331 Wing RCAF Wellington X, **F/L J.C.H. DeLisle**, was hit by flak on the run in to it's target, the airfield at Catania, Sicily, but completed it's bomb run and returned safely with the bomb bay doors jammed open and both main tires flat (FF Years).

6-7 Bomber Command had 7 Mosquito bombers over German cities and 36 GARDENING sorties off French Biscay ports, 1 loss (BC War Diaries).

6-7 429 Sqn. Wellington X HF600 was on a GARDENING sortie off Brest when it was hit by flak from a ship that damaged it's bomb bay doors and hydraulics, but returned with it's mines as they could not find their release point, **Sgt J.S. Jakeman**, **F/O J.W. Kerr**, **F/O I.F. MacIntosh**, **F/L B.F.N. Rawson** and F/S J. Smith RAF landed safe. R. Allenby has a brief history of F/L Rawson who became the youngest Wing Commander in the RCAF at 21, but tragically took his own life after the war, on his website at <http://www.yorkshire-aircraft.co.uk/aircraft/yorkshire/york43/hf600.html>.

6-7 429 Sqn. Wellington X HE991 made three runs before dropping it's mines on a GARDENING sortie, during which it was damaged by marine flak, Sgt G. Clark RAF, F/O H.F. Blackman RAF, Sgt G.R. Evans RAF, Sgt W.I. Stables RAF and Sgt A. Morgan RAF returned safe (R. Allenby). See January 2-3 and February 19-20, 1944.

6-7 #30 OTU Wellington X HE238 'U' crashed in England on a BULLSEYE operation, **Sgt V.C. Cummins**, **F/O A. Beare RAF (Can.)**, Sgt G.D. Barker RAF, Sgt J.I. Middleton RAF (India), Sgt J.E. Ratcliffe RAF and 2Lt T.E. Fenwick Royal Artillery killed.

Wednesday

7 Leaving Singapore for Germany the Long Range Tachikawa A-26 aircraft disappears over the Indian Ocean, probably shot down by an RAF fighter (T. Gywnn-Jones). See July 2, 1944.

On the Kursk Salient the southern force of attacking German panzers was having the greatest success. To counter this the reserve force of the Soviet Army, which had been built up to the rear under strict camouflage orders to prevent its detection by aircraft, is moved forward in support under heavy aerial protection. Over the battle zones the aerial fighting is continuing, but despite heavy losses the Russian air forces are beginning to achieve air superiority

due to their greater numbers, their implementation of improved tactics and the Luftwaffe's shortage of aviation fuel (A. Beevor; C. Bergström).

- 7 424 Sqn., #331 Wing, aero engine mechanics LAC H.J. Allen and LAC D.A. Whyte died of injuries sustained in the ground explosion of a Wellington X the day before.
- 7 #2 Wireless School, Calgary, Alberta, Fort #3608 damaged beyond repair (R.W.R. Walker).
- 7 USAAF 7th Ferry Sqn. P-39Q 42-19909 belly landed at Whitehorse, Yukon (AAIR).

7-8 #331 Wing provided 27 Wellingtons which bombed the harbour at Catania in Sicily as part of the nights operations (D. Parker).

- 7-8 70 Sqn. Wellington X HF752 'U' lost in the Mediterranean on a sortie to Sicily, WO2 J.L. McGill, F/S L.L. Bernthal RAF, Sgt D.H. Cockram RAF, Sgt R. Hobby RAF and Sgt K.V. Pike RAF missing (BLME V.2).

Thursday

8 The battle of the Kursk Salient continues, the German panzer crews are exhausted and are using methamphetamine pills to continue to function (A. Beevor). These were also widely used by Luftwaffe pilots as well (wikipedia). This was common throughout the war in the German forces. Allied soldiers were also issued drugs during the war to stay awake, benzedrine, known widely as 'pep pills', but their use was not as widespread.

Off Norway the Home Fleet sails a large force off the coast as part of a deception to distract attention away from the invasion of Sicily, but the ships go unnoticed (D. Sommerville).

Sir Harry Oakes, who had developed the gold discoveries at Kirkland Lake, Ontario, found murdered in his home in the Bahamas, a crime that remains unsolved (wikipedia).

- 8 261 Sqn. Hurricane missing from an escort for Vengeance dive-bombers in Burma, WO K.A. Galloway missing. The force landed aircraft was located the next day and destroyed by air attack. WO Galloway evaded and walked back to Allied lines July 15 (C. Shores; COL BRUGGY at www.rafcommands.com). See July 26, 1944.
- 8 16 Sqn. SAAF Beaufort II AW287 'T' lost in the Mediterranean, P/O O.J. Thorpe, Lt. B.H. Erasmus SAAF, WO1 P. Human SAAF and Capt. P.W.H. Truter SAAF missing (R. Hayward; www.rafcommands.com).
- 8 18 Sqn. Boston III AL751 'W' shot down into the sea off Sicily, F/S W.F. Enman, P/O C.G. Baker DFC RNZAF, F/S H.F. Palmer RAF and F/O F. Perkins RAF missing (BLME V.2).
- 8 210 Sqn. Catalina Ib FP131 'G', F/L D.H. Clark, made 2 attacks on U-boats on a patrol of over 14 hours, one was thought sunk but was only damaged (H. Halliday, F.

Williston and Ragnar J. Ragnarsson at www.rafcommands.com). See February 7, 1944.

- 8 400 Sqn. Mustang Is flown by **F/O F.E. Hanton** and **F/O J.M. Robb** on a RHUBARB attacked 8 locomotives and shot down a Fi 156 (FF Years).
- 8 #5 B&G School, Dafoe, Saskatchewan, **P/O D.A. Colvin**, LAC W.W. Dorrell RAF and LAC J.G.R. Harries RAF were killed in Bolingbroke IV.T #10071 when it turned too tight, struck the towed target's drogue line, and crashed near the base.
- 8 #32 SFTS, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Oxford I AS625 crashed, **F/O B. Blatny** DFM RAF (Czech.) and LAC S. Maly RAF (Czech.) killed.
- 8 #32 SFTS, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Oxford II AS229 crashed, LAC A.C. Channon RAF and **P/O G.M. Urwin** RAF killed.
- 8 #35 SFTS, North Battleford, Saskatchewan, Oxford I AS552 crashed, Sgt N.I. Mellor RAF and Sgt F.J.B. Rawlings RAF killed.

8-9 205 Group in Tunisia sent 30 Wellingtons (26 from #331 Wing) to harass the Gerbini airfield complex in Sicily. They dropped flares to identify their target, which was defended by heavy flak and night fighters. Only 21 crews claimed to have attacked through cloud and ground haze (D. Parker).

Cologne was again the target of Bomber Command which sent 288 bombers there using OBOE skymarking for a successful attack. Seven bombers were lost. Other operations included 8 Mosquitos to Duisburg, 46 GARDENING and 27 OTU sorties, 1 minelayer lost (BC War Diaries).

- 8-9 49 Sqn. Lancaster III ED663 shot down by a night fighter over Belgium, **F/S M. Barrett**, **F/S R.E. Labrie**, **P/O W.S. Ashworth** RAF, **P/O D.R. Fullager** RAF, **P/O S.C. Eyles** RAF, Sgt D.W. Neal RAF and Sgt G.G. Shepherd RAF killed.
- 8-9 57 Sqn. Lancaster III ED947 DX-G lost over Belgium, **Sgt H. Dewar**, Sgt H.C. Lewis RAF, Sgt J.S. Yeeles RAF, Sgt J.R. Twigg RAF, Sgt W.H. Bailey RAF, Sgt J.A. Hodgson RAF and Sgt J.G. Stevenson RAF PoW.
- 8-9 101 Sqn. Lancaster III ED697 SR-V lost over the sea, **Sgt J.W. Johnson** RCAF (USA), **F/L R.C. Fleming** RAAF, Sgt A.A. Sharman RAF, Sgt F.W.A. Powell RAF, Sgt J.G. Barrett RAF (Australia), Sgt S.R. Conneff RAF and Sgt D.A. Stevenson RAF missing.
- 8-9 106 Sqn. Lancaster I R5573 ZN-B lost over Belgium, believed to have been shot down by a night fighter, **F/S K.H. McLean**, **F/S D.H. McLeod**, Sgt R.C. Barrett RAF, Sgt S. Leigh RAF, Sgt R.E.L. Muir RAF, Sgt L.R. Johnson RAAF and Sgt E. Hannell RAF killed.
- 8-9 106 Sqn. Lancaster I ED360 crashed in England on an operation to Germany. According to TSGNO the aircraft came down due to an engine fire and crashed with it's bomb load on board. **F/S K.W. Murphy**, Sgt J.S. Johns RAF and Sgt C. Sim RAF killed, **F/S A.G. Bristow** RAF and Sgt W. Worthington RAF missing, Sgt F.

Scattergood RAF and Sgt L.J. Hazell RAF survived, injured. This aircraft had been involved in a fatality Jan. 15-16, above.

- 8-9 106 Sqn. Lancaster III ED720 ZN-R shot down over France by a night fighter, **F/S J.R. Calder**, **F/S D.A. Turner**, Sgt E.W.J. Amor RAF, Sgt W. Bailey RAF, Sgt J. Hougham RAF, P/O G.F. Disbury RAF and 1LT E.L. Rosner USAAF killed, Sgt F.H. Smooker RAF PoW. Lt. Rosner was making his first flight as a USAAF officer having just transferred from the RCAF (jossleclercq at www.rafcommands.com).

Friday

9 The German armoured and air attacks in the fighting of the Kursk Salient continue to advance in the south, but slowly as the Soviet forces continue to defend their positions one defensive line at a time. On the northern edge German attacks have been held (C. Bergström).

- 9 11 Sqn. Blenheim IV N6183 was shot down on a bombing operation in Burma, **Sgt G. Rowan**, Sgt M.K. Smith RAF and F/S G.F. Regan RAAF have no known grave (A. Storr, C. Shores).
- 9 210 Sqn. Catalina Ib FP155 'F' was shot down off Portugal attacking U-642 on an anti-submarine patrol from Gibraltar, **F/O R.L. Hunter** and Sgt L.E. Yarnell RAF missing. Eight crew, F/L D.M. Ryan RAF (Argentina), F/S J. Dawson RAF, F/S A.C. Martin DFM RAF, Sgt J.I. McCrone RAF, Sgt R.W. Cooper RAF, Sgt E.S. Aldenton RAF, Sgt R.W. Aubrey RAF and Sgt L.J. Doyle RAF boarded their life rafts. They were picked up July 13th by an RN frigate and were landed at Casablanca (uboat.net, archive.pooleflyingboats.com, F/S Dawson's account of this loss and rescue can be found at <http://www.aircrew-saltire.org/lib204.htm>).
- 9 #1659 HCU RCAF Halifax II BB208 crashed taking off with the control locks in place, **F/O F.A. Pope**, **P/O K.G. House**, **P/O A.H. Durnin**, Sgt E. Fahy RAF and Sgt J.D. Clarke RAF injured, Sgt Schmidt RAF and Sgt McLean RAF safe. See July 28-29, 1944.
- 9 #145 (BR) Sqn. RCAF Hudson #762 was landing with a failed engine and overshot the runway at Charlottetown, PEI. The aircraft crashed and burned outside of the airport boundary killing **F/L J.R. Hastie**.
- 9 unknown unit, AC1 S.E. Somerville RAF and LAC S. Walker RAF accidentally drowned in North America, no details. B. Barry et al states that LAC Walker was a member of #38 SFTS, Estevan, Saskatchewan
- 9 #31 SFTS, Kingston, Ontario, Harvard IIb FE297 crashed, P/O F.A. Piercy RNZAF killed.

9-10 205 Group in Tunisia flew a "Maximum Effort" of 99 Wellingtons as part of Operation HUSKY, the invasion of Sicily. These operations, with MANDREL support, concentrated on the harbours of Syracuse and Catania. At Syracuse the bombing was done in conjunction with a bombardment from warships

*and was practically unopposed. A 420 Sqn. Wellington X flown by **P/O V. Ardis** made a special, low level attack on the railway station and barracks with a 4,000 lb. 'Cookie', while another 420 Sqn. Wellington X HE965, **Sgt Wingham**, was part of the MANDREL screen of six #331 Wing Wellingtons (FF Years; D. Parker). The attack on Catania was from higher altitude and successful (D. Parker). Two bombers were lost.*

Operation HUSKY, Transport aircraft begin dropping airborne troops and gliders in Sicily. High winds affect the attack. US airborne units (whose training focuses on small independent units causing widespread disruption behind invasion areas) are badly dispersed, while British airborne units (who trained to attack specified targets in larger, organized units) made more concentrated landings. However glider units suffer badly, most being released too early and a third of these and many parachute dropped soldiers coming down in the sea and drowning due to the wind. This badly affects the number of planned targets seized, and it is fortunate the defences are manned by Italian soldiers, most German units in the region are positioned to defend Sardinia after a successful Allied deception plan has convinced Hitler this was the next target (D. Sommerville).

- 9-10 USAAF 330th BS, 93rd BG(H), B-24D 42-40627 'Big Job' lost from mission and was abandoned over the Desert, 5 crew missing including **Flight Officer W.W. McKelvey USAAF (Can.)**, and 5 crew rescued 9 days later (www.usaafdata; www.joebaugher.com). He is commemorated in Tunisia.
- 9-10 37 Sqn. Wellington X HE756 shot down dropping flares for a bomber attack in Sicily, **F/O C.M. (Flash) Tweedle**, Sgt K.T.R. Lucas RAAF, P/O W.L. Ball RAF, Sgt T. Kerr RAF, Sgt J.D. Lammin RAF and Sgt J. Williams RAF missing (A. Storr; diary of Sgt S.S. Jerram RNZAF, quoted by his son RobJ on www.rafcommands.com).
- 9-10 424 Sqn. Wellington X HE513 'A' was tasked with creating a MANDREL screen for the invasion and ran out of fuel on return and crashed in Tunisia, **P/O G.B. Leddy** and his crew F/S F.H. Buss, Sgt J.A. Kellner, P/O W.K. MacGregor and Sgt A. Rudd (RCAF or RAF?) safe (BLME V.2).

9-10 Bomber Command sent a force of 418 aircraft to Gelsenkirchen but OBOE marking failed completely. Nearby Bochum and Wattenscheid received more bombs than the target and 13 bombers were lost. Other operations were 4 Mosquitos to Nordstern in Norway, and 18 GARDENING sorties without loss (BC War Diaries).

(Nordstern was a German model city, naval port and fortress being constructed for permanent occupation by German military units to ensure control of the local area after Germany had won the war. It was the prototype of a planned series of similar fortified locations that were to be built along the Atlantic coast from

the Arctic through Norway, England, France, Spain and along the shores of Africa to the Congo, designed to defend Germany from the United States as it created German colonies in Eastern Europe and Africa. Hitler had a scale model of Nordstern which he used to describe his plans to visitors. During the war Nordstern was primarily operational as a U-boat base. Today it is abandoned (wikipedia.)

In England a German bomber attacked the town of East Grinstead, and made a direct hit on the movie theatre there. Casualties were high, 108 killed and 235 injured. Over a third of those killed were children, and most of the town was affected (www.theargus.co.uk, R. Donovan). East Grinstead was the location of the RAF and RCAF hospitals treating air force burn victims, and the towns people, already heavily involved in assisting injured and disfigured airmen in their recovery, increased their efforts after the bombing (wikipedia). It became known as "The town that never stared" to the Guinea Pigs.

- 9-10 9 Sqn. Lancaster III ED480 WS-U "Uncle" was hit by flak over the target and abandoned over France, Sgt S.G. Blunden RAF and Sgt L.G. Warner RAF PoW, **Sgt J.D. Duncan**, **Sgt D.B. McMillan**, F/S H.T. Brown RAF, Sgt G. Bartley RAF and Sgt S. Hughes RAF evaded (<http://www.lancaster-archive.com>).
- 9-10 12 Sqn. Lancaster III DV164 PH-W lost over Germany in the target area, **F/S C.N. Roy**, Sgt C.J.P. Meyer RAF (France), Sgt G.W. Addinsall RAAF, Sgt J.L. Jeffries RAF, Sgt J. Irwin RAF, P/O E.B. Oldham RAF and Sgt L.R. Vincent RAF killed. F/S Roy, Sgt Addinsall, Sgt Irwin and Sgt Oldham had come through a crash June 28-29, above.
- 9-10 51 Sqn. Halifax II HR843 MH-A was suddenly hit by flak returning from an operation and went into a spin. **Sgt J.G. McDonald** and Sgt C.G. Street RAF bailed out and became PoW before the pilot, Sgt J.V.F. Foulston RAF, regained control. The aircraft eventually crash landed in England near where London's Gatwick Airport is now, Sgt Foulston, Sgt J.S. Moore RAF, Sgt H. Spalding RAF, Sgt N.A. Chappell RAF and Sgt B.B. Collings RAF safe. Sgt Foulston was awarded an immediate DFM for returning his crew to safety.
- 9-10 51 Sqn. Halifax II HR859 was damaged in an engine by flak but completed its bomb run, **P/O W.R. Clow**, **P/O J. Grudzien**, P/O W.J. MacPherson RAF, P/O A.T. Ellis RAF, Sgt R.V. Payne RAF, P/O C.A.H. Silvester RAF, P/O F.S. Moores RAF and Sgt E.J. Jones RAF landed safe in England (R. Allenby). See August 10-11 below.
- 9-10 51 Sqn. Halifax II JD299 was damaged by flak crossing the coast returning to England, **Sgt V.L. Miller**, Sgt D.J. Howlett RAF, Sgt A.E. Hickerton RAF, Sgt A.E. Edwards RAF, Sgt A.J. Double RAF, Sgt R.P. Atkinson RAF, Sgt J.K. Shewring RAF and Sgt J. Robertson landed with a damaged windshield (R. Allenby). See December 1, below.
- 9-10 76 Sqn. Halifax V DK176 MP-U was hit by flak and damaged over the target and had engine problems. It was badly damaged in a crash landing, Sgt R.T. Isaac RAF

injured, **Sgt K. Hewson**, Sgt G.H. Jones RAF, Sgt G.W.R. Taylor RAF, Sgt A.W. Davis RAF, Sgt A.H.L. Atkinson RAF, Sgt K.R. Parry and WO J.H.S. Jones safe (R. Allenby).

- 9-10 102 Sqn. Halifax II BB249 DY-Z shot down by a night fighter over Belgium, **F/S R.F. Glass**, F/S A.T. Fraser RAAF, Sgt W. Morse RAF and F/S J.G.H. Mansell RAF killed, Sgt T.E. Stockton RAF, Sgt R.N. Brand RAF and Sgt H. Edwards RAF PoW. F/S Glass, F/S Fraser, Sgt Morse, Sgt Brand and Sgt Edwards had all survived a crash landing in a #1658 HCU Halifax April 6, above.
- 9-10 405 Sqn. Halifax II HR680 was badly damaged by flak over it's target, killing bomb aimer **F/O A.C. Law**. The aircraft returned safely to England.
- 9-10 408 Sqn. Halifax II JB922 EQ-H lost over Germany, **F/O T.R. Mellish**, **Sgt W.R. Prentice** and P/O E. Crouch RAF killed, **Sgt W.H. Plewman**, **Sgt A.N. Pixley**, **Sgt W.G. Willis** and Sgt J.S. Pickering RAF PoW. See April 18, 1945.
- 9-10 408 Sqn. Halifax II JB959 EQ-L crashed attempting to abort it's take-off when the air speed indicator failed, **F/S A.R. Grubert**, **P/O C.L. or C.J. Carrigan**, **Sgt R.O. Lumgair**, Sgt J.G. Herron RAF, Sgt W.A. McCulloch RAF, P/O W.D. Folder RAAF and Sgt F.H. Hoyle RAF safe (R. Allenby). See July 27-28, below.
- 9-10 408 Sqn. Halifax II JD216 EQ-P lost over Germany, **F/O H.B. Lancaster**, **F/S J.H.C. McClung**, **Sgt G.V.V. Reid**, **F/O J.W. Richardson**, **Sgt J.J. Stefanchuk**, Sgt W.R. Bryans RAF, Sgt J.M. MacDonald RAF and Sgt J.W. Sturgess RAF killed (R. Allenby). F/O Richardson had come through the crash landing of a #1659 HCU Halifax June 26, above.
- 9-10 408 Sqn. Halifax V, **F/O G. Bennett**, was hit by incendiaries that started a fire in the fuselage and an external fire lasting several minutes, that was put out by diving, while the flight engineer and the wireless operator, Sgt A. Rodgers RAF, fought the fire inside the fuselage. The crew returned to England safely, where F/O Bennett received the DFC and Sgt Rodgers the DFM (R. Koval, FF Years, Awards, H.A. Halliday).
- 9-10 408 Sqn. Halifax II JD174 EQ-A slightly damaged by flak and then fired on by British anti-aircraft returning, **Sgt G.W. Acorn**, **F/O D.T. Bain**, **Sgt W.M. Haugen**, **Sgt J.I. Labow**, **P/O P.J.A. Magson**, **Sgt E.H. Wood** and Sgt J.J. Connolly RAF returned to England (R. Allenby). See July 13-14, below.
- 9-10 427 Sqn. Halifax V slightly damaged by flak over the target, **P/O D.M. Arnot**, **Sgt L.W.W. Jones**, **Sgt R.O. Nickerson**, **Sgt Paterson**, **P/O W.V. Thom**, Sgt R.A.N. Rondelet RAF and Sgt R. Dawson RAF landed in England (R. Allenby). See January 21-22, 1944.
- 9-10 428 Sqn. Halifax V DK229 NA-W hit by flak and abandoned over Germany. Pilot S/L F.H. Bowden DFC & Bar RAF went down with the aircraft but his crew, **Sgt H. McGeach**, **P/O B.M. Fitzgerald**, Sgt H.N.F. Rowe RAF, P/O R.J. Gritten RAF and Sgt J.W.N. Hurst RAF became PoW, Sgt A.J.A. Reynolds RAF bailed out and evaded. This was the first Halifax V lost by 428 Sqn.

Saturday

10 8 Sqn., Khormaksar, Aden, Hudson IIIa FH285 flew into a cliff in Saudi Arabia in bad weather returning from a convoy patrol, **WO1 T.J. Duggan**, **WO1 F.S. Jamieson**, **WO1 C.A. Jones**, **WO1 J.I. (Jack) Moore** killed (J.R. Stevens; A. Hendrie). The correspondence to the family regarding WO Moore was detailed in the BCATP Museum *Contact* newsletter, November 2016.

10 Air activity over the Kursk Salient was limited due to rain and thunderstorms across the region (C. Bergström).

Operation HUSKY, Following the airborne attacks landing craft began landing 80,000 US, British and Canadian soldiers on beaches on the south east and south west coasts of Sicily, in terms of size the same as the initial force that would be landed on D-Day the following year. Most landings are unopposed or meet only limited opposition from Italian defences who had stood down due to the bad weather (A. Beevor). New types of landing craft, most built in the US from British designs, are able to land tanks and vehicles directly on the beaches (D. Sommerville).

10 ?? OTU, Hurricane crashed, pilot **R.E. Leupp RCAF (USA)** badly injured. He received reconstructive surgery as a Guinea Pig. During his recovery he renewed his interest in animal husbandry, and on his return to the USA became a veterinarian (R. Donovan).

10 #45 Group, RAF Ferry Command, Baltimore IIIa FA137 crashed at Port of Spain, Trinidad making an emergency landing on a ferry flight, **WO2 C.E. Bake** and F/S R. Alderton RAF killed (J. Baugher).

10 #34 OTU, Pennfield Ridge, NB, Ventura II AE696 dived into the ground after overshooting a landing and attempting to take off again, **P/O M.W. Hansen** and **P/O H.E. Jasmin** killed.

10-11 Heavy bombing operations were planned by over 100 205 Group Wellingtons in Tunisia in support of the invasion of Sicily, but most were postponed. A planned attack by 20 RCAF Wellingtons of #331 Wing on the airfields at Gerbini went ahead, but this was reduced to 15 after one crashed and exploded on take-off (D. Parker).

10-11 424 Sqn. Wellington X HE536 QB-E was taking off on an operation from Tunisia, North Africa, when its port tire blew out. The aircraft crashed on the runway and the bomb load exploded. **F/O J.F. Bittner**, **F/O J.C. Kennedy**, **F/S J. McGrogan**, **F/S G.W.A. Patterson** and **F/S W. Trofanenko** killed.

10-11 600 Sqn. Beaufighter, Malta, **F/O J.H. Turnbull** and his navigator Sgt C.F.J. Fowler RAF claimed a Ju 88 bomber at night over Sicily (A. Fitzgerald-Black).

Sunday

11 The fighting on the Kursk Salient has become mired down, and evolved into a battle between tanks. Poor visibility due to dust and smoke limit artillery and air support.

In Sicily the German tank force held in reserve attacks the US landing area, forcing the line back and only being stopped by naval gunfire, while British and Canadian forces continue to advance nearly unopposed (D. Sommerville). The beachheads are under attack by German bombers, but are protected by fighters from Malta and aircraft carriers. Over the US beaches this fighter cover is hampered by land and ship-borne anti-aircraft gunners that failed to identify aircraft and shot at everything (A. Beevor). See below and June 6, 1944.

For RN carriers it quickly becomes apparent that the Seafire fighters that had replaced the Sea Hurricanes, while very effective in the air, are not robust enough for sustained ship-borne operations, especially their narrow and relatively weak undercarriage. More of these aircraft were written off in landings than in combat during this period.

In the Aleutians B-24 bombers stage through the new airfield at Attu in a planned attack on Paramushiro, Japan, but are diverted to attack a convoy making towards Kiska (B. Coyle). See July 18, below.

- 11 39 Sqn. Beaufighter TF.X JM408 shot down by fighters after a strike at a Italian convoy in the Mediterranean, **F/L I. McIntyre** and Sgt R.A. Fox RAF missing (aviation-safety.net).
- 11 198 Sqn. Typhoon Ib EJ966 shot down over Holland on a RHUBARB, **P/O W.I. Mouat** PoW.
- 11 400 Sqn. Mustang Is flown by **F/O A.S. Collins** and **F/O L.W. Cocker** attacked 2 locomotives and a line of tanker cars on a siding (FF Years).
- 11 540 Sqn. Mosquito PR.IV DZ517 crashed in Scotland **F/O J.H. Benton** killed (www.rafcommands.com).
- 11 #3 AFU Oxford I HN781 flew into the ground and crashed in England just after taking off, **F/O G.M. Schurman** and Sgt J.S. Southall RAF killed (H. Welting at www.rafcommands.com).
- 11 #1489 Flight Martinet I HP269 crashed in England on a flight to check the weather when it stalled making a low level turn, **F/S W.H. Armstrong** and Cpl R. Cooper RAF killed (R. Allenby; www.rafcommands.com).
- 11 unknown unit, **AC1 G.W. Bradford** killed in a motorcycle accident in Canada.
- 11 #3 Training Command pilot **WO2 I.N. Hislop** accidentally drowned at St. Eustache, Quebec.

11-12 Operation Husky, a planned drop of US paratroopers into the captured US zone comes under attack by US Army and Navy anti-aircraft gunners, which shoot down 23 transports and leaves 37 more with serious damage, over 400 paratroops and air crew wounded or killed (A. Beevor). 205 Group was attacking targets in Sicily, #331 wing attacking airfields near Salerno (FF Years).

11-12 267 Sqn. Dakota I FD815 crashed in Tunisia after an onboard fire broke out while on an operation to drop dummy paratroops and flares in support of the invasion of Sicily, **F/O G.V. Gibson**, **F/O H.G. Spencer**, Lt S.A. Yaldwyn SAAF, F/S K. Patterson RAF, Air Ministry Observer W/C R.F.S. Leslie DSC DFC AFC RAF and Major G. Baxter (15th Army) killed (H.A. Halliday www.rafcommands.com).

11-12 #1656 HCU Lancaster I W4777 crashed on a night cross country exercise, Sgt M.G. Eastlake RAF, Sgt H.A. Lloyd RAF, F/O J.H. Tremear RAF, Sgt W.E.L. Harrison RAF and Sgt G.H. Peck RAF killed, **Sgt R. McLaughlin** and Sgt P.D. Probert RAF seriously injured.

Monday

12 Russian counter offensive begins on the Kursk Salient. The fight turns into a pure tank on tank fight as the closeness of the fighting vehicles, occasional rain and the obscuring dust prevent aircraft from identifying friend from foe (A. Beevor). To the north of the fighting another Soviet army begins an attack to re-capture Orel, taking the Germans by surprise.

In Sicily the German armoured units attacking the US landing are forced to withdraw by the advancing Commonwealth forces (D. Sommerville). Together the Allied armies begin a break out from beachhead and begin to drive across the Island (Oxford).

#111 (F) Sqn. returns from Amchitka to Kodiak (440 SH).

12 179 Sqn. Wellington VIII LA971 lost in the Mediterranean, **WO2 R.C. Smith**, F/L R.A. Coatman RAF, Sgt J.W. Heald RAF, Sgt L. Hocking RAF and Sgt R.E. Defroand RAF missing (J. Larder, www.rafcommands.com).

12 400 Sqn. Mustang I, **F/O L.W. Cocker** attacked a train near Caen in Normandy, while **F/O D.M. Grant DFC** and **F/O A.T. Carlson** attacked 3 trains and F/O Grant shot down a Do 217 bomber (FF Years).

12 #10 OTU Whitley VII BD681 'N' was on an anti-submarine patrol over the Bay of Biscay when it signalled it was under attack by enemy fighters, followed by an SOS. **Sgt R.R. Riddell**, Lt J.D. Williams USAAF, F/S C.T. Rudman RAF, Sgt M.J.R. Ryan RAF, Sgt R.V. Turner RAF, and Sgt W.A. Speller RAF missing.

12 #35 EFTS, Neepawa, Manitoba, DH.82C Tiger Moth #3867 damaged and written off

(R.W.R. Walker).

- 12 #1 (Refresher) Sqn., RCAF Rockcliffe, Ontario, Harvard IIb #3333 stalled and crashed near Rockland, Ontario, LAC A.T.G. Atkins RAF killed (C. Charland at www.rafcommands.com).

12-13 In the evening both sides fighting in the Kursk Salient tank battle pull back to re-group as steady rain begins to fall (A. Beevor).

To support the invasion of Sicily 295 Lancasters were sent to bomb Turin where in clear conditions they made an effective attack on the City's industries. It is reported that nearly 800 people on the ground were killed and 900 injured however, making this the worst attack on the city in the war in terms of casualties. Thirteen bombers were lost. Other operations included 22 GARDENING and 19 OTU sorties without loss (BC War Diaries) as well as operations over Sicily by 205 Group Wellingtons, with #331 Wing attacking Enna in central Sicily (FF Years).

The Oxford Companion to the Second World War notes that the Italian anti-aircraft service, DICAT, was formed long before the war began and had effective artillery, but not predictors (electro-mechanical problem solving computers for directing the gunfire) to give them accurate height settings. They relied heavily on quantity of fire (see 419 SH for references) and on spotters (radar development in Italy is not mentioned). Oxford notes the use of Italian diplomats in Switzerland to phone ahead with news of large raids by Bomber Command flying over (or near?) that country. Finally DICAT did not coordinate with the Italian Air Force, which remained independent from it, and whose fighters were usually unable to intercept incoming attacks, but were sent to attack the bombers as they returned. Thus the effectiveness of RAF shuttle operations in this area, where instead of returning the bomber stream would fly on to bases in North Africa, denying the Italian fighters an opportunity to attack.

- 12-13 608 Sqn. Hudson VI FK711 missing in the Mediterranean on an anti-submarine patrol, **F/O J.A. Belecky**, F/O D.W. Ellis RAAF, F/S K. Van-Waning RAAF, F/S N.A. Rubens RAAF and meteorologist LAC A.H. Vann RAF missing (A. Storr; COL BRUGGY www.rafcommands.com).

- 12-13 49 Sqn. Lancaster III ED726 EA-V lost without trace on a sortie to Italy, **WO2 J.W. Gillin**, F/O J.G. Millar AFM RAF, Sgt P.A.U. Goodyear RAF, F/O G. Lockie RAF, Sgt H.G.J.H. Read RAF, Sgt D.W. Bettinson RAF and Sgt R. Burnett RAF missing.

- 12-13 100 Sqn. Lancaster I ED561 HW-F crashed in France on a sortie to bomb Turin, Italy. **WO2 J.A. Firth**, Sgt F. Barnes RAF, Sgt G.T. Causer RAF, Sgt C.H. Glover RAF, F/S W.R. Caldwell RAF, P/O F.W. Holmes RAF and F/O W.E. Leddiman RAF killed.

- 12-13 103 Sqn. Lancaster I ED769 PM-U lost without trace, **WO2 H.R. Graham**, **F/S B.W. Walls**, **F/S R.M. Watts**, Sgt L. Cervi RAF, P/O E.H. Hawkins RAF, Sgt G.E. Trowsdale RAF and Sgt N.G. Tippin RAF missing.
- 12-13 106 Sqn. Lancaster III DV181 lost on an operation to Turin, Italy, after radioing it was being attacked by fighters, **F/O M.O. Hovinen RCAF (USA)**, P/O C. Hayley RAF (USA), Sgt E. Horton RAF, Sgt H.W. Millar RAF, Sgt K.G. Rathbone RAF, Sgt R.W. Ball RAF and Sgt H.C. Hambling RAF missing.

Tuesday

13 Hitler orders attacks in the Kursk Salient to end so troops can be sent to Italy (Polsson). This is the point at which the German forces lost the initiative to the Soviet Army. Never again would they be able to launch a large scale attack against the Russian forces (D. Sommerville).

#165 (Transport) Sqn. RCAF formed at Sea Island, BC, with crews and aircraft (Lodestar and Dakota) from #164 (T) Sqn. on detachment in Western Canada (RCAF Sqns.). These include aircraft at Edmonton, Alberta (used along the North West Staging Route to Alaska), Rivers, Manitoba (used for training 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion at Shilo, Man.) and at Winnipeg, Manitoba (supporting the Rivers detachment and providing communication flights for #2 Training Command, BCATP) (RCAF Sqns.).

- 13 112 Sqn. Kittyhawk III FR502 GA-D shot down attacking enemy transport in Sicily, **WO1 F.R. Vance RCAF (USA)** killed.
- 13 458 Sqn. RAAF Wellington XIII MP629 failed to return from a sea search off Sardinia, Mediterranean, **WO2 H.E. Bradley**, **F/O J.A. Diggins**, **F/O W.C. Hailstone**, **WO2 D.H. McConechy**, **WO2 W.W. Wright**, F/L K.J. Neill, F/S F.G. Crocker RAF and Sgt J. Tindall RAF missing (A. Storr). On April 11, 1943 F/O Hailstone had sunk the freighter *Fabriano* in a night torpedo attack (Armed Rovers, www.wrecksite.eu).
- 13 #7 (Coastal) OTU Wellington VIII HF838 crashed in Ireland, **F/O F.D. Butland**, F/O J.G. Anderson RNZAF, P/O J.W. Hindmarsh RAF, F/S J.W. Hughes RNZAF and F/O J.M. Tait RAF killed (www.rafcommands.com).
- 13 #18 AFU Oxford I DF329 failed to recover from a spin and crashed in England, **Sgt N.L. Glynn** and Sgt R.D. Peters RAF killed, AC1 Williams RAF injured (www.aviationarchaeology.org.uk).
- 13 #31 EFTS, De Winton, Alberta, Cornell III #14449 crashed, striking the ground while buzzing a farmer on a tractor, Sgt J. Fleming RAF killed and F/S A.H. McCue RAF injured (H.A. Halliday, *Unnecessary Accidents*). See July 15, below.
- 13 #34 EFTS, Assiniboia, Saskatchewan, Cornell I FH931 crashed, P/O K.P. Hill RAF and LAC J. Luntley RAF killed.
- 13 #111 OTU, Nassau, Bahamas, Mitchell II FR383 'DX' crashed in the sea, **Sgt B. Dashuk**, P/O W. Johnson, **Sgt J.B. Koepke**, P/O J.B. McArthur, **Sgt R.P. Meehan**

and Sgt W.T.D. James RAAF missing (A. Storr; J. Baugher; E. Wiberg).

13-14 Wellingtons of 205 group attacked targets in Sicily in support of the fighting there, with #331 Wing crews attacking Messina (FF Years).

Operation FUSTIAN, a planned seizure of a bridge near Catania in Sicily by British Airborne forces carried in mostly USAAF transports, is disrupted when Allied ships in the invasion fleet again open fire on the aircraft, which causes 4 C-47s to crash. They are then attacked by German flak, which shoots down 42 more transports and gliders, and damages others (wikipedia). Many glider tugs turned back without releasing (B. Kite). Widely scattered, only 300 of the force of over 1,800 paratroops reach the target but they managed to capture it, prevent its demolition before being forced off, and held out against heavy Italian and German attack until relieved (A. Beevor). The German force was made up of paratroops which had been dropped to support the Italian defence of Catania, almost simultaneously with the FUSTIAN force (LH).

The gliders were carrying anti-tank guns, the first time artillery was landed in an airborne attack. Only 3 of the 10 anti-tank guns landed at the target. During the day gunfire support for the FUSTIAN force was available from HMS Newfoundland stationed offshore. After the arrival of the relieving British forces it took 3 more days to recapture the bridge, but the FUSTIAN action had prevented the destruction of the bridge and achieved its goal (wikipedia).

Of the 156 USAAF transports, 30 RAF transports and glider tugs and 19 gliders on this operation 43 aircraft and 5 gliders were lost (www.rafcommands.com, wikipedia). From this operation and the botched reinforcement attempt on July 11-12, many changes were made regarding the training and deployment of parachute dropping aircraft, anti-aircraft support, and glider towing operations. In particular the RAF expanded it's airborne support group and created a second airborne group committed to dropping airborne forces (wikipedia).

- 13-14 142 Sqn. Wellington X HE333 'N' lost in the Mediterranean on a sortie to Sicily, **F/O D.B. Surette**, F/O N. Avery RAF, F/O L.H. Burn RAF, F/O I.D.C. Evans RAF, P/O A.P. Reed RAAF and P/O S.C. Sykes RAF missing (A. Storr, <http://www.aviationarchaeology.org.uk>). Note serial number HE850 associated with this loss, but this aircraft was still recorded as operating in 1944.
- 13-14 296 Sqn. Albermarle GT.I P1444 shot down over Sicily while towing a Hadrian glider on an operation to seize a bridge, **WO2 J.J. Kunz**, F/S J. Berry RAF, F/O R.T. Hamer RAF, F/S H. Sloan RAF and Major J. Lander (Army observer) killed. This crew had survived a mid-air collision March 22 above (#38 Group Roll of Honour

<http://www.raf38group.org>, H.A. Halliday www.rafcommands.com).

13-14 424 Sqn. Wellington X HE963 QB-U missing in the Mediterranean on an operation to Sicily, **F/O W.C. Davidson**, **P/O R.F. Mang**, **WO2 R.E. Vanderbeck RCAF (USA)**, F/S D. Campbell RAF and Sgt J.P.M. Garland RAF missing (FF Years; BLME V.2). P/O Mang's niece, Pauline Mang, has a website with letters, photos and other information about her uncle, <http://www.emmador.com/memorial.html> (2011).

13-14 Bomber Command sent 374 Bombers to Aachen where unexpected tailwinds brought the Main Force to the target ahead of the Pathfinders. As a result when the markers went in, accurately, a large body of bombers were waiting to bomb and the sudden deluge impressed the defenders. Severe damage was done to the city and it's industries. Twenty bombers were lost. A diversion was made by OBOE Mosquitos dropping Target Indicators over Cologne, and 8 OTU NICKEL sorties were made over France, one of which was lost (BC War Diaries).

13-14 78 Sqn. Halifax II JB801 EY-G lost over Holland, **F/O C.D.A. Hosken**, Sgt G. Bowden RAF, Sgt J. Chaplin RAF, Sgt A.S. Jelfs RAF, Sgt R.W. Rouse RAF, WO P. Horrocks RAF and Sgt W.H. Harries RAF killed.

13-14 78 Sqn. Halifax II JD108 EY-U shot down by a night fighter over Belgium, **P/O H.J. Burridge RAF (Can.)**, WO K.A. Toon RNZAF and F/L J.D. Nesbitt RAF killed, P/O J. McDonald RAF and Sgt G.M. Campbell RAF PoW, Sgt D.W.G. Cowell RAF, Sgt L.G. Donaldson RAF and Sgt R. Falcus RAF evaded.

13-14 78 Sqn. Halifax II JD175 EY-F lost over Germany, **Sgt W.V. Gerrard RAF (Can.)**, **Sgt A.R. Lutes**, WO C.M. Colburn RAF, Sgt F. Oakley RAF, Sgt A. Slack RAF and Sgt W. Robinson RAF killed, **Sgt Z. Yonkers** has no known grave.

13-14 102 Sqn. Halifax II JD297 DY-Q shot down over France by a night fighter, **W/C H.R. Coventry RAF (Can.)**, F/O C.F. Read RAF, Sgt W. Brown RAF, Sgt W. Hardy RAF, Sgt G.T. Pine-Coffin RAF, F/L G.F. Hogg RAF and F/L F.E. King RAF killed.

13-14 115 Sqn. Lancaster II DS660 KO-P attacked by a night fighter and blew up, Sgt M. Jones RAF, P/O C. Armstrong RAF, F/O F.L. Yates RAF, Sgt P. Williams RAF, Sgt D. Murphy RAF and Sgt J.A.T. Newton RAF killed, pilot **F/O R.B. Larson** PoW, injured, after having been blown through the canopy (CATP Museum *Contact* Newsletter, Vol. 31, #4, November 2014).

13-14 158 Sqn. Halifax II HR720 NP-B shot down over Holland by a night fighter, pilot F/S G.R.J. Duthie RNZAF killed, but his crew survived, **Sgt F.D. Granger**, Sgt T.E.F. Carr RAF, Sgt G.H. King RAF, Sgt J.R. Grey RAAF and Sgt T. Pinkney RAF PoW, Sgt J.N. Hempstead RAF evaded.

13-14 405 Sqn. Halifax II HR905 LQ-G shot down over Holland by a night fighter and broke up in the air, **Sgt D.G. Bebensee DFM**, **P/O T.H.N. Emerson DFM**, **F/O G.G. McGladrey DFC**, **F/L R.G. Morrison DFC**, **P/O E.M. Witt**, **S/L D.L. Wolfe DFC RAF (Can.)** killed, **F/O D.M. Clarke** and **F/O D.J. Smith RNZAF** PoW.

13-14 408 Sqn. Halifax II DT769 EQ-J shot down over Holland by a night fighter, **WO2 D.L.G.**

- Brown, F/S D.G. McKay, F/O A.O. Smuk, Sgt R. Barneveld RAF and Sgt J. Foggon RAF killed, F/O J.J. Kelly RAF and Sgt B. Domigan RAF PoW.
- 13-14 408 Sqn. Halifax II JD174 EQ-A was attacked and badly damaged by a night fighter which destroyed its hydraulic system so it could not bomb. It returned to England with its bomb load and, unable to lower its undercarriage, was abandoned to crash on the Yorkshire Moors, F/O D.T. Bain, who broke his leg on landing, was accosted by the family whose land the aircraft had crashed on, who were suspicious of his 'accent', and dragged him painfully at shotgun point to their house where he was able to convince them he was an ally. He was later awarded a DFC for this sortie. The rest of the crew, Sgt J.I. Labow, Sgt W.M. Haugen, Sgt E.H. Wood, P/O P.J. Magson, Sgt G.W. Acorn and Sgt J.J. Connolly RAF safe. See R. Allenby for details. See also August 17-18, August 23-24, Dec. 3-4, below, and January 2-3 and March 30-31, 1944.
- 13-14 408 Sqn. Halifax II DT749 EQ-O was damaged in the nose by flak, Sgt R.J. Bradley, Sgt J.G. Broadfoot, Sgt S.R.W. Laine, Sgt R.A. MacKay, Sgt D.L. Wright RAF, F/S R.R. Armstrong RAF and Sgt A.E. Jones RAF returned to England (R. Allenby). See August 27-28 below, and January 27-28, 1944.
- 13-14 408 Sqn. Halifax II JB893 (EQ-U?) was damaged by flak in the wings, Sgt K.L. Brager, Sgt T.D. Cochrane, P/O G.E. Mallory, Sgt L.A. McQuestion, Sgt R.W. Ogston, Sgt E. Kent RAF and Sgt B. Smith RAF returned to England (R. Allenby). See September 7, October 11-12 and November 22-23 below, and June 12-13, 1944.
- 13-14 419 Sqn. Halifax II BB323 VR-R "*per Flak ad Nausium*" was having intercom problems when it was attacked over Holland by a night fighter and abandoned badly damaged and on fire (419 SH, R. Koval). Rear gunner F/S W.C. Batkin RAF died, possibly in the attack (reportedly the rear turret was shot off (419 SH)), but Sgt M. Cottenden, Sgt J.C. Gilchrist, Sgt K. Lasalle, 2Lt B.J.J. Furey USAAF, Sgt J.S. Carmichael RAF and Sgt G.C. Perrett RAF survived as PoW. This aircraft, like many on the Squadron, did not have a mid-upper turret (419 SH).
- 13-14 419 Sqn. Halifax II VR-E, F/L W.N. Keddie pilot, was attacked by a single engined fighter which was claimed shot down by rear gunner F/O R.J. Wagner, his third victory, and he directed his pilot in thwarting another which attacked them. He later received a DFC (419 SH, Awards, FF Years).
- 13-14 427 Sqn. Halifax V DK142 ZL-C lost on an operation over Germany, Sgt M.E. Sobkowicz, Sgt S.W. Bryant, Sgt J.H. Brown, Sgt R.T. Hayes, Sgt W.H. Green, Sgt J.F. Hutchings and Sgt J.R.R. Poudrier PoW (O. Clutton-Brock).
- 13-14 428 Sqn. Halifax V DK228 NA-D shot down over Belgium by a night fighter, WO2 J.R. Goodfellow, F/O E.D. Robertson, F/O W.F. Stewart, F/L H.B. Ward, F/L W.G. Weeks, Sgt S. Zayets and Sgt A.D. Dawson RAF killed.
- 13-14 428 Sqn. Halifax V DK257 NA-Q (or -K, R. Koval) shot down by a night fighter over Holland, Sgt T.H. Pritchard RAF and Sgt M. Edwards RAF have no known grave, F/L D.S. Morgan, F/O F.H. Ditchburn, P/O B.L. Gillis and Sgt D. Brown RAF PoW,

P/O J.P. O'Leary evaded.

- 13-14 428 Sqn. Halifax V ED209 NA-C hit by flak over the target and abandoned over Belgium, P/O W.D.F. Ross DFC, Sgt W.B. Webber, Sgt T. Chiszczyk, Sgt J.C.A. Hayes and Sgt A.M. Winter RAF PoW, Sgt D.J. Webb and Sgt E.A. Bridge evaded.
- 13-14 432 Sqn. Wellington X HE353 QO-R lost on an operation to Germany, F/S C.L. Dyson, P/O W.C. Campbell, F/S H.O. Lee, F/S J.W. McKendry and F/S R. Stewart killed.
- 13-14 466 Sqn. RAAF Wellington X LN288 shot down by flak over Belgium, F/S H.C. Jordan, Sgt D.W. Covell RAF, Sgt T.F. Cummins RAF, F/S R. Feakes RAAF and F/S W.A. Gunning RAAF killed.
- 13-14 #12 OTU Wellington III BJ702 'F' was hit by flak on a NICKEL sortie, lost an engine and was forced to ditch off the French coast, F/O G. Parkinson broke some ribs, W/C N.A. Bray DFC RAF had a broken nose but returned to the floating bomber to extract Sgt L.W. Perkins RAF whose foot had gone through the fuselage fabric and become trapped. Together they boarded the life raft with P/O G. Wilde RAF, P/O R. Stokes RAF and F/S A. Fitchett RAF. After over a day in sight of the French coast, and taking turns paddling to keep from washing ashore, an ASR Hudson with an escort of Typhoons from 486 Sqn. RNZAF dropped an Airborne Lifeboat to the crew. After starting the engine and now out of sight of the coast of France, a formation of Fw 190s that found them was intercepted by the Typhoons and a dogfight broke out nearby. Two high speed launches, RAF HSL #156 and HSL #190, with a very strong fighter escort, were intercepted by more enemy fighters but they did not attack. After 4 hours the lifeboat was met by the launches and the crew taken back to England. Sgt Perkins later emigrated to Canada and was the editor of the book of remembrances of the Kelowna Aircrew Association, *Flight Into Yesterday*, where a very detailed account of this loss and rescue can be found, possibly the first operational deployment of the Airborne Lifeboat system.
- 13-14 #81 OTU Whitley V LA831 dove into the ground on a night cross country flight, cause unknown, F/O A.D. Kelly, Sgt L.W. Bugg RAF, Sgt S.V. Stephens RAF, F/O F. Bird RAF, Sgt D. Waite RAF and Sgt D. Munt RAF killed.

Wednesday

14 In two separate incidents in Sicily German and Italian prisoners are murdered by US soldiers. US General Patton tried to cover this up, but his then subordinate General Bradley refused. When tried the officer and sergeant responsible both cited Patton's forthright speeches to his soldiers before the invasion as what they felt were instructions not to take prisoners (Oxford). The sergeant was sentenced to a long prison term but the officer was found not guilty, whereupon the sergeant's punishment was later revoked.

- 14 #1 OADU Boston III W8379 had the nose wheel collapse landing in Gibraltar on a flight from England, Sgt G.H. Jordan, Sgt C.A.R. Lutes, F/S R.E. Titmus RAF and Sgt A.G. Underwood RAF safe (BLME V.2). Note coincidence of the loss of Sgt A.R.

- Lutes, 78 Sqn., over Germany the previous night.
- 14 256 Sqn. aero engine mechanic LAC W.E. French died in England of natural causes.
- 14 #5 (Coastal) OTU Canadian built Hampden TB.I P5331 stalled on a turn in Northern Ireland after taking off on a training flight, F/L G.W.H. Allerton RAF, F/O H.C. Grimshaw RAF and Sgt K.F. Collinson RAF killed (H. Moyle; Col Bruggy, www.rafcommands.com). This aircraft was reported heavily damaged by Bf 109 fighters on a GARDENING sortie Feb. 7, 1942 (S. de Cogan).
- 14 #36 SFTS, Penhold, Alberta, Oxford I AS734 crashed near Eckville, Alberta, on an armament training exercise, LAC(P) A.G. Sutherland and LAC(P) J.H. Woodill RCAF (USA) killed.

14-15 #331 Wing part of attack on Naples as the strategic bomber offensive switched from Sicily to mainland Italy (FF Years).

- 14-15 104 Sqn. Wellington II Z8515 'S' lost over Naples, WO1 W.L. Sleeman, Sgt J.M.G. Cantin, Sgt D.A. Clark RAF, Sgt T.B. Jones RAF and WO B.J. Lewis RAAF PoW (Col Bruggy www.rafcommands.com).
- 14-15 600 Sqn. Beaufighter, F/O J.H. Turnbull and Sgt C.F.J. Fowler RAF destroys 3 Ju 88 bombers at night over Sicily (A. Fitzgerald-Black).

Thursday

15 Soviet forces go on the offensive to capture Kharkov (south of the Kursk Salient), forcing German units back, while also reinforcing the advance of their forces towards Orel north of the salient (D. Sommerville).

Sweden decides to end transportation of German war material through it's territory to Norway effective Aug. 15 (Polsson). The Swedish air force, navy and army are now large enough, and armed with enough locally designed and produced modern weapons and aircraft, to enforce this decision (Oxford).

Churchill reviews the plans for the attack on Peenemünde, now called Operation HYDRA, with his military and science advisors and approves the attack (wikipedia). See August 17-18, below.

417 Sqn. relocates to the Sicilian beachhead (RCAF Sqns.).

- 15 114 Sqn. Boston III AL753 lost over Sicily on an armed reconnaissance. The aircraft was set on fire by flak and pilot F/O G.R. Burton held the aircraft steady and ordered the crew to bail out before he did. He and W/O F. Pilling RAF were taken PoW, and F/O Burton was later awarded a DFC (airforce.ca/awards). Sgt P.J. Gone RAF and F/S R.B. Weller RAF evaded and returned to Allied lines with Italian PoWs, and after quelling a riot (BLME V.2).
- 15 1 Sqn. Typhoon Ib EK228 lost it's tail in a dive and crashed, killing F/O J.M. Chalifour.

- This was reported to be the 14th in a series of similar crashes (P. Caygill). See July 29, 1942 for a detailed summary of the likely cause.
- 15 400 Sqn. Mustang I AG659, possibly SP-U, crashed in England killing **F/O C.A. Crites**.
15 401 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BL972 damaged by flak on a RODEO over France, **F/O H.E. Hamilton** safe (FF Years).
- 15 602 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AD290 shot down by a German fighter on a RAMROD over France, **Sgt A.J. Tysowski** PoW.
- 15 #22 OTU Wellington III HF812 crash landed in England on a training flight, **WO1 W.S. Pullar** and **Sgt A.B. Wilson** safe.
- 15 #23 OTU Wellington III X3453 force landed after an engine failed on a practice overshoot, **P/O A.J.C. Van Rassel** and **Sgt G.W. Howard** safe. See Oct. 22-23, below.
- 15 #31 EFTS, De Winton, Alberta, F/S A.H. McCue RAF died from injuries in the loss of Cornell #14449 on July 13, above. F/S McCue may have been an armourer by trade (H.A. Halliday, *Unnecessary Accidents*).
- 15 RCAF Station, Gander, Newfoundland, **LAC R.D. Duffie** died in hospital in Toronto, Ontario of natural causes.

mid-July, With the defeat at Stalingrad and other reverses Franco decides Germany cannot win the war. He begins to downsize the Spanish Blue Division (Polsson), and to moderate reprisals against Republicans still ongoing in Spain, so he can come to terms with the Allies after the war (SCW).

15-16 205 Group Wellingtons attacked the mainland Italian ports of San Giovanni and Reggio across the sea from Sicily (FF Years).

15-16 458 Sqn. RAAF Wellington XI MP702 FU-A lost in Mediterranean attacking a convoy, **WO2 T.E. Griggs** and **Sgt E. Stanfield** RAF (Nfld.) missing, **F/O W.J. Markowsky**, F/S E.J. Colclough RAAF, F/O R. Leonard RAF, P/O H.W.J. Filmer RAF (S. Rhod.) and **Sgt E.J.W. Blackler** RAF PoW (COL BRUGGY www.rafcommands.com).

15-16 458 Sqn. RAAF Wellington (Fishington) XIII MP631 FU-F lost in Mediterranean on an anti-shipping night patrol. It was diverted from its patrol zone to the site of a torpedo attack by other Squadron aircraft that had sunk 1 freighter. It was last heard requesting flares to be dropped for a torpedo attack and is believed to have been shot down into the sea, **F/O G.H. Lawson**, **F/O E.A. McCorkell**, **F/O A. Renton**, **F/O A.R. Pagan**, **F/O M.H. Tarrison**, **Sgt R.E. Burrows** RAF and **F/O L.Y. Hazeldine** RAAF missing (A. Storr).

15-16 The Peugeot vehicle factory at Montbélaird, France, was the target of 165 bombers. Marking by Pathfinders was far off and most of the bombs fell into the town, 123 people were killed on the ground and over 300 were injured while the factory was almost unscathed. Five bombers were lost.

To disrupt the flow of German reinforcements to Sicily two power stations for electric railways in northern Italy were also targeted by a group of 24 Lancasters without Pathfinder support, but ground mist obscured the targets and this attack failed. The Lancasters flew on to North Africa with 2 lost.

Finally 6 Mosquitos were sent to Munich as a nuisance attack, only 2 bombed but there were no losses (BC War Diaries).

- 15-16 9 Sqn. Lancaster III JA679 WS-P lost over Italy, Sgt E.W. Edwards RAF killed, **F/S J.F. Merchant**, **Sgt F.S. Finlay**, **F/S W.J. McCoombes**, F/O M.R. Head RNZAF, Sgt D.R. Walter RAF and F/O R.S. Shaw RAF PoW. F/S Merchant and F/O Head both managed to escape within months.
- 15-16 78 Sqn. Halifax II DT771 EY-D overran the runway attempting to abort a take-off when the air speed indicator failed, **Sgt R.C. Hyde**, F/O G.de L. Carver RAF, Sgt H. Wiltshire RAF, Sgt S. Wood RAF, Sgt E. Allen RAF, Sgt R.W. Saiger RAF and Sgt H.J. Clark RAAF safe (R. Allenby).
- 15-16 405 Sqn. Halifax II HR854 LQ-A shot down over France by a night fighter, **F/S A.O. Prior** PoW, **F/L J.H. Foy** DFC, **Sgt J.B. McDougall**, **F/O H.T. Huston**, **S/L A.D. Lambert** DFC RAF (Can), **Sgt G. MacGregor** and **F/O T.W. Simpson** evaded. See August 17-18, 1943.
- 15-16 405 Sqn. Halifax II, **P/O M. Sattler**, was attacked by an aircraft identified as a Do 217, but in RAF camouflage and markings, which made several attacks until the mid-upper gunner, **F/O W.R.W. Anderson**, already badly wounded, set it on fire and it was seen to crash. For this action F/O Anderson received the DFC (FF Years, Awards). See March 9, 1944.

Friday

16 In the Indian Ocean off Madagascar the unescorted Canadian built freighter Fort Franklin in ballast from Egypt to South Africa was torpedoed and sunk by U-181 with the loss of 5 crew (www.uboaat.net).

- 16 #10 OTU Whitley V BD276 'S' was returning early from an anti-submarine patrol when it went out of control on landing, collided with #1404 Meteorological Flight Hampden I P1204 and exploded, destroying another #1404 Flight Hampden I AD757. **F/S J.S. Ogilvy**, **F/S T.E.N. Redway** RAAF, **Sgt J. Kirby** RAF and **Sgt G.C. Wilkinson** RAF were killed in the aircraft and **AC2 L.W.N. James** RAF possibly killed on the ground, **Sgt C.E. Munday** RAF and **Sgt P. Stemkoski** RAF survived injured.
- 16 400 Sqn. Mustang I AM187 was hit by flak on a RHUBARB attacking a train and returned to England where the pilot, **F/L S.M. Knight**, bailed out, injured. His wingman, **P/O R. Knewstub**, safe.
- 16 432 Sqn. Wellington X JA119 disintegrated in the air on a test flight after entering a dive, **F/S J.W. Campbell**, **LAC T.M. Kearns**, **F/O J.E. Morris**, **F/S G.B. Nesbitt**, **F/S V.F. Rector** and **Sgt H.V. Baldwin** RAF killed (R. Allenby).

- 16 455 Sqn. RAAF Hampden TB.I AE146 'N' lost on a ROVER off Norway, crew picked up after ditching by a German minesweeper, **Sgt W.E. Ramsay**, **Sgt L.F.C. Stewart**, F/S J.A.R. MacDonald RAF and F/O J.D. Arthurell RAF taken PoW (H. Krentz quoted by grounded and COL BRUGGY at www.rafcommands.com).
- 16 #5 GTS Master DL517 crashed, **F/S R.C. Babb RCAF (USA)** killed (R. McNeill www.rafcommands.com).
- 16 #123 (ACT) Canadian built Sea Hurricane Ia BW842 heavily damaged in a crash at Debert, NS, after an engine failure and written off, **P/O J. Hunter** safe (R.W.R. Walker; www.rafcommands.com).
- 16 Test and Development Flight, Rockcliffe, Ontario, Hudson III BW638 made a hard landing and was destroyed by fire (C. Charland).

16-17 205 Group with #331 Wing Wellingtons attacked Capodichino airfield near Naples (FF Years).

A group of 18 Lancasters was sent to attack railway electric power stations in Italy, one was bombed and the other was not found and an alternate target was attacked instead. One bomber was lost. Other operations were 6 Mosquitos to Munich and 7 OTU NICKEL sorties, no losses (BC War Diaries).

- 16-17 #331 Wing RCAF Wellington X hit by flak which wounded the bomb aimer, **F/O J.M. Burk** (FF Years).
- 16-17 600 Sqn. Beaufighter, **F/O J.H. Turnbull** and Sgt C.F.J. Fowler RAF destroy 2 bombers at night over Sicily (A. Fitzgerald-Black).
- 16-17 207 Sqn. Lancaster III DV183 EM-W shot down over Italy, **P/O R.M. Furman RCAF (USA)**, P/O L.E. Stubbs RAF, Sgt R.C. Mitchell RAF, P/O A.H. Coates RAF, F/O E. Mawson RAF and Sgt W. O'Brien RAF killed, Sgt E. Morris RAF PoW.
- 16-17 467 Sqn. RAAF Lancaster EE194 PO-E was attacked over the target in Italy by a night fighter which killed navigator Sgt A.E. Murray RAF. The aircraft recovered safe at Blida in North Africa, **Sgt C.M. Niven**, F/L R. Carmichael RAAF, Sgt N.E. Burgess RAF, F/O R.T.J. Bilney RAF, Sgt L. Saunders RAAF and Sgt C.H. Hodges RAF safe. See September 3-4, below.

Saturday

17 Soviet forces on a long front south of the Kursk Salient begin a limited advance to support the fighting for Kharkov (A. Beevor).

- 17 77 Sqn., **F/S C.M. Goudy DFM** died of wounds received July 4 when his Halifax JB856 was hit over it's target. One crewman was killed in the attack, but the aircraft returned to England. Air gunner Sgt A. Cuthbertson RAF was listed as killed with 77 Sqn. on July 4 (CWGC).
- 17 204 Sqn. Sunderland III EJ145 'P' lost in the Bay of Biscay, **Sgt A.J. Tregallas RAF (Can.)**, **Sgt R.B. Murray**, F/O D.W. Pallet RAF, Sgt A.J. Fulker RAF, Sgt R.A. Adams

RAF, Sgt H. Adanson RAF, Sgt F. Ascough RAF, F/O R.N. McCann RAF, Sgt W.H. Corless RAF and Sgt G.J. Davis RAF were picked up by a Spanish fishing boat and safe (sunderlandnut www.rafcommands.com). Sgt Tregallas was a Biggs' Boy (K. Stofer).

- 17 404 Sqn. Beaufighter EE-N 'N for Norman' was attacking flak ships on a shipping strike and was hit in the cockpit, knocking out several instruments and wounding the pilot P/O A. McDonald, who managed to return to make a wheels up landing (FF Years).
- 17 #5 (Coastal) OTU Beaufort Ia JM514 crashed in Ireland, WO1 J.W. Hoba and S/L E.G. Titley killed (M. Crame www.rafcommands.com).
- 17 unknown unit, AC1 L.A. Keeble RAF, accidentally drowned in North America.
- 17 USAAF 25th Ferry Sqn. P-39Q 42-20222 damaged at Fort St. John, BC (AAIR).

17-18 205 Group bombed the airfield at Montecorvino near Salerno (FF Years).

- 17-18 114 Sqn., Mediterranean, Boston III Z2281 'K' hit a balloon cable at Pantellaria Island on an evening Armed Reconnaissance over Sicily (interdicting road traffic) from Tunisia and crashed, killing F/O R.B. Foster, Sgt T.L. Buttery RAF, Sgt D.J.V. Dolby RAF and F/S R.J. Sparke RAF. This was the crews first operation and the briefing had not warned of the Allied balloon barrage over the island (used as a navigation point), an error that was corrected for subsequent briefings (CWGC; E. Martyn and Pel Temple at www.rafcommands.com).
- 17-18 424 Sqn. Wellington X HE962 QB-N made a forced landing in North Africa after an engine overheated and caught fire after take-off, navigator F/S R.F. Thayer and air gunner F/S L.W.J. Norton RAF killed, rest of crew bailed out, pilot Sgt A.R. LaBarge injured, Sgt G.L. Sinclair and Sgt J.K.C. Walton safe (424 SH; R.W.R. Walker; FF Years; BLME V.2).
- 17-18 462 Sqn. RAAF Halifax II W1161 'X' was returning from an attack on a rail yard in Italy with flak damage when it was forced to ditch in the Mediterranean after two engines failed, F/S J.E. Thiaville RCAF (USA), Sgt R.P. Cookson RAF, P/O H.J. Hartley RAF, Sgt M.E. Parker RAF, Sgt H. Jackson RAF and Sgt E.A. Peet RAF boarded their life raft (A. Storr). See July 26, below.
- 17-18 410 Sqn. Mosquito NF.II DZ742 lost attacking railway targets in France on a night INTRUDER sortie, P/O L.A. Wood RCAF (El Salvador) and F/O D.J. Slaughter RAF killed.
- 17-18 415 Sqn. Hampden TB.I X3145 GX-F missing on an anti-submarine patrol, F/S H.A. Huntington, F/S J.L.L. Janisse, F/O V.C.J. Steer RAF and F/S R. Walter RAF missing (H. Moyle).

Sunday

18 USN Blimp K-74 shot down attacking U-134 off the coast of Florida (M.J.H. Taylor). Nine of the 10 man crew survived (wikipedia), AMM2 I. Stassel USN died the next day just before the survivors were rescued (E. Wiberg). This was the

only blimp lost to enemy action during the war. In areas where they could not be intercepted by aircraft these very efficient long ranged airships made excellent convoy escorts. They were ordered not to directly attack surfaced U-boats but to guide aircraft and ships to them, however in the case of K-74 the attack was made to prevent the U-boat attacking nearby shipping (R.F. Dorr, Blimp vs. U-boat, 2017, <https://www.defensemetwork.com>).

In the Aleutians USAAF B-24 bombers use the new Attu airfield to attack the major Japanese base at Paramushiro in the Kurile Islands, 650 miles away, the first attack on the Japanese Home Islands since the Doolittle Raid, and the first time targets in Asia were bombed from North America (B. Coyle).

- 18 18 Sqn. Boston III AL747 'E' crashed in Sicily, **F/S R.H. Halliday**, Sgt C. Kincaid RAF and F/S B.A. O'Hara RAAF killed, **Sgt G.E. Rozell** injured (A. Storr). See July 21, below.
- 18 204 Sqn. Sunderland III JM687 missing on a flight to Gibraltar, believed to have been shot down by German long range fighter, **P/O D.C. Rundle**, F/L A.H.N. Gooch RAF, Sgt D.G. Griffiths RAF, P/O R.J. Quinn RAF, Sgt A. Thompson RAF, Sgt A.J. Tozer RAF, F/S J. Greenwood RAF, F/S E.A. Dutton RAF, F/S A.H. Looms RAF and passengers Chief Motor Mechanic L.F. Ballard RN, Surgeon Lt. J.H. Wainwright RNVR, Leading Motor Mechanic A.J.W. Quy RN, Chief Motor Mechanic V. Bardsey RN and Nursing Sister E.J. Mehaffey Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service missing (www.landinportugal.org).
- 18 86 Sqn. Liberator GR.III FL907 'F' was shot down in the sea north of Norway when attacking U-968, F/S W.J. Daly RAF killed, F/S G.S. Richardson RNZAF and Sgt D.A. Cossey RAF missing, **WO J.H.E. Contant**, F/O R.M. Sommerville RAAF, S/L R.P. Nelms RAF, F/L K.G. Gray RAF, Sgt R.A.C. Gregory RAF and Sgt P. Toner RAF survived and were rescued from their life rafts by a 210 Sqn. Catalina July 21 (K. Bryers and COL BRUGGY www.rafcommands.com).
- 18 613 Sqn. Mustang I AM175 shot down by fighters off the Dutch coast on a LAGOON operation for a shipping strike, **F/O H.G. Taverner** missing. This was one of three Mustangs lost by 613 on this operation.
- 18 #39 Wing, RCAF, administration **F/O H.A. Treloar** killed in England when the jeep he was driving crashed into a ditch.
- 18 #3 OTU Patricia Bay, BC, Stranraer #916 crashed in Stewart Channel making a landing in glassy water, flight engineer **LAC J.M. Bell** killed, armourer **F/S W.R. McCarty RCAF (USA)** missing (*BC Times Colonist, Patricia Bay Aircrash List 2009*).
- 18 #8 B&G School, Lethbridge, Alberta, Bolingbroke IV.T #9906 crashed on a test flight 13 miles from the airfield, killing **F/O J.D. Heacock**, **Cpl W.A. Newell**, electrician **AC1 H.M. Pattison** and aero engine mechanic **LAC C.S. Wise**.
- 18 #38 SFTS, Estevan, Saskatchewan, LAC F. Lawton RAF died of natural causes (B. Barry et al; www.rafcommands.com).

18-19 First night that #331 Wing RCAF Wellingtons did not have any operations since becoming active on June 26 (FF Years).

Monday

19 First bomb raid on Rome (CJCA headline) [actually the first heavy bomb attack, the first was May 19, 1943 (wikipedia)]. USAAF heavy and medium bombers attack rail yards and the airport (ww2total.com Chronology/1943).

Over eastern Ukraine Capt. Yekaterina Budanova, 73 GIAP, was shot down in a Yak-1 fighter in combat and killed, the second highest scoring woman fighter pilot of the war with 11 confirmed kills (wikipedia). See August 1, below.

- 19 unknown unit, radar mechanic **Cpl C.R. Moore** died of dysentery at Haroka, Anboina, Netherlands East Indies (Indonesia) while a prisoner of the Japanese (A.C. Hamilton). He had been taken prisoner in Java March 8, 1942.
- 19 59 Sqn. VLR Liberator GR.V FL977, **F/L E.E. Allen**, found surfaced U-667 which he attacked hoping it would submerge so it could be attacked with a homing torpedo ("Mark 24 Depth Charge"), but the U-boat decided to remain on the surface. Damaged, the Liberator finally made a depth charge attack, **F/S A. Henry** was wounded by return fire (uboat.net). The Liberator returned to Northern Ireland where it landed, the rest of the crew **F/S G. Laforme, P/O G. Flieger, F/S B. Barton, F/S L. Woods** and 1 RAF, safe. At this time the VLR Liberators were not equipped with nose guns although they were being slowly phased in. As a result of this attack the installation of nose guns was expedited (E.E. Allen). The homing torpedo had been developed at MIT in the USA, and was a very secret weapon whose use was severely restricted, including dropping it on surfaced U-boats which might survive by outrunning it and report its use.
- 19 229 Sqn. Spitfire Vc LZ808 last seen over Sicily on fire, pilot **F/L L.C. Gosling DFC & Bar** was seen to bail out 10 miles north of Mt. Etna but did not survive. He was credited with 9 aircraft destroyed at that time (B. Barry et al).
- 19 295 Sqn. Halifax GT.V DK131 aircraft missing after taking off from a refuelling stop at Ras El Ma after towing a Horsa glider to Sicily (Operation BEGGAR), pilot **F/S R.H. Cowley**, Sgt E.A. Ancell RAF, F/O J.W. Bewick RAF, LAC J.H. Pass RAF, Sgt W.H. Shaw RAF, LAC G. Smith RAF, Sgt R.E. Tomlin RAF and F/S J. Travis RAF missing (#38 Group Roll of Honour <http://www.raf38group.org>; www.rafcommands.com).
- 19 432 Sqn. Wellington X HF494 QO-S was on an air test when it hit a tree, possibly while doing unauthorized low flying. This damaged a propeller, and the aircraft was badly damaged making a forced landing, pilot **Sgt D.A. Rae**, and it is believed **WO2 W.H. Hoppus, P/O D.T. Lyng, F/O G.V. Holmes RAF and F/S E.F. Howe RAF**, safe (R. Allenby). See January 14-15, 1944.
- 19 #22 OTU Wellington X HE480 crashed on take off on a training flight, **F/O C. Grose**,

- Sgt K.L. Richmond and Sgt D.M. Wilkinson RAF killed.
- 19 #22 OTU Wellington Ic DV455 was on a navigation exercise when it suffered an engine failure and fire. It was abandoned by its crew, Sgt R.A.B. Jepson RAF killed, Sgt F. Chase, Sgt F.T. Gwarpney, Sgt Wilcox RAF and Sgt Greenwood RAF were safe but the aircraft crashed into a house in Wales killing three civilians, Dr. M.W. Chill, his wife Mrs. M. Chill and her mother, Mrs. M.L. Scott (www.rafcommands.com).
- 19 #61 OTU Spitfire IIa P7380 crashed in England, suspected engine trouble, killing F/S K.B. Malin.
- 19 RAF Ferry Command, Mariner GR.I JX101 was taxiing out for take-off at Bermuda when it sank due to a main hatch being left open, passenger LAC L.L. Scott RAF drowned, the rest of the crew were safe.
- 19 #10 SFTS, Dauphin, Man., Crane I #8665 and #7777 collided in midair seven miles SW of the airfield, P/O G.W. Monks RCAF (USA) and P/O B.B. Kersey RAAF killed in #8665.
- 19 #14 SFTS, Aylmer, Ontario, Harvard II's #2554 and #3003 collided in mid-air while night flying near the airfield, P/O J.D. Seagram and aero engine mechanic LAC D.M. Trussler were killed in #3003. The crew of #2554, F/O Wilson and LAC(P) Molesworth, bailed out safely (M.L. McIntyre).

19-20 All three Squadrons of #331 Wing RCAF participated in a heavy attack on the airfield at Capodichino near Naples, but heavy flak and poor visibility hampered the attack (FF Years).

- 19-20 420 Sqn. Wellington X HZ572 had a tyre burst taking off on an operation to Capodichino and was damaged beyond repair, F/O A.S. Bellingham and his crew safe (BLME V.2). See July 23-24, below.

Tuesday

20 Soviet offensive opens on 450 mile front (CJCA headline).

After discussions President Roosevelt issues an order that research on the development of atomic energy for military and civilian uses will be shared with England and Canada, leading to an agreement being signed at the Quebec Conference in August (D. Sommerville). See September 19, 1944.

- 20 198 Sqn. Typhoon Ib JP486 shot down by flak attacking a train in Belgium on a RHUBARB sortie, F/L R.H. Deugo killed. F/L Deugo had been shot down in error and badly burned in a Typhoon of 56 Sqn. on June 1, 1942.
- 20 #20 AFU Oxford I HN721 and #15 AFU Oxford I BG236 aircraft collided in mid air and crashed in England, Sgt L.I. Elliott was killed on the #20 AFU aircraft and Sgt E.F. Tanner and F/O D.B.L. Johnstone RAAF in BG236 (A. Storr; H. Welting www.rafcommands.com). F/S R.J. Foote RNZAF was possibly injured in this incident (www.rafcommands.com).

- 20 #6 EFTS, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4220 crashed SW of the airfield killing **LAC(P) C.M. Miller** and **F/O H.M. Pettigrew**.
- 20 #9 B&G School, Mont Joli, Quebec, Nomad #3498 was being flight tested when it spun and crashed near the airfield, killing **F/O E.G. Meade RCAF (USA)** and aero engine mechanic **Cpl J.T. Vasileff**.
- 20 #31 OTU, Debert, NS, Hudson IIIa BW777 crashed at Debert, NS, **S/L R.T. Hunn RAF (Can.)** and P/O W.G.M. Papworth RAF killed (R.W.R. Walker).

20-21 205 Group with #331 Wing attacked Naples again (FF Years).

Wednesday

- 21 18 Sqn. **F/S G.E. Rozell** died in Sicily, possibly of injuries. F/S Rozell was part of the crew of Boston AL747 lost July 18, above.
- 21 295 Sqn. Halifax GT.V DG391 missing on a return flight to England from Gibraltar in Operation BEGGAR, passengers **W/C W.S. Barton DFC RAF (Can.)**, F/O E.H. Ottway RAF and F/L S.W. Taylor RAF and crew Sgt R.J. Broad RAF, F/O P.T. Muirhead DFC RAF, F/S S. McCormick RAF, Sgt N.R. Waite RAF and F/S E. Williams RAF missing (#38 Group Roll of Honour <http://www.raf38group.org>; www.rafcommands.com). W/C Barton had flown Lysanders in 4 Sqn. in France in 1940 (Allison & Hayward), where he was awarded his DFC.
- 21 #11 AFU Oxford I P1889 and Oxford V4222 collided in flight and crashed, **Sgt H. Dickinson** was killed and LAC I.A. Young RAF safe in P1889.
- 21 #60 OTU Mosquito T.III HJ892 crashed in England, **F/O C.N. Wilcox RCAF (USA)** killed.
- 21 #133 (F) Sqn., Hurricane XII #5386 ditched off Vargas Island, BC, **P/O Gow** rescued (*BC Times Colonist, Other BC Crashes and Losses*, R.W.R. Walker).
- 21 #32 SFTS, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Oxford I X7149 crashed, LAC H.F. Hewitt RAF killed (J.A. Griffin).
- 21 unknown unit, **LAC A. Brown** killed in a car accident in Quebec when on leave (www.rafcommands.com).
- 21 USAAF 90th Ferry Sqn. P-39Q damaged landing at Fort Nelson, BC

21-22 205 Group in Tunisia attacked the railway at Salerno and the Capodichino airfield at Naples in Italy. #331 Wing contributed 24 Wellingtons to the Capodichino operation, but 6 aircraft were unable to take-off after another veered off the runway and put out the flare path. Cloud covered the target and most bombing was by dead reckoning (D. Parker).

- 21-22 142 Sqn. Wellington X HZ353 QT-U lost in operations over Italy, **F/S B. Buckley**, F/S R.T. Bilsby RAAF, F/S T.P. Laird RAAF, F/S L.G. Potts RAAF and Sgt J. Scott RAF killed (A. Storr, <http://www.aviationarchaeology.org.uk>).
- 21-22 420 Sqn. Wellington X HE334 lost over Italy, **F/O R.C. East**, **F/O E.B. McCutcheon**, **Sgt**

R.C. McLellan, F/O J.A.W. Melrose and F/O L.H. Walton killed.

21-22 458 Sqn. RAAF Wellington GR.XIII HZ594 FU-R was lost on a shipping patrol over the Mediterranean between Corsica and Toulon, Sgt R. Wilkinson RAF and Sgt F.C. Kingston RAF killed, F/O G.L. Barker, Sgt L.S. Hill RAF, Sgt L.H. Johnson RAF and F/S I. Kippenberger RNZAF missing (www.rafcommands.com).

Thursday

22 US Forces capture Palermo in Sicily (Polsson).

- 22 24 Sqn. SAAF Boston III AL684 'S' was hit by flak over it's target in Sicily and ditched off Malta, Lt F.L.W. Austin SAAF badly injured, Maj A.E. Halse SAAF injured, Sgt J.A. Goyer and Lt L.J. Pearce SAAF safe (BLME V.2). See Feb. 3, 1944.
- 22 #1657 HCU Stirling I W7586 'C' stalled and crashed attempting a 3 engined go around, F/S R.H. Murdock, P/O L.G. Sellars RAAF, F/S E.H.B. Saker RAAF, Sgt J.A. Campbell RAF, F/O R.H. Rutherford RAF, Sgt R.G. Kings RAF and Sgt G.F.A. Wix RAF killed.
- 22 #6 SFTS Dunnville Ontario Harvard IIb #3115 spun and crashed near Canfield, Ontario, on an instrument training flight, killing F/O R.W. Naismith and F/O L.W.T. Penn.
- 22 USAAF 7th Ferry Sqn. A-20G damaged landing at Aishihik, Yukon (AAIR).
- 22-23 37 Sqn. Wellington X HE764 'J' had an engine failure returning from an operation over Italy but the landing field lights failed and on landing in Tunisia the undercarriage collapsed, F/S G.L. Milkes, Sgt L. Adams RAF, Sgt J. Johnson RAF, F/S E.L.D. Oldfield RAF, Sgt J.C.B. Rae RAF and Sgt W.T. Wright RAF safe (BLME V.2).
- 22-23 161 Sqn. Halifax V DK119 MA-U crashed near it's drop zone in France while engaged in Operation MISTRAL 3, PRINCESSE & TOMCODIO, P/O L.M. Lavallee killed, Sgt S.F. Hathaway RAF and Sgt E.A. Allen RAF PoW, Sgt R.O. Hunter, Sgt T.J. Kanakos, Sgt D.A. Crome RAF, Sgt D.G. Patterson RAF and Sgt R.W. Paulin RAF evaded. Sgt Hunter, Sgt Kanakos, Sgt Crome and Sgt Paulin were returned to England in November in Operation WATER PISTOL, using 161 Squadron Lysander aircraft (www.conscript-heroes.com in MI-9 files). K.A. Merrick reports that at the military funeral for P/O Lavallee locals invaded the cemetery, pushed through the German funeral party, and covered the grave with flowers. See Oct. 9-10, 1944.

22-23 Salerno railyard was the target of Wellingtons of 205 Group (FF Years).

Friday

23 With German air units withdrawn to other regions or to Italy giving Soviet air forces complete domination in the area Russian ground units reoccupy the positions they had held at the start of the Kursk offensive, and continue to advance (C. Bergström).

Operation THESIS, a mass attack on military radio and other installations on Crete by 8 Baltimore bombers and 90 Hurricane fighters led by 2 Beaufighters, with the loss of 6 bombers and 13 fighters (B. Cull).

RN cruiser HMS Newfoundland torpedoed and badly damaged off Sicily. After temporary repairs at Malta the ship was sailed across the Atlantic to Boston for complete repairs (wikipedia). See June 14, 1945.

#126 (F) Sqn. RCAF deploys from Dartmouth, NS, to Gander, Nfld. while #127 (F) returns from Gander to Dartmouth (RCAF Sqns.).

- 23 123 Sqn. Hurricane II HW538 shot down into the sea off the island of Crete, part of Operation THESIS, **P/O J.D. Le Mare** missing (B. Cull).
- 23 144 Sqn. Beaufighter JM393 was on a shipping strike off the west coast of Italy when it was hit by flak and set on fire on a torpedo attack. Despite this the pilot, **F/O R.W. Fulton**, completed his attack before crashing into the sea. He and his observer **F/O S.W. Anderson** RAF missing.
- 23 238 Sqn. Hurricane II HL657 'D' damaged over Crete on Operation THESIS but Squadron Commander **S/L H.P. Cochrane DFC RAF (Can.)** managed to return safely (B. Cull).
- 23 425 Sqn. Wellington X HE260 'F', #331 Wing, Tunisia, caught fire at dispersal when an engine backfired. The groundcrew, lacking fire extinguishers, attempted to smother the fire with tarpaulins, and were succeeding when the life raft popped out of its stowage and inflated, knocking them off the wing. The fire spread and destroyed the aircraft (D. Parker; BLME V.2).
- 23 197 Sqn. Typhoon Ib JP426 OV-Q lost over France on a RHUBARB, **P/O G.K. Hignell** killed.
- 23 #5 (Coastal) OTU Beaufort Ia JM451 '18' flew into high ground in Northern Ireland on a training exercise, **F/O M.J.W. Aspinall**, **F/S A.G. Potter** RAAF, **Sgt R.D. Eaglen** RAF and **Sgt E.C. Butte** RAF killed (R. Hayward, A. Storr).
- 23 #32 OTU, Patricia Bay, BC, Canadian built Hampden I AJ996 collapsed its undercarriage making a heavy landing at night, **P/O J. Thomson** RAAF, **P/O A. Lockwell** RAF, **Sgt R. Bruce** RAAF and **Sgt N.R. Chaffey** RAAF safe (H. Moyle).
- 23 #32 OTU, Patricia Bay, BC, Canadian built Hampden I AN102 written off after the undercarriage collapsed making a heavy landing, **P/O C.A. McPherson** RAAF, **P/O E.J. Lipscombe** RAF, **Sgt D. Davies** RAAF and **Sgt W. Christie** safe (H. Moyle).
- 23 #34 OTU, Pennfield Ridge, NB, Ventura I AE658 swung to avoid another aircraft while making a single engined landing and lost an undercarriage leg, **P/O G.H.K. Begg** and **Sgt T.W. Binning** RAAF safe (www.rootsweb.ancestry.com #34 OTU Accident and Mishap Reports, Lancaster, C. et al). This was the prototype Ventura, designed and built for an RAF order that was cancelled. As a training aircraft it had suffered 3

other minor accidents, all at #34 OTU and was written off after this fourth one (R.W.R. Walker). See August 8, below.

- 23 RAF Ferry Command, in an experiment to see if it was practical to ferry cargo in gliders over the Atlantic a Hadrian (Waco CG-4) assault glider FR579 'Voo-Doo', carrying small electrical and engine parts and medical supplies, towed by Dakota I FD900 and accompanied by Catalina FP159 in case of a ditching, leaves Dorval for Goose Bay, Labrador. Pilots of the Hadrian are W/C R. Seyes RAF and **S/L F.M. Gobeil**, while the crew of the Dakota were **F/L W.S. Longhurst RAF (Can.)**, F/L C.W.H. Thompson RAF (NZ), F/O K. Turner RAF, P/O R.H. Wormington RAF and **Radio Officer H.G. Wightman (Can.)**, Ferry Command pilot Gerrand (Aus.) was pilot of the Catalina) (D.C. Webb, F.M. Gobeil, R. Illingworth).

23-24 205 Group in Tunisia sent Wellingtons to attack the railyards at Salerno again and the harbour at Villa San Giovanni. #331 Wing was assigned as part of the force attacking the harbour. Using flare illumination a successful attack was made (D. Parker).

- 23-24 420 Sqn. Wellington X HE461 lost in Mediterranean on an operation to Sicily, **Sgt R.N. Barlow**, **F/O A.S. Bellingham**, **F/O R.F. Coulson**, **F/S S. Harrison**, **F/S A.S. Hopping** missing. Both F/O Bellingham and F/O Coulson were from Winnipeg, Manitoba.

- 23-24 420 Sqn. Wellington X HE259, **Sgt Mason**, returned early due to the pilot becoming ill (D. Parker).

Saturday

24 Off Brazil the Canadian built Fort Chilcoton was proceeding independently to Freetown with rock crystal and iron ore for England when it was torpedoed by U-172, killing 4 crew. The ship did not sink until the U-boat made two more attacks on her (www.uboat.net).

- 24 172 Sqn. Wellington MP514 1-Q lost, **F/O J.G. McCormick MiD**, F/O W.H.T. Jennings RAF, F/S J.W. Buxton RAF, Sgt L. Harrop RAF and F/O J. Johnston RAF missing, **Sgt A.A. Turner** survived. Believed shot down attacking U-459. The Wellington was hit by heavy anti-aircraft fire and crashed into the side of the submarine, demolishing the anti-aircraft platform. Several depth charges were left on the deck, and when clearing the wreckage these were dumped into the sea while the submarine was travelling at high speed, but one exploded and damaged the stern. After a further attack by a 547 Sqn. Wellington the submarine was ordered abandoned (<http://uboat.net/boats/u459.htm>, airforce.ca/awards).
- 24 430 Sqn. Mustang I aircraft, **F/L F.H. Chesters** and **F/O F.H. Bryon** attacked 4 trains and some electrical pylons on a morning RHUBARB (FF Years).
- 24 430 Sqn. Mustang I aircraft, **F/L P. Bissky** and **F/O R.J. Manser**, attacked and stopped a train while avoiding flak from a rail car mounting a light flak gun on a RHUBARB (FF Years).

- 24 430 Sqn. Mustang I aircraft, **F/L N.S. Clarke** and **F/O J. Watts** on an evening RHUBARB attacked a train, electrical pylons and a coastal flak post (FF Years).
- 24 426 Sqn. Lancaster II DS679 OW-R suffered an engine fire after taking off, 2Lt S. Gaunt USAAF and his crew feathered the engine, operated the fire extinguishers and made a safe 3-engined landing were it was found a wire improperly installed had caused a short circuit. It was found to be a common fault and all the Lancaster II aircraft were grounded until the wiring was checked and corrected (R. Allenby).
- 24 #59 OTU Canadian built Hurricane X AG123 was making a forced landing in England and hit a wall, killing Sgt T. Inglis RAF (alclark and Litcham_Lad on www.rafcommands.com).
- 24 #1652 HCU Halifax BB285 GV-Q crashed following jamming of the rudder control when a ground locking pin fell out of it's unsecured stowage into the control circuit, **WO2 J.J. Duclos**, Sgt E.L. Byrne RAF, F/S C.B. Tingle RAF, Sgt W.G. Richardson RAF, Sgt J.A.M. Weir RAF and Sgt C.W. Nowell RAF killed, tail gunner Sgt R. Roberts RAF injured (R. Allenby).
- 24 #5 B&G School, Dafoe, Saskatchewan, Lysander #2368 crashed in a flat spin, killing **AC2 W.B. Greenlay** and **F/S E.J. Schultz**.
- 24 #9 Construction Maintenance Unit, RCAF Vessel M-472 *BC Star* sank near the Queen Charlotte Islands in a storm, **LAC F.C. Mack** killed, seaman **AC2 G.A. Davies**, seaman **F/S R.H. Drouillard**, seaman **Cpl C.G. Glover**, construction hand **Sgt J.D. Hearfield**, wireless operator air gunner **Sgt W.M. MacNeill**, **AC1 G.C. McFadyen**, **F/S W.E. Mitchell**, **LAC H.F. Oakenfold**, seaman **Sgt P.E. Olsen**, **AC2 M.D. Onuski**, wireless operator **Cpl T.L. Polec**, chef **LAC C.J. Sherlock**, carpenter **Sgt J.C. Slater**, **LAC G.T. Stead** and construction hand **AC1 T. Vollhoffer** missing or have no known graves.
- 24 USAAF 25th Ferry Sqn. A-20G 42-54235 crashed at Teslin, Yukon, 2Lt C.R. Holben killed (AAIR).
- 24 USAAF 25th Ferry Sqn. UC-64A (Norseman) 43-5115 crashed landing at Cooking Lake, Alberta, LCol F.N. Nightingale killed (AAIR).

24-25 #331 Wing RCAF in Tunisia had only it's second night off in the last month (FF Years). This was due to a storm that went through the airfields, knocking down a mess tent and forcing the cancellation of an entertainment show as well as suspending operations (D. Parker).

Battle of Hamburg, combined RAF and USAAF operation, begins. Hamburg is the largest port in Europe, the second largest city in Germany, and a major shipbuilding centre, heavily involved in U-boat production. It was located beyond the range of OBOE but it's coast and rivers were believed to make marking with H2S easy. Targeting was planned so that any creepback would continue across the city. Shipyards and U-boat assembly areas were not

directly targeted by the RAF, but reserved for USAAF daylight attacks.

This series of attacks would also see the first operational use of WINDOW, thin strips of aluminium foil on a paper backing cut to the precise length to reflect German radar frequencies (modern generic name 'Chaff'), which the bombers would release in bundles that burst, allowing the strips to flutter down slowly creating a 'cloud' of false radar images. This had been developed independently by Britain (shared with the USA), Germany (called Düppel) and in Japan (called Gimán-Shi). The Japanese had actually first used it earlier in 1943 in the Solomon Islands (A. Price and K.G. Budge). Although WINDOW had been available to Bomber Command for over a year its use was held back as it was easy to copy. Both the RAF and the Luftwaffe feared giving away their secret to the other. However analysis of captured German radars from Commando raids and in North Africa showed that German ground to air radar used only limited frequencies in the metric bands at this time and was easily jammed, while testing showed that centimetric radar was not affected by chaff designed for metric wavelengths. This indicated that the Allies had the advantage in this field, and it might have been used earlier but caution with and consideration in the timing of applying new technologies in wartime is always an art.

The effect of WINDOW would be to 'blind' the large search radars (Giant Würzburg) and gun control radars (Würzburg) used by flak artillery and night fighter controllers, as well as the smaller sets used in night fighters, by overwhelming the sets with thousands of targets. The operator would be unable to 'see' the bombers through the 'cloud' of false targets.

Bomber Command opened with an attack by 791 bombers, dropping WINDOW. All the affected German radar "boxes" were unable to direct their night fighters to the bomber stream, and those night fighters that found themselves in the stream were unable to detect the bombers with their onboard sets, rendering them literally blind. At the target Flak sites were also blinded. Of note, this did not affect the Wilde Sau single engine fighters who were not equipped with radar at all, or their network of navigation aids and controllers, but seriously disrupted their reaction time to identify the target. However, the overall result was noticeable and only 12 bombers were lost.

Marking was both by H2S and visual, and was accurate with nearly 2,300 tons of bombs falling near the city centre in 50 minutes. Creepback was extensive but still fell across the city. Approximately 1,500 people were killed on the ground, and widespread and heavy damage was done. Other operations

included 33 Lancasters returning from North Africa and bombing Leghorn in Italy, 13 Mosquitos carrying out diversion raids on Bremen, Kiel, Lubeck and Dusseldorf, 6 GARDENING sorties in the Elbe River near Hamburg and 7 OTU sorties without loss (BC War Diaries).

- 24-25 35 Sqn. Halifax II HR803 TL-P crashed just after taking off on an operation, **Sgt R.W. Tully**, F/S N.J. Matich RNZAF, F/S A.T. Tuck RAAF, Sgt R.A.M. Mather RAF, F/O C.A. Hewlett RAF, Sgt F.R. Dolling RAF and Sgt A.V. Forsyth RAF safe.
- 24-25 102 Sqn. Halifax II JD316 DY-X shot down over Germany by a night fighter, **F/S A.L. Wood**, F/S T.L. Cowin RNZAF, F/S J.H. Page RAF, F/L T. Bakewell RAF, Sgt F.J. Edwards RAF, Sgt J. Swinton RAF and F/O D. Hill RAF killed, P/O G. Smith PoW.
- 24-25 103 Sqn. Lancaster I ED389 PM-J² lost, possibly shot down over the North Sea by a night fighter, **F/S J.E. Couch**, Sgt D.I. Cameron RAF, Sgt B.G. Radbourn RAF, WO G.E.B. Hardman RAF, Sgt D.D. Williams RAF and Sgt G.G. Witchlow RAF killed, Sgt W.W. McLellan RAF missing.
- 24-25 103 Sqn. Lancaster III JA866 PM-E lost without trace, **F/S R.E. May**, F/S R.A. Moore RAF, Sgt L. Whalen RAF, Sgt V.E.R. Raphael RAF, P/O L.W. Machin, Sgt S.G. Fletcher RAF and Sgt M.A. Lodge missing.
- 24-25 158 Sqn. Halifax II HR941 shot down over Germany by a night fighter, **Sgt T. Aldridge**, F/S J.G. Wilson RNZAF, Sgt W.H. Bolam RAF, Sgt E.J. Howitt RAF, Sgt F.C.R. Knight RAF, Sgt T.H.G. Francis RAF and Sgt P.M.B. Moody RAF killed.
- 24-25 405 Sqn. Halifax II HR811 was hit by flak, air gunner **WO2 C.C. McLellan** wounded (www.rafcommands.com). See August 2, below.
- 24-25 428 Sqn. Halifax V, **P/O A. Reilander**, returned safely after being struck by incendiaries over the target (R. Koval). See Feb. 15-16, 1944.
- 24-25 460 Sqn. RAAF Lancaster III W4987 shot down by flak over Germany, **F/S A.J.E. Perron**, F/S A.G. Ashley RAAF, F/S F.C. Taylor RAAF, F/S F.S. Forsyth RAAF, Sgt J.M. Acheson RAF, Sgt J.V. Joyce RAF and Sgt D.W. Metcalfe RAF killed.

Sunday

25 Mussolini resigns, Badoglio named Premier of Italy (CJCA headline). On the orders of Italian King Emmanuel the Italian Army removes Mussolini from power and has him arrested (Oxford). The new leader, Marshall Badoglio, began to secretly negotiate surrender to the Allies while trying to mislead the Germans of his plans, but his intentions were soon clear to Hitler, who ordered a plan to be prepared for the takeover of Italy.

USAAF B-17 aircraft attack Hamburg docks in daylight, but find their targets obscured by smoke from the bombing the night before. 68 bombed Hamburg, part of over 300 total heavy and medium sorties to targets in Germany, Holland, Belgium and France, 19 bombers lost (Zijlstra).

- 25 OADU, Hudson V AM788 crashed on take-off at Ras El Ma, Algeria, **F/O F.J. Daws** and

- F/S R.H. Jarvis were killed. This aircraft had taken part in the 1,000 Bomber Raid on Bremen June 25-26, 1942, where it was heavily damaged (www.coastalcommand206.com).
- 25 611 Sqn. Spitfire V AR610 shot down off Belgium on a RAMROD, Squadron commanding officer S/L E.F.J. Charles DFC RAF (Can.) was picked up by an ASR Walrus after his Squadron disobeyed orders and provided an escort and patrol for the rescue (Allison & Hayward).
- 25 #1 AGS, Martinet TT.I crashed at sea after a mid-air collision, AC1 J. Hendrick RAF killed, P/O A. Agar RAF (Can.) missing (www.rafcommands.com).
- 25 #1 (Coastal) OTU Anson I N5272 lost off Scotland, Sgt N. Darby RAF killed, F/S H.J. Morris, Sgt R.E. Dexter RAF and P/O L.G. Phillips RAF missing (www.rafcommands.com).
- 25 #19 OTU Whitley V LA878 ZV-A ditched off Scotland trying to land with an engine out, P/O J.W. Einarson DFM, Sgt J.M. Smith and 5 crew were picked up safe by a trawler. As a Sergeant, P/O Einarson had force landed a Whitley of the same OTU April 30, 1942, before proceeding to his first tour of operations. See Feb. 25-26, 1944.
- 25 #1659 HCU RCAF Halifax II R9420 'G' spun at low level and crashed returning from a training flight, F/O W.J.R. Green, F/S W.B. Kaiser, P/O W.D.C. McKercher, P/O S.T. Snead, F/S W.B. Wheeler, Sgt G.W. Stevenson RAF and Sgt J.P.H. Ingle RAF killed (R. Allenby).
- 25 #1 Naval Air Gunnery School, Yarmouth, NS, LAC W.J. Maxwell drowned when a canoe overturned on Lake Milo, NS.
- 25 #3 Wireless School, Winnipeg, Man., AC2 W.J. Elcheshen died in hospital in Winnipeg of natural causes.
- 25 #9 SFTS, Centralia, Ontario, Anson II #7291 crashed doing night circuits at the landing ground at Crediton, LAC(P) G.H. Wilson RAAF killed (A. Storr).
- 25 #10 EFTS, Pendleton, Ontario, DH.82C Tiger Moth #9683 crashed near Russell, Ontario, while on a cross-country training flight, F/S D.E. Moffatt and LAC(P) J.K. Stevens killed.
- 25 #34 OTU, Pennfield Ridge, NB, Ventura II AE952 lost one of it's undercarriage units in a hard landing on a training flight and was forced to make a belly landing, P/O J.L. Eagleson and Sgt K.G. Curtis RNZAF safe (www.rootsweb.ancestry.com #34 OTU Accident and Mishap Reports).

25-26 Bomber Command took advantage of the introduction of WINDOW to make a heavy attack on the Krupps works, sending 705 bombers to attack Essen dropping WINDOW which made a very successful attack, destroying many industrial buildings in the city and including the heaviest damage yet made on the Krupps facilities. On the ground 500 were killed and 12 missing. Twenty four bombers were lost. Other operations included 12 Mosquitos to

Hamburg, Cologne and Gelsenkirchen, 17 GARDENING and 7 OTU sorties without loss. Brigadier General Anderson USAAF, commanding officer of the VIII Bomber Command in England, observed this attack as a passenger in a Lancaster (BC War Diaries).

- 25-26 10 Sqn. Halifax II JD207 ZA-V shot down over Holland by a night fighter, **P/O C.E. Hightower**, P/O W. Jones RAF, P/O D.B. Ackerley RAF, Sgt W. Collins RAF and F/O G. Downey RAF killed, S/L F.J. Hartnell-Beavis RAF PoW and Sgt R.A. Smith RAF evaded.
- 25-26 35 Sqn. Halifax II JB787 TL-Z shot down over the target by flak, Sgt D.E. Killick RAF, Sgt N.A.J. Pearce RAF, Sgt T. Price RAF and Sgt G.M. Galbraith RAF killed, **Sgt S.H. Piper**, F/O D. Milmine RAF and Sgt R.E. Bates RAF PoW.
- 25-26 61 Sqn. Lancaster III ED613 lost over Germany, **F/S J.H. Renaud**, F/O G.F. Alderdice RAF, Sgt P.A.J. Gore RAF, Sgt T. Davis RAF, P/O A. McIntyre RAF, Sgt A.V. Meads RAF and Sgt G.E. Clark RAF killed.
- 25-26 75 (New Zealand) Sqn. Stirling III EE892 AA-F crashed into the sea off the English coast returning from an operation over Germany, **F/S H.C. Dawson**, Sgt M.H.C. Ashdown RAF, Sgt R. Broadley RAF and Sgt E.C. Denyer RAF killed, **Sgt A. Cleveland**, Sgt R.K. Harrold RAF and Sgt R.W. Threadgold RAF missing.
- 25-26 103 Sqn. Lancaster III ED884 PM-L lost over Germany, **F/L H.F. Ewer DFC**, **F/S J.R. Fitch**, Sgt D. Williams DFM RAF, Sgt J.W.G. Wilson RAF, Sgt S. Robson DFM RAF, Sgt S.H. Welch RAF and F/S F.E. Juggins RAF killed.
- 25-26 214 Sqn. Stirling III BK686 BU-C lost over Germany, **F/O G.F. McCleary**, F/O J.H.C. Davis RAAF, F/O J.S. Clements RAF, Sgt S.J. Greer RAF, P/O D.M. Weddell RAF, Sgt E.N. Bird RAF, F/S G.B. Fielder RAF and Sgt H. Owen RAF killed.
- 25-26 405 Sqn. Halifax II HR864 LQ-M shot down over Holland by a night fighter, **WO2 C.J.V. Kettley**, **F/O A.P. McCracken**, **P/O M.S. Smyth**, **F/O M.E. Tomczak**, **F/S E.K. White** and Sgt A.J. Wood RAF killed, **F/L A.J. Sochowski** PoW. The night fighter, a Bf 110 of NJG 3, was shot down by the gunners return fire as he was silhouetted against a strong *Aurora Borealis*. The crew, Lt P. Zorner and Ofw H. Wilke, bailed out safely. This was Lt Zorner's 10th victory of 59 (wikipedia). The letters received by the McCracken family after this loss were preserved and form the basis of an article, *M for Mother*, by Ted Barris, *Airforce Magazine*, Vol. 39, #4, March, 2016.
- 25-26 418 Sqn. Mosquito FB.VI HJ822 lost on an evening INTRUDER over Holland, F/S H. Hay RAF and F/O J.L. Seymour RAF killed (www.dehavilland.ukf.net; H.A. Halliday www.rafcommands.com).
- 25-26 419 Sqn. Halifax II JD256 VR-A was struck by another aircraft after completing it's bomb run and crashed in an uncontrolled inverted dive, **F/S G.W. Askew**, **F/O S.W. Handforth**, **F/S L.M. Hill**, **Sgt O.H. Phoenix**, **F/S A.L. Porter**, **F/S W.E. Ross** and Sgt J. Stewart RAF killed, **P/O L. Chapman** PoW. P/O Chapman was the pilot and thus wore a seat parachute which might explain his survival. F/O Handforth was second pilot having just arrived on the station hours before the operation. In Canada he

- had been an instructor and P/O Chapman had been one of his students. P/O Chapman had been involved in an accident to a #1659 HCU Halifax May 25, above.
- 25-26 419 Sqn. Halifax II, **F/S R. Stewart**, claimed a Fw 190 shot down by the mid-upper gunner **Sgt L. Northcliffe** (R. Koval, FF Years). See Aug. 31-Sept. 1, below.
- 25-26 427 Sqn. Halifax V was damaged by flak over the target, and on landing this caused an undercarriage leg to collapse, **Sgt S.(?)G. Fahner**, **Sgt L.S. Gray**, **Sgt R. McNamara**, **Sgt W.H. Schmitt**, **P/O G.L. Vogan**, **Sgt N.M. Wood** and P/O A.H. Fernand RAF safe (R. Allenby). See August 17-18, below.
- 25-26 429 Sqn. Wellington X HE803 AL-W damaged by a night fighter and force landed safely wheels down in Holland. The crew attempted to take-off again after repairs, but the aircraft struck some trees and crashed, killing the pilot **F/O K.M. Johnston**. **Sgt H.W. Clarke**, **Sgt J.A.M. Lortie**, Sgt F.W.R. Frost RAF and Lt. J.C. Elliot USAAF PoW.
- 25-26 429 Sqn. Wellington X HE350 was forced to return early after it's radios began malfunctioning. On landing they overshot the landing area and the undercarriage collapsed, **Sgt R.H. Davis**, **F/S D.R. Nelson**, **Sgt D.M. Smith DFM**, Sgt W. Pass RAF and Sgt R.T. Abbott RAF (St.Vincent, West Indies) safe. The bomber was repaired (R. Allenby). See August 3-4 below.
- 25-26 432 Sqn. Wellington X HE514 QO-K was hit over the target by flak that badly damaged the left fuel tanks and one engine. They flew to the coast with both engines, then shut one down to conserve fuel, ditching a mile off England where the crew, **S/L C.B. Sinton**, Sgt G.W. Sharpe RAF, P/O S.A. Sinclair RAF, Sgt R.E. Pearce RAF and P/O K.R. Patterson RAF were rescued by a RNLI lifeboat. S/L Sinton received a DFC for this (R. Koval, FF Years, Awards).
- 25-26 620 Sqn. Stirling III BF511 QS-A shot down by a night fighter over Holland, pilot **P/O J.G. Patteson** killed but his crew, **Sgt T. Froats**, Sgt S. Scott RAF, P/O W.M. Goodall RAF, Sgt I. Walker RAF, Sgt G. Adams RAF and Sgt H. Bacon RAF survived as PoW.
- 25-26 620 Sqn. Stirling III EE906 QS-C shot down over Holland by a night fighter, **F/S J.R.G. MacDonald**, Sgt G. Jones RAF, Sgt J.B. Lamont RAF, Sgt J. McLauchlan RAF and Sgt H. Hadfield RAF killed, Sgt C.H. Mutton RAF and Sgt J. Daly RAF PoW.
- 25-26 620 Sqn. Stirling III EH924 QS-B lost over Germany, Sgt J.D. Rathbone RAF, Sgt J.H. Wallace RAF, Sgt R. Wild RAF, F/O J.F. Shepherd RAF, Sgt J.F. Wells RAF and Sgt A. Simons RAF killed, **Sgt D.H. Castling** PoW.

Monday

26 Second USAAF attack by 54 B-17s on Hamburg docks finds the target still obscured by smoke. After this the US daylight attacks on the city were ended with a total of 252 sorties dispatched to Hamburg of 600 total USAAF heavy and medium bomber sorties flown over the 2 days of their participation.

In future USAAF bomber commanders would be reluctant to follow RAF attacks due to the smoke problem, and preferred to attack joint targets first, giving clear aiming essential for hitting their targets from high altitudes. There may have been political reasons as well, as each force supported it's methods as superior and vied for resources and public support. It should be noted, however, that the Commander in Chief of the RAF, Sir Charles Portal, was a supporter of the USAAF daylight bombing operations, recognizing that it required aircraft and tactics that the RAF had not developed, and that they complimented each other to provide no respite to the German defenders (Oxford). For an excellent, useful and non-partisan comparison of USAAF and RAF bomber tactics of the period, as well as the German defence structure in use at this time, please see Martin Middlebrook's "The Battle of Hamburg" and his other books on the Schweinfurt-Regensburg, Peenemünde and 1944 Nuremberg operations.

In Italy the Fascist Party is dissolved and Martial Law is declared (ww2total.com Chronology/1943).

"Battle of the Pips", US Navy patrol plane reports to destroyers blockading Kiska Island they have detected another naval force nearby in fog and poor visibility. The destroyers converge and engage targets by radar, firing over a thousand rounds and reporting return fire and torpedo wakes. The contacts (radar images or "pips") remain elusive and finally fade away without explanation, possibly just echos off distant mountains or possibly balloons from submarines, although no report of Japanese ships or submarines was discovered postwar (note that many records were destroyed). The blockade force returns to it's bases to refuel and re-arm (Oxford). See July 29-30, below.

- 26 38 Sqn. Wellington XI MP627 lost on a shipping patrol in the Aegean Sea, **F/O H.A. Taylor**, Sgt A. Carter RAF, Sgt M.A. Smith RAF, Sgt K.F.W. Stevens RAF, F/S R.V. Hombsch RAAF and F/O E.M. Stanton RAF missing.
- 26 72 Sqn. Spitfire IX, possibly EN358, lost attacking shipping off Italy, **F/L W.J. Cameron** PoW (Tom Docherty www.rafcommands.com, www.spitfires.ukf.net). F/L Cameron later took part in the Great Escape, was recaptured, and returned to the prison camp.
- 26 462 Sqn. RAAF, **F/S J.E. Thiaville RCAF (USA)** and his crew picked up from their life raft in the Mediterranean after 9 days at sea (A. Storr).
- 26 415 Sqn. Canadian built Hampden TB.I P5301 GX-D lost off France on a shipping attack, **F/S T.A. Ivey** and **F/S R.B. Mackenzie** killed, F/S R. Grainger RAF and Sgt A. Millican RAF missing.
- 26 #31 OTU, Debert, NS, Hudson VI FK539 flew into high ground at Mabou Mountain,

Cape Breton, NS while on a navigation exercise, **Sgt C.O. Legroux**, **Sgt J.M.C. L'Heureux**, **WO1 A.A. MacLeod**, AC1 G.W.J. Musk RAF, P/O R.J. Parr RAF and P/O E. Smith RAF killed (R.W.R. Walker; www.rafcommands.com).

- 26 #32 EFTS, Bowden, Alberta, Cornell III #14409 crashed, LAC I.G.J. Davies RAF killed.
26 #34 OTU, Pennfield Ridge, NB, Ventura II AE887 lost an undercarriage unit in a hard night landing and was forced to make a belly landing, **F/O A.W. Heath** and **F/S B.L. Hardy** safe (www.rootsweb.ancestry.com #34 OTU Accident and Mishap Reports).

26-27 After two nights of no operations #331 Wing RCAF returned to attack Montecorvino airfield near Salerno (FF Years).

Tuesday

27 #163 (AC) Sqn. RCAF, Sea Island, BC sends a detachment to Wainwright, Alberta for close air support training (RCAF Sqns.).

First weather penetration flight into a hurricane, by USAAF officers in an AT-6 (Harvard) trainer off the coast of Texas. Because weather reporting was censored during the war this storm came ashore the next day before approval to release the warnings, earning it's name as the Surprise Hurricane, killing 19 people and causing widespread damage. Due to this hurricane reports were no longer censored, and post-war penetration meteorological flights into hurricanes became part of the process of monitoring these storms (wikipedia).

- 27 412 Sqn. Spitfire Vb lost on a RAMROD after engine trouble, Squadron Commander **S/L G.C. Keefer DFC** bailed out and was rescued in the evening by an ASR Walrus (FF Years).
27 421 Sqn. Spitfire IX MA586 AU-M lost on a RAMROD after engine trouble, Squadron Commander **S/L R.W. McNair DFC** bailed out when the aircraft burst into flames. The heat had burnt off his parachutes 'D' ring and damaged the harness, so he supported the weakened harness with one hand and pulled the burned wire release line with the other, opening the parachute. He then discovered the harness quick release was fused by the heat and not working, so he tore the damaged harness and parachute free and fell 75' into the water rather than be dragged under by the parachute (H.A. Halliday). After several hours he was rescued, injured, by an ASR Walrus. Note the coincidence that these two CO's, two of the top fighter pilots in the RCAF, who had taken command of their respective units the month before, were forced to bail out of their aircraft on the same operation for the same reason.
27 768 Sqn. FAA, Canadian built Hurricane I (Sea Hurricane?) AF958 lost at sea when practicing deck landings off Scotland, no further details (canmore.org.uk).
27 #20 OTU Wellington X HE684 was taking off when a tire burst and the undercarriage collapsed, **P/O R.T. Thornton**, Sgt P. Hicken RAF, Sgt B.R. Kidson RAF, Sgt G.

- Trotter RAF and P/O R.J. Vincent RAF injured.
- 27 #1654 HCU Lancaster I ED591 UG-L was written off after a tire burst on take off, P/O N.L. Schofield, F/L Brain and their crew safe.
- 27 #132 (F) Sqn. RCAF, Boundary Bay, BC, Kittyhawk I #1059 crashed 5 miles south of Roberts (Point Roberts?), Washington State, USA, P/O M.A. Foster missing.
- 27 #7 B&G School, Paulson, Manitoba, Bolingbroke IV.T #9944 went into a dive while engaged on a gunnery exercise and crashed north of the airfield, P/O R.D. Esslemont, WO2 R.D. Mathers, LAC P.A. Trudel and LAC N.M. Glenday RNZAF killed. The investigation into the crash indicated that the pilot and bombing instructor, who wanted to become a pilot, were changing seats when the aircraft entered the dive (Halliday, H.A., *Unnecessary Accidents*). A Bolingbroke IV (#9883?) was rebuilt as #9944 by the Commonwealth Air Training Plan Museum and is on outside display in a park off the Trans-Canada Highway at Brandon, Manitoba (<http://www.goodall.com.au>).
- 27 #9 B&G School, Mont Joli, Quebec, Battle TT.I #1648 crashed from low level near the airfield, drogue operator AC2 H. Revzen and F/S D.J. McLean RNZAF killed.
- 27 RAF Ferry Command, Goose Bay, the Dakota tug and glider 'Voo-Doo' leave Goose Bay for Bluie West 1 airfield in Greenland (D.C. Webb).

27-28 Bomber Command returns to Hamburg with 787 aircraft using WINDOW.

Marking was by H2S and it placed the TIs about 2 miles from the designated aiming point, but concentration of bombing combined with high temperatures (30°C was the recorded temperature at 6pm that evening) and low humidity started a giant firestorm, an unforeseen and unexpected event. City fire equipment was still working on fires set two days ago and most of the firefighters were unable to reach the new outbreaks quickly. These began to combine and suddenly became one huge fire, sucking air into it at high velocity, which further fanned the flames. This continued for over 3 hours. It was 2 days before the area had cooled enough to allow rescue operations to begin in the fire zone. An estimated 40,000 people were killed on the ground, most by carbon monoxide poisoning when the oxygen was sucked out of their bomb shelters, and in the days following it is believed 1,200,000 people, or 2/3s of the population of Hamburg, fled the city. Although small "firestorms" had occurred in other bombings (London and Stalingrad, for example) they had not been understood as such and no "firestorm" on this scale had ever been seen before. Once again General Anderson USAAF observed the bombing as a passenger.

Other operations included 3 Mosquitos to Duisburg, 6 GARDENING Wellingtons in the Elbe River and 11 OTU sorties, 18 bombers were lost as German defences adapted to the problems caused by WINDOW (BC War Diaries).

- 27-28 50 Sqn. Lancaster I R5687 VN-D shot down over Germany, **F/S O. Minor**, F/S N.P.I. Castells RAF, Sgt J. Donaldson RAF, Sgt R.B.L. Kent RAF, Sgt G.J. Kynnersley RAF, Sgt D.A. Page RAF and Sgt R.M. Shepley RAF killed.
- 27-28 51 Sqn. Halifax HR869 was hit by flak just after bombing, **Sgt D.J. Cameron**, **Sgt H.F. Maughan**, F/L T.R. Dobson RAF, Sgt L.F. Merricks RAF, Sgt A.A. McGregor RAF, Sgt D.W. Kemp RAF and F/L T.G.W. Bayfield RAF returned to England (R. Allenby). See August 27-28, below.
- 27-28 51 Sqn. Halifax II HR930 was hit in the mid-upper turret by flak before bombing, **Sgt C.M. Johnson**, P/O C.A. Lambert RAF, P/O J.A. Wilkins RAF, Sgt H.J. Evans RAF, Sgt P.A. Newland RAF, Sgt E. Watson RAF, Sgt G.A. Warren RAF and Sgt A. Rostram or Rostron (RAF?) returned to England (R. Allenby). See August 6, below.
- 27-28 76 Sqn. Halifax V DK188 MP-J was shot up by a night fighter that killed the mid-upper gunner Sgt A. Smith RAF, wounding the rear gunner F/S J. Heggarty RAF and knocked out one of the engines. The pilot P/O W.E. Elder RNZAF brought the bomber back to England where 4 of the crew bailed out before the aircraft was crash landed. Sgt W. Berry RAF was injured, but **F/S R.A. Gray**, Sgt A. Wood RAF, Sgt G.A. Howie RAF and Sgt P.B. Clarke RAF safe.
- 27-28 77 Sqn. Halifax II JD121 KN-L was slightly damaged by the attack of a Bf 110 night fighter, **Sgt L.E. Barrett**, **Sgt H.T. Smith**, Sgt D. Brown RAF, P/O C.C. Isaac RAF, Sgt J.L. Clark, Sgt R.D. Moore and Sgt T.B. Rowan returned safe (R. Allenby). See October 22-23 below.
- 27-28 102 Sqn. Halifax II JB864 DY-B shot down over Germany by a night fighter, F/O G.M. Clarke RAF, Sgt H.G. Bartle RAF, Sgt C.A. Bailey RAF and Sgt D. Harrison RAF killed, **F/O E.W. Slipp**, Sgt P.S.C. Thorne RAF and P/O W.J. Slater RAF PoW. Sgt Thorne later escaped and reached Holland where he was hidden by the Resistance. Attempting to reach Allied lines he was arrested and put on a train to Germany. He was killed Feb. 2, 1945, when he jumped off the train in another escape attempt.
- 27-28 106 Sqn. Lancaster I ED303 lost without trace, **F/O D.A. Campbell**, **F/S E.G. McLeod**, Sgt F.L. Backhouse RAF (Chile), Sgt F. Robertson RAF, Sgt I.G. Armet RAF, Sgt V.R. Jacob RAF and Sgt D.A. Barnfather RAF missing.
- 27-28 106 Sqn. Lancaster III ED708 lost without trace, **WO2 T.J. Roche**, F/S J.B. Charters RAF, Sgt G.R. Slack RAF, Sgt E.B. Jordan RAF, Sgt W.S. Maben RAF, Sgt J.W. Doyle RAF and Sgt D.W. Downes RAF missing.
- 27-28 156 Sqn. Lancaster III JA709 shot down over the Baltic Sea by a night fighter, **F/O J.W. Crowley**, **F/O E.V. Lee**, F/O L.R. Crampton RAF, F/O H.W. Woodsend RAF, Sgt G.L. Campbell RAF, Sgt J.L. Leader RAF and Sgt A.S. Scott RAF killed.
- 27-28 207 Sqn. Lancaster I W4962 EM-B Bar shot down by a night fighter over Germany, **F/S R.S.L. Day**, F/O C. Burne RAF, Sgt R.H. Connor RAF, Sgt D.M. McCulloch RAF and Sgt R. McWilliams RAF killed, F/S E.H. Eke RAF and Sgt H. Pettie RAF PoW.
- 27-28 408 Sqn. Halifax II DT749 EQ-O shot down by a night fighter over Germany, **F/S J.A.R. Leblanc**, **F/O H.W. McDonald**, **P/O E.F. Parker**, **F/L C.C. Stovel DFC** and F/L G.H.

McDougal RAF killed, P/O J.E. Bemister, P/O W.G.J. Richardson and Sgt J.H. Borley were taken PoW. F/L Stovel, P/O Bemister and P/O Richardson had come back from an eventful sortie with 405 Sqn. April 8-9, above.

27-28 408 Sqn. Halifax II, F/S A.R. Grubert, was forced to return early when they were unable to retract one of the undercarriage legs. On landing the gear folded up, but the crew were safe (R. Koval).

27-28 408 Sqn. Halifax II (possibly JD365 EQ-J) was damaged in one wing by flak, Sgt K.L. Brager, Sgt T.D. Cochrane, Sgt L.A. McQuestion, Sgt R.W. Ogston, 1Lt N. Stiller USAAF, Sgt E. Kent RAF and Sgt B. Smith RAF returned to England (R. Allenby). See September 7 and December 20-21 below.

27-28 419 Sqn. Halifax II, W/C M.M. Fleming RAF (Can.), reported 4 near collisions were avoided over the target (R. Koval, RCAF Sqns.).

27-28 427 Sqn. Halifax V EB243 ZL-H was hit by flak that damaged an engine, Sgt E.D. Cornelius, Sgt R.A. Kirk, P/O G.S. Low, Sgt D.S. Phillips, Sgt R.F. Shorridge, Sgt H.R. Smith RAF and Sgt P.J. Norreys RAF returned safe (R. Allenby). See August 23-24, below.

27-28 429 Sqn. Wellington X JA114 AL-A shot down by a night fighter over Germany, F/O A.R.A. Farquhar, W/C J.A. Piddington DFC RAF (Can) and P/O R. Renton RAF killed, Sgt L. Reineck RAF and Sgt R. Scarth RAF PoW (R. Koval). W/C Piddington was the CO of 429 Sqn. at the time having taken command exactly one month before his death. He was beginning his second tour of operations. Sgt Reineck sent a message to his base from his PoW camp thanking the parachute packers for their work (W.R. Chorley).

Wednesday

28 Weather in the Aleutians closes down flying operations for 5 days over Kiska (442 SH).

USAAF sends 300 bombers to attack aircraft factories in Germany, losing 22 (Zijlstra).

28 232 Sqn. Spitfire Vc JK274 shot down off Sicily, F/O C.H. McMinniman missing.

28 53 Sqn. Liberator GR.V BZ740 'F' flew into high ground in England after taking off on a patrol, F/S N.C. Taylor RAF (Nfld.), F/L G.F. Davey RAF, F/S J.K.G. Freeland RAF, P/O N.A. Gardiner RNZAF, F/S A.V. House RAF, F/S J. Marshall RAF and Sgt P.E. Phillips RAF killed (www.rafb24.com, N.L.R. Franks).

28 404 Sqn. two Beaufighters flown by S/L A.L. de la Haye/Sgt C.A. Smith and F/O S.S. Shulemson/Sgt A.D. Glasgow destroyed 2 Bv 138 flying boats that tried to attack the convoy they were escorting (FF Years).

28 404 Sqn. Beaufighter XIc JM123 EE-H, F/O E.J. Keefe on his first operational flight on a naval escort between Scotland and Norway sighted 3 Bv 138 flying boats and shot down two of them. He then returned to Scotland on one engine and crash

landed without injury to himself or his navigator, **Sgt B.I.G. Steed** (404 SH; FF Years; aviation-safety.net). This action was later cited as part of the recommendation for his DFC. See also August 4, below, March 30, 1944 and June 28, 1944.

- 28 #17 AFU Master II AZ658 crashed, cause unknown, killing **Sgt W. Frederick**.
- 28 #17 AFU, Master II W9093 flew into high ground low flying, **F/S R.F. Wells RAF (Can.)** killed (www.rafcommands.com). F/S Wells is referenced by D. Hodgson as having been born in England but raised in Canada where he completed his high school.
- 28 #1659 HCU RCAF Halifax II DT500 was damaged when a tire burst on landing and the undercarriage collapsed, **Sgt R.C. Deegan** and **Sgt J.H. Tovey** safe (R. Allenby). See August 9-10 and September 6-7, below.
- 28 BOAC Sunderland G-AGES crashed into high ground in Ireland on a flight from Lisbon killing 10 of the 25 on board. Two of the survivors were **Cpl R.F. Larche** and **Sgt L.G. French** who had been wounded and then interned in Portugal June 5, above, in the loss of 425 Sqn. Wellington HE268 (D. Burke, www.ww2irishaviation.com). Other returning Internees were Sgt K.J. Devall RAF killed, Sgt O. Frith RAF and Sgt R.E. Bertram RAF, from Wellington X HZ542 lost June 13 (BLME V.2).
- 28 #4 B&G School, Fingal, Ontario, **LAC(BA) H.J.C. Armstrong** killed in a car accident.
- 28 #5 Manning Depot, Lachine, Quebec, accountant **Sgt J.V. Flood** died of natural causes in hospital.
- 28 #14 SFTS, Alymer, Quebec, Harvard II aircraft #3181 crashed four miles north-west of Norwich, Ontario, **LAC(P) G.M. Grier** and **P/O R.M. Rice** killed.

28-29 205 Group sends bombers to attack airfields at Montecorvino (near Salerno) and Capodichino, Naples. After having a night off #331 Wing provides 18 of the 30 Wellingtons attacking Capodichino, but 4 were prevented from taking part when a fifth exploded on take-off. At the target cloud prevented visual bombing, so bombs were dropped on a time & distance run from Mt. Vesuvius (D. Parker).

- 28-29 104 Sqn. Wellington X HE419 'F' lost off Naples, Italy, **F/S A.E. Leake**, F/S A.N. Tennant RAF, F/S L.D. West RAF, P/O W.J. Dowell RAF, Sgt D.J. Beesley RAF and Sgt H.B. Knowles RAF missing (<http://aircrewremembered.com>).
- 28-29 424 Sqn., Tunisia, Wellington X HZ304 'D' exploded on taking off, or failed to take-off and exploded, blocking the runway and stopping 4 other Squadron aircraft from taking off, **P/O C.M. Binnie**, **WO2 A.L. Bjarnson**, **P/O P.G. Heden**, **F/O G.A. Souch DFC**, **F/O F.R. Taylor** and **P/O R.J. Wilson** killed (BLME V.2).

Thursday

- 29 47 Sqn. Beaufighter X shot down into the Bay of Naples, **P/O S.F. Cowan** was taken PoW (with his navigator?). He later escaped and evaded. He wrote a book about his evasion, *Forty Nights to Freedom*, Queenston House, 1984 (R. Koval

- www.rafcommands.com).
- 29 403 Sqn. Spitfire IX lost on a RAMROD to Holland, possibly to German fighters, P/O J.E. Abbotts PoW.
- 29 416 Sqn. DH.82 Tiger Moth EM805 crashed at the USAAF Base at Polebrook, England, killing WO2 W. Balduff RCAF (USA).
- 29 418 Sqn. Mosquito FB.VI HX810 swung taking off and took off it's undercarriage (www.dehavilland.ukf.net).
- 29 427 Sqn. Halifax V DK242 was badly damaged when it swung on landing from a training flight and the undercarriage collapsed, Sgt D.H. Welch RAF and crew safe (R. Allenby). See October 22-23, below.
- 29 #1659 HCU Halifax II DT507 swung when landing and lost it's undercarriage, P/O H. Brown and P/O L. Haynes RAF safe (R. Allenby).
- 29 #163 (AC) Sqn. RCAF, Wainwright, Alberta, Harvard II #2726 crashed when it stalled at low level near Heath, Alberta, equipment officer F/O J.R. Cameron and pilot F/O A. Hunter killed.
- 29 #10 SFTS, Dauphin, Man., Crane I #7893 crashed, LAC E. Easthope RAF killed. See #12 SFTS loss July 25, 1942.
- 29 #38 SFTS, Estevan, Saskatchewan, Anson #8532 crashed, F/O J.W. Bancroft RAF, LAC B. Cox RAF, F/S E. Lucas RAF, LAC N.K. Riley RAF and LAC P.R. Sayers RAF killed.
- 29 #38 SFTS, Estevan, Saskatchewan, LAC C.P. Anken RAF died during an operation at the station hospital (B. Barry et al; www.rafcommands.com).

29-30 Japanese Navy ships successfully evacuate over 5,000 soldiers from Kiska without detection before US destroyer blockade returns (Oxford). The coordinated boarding of the ships by over 5,000 occupation troops was accomplished in less than 1 hour, but to achieve this all their equipment was abandoned (wikipedia).

Bomber Command sends 777 bombers to Hamburg again, using WINDOW. Marking of the aiming point was off and many bombs fell into the area of the firestorm that had nothing left to burn, but still more parts of the city were damaged and set on fire. 28 bombers were lost on this attack.

German night fighter defences were reacting and changing their tactics to meet the new circumstances. The system of controlled "boxes" was abandoned. The ground controllers used the Wilde Sau model to determine the course and location of the approaching bomber stream, and night fighters would be sent to orbit the beacons nearby. A running commentary of information was given to the fighters to allow them to find the bomber stream and then make radar or visual attacks as they could. Once located night fighters would fly in the

stream making attacks until they ran out of fuel or ammunition, then land at the nearest airfield to re-supply and, if possible, take off again. This tactic was called Zahme Sau, or "Tame Boar", and it began to have immediate effects. The two were complimentary, Zahme Sau fighters would engage the bomber stream to and from the target, while the Wilde Sau fighters would be directed to the target and fight over it (Oxford). Within months the NAXOS detector, which homed in on H2S frequencies, became available, with which night fighters could home in on the bomber stream directly despite WINDOW (M. Peden).

Other operations included 4 Mosquitos to Dusseldorf, 6 GARDENING aircraft in the Elbe River, 9 NICKEL flights over Italy and 3 OTU sorties without loss (BC War Diaries).

- 29-30 7 Sqn. Stirling III EF364 MG-X lost without trace, F/O A.L. Forbes, F/O D.E. Pushor, Sgt F.H. Webb RAF, Sgt R.M. Bowyer RAF, Sgt D.L.A. Pool RAF, Sgt E.A. Charles RAF and F/O A. Pyrah RAF missing.
- 29-30 51 Sqn. Halifax II JN891 was damaged by flak and had a bomb hang up over the target. The bomb was later jettisoned and F/S J.J.R.T. Godin, P/O W. Inverarity, F/L T.W.A. Hutton RAF, F/O W.H.L.S. Way RAF, F/O P. Barber RAF, Sgt D.R. Perrin RAF and Sgt R.J. Child RAF landed safe (R. Allenby). See January 5-6, 1944.
- 29-30 61 Sqn. Lancaster III ED782 shot down into the North Sea by a night fighter, F/S D.N. Hunter, P/O J.M. Phillips RAF, Sgt A.E.G. White RAF and F/S C.D. Brown RAF killed, WO2 C.K. Morrow, P/O H.H.M. Harbour RAF and Sgt R. Foster RAF missing. See S. Hadaway for details of how F/S Hunter's remains were identified.
- 29-30 78 Sqn. Halifax II JB798 EY-P shot down by flak over Germany, F/O R.C. Baillie, F/S W.M.T. Hetherington, F/S G.H. Woodcock, Sgt T. Campbell RAF, Sgt W.E. Goodacre RAF, Sgt J.R. Nicholls RAF, F/S P.A. Fraser RAAF killed.
- 29-30 97 Sqn. Lancaster III EE172 OF-O shot down by a night fighter on an operation over Germany, F/O C.C. Shnier, Sgt D.E. Croft RAF, Sgt P.C. Evans RAF, Sgt A.N. Gibbons RAF, F/O P. de Villiers RAF, F/O G.J. Homersham RAF and P/O B.G. Knoesen RAF killed.
- 29-30 102 Sqn. Halifax II HR711 DY-C lost over the sea, Sgt J.S. Gaston RAF killed, F/S A. Veraas, Sgt T.S. Yarwood RAF, Sgt F. Ball RAF, Sgt L. Cocking RAF, Sgt J.R.S. Williams RAF and Sgt L. Brown RAF missing.
- 29-30 156 Sqn. Lancaster III ED598 shot down by a night fighter over Germany, P/O M.C. Staples, Sgt L.J. Jones RAF, F/L J.A. Philips RAF, F/L B.F. Smith DFC RAF, Sgt W.J. Smith DFC RAF, Sgt B. Marshall RAF and F/O R.E. Goodwin DFC RAF killed.
- 29-30 156 Sqn. Lancaster III EB822 shot down by a night fighter on an operation to Germany, F/S J.M. Church, F/S L.J. Johnson, Sgt H.J. Earl RAF, Sgt R.S. Fish RAF, F/O N. Manifold RAF, F/S M.T. Hall RAF and Sgt T.S. James RAF killed.
- 29-30 166 Sqn. Wellington X HE810 AS-Y lost on a sortie to Germany, F/O G.J. Lawrence,

F/O E.G. Birbeck RAF, F/O A.E. Bransgrove RAF, F/L J.R. Brind RAF and Sgt H.T. Furniss killed.

29-30 214 Sqn. Stirling III EF407 BU-A lost over the North Sea, possibly shot down by a night fighter, Sgt J.N.T. Chandler RAF killed, **F/O H.P. Shann RCAF (USA)**, F/S B. Hyman RAF (Rhod.), Sgt T.G. Lewis RAF, P/O T. Sandham RAF, Sgt C.B. Brown RAF and Sgt A.E. Newman RAF missing.

29-30 218 Sqn. Stirling III BF578 HA-A shot down over Germany by a combination of flak and night fighters, **F/S E.C. Bray** and Sgt R.S. Pickard RAF killed, **Sgt B.O. Anderson**, Sgt H. Turner RAF, P/O H.J. Lister RAF, Sgt G.E. Empson RAF and Sgt W.L. Strang RAF PoW.

29-30 218 Sqn. Stirling III EE895 HA-S shot down by flak over Germany, **F/S F.H. Bowcock**, F/S G.M. Crawford RAF, F/S C. Eden RAF, Sgt R.J. Chapman RAF, Sgt J. Clark RAF, Sgt C.F. Coade RAF and Sgt E.T.C. Street RAF killed.

29-30 408 Sqn. Halifax II EQ-G was hit by flak over the target, **Sgt T.W. Hilliard**, **Sgt C.M. MacDonald**, **Sgt C.P. Miller**, **P/O J.E. Sauve**, **Sgt R.C. Smith**, **Sgt R.A. Young** and Flight Officer H.S. Oien USAAF landed in England (R. Allenby). See November 3-4, below.

29-30 428 Sqn. Halifax V DK239 NA-Q was attacked by a night fighter and exploded over Germany, **F/S W.G. Arlidge**, **F/S D.H. Bates RCAF (USA)**, **Sgt G.C. Nault**, **F/S L.J.R.A. Pelland**, Sgt J. Galloway RAF and Sgt T.I. Hughes RAF killed, **Sgt P. Demcoe** was thrown clear and was taken PoW.

29-30 432 Sqn. Wellington X LN294 QO-E shot down over Germany by a night fighter, **F/O J. Bennett**, **F/O V.J. Jewell**, **W/C H.W. Kerby**, **F/O P.S.J. Murphy MiD** killed, **Sgt J.H. Smith** PoW. M. Middlebrook notes that W/C Kerby had served two tours in fighters. He had been commanding officer of 400 Squadron before taking command of 432 Squadron on it's formation on May 1st, and had made them operational by May 23 (FF Years).

Friday

30 First flight of the Ar 234, the world's first jet bomber (Bateson). To give this aircraft a useful bomb load with the lower powered jet engines of the time it was initially designed without landing gear, taking off from a wheeled dolly and landing on a skid. This limited it's useful deployment (See July 8, 1944) and it was later re-designed with retractable undercarriage, using 2 or 4 jet engines and rocket packs to take-off.

RAF Ferry Command, Greenland, after waiting for weather the Hadrian glider 'Voodoo' and it's Dakota tug leave for Reykjavik, Iceland (D.C. Webb).

30 unknown unit, **S/L H.D. Domville MiD RAF (Can.)** died as a prisoner of war of the Japanese at Ambon, Indonesia. He had last been seen alive Feb. 1, 1943.

30 53 Sqn. Liberator GR.V BZ730 'O', **P/O W.J. Irvine** sighted 3 U-boats off Portugal and

radioed the contact, which brought 6 more aircraft to the scene. The Liberator then attacked U-461. The depth charges missed and the return fire badly damaged the aircraft which had to land in Portugal where P/O Irvine, Sgt A.J. Pudifin and crew, F/O R.E. Dobson, F/O J. Haste, P/O R.G. Sharpe, Sgt J.G. Humphreys and Sgt J. Wilden, were interned (N.L.R. Franks; www.conscript-heroes.com MI-9 files). U-461 was sunk by a 461 Sqn. RAAF Sunderland W6077 'U' which followed the Liberator in the attack (uboat.net). See Nov. 15, below.

- 30 174 Sqn. Typhoon Ib DN580 on a RAMROD operation collided over Belgium 174 Sqn. Typhoon Ib EK143, F/O A.C. Dunning PoW from DN580, F/O V.J. Markey killed in EK143 (www.rafcommands.com).
- 30 77 Sqn. Halifax II JB956 KN-O lost, F/O T.R. Hoffman, F/S W.E. Hogan RAF, F/S G.H. Sutton RAF, F/S T.H. Greaves RAF, Sgt W.H. Ford RAF, Sgt A.W.G. Fox RAF, Sgt W. Brown RAF and Sgt E.T. Barry RAF killed.
- 30 226 Sqn. Mitchell II FV932 KP-X was on a sea search when it was shot down into the North Sea, F/O R.M. Christie and Sgt E.R. Norburn RAF missing, P/O A.P. Eyton-Jones RAF, Sgt D.W. Bishop RAF and Sgt J.F. Lecomber RAF safe (C. Thomas www.rafcommands via penguin832au on www.luftwaffe-experten.org).
- 30 268 Sqn. Mustang I AP232 lost off the coast of France on a photo-reconnaissance sortie, F/O W.J. Irwin killed.
- 30 USAAF 335th BS, 959th BG(H) B-17F 42-30192 was hit by flak over Holland and the bailout order given. Five crew bailed out, radio operator TSgt R.H. Randall USAAF (Can.) and SSgt H.W. Jordan died when they fell into the sea, the others were taken PoW. The pilot regained control of the aircraft and later ditched off Dover, where the remainder of the crew were rescued by an ASR Walrus that had to taxi back to England with it's load of survivors (J. Baugher, www.8thafhs.com & www.usaafdata.com).
- 30 410 Sqn. Oxford V3744 dived into the ground in England during a navigation exercise, killing F/O P.R. Littlewood RAF (Can.) and F/L E.A. Murray MiD.
- 30 #3502 CU Hudson IIIa FH253 crashed in Wales while on approach to land, F/O L. Anderson and F/O W.J. Marshall killed.
- 30 #9 (BR) Sqn. RCAF, Bella Bella, BC, RCAF Canso A #9789 crashed and burned on a mountainside at Alarm Cove, BC, shortly after take-off, Sgt J.A. Cowman killed, LAC W.J. Johnston, P/O J.L. Jones and F/O R.B. Schirra badly burned, F/S K.L. Brown, P/O J.A. Joseph, Sgt E.A. Kershaw and WO1 L.R. Travis slight injuries, Sgt H.A.S. Rawlinson safe (www.101nisquadron.org).
- 30 #39 SFTS, Swift Current, Saskatchewan, Oxford I X6538 crashed, F/O D.T.B. Leader RAF killed.
- 30-31 458 Sqn. RAAF Wellington XIII MP744 FU-D returning from an anti-shipping patrol collided with a parked aircraft while attempting a forced landing due to engine failure at Protville, Tunisia, F/L D.D. Graham and F/O F.K. Verhaest killed, F/O C.F. Hicks,

F/O Healey, Sgt Robertson and Sgt Birchall (RAF? RCAF? RAAF?) injured with burns (A. Storr). F/L Graham was previously an air/sea rescue pilot flying Walrus aircraft with 280 Sqn. F/O Hicks story as a Guinea Pig is detailed in R. Donovans *As For The Canadians*.

30-31 Bomber Command sent 273 bombers to the small Ruhr town of Remscheid on this night, a previously unattacked target, noted for the manufacture of precision machine tools. WINDOW was in use as a standard feature on this and all future operations. OBOE marking and accurate bombing gave a good result, destroying over 100 industrial buildings in the town and knocking out production there for 3 months. The town's industries never came back to pre-attack levels. Post war it was estimated that some 80% of the town was destroyed in this one attack, which killed some 1,200 people on the ground. 15 Bombers were lost. GARDENING over the Frisian Islands by 8 bombers suffered no loss (BC War Diaries).

30-31 15 Sqn. Stirling III EF427 LS-A shot down over Germany by flak, P/O G.G. Judd RAF, Sgt D. Brown RAF, Sgt S.R. Long RAF and Sgt W.A. Wells RAF killed and have no known grave, P/O K.A. Banks, Sgt L.C. Richards RAF and Sgt D.R. Fry RAF PoW.

30-31 15 Sqn. Stirling III EF428 LS-N lost over Germany, F/L J.C. Dillicar RNZAF killed, F/S A.J. Gibbons, F/O B.L. Jackson RNZAF, F/S I.G. Ramsay RNZAF, Lt A.R. Ingle DFC SAAF, Sgt A.V.E. Cobby RAF, Sgt G.H. Beck RAF and Sgt K.P. Middleton RAF also killed and have no known grave.

30-31 75 (New Zealand) Sqn. Stirling III BF458 JN-P lost over Germany, Sgt J.W. Gale RAF (Can.) and Sgt J.H. O'Farrell RAF killed, WO2 E.F. Henry, P/O A.J. Thomas RAF, P/O F.W.R. Cumpsty RNZAF missing, Sgt H.A. Stewart RAF and Sgt R.H. Boxell RAF PoW. WO Henry had been interned in Spain November 20, 1942 after the loss of his 15 Sqn. Stirling, arriving safe in Gibraltar Jan. 18, 1943.

30-31 76 Sqn. Halifax V DK202 MP-Q lost over Germany, F/S D.T. Shaw, Sgt R.A. Cole RAF, Sgt J. Lewis RAF, Sgt R.F. Russell RAF, Sgt A.B. Harper RAF, Sgt J.W. Potheary RAF and Sgt J.R. Williams RAF killed.

30-31 106 Sqn. Lancaster I R5665 ZN-D shot down by a night fighter, location unknown. The pilot P/O K.M. Reid RCAF (USA) is missing, the rest of the crew P/O J.D. Golds, Sgt J.F.G. Benson RAF, Sgt J. Scott RAF, Sgt V. Askey RAF, Sgt C.M. Pearce RAF and Sgt J. Kirkham were taken PoW. W.R. Chorley notes that this aircraft was set on fire and P/O Golds parachute was destroyed in the fire. He decided to jump without a parachute from 18,000 feet altitude expecting to die, but against all odds he regained consciousness on the ground, alive, with a dislocated shoulder and knee.

30-31 408 Sqn. Halifax II JD365 EQ-J lost, Sgt W.L. Reed RAF killed, Sgt R.G. Edwards, Sgt F. Berry RAF, Sgt A.E. Chalk RAF and Sgt J. Crammond RAF missing, Sgt R.A. Denham RAF and Sgt R.C. Davies RAF PoW. Sgt Denham was later repatriated.

30-31 418 Sqn. Mosquito FB.VI HX808 lost over France on a night INTRUDER, F/O A.A. Shepherd and P/O N. Cole RAAF killed (A. Storr).

- 30-31 427 Sqn. Halifax V EB242 ZL-K, was shot down by a night fighter, the pilot F/S B.W. Westerberg RAAF held control while his crew bailed out but was killed in the crash, Sgt L.C. Goss RAF, Sgt R.A. Marriott RAF, Sgt R.T.A. Marshall RAF, Sgt R.S. Bodycote RAF, Sgt W.R. Black RAAF and Sgt T.K. Boord RAAF PoW (R. Koval, A. Storr, R. McNeill at www.rafcommands.com).
- 30-31 620 Sqn. Stirling III EE905 QS-S shot down over Belgium by a night fighter, **Sgt R.C. Broadbent** and Sgt W.J. Ford RAF killed, **Sgt L.I. Dunbar**, Sgt F.J. Frost RAF, Sgt R.B. Spencer-Fleet RAF and Sgt J.L. Snelling RAF PoW, Sgt J.D.H. Carleton RAF evaded.

Saturday

31 The largest ship in Brazilian service, the freight/passenger ship Bage, torpedoed off the Brazilian coast by U-185, with the loss of 78 of the 231 on board (wikipedia, www.wrecksite.eu).

- 31 20 Sqn. Hurricane IId KW749 flew into a hill in India in bad weather, killing **WO2 R.G. McIntaggart**.
- 31 247 Sqn. Typhoon Ib BJ545 ZY-V hit by flak and dived into the sea off the French coast on a RAMROD, **WO1 C.D. MacIntosh** missing.
- 31 401 Sqn. pilot **F/L T.K. Ibbotson** died of injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident in England (D. McIntosh).
- 31 #54 OTU Beaufighter IIf T3370 abandoned over the North Sea due to an engine fire, **P/O F. Walmsley** missing, 1 crew rescued (aviation-safety.net).
- 31 #1681 Bomber (Defence) Training Flight Tomahawk I AH746 made a wheels up landing with a dead engine after the pilot, **Sgt D. Leslie**, forgot to switch to a full fuel tank. He was uninjured.
- 31 #10 EFTS, Pendleton, Ontario, DH.82C Tiger Moth #8861 crashed near Pendleton, **LAC(P) E. Drake** killed.
- 31 USAAF AT-6C Texan (Harvard) 41-33062 damaged landing at Edmonton, Alberta (AAIR).

31-1 #331 Wing RCAF flew NICKEL sorties over Rome on this night after two nights of rest (FF Years).

- 31-1 #24 OTU Whitley V N1390 crashed when it clipped a propellor on the runway, **Sgt S. Smith** and P/O K.O. Law DFM RNZAF safe. See Nov. 18-19, below.

August 1943

405 Sqn. begins to re-equip with Lancaster B.I/B.III bombers (RCAF Sqns.). Originally Pathfinder aircraft were intended to use the same aircraft as the Main Force Groups from which they came, but given the different performance of the various types this was found to be impractical, so all were

re-equipped with Lancaster I and III aircraft. The major difference between the two marks was that Mark I aircraft used Rolls-Royce Merlin engines, while the Mark III used US built Packard Merlins provided under Lend-Lease. Without these US engines Bomber Command would have been unable to build up the number of Lancasters in service. The Canadian built Lancaster X also used the Packard Merlin, and had US and Canadian built components, a different electrical system and, after the first few aircraft, a US Martin 250 mid-upper turret with .50 calibre machine guns, but components like these were purchased by Canada, not Lend-Lease.

404 Sqn. begins to install rocket rails on it's Beaufighters (404 SH).

417 Sqn. in the Mediterranean begins to receive Spitfire VIII aircraft (RCAF Sqns.).

429 Sqn. begins to re-equip with Halifax B.II aircraft (RCAF Sqns.).

In Japan 200 balloons had been produced, and 2 submarines prepared as launch vehicles, for the proposed balloon bombing of North America, but the urgent need for cargo submarines to support the campaign in the Solomons led to the cancellation of this program. The Japanese then began to develop a larger, longer ranged balloon that could be launched from the Japanese home islands to North America, using the jetstream that Japanese meteorologists had observed. These winds were then closely studied by radiosondes using the balloons produced for the submarine program (Mikesh).

Sunday

1 Operation TIDAL WAVE, USAAF B-24 long range low level attack from North Africa on Ploesti, Romania, inflicts heavy damage on the oil refineries there, with loss of 41 of 164 aircraft. Effective flak defences by German units were unexpected, and pre-planned damage control and interconnection of the refineries limits effectiveness of this attack, but it remains the most damaging attack on this vital target during the war.

Near Orel Senior Lt. Lydia Litvyak, 73 GIAP, Soviet air forces, was shot down in a Yak-1 fighter in combat and killed, the highest scoring woman fighter pilot of the war with 12 kills (wikipedia).

The first Canadian built Lancaster X, KB700, "Ruhr Express", left the Victory Aircraft production line.

1 #30 OTU Wellington X HE917 suffered a hydraulic failure on a night exercise. Attempting to land without flaps the aircraft had to ground loop to avoid running off the airfield, but ended up on a railway line where it was burned out, **Sgt C.M. Carr,**

Sgt A.E. Dimock, F/S P.J. Clifton RAF, Sgt A.L. Rookes RAF and Sgt J.A. Johnstone RAF injured. See Oct. 3-4, below, and Jan. 14-15, 1944.

- 1 #133 (F) Sqn. RCAF Hurricane XII #5381 FN-T crashed off Tofino, B.C., **F/O R.H. Brown** missing.
- 1 #37 SFTS, Calgary, Alberta, Harvard II AJ894 crashed, F/O I.A.L. Stewart RAF killed.
- 1 #111 OTU, Bahamas, electricians LAC E.F. Day RAF and Cpl J.F.S. Hole RAF accidentally walking into the propellers of an aircraft they were servicing and were killed (E. Wiberg, CWGC).
- 1 RAF Ferry Command, Reykjavik, Iceland, the Hadrian glider 'Voo-Doo' and it's Dakota tug aircraft fly to Prestwick in Scotland, completing the first Trans-Atlantic glider tow in 28 ½ hours of flight time. The flight proved that ferrying gliders over the Atlantic was possible, but impractical (D.C. Webb). The Dakota pilot **F/L W.S. Longhurst RAF (Can.)** was awarded an AFC for this flight (Allison & Hayward). Days later the Hadrian FR579 'Voo-Doo' was destroyed in a landing accident in England (F.M. Gobeil).

1-2 205 Group sends #331 Wing RCAF Wellingtons to bomb the road and rail junction at Randazzo in Sicily (FF Years).

- 1-2 424 Sqn. Wellington X HE967 QB-O crashed in flames on the slopes of Mount Etna, Sicily, probably shot down, on a bombing operation to Randazzo, Italy. F/S S.C. Bowker RAAF, Sgt T.A. Hallam RAF, Sgt R.C. Dixon RAF, Sgt F.C. Daniels RAF and Sgt H.G. Shoobert RAF killed (A. Storr, R.W.R. Walker).
- 1-2 407 Sqn. Wellington XIV HF127, Squadron commanding officer W/C J.C. Archer RAF and crew attacked U-106, damaging her so she could not submerge. The Wellington circled the U-boat, which engaged them with flak, until they had to return. The damaged U-boat was later sunk by Sunderlands of 228 and 461 RAAF Squadrons (<http://uboat.net/boats/u106.htm>, wikipedia).

Monday

2 Seven hundred prisoners in the Treblinka death camp in Poland stage a breakout, killing 15 guards. Almost all of the escapees are hunted down and killed, only 12 evade re-capture (Oxford).

- 2 272 Sqn. Beaufighter VIc JL758 hit the mast of a ship it was attacking and crashed into the sea off Greece, **F/O C.R. Ttery RCAF (Argentina)** and F/S E. Stow RAF missing (<http://aviationarchaeology.gr>; aviation-safety.net).
- 2 458 Sqn. RAAF Wellington XIII MP713 ditched in the Mediterranean between Sardinia and Corsica after attacking an enemy warship, **WO2 H.E. Kontzie** missing, **Sgt K.F. McClellan**, F/L J.H. Douglas DFC RAF, P/O L.J. Netherway RAAF, Sgt B.F. Wheatley RAAF and WO C.M. Ryan RAAF were rescued by an Italian floatplane and made PoW. Sgt McClellan and Sgt Wheatley later escaped (COL BRUGGY, www.rafcommands.com).

- 2 500 Sqn. Hudson V AM532 crashed on a practice bombing exercise in Algeria, F/O L.K. Lindsay RAAF and F/S I.H. Shields RAAF killed, **Sgt R.C. Sullivan** injured (A. Storr). See Sept. 2, below.
- 2 405 Sqn. air gunner **WO2 C.C. McLellan** died in hospital of wounds received July 24-25 above.
- 2 409 Sqn. Beaufighter VI f X8211 was damaged beyond repair making a gear up landing following an engine fire, crew safe (CZ_RAF www.rafcommands.com).
- 2 415 Sqn. Hampden TB.I GX-A, newly appointed commanding officer **S/L C.G. Ruttan**, with P/O Smith, **Sgt W. Norquay** and 1 crew surprised U-706 as it was surfacing in the Bay of Biscay and made an attack that damaged it. It was then attacked and sunk by a B-24 Liberator 'T' of 4th Anti-Submarine Sqn. USAAF (FF Years; H.A. Halliday www.rafcommands.com; 415 SH; www.uboat.net).
- 2 415 Sqn. Hampden GX-T, **P/O W.R.R. Savage**, badly damaged in a fight with 5 Ju 88 long range fighter aircraft on a patrol over the Bay of Biscay, which knocked out hydraulics, damaged the elevators and fuel tanks, knocked off the pilots canopy and hit the fuselage and wings. P/O Savage made a safe return to England, he and his crew F/O F.A. Brockwell, Sgt J.E. Mason and Sgt S.J. Babyn unwounded and safe (H.A. Halliday at www.rafcommands.com; FF Years).
- 2 455 Sqn. RAAF Hampden TB.I L4105 was damaged by flak on a daylight torpedo attack off Norway and crash landed on return to Scotland, **F/O G.A. Lennox**, F/O J.B. Mullan RNZAF, F/O I.H. Masson RAF and F/O F.J. Skidmore safe (H. Moyle).
- 2 #23 OTU Wellington III BK504 was practicing circuits when an engine failed on an overshoot and the aircraft came down in woods near the airfield, Air Training Corps Cadet R.N. Carter, a passenger getting air experience, died of his injuries, **P/O J.D.C. Craton**, **F/O W.B. Coucill** and F/L G.R. Dixon RAF (a visiting Central Flying School instructor) were also injured (CWGC).
- 2 #1 OTU, Bagotville, Quebec, Hurricane XIIa #1380 crashed, Sgt I.H.W. Franks RNZAF killed.
- 2 #36 EFTS, carpenter **F/S J. Bell** died of natural causes at Red Deer, Alberta, while travelling by bus (www.rafcommands.com).
- 2 unknown unit, **LAC(N) R.M. Cosh** died of natural causes in Toronto, Ontario (www.rafcommands.com).

2-3 In a night action in the Solomon Islands a Japanese destroyer collides with and sinks torpedo boat PT-109, commanded by Lt. J.F. Kennedy USNR, one of the sons of former Ambassador to England Joseph Kennedy, and later US President (ww2total.com Chronology/1943).

205 Group Wellingtons in Tunisia bomb Naples (FF Years).

- 2-3 425 Sqn. Wellington X HE267 'T' was on an operation to bomb rail yards in Naples. On landing in Tunisia a tyre burst and the aircraft was damaged in a ground-loop

that resulted in the undercarriage collapsing, Sgt W. Clark, Sgt J. Done, Sgt D. Kirby, P/O E.W. Lord and Sgt E. Whitmore (RCAF or RAF?) safe (BLME V.2).

2-3 Fourth and final Bomber Command attack on Hamburg, an operation by 740 aircraft, was disrupted by severe thunderstorms that downed at least 4 bombers and scattered the rest. Many returned to England, others attacked alternate targets. Thirty bombers were lost from this force in total. In other operations 5 Mosquitos were sent to Duisburg, 6 Wellingtons again GARDENING in the Elbe River and 12 OTU sorties with 1 minelayer lost (BC War Diaries).

The attacks on Hamburg forced the Luftwaffe to make the defence against Bomber Command its priority over supporting the Army fighting Soviet forces, and planning began to massively increase fighter production, while heavy bombing of England in revenge (Operation STEINBOCK) was planned to begin in December by moving bomber units from the fighting in Italy (wikipedia).

- 2-3 10 Sqn. Halifax II DT792 ZA-O "Farouk" was damaged when it was attacked by a night fighter, which was shot down by the rear gunner **Sgt R.N. Hurst**. On landing back in England an undercarriage leg collapsed and the aircraft was written off (R. Allenby). Sgt Hurst was awarded a DFM and the pilot F/O J.G. Jenkins RAF the DFC for this sortie, they and the rest of the crew, Sgt J. Ollerton RAF, Sgt W.D. Ryan RAF, Sgt E. Saddington RAF, Sgt J. Whatley RAF and F/L A.L. Fuller RAAF, safe. See Sept. 22-23, below.
- 2-3 12 Sqn. Lancaster III DV224 PH-G lost over the target, probably shot down by flak, **Sgt E.H. Spanke**, **F/S H.F. Thurston**, F/O S. Norris RAF, Sgt P.F. Dewdney RAF, Sgt R.C.V. Beck RAF, Sgt S. Sinclair RAF and Sgt B. Jefferies RAF killed.
- 2-3 44 Sqn. Lancaster I W4778 KM-T shot down into the Waddenzee by a night fighter, Sgt A.R. Moffatt RAF, Sgt L.G. Croft RAF, Sgt R.E. Fincham RAF and Sgt W.A. Sewell RAF killed, **F/O E.B. Kirkham** and Sgt S.A. King RAF missing, Sgt P.L. Swan RAF PoW. F/O Kirkham's brother, **F/S T.Y. Kirkham**, was lost this same night in a 432 Sqn. Wellington, below.
- 2-3 51 Sqn. Halifax II HR859 lost without trace, **Sgt E.R. Sklarchuk**, Sgt R. Neal RAF, Sgt E. Talgam RAF, Sgt A.L. Morse RAF, Sgt F. Jackson RAF, Sgt H.R.R. Guley RAF and Sgt D. Griffiths RAF missing.
- 2-3 77 Sqn. Halifax II JD302 KN-B hit by flak, **Sgt W.R. Farrell**, **Sgt K.E. Lees**, Sgt R.J. Caseley RAF, Sgt F.E. Ryder RAF, Sgt C.R. Boyd RAF, Sgt W.J.H. Webb RAF and F/S W. Wright RAF landed safe in England (R. Allenby). See December 3-4, below.
- 2-3 100 Sqn. Lancaster III ED688 HW-A lost off the Dutch Coast, probably shot down by a night fighter, **WO2 F.M. Cole** killed and WO A.R. Wilden DFC RAF, Sgt J. Tarver RAF, F/S H.M. Matheson RAF, F/L J.A.P. Drummond DFM RAF, Sgt H.W.C. Simms RAF and Sgt R. Harbour RAF missing.

- 2-3 100 Sqn. Lancaster III ED705 HW-C shot down into the North Sea by a night fighter, F/L R.R. Howgill DFC RAF and F/O W.D. Christie RAF killed, **Sgt H.R. Raven**, P/O J.D.W. Renno DFM RAAF, Sgt M. Howe RAF, Sgt C.H. Best RAF and Sgt E.E. Gardner RAF missing.
- 2-3 103 Sqn. Lancaster III ED645 PM-F lost over Germany, **WO1 G.C. Bradley**, F/O C.E.T. Bryan RAF, F/O D.C. Elder RAF, WO J. Flynn RAF, WO A.W.H. Page RAF, WO J.S. Stoneman RAF and WO T. Stanley RAF killed.
- 2-3 115 Sqn. Lancaster II DS673 KO-V came down in the sea off Germany, probably shot down by a night fighter, **F/S K.E. Schlegel**, Sgt D.H. Read RAF, Sgt H.A. Sparrow RAF, Sgt R.W. Bennett RAF, Sgt W.H. Hodges RAF, Sgt L.E. Fuller RAF and F/S D.W. Bellamy RAF killed.
- 2-3 158 Sqn. Halifax II HR751 NP-J "Jane" hit by flak over the target and abandoned, but Sgt R.B. Farmery RAF's parachute failed and he was killed, **Sgt J.M. Lally**, Sgt G. Rusbatch RNZAF, Sgt C.K. Davie RAF, Sgt A.K. Snell RAF, Sgt H.P. Jarman RAF and F/S C.R. Buckland RAF PoW.
- 2-3 166 Sqn. Wellington X HF464 AS-W shot down into the Waddensee by a night fighter, **F/O G.W. Fitzgerald**, Sgt J. Cowan RAF, Sgt H. Nash RAF, Sgt R.J. Perrin RAF killed, Sgt V.F. Fernando RAF (Ceylon) missing.
- 2-3 405 Sqn. Halifax II HR849 LQ-E shot down by flak over Germany, **F/S W.J. Crozier**, Sgt T. Brownless RAF, Sgt H. Gardner RAF, Sgt A.F. Gregory RAF, Sgt S.J. Passey RAF, Sgt S.T. Pitt RAF and Sgt D. Rowbotham RAF killed.
- 2-3 405 Sqn. Halifax II HR871 LQ-B badly damaged by flak over Germany, abandoned over Sweden where the crew, **Sgt H.C. McLean**, **F/S G.W. Mainprize**, **Sgt W.H. King**, **Sgt L.D. Kohnke**, Sgt J.A. Phillips DFM RAF, Sgt V.A. Knight RAF and Sgt R.A. Andrews RAF were interned. Sgt Phillips wrote a book about his experiences in Bomber Command, *The Valley of the Shadow of Death: Bomber Command Campaign, March-July 1943*, Air Research Publications, 1992 (R. Allenby). In 2011 the remains of this aircraft were discovered off shore of Sweden and are presently part of a recovery plan by the Bomber Command Museum in Nanton, Alberta (<http://www.rcaf-arc.forces.gc.ca/en/article-template-standard.page?doc=plane-wreckage-tells-a-tale-of-halifax-bomber-history/ii1b4v7k>).
- 2-3 405 Sqn.(?) Halifax II, Sgt M.M. Humphreys, was forced to turn back due to heavy icing when it was struck by lightning that knocked out all the engines momentarily (FF Years).
- 2-3 405 Sqn. Halifax II HR917 LQ-G lost without trace, **Sgt J.O. Rice**, F/L H.W.J. Dare RAF, Sgt D.A. Thomas RAF, P/O J.R.F. Ratcliffe RAF, P/O K.C. Rigby RAF, Sgt E. Darbyshire RAF and Sgt W. Hutchinson RAF missing.
- 2-3 408 Sqn. Halifax II, **Sgt D. Harvey**, encountered severe icing and spun 7,000' before recovering, the wireless operator Sgt R. Shire RAF bailed out and was taken PoW (R. Koval). See Jan. 27-28, 1944.
- 2-3 419 Sqn. Halifax II DT798 VR-T lost over Germany due to heavy icing and electrical

storms. The aircraft suffered a complete engine failure after being struck by lightning, **F/S D.J. McCarty**, **Sgt J. Sadeski** and **Sgt J.S. Sobin** killed, **Sgt R.E. Horswill** RAF missing, **P/O J. Sibalis**, **Sgt J.M. Mahoney** and **Sgt A.W. Farrow** RAF PoW.

- 2-3 428 Sqn. Halifax V EB212 NA-U lost in the sea off Germany, **F/O H.G. Funkhouser** and **Sgt J.W. Lunn** RAF (Can.) killed, **WO2 E.G. Smith** RCAF (USA), **P/O V.T. Sylvester**, **Sgt D. Charlesworth** RAF, **Sgt T.L. Rose** RAF, **Sgt P.J. Forde** RAF and **F/S G.K.H. Creighton-Kelly** RAF missing.
- 2-3 428 Sqn. Halifax V EB274 NA-H lost without trace, **F/O E.J. Andrews**, **WO2 M. Chepil** DFM, **P/O A. Garalick**, **F/O F.L. Rogers**, **Sgt J.R.R. Burfield** RAF, **Sgt M.F. Spencer** RAF, **Sgt S.J. Williams** RAF and **Sgt M. Evans** RAF missing. Believed to have been off course returning to England and shot down over the sea by a German night fighter (M. Middlebrook, D.W. Danner, michel at www.rafcommands).
- 2-3 429 Sqn. Wellington X HF514 AL-X damaged in the tail and fuselage by flak, **F/O H.M. Brown**, **Sgt F.W.B.G. Hingston**, **Sgt J.R. Vilim**, **F/S J.C. Lochhead** RAF and **Sgt J.R. Williams** RAF returned safe (R. Allenby). See December 3-4, below.
- 2-3 432 Sqn. Wellington X HE906 QO-H lost over the sea, **F/S H.P. Gaudry** killed, **F/O M.E. Balkam** RCAF (USA), **F/S T.Y. Kirkham**, **F/O D.R.C. McDonald** and **Sgt L.G. Lythgoe** RAF missing (R. Koval). **F/S Kirkham's** brother **F/O E.B. Kirkham** was lost this same night in a 44 Sqn. Lancaster, above.
- 2-3 #18 OTU Wellington X HE526 force landed in a field after an engine failed on take off for a NICKEL sortie, **P/O H.C. Atkinson**, **Sgt N. Walker** RAF, **P/O L.T. Bowers** RAF, **Sgt J.R. Taylor** RAF, **Sgt S. Edwards** RAF and **F/L Hill** RAF injured (R. Allenby).

Tuesday

3 Soviets renew drive on the Donets basin (Oxford).

#14 (F) Sqn. RCAF renews attacks on Kiska, only 1 pilot reports anti-aircraft fire, where before there was always heavy fire (442 SH). A small party of Japanese had been left on Kiska to destroy documents and later evacuated by submarine, and they may have still been there at the time (B. Coyle).

- 3 18 Sqn. Boston III Z2245 'D' was taking off in Malta to return to Tunisia when one of the undercarriage legs failed and the aircraft was damaged beyond repair, **F/S J.W. Borden**, **F/S T.V. Parker** RAF, **Sgt H. Reynolds** RAF and **Sgt A. Taffe** RAF safe (BLME V.2).
- 3 253 Sqn. Hurricane IIc HV706 lost from Malta, **WO2 W. Stirling** missing.
- 3 401 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BL339 dived into the ground from a low altitude in England, killing **F/O R.B. Delbridge**.
- 3 #9 OTU Beaufort I L9819 undershot a landing and crashed in Scotland killing **F/O H.C. Miller** and **WO R.J. Badger** RAF (R. Hayward). **WO Badger** had recently returned to England from deployment with 53 Sqn. flying anti-submarine patrols in the USA

and Caribbean (Freshman & R. McNeill www.rafcommands.com).

- 3 #12 OTU Wellington III X3876 suffered an engine failure 20 minutes after taking off on a night exercise and was abandoned to crash over England, **Sgt I.A. MacPhee**, **Sgt S.D. Oakes**, **F/S W.N. Gould**, Sgt M.G. Scollick RAF, Sgt W.P. Crosby RAF and Sgt Burtonshaw RAF all injured. See also Sept. 21-22 below.
- 3 #14 OTU Wellington Ic DV823 crash landed just after take off when an exhaust burned through and the engine was shut down in the belief it was on fire, **Sgt L. Curatolo** and his crew safe. See Jan. 14-15, 1944.
- 3 #5 EFTS, High River, Alberta, Cornell I FH865 crashed near Mazeppa, Alberta, **P/O E.W. Davidson** and LAC(P) K.A. Ing RAF killed.
- 3 #17 EFTS, Stanley, NS, **Sgt N.L. Lauzon RCAF (USA)** died in hospital of injuries received when Finch II #4745 crashed on a test flight near the airfield.

3-4 205 Group including #331 Wing Wellingtons attacked the rail yard at Paola in Italy (FF Years).

Bomber Command had 12 Wellingtons, all from #6 Group RCAF, GARDENING off France on this night, no losses (BC War Diaries).

- 3-4 429 Sqn. Wellington X HE350 was damaged by a flak ship on a GARDENING sortie, **F/S D.R. Nelson**, **Sgt H.H. Rodgers**, **Sgt D.M. Smith DFM**, Sgt W. Pass RAF and Sgt R.T. Abbott RAF (St.Vincent, West Indies) safe (R. Allenby). See November 25-26 below and May 27-28, 1944.

Wednesday

4 Ontario General Election won by the Progressive Conservative party with 38 seats, but the CCF wins 34. Other seats are won by the Liberal party (15), Liberal Independent (1) and the Labor-Progressive (communist) (2) (wikipedia).

- 4 18 Sqn. Boston III Z2256 'Z' was sent to Malta for an operation, but the undercarriage jammed when lowered, so the bomber returned to its base in Tunisia and belly-landed, **Sgt J.W. Churchill**, F/S R.T. Kendall RAF, F/O W.S. Mooney RAF and P/O J.W. Pryke RAF safe (BLME V.2).
- 4 72 Sqn. Spitfire Vc (Trop.) JK637 was shot down off Sicily, the pilot, **F/O G.N. Keith DFC** bailed out, but his parachute did not open until just over the sea (www.spitfires.ukf.net). F/O Keith was picked up by Air Sea rescue but died of his injuries. He had a credit of 8½ victories.
- 4 112 Sqn. Kittyhawk III FR429 GA-P shot down by flak over Italy **F/O R.D. 'Goose' Guess** PoW (Allison & Hayward, raf-112-squadron.org).
- 4 404 Sqn. Beaufighter XIc JM130 EE-J was hit by flak attacking a German convoy. On the return flight it had an engine burst into flames before it crashed into the sea off Norway, **F/S G.J. Dale RCAF (USA)** and **WO2 K.E. Riddell** missing (R. McNeill www.rafcommands.com; aviation-safety.net).

- 4 423 Sqn. Sunderland III DD859 3-G shot down attacking U-boat U-489 in Western approaches, **WO1 J.S. Kelly**, **F/O H.B. Parliament**, Sgt H. Gossop RAF, Sgt F. Hadcraft RAF and F/S J.B. Horsburgh RAF killed, **F/L A.A. Bishop** and 5 crew wounded (2 RCAF, 2 RAF?), rescued with 23 survivors of the U-boat by *HMS Castleton* (RCAF Sqns., FF Years). The U-boat web site also notes that a Catalina from another Squadron was damaged in this attack. (*Aeroplane Monthly* July 1988, article "*Armourer's Progress*" describes this as a 422 aircraft with casualties as stated and all 56 crew from U-boat rescued, notes that this U-boat, U-489, had shot up and damaged a 269 Hudson the previous day. In *Flypast* Dec. 1998, "*Coincidence and Luck*", pg. 30, describes the attack, refers to the aircraft as from 423 Sqn. Ironically the crew of the U-boat, a supply Type XIV "Milch Cow", was preparing to abandon the craft after damage sustained the day before by the Hudson attack. As well the U-boat had aboard three rescued Luftwaffe fliers from a Bv 138 shot down July 28 by **F/O E. Keefe** and **Sgt Miller** in a 404 Sqn. Beaufighter off Norway. Needs clarification.)
- 4 #16 OTU Wellington III BK205 crashed on take off on a training flight, **P/O T. Johnstone**, **F/S D. Redfern**, F/O J. McKenna RAF, Sgt S.A. Schofield RAF and Sgt W.L. Nicol RAF killed.
- 4 #42 OTU Whitley V N1505 was seen to crash into the sea after being illuminated and possibly blinded by British searchlights, **F/O V. Hnidan**, **F/S D.A. Williston**, F/O L.T. Broking RAF and Sgt J.S. Harris RAF missing (www.rafcommands.com).
- 4 #1659 HCU RCAF Halifax II JB916 ditched off Wales after an engine exploded, **Sgt J. Reynoldson** and his crew got into their life rafts and were rescued by an ASR launch.
- 4 #41 SFTS, Weyburn, Saskatchewan, Harvard IIb FE635 crashed just after take-off on night circuit training, **LAC(P) E.A. Dobson** killed.

4-5 Messina was bombed by all three Squadrons of #331 Wing RCAF to interfere with the withdrawal of German forces from Sicily (FF Years).

Thursday

5 Soviet forces re-capture Orel and Belgorod (CJCA headline). See August 22, below.

- 5 150 Sqn. Wellington X HE952 JN-L aircraft lost attacking evacuation points in Sicily, **S/L G.K.F. Garrod RAF (Can.)**, Sgt V.T.W. Sherwood RAF, F/O W.G. Smith RNZAF, F/O F. Williams RAF and F/S G.H.B. Wilkie RNZAF have no known grave (CWGC; www.rafcommands.com; aircrewremembered.com).
- 5 USAAF 81st Bombardment Squadron, 12 Medium Bombardment Group, USAAF B-25D 41-29693 shot down, wireless operator air gunner **F/O L.T.J. Kelly**, 1Lt J.D. Boston Jr. USAAF, 1Lt K.S. Callahan USAAF, Sgt J.F. Cashman USAAF and 2Lt E.D. Williams USAAF missing (Alex Smart at www.rafcommands.com). F/O Kelly was one of a batch of Canadian WAGs seconded to the US Mitchell group to

- communicate with Commonwealth forces using British radio procedures.
- 5 #1664 HCU RCAF air frame mechanic **Cpl R.A. McMaster** was crossing a bridge possibly on a bicycle when he collided with another serviceman walking and was died of his injuries (www.rafcommands.com).
- 5 #145 (BR) Sqn. RCAF Ventura GR.V #2169 crashed after take-off from Torbay, Newfoundland, outbound on a convoy patrol, **WO2 G.C. Drynan**, **P/O M.E. Griff**, **WO2 W.M. Lee** and **P/O W.R. Richardson** killed.
- 5 #32 OTU, Patricia Bay, BC, Canadian built Hampden TB.I P5400 swung on take-off and was wrecked, Sgt J.M. McCarrison RNZAF safe (H. Moyle).

5-6 Beaches near Messina being used to evacuate German troops from Sicily were attacked by #331 Wing Wellingtons (FF Years).

- 5-6 18 Sqn. was landing in Sicily from an operation over the evacuation beaches when it struck an earthen embankment, overshot it's landing and had it's undercarriage collapse, **Sgt H.J. Wood**, F/O G. Lansdell RAF, F/S H.G. McNally RAF and F/S A.B. Wood RAF safe (BLME V.2).

Friday

6 Proceeding in ballast from Freetown to Rio de Janeiro the Canadian built freighter Fort Halkett was torpedoed by U-185 and sank off Brazil (www.uboaat.net).

US troops take Munda, New Georgia (CJCA headline). This had been the main Japanese airfield in the region, and was quickly rebuilt as an Allied airfield and supply base.

- 6 51 Sqn. Halifax II HR783 was on an air test when it suffered an engine fire and crashed in England, killing **Sgt C.M. Johnson**, P/O C.A. Lambert DFM RAF, Sgt E. Watson RAF, P/O J.A. Wilkins RAF, Sgt H.J. Wilkins RAF, Sgt H.J. Evans RAF, Sgt G.A. Warren RAF and LAC W. Rees RAF (R. Allenby).
- 6 170 Sqn. Mustang I AG417 shot down by flak on a RHUBARB over France, **F/O W.B. Reynolds** killed.
- 6 #23 OTU Wellington III BK430 crashed after an engine failure while on a BULLSEYE sortie, **F/S W.M. Arril**, **F/S J.P.G.M. de Bellefeuille**, **F/S J.P.R. Labbe**, **F/O N. Solomka**, **WO2 F.C.J.L. Therien** and Sgt R. Searston RAF killed.
- 6 #59 OTU Canadian built Hurricane X AG107 crashed after the pilot Sgt H.C.E. Morley RAF bailed out, no details (www.nelsam.org.uk; www.rafcommands.com).
- 6 RAF Station Ford, England, driver **LAC C.E. Martell** died in hospital of natural causes.
- 6 #45 RAF Transport Group Ferry Command Hudson VI EW898 crashed near Martintown, Quebec, killing **Sgt G.S.B. Newman**, Ferry Captain L.C. Lloyd (USA) and Ferry Captain H.M. Smither (USA).
- 6 USAAF UC-45E 42-43486 damaged at Torbay, Nfld. (AAIR).
- 6 1st Air Force, 4th Base Headquarters and Air Base Squadron, Selfridge Field

(Michigan), USAAF UC-43B (Beech Staggerwing) floatplane 42-61097 destroyed by an engine fire at Birch Island, Ontario (AAIR), 1Lt E. Kopp USAAF, Sgt C.J. Griffing (? service) and passengers T. Barret US Secret Service, and LCdr J.E. Duffy USNR safe. This aircraft was engaged in communications for US President Roosevelt on his fishing trip to Lake Huron. The wreck was raised in 2001 and is on display at the Centennial Museum in Sheguiandah, Ontario (G.S. Mount, K. Warnes).

6-7 205 Group and #331 Wing RCAF returned to bomb the rail yards and docks of Naples (FF Years).

- 6-7 70 Sqn. Wellington III HF675 'W' ditched in the Mediterranean after an engine failure on an operation to Naples, Sgt C.R.K. Fay RAF killed, **F/S E.D. Brokenshire**, F/S R.D. Schwardt RAF and F/S D.G. Morrison RAF missing, Sgt D.C. Morris was injured and rescued by a US Navy vessel (BLME V.2).
- 6-7 142 Sqn. Wellington X HF763 'T' shot down over the evacuation beaches by a night fighter, **S/L A.E. Thompson MiD RAF (Can.)**, Sgt W.K. Elderson RAF, F/O P.J. Playfair RAF, F/S W.W. Marsh RAF and F/S P.F. O'Loghlen RAAF missing (A. Storr, www.aviationarchaeology.org.uk; BLME V.2).
- 6-7 150 Sqn. Wellington X HF535 'R' missing, possibly shot down by a nightfighter over the evacuation beaches, **F/O C.C. Darling**, F/S J.R. Ivory RAAF, Sgt S.W. Knight RAF, Sgt J. Binnie RAF and Sgt A. Dewar RAF missing (A. Storr; BLME V.2).
- 6-7 425 Sqn. Wellington X HE261 KW-R crashed in the sea off Cap Bon, Tunisia, on approach to land, **Sgt C.A. Reist** killed, **F/O R.E. Clark**, **F/S T.J. Driscoll**, **P/O D.A. Wood** and Sgt R.B. Perry RAF missing (R.W.R. Walker, C. Charland at www.rafcommands.com; BLEM V.2).

6-7 Bomber Command sent 8 Mosquitos to Cologne and Duisburg, 34 GARDENING and 13 OTU sorties with the loss of 2 minelayers. These were the first losses of nightly Bomber Command operations since the Hamburg attacks (BC War Diaries).

- 6-7 75 (New Zealand) Sqn. Stirling I BK614 JN-H lost without trace on a GARDENING sortie off France, **F/S I.S. Rothstein**, F/S J.R. Mayo RNZAF, Sgt R. Booth RAF, Sgt A.E. Turner RAF, F/S T.H. Gittins RAF, Sgt S.T. Kitching RAF and Sgt R.H. Amstell RAF missing.

Saturday

7 US President Roosevelt ends a seven day fishing trip in Ontario (CJCA headline).

- 7 #7 AFU Master I T8565 crashed in England, **Sgt F. Belcourt** killed.
- 7 #18 AFU Oxford LX304 crashed in England after colliding with a Whitley V BD221, **F/L W.J. Smith**, Sgt G.V. Sigwort RAF and F/S D.L. Oates RAF killed in the Oxford, the Whitley managed to land safely (www.mkheritage.co.uk).
- 7 #22 OTU Wellington III HF612 crashed in England when it stalled making a single engine landing, **F/S W.G. Hill**, **Sgt D.M. Martin**, **F/O P.M. Hetherington**, WO T.S.

Heyes DFM RAF, Sgt B. Bradshaw RAF killed. According to the notes in W.R. Chorley the instructor, WO Heyes, had been awarded his DFM while serving with 429 Sqn. RCAF.

- 7 #28 OTU Wellington Ic X9683 caught fire after an engine failure and crashed on a night training flight, **Sgt G.A. Long**, F/S R.W. Bagley RAF, Sgt R.A. Owens RAF, Sgt D.W.B. Pimm RAF and Sgt J.J. Davidge RAF killed.
- 7 #1 Technical Training School St. Thomas, Ontario electrician **F/S J.H. Nestor** drowned accidentally at Port Stanley, Ontario.
- 7 #1 Y Depot, Halifax, NS, **F/O R.A. Lyons** died in hospital of natural causes.
- 7 #4 Wireless School, Guelph, Ontario Yale #3420 crashed near Burford, Ontario, **F/O W.J. Bieber** and **Cpl F.A. Wagner** killed.
- 7 #111 (OTU) Mitchell II FV953 crashed and burned after taking off due to unknown causes, Sgt V. Briza RAF (Czech.), P/O J. Hadravek RAF (Czech.), F/L J. Mares RAF (Czech), Sgt Z.Karel Salz RAF (Czech.), Sgt J. Sotola RAF (Czech.) and Sgt J. Turna RAF (Czech.) killed (E. Wiberg; aircrewremembered.com; CWGC).

7-8 Turin was targeted by 197 Lancasters in the first of a series of attacks designed to put pressure on the peace negotiations of the Italian government. This was a particularly successful operation, it is believed that every bomber reached the target and only 2 were lost. Of interest was the appointment of a Master Bomber to co-ordinate the attack while underway, although it was not very useful on this occasion. Five Mosquitos were active over Cologne and Dusseldorf without loss (BC War Diaries).

Evacuation beaches in Sicily were attacked by 205 Group Wellingtons (FF Years).

- 7-8 106 Sqn. Lancaster III DV196 was shot down over France returning from a sortie to Turin, F/O F.G. Wodehouse RAF and Sgt J. Cole RAF killed, Sgt A.R. Kidley RAF PoW, **F/O D.F. McGourlick**, Sgt T.H. Adams RAF, Sgt J.W. Windiate RAF and Sgt H.L. Nielson RAF evaded.

Sunday

- 8 215 Sqn. Wellington X HE126 crashed near Jessore, India, after taking off on an intruder patrol along the coast of Burma, **WO1 F.W. Holcombe**, F/O C.T. Enright RAAF, P/O E.C. Dowling RAF, Sgt E.R.E. Thomas RAF, Sgt N.A.J. Ovenden RAF and F/S J. Hyde RAF killed. WO Holcombe had already completed a tour in Europe before being transferred to India (W.B. Begy).
- 8 260 Sqn. Kittyhawk III FR813 lost in North Africa, **F/O W.H. Parlee** missing.
- 8 #6 ITW, **Cpl D. Bryson RAF (Can.)** drowned in Wales while at the shore (www.rafcommands.com).
- 8 #4 Construction and Maintenance Unit, construction hand **AC2 D. Newman** died in hospital of natural causes in Red Deer, Alberta.

- 8 #6 SFTS Dunnville Ontario, Harvard II #2596 spun and crashed near Caistorville, Ontario killing **LAC P.J. O'Connor**.
- 8 #34 OTU, Pennfield Ridge, NB, Ventura I AE659 was practicing single engine flight when the operating engine failed, possibly due to pilot error. The aircraft was at a low altitude and with no landing site available it was abandoned, **P/O G.H.K. Begg** and Sgt K.G. Curtis RNZAF safe (www.rootsweb.ancestry.com #34 OTU Accident and Mishap Reports). The aircraft crashed near Lepreau, NB, destroying the second Ventura built. The same pilot had damaged the prototype Ventura AE658 beyond repair on July 23, above. See December 6-7, 1944.

8-9 Beaches in the Messina area of Sicily being used for evacuation of German soldiers attacked by 205 Group Wellingtons (FF Years).

- 8-9 114 Sqn. Boston III W8259 landed short returning from an operation to interdict roads in Sicily and collapsed it's undercarriage, **Sgt P.N. Bedel**, F/S N.J. Cape RAF, F/O C.J. Hinchcliffe RAF and Sgt G.C. Robinson RAF safe (BLME V.2).
- 8-9 600 Sqn. Beaufighter, **F/O J.H. Turnbull** and Sgt C.F.J. Fowler RAF destroys 2 Ju-88 bombers at night over Sicily, bringing their score to 8 bombers shot down over Sicily since the landings, plus 1 destroyed and 1 damaged earlier (A. Fitzgerald-Black).

Monday

- 9 149 Sqn. Stirling III BF512 OJ-E crashed overshooting a landing on an air test, **F/S J.W. Cumming**, Sgt R.W. Poole RAF, Sgt J. Dabbs RAF, Sgt G. Jones RAF, Sgt A.M. Stirling RAF, Sgt G.H. Riley RAF, Sgt S.L. Noakes RAF and AC2 R.W. Cooper RAF killed.
- 9 400 Sqn. Mustang Is, **F/O D.M. Grant** and **F/O A.S. Collins**, were on a RHUBARB in rain and mist when they were attacked by a Ju 88 (nightfighter), which they turned on and shot up; it was last seen at low level over a forest, damaged and trailing smoke from one engine. They then attacked a military truck and a stationary train before returning (FF Years).
- 9 421 Sqn. Spitfire IX BS290 was on a RAMROD over France when it suffered engine trouble, **F/O R.T. Heeney** bailed out but was killed.
- 9 #5 AFU Master III DL609 crashed in England, **Sgt H.D. Tushingham** and F/O R.P. Abbey RAF killed (alclark www.rafcommands.com).
- 9 #10 AFU Anson I DJ275 flew into a peak in the Lake District of England, one of three Anson's lost by this unit on this night when the weather closed in without warning when they were on exercises, **Sgt T.W. Pickering**, F/S S. Kowalczyk PAF, Sgt J.T. Chadwick RAF, Sgt R.S. Deason RAF and Sgt T.S.W. Lawson RAF killed (Ian D B at www.flickr.com; R. Allenby).
- 9 #10 AFU Anson I DJ222 flew into the top of a mountain in the Lake District of England in the circumstances as described above. **F/S E.A. Loppe** was killed, **F/O John P. "Jack" Calder**, Sgt W. Panasik PAF, P/O C.E. Peake RAF and Sgt G.M. Chowney

RAF were injured. According to R. Allenby at www.yorkshire-aircraft.co.uk two of the crew set off down the hill to seek help at a farm. While they were away a nurse on vacation, Miss Hilda Haller, found one of the injured crew and saved his life by administering first aid. Sgt Panasik later died of his injuries in hospital. Sgt Chowney and Miss Haller were later commended for their actions in this incident. See Oct. 24-25, 1941 and July 21, 1944.

- 9 #10 AFU Anson I N5053 flew into high ground in the Lake District of England, Sgt W. Mackiewicz PAF killed, **Sgt A.D. McAdory** and Sgt F. Wilson RAF slightly injured, Sgt J. Convery RAF and Sgt J.C. Eaton RAF safe (alclark www.rafcommands.com; R. Allenby).
- 9 #82 OTU Wellington X MS471 'G' crashed after an engine failure at low level on return from a cross country exercise, **P/O H. Ibbot**, P/O W.W. Adams RAF, F/O F. Graham RAF, Sgt R.W. Ballauff RAF and Sgt P. Baldwin killed.
- 9 #31 OTU, Debert, NS, AC1 J.F. Heneage RAF died (31 OTU/7 OTU Roll of Honour).

9-10 Second night of attacks by 205 Group and #331 Wing RCAF Wellingtons on evacuation beaches around Messina (FF Years).

- 9-10 18 Sqn. Boston III W8347 'W' was on an INTRUDER sortie over Sicily, but could not find it's home field returning, so flew to Tunisia where the crew was ordered to bail out before ditching offshore. One crewman had, when a newly build US airfield turned on it's lights and the aircraft belly landed beside the runway, **Sgt J.T.A. Harris**, F/O P. Jordan RAF, F/O C.S. Pictor RAAF and Sgt F. Stallwood RAF safe (BLME V.2).

9-10 Mannheim was the target for 457 bombers in what turned into a scattered attack due to poor Pathfinder marking in cloud cover, yet even a scattered attack by only a part of Bomber Command now resulted in heavy damage to industries and property, and killed 269 of those on the ground. Other operations included 6 Mosquitos over Duisburg, 10 GARDENING and 14 OTU flights. Nine aircraft were lost (BC War Diaries).

- 9-10 49 Sqn. Lancaster III ED719 EA-K shot down by a night fighter over Germany, **Sgt M.E. Scarfe RCAF (USA)**, F/S L.E. Watson RAF, Sgt E.C. Lynch RAF, F/S C.T. Green RAF, Sgt H.J.E. Cole RAF, Sgt J.J. Goodall RAF and F/S J.W. Turner RAF PoW (R. McNeill PoW List www.rafcommands.com).
- 9-10 61 Sqn. Lancaster I W4236 QR-K shot down over Belgium by a night fighter, **F/S J.T. Kendall**, Sgt N.T. Holmes RAF and Sgt G.W.S. Spriggs RAF killed, Sgt J.C. Whitley RAF, Sgt P.B. Smith RAF, Sgt W. Walker RAF and Sgt E.F. Gardiner RAF evaded.
- 9-10 102 Sqn. Halifax II JD408 DY-R shot down over Germany by a night fighter, F/S F.A. Sherrington RAF and P/O J. Burdon RAF killed, F/O L. Bays RAF died of injuries, **P/O A.R. Hunter**, S/L L.J. Pestrige RAF, F/S K.P. Walker RAF and Sgt L.G. Dunn RAF PoW.
- 9-10 102 Sqn. Halifax II JB884 DY-N was forced to jettison it's bombs and return early as it's

compass was unserviceable. On landing the crew, **Sgt W.M.M. Manser**, WO R.W.S. Rooney RAAF, Sgt E.A. Church RAF, F/S S.A. Weeks, Sgt H.W. Jarvis, P/O G.A. Henderson and Sgt Baum(?) struck a parked aircraft, damaging both (R. Allenby). See February 15-16, 1944.

- 9-10 405 Sqn. Halifax II HR872 LQ-K shot down by a night fighter over Belgium, **Sgt D.A. Black**, F/S J.H. Evans, F/L K.M. Gray, F/S J. Hanna, F/O A.J. Middleton, F/S C.W. Pickering and Sgt H. King RAF killed.
- 9-10 419 Sqn. Halifax II JD257 VR-F lost over Germany, **F/S W.D. de Molitor**, F/O M.T. Ludlow, F/S A.S. MacLaren, F/S D.R. See, F/S C.R. Smyth, F/O C.A. Wright and Sgt W.L. Scott RAF killed.
- 9-10 427 Sqn. Halifax V EB247 ZL-P was attacked and badly damaged by a night fighter. One of the wings burst into flame, which was extinguished by the flight engineer, Sgt J. Elliott, who cut a hole in the fuselage and sprayed the fire with all the chemical fire extinguishers on board. Damage to the elevators required a crew member to assist the pilot in holding back the controls (R. Koval). The crew managed to return to England where the bomber was abandoned to crash, **Sgt R.C. Deegan**, F/S R.E. Fisher, F/S W. Biggs RAF, Sgt J. Elliott RAF, Sgt J. Read RAF, Sgt A. Richards RAF, Sgt L.E. Moyler RAF (wounded) and Sgt H.G. McLean RAF safe (FF Years). According to W.R. Chorley F/S Biggs was recommended for a CGM for this action, but he, Sgt Moyler and Sgt Elliot were awarded DFMs. See December 29-30, below.
- 9-10 428 Sqn. Halifax V, **Sgt B.R. Harrison**, was attacked and badly damaged by a night fighter, seriously wounding the wireless operator Sgt J. Martin RAF and the flight engineer Sgt G. Colville RAF (R. Koval). See Aug. 31-Sept. 1, below.

Tuesday

10 Churchill arrives in Quebec City (CJCA headline).

#111 (F) Sqn. begins to redeploy from Kodiak, Alaska to Patricia Bay, BC, after transferring it's aircraft to #14 (F) Squadron (440 SH). Attacks on Kiska Island are renewed after a week long break due to weather, no activity or anti-aircraft fire noted, pilots report that trenches appear deserted (442 SH).

- 10 5 Sqn. Hurricane KW859 crashed from a high speed stall in India killing **F/O R. Mendizabal**. F/O Mendizabal had been heavily engaged in fighter operations in Singapore and Java before making a dramatic escape in a patched up bomber March 11, 1942, and had flown operations in Mohawks since then, claiming several Japanese fighters shot down (Shores, Cull & Izawa).
- 10 417 Sqn. Spitfire Vc ES365 damaged taking off in Sicily when the engine cut, later written off (www.spitfires.ukf.net).
- 10 511 Sqn. Albemarle GT.I P1433 lost off Spain carrying passengers, **F/O D.C.W. Clark**, **F/O A.W. Little**, **F/S W.R. McLellan**, Cpl. K.T. Alexander RAF, F/O J.H. Charnock

RAF, Sgt W.B. Clarkson RAF, F/O P.O. Davis RAF, Sgt A.J. Flower RAF, F/L H.A. Kidd-May RAF, Sgt J. Oxley RAF, F/S R.D.C. Smith RAAF, F/O J.C.R. Valder RAAF and Sgt D.A. Woods RAF missing (A. Storr; www.rafcommands.com).

- 10 414 Sqn. Mustang I aircraft, **S/L H.P. Peters** and **F/O W. Blakeney** on a dawn RHUBARB attacked a barge, 2 trains, a blast furnace and gun positions (FF Years).
- 10 #3 (Coastal) OTU Wellington VIII HX512 lost on a training exercise, **F/L T.R. Jones DFC**, Sgt R.W. Tattle RAF, P/O C. Hughes RAAF, Sgt A.S.M. Goode RAF, Sgt R. Terry RAF and Sgt H. Hewson RAF missing (A. Storr).
- 10 #2 SFTS, Uplands, Ontario, Harvard II #2548 crashed into South Mountain, Ontario, on a low level cross country exercise, **P/O A.A. Schwartz** killed.
- 10 #32 OTU, Patricia Bay, BC, Canadian built Hampden I AJ990 was written off after it collided with a trailer, Sgt O. Williams (RAF?) safe (H. Moyle).
- 10 #34 OTU Pennfield Ridge, NB., Ventura GR.V FN973 crashed into the Bay of Fundy on a navigation exercise, **P/O R.A. Ledingham** killed, **P/O J.C. Allen**, Sgt T.A. Albreay RAF and Sgt R. Laws RAF missing (#34 OTU Roll of Honour).

10-11 205 Group, Tunisia, sends 90 Wellingtons (30 from #331 Wing) to attack targets on beaches at Messina, Italy, to disrupt evacuation of German forces from Sicily (D. Parker). This was the third in a series of nightly attacks being made on these beaches (FF Years).

- 10-11 420 Sqn. Wellington X HE236 returned early from an operation to Italy with engine problems, crashed attempting to land when the undercarriage would not lock down and destroyed by fire, crew **Sgt W.M. Bradshaw**, **F/O B.D. Campbell**, **Sgt H.P. Mailman**, F/O R. Nasstrom RAF and Sgt W. Wormald RAF safe (D. Parker; BLME V.2).

10-11 Nurmberg was the target for 653 bombers. Again cloud cover was present but Pathfinders managed to mark the aiming points and a heavy attack was made. Sixteen bombers were lost. Other operations included 6 OBOE Mosquitos over the Ruhr and 18 GARDENING sorties without loss (BC War Diaries).

- 10-11 49 Sqn. Lancaster III ED625 EA-R lost on an operation over Germany, **Sgt R.J. Small RAF (Can)**, Sgt E.H. Roden RAF, Sgt D.G.C. Jones RAF, Sgt T.A. Wood RAF and Sgt C.R. Musson RAF killed, P/O J.H. Moss RAF and Sgt L.F. Bradfield RAF PoW.
- 10-11 51 Sqn. Halifax II HR838 MH-Q lost over Germany, pilot WO R.E. Leeper RAF killed but his crew, **F/S J.S. Campbell**, **Sgt R.B. Wyatt RCAF (USA)**, Sgt D.H. MacKenzie RAF, Sgt R.O. Harris RAF, P/O J.A. Weller RAF and WO A. Galloway RAF survived as PoW.
- 10-11 51 Sqn. Halifax II HR981 MH-D crashed in England after taking off on an operational sortie, demolishing a farmhouse. P/O C.A. Silvester RAF was killed as well as two people in the house, Mrs Olive Dickinson (38) and her son John Dickinson (4 months old). The rear gunner **P/O W.R. Clow** was uninjured and was able to assist

the other injured survivors, **P/O J. Grudzien**, P/O W.J. MacPherson RAF, P/O A.T. Ellis RAF, Sgt R.V. Payne RAF, P/O F.S. Moores RAF and Sgt E.J. Jones RAF, from the crash site (R. Allenby).

- 10-11 51 Sqn. Halifax II HR939 damaged in the rudders by flak, **Sgt D.W. Milliken**, Sgt A.J. Salvage RAF, Sgt F.J. Baker RAF, Sgt I.G. Davies RAF, Sgt M. Hampson RAF, Sgt W.W.B. Hamilton RAF and Sgt R.J. Edwards RAF bombed and returned to England (R. Allenby). See December 3-4, below.
- 10-11 76 Sqn. Halifax V DK245 MP-H was hit by flak that killed the second pilot Sgt H.T. Whittlesea RAF and damaged an engine, **Sgt R.S. Orr**, Sgt S.J. Troake RAF, P/O T.G. Paton RAF, Sgt P.I. Weeks RAF, Sgt L.H. Barnes RAF, Sgt R.J. Fayers RAF and P/O Potter returned safe (R. Allenby). See November 25-26, below.
- 10-11 77 Sqn. Halifax II JD321(?) KN-C was attacked by a Bf 109 which they fought off, and was later damaged by flak, **Sgt J.B. Mannix**, S/L E.C. Badcoe RAF, Sgt F.G. Chell RAF, P/O W.D. Rees RAF, P/O E. Lowry, Sgt E. Walton and Sgt D. Ricketts returned safe (R. Allenby).
- 10-11 97 Sqn. Lancaster III ED939 OF-M lost over Germany, **P/O C.W. Webb**, P/O V. Baker RAF, Sgt W.J. Vaughan RAF, F/S A. Davie RAF and Sgt J.H. Richards RAF killed, **Sgt S.M. Edwards** and F/S G. Lowden RAF PoW. P/O Webb had been injured Aug. 1, 1942 in the loss of a #14 OTU Hampden.
- 10-11 97 Sqn. Lancaster III JA716 OF-V shot down by a night fighter over France, **Sgt S.S. Ramsden**, F/S T. Lancashire RAF, F/O J.L.N. Canham RAF, F/S S. Powell RAF and Sgt F. Jackson RAF PoW, F/L W.I. Covington DFC RAF and Sgt J. MacKnight RAF evaded. See April 22, 1945.
- 10-11 102 Sqn. Halifax II JB794 DY-G was forced to return early from an operation due to an engine problem. Approaching to land the bomber struck a house and crashed, F/S A.E. Storey RAF and Sgt F.R. Newman RAF killed, Sgt R.H. Bowers RAF died of his injuries and **Sgt W.M. McArter**, F/S W.C.A. Poulter RAF, Sgt J.H.T. McEwan RAF and Sgt T. Lawman RAF injured.
- 10-11 102 Sqn. Halifax II JD369 DY-A lost on an operation over Germany, **F/S W.H. Davey**, Sgt G.W. Ward RAAF, F/O S.R. Vivian RAF, Sgt J.A. Irving RAF, Sgt R.E. Chapman RAF and F/S R.G. Shaw RAF killed, Sgt J.A. McLearnon RAF and Sgt P. Bostle RAF PoW.
- 10-11 115 Sqn. Lancaster II DS665 KO-N broke up in air over England returning from a sortie, **F/S O.A. Bettridge**, F/O J.F.H. Erwin RAF, Sgt L.P. Fannan RAF, F/O R.E. Chesser RAF, F/O N.P. Gardner RAF, Sgt G.E. Oliver RAF and Sgt F.H. Merritt RAF killed.
- 10-11 158 Sqn. Halifax II HR721 NP-J "*My Gal Sal*" abandoned out of fuel over England and crashed. F/S W.C. Freeman RAF came down safely, but 6 of the crew were blown back over the sea by the wind and only F/O T.C. Walker RAF was rescued alive. **F/S W.H. Moffatt**, Sgt L.L. Sheehan RAF and Sgt T. Rockett RAF killed, Sgt J.H. Simpson RAF and Sgt A.W. Kind RAF missing.

- 10-11 158 Sqn. Halifax II JD249 NP-U lost over Germany, **F/O R.W. Dawe**, **F/L I.F. MacWatt RAF (Can.)**, **WO2 J.T. Roach**, Sgt C.J. Lewingdon RAF, P/O J.M. Brechin RAF and P/O D. Jimenez RAF killed, Sgt J.E. Lynn RAF PoW.
- 10-11 218 Sqn. Stirling III HA-G EE885 was hit by incendiary bombs over the target and was abandoned, pilot **F/L S.R. Fillmore** was killed but his crew, **Sgt J.B.E.J. Chalmers**, Sgt L. Molyneaux RAF, Sgt H.J. Tancock RAF, Sgt H.A. Hancock RAF, F/O A.T. Taylor RAF, Sgt F.A. Anderson RAF and Sgt A. Bryans RAF survived as PoW.
- 10-11 405 Sqn. Lancaster III JA920 LQ-E returned from operations over Germany and landed, but was damaged beyond repair when it ran into a ditch. This was the first Lancaster lost by 405 Squadron, but the crew **W/C J.E. Fauquier DFC**, **S/L P.G. Powell DFC**, **F/S E.H. Anthony**, **F/O J.C. Lowther**, **P/O J.R. Sipple**, **S/L J.F. Clark DFC** and P/O L.R. King DFM RAF safe. See Sept. 27-28, below.
- 10-11 419 Sqn. Halifax II, **F/O J.A. Westland**, claimed a night fighter shot down by the rear gunner Sgt W.S. Atkinson (R. Koval). See Aug 31-Sept. 1, below.

Wednesday

- 11 200 Sqn. Liberator V BZ832 'D' on patrol off Senegal, Africa, was diverted from its patrol area to investigate a report of a U-boat nearby. A surfaced U-boat was sighted, which immediately opened fire and severely damaged the aircraft, setting it on fire. The Liberator crew instead of turning away, turned toward the U-boat, and made an accurate attack while on fire and being shot up right to the moment of the depth charge release, sinking U-468. The Liberator then dove into the ocean with no survivors, but seven of the U-boats crew were able to use one of the aircraft's life rafts and were later picked up and made PoW (www.uboot.net). It is their statements that resulted in the award of a posthumous Victoria Cross to the pilot, **F/O L.A. Trigg DFC RNZAF**. Also killed on BZ832 were **F/O G.N. Goodwin** (second pilot), **F/S A.G. Bennett RNZAF**, **F/S L.J. Frost RNZAF**, **F/S T.J. Soper RNZAF**, **F/O I. Marinovich RNZAF**, **P/O R.A. Bonnick RAF** and **F/O J.E.J. Townsend RAF**.
- 11 414 Sqn. Mustang I aircraft, **F/O R.T. Hutchinson** and **F/O J.C. Davidson** on a morning RHUBARB attacked 2 trains, a flak post and an electricity pylon (FF Years).
- 11 #1655 MTU, Mosquito T.III HJ962 crashed in England after an engine failure, injuring **F/L B.A. MacDonald** and his instructor, **F/O I.G. Broom RAF**. **F/L MacDonald** died of his injuries but **F/O Broom** recovered and went on to a long career, retiring from the RAF as an Air Marshal. It is possible **F/L MacDonald** may be the same as **P/O McDonald**, injured Jan. 15-16, 1942.
- 11 #124 (Ferry) Sqn. RCAF Oxford V EB544 crashed suddenly after taking off from Armstrong, Ontario, **LAC A.G. Pratt** and **P/O G.F. Snyder** killed.
- 11 #8 AOS, Ancienne Lorette, Quebec, Anson I #6471 crashed near St. Gabriel, Quebec, while on a navigation exercise, **Sgt J.A. Benson**, **Sgt J. Ewert** and **LAC(N) J.T. Schrybut** were killed, **Sgt Rolinger** and **LAC Riley** were injured. TSGNO notes that they were not rescued from the crash site until Aug. 15.

11 #32 SFTS, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Oxford I AT483 crashed, LAC D.V. Blindell RAF and P/O R. Wingham RAF killed.

11-12 For the 4th night in a row #331 Wing RCAF Wellingtons flew operations attacking the evacuation beaches near Messina

11-12 425 Sqn. Wellington X HE930 'A' had an engine set on fire by flak over the evacuation beaches. It returned to Tunisia and made a single-engined landing, but had to ground-loop to avoid tents and hit a truck, **F/O R.E. McMeekin**, P/O E.M. Black, P/O J. Charlesworth, F/O F.M. Jones and Sgt S.A. Meeks (RCAF or RAF?) safe (BLME V.2). See August 19-20, below.

11-12 Minor operations were made by Bomber Command on this night with 8 Mosquitos over Cologne and Duisburg, 23 GARDENING aircraft off the Biscay ports and 19 OTU sorties, 2 bombers were lost (BC War Diaries).

The Luftwaffe sent 70 bombers to attack Plymouth, and others bombed the city of Bournemouth (location of RCAF #3 Personnel Reception Centre) (ww2total.com Chronology/1943).

11-12 #28 OTU Wellington Ic DV731 came down in the sea returning from a NICKEL sortie, believed due to flak damage, Sgt G.J. Broughton RAF killed, **F/S C. Green**, **F/S R.R. Keeler** and Sgt D.A. Cardy RAF missing, Sgt J.P. Soltau RAF and Sgt A. Kahn RAF were picked up by an ASR launch, injured.

Thursday

12 USAAF returns to attack targets in the Ruhr with 243 bombers, losing 25 (Zijlstra).

12 159 Sqn. Liberator II AL560 'N' crashed in India practicing 3 engined circuits, **F/O S.L. Pettingale** and **F/O E.E. Smith** killed, F/O J.S. Greengrass RAF, F/S R.J. Hutton RAF, Sgt H.D. Chapman, WO J.F. Simmons RNZAF, LAC D. Cooper RAF and Sgt Gristwood (or Grisewood) survived (M. Poole).

12 416 Sqn. Spitfire Vb EP206 ran out of fuel returning from a bomber escort, **F/O H.R. Finlay** bailed out and was rescued by a High Speed Launch (www.spitfires.ukf.net).

12 432 Sqn. Wellington X HF540 QO-G crashed landing from a training flight, **Sgt J. Jensky RCAF (USA)** and his crew safe. See August 30-31, below.

12 #1449 Flight Hurricane IIb Z3658 struck the mast of *HMS Scillonian* and crashed into the sea off England, **WO1 T.B. Hunter** missing (www.rafdavidstowmoor.org).

12 #1657 HCU Stirling I N3700 XT-V force landed gear up when the undercarriage refused to lock down, **F/L H. Tilson** and P/O F. Gribble RAF safe.

12 Western Air Command, pilot **F/L H. Godwin** died of natural causes in Shaughnessy Military Hospital, Vancouver, BC.

12 #10 SFTS, Dauphin, Man., Crane IA #8779 crashed in the circuit on a night flying exercise, Sgt L.F. Lawley RAAF and LAC(P) H.V. May RAAF killed. See #12 SFTS loss July 25, 1942.

- 12 #17 SFTS, Souris, Man., Anson II #11536 collided over Hartney, Manitoba with Anson #11520 while engaged in a three aircraft formation practice. Both aircraft crashed, the pilot of #11536 bailed out and was safe, but **LAC(P) P.E.A. Roy** died in #11520. This accident was discussed in detail in H.D. Bracken.
- 12 #32 OTU, Patricia Bay, BC, Canadian built Hampden I AJ995 swung on landing and collapsed it's undercarriage, P/O A. Shippen RAF, Sgt J.H. Oblein RAF, Sgt W. Park RAAF and Sgt D.J. Oliver RAAF safe (H. Moyle).

12-13 Further attacks by 90 Wellington bombers from Tunisia on retreating German beachheads in Italy, the fifth night of these attacks, #331 Wing sends 30 of this force and loses 2 (D. Parker).

- 12-13 70 Sqn. Wellington X HZ427 'A' believed hit by flak and exploded over the evacuation beaches in Sicily, **P/O W. Craig**, F/S J.E. Duff RAAF, F/S C.E. Prince RAF, F/S S.B. Billing RAF, F/S J.R. Clark RAF and Sgt W.B. Gilchrist RAF killed (COL BRUGGY www.rafcommands.com; BLME V.2).
- 12-13 420 Sqn. Wellington X HF459 failed to return from an operation to evacuation beaches in Sicily, **F/O C.A. Tindal**, F/O J.D. Hotson RAF, Sgt H.W. Lilley RAF, Sgt J. McAdam RAF and F/S A.C. Ludgater RAF missing (BLMS V.2).
- 12-13 420 Sqn. Wellington X HE520 crash landed in Tunisia on an operation to Sicily when an engine caught fire on the return, **P/O J. Heath**, **F/O L.A. Allen**, F/L R.N. Gourlie and Sgt D.F. Heybourne (RCAF or RAF?) safe, F/O H.J. Nodder injured (D. Parker). See April 27-28 and June 16-17, 1944.

12-13 Bomber Command continued it's offensive in Italy with 504 bombers sent to Milan and 152 bombers and 7 Mosquitos over Berlin, 24 GARDENING and 9 OTU sorties, a total of 696 sorties with 8 lost. Both major attacks were considered successful (BC War Diaries).

Of the 26 Halifax sent to Milan by #6 Group 4 returned early, one diverted to Africa, and the majority landed short of fuel at other airfields, only 3 returned to Yorkshire (R. Koval). This was the first night of operations for 434 Sqn.

- 12-13 7 Sqn. Lancaster III JA682 MG-D was abandoned over France due to engine problems, mid-upper gunner F/S E.G. Sheil RAF killed, **F/L E.S. Baker**, S/L C.J. Myers RAF and WO H. Croney RAF PoW, S/L W.R. Butterfield DFC RAF, Sgt P. Fairweather RAF, F/L M.C. Bridges RAF and WO R.W. Graham RAF evaded.
- 12-13 76 Sqn. Halifax V DK240 MP-G crashed in France on a sortie to Italy, **Sgt H.S. Martin**, P/O B.S. McCann RAF, Sgt A.C. Samuel RAF, Sgt J.R. Luxton RAF and Sgt L.F. Jackson RAF killed, Sgt W.H. Jones RAF and F/O J.W. Brace RAF PoW.
- 12-13 77 Sqn. Halifax II JD125 KN-A lost over France on an operation to Italy. Six bodies were recovered from the wreckage but only three were identified, Sgt M. Griffiths RAF, Sgt M. Gray RAF and Sgt J.A. Bacon RAF killed, **WO2 D.W. Dufton MiD**, WO E.J. Clinch RAF, P/O H.C. Hoyne RAF and Sgt F.J. Gallantree RAF have no known

grave.

- 12-13 138 Sqn. Halifax II BB334 NF-X shot down over France by flak on Operation SPRUCE 20/21, **WO1 D.A.J. Cameron** and **WO1 A.G. Foster** were killed, Sgt T.S. Harries RAF, F/S A. Manson RAF and Sgt D.H. Owen RAF were badly burned and taken PoW, **WO2 R.A. Scott** and Sgt J.G.A. Trusty RAF evaded. A detailed account of this loss by WO Scott can be found in *Airforce Magazine*, Vol. 8, No. 2, 1984, in the letters section.
- 12-13 218 Sqn. Stirling III EF452 HA-O was hit by machine gun fire from another Stirling in error over Turin, killing the navigator **F/S C.A. Brennan**, wounding flight engineer Sgt M.M. Mitchum RAF and bomb aimer **F/S A.W. Lardner**, and seriously wounding the pilot F/S A.L. Aaron DFM RAF in the face, right arm and upper body, while putting one engine out of action. F/S Aaron was given first aid and morphia while **F/S Lardner** and Sgt Mitchum attempted to return to England. They found they could not fly over the mountains on 3 engines, so turned south on a course they thought would take them to Sicily. Short on fuel, they finally found the airfield of Bone, Algeria, where on arrival F/S Aaron insisted on trying to land the bomber. He made 3 attempts, but aborted the landings when the undercarriage would not come down. With the aircraft nearly out of fuel **F/S Lardner** took the controls back and managed a wheels up crash landing. Afterwards it was discovered a 500 lb. bomb was still hung up in the bomb bay. F/S Aaron died later the next day of his wounds, and it is believed that he would have survived if he had not forced himself to attempt to land the aircraft (BC War Diaries). He was posthumously awarded a Victoria Cross, and **F/S Lardner** was awarded the Conspicuous Gallantry Medal, DFMs were awarded to the flight engineer Sgt M.M. Mitchum RAF and wireless operator Sgt T. Guy RAF. The crew's gunners were Sgt J. Richmond RAF and Sgt T.M. McCabe RAF. There is a detailed account of this flight by A.W. Lardner in *Airforce Magazine*, September, 1983. This aircraft was the subject of a 1/72 die-cast model by Corgi in 2015.
- 12-13 427 Sqn. Halifax V, **F/S R.E. Countess**, lost an engine over Milan, and unable to cross the Alps, flew on to land in North Africa (FF Years).
- 12-13 432 Wellington X HE348 QO-P lost without trace on a GARDENING sortie, **P/O K.R. Bourne**, **P/O S. Noble**, **P/O M. Smith**, Sgt J.W. Neal RAF and Sgt D. Rushton RAF missing.

Friday

- 13 417 Sqn. Spitfire Vc EE663 shot down into the sea off Sicily by a MC.202, part of a flight of 4 searching for a reported dinghy, **P/O J.T. Field** PoW, **P/O J.H.G. Leguerrier** slightly injured by a canon shell that exploded in his cockpit (417 SH; www.spitfires.ukf.net; Temujin at wartimes.ca).
- 13 88 Sqn. Boston IIIa BZ224 crashed into the North Sea, navigator bomb aimer **F/O A.J.F. Hay** missing, 2 RCAF members survived.

- 13 407 Sqn. Leigh Light Wellington XII MP622 2-V collided over England with a Halifax and crashed while on a repositioning flight back to it's base after landing away after a 9 hour patrol, **WO1 A.A. Johnston**, **WO1 T. Main**, **F/L B.W. Pritchard**, **F/O H.M. Tarver**, **F/L A.G. Tatton** and **F/O N.J. Tuchtie** killed.
- 13 Central Gunnery Flight (CGF) Spitfire IIa P7530 collided in the air with a CGF Wellington Ia P9228 on a gunnery exercise and both crashed, **F/L H.C. Bennett** (attached from 406 Sqn.) was killed in the Spitfire, and **F/O G.F. Wood** DFC RAAF (attached from 53 Sqn.), **P/O B.C. Dreaver** DFC RNZAF (attached from 49 Sqn.), **F/L E.M. Shannon** RAF, **P/O M. Smith** RAF, **F/S H. Nuttridge** RAF and **Sgt R.P.T. Akeroyd** RAF killed on the Wellington (A. Storr, East Anglian Aircraft Research Group).
- 13 #1658 HCU Halifax II R9387 had it's undercarriage give way when landing after a tire deflated in flight, **Sgt R.H. or K.H. Whittington** and his crew safe (R. Allenby).
- 13 #4 B&G School, Fingal, Ontario, **AC1 K.F. Lawrence** died of natural causes.

13-14 205 Group sent 70 Wellingtons to harass the German landing beaches in mainland Italy, used by troops escaping Sicily, including 35 #331 Wing aircraft (D. Parker).

- 13-14 104 Sqn. Wellington X HZ399 'T' crashed on landing in Tunisia from a operation to suspected evacuation beaches in Sicily, **Sgt C.F. Cameron**, **F/S C.W. Beresford** RNZAF, **Sgt H. Campbell** RAF, **Sgt C.P. Chesters** RAF, **P/O R.W.C. Meade** RAF and **Sgt J.G. Wiggins** RAF safe (BLME V.2). See November 24-25, below.
- 13-14 424 Sqn. Wellington X HE296 QB-V was hit by flak and had an engine on fire attacking suspected evacuation beaches in mainland Italy, and abandoned over Sicily, **P/O J.E. Agrios**, **Sgt G. Dore**, **P/O D.B. Galloway**, **Sgt C.W. Gilbert** and **P/O A.G. Grout** (RCAF or RAF?) bailed out and safe (424 SH; R.W.R. Walker; BLME V.2).

Saturday

14 #135 (F) Sqn. RCAF deploys from Patricia Bay to join RCAF "Y Wing", US Alaska Command, at RCAF Station Annette Island, Alaska (RCAF Sqns.).

QUADRANT Conference begins in Quebec City between Roosevelt, Churchill and Mackenzie King (wikipedia).

- 14 614 Sqn., **LAC F.E. Porter** RAF (Can.) killed in a vehicle accident in Algeria when off duty (www.rafcommands.com).
- 14 426 Sqn. Lancaster II DS633 was taking part in a photo flight as part of the publicity of being the first RCAF Lancaster unit when it suffered overspeeding propellers, and made a wheels up landing, **F/L R.F. Epps** and his crew safe (R. Allenby).
- 14 #23 OTU Wellington X HE870 heavily damaged in a flying accident, **Sgt S.J. Ouellette** and **F/L R.A. Anderson** safe. The aircraft was repaired. See Nov. 25, below.
- 14 #1662 HCU Lancaster III ED378 lost on a cross country exercise, **F/S P. Tomchyshyn**,

- F/O S.J. Ricketts DFC RAAF, W/C A.W.T. Traill DFC RAF, Sgt E. Middleton RAF, Sgt D. Smith RAF, Sgt W.K. Witham, Sgt K. Kendall and Sgt D.E. Griffiths missing.
- 14 #14 (F) Sqn. RCAF Kittyhawk #1099 crashed into the sea in fog off Umnak, Alaska, F/O R.M. Bell AM (US) RCAF (USA) killed.
- 14 #6 ITS, AC2 M.E. Fouse died in hospital in Hamilton, Ontario of injuries received in a car accident.
- 14 USAAF UC-64B (Norseman) 43-5106 damaged landing at Fort Vermilion, Alberta (AAIR).

14-15 205 Group again sent 70 bombers to attack beaches, small ports and rail lines in mainland Italy being used by German forces retreating from Sicily, including 25 from #331 Wing to attack the port of Pizzo (D. Parker).

14-15 420 Sqn. Wellington X HE524 missing from an operation to attack beaches in mainland Italy, F/O A. Brown, F/O E.W. Dickinson, P/O E.L. Fairweather, F/S W.H. Garbutt, and F/O A.B. Long missing (R.W.R. Walker; D. Parker; BLME V.2).

14-15 420 Sqn. Wellington X LN431 missing from an operation to attack beaches in mainland Italy, Sgt J.M. Parr RAF, Sgt D.J. Nettle RAF, Sgt W.G.H. Dadge RAF, Sgt E.S.R. Norgrove RAF and Sgt D.D. Boyd RAF missing (R.W.R. Walker; D. Parker; BLME V.2).

14-15 Another operation was made to Milan by 140 Lancasters, where a successful attack was reported. Seven Mosquitos were also operating over Berlin. One bomber was lost (BC War Diaries).

14-15 400 Sqn. Mustang I, F/O F.E. Hanton claimed a locomotive destroyed, a Ju 88 damaged and a Bf 110 destroyed in a sortie lasting 1 hour and 50 minutes, detailed by J.A. Griffin in *CAHS Journal* Vol. 2, No. 4, 1964 (FF Years).

14-15 415 Sqn. Hampden TB.I, F/S R.H. Watt made a torpedo attack on a merchant vessel, results unknown (415 SH).

14-15 7 Sqn. Lancaster III JA850 MG-M lost over France, P/O A.A. Balcombe, F/O J.W. O'Hara, WO J.H. Dugan RAAF, F/L R.C.C. Taylor RNZAF, F/O K.A. Gough RAF, F/L S.G. Matkin DFC RAF, P/O J.B. Paterson RAF and Sgt A. Whatmore RAF killed. F/O O'Hara had crash landed a #28 OTU Wellington May 31, above.

Sunday

15 29,000 US and over 5,000 Canadian soldiers (including conscripted soldiers and the 1st Special Service Force) land on Kiska, finding the island deserted, but this takes several days to confirm, due to booby traps. Air flights over the island in the two weeks since the Japanese evacuation had not seen any soldiers but had reported some anti-aircraft fire (as noted above) (Oxford). This is the final land battle fought in the war in North America. The use of conscripted soldiers for part of the Canadian force was justified as they were used in the defence of North America, but this decision was made by Canadian Generals,

not politicians. The lack of any protest, however, was noted by *PM Mackenzie King* (M.S. Williams).

In the South Pacific* *McArthur's forces use aircraft carriers for air cover to by-pass a powerful Japanese base, and land on the lightly held island of Vella Lavella, beyond the range of Allied land based fighter protection, but quickly building an airstrip for fighters, the beginning of the "island hopping" campaign which relied on aircraft to neutralize and fix in place by-passed Japanese garrisons (Oxford).

Italy begins face to face peace talks with the Allies in Portugal (Polsson). Hitler becomes aware of this and begins to move troops into Italy with instructions to take over the country when necessary. The delay by the Allies in accepting the Italian surrender gave time for the German plan to take effect and thwarted plans to have an Allied army and air force in position north of Florence and threatening southern Germany and Austria by the fall (Oxford).

#118 (F) Sqn. deploys from RCAF Station Annette Island, Alaska to Sea Island, BC (RCAF Sqns.). #167 (Communications) Sqn. RCAF formed at Dartmouth, NS from Communication Flight of #121 (K) Sqn. (RCAF Sqns.).

- 15 31 Sqn. Dakota III FD838 lost during a supply drop in Burma, **F/O E.S. Brenton** and F/S A.V. Bary RNZAF, Sgt R.G. Hinton RAF, Sgt K.E. Lamond RAF and LAC A.G. John RAF missing (C. Shores; CWGC; www.rafcommands.com).
- 15 145 Sqn. Spitfire VIII JF482 lost over the sea off Sicily due to enemy action, **F/O J.R. Carswell** missing.
- 15 247 Sqn. two Typhoon Ib aircraft collided in formation over England, **F/S E.S. McCuaig** was killed when his aircraft JF505 crashed, and F/O A.W. Robertson RAF was killed in JP487 (www.rafcommands.com).
- 15 547 Sqn. Wellington XI MP565 'T' lost over the Bay of Biscay, **F/O L. Durbin**, Sgt K.F. Dunford RAF, F/O R.D.B. Noble RAF, Sgt H.J. Oliver RAF, F/O D.P. Stephens RAF and F/S D. Stewart RAF missing (<http://www.rafdavidstowmoor.org>; www.rafcommands.com).
- 15 612 Sqn. Wellington XIV MP760 3-Q lost over the Bay of Biscay, **F/O C.A. Phelps**, **F/O R.A. Wilson**, Sgt A.W. Monk RAF, Sgt D.B. Green RAF, F/O K. Harrison RAF and Sgt J.H. Greaves RAF missing (N.L.R. Franks).
- 15-16 420 Sqn. Wellington X HE552 crashed on approach to land in Tunisia from a sortie to Italy, **P/O R.C. Hamel**, **Sgt R.E. Parker**, **P/O R.A. Preston**, **P/O H.D.J. McCoy** and F/S S.H. Parker RAF safe (BLME V.2).

15-16 Milan was again targeted by 199 Lancasters, losing 7 bombers, mostly to German night fighters positioned on their return course over France. Other

sorties include 8 Mosquitos to Berlin, 63 GARDENING and 16 OTU sorties, with 3 minelayers lost (BC War Diaries).

Luftwaffe sends 90 bombers to attack Portsmouth (ww2total.com Chronology/1943).

- 15-16 49 Sqn. Lancaster III LM337 EA-V believed shot down by flak over France returning from an operation to Milan, P/O L.W. Gospel RAF, Sgt R. James RAF, Sgt H. Hedge RAF, F/S C.W. Taylor RAAF and Sgt A.E. Huntingford RAF killed, **Sgt C.H. Witheridge** and Sgt S.J.V. Philo RAF evaded (<http://www.49squadron.co.uk>).
- 15-16 61 Sqn. Lancaster III DV186 lost over France, **F/S J.D. Pigeau**, **F/S R.A. Scott**, F/O F. Clough RAF, F/O A. Hulmes RAF, P/O P.M.H. Salmond RAF, F/O H.F. Webster RAF and P/O R. Steer RAF killed.
- 15-16 75 (New Zealand) Sqn. Stirling III EE891 AA-Q believed lost over the sea on a GARDENING sortie, **F/S M. Costello**, F/S N.B. Whitta RNZAF, Sgt F.D. Mason RAF, Sgt R.F. Andrews RAF and Sgt R.G. Crisp RAF killed, F/O J.G. Turnbull RNZAF and Sgt J.E. Lovewell RAF missing.
- 15-16 166 Sqn. Wellington X HF596 AS-A lost without trace on a GARDENING sortie, **F/O R.P. Swallow**, F/S A.P. Bates RAF, Sgt R. Carlon RAF, Sgt A. Bromby RAF and Sgt G.W.D. Dean RAF missing.
- 15-16 207 Sqn. Lancaster I ED498 EM-O shot down by flak over France on an operation to Italy, **Sgt H. Clement**, Sgt J.C. Cunningham RAF, Sgt J. Kirkman RAF, Sgt J.S. White RAF, Sgt R.W. Wilcockson RAF and P/O R.G. Pearcey RAF killed, F/O G. Blakeman RAF PoW.
- 15-16 400 Sqn. Mustang I fighters on a night RHUBARB claimed a Bf 110 shot down (**F/O J.A. Morton**) and 2 locomotives damaged (**F/O L.W. Seath** and **F/O G.A. Rogers**) (FF Years).
- 15-16 415 Sqn. Hampden TB.I P1258 shot down by a night fighter on a shipping torpedo attack off Holland, P/O R.V. Procter RAF and F/L J.O. Bostock RAF killed, S/L P.N. Harris DFC RAF and WO A.G. Innes RAF missing (H. Moyle).
- 15-16 418 Sqn. Mosquito, F/O G. Labram, attacked two airfields in France, a roundhouse and a locomotive, and 2 trains in 1 sortie (FF Years).
- 15-16 467 Sqn. RAAF Lancaster III JA675 PO-F shot down over France by a night fighter on an operation to Italy, **P/O E.A.M. Grange**, Sgt J.A.E. Newland RAF, Sgt A.P. Power RAF, Sgt L. Spurr RAF and F/L J.M. Sullivan RAAF killed, F/O T.H.F. Entract RAF and Sgt K. Harvey RAF PoW. P/O Grange had been injured in a Hampden crash at #16 OTU on June 19, 1941

Monday

16 Sicilian campaign ends.

15 airmen lost in BC ship sinking (CJCA headline) (see July 24 above).

#149 (BR) Sqn. RCAF deploys to RCAF "Y Wing", US Alaska Command, at RCAF Station Annette Island, Alaska (RCAF Sqns.).

- 16 58 Sqn. Halifax II HR746 'M' shot down in the Atlantic off Spain, **F/O H.M. Park**, **F/O P.Y. Williams**, Sgt A.W.S. Bundy RAF, Sgt S.R. Johnson RAF, Sgt A.J. King RAF, F/O F.H. Jenkins RAF, Sgt W.J. Hargreaves RAF, P/O G.W. Webster RAF and Sgt G.S. Holloway RAF missing (N.L.R. Franks, R. McNeill at www.rafcommands.com).
- 16 88 Sqn. Boston IIIa BZ289 RH-N hit a tree in France and crashed, **P/O H.L. Bradden**, F/S E. Cogman RAF, P/O N. Smyth RAF and F/O A.B. Smith RNZAF were killed.
- 16 88 Sqn. Boston IIIa BZ351 hit by flak and forced down by enemy fighters while attacking an airfield in France, **S/L G.E. Hawkins MiD RAF (Can.)** killed and F/S C.E. Ashworth RAF died of wounds, **Sgt C.L. Rice** PoW, P/O E. Kinsella RAF evaded, injured ([jossleclerq www.rafcommands.com](http://jossleclerq.www.rafcommands.com); www.conscript-heroes.com). These were 2 of 5 Boston bombers lost of 40 sent to attack a steel works at low level in northern France.
- 16 174 Sqn. Typhoon Ib JP444 shot down over France, presumed by flak. **F/L J.R. Sterne DFC** bailed out but was killed by ground fire.
- 16 #1622 Flight Defiant TT.I DR896 was on a training flight when it crashed in the sea off the Isle of Wight, **F/S W.J. Shaver** and Sgt M. Dobbie RAF killed (Isle of Wight Crashes, www.wv2talk.com).
- 16 #1 SFTS, Camp Borden, Ontario, Harvard IIb #3084 crashed near Elmvale, Ontario on a night cross country exercise, **LAC(P) H.R. Warren** killed.
- 16 #12 EFTS, Goderich, Ontario, DH.82C Tiger Moth #1292 crashed, LAC C.W. Kelly RAF killed.
- 16 #16 OTU, Patricia Bay, BC, Anson aircraft lost at sea, 4 crew including Sgt N.O. Weekes RAAF rescued (*BC Times Colonist, Patricia Bay Aircrash List 2009*). See Oct. 9, below.

16-17 Beaches and small craft in mainland Italy were attacked by 205 Group Wellingtons (FF Years).

- 16-17 142 Sqn. Wellington X HE266 QT-A missing in the Mediterranean, **WO2 N.G. Schultz**, Sgt W.A. Ewart RAF, Sgt N.J. Meen RAF, Sgt J.C. Pratt RAF and W/C A.R. Gibbes DFC RAAF missing (www.aircrewremembrancesociety.com; BLME V.2).
- 16-17 150 Sqn. Wellington X HE581 'K' was returning from an operation over Sicily and force landed wheels up when an engine cut from fuel loss, **Sgt R. Giesbrecht**, **F/O A.L. Jones RCAF (USA)**, **F/O B.E. Mazor**, **Sgt D.B. McGonn** and **F/O D.H. Vincent RCAF (USA)** safe (J.P. Busha). F/O Jones (who was born in Canada) and F/O Vincent later transferred to the USAAF. See April 8-9, 1945.

16-17 Turin and the Fiat factory were targeted by 154 bombers that reported a concentrated attack for the loss of 4 bombers. This was the final attack by Bomber Command on a city in Italy. This series of attacks is credited with having a major influence on Italy's surrender (BC War Diaries).

- 16-17 218 Sqn. Stirling III EH884 HA-X shot down over France by a night fighter on an operation to Italy, P/O S.F. Chudzik, Sgt J.D. Bates RAF, Sgt D. Deans RAF, Sgt D.P.J. Rawlings RAF and Sgt C.E. Taylor RAF killed, Sgt W.L. McKinnon PoW and Sgt J.L. Paterson RAF evaded.
- 16-17 405 Sqn. Halifax II HR856 LQ-W lost without trace on an operation to Italy, P/O W.E. Beavo, P/O R.A. Carney, F/O J.D. Hawkins, WO2 G.C. McKay, Sgt M.S. Miller, F/O F.H. Viney and F/O P.W. Manning DFC RAF missing.
- 16-17 418 Sqn. Mosquito INTRUDERS stopped a train in a cutting where it was then strafed (F/S D.C.S. MacDonald), as well as an airfield and 2 trains attacked (F/O D.O. Norcott) and an airfield, a searchlight and an electric powered train (F/O R.R. Rowlands). The latter Mosquito returned on one engine following an engine fire while another (F/O D.D. Johnston) was damaged by flak attacking a third airfield, but still attacked 2 trains on it's way back (FF Years). See September 29-30, below.

Tuesday

17 Operating from an airstrip constructed secretly behind Japanese forward positions in New Guinea, USAAF bombers attack Japanese airfields at Wewak, where a build up of Japanese Army Air Force aircraft threatened Allied operations intended to retake Rabaul. After 2 days of attacks the Japanese aircraft fleet is effectively destroyed, changing the balance of power in the area (Oxford).

Resistance in Sicily ends.

Portugal signs agreement to lease air bases in the Azores to England in return for modern aircraft able to be used against any attack from Spain (wikipedia, solrac at www.rafcommands.com). As well as Spitfires nearly 80 Hurricane fighters were sent to the Portuguese Air Force after service in the RAF, including Canadian built Xb AM289, AM294, AM353 and BX128, XIb BW962 and BW963, XIIb JS300, JS335, JS347, JS367, JS370, JS378, JS381, JS385, JS386, JS387, JS389, JS394, JS398, JS400 and JS401 (http://investigacoeshistoricas.blogspot.ca/2014/09/hurricane-numeros-de-serie-nao-existe.html). At least one Canadian built Hurricane XII BW939 also served with the Greek Air Force (https://averoph.wordpress.com/2013/03/12/ - hawker-hurricane- - - 3/).

USAAF flies two deep penetration daylight bomber missions over Germany totalling 376 bombers to attack the ball bearing production facilities at Schweinfurt and the Messerschmitt factory at Regensburg. To divide the fighter defences the Regensburg operation was to continue on to recover in North Africa and the Schweinfurt formation was to return to England, but weather delayed the

latter attack and German fighters were able to deal with the first, then refuel and re-arm to attack the later formation. Sixty B-17s were lost as well as 3 USAAF fighters and 2 RCAF Spitfires in the fighter escort that reached out from England to the limit of it's range to protect the returning bombers (Middlebrook).

The attack on the Regensburg factory destroyed tooling for the Me 262 fighters, and resulted in moving the project to another location which delayed it's development (Smith & Creek).

Quebec Conference, meeting of Canadian, British and US governments begins, with Mackenzie King, Churchill, Roosevelt and the Combined Chiefs of Staff together at the Chateau Frontenac in Quebec City.

- 17 38 Sqn. Wellington XI MP703 crashed on take-off at Haifa, Palestine, following an engine failure, **WO2 P.V. O'Brien** was killed (H. Welting www.rafcommands.com).
- 17 403 Sqn. Spitfire IX MA615 collided in mid-air with another Spitfire IX LZ997 after shooting down a German fighter over the Channel while part of an escort for USAAF B-17 bombers, and crashed into the sea, **P/O G.M. Shouldice** missing. The Squadron commanding officer, **S/L W.C. Conrad**, bailed out of LZ997 and evaded, returning to England in October via Spain.
- 17 #5 Ferry Pilots Pool, ATA, Martinet TT.I MS628 collided with Hurricane I V6637 when the brakes failed as it taxied out to take-off, **Sgt W.E. Loomis** safe (R. Allenby).
- 17 #23 OTU Wellington III Z1694 crashed in England on a special night exercise, **Sgt R.H. Chisnell**, **F/O A.T. Duke RCAF (USA)**, **F/S G.W. Holditch**, **F/S F.D. Johnson**, **F/S J. Taylor RCAF (USA)** and **Sgt J.A. Vanlint RAF** killed.
- 17 #23 OTU Wellington X HE381 TY-G slightly damaged, **Sgt B.V. Tedford** and **F/L G.F. Smith RAF** safe. See Nov. 22-23, below.
- 17 #3 B&G School, MacDonald, Man., Battle I #2014 caught fire in the air, the pilot landed safely and extinguished the fire, but the aircraft was later written off (S. Shail).
- 17 #13 SFTS, St. Hubert, Quebec, Harvard IIb FE662 hit a power line practicing air to ground firing and crashed, **LAC(P) S.A. Rasmussen** killed.

17-18 205 Group sent 50 Wellingtons, 30 from #331 Wing, to harass German forces on the beaches in Italy retreating from Sicily (D. Parker). This was the final one of these series of operations. The next night the crews of #331 Wing RCAF rested for the first time in this month (FF Years).

- 17-18 420 Sqn. Wellington X DF686 lost attacking targets between Sicily and Italy, **WO2 T.H. Lazenby** killed, **F/O E.H. Douglas**, **F/O H.J. Dowds**, **F/O A.W. Freeman** and **F/S W.F.I. Hill** missing (D. Parker).

17-18 Operation HYDRA, Bomber Command attacks the rocket research site at Peenemünde with 596 bombers.

Besides carrying out the attack in moonlight crews were also instructed to drop from a lower altitude to ensure their accuracy. As well the same Master Bomber who practiced over Italy was used, the first time a full sized bomber attack was so controlled. The marking plan was complicated, moving the aiming points to different parts of the complex at different times and the final wave of #5 Group making a timed run from a known point in case the target was obscured by smoke. The targets were first the scientists living area, then the production facility, and finally the experimental facility. German night fighter defences were unaware of the importance of the secret Peenemünde station and this, combined with a diversion by 8 Mosquitos over Berlin dropping Target Indicators, enabled the bombers to achieve initial surprise, but the German controllers reacted quickly to vector their fighters to the target using the "running commentary" (BC War Diaries). Intruders from 3 RAF and 2 RCAF squadrons were also sent out on long range sorties in two waves to interfere with night fighter airfields, and other Special Duties Halifax flights were undertaken over Denmark to assist in adding confusion to the German fighter defence (wikipedia). Deputy Master Bomber on this attack was **W/C J.E. Fauquier DFC**, 405 Squadron (wikipedia).

Initial marking fell astray in a forced labour camp but the Master Bomber quickly corrected this and all the targets were hit (an example of the value of the Master Bomber technique). Some 180 Germans and 500-600 foreign workers in the labour camp (where there were no real air raid shelters) were killed on the ground (BC War Diaries). Forty bombers were lost, mostly from the last waves of the attack, and most were the victims of Wilde Sau single engined fighters which claimed 29 bombers in the bright moonlight (wikipedia). As they were operating at a lower than usual altitude this gave the crews of stricken aircraft less time to bail out, increasing the percentage of fatalities (W.W.A. Wanless, rafbombercommand.com)

Due to the delayed initial attack only 2 of the top scientists were killed but V-2 testing was delayed for 2 months (see Oct. 3, below). The production facility planned for Peenemünde was moved to a new location. Some important installations had been missed however, and to fool Photo Reconnaissance fake damage was created and some unimportant buildings were even blown up at the site to fool photo interpreters. Bomber Command would not return to Peenemünde, but it would be a frequent target of USAAF bombers in 1944 (Zijlstra). For details see M. Middlebrook.

This attack also marked the operational debut of Schräge Musik (English "Slanted

Music", meaning Jazz Music), cannons mounted obliquely to fire upward and forward from German night fighters, enabling them to attack bombers from below without warning (BCL'43, BC War Diaries). This was a devastating form of attack, usually targeting the inner engines, wing centre section, bomb bay and fuel tanks, hitting from the weakest point in the bombers defences. The larger bomber could often be seen visually before the smaller night fighter was detected, at which point it would drop down below the bomber then climb up under it, unseen, to it's attack position, so these attacks were usually made without any warning to the bomber crew. To other witnesses the attacked aircraft would often suddenly explode without any indication of what had attacked it. Although designed to carry a belly mounted defensive gun position most Bomber Command aircraft did not as it was complicated to use it's periscope sight, required an extra crewman, cost extra weight that could be used instead for fuel or payload, and was thought to be unnecessary. In many bombers this position was used to mount the H2S radome instead, and on Special Duties aircraft it was where agents dropped from the aircraft. Later simplified mid-lower gunner positions were introduced, but their use was up to the squadron, and most did not like them. #6 Group RCAF was largest user of the mid-lower gunner, and also recorded the lowest loss rate to identified Schräge Musik attacks, although a relationship between these two facts does not seem to exist. For a description of a mid-lower gunner's tour see The View From A Ringside Seat, P. Nyznik & J. McLean, Airforce Magazine, Vol. 31, #3, 2007. Another device that could detect these attacks was FISHPOND, that used the H2S radar intervals between mapping signals to display other aircraft under the bomber. Introduced in 1943, before Schräge Musik was identified, it would display on a second screen monitored by the radio operator blips that were other aircraft. Bombers in the stream would be stationary but a night-fighter would be seen to be a moving target (various).

The two Schräge Musik equipped Bf 110s that found the bomber stream on this night claimed 6 bombers between them. Bomber Command would not identify this new method of attack for over a year. Given the suddenness of the attacks many aircrew believed they were fakes, explosions of very large artillery shell or fireworks designed to look like exploding aircraft to instil fear in them. They called these "scarecrows".

Including the losses by the USAAF on the Schweinfurt-Regensburg operations earlier in the day German fighter defences had shot down 100 heavy bombers in the last 24 hours. Almost 1,000 Allied airmen were either killed, missing, wounded, PoWs or on the run from these losses.

Sixty two of the Main Force and 12 Pathfinder aircraft on this operation were from RCAF squadrons.

In England 88 German bombers attempt to attack Lincoln but fail to find the city, making scattered attacks on coastal targets (ww2total.com Chronology/1943).

- 17-18 44 Sqn. Lancaster III DV202 KM-Z lost over Peenemünde, coming down in a nearby lake where the wreckage still sits, **P/O R.C. Harding**, **P/O P. Pynisky**, Sgt T.N. Weston RAF, F/S L. Prendergast RAF, Sgt L.F. McDermott RAF, Sgt W.H. Quance RAF and F/S S. Shaw RAF have no known grave. The wreck was known locally for years by local residents but was not identified until the 2000's (various).
- 17-18 49 Sqn. Lancaster III JA892 shot down over Germany by a night fighter, **Sgt J.I. Wallner** and Sgt D. Parkin RAF killed, P/O C. Robinson RAF, Sgt W.A. Boyd RAF, F/O P.F. Duckham RAF, F/O W.J. Lowe RAF and Sgt A.F. Anderson PoW.
- 17-18 57 Sqn. Lancaster III ED989 DX-F "*Fredrick III*" lost without trace, **F/S J.L. Lamb**, W/C W.R. Haskell DFC RAF (Squadron commanding officer), F/S C. Butterworth RAF, Sgt R.A.C.M. Stringer RAF, F/O J. Jones RAF, Sgt J.F. Harkness RAF, Sgt D.E. Nye RAF and Sgt J.E. John RAF missing (<http://www.lancaster-archive.com>).
- 17-18 61 Sqn. Lancaster I W4766 QR-J attacked by a night fighter and exploded over the target, **P/O J.C. Bradey**, **F/S L.H. Thompson**, Sgt T.A. Harris RAF, Sgt J.F. Trotter DFM RAF, Sgt N.W.H. Clark RAF and F/S R.K. Buxton DFM RAF killed, F/L T.A. Stewart RNZAF and F/O F. Barker RAF PoW.
- 17-18 61 Sqn. Lancaster I W4934 QR-S shot down into the Baltic Sea, **F/S W.B. Ness**, Sgt T. Graham RAF and Sgt B.J.W. Brown RAF killed, F/O W. Hughes RAF, Sgt L.H. Scholey RAF, Sgt D. Easton RAF and Sgt R.C. Walton RAF missing.
- 17-18 61 Sqn. Lancaster I ED661 lost over Germany, **P/O R. Bradley**, **P/O J.M. Lewis** and F/O F.D. Norton DFC RAF killed, P/O H.R. Madgett DFM RAF, Sgt H. Robinson RAF, P/O S.G. Palk RAF, Sgt A.W.A. Souter RAF and Sgt J.J. Wakefield RAF have no known grave.
- 17-18 61 Sqn. Lancaster III JA900 lost over Germany, **F/S R. Urquhart**, F/S A.N. Vidler RAAF, Sgt S.W. James RAF and Sgt P.W. Mitchell RAF killed, F/S R.J.R. Docker RAF, Sgt L. Lucas RAF, Sgt R. Laughton RAF, Sgt E.G. Francis RAF missing.
- 17-18 76 Sqn. Halifax V DK194 MP-U was damaged by fire from another Halifax bomber that wounded the navigator Sgt K.R. Parry. **Sgt K. Hewson**, Sgt G.H. Jones RAF, Sgt R.T. Isaac RAF, Sgt G.W.R. Taylor RAF, Sgt A.W. Davis RAF and Sgt A.H.L. Atkinson RAF returned safe (R. Allenby).
- 17-18 115 Sqn. Lancaster II DS630 KO-H lost, probably off Denmark, **F/O C.G. Bruton**, **Sgt M.G. McKibbon**, F/O F.R.C. Pusey RAF, P/O J.D.S. Cable RAF, Sgt J.J. Corbett RAF, Sgt L.P. Howard RAF and Sgt L.M. Leonard RAF missing.
- 17-18 158 Sqn. Halifax II JD260 NP-S lost over Germany, **F/S M. Czajkowski**, F/S W.D. Caldwell RNZAF, Sgt A. Tice RAF, Sgt R.H. Reay RAF and Sgt J.C.D. Riddell RAF

- killed, **F/O W.R. Schmehl** and Sgt J.E. Pearson RAF PoW.
- 17-18 400 Sqn. Mustang I, **F/O F.E. Hanton** claimed damage on a Ju 88 over France (FF Years).
- 17-18 405 Sqn. Halifax II HR817 LQ-C lost over Germany, **F/S D.C.B. Angus**, **F/S W.E. Gimby**, **F/S W.M. Haugen**, **F/O H.S. McIntyre**, P/O T.J. Bowling RAF, Sgt H.W. Cooke RAF, Sgt T.A. Pargeter RAF killed. F/S Haugen had bailed out of a damaged 408 Sqn. Halifax July 13-14, above.
- 17-18 419 Sqn. Halifax II JD158 VR-D "*The Thundering Heard*" lost over the Baltic, **F/S G.S. Walter**, **P/O P.O. McSween**, Sgt D.M. MacPherson RAAF, Sgt G. Blyth RAF and Sgt J.J. Newbon RAF killed, **WO2 J.W. Dally**, **F/L S.M. Heard** and **F/S D. Thornton** missing.
- 17-18 419 Sqn. Halifax II JD163 VR-N lost over the North Sea, **F/S J.M. Batterton**, **F/S J.O. Jerome**, **F/S H.U. Morris**, **F/S G.F. Parker**, **F/S L.F. Power**, Sgt A. Dixon RAF and Sgt D.A. Lloyd RAF missing. It's last fix placed it just 20 miles off the coast of England (419 SH).
- 17-18 419 Sqn. Halifax II JD458 VR-C lost over the Baltic, Sgt H.C. Baker RAF and Sgt E.C. Ramm RAF killed, **F/S S.T. Pekin** RAAF, Sgt J.K. Gilvary RAF (Eire), **F/O P.J. Sparkes** RAF, Sgt H. Price RAF and Sgt F.P. Davis RAF missing.
- 17-18 426 Sqn. Lancaster II DS674 OW-M lost without trace, **P/O J.M.L. Bouvier DFM**, **P/O K.G.D. Gawthrop**, **F/O G.C. Robinson**, **F/L D.D. Shuttleworth DFC**, Sgt S. Barnes RAF, Sgt G.W. Bentley RAF and **F/O G.W. Scammell DFC** RAF missing. A very detailed description of F/L Shuttleworth's training compiled by Hugh Halliday can be found at <http://www.rafcommands.com/forum/showthread.php?2810-RAF-Pilots/page3> on the internet.
- 17-18 426 Sqn. Lancaster II DS681 OW-V lost over Germany, **P/O T. Dos Santos RCAF (Trinidad)**, **F/L F.P. Marsh DFC**, **P/O H.M. Smith**, W/C L. Crooks DSO DFC RAF, Sgt J.C. Hislop RAF and **F/S A.J. Howes** RAF killed, Sgt K.W. Reading RAF PoW. W/C Crooks was the Squadron commanding officer and had only night qualified on the Lancaster II the previous evening. These were 426 Squadrons first losses of Lancaster II aircraft after converting from Wellingtons.
- 17-18 426 Sqn. Lancaster II DS686 was taxiing to the runway when it left the perimeter track and clipped a cement mixer with a propeller. The crew did not realize they had hit anything, re-started the engine and took off, but had to abort and jettison their bombs when the engine began to act rough, **Sgt W.F. Griffin** and his crew (possibly **F/O W.B. Ayer RCAF (USA)**, **Sgt J.G. Limmer**, Sgt D. Biderman RAF, Sgt S.J.J. Palmer RAF, Sgt J.F. Murray RAF and Sgt G. Hudson RAF) landed safe (R. Allenby).
- 17-18 427 Sqn. Halifax V DK227 ZL-V was badly damaged by a single engined fighter that made 4 attacks before being shot down, but managed to land back at it's base where it was written off as unrepairable, **Sgt S. Fahner**, **Sgt L.S. Gray**, **Sgt R. McNamara**, **Sgt W.H. Schmitt**, **Sgt N.W. Wood**, **P/O G.L. Vogan** and **P/O A.H.**

Fernand RAF safe (R. Koval). This sortie was cited in the award of a DFM to the rear gunner, Sgt McNamara, and a DFC to the pilot, Sgt Schmitt (referred to in The R.C.A.F. Overseas-The First Four Years as "Smitt") (Awards). See September 15, below.

- 17-18 427 Sqn. Halifax V DK243 ZL-F lost over Germany, P/O F.J.D. Brady, Sgt J.L. Fletcher, Sgt O.M. McIntyre, WO2 J.L. Troman and Sgt I.W. Pugh RAF killed, Sgt R.W. Charman and Sgt R.T. Johnson PoW.
- 17-18 428 Sqn. Halifax V DK230 NA-V lost over the Baltic, F/S L.M. Banks, F/L G.W.N. Fanson, F/S J.A. Leighton, P/O D.J. McNeill, F/O D.H. Orr and Sgt R.G. McCallum RAF killed, Sgt R.A. Lewis RAF missing.
- 17-18 428 Sqn. Halifax V DK238 NA-I lost over Germany, pilot F/S W.W. Blackmore and his flight engineer Sgt F.S. Williams RAF were killed but the rest of the crew, Sgt N.F. Oliver, Sgt W.S.E. Wood, F/S J.J.P.R. Richard, F/S R.G. Seaborn and Sgt G.F. Hodgson RAF survived as PoW.
- 17-18 428 Sqn. Halifax V EB211 NA-F lost over the Baltic, WO2 W.L. Cogger, F/S T.B. Lifman, WO2 E.R. Marks, F/S M.B. Murphy, F/S J.F. Sheridan, Sgt D. Kennedy RAF and Sgt N.R. Mitchell RAF killed.
- 17-18 434 Sqn. Halifax V DK260 WL-M shot down by a night fighter over Germany, F/L I.L. Colquhoun, WO1 C.P. Fitzpatrick, F/S J.P.C. Lapointe, and Sgt D.A. Young RAF killed, Sgt J.R. Dobie, F/O W.E. Beswick and Sgt P.S. Crees RAF PoW.
- 17-18 434 Sqn. Halifax V EB258 WL-T shot down by flak over the German coast, F/S C.A. Brown, F/S G.R. Connor, F/S R.C. Jordan RCAF (USA), P/O F.J. Piper MiD, F/S J.I.R.R. Renaud killed, P/O A.H. Wetter and Sgt G.N. Irving PoW.
- 17-18 434 Sqn. Halifax V EB276 WL-G shot down over Germany by a night fighter, pilot P/O G.M. Johnston was killed but his crew, F/S D.M.J. Labelle, F/S L.G. Christmas, P/O J.S. Armstrong, Sgt K.W. Rowe RAF, P/O C.C. Gibbs RAF and P/O J.G.A. McPherson RAF PoW. P/O Johnston had been injured Feb. 10, above, in the crash of a #23 OTU Wellington. F/S Labelle had bailed out of a #23 OTU Wellington Feb. 12, above.
- 17-18 467 Sqn. RAAF Lancaster III LM342 lost over the Baltic, Sgt A.C. Brand RAF killed, P/O R.G. Carter DFC, S/L A.S. Raphael DFC RAF, Sgt V. Smith RAF, Sgt F. Grey RAF, F/L M.H. Parry RAF, F/S D. Fielden RAF and F/S F.B. Garrett RAF missing.
- 17-18 619 Sqn. Lancaster III EE117 PG-L shot down near Denmark by a night fighter, F/O E.G. Prest, WO1 F.A. Thompson, P/O P.M. Goldsmith RAAF, F/S V.G. Stabell RAAF, Sgt A.C.R. Chapman RAF, Sgt W.A. Mitchell RAF, F/S P.J. Horsham RAF and W/C I.J. McGhie RAF killed.
- 17-18 619 Sqn. Lancaster III EE147 PG-P lost over Germany, P/O O.A. O'Leary, F/S R.F. English RNZAF, Sgt D.G. Cox RAF, Sgt J.T. Hubbard RAF, Sgt J.H. Shaw RAF, Sgt T. Underdown RAF and F/S R. Crossley RAF killed.
- 17-18 620 Sqn. Stirling III EF457 QS-A shot down by flak and night fighters, Sgt D.J. Carrington RAF, F/O L.G. Kennett RAF and Sgt R.E. Thompson killed, S/L A.D.

Lambert DFC RAF (Can.), Sgt R.G. Cooper RAF, Sgt V.L. Enders RAF, Sgt E.W. Evans RAF and Sgt C.C. Leeming RAF PoW. S/L Lambert had been shot down just a month before and evaded.

17-18 #23 OTU Wellington III X3424 failed to become airborne and hit a tree practicing night circuits, **P/O H.D. Paddison** and P/O F.M. Potter RAF safe. See Jan. 20-21, 1944.

Wednesday

18 Luftwaffe Chief of Staff General Jeschonnek, often blamed by Göring for many shortcomings in Luftwaffe performance, commits suicide in the wake of the two major Allied attacks on fighter and rocket facilities the previous day (Oxford).

#115 (BR) Sqn. RCAF leaves RCAF Station Annette Island, Alaska for Patricia Bay, BC, to re-equip with Ventura GR.V aircraft (RCAF Sqns.).

18 112 Sqn. Kittyhawk III FR137 GA-Z caught fire in the air and force landed wheels up, damaged beyond repair, **Sgt W.R. Blake** safe (Allison & Hayward, raf-112-squadron.org).

18 464 Sqn. RAAF Ventura I AE688 SB-Q hit a mountain in Wales on a cross country exercise, **Sgt E.J.E. Beaudry**, **F/O L. Fullerton**, **F/S A.S. Clegg** and F/S J.A. Johnston RAAF killed. There is wreckage still at the crash site (www.peakdistrictaircrashes.co.uk, <https://militaryaircraftcrashesites.blogspot.ca/p/crash-sites-in-wales.html>). See Nov. 8, 1943.

18 547 Sqn. Wellington XI HZ407 'K' shot down in the Bay of Biscay by a German long range fighter, **F/S C.R. Byers**, F/S J. Clarke RAF, F/O N.W. Springer RNZAF, Sgt G.B. Hasdell RAF, Sgt H.J. Graham RAF and Sgt G. Smith RAF missing (COL BRUGGY www.rafcommands.com).

18 #2 (Coastal) OTU Beaufighter X JM349 crashed on take-off when an engine failed, **P/O J.N. Punshon** and Sgt Meyrick slightly injured (R. Allenby). See February 20, 1945.

18 RAF Station Uxbridge, **F/O H.L. Carr RAF (Can.)** died in England of natural causes (www.rafcommands.com).

18 *SS Atlantis*, **P/O C.G. Kirchin** missing at sea (www.rafcommands.com).

18 #32 OTU, Patricia Bay, BC, Canadian built Hampden TB.I AN141 ditched off James Island after an engine cut, **F/S J.M. Booth**, P/O R.K. Westhorp RAF, P/O K.H. Webster RAF and F/S J.A. Buckham RAF rescued (H. Moyle).

18 #32 SFTS, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Oxford II AS395 crashed, LAC T.N. Cooke RAF and LAC D. Daly RAF killed.

18 #32 SFTS, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Oxford II AS202 crashed, F/O L.J. Crouch RAF killed.

18-19 410 Sqn. Mosquito FB.VI HJ825 shot down over Germany on a night RANGER, **F/O**

G.B. MacLean and F/O H. Plant RAF killed.

18-19 415 Sqn. Hampden TB.I AT135 GX-S was on an anti-submarine patrol when one of the engines failed and broke off the aircraft, and the aircraft ditched off the Scilly Isles, **F/S A.T.J. Maker** (or A.T.J.S. Mayher), **Sgt J. or T. Bileski**, F/O R. Armstrong RAF and F/O H.R.D.S. Cudden RAF rescued (H. Moyle; N.L.R. Franks; FF Years).

18-19 432 Sqn. Wellington X LN395 QO-R overshot it's landing from a BULLSEYE exercise, **Sgt W.C.A. Pay** and his crew safe.

Thursday

19 174 Sqn. Typhoon Ib JP550 lost off France due to an engine failure, **F/O C.D. O'Callaghan** bailed out and was later rescued by a Walrus (Arculus & R. McNeill at www.rafcommands.com).

19 182 Sqn. Typhoon Ib R8927 shot down by fighters over France on a RAMROD, **F/O M.I. Fraleigh** killed.

19 421 Sqn. Spitfire IX MA543 lost on a RAMROD over France, **P/O F.C. Joyce** PoW.

19 #1663 HCU Halifax V DG420 collided in mid air with a #1658 HCU Halifax II R9497 just after both had taken off and both crashed, **F/O M.W. Bonner**, **Sgt A.E. Gilverson**, Sgt D.C. Ravine RAF, Sgt N.J. Hart RAF, Sgt J.H. Townsend RAF, Sgt P.C. Parrott RAF and Sgt F.D. Read RAF were killed from DG420 and Sgt T.C. Ashley RAF, Sgt T.R. McMeekan RAF, Sgt A.J. Allan RAF, F/O R.F. Walker RAF, Sgt J.J. O'Brien RAF (Eire), Sgt F. Cosford RAF and Sgt D.L.H. Wooster RAF killed from R9497. Two farm workers in the field where DG420 crashed, Mr. M. Atkinson and 13 yr. old J. Dawson, ran from the the crashing aircraft but both were severely burned by the exploding gasoline (R. Allenby).

19 #11 (BR) Sqn. RCAF, Dartmouth, NS, removes the turrets from their Hudson aircraft to increase speed and range (I. Wikene).

19 #1 OTU Bagotville, Quebec, Harvard "501" (possibly IIb FE501?) crashed near St. Honore, Quebec, killing **P/O W.E. Cook** and P/O R.W.B. Frost RAF.

19 #3 Wireless School, Winnipeg, Man., Fort #3629 was on approach to land and collided in mid-air with Anson #6505 below it, crashing near the airfield, killing the pilot **WO1 G.C. Hughes** and injuring his student, LAC(WAG) K.L. Watkins RAAF (R.W.R. Walker; COL BRUGGY at www.rafcommands.com). The Anson, flown by civilian pilot F.W. Rollins, landed safely (Dakota at www.rafcommands.com).

19-20 #331 Wing RCAF renewed operations with all three Squadrons attacking rail yards at Foggia in Italy (FF Years).

19-20 424 Sqn. Wellington X MS476 'H' returned from operations over Italy and found fog in Tunisia. After being diverted to two airfields it belly landed, **F/L C.F. Amies** and his crew Sgt R.L. Arnold, Sgt F.H. Buss, F/O A.K. Leitch and Sgt R.L. Arnold (RCAF or RAF) safe (BLME V.2).

19-20 424 Sqn. Wellington X HE900 'E' returned from operations over Italy and found fog in

Tunisia. After being diverted to two airfields it crash landed, three of the crew of **F/O R.E. McMeekin**, P/O E.M. Black, P/O J. Charlesworth, Sgt A.A. Meeks and F/L D.C. Wilson slightly injured (BLMS V.2).

19-20 425 Sqn. Wellington X LN440 'W' crash landed in Tunisia returning from an operation to Italy, **Sgt G.M. Gauthier** badly injured, Sgt G.J. Boulanger, Sgt J.A. Craig, Sgt J. McCart and Sgt I.B. McCubbrey (RCAF or RAF?) safe (BLME V.2).

19-20 415 Sqn. Hampden TB.I X2898 shot down by flak off Holland, **F/S H.G. Gnam**, **Sgt E. St. Jean**, F/S W.A. Robson RAF and F/S H.G. Laverick RAF PoW (H. Moyle, www.rafcommands.com).

Friday

20 413 Sqn. navigator **F/L S.S. Williams** drowned in Ceylon after a boat capsized.

20 230 Sqn. Sunderland III EJ131 lost over the Mozambique Channel of Madagascar, **F/L M.W. McGregor**, F/S W.R. Lewis RAF, F/S D.M. Menzies RAF, Sgt C.G.R. Moll RAF, F/S G.A. Ridge RAF, F/S W.H. Robjohns RAF, F/L A.M. Todd RAF and F/O J.W. Sturdy RAF missing (www.rafcommands.com). F/L McGregor had previously served in Beauforts in Malta where he had survived being shot down.

20 407 Sqn. Leigh Light Wellington XII MP652 2-S flew into high ground in a rainstorm in England, **WO1 J.H. Clancy**, **WO1 R.A. Clark**, **F/O R.C. Dalglish**, **F/O G.W. Hirtle** and **P/O A.H. Peters** killed, **F/S G.O. Buckman** injured (407 SH). F/O Dalglish and WO Clancy had been part of the flight that was attacked by seaplanes November 6, 1942.

20 #17 AFU Master DK945 crashed in England, **Sgt J.C. Roulston** and F/S R.S. Brothwell RAF killed (R. McNeill www.rafcommands.com).

20 #2 Wireless School, Calgary, Alberta, Fort #3652 written off after an accident (R.W.R. Walker).

20 USAAF B-24D 42-40927 damaged landing at Gander, Nfld. (AAIR).

20-21 Rail yards near Naples were attacked by 205 Group (FF Years).

20-21 70 Sqn. Wellington X HF460 'O' lost on an operation over Italy, ditched off Palermo, Sicily, but a search found no sign of the crew, **P/O B.H.W. Stevens**, F/S J.F. Hady RAF, F/S F.L. Mortimer RAF, F/S A.J. Walford RAF and Sgt G.O. Leadbeater RAF missing (BLME V.2).

Saturday

21 417 Sqn. begins operations over Italy (417 SH).

21 250 Sqn. Kittyhawk II FR252 hit by anti-aircraft fire over Sicily (?) and crashed, **WO1 C.C. McDougall** killed and buried in Italy (www.rafcommands.com).

21 248 Sqn. Beaufighter X JM345 was one of four on a patrol over the North Sea when it suddenly dived into the ocean for no known cause, **F/O P.J. McGarvey** and his navigator, F/O A.M. Barnard RAF, missing.

- 21 414 Sqn. two Mustang I on a RHUBARB over France and attacked several trains, a tugboat and shot down a Ju 88 aircraft but AM160 RU-Y was shot down by flak, **F/O L.P. Thériault** killed, **P/O C.H. Stover** returned safe (FF Years, which places this on August 11).
- 21 #82 OTU Wellington X HE332 'J' collided with a tree and crashed returning from a night exercise, F/O F.G. Ingham RAF and Sgt R.W. Hughes RAF killed, **F/S E.A. McCasker** and F/S H.O. Shaw RAAF injured, Sgt Jennings RAF and Sgt Dye RAF safe.
- 21 #1658 CU Halifax II DT697 'C22' crashed attempting to land after a double engine failure, **F/S B.E. Bell**, **F/S J.A. Mawson**, Sgt L.H. Green RAF and Sgt R.S. Moncrieff RAF killed, F/S C. Rumble RAF died of injuries, Sgt J. Brown RAF and Sgt J.L. Ball RAF survived, injured.
- 21 #127 (F) Sqn. Hurricane XII #5655, seconded to #34 OTU, belly landed on arrival at Pennfield Ridge, **P/O L.P.E. Piche** safe (marvinneko at www.britmodeller.com). See October 11, 1944.
- 21 #31 OTU, Debert, NS, Hudson III BW432 crashed, Sgt L. Marshall RAF killed.
- 21 USAAF Canadian built UC-64A (Norseman) 43-5128 written off in a take-off accident in Alaska Territory, USA (<http://www.norsemanhistory.ca/>).

21-22 205 Group with #331 Wing Wellingtons attacked a railway junction near Salerno (FF Years).

Sunday

22 Hitler orders German units fighting to defend Orel to retreat from the encircling Soviet forces (A. Beevor). See September 3, below.

An off course V-1 test flying bomb that crashed on the Island of Bornholm in Denmark is discovered, and the wreckage is retrieved by Danish resistance, analyzed and the information and drawings are sent to England (Polsson, wikipedia).

- 22 252 Sqn. Beaufighter VI JL523 one of 2 lost of three attacking a tanker with bombs off Preveza, Greece. The RAF crew of the other aircraft were taken PoW, but **P/O D.H. Pearson** and F/S D.H.F. Sherburn RAF were killed on JL523.
- 22 295 Sqn. Halifax GT.V DG393 had just taken off towing a glider (probably a Horsa) when an engine caught fire in the air. The glider was cast off but the Halifax crash landed at Sale, Morocco, **F/S I.J. Clark**, Sgt E.F. Jarret RAF and F/O G.C. Rolls RAF were killed in the crash, and P/O R.A. Charter RAF died of injuries Aug. 29 (#38 Group Roll of Honour <http://www.raf38group.org>, R. McNeill www.ww2talk.com). The Halifax and it's crew were part of Operation BEGGAR which had towed Horsa gliders from England to Algeria and on to Tunisia for the invasion of Sicily (wikipedia). See June 27, below.

22 419 Sqn. Halifax II JB965 VR-W damaged it's undercarriage landing from an air test. The bomber went around again and landed wheels up, **Sgt R.K. Metherall**, Sgt C.H. Pollard, Sgt A.D. Chiswell, Sgt B. Edwards, Sgt K.B. Kelsall, Sgt J.L. Mercer and Sgt R.H. Marritt (RCAF or RAF?) safe.

22-23 Bomber Command sent 462 bombers to attack the I.G. Farben chemical works at Leverkusen, but thick cloud and OBOE failures led to scattered bombing, so scattered that few bombs fell on the target, but other nearby centres such as Dusseldorf and Solingen were hit. Five bombers were lost. Other operations include 12 Mosquitos over the Ruhr, 6 more to Hamburg, 47 GARDENING and 7 OTU sorties without loss (BC War Diaries).

22-23 61 Sqn. Lancaster III DV228 shot down over Holland by a night fighter, **F/S E. Johnson**, Sgt S.J. Banting RAF, Sgt R.W. Horwood RAF, Sgt J. Punter RAF, Sgt T.F. Watkins RAF and P/O J.A. Spencer RAF killed, Sgt S. Williamson RAF PoW.

22-23 102 Sqn. Halifax II JD378 DY-C shot down over Germany by a night fighter, Sgt C. Williams RAF killed, **S/L D.J.G. Jackson RAF (Can.)**, F/O F.R. Booth RAF, Sgt W.J. Vernon RAF, Sgt C.E. Kaye RAF, Sgt W.T. Dolan RAF and Sgt J.B. Haynes RAAF PoW. S/L Jackson had flown Blenheims in Malaysia, Burma and India before returning to operations in England (Allison & Hayward).

22-23 106 Sqn. Lancaster III JA871 lost over Germany, **F/O G.D. Kain**, Sgt J. Green RAF, P/O G.E. Fraser RAF, Sgt C.K. Marsh RAF, Sgt M. Hunter RAF, Sgt L. Green RAF and Sgt F.R. Wills RAF killed.

22-23 426 Sqn. Lancaster II, **S/L J.B. Millward DFC**, was attacked by a single engined night fighter that was claimed shot down by rear gunner **P/O W.M. Maxwell DFC RCAF (USA)** (FF Years, R. Koval).

22-23 426 Sqn. Lancaster II DS713 OW-J evaded an attack by a Ju 88 night fighter before bombing. After bombing the aircraft was subjected to several attacks by another Ju 88 and escaped without damage, **Sgt W.H. Boles**, **F/O G.H. Buchanan**, **S/L A.J. Hughes**, **Sgt K.W. Sawyer**, Sgt F.D. Rawlings RAF, Sgt W.J. McLean RAF and Sgt F. Wilkinson RAF landed safe in England where an inspection found damage to the main spar, possibly overstressed while evading the attacks (R. Allenby). See October 7-8 below.

22-23 434 Sqn. Halifax V EB255 WL-P lost over Belgium, probably shot down by a night fighter, **F/S N.G. Betts**, **WO2 W.B.F. Climie RCAF (USA)**, **F/S H.B. Ebbers**, **P/O R.S. Harrison**, **WO1 W.H. Ledford DFM**, **P/O E.A. Morgans**, F/S E.J.A. Ford RAF and F/S D.H. Walshaw RAF killed. WO Ledford had been shot down Aug. 28, 1942 and evaded, returning to England via Gibraltar in November. WO Climie and F/S Ebbers had survived a crash landing in a 419 Sqn. Halifax March 29-30, above.

Monday

23 Soviet forces recapture Kharkov [end of the battles of the Kursk Salient].

- 23 112 Sqn. Kittyhawk III FR516 GA-A damaged, **P/O G.W. Rutherford** safe (Allison & Hayward, raf-112-squadron.org).
- 23 114 Sqn. Boston III W8344 swung landing from a training flight in Sicily due to the brakes being on, **P/O C.D. Turnbull** and his crew Sgt A.J. Brown RAF, Sgt F. Stamford RAF and P/O R. Stead RAF safe (BLME V.2).
- 23 297 Sqn. Albermarle I P1478 lost on a ferry flight to Gibraltar, **F/O J.B. Bowden**, WO H.E. Curtis RAF, F/S R.A. Moore RAF, F/S A.E.G. Nunn RAF and Luitenant-ter-zee P.H. Blom Royal Netherlands Navy Air Service were also listed as lost from 297 Sqn. on this date (#38 Group Roll of Honour <http://www.raf38group.org>, R. Philips www.rafcommands.com, CWGC).
- 23 58 Sqn. Halifax GR.II DT636 was attacked and shot down by German fighters while on an anti-submarine patrol over the Bay of Biscay, **F/O J.M. Clark**, **WO2 B.E. Mitchell DFM**, **WO1 W.A. Tennant**, **F/S L.C. Matthews RAF (Nfld.)**, Sgt J.W. Bailey RAF, F/S A.C. Wilder RAF, F/S T.R. Urquhart RAF and F/L G.A. Sawtell DFC RAF missing (CWGC; www.rafcommands.com).
- 23 405 Sqn. **WO1 K.O. Perry**, shot down April 3, 1943, died in captivity.
- 23 #42 OTU Whitley V T4339 crashed in England in the mouth of the Severn River, **F/O R.W. Conway**, **F/S R.H. Smith**, **F/S H.C. Ward** killed and F/S C.J. Jamison RAAF missing (A. Storr).
- 23 #306 Ferry Training Unit Beaufort Ia JM499 lost on a ferry flight from England to Gibraltar enroute to the Middle East, **WO2 R.G. Needham**, **WO2 J.L. Perkins**, **F/O G.N. Rattee** and F/S A.S. McPherson RAF missing (www.landinportugal.org).
- 23 unknown unit, accountant **F/L J.B. Brownlee** took his own life in England (www.rafcommands.com).
- 23 #1 Wireless School, Montreal, Quebec, wireless mechanic **Sgt L.A. Appelt** died of natural causes (www.rafcommands.com).
- 23 #3 Repair Depot, Vancouver, BC, air frame mechanic **LAC A.S. Emerson** died in hospital in Winnipeg of natural causes.
- 23 #32 SFTS, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Cpl B. Hill RAF died in an accidental drowning (B. Barry et al).
- 23 USAAF 7 Ferry Sqn. P-39Q 42-20657 damaged in a landing near Penhold, Alberta (AAIR).

23-24 After a night off #331 Wing was part of another attack on Italian railroads (FF Years).

- 23-24 458 Sqn. RAAF Wellington MP706 lost on an anti-shipping operation off Leghorn, Italy, **F/O M.L. Brechin**, **F/O R.C. Scott**, Sgt W.E. Dixon RAF, Sgt M.E. Windsor RAF, Sgt J. Whittaker RAF and F/O J. Hillen RAF missing (A. Storr).

23-24 Bomber Command sent 797 bombers to Berlin using route marking with skymarkers by Mosquitos to help keep the bomber stream more compact, and a Master Bomber (W/C J.E. Fauquier DFC, commanding officer of 405

Sqn.). H2S marking was used but marking was off, and many bombs fell outside the city. Damage was inflicted on some industries and residential areas, and 850 were killed on the ground including 100 foreign workers. It appears that many of those killed did not go to their shelters. Flak and night fighter defence was predictably strong and 56 bombers were shot down, the highest loss by Bomber Command of the war so far. Forty GARDENING sorties were also made without loss (BC War Diaries).

German Me 410 fighter bombers attempt to bomb USAAF airfields in England, 4 are shot down by Mosquito night fighters (ww2total.com Chronology/1943).

- 23-24 12 Sqn. Lancaster III DV158 PH-A² lost without trace, **F/S G.W. Fraser**, F/O N. Ashburner RAF, Sgt R. Barrass RAF, P/O V.C. Bye RAF, P/O H. Laverick RAF, Sgt T.J. Gleeson RAF and Sgt W.T. Peace missing.
- 23-24 35 Sqn. Halifax II HR928 TL-R shot down by a night fighter near Berlin, **WO1 O.L. Bliss DFC**, **P/O W.D. Craig DFM**, **P/O W.P.M. McIntosh DFM**, **P/O R.W. Nixon DFC**, F/L H. Webster DFC RAF, G/C B.V. Robinson DSO DFC & Bar AFC RAF, F/S D. Burke RAF and S/L M.C.X. Mack DFC RAF killed. A photo of this aircraft, coded TL-L, is included in *Halifax at War*. G/C Robinson had been the pilot of a Halifax that returned without any crew from Turin, Nov. 18-19, 1942.
- 23-24 75 (New Zealand) Sqn. Stirling III EE938 AA-X lost over Germany, **F/S A. Davidson**, **Sgt J.A.C. Holmes**, WO T. Fear RAF, Sgt B.H. Ruddy RAF, Sgt A. Bain RAF and Sgt D.G. Woolcott RAF killed, Sgt C. Munro RAF missing.
- 23-24 76 Sqn. Halifax V DK241 MP-Q crashed on return from an operation over Germany, P/O W.E. Elder RNZAF and Sgt T. Dunn RAF injured, **P/O W.W.A. Wanless**, Sgt W. Berry RAF, Sgt A. Wood RAF, Sgt P.B. Clarke RAF and Sgt C.H. Carter RAF safe. See Oct. 3-4, below.
- 23-24 77 Sqn. Halifax II JD465 KN-U lost over Germany, **F/S S.W. Abrams**, S/L N.W. Wright RAF, Sgt R.E. Fuller RAF, Sgt A.R. Downes RAF, Sgt K.W. Darrah RAF and Sgt R.B. Spence RAF killed, F/O J.P. Wood RAF and F/S J. Adamson DFM RAF PoW.
- 23-24 78 Sqn. Halifax II JD248 EY-J shot down by a night fighter over Germany, **P/O T.A.T. Williams**, WO J.H. Lowery RAF, Sgt C.W. Moore RAF, Sgt R.F. Avis RAF, Sgt J.F. Egan RAF and Sgt D.P. Martin RAF killed, Sgt D. Lamb RAF PoW.
- 23-24 78 Sqn. Halifax II JD310 EY-Z shot down over Germany, **P/O J.G. Castle**, **WO2 L.A. Mallory**, S/L P. Bunclark DFC DFM RAF, F/S E.F.C. Matthews RAF, Sgt J.S. Moore RAF and Sgt K.T. Dixon RAF killed, P/O V.A. Robins DFC RAF PoW. P/O Castle had been injured July 11, 1942 in the crash of a #102 Conversion flight Halifax. All the crew that died had survived a bail-out/forced landing of a Halifax July 3-4, above
- 23-24 83 Sqn. Lancaster III ED984 OL-A shot down over Germany by a combination of searchlights and a night fighter, **P/O C. Robinson**, F/L I.C.B. Slade DFC RAF, F/S V.C. Lewis DFM RAF, F/L A.N. McPherson DFM RAF, WO W.C. Baker DFM RAF and WO H.E. Allen RAF killed, F/L R.F.W. Turner RAF PoW.

- 23-24 90 Sqn. Stirling III BK779 WP-L lost over the North Sea, P/O L.E. Sibbald, P/O W.H.J. Yeo RAF, Sgt J.R. Laing RAF and Sgt J.F. Quickfall RAF missing, Sgt F.W. Mulvey, Sgt J. Burland RAF and Sgt J.A. Pighills RAF drifted in their life raft for just over a week before they were rescued and taken PoW.
- 23-24 90 Sqn. Stirling III EH937 WP-S lost over the IJsselmeer, Sgt C.J. Purcell RAF, Sgt A.E. Lloyd RAF and Sgt G.C. Jeffreys RAF killed, WO2 L.M. Stormer, F/S K.W. Longmore RAAF, Sgt R.L. Jones RAF, F/S V.A. Weaver RAF missing. See <http://www.teunispats.net/fr-wwii.htm> for details.
- 23-24 97 Sqn. Lancaster III ED875, F/O D.A. Montgomery, was hit by bombs over the target that knocked out an engine, jammed an aileron and took off a wing tip. The flight engineer then feathered the wrong engine and the bomber lost a considerable amount of height before they corrected the situation and returned to England (Lancaster, C. et al).
- 23-24 100 Sqn. Lancaster I ED774 HW-L lost without trace, F/S H.J. Hahn, F/S L.K. Needs RAAF, Sgt P.A. Whitter RAF, Sgt R.G. Reay RAF, Sgt W.B. Jamieson RAF, Sgt A. Stansfield RAF and Sgt W.S. Fletton RAF missing.
- 23-24 100 Sqn. Lancaster III ED652 HW-C swung taking off for an operation and lost it's undercarriage, P/O J.E. Stewart, F/S D.C. Dripps RAAF, Sgt H. Jones RAF, Sgt W.T. Sibley RAF, Sgt D. Campbell RAF, Sgt R. Gillies RAF and Sgt A.F.W.N. Croft RAF safe. See Dec. 23-24, below.
- 23-24 100 Sqn. Lancaster III EE180 HW-D lost over the Baltic, F/S J.H. Brown, F/S S.J. McEllenborough RAF, Sgt N. Pendlebury RAF, Sgt D.J. Bigham RAF and P/O J.A. Webb RAF killed, P/O T. Collins RAF and Sgt W.R. Acland RAF missing.
- 23-24 100 Sqn. Lancaster III LM333 HW-V shot down by flak over the Dutch coast, pilot WO F.A. Preston RAAF and his flight engineer Sgt H. Chadwick RAF went down with the aircraft but the rest of the crew bailed out, Sgt J.J. Adelstein, Sgt E.J. Gargini RAF, Sgt J. Noble RAF and Sgt A.E. Henry RAF PoW and Sgt R. Fidler RAF evaded and returned to England early in 1944.
- 23-24 102 Sqn. Halifax II JD127 DY-U swung off the runway taking off on an operation, the pilot W/C S.J. Marchbank RAF, raised the undercarriage to stop from colliding with buildings. The bomber grounded and stopped, but caught on fire. The navigator, P/O W.G. Corbett, sustained head injuries when he tripped during the hasty evacuation from the bombed up aircraft, W/C Marchbank, Sgt E.R. Crane RAF, P/O H.F. Pullen RAF, Sgt J.J. Duncan RAF, Sgt E.G. Clarke (RAF?) and Sgt S. Corner safe (R. Allenby).
- 23-24 149 Sqn. Stirling III BK765 OJ-P was hit by flak over the target and set on fire. Flight engineer Sgt C. Burton went down with the aircraft but F/S T.D. Dixon, S/L J.J.E. Mahoney RAF (Can.), P/O J.F.S. Hood RAF, F/O A.J. McKirdy RAF and P/O L. Van-Aardt PoW, Sgt J. Brantford RAF evaded. S/L Mahoney had flown anti-terrorist patrols in Gladiators in Palestine before the war, then transports in North Africa until 1942 (Allison & Hayward).

- 23-24 156 Sqn. Lancaster ED856 was attacked and badly shot up killing air gunner **F/S V.E. Attree**, the aircraft returned safely.
- 23-24 158 Sqn. Halifax II HR725 NP-C shot down by a night fighter over Germany, Sgt J.H. Jenkins RAF and Sgt H. Booth RAF killed, **P/O B.P. Allen**, P/O H.B. Frisby RAAF, Sgt A.V. Kyle RAF, Sgt D.R.P. de Laurier RAF, Sgt H. Selman RAF and Sgt G.G. Heyes RAF PoW.
- 23-24 158 Sqn. Halifax II HR944 NP-K lost over Berlin, Sgt T.S. Thomas RAF killed, **Sgt E.F. Wood**, F/O F.A. Unwin RAF, Sgt G. Bell RAF, Sgt W.L. Maxwell RAF, Sgt A.P. Robinson RAF and Sgt H.L.W. Grieve RAF PoW. See Aug. 2, 1944.
- 23-24 158 Sqn. Halifax II HR980 NP-E lost over Germany, believed shot down by night fighters. The bomber fell into a marsh and only 3 bodies were recovered, Sgt H.C. Harber RAAF, Sgt A. Cox and one unidentified, **F/S G.R. Harrison**, F/S W.A. Burgum RAAF, Sgt R. Hill RAF, Sgt P.L. Buck RAF and Sgt D.R. Hempstock RAF missing or unidentified (A. Storr). In 2012 the marsh dried out and the wreckage became accessible, and an application was made to excavate the site in 2014 (various).
- 23-24 218 Sqn. Stirling III BF522 HA-N transmitted an SOS before crashing into the sea off Denmark, Sgt K. Robson RAF and Sgt G.A. McArthur RAF killed, **P/O W. Martin**, Sgt E.R. Lowe RAF, F/O L.J. De'Ath RAF, F/S J. Cassidy RAF and Sgt H. Taylor RAF missing.
- 23-24 218 Sqn. Stirling III EH986 HA-X lost over Berlin, crashing at Tempelhof airport, **F/S A.A. Hadiken**, F/S W.S. Williams RAF and Sgt H.F. Hooper RAF killed, Sgt J.A. Pitt and Sgt J.S. Blyth RAF have no known grave and Sgt R.A. Wells RAF and Sgt A.S. Forrest RAF PoW.
- 23-24 405 Sqn. Halifax II HR918 LQ-G lost over Germany, **S/L W.H. Baldwin DFC**, **F/O P.J. Magson**, **F/S A. Menzies**, **F/S J.A. Miller**, Sgt S. Cugley RAF and P/O L.R. King DFM RAF killed, **F/O F.A. Harman** missing. F/O Magson had bailed out of a damaged 408 Halifax July 13-14, above. Observer S/L Baldwin was on his second tour. Before the war he had been one of the artists involved in producing the *Book of Remembrance* of those killed in the First World War. His name now appears in the second *Book of Remembrance* (Pg. 133) produced to honour those lost in the Second World War (T. Ritchie, *Twice Immortalized*, *Airforce Magazine* Vol. 31, #3, 2007).
- 23-24 405 Sqn. Halifax II HR923 LQ-V was badly damaged by a single engined fighter when leaving the target, and diverted to Sweden where it crashed, **WO1 H. Smith**, **P/O D.P. Davies**, **Sgt L.F. Cassidy**, **Sgt J.S. Gates**, **Sgt J.H. Flick**, Sgt J.C. Catling RAF and Sgt T. O'Toole RAF interned. See July 28-29, 1944.
- 23-24 418 Sqn. Mosquito FB.VI HJ773 lost on an INTRUDER sortie over France, S/L G.C. Matheson RAF and Sgt L.W. Bush RAF missing. S/L Matheson had flown Spitfires in the Battle of Britain (S. Brew www.rafcommands.com).
- 23-24 426 Sqn. Lancaster II DS676 shot down over Germany by a night fighter, **P/O L.G.E.**

Burnett, P/O D.C.D. Du Boulay RCAF (St. Lucia), F/O A.J. Gibson, F/O W.E. Hinchcliffe, F/L W.L. Shaw, P/O J. Williams, P/O E.G. Farr RAF and F/S A. Lucas RAF killed. P/O Hinchcliffe had survived an accident to a #10 OTU Whitley Sept. 6-7, 1942.

- 23-24 426 Sqn. Lancaster II DS688 OW-O was picked up by search lights and hit by flak on the way to the target. The damage to the hydraulic system led to the bomber dropping on Bremen as an alternate target. On return to its base the emergency system had to be used to force the undercarriage down but a safe landing was made, P/O W.M. Maxwell DFC RCAF (USA), S/L J.B. Millward DFC, P/O K.A. Nordheimer, F/S A.L. Olsson, F/O R.E.D. Ratcliffe and possibly P/O R.G.F. Hunt, P/O R.C. Taylor RAF and an unknown flight engineer safe (R. Allenby). The aircraft was repaired, see June 12-13, 1944. See also March 26-27 and August 16-17, 1944.
- 23-24 427 Sqn. Halifax V DK184 ZL-G lost over Germany, F/O W.G.R. Baum, F/O W. Bray, F/O R.C. Day, F/S E.E.S. McCulloch, F/S F.G. Painter and Sgt P.J.P. Murphy RAF killed, Sgt D.C. Davies RAF PoW (R. Koval).
- 23-24 427 Sqn. Halifax V EB243 ZL-H lost over Germany, P/O E.D. Cornelius, F/S R.A. Kirk, F/O G.S. Low, Sgt D.S. Phillips, F/S R.F. Shortridge, Sgt H.R. Smith RAF and Sgt P.J. Norreys RAF killed (R. Koval).
- 23-24 428 Sqn. Halifax V DK267 NA-H (or -M, R. Koval) was shot up over Germany by a night fighter and the bail out order was given, Sgt G.W. Patterson, Sgt L.S. Bates, Sgt W.S. Kerr and Sgt J. Taylor RAF left and were made PoW, but Sgt C.E. Crampton RAF became trapped in the escape hatch and could not be released. The bomber then flew to Sweden where it crashed, Sgt Crampton was killed, and F/S H.A. Read and F/O J.J. McQuade were interned.
- 23-24 428 Sqn. Halifax V, WO F.B. Edwards RAF, attacked by two night fighters, one of which was claimed shot down by Sgt A.J. Cadeau. The bomber took damage to a wing, fuel tanks and controls, and returned on three engines (R. Koval, FF Years). See October 3-4, below.
- 23-24 434 Sqn. Halifax V DK261 WL-V shot down by a night fighter off Denmark, tail gunner F/S C.W. Snyder was killed in the attack, but the rest of the crew bailed out, however Sgt F.V. Messenger RAF and Sgt M.W. Stevenson RAF landed in a harbour and drowned. Sgt R.S. Welters, Sgt J. Plenderleith and Sgt R.C. Brooks were taken PoW, and S/L R.A. McLernon evaded and returned to England via Sweden.
- 23-24 460 Sqn. RAAF Lancaster III ED421 exploded and crashed in Germany, probably due to enemy action. Sgt W.A. Finlay RCAF (UK), Sgt T. Smale RAF, Sgt J.G. Collins RAAF and F/S J. Marsh RAAF killed, P/O A.T. Richards RAAF, Sgt J.C. Munro RAAF and F/S K. Gay RAAF PoW. F/S Gay was injured in the explosion and was repatriated in February 1945.
- 23-24 620 Sqn. Stirling III BK801 QS-K shot down over Germany by a night fighter, P/O G.W. MacDonald RAF, Sgt L. Richardson RAF, Sgt R.H. Cole RAF, Sgt P.J. Saunders

RAF and Sgt P.W.C. Higgs RAF killed, **S/L A.P. Philipsen RAF (Can.)**, F/O J.D. Sutton RAF and F/O E. Walker RAF PoW. S/L Philipsen had been born in the UK and then lived in Japan before his family moved to Canada when he was still a child (Allison & Hayward).

23-24 623 Sqn. Stirling III EH925 IC-C shot down over Germany, **WO2 D.M. de Silva RCAF (Br. Guiana)**, S/L W.H.B. Hiles DSO DFC RAF, Sgt G. Thompson RAF, P/O J.N. Ure RAF, F/O J. Basten RAF, Sgt J. Curran RAF and Sgt J.B. Kershaw missing. This was the first aircraft lost by 623 Sqn. F/S De Silva and S/L Hiles had survived a crash landing Nov. 28-29, 1942.

Tuesday

24 Quebec Conference ends. Plans for the invasion of France in 1944 were discussed, as well as for the increase of the bomber campaign. Discussions of atomic energy resulted in agreement signed for US, Canada and England (with French and other scientists) to co-operate on development of an atomic bomb. Canada is included due to Port Radium mine (sole known source of uranium in North America), Port Hope refinery, production of heavy water at Trail, BC and establishment of the TUBE ALLOYS Lab at Montreal.

The idea of forcing the surrender of Germany by targeting it's civilian population is officially withdrawn as a strategy, but destroying the means of production of war material, especially fighters, remains an objective (Oxford).

Discussions to form Southeast Asia Command (SEAC) for operations in Burma under command of Lord Mountbatten (LoN), combining Commonwealth land forces of Britain, India and Africa and the RAFs 3rd Tactical Air Force with US and Chinese troops under General Stilwell as Deputy Commander, and the USAAF Tenth Air Force based in India (wikipedia). The USAAF Fourteenth Air Force, based in China, and strategic Twentieth Air Force, then based in India with B-24s but intended to receive B-29 bombers, were excluded, but the RAF #231 Group strategic bomber force (then re-equipping with Liberators) was to be under SEAC command. #5 OTU RCAF was established at Boundary Bay, BC, to covert Commonwealth aircrew to Liberators for #231 Group. By agreement every second intake of aircrew would be RCAF, and thus most of the Liberators in India would have Canadian aircrew.

Meetings between Roosevelt and Chindit commander General Wingate in Quebec gains backing for further development of Wingate's tactics with US ground and air support (Oxford).

In Copenhagen, Denmark, a meeting hall is blown up by the Danish Resistance

(ww2total.com Chronology/1943).

- 24 160 Sqn. Liberator III FK239 lost on an operation to the Andaman Islands, **P/O J.A.B. Kidd**, **Sgt G. McDonald RAF (Nfld.)**, **WO1 B. Winter**, F/O J.W. Campbell RAF, F/O W.A. Calder RAF, Sgt L. Bambridge RAF, Sgt R.W. Harrison RAF and Sgt H. Willcock RAF missing.
- 24 114 Sqn. Boston III W8329 'P' nosed over taxiing from landing on a re-location flight in Sicily, **F/O R.R. Lipsit**, **Sgt E.C.J. Roney**, Sgt C.D.C. Cox RAF and F/S J.M. O'Leary RAF safe (BLME V.2).
- 24 196 Sqn. Stirling III EH952 was on an search for missing aircraft when it came down in the North Sea off Denmark. A nearby Danish fishing boat picked up the crew, **Sgt D.F. Moore**, Sgt P.W. Brett RAF, Sgt D.H. Canning RAF, Sgt L.H. Huggins RAF, Sgt E.W.J. Kerr RAF, Sgt E. Lawton RAF and Sgt R.A. Treadwell RAF PoW (O. Clutton-Brock).
- 24 210 Sqn. Catalina Ib FP287 'E' crashed in England making a night landing in poor visibility on a training flight, **F/O W.A. Hobson**, F/S R.E. Rasmussen RAAF, F/O P.R. Duff RAF, F/O M.D. Cohen RAF, Sgt A.B. Allen RAF, Sgt M.M. Doyle RAF, Sgt F. Frogson RAF and Sgt G. Harper RAF killed, P/O D.O. Ahmed RAF, Sgt J.S. Garnett RAF, Sgt R.J. Kington RAF and Sgt W. Eley RAF injured (R. McNeill forum.12oclockhigh.net).
- 24 #1652 HCU Halifax II W7806 'D' was on a general flying practice flight with 3 cadets as passengers when it lost a propellor. The pilot, P/O S.A. Maslin RAF, ordered a bail out but one cadet, Cadet Rushden could not jump, so with the assistance of Sgt R. Cederbaum RAF the aircraft was force landed where they were all injured. Of the rest of the crew which bailed out, **F/O K.A. Petch**, P/O T.M. Telford RAF, Sgt W.H. Curness RAF, Cadet Calvert and Cadet Gorman were also injured, P/O Napier RAF, P/O Potter RAF (Argentina) and Sgt Shirley RAF safe (C. Meunier and H. Welting at www.rafcommands.com).
- 24 #2 B&G School, Mossbank, Saskatchewan, Anson II #7431 crashed after hitting a house near Gravelbourg, Saskatchewan, **LAC(BA) T. Millard** and **Sgt B.G. Warren** killed. This is possibly the incident in which **F/S F.C. Irving** (lost Jan. 16-17, 1945) was injured.

24-25 205 Group bombed rail targets in the Naples area (FF Years).

Bomber Command has 8 Mosquitos over Berlin and 66 GARDENING sorties without loss (BC War Diaries).

- 24-25 172 Sqn. Wellington XII MP624 'B' crashed in England, **F/L L.H. Burden**, W/C R.G. Musson RAF, F/S J.S. Walker RAF, Sgt B. Todd RAF, F/L E. Carr RAF and F/O F.E. Rodda RAF killed.
- 24-25 420 Sqn. Wellington X HZ356 had a hard landing returning early from an operation to Italy with a failed engine, **Sgt L.E. Wilson** and his crew Sgt A.S. Guymer, Sgt L.V.

Hall, Sgt B.H. Johnston and Sgt S.M. Parkhouse (RCAF or RAF?) safe (BLME V.2).

Wednesday

- 25 519 Sqn. Canadian built Hampden I P5334 Z9-H lost on a Meteorological flight from Scotland after radioing it had engine problems, **P/O E.D. Bonin** and **F/S D.L. McNichol**, P/O F.D. Findlater RAAF and P/O R. Rowe RNZAF missing. This aircraft had been damaged in combat July 26-27, 1941 with 408 Squadron. A second 519 Squadron Hampden I, P2118, took off to search for the missing aircraft (www.yorkshire-aircraft.co.uk; *Flypast*, February 1984), see below.
- 25 #14 AFU Oxford I LX237 crashed in England after colliding with another Oxford I LX265 aircraft on approaching to land, **Sgt V.J. Surbey** killed, LX265 landing safely (www.rafcommands.com).
- 25 #33 SFTS, Carberry, Man., Anson II JS197 crashed, Sgt A.W. Ingram RAF and LAC F.R. Shorney RAF killed.

25-26 Taranto's rail yards were bombed by 205 Group including #331 Wing RCAF Wellingtons (FF Years).

- 25-26 424 Sqn. Wellington X HE515 QB-T lost attacking Taranto, Italy, **F/S J.G. Brislan**, **F/S A.C. McLenahan**, **Sgt E. Munsterman**, **F/O F.P. Wilson** and Sgt R. Boulton RAF killed (BLME V.2).

25-26 Six Mosquitos were sent to Berlin, 42 GARDENING sorties off France and 7 OTU NICKEL flights made by Bomber Command with 1 NICKEL aircraft lost (BC War Diaries).

In Denmark shipyard workers go on strike (ww2total.com Chronology/1943).

- 25-26 519 Sqn. Hampden I P2118 Z9-D was returning from it's search for the missing Hampden P5334 (above). In severe weather it hit the top of Ben Loyal mountain just after midnight. **F/S T.R.T. Hudson-Bell RCAF (Argentina)**, **F/O G.W. Ritchie** and **F/L H.R. Puplett DFC RAF** were killed in the crash but **F/O C. Faulks RAF** was thrown clear. Knocked unconscious, he came to surrounded by the burning aircraft whose ammunition was exploding. Despite his injuries he crawled into shelter behind a rock where he lay for some 6 hours until a rescue party found him in the morning. He was strapped to a section of the aircraft and taken down the mountain, then by horse cart to an ambulance (www.secretscotland.org.uk). For their efforts in saving **F/O Faulks**, shepherd **E. Campbell** and **Dr. F.Y. McKendrick** were both awarded the British Empire Medal. The wreckage of the aircraft is still at the crash site (www.yorkshire-aircraft.co.uk; *Flypast*, February 1984).
- 25-26 #22 OTU Wellington X HF628 shot down by flak and a night fighter over the French coast on a NICKEL sortie, crashing in the sea. **Sgt N.C. Brown** killed, **F/S F.T. Cooper** and **F/S C.F. Pick** missing, **P/O W.H. Mitchell** and Sgt **G.R. Simmons** RAF PoW.

Thursday

26 Nineteen German PoWs escape (CJCA headline). They use a drainage pipe to break out of a camp at Kingston, Ontario, all are later re-captured (wikipedia).

- 26 217 Sqn. Beaufort Ia DW938 ditched off Trincomalee, Ceylon, while on a torpedo practice flight, **F/O C. Watson**, F/O R. Lund RAF, Sgt F. Plows RAF, F/O S.G. Wallis RAF and Sgt P. Walmsley RAF missing (CWGC; R. Hayward; www.rafcommands.com).
- 26 14 Sqn. Marauder, **F/L E.L. Archer** taken PoW at Livorno, Italy, no details. The site www.findagrave.com notes that in January 1943 F/L Archer had served briefly with the SAS.
- 26 455 Sqn. RAAF Hampden TB.I AE195 UB-M came down in the sea off Scotland after an engine failure on a navigation exercise, **F/S A.G. McKenzie**, Sgt B.C. Woodroff RAF and Sgt P.J. Taylor RAF (Kenya) missing, **Sgt B.L. Martin** was rescued (R. McNeill, www.ww2talk.com; H. Moyle). See 519 Squadron entry Aug. 28, below.
- 26 #20 OTU Wellington X HE802 'S' crashed in Scotland on a cross country exercise, possibly after hitting something in flight which caused a propellor to break up, a piece of which killed or incapacitated the pilot **F/S F.E. Adams**. The rest of the crew, **F/S B.E. Clark**, **Sgt K.G. Soutar**, **Sgt E.H. Weeks**, Sgt B.G. Donbavand RAF and Sgt A.P. King RAF were killed in the crash (Bob www.rafcommands.com).
- 26 #30 OTU Wellington III BK359 'F' was taking off on a transit flight when it clipped a vehicle with it's wing tip and swerved towards a group of people. The pilot, **P/O H.A. Vernon**, tried to take off but was not able to and the bomber was wrecked, but the crew was safe. One person on the ground was injured.
- 26 #81 OTU Whitley V LA937 was returning from a night navigation exercise when the engines faltered just before touchdown. The aircraft crashed into the stations watch office (flying operations centre), **Sgt T.R. Armstrong** and **F/O K.N. Laing** were killed, and **Sgt T.W. Fair**, Sgt G. Henderson RAF and Sgt R. Guile RAF were injured on the Whitley, W/C D.S. Robertson RAF, AC1 Ferguson RAF and Aircraftswoman 2nd Class J.M. Viney WAAF were also injured on the ground as well as some 15 others with cuts and bruises. See September 7, below.
- 26 #1659 HCU RCAF Halifax II DT802 was making a 3 engined landing after a night exercise, went off the runway and collided with another #1659 HCU Halifax II DT629, destroying both. **Sgt W.E. McDonald** and **Sgt W.J. Miller** were killed, Sgt F.A. Cook RAF died of his injuries several days later, and the rest of the crew, **F/O R.B. Hermon**, **Sgt V.R. Crane**, F/O T.E. Beaman RAF and Sgt G. Gold RAF, survived with injuries.
- 26 unknown unit, **Sgt C.L. Logan** noted as injured in crash of a Beaufort aircraft on this date, possibly #5 (Coastal) OTU Beaufort Ia EL134 noted by R. Hayward as ditching in the Firth of Clyde after an engine failure on this date. See Nov. 24, below.

- 26 #4 RD, Scoudouc, NB, air frame mechanic **LAC J.A. Nelson** died of natural causes while part of an aircraft salvage operation at RCAF Station Pennfield Ridge, NB.
- 26 #1 SFTS, Camp Borden, Ontario, **AC2 H.S. Sellgren** was killed in a truck-train accident near Rosser, Man. while on harvest leave.
- 26 #7 SFTS, Fort MacLeod, Alberta, Anson II #11477 was practicing beam approaches when it hit a telephone pole and crashed, P/O A.J. Galvin RNZAF and **LAC(P) T.P.D. O'Byrne** slightly injured (C. Charland www.rafcommands.com).
- 26 USAAF AT-16 (Canadian built Harvard) 43-12773 (FS932?) crashed near Rodney, Ontario, 2Lt W.C. Hoppel USAAF killed. This was a Canadian built aircraft paid for by US Lend-Lease funds for the use of the RAF.

26-27 Rail yards at Salerno were bombed by 205 Group Wellingtons including #331 Wing (FF Years).

Bomber Command sent 32 GARDENING sorties off France and 1 OTU flight without loss (BC War Diaries).

Friday

- 27 Off the coast of Spain the sloop HMS Egret is hit and sunk by an Hs 293 rocket/glider bomb guided by it's Do 217 launch aircraft, the first ship to be sunk by an air launched guided missile (Oxford). The destroyer HMCS Athabaskan was damaged in the same attack.***
- 27 194 Sqn. India Hudson VI FK584 stalled from a turn on landing and crashed in India, **S/L R.L.C. Cartwright RAF (Can.)**, **P/O W.C. "Jerry" Walsh**, P/O K. Brookman RAF, S/L C. Metcalf RAF, F/S L. Yealland RAF, Major General T.G.G. Heywood, Brigadier H.P. Radley, R. Rand US Office of War Information (Calcutta) and 2 others were killed in the crash or died of injuries, 2 passengers survived (CWGC; www.findagrave.com; aviation-safety.net). See D. Williams for information on P/O Walsh.
- 27 18 Sqn. Boston III AL742 'H' crashed shortly after take-off in Sicily for a sortie to Italy and exploded, **F/O J.P. Custance**, **WO1 D.F. Newcombe**, F/O K. Arthur RAF and Sgt P.A. Fricker RAF killed (BLME V.2).
- 27 200 Sqn. Hudson lost in Mediterranean, **F/O P.H.W. Johnston**, **F/S D. Ross RCAF (USA)**, F/S F.N. Bowler RNZAF and F/O R.H. Stanwell RAF missing.
- 27 410 Sqn. Mosquito NF.II DZ305 crashed in England, **F/S W.T. Cheropita** and **WO1 N.M. Dalton** killed.
- 27 421 Sqn. Spitfire IX MA575 belly landed short of fuel in England (www.spitfires.ukf.net).
- 27 #24 OTU Whitley V BD207 FB-P took off on a flying exercise but force landed 15 minutes later with an engine failure, **Sgt R.M. McKay** and his crew safe.
- 27 #32 EFTS, Bowden, Alberta, Cornell II #10740 crashed from a turn near Bowden, LAC C.W.C. Ellis RAF and F/L R. Mount RAF killed (R.W.R. Walker, C. Simonsen).

- 27 #36 OTU, Greenwood, NS, Mosquito T.III HJ871 crashed near Annapolis Royal, NS, while on a dual exercise, killing **F/O D.G. Harris** and F/O J.C.W. Bruce DFC RAF.
- 27 #111 OTU, Bermuda, Mitchell II FR375 'CJ' was leaking fuel and had radio problems in thunderstorms. It was guided back to the Bahamas by another aircraft where it was found it was unable to extend its undercarriage, but made a successful force landing, crew safe (E. Wiberg).

27-28 Bomber Command sent 647 bombers to Nuremberg with an intermediate bombing of Heilbronn by Pathfinders to check their H2S sets. Over Nuremberg the marking by H2S was accurate but severe creepback occurred and the Master Bomber was unable to correct it as his radio broadcasts could not be heard (jamming?), many bombs falling outside the city. Sixty five people on the ground were killed and 33 bombers were lost, as well as 1 GARDENING aircraft from 47 sorties sent out. Ten OTU sorties were also made (BC War Diaries).

- 27-28 10 Sqn. Halifax II JD368 ZA-A lost over Belgium, rear turret gunner **F/S G.R.M. Warren** killed, Sgt G.R. Darvill RAF PoW, Sgt G. Baker RAF, Sgt R.W. Cornelius RAF, Sgt J. McCallum RAF, Sgt V.W. Davies RAF, Sgt M. Pearce RAF and P/O F.N. Lawrence evaded.
- 27-28 12 Sqn. Lancaster III DV187 PH-A lost over Germany, **F/S E. Kelloway**, WO L.W. Aspden RAF, Sgt K.J. Bevis RAF, P/O G. King RAF, Sgt R.W. Dobbins RAF, Sgt E.W. Clayton RAF and Sgt N.A.P. Chew RAF killed.
- 27-28 51 Sqn. Halifax II HR869 MH-Z lost over Germany, **P/O D.J. Cameron**, **P/O H.F. Maughan**, F/L T.R. Dobson RAF, Sgt D.W. Kemp RAF, Sgt L.F. Merricks RAF, Sgt A.A. McGregor RAF and F/S C.G. Carrington RAF killed. P/O Maughan had been injured in the crash of a #24 OTU Whitley Aug. 12, 1942.
- 27-28 57 Sqn. Lancaster III W5008 DX-B lost on an operation over Germany, **F/S W. MacKillop**, F/S J.C. Perry RAAF, F/O P.A. Levy RAF, Sgt W.S. Lynn RAF, Sgt W.C.M. Thomas RAF and Sgt T.R. Crowther RAF killed, Sgt R. May RAF PoW.
- 27-28 75 (New Zealand) Sqn. Stirling III EE955 AA-D lost over Germany, **F/S M. Bailey**, F/S F.D. Higham RNZAF, F/S C.J. Bridger RNZAF, Sgt R. Renfrew RAF, Sgt J.R. Culshaw RAF, Sgt H. Jennings RAF and Sgt A. Clarke RAF killed.
- 27-28 76 Sqn. Halifax V DK269 MP-J lost over Germany, **F/S J.E. Cameron**, F/S W.P. Ward RAF, Sgt J.E.H. Morton RAF, Sgt G. Pearson RAF, F/O P. Carling RAF, Sgt G.R. Elks RAF and F/O E. Hyett RAF killed.
- 27-28 77 Sqn. Halifax II JD371 KN-O shot down over Belgium by a night fighter, **F/S J.S. Silver**, P/O A. Brannigan RAF, F/S P.R. Humphries RAF, F/S R. Rodgers RAF, Sgt A.G. Templeton RAF killed, Sgt A.W. Beard RAF, Sgt W.P. Catley RAF and Sgt W. Palmer RAF evaded.
- 27-28 78 Sqn. Halifax II JD406 EY-P lost over France, **F/O R.H. Orr**, Sgt H.M. Gill RAF, Sgt I. Illingworth RAF, Sgt P.J. Wenmoth RAF, Sgt E.J. Williams RAF, and F/O W.V.

- Gregson RAF killed, **Sgt W.A. Dunleavy** PoW.
- 27-28 83 Sqn. Lancaster III ED876 OL-V lost over Germany, **F/S W.F. Freeze RAF (Can.)**, P/O K.C. Turp RAF, Sgt D. Bailey RAF, F/O H.A. Clark RAF, Sgt J.E.W. Clark RAF, F/S C.H. Silvester RAF and Sgt T.P. Shelmerdine RAF killed. F/S Freeze was just beginning his second tour of operations.
- 27-28 90 Sqn. Stirling III EF439 WP-H lost over Germany, **F/S B.A. Anderson**, F/S C. Phillips RAF, Sgt F.G. Scarr RAF, Sgt R. Graham RAF, Sgt D.E. Owen RAF and Sgt R. Hindmarch RAF killed, Sgt R.F. Mainprice RAF PoW.
- 27-28 97 Sqn. Lancaster III JA958 OF-K lost over Germany, **F/L E.G. Crockett**, **F/O J.C. Frizzell**, **WO2 W.St.C. Hebb**, **F/L O.B. Robertson DFC** and F/S W.I.L. Wilkes RAF killed, Sgt W.G. Peel RAF and WO P. Scott RAF PoW.
- 27-28 (or August 10-11 above) 101 Sqn. Lancaster aircraft was returning from an operation to Nuremberg when two engines caught fire. The pilot, S/L I. Robertson, ordered a bailout and 4 crew did, but then the fires were controlled and the aircraft returned to England with the remaining crew, S/L Robertson and F/O S.I. Kennedy, who both received the DFC, and flight engineer Sgt T. Calvert, who received the DFM for this. The 4 crew who bailed out, Sgt I.J. Mingay, F/S R.J. Gosling RAF, F/S K. Lydall and F/S T.C. Williams RAF, were taken PoW. 'Sgt Mingay' is likely **F/S J.T.J.J. Minguy**, PoW (www.worldwar2exeaf.co.uk, quoted by ChrisM in discussion page on this incident at www.rafcommands.com).
- 27-28 103 Sqn. Lancaster I W4364 PM-D shot down by a night fighter over Germany, **Sgt J.L. Oldershaw RAF (Nfld.)**, **WO2 J.W.M. Renwick**, Sgt S. McDonald RAF and Sgt C.B. Edwards RAF killed, WO C.W. Annis RAF, Sgt N.W.H. Turrell RAF and P/O J.T. Birbeck RAF PoW.
- 27-28 115 Sqn. Lancaster II DS659 KO-T shot down over the target by a single engine fighter, F/L G.L. Mott RAF and Sgt J. Kemm RAF killed, **P/O C.C. Boggild**, **Sgt T. Buchak**, **Sgt P.J. O'Neill**, F/O W. Blades RAF and Sgt L.R.A.G. Carpenter RAF PoW.
- 27-28 149 Sqn. Stirling III EE877 OJ-E lost over Germany, **F/S D.G. Booth** killed, F/S G.S. Steer RAF, Sgt P.H. Johnson RAF, Sgt G.V. Cook RAF, Sgt H.R.J. Richardson RAF, Sgt W.C. Havercroft RAF and Sgt V.A. Deacock RAF missing.
- 27-28 199 Sqn. Stirling III BK806 EX-S lost over Germany, Sgt V.A. Drayton RAF, Sgt D. Skinner RAF, Sgt W.M. Dalzell RAF, Sgt H.T. Hathaway RAF, Sgt J.L. Kemp RAF and Sgt E.G. Shepherd RAF killed, **Sgt D.R. McAllister** PoW.
- 27-28 218 Sqn. Stirling III EF448 HA-P lost over Germany, **F/S D.J. Mullen**, **Sgt D.A. Ross**, F/S N.M. Davis RAAF, Sgt G.L. Terry RAF and Sgt J. Curson RAF killed, Sgt J.K. White RAAF and Sgt R.H.B. Searle RAF PoW.
- 27-28 419 Sqn. Halifax II VR-X, **Sgt C.M. Coutlee** pilot, was attacked by a night fighter which was shot down by the rear gunner, **Sgt W.H. Barnes**, his second victory (419 SH, FF Years, Awards). See Jan. 21-22, 1944.
- 27-28 426 Sqn. Lancaster II, 2Lt S. Gaunt DFM USAAF pilot, claimed a night fighter shot

down (R. Koval).

- 27-28 428 Sqn. Halifax V EB216 NA-R shot down by a night fighter over Germany, **F/S J.T. Hamer**, **F/O J.A.M. McLeish**, Sgt A.L. Mitchell RAF, Sgt H.A. Gordon RAF and Sgt A.E.E. Gourd RAF killed; **Sgt G.S. Brown**, **Sgt I.C. Lunny** and Sgt C.R. Lott RAF PoW. Sgt Lunny was severely injured by the night fighters cannons. Sgt Brown's account of this loss can be found in TSGNO under the entry for Sgt Hamer.
- 27-28 428 Sqn. Halifax V, **P/O R.G. Eaton**, was heavily damaged by a night fighter it claimed shot down (R. Koval). See November 3-4, below.
- 27-28 434 Sqn. Halifax V DK258 WL-X shot down by a night fighter over Germany, **F/S M.R. Ledgett** and **WO2 T.F. Thould** killed, **Sgt H.D. Mallory**, **F/O J. MacReady**, **Sgt K.N. Reid**, **Sgt M. Vanzant**, Sgt B. Gray RAF and Sgt A.M. Lloyd RAF PoW. Sgt Mallory died in captivity, see April 30, 1944.
- 27-28 467 Sqn. RAAF Lancaster III EE194 PO-E lost over Germany, **Sgt W.E. Hogarth**, P/O M.R. Good RAAF, **F/S B. Kerlin** RAAF, Sgt R.H. Hallam RAAF, **F/S A.F. Loxton** RAAF, Sgt A.S. Dodson RAAF and Sgt J.A. Beck RAF killed.
- 27-28 620 Sqn. Stirling III BF576 QS-F shot down by a night fighter on the German-French border, **F/S G. Karcza**, Sgt F. Eeles RAF, **F/S W.H. Thompson** RAF and Sgt P.J. Crummey RAF killed, **Sgt B. Van-Toever**, **Sgt T.L. Bowlby** and Sgt N. Morrison RAF PoW.
- 27-28 620 Sqn. Stirling III EF451 QS-D lost over Germany, **F/O R.D.L. Vietto**, Sgt W.H. Duroe RAF, Sgt R.P.M. Mullarkey RAF, Sgt A. Tasker RAF and Sgt G. McGregor RAF killed, Sgt A. Pearson RAF and Sgt T.H.A. Sutton RAF PoW.
- 27-28 623 Sqn. Stirling III EE909 IC-H lost over Germany due to a combination of a night fighter attack and hits by friendly fire from another bomber, the pilot, P/O G.L. Jenkins DFC RAF was lost but his crew, **Sgt R.E. Booth**, **F/O E.G. Pierce** RNZAF, Sgt J.N. Schofield RAF, P/O J. Shaw RAF, Sgt J. Dickenson RAF and Sgt A.V. Hawkins RAF, survived as PoWs.

Saturday

28 Occupation of New Georgia completed (CJCA headline)

- 28 519 Sqn. Hampden I X3122 Z9-G missing off Scotland on a meteorological flight, **F/S A.J. Fairall**, **F/S D.C. McKenzie**, **F/S B.S. Cox** RAF and Sgt A.M. Finfer RAF missing. Just 2 days before this loss **F/S D.C. McKenzie's** brother, **F/S A.G. McKenzie**, also went missing off Scotland in a Hampden of 455 Sqn. RAAF.
- 28 #11 Radio School RAF Botha I L6202 flew into Llwytmor Mountain, Snowdonia, killing **Sgt W.B. Bettin**, Sgt G.M. Heppinstall RAF, Sgt W. Frearson RAF and Sgt D.O. Hargreaves RAF (www.peakdistrictaircrashes.co.uk).
- 28 #2 B&G School air frame mechanic **Sgt W.A. Carson** killed in a car accident.
- 28 #3 SFTS, Calgary, Alberta, Crane I #8127 was returning from a bombing exercise and crashed near the airfield after a mid air collision with #37 SFTS Harvard II AJ796 (below), Sgt J.V. Hardiman RAAF and LAC(P) M.V. Eckert RAF killed (A. Storr).

Two people were killed on the ground. Details of this accident were noted in the Fall 2019 newsletter of the Bomber Command Museum

- 28 #31 OTU, Debert, NS., Hudson VI EW873 lost on a training flight, **Sgt C.B. Crummey RAF (Nfld.)**, P/O F.E. Impey RAF, Sgt S.J. Oakley RAF and Sgt J.B.P. Stevens RAAF killed.
- 28 #37 SFTS, Calgary, Alberta, Harvard II AJ796 crashed after a collision with #3 SFTS Crane #8297 (above), LAC J. Major RAF killed.

28-29 Taranto was attacked again by Wellingtons of 205 Group (FF Years).

Sunday

29 After being guaranteed after it's invasion in 1940 that Germany would not interfere in Danish civil affairs a coalition government was established in Denmark. However, Germany did not honour this agreement, making increasing demands on this country that believed in and practiced pacifism. Finally Germany demanded that the Danish Government declare a state of emergency to deal with growing anti-German protests. Rather than comply the Danish Coalition Government resigned. Germany then declared Martial Law and took over the running of the country, arresting many influential people and attempting to take over the small Danish Navy, which either fled to neutral Sweden or scuttled their ships on this date (Oxford). Only 6 of 48 Danish Naval vessels were captured (LoN).

- 29 400 Sqn. Mustang I aircraft flown by **F/O J.M. Robband** and **F/O E. Garry** on a RHUBARB attacked a train and shot down a Bf 109 over France (FF Years).
- 29 427 Sqn. Oxford I DF471 crashed into high ground in bad visibility while lost on a transit flight take groundcrew to repair a damaged aircraft that had landed at another airfield, aero engine mechanics **LAC D.W. Davies**, **Cpl J.E. Keighan**, pilot **P/O R.L. Henry** and aero engine mechanic **Cpl W.P. Holt** killed. P/O Henry was found some distance from the wreck, having died while attempting to find help (R. Allenby). He had been involved in a landing accident June 16, above.
- 29 98 Sqn. Mitchell damaged over Boulogne and crash landed in England, bomb aimer **F/L F.E. Carmichael RAF (Can.)** rescued his pilot and an air gunner from the burning wreck, for which he was awarded a DFC (Allison & Hayward).
- 29 #301 FTU Hudson VI FK538 ditched off Portugal, **F/O N.W. Gustafson**, **P/O S. Allen**, **F/S H.A. Henry** and F/S J.D. Crozier RAAF rescued (www.conscript-heroes.com MI-9 files; www.warrelics.eu).
- 29 #15 EFTS, Regina, Saskatchewan, Cornell III #14457 crashed, LAC J. Perkins RAF killed, F/S Dufort bailed out and survived (Tony Broadhurst et al at www.rafcommands.com).

29-30 Steel works and rail yards at Torre Annunziata in Italy were attacked by

Wellingtons, including #331 Wing RCAF (FF Years).

Eight OBOE Mosquitos were operating over Cologne and Duisburg with 1 lost (BC War Diaries).

Monday

- 30 38 Sqn. navigator bomb aimer **WO2 J.D. Rubinstein** died in hospital in Benghazi, Libya, of natural causes (www.rafcommands.com).
- 30 180 Sqn. Mitchell II FL190 shot down by flak over France, crashing into a house, F/S V.E. Scuse RAF and Sgt E. Lewis RAF killed, **P/O C.O. Motheral** and **P/O W.J. Dumsday** evaded. There were no civilian casualties (jossleclerq at www.rafcommands.com, www.conscript-heroes.com MI-9 files and J. Baugher). P/O Motheral was later the Mayor of Oak Lake, Manitoba for many years (CATP Museum, Brandon, CONTACT newsletter, Vol. 34, #1, Winter 2016).
- 30 414 Sqn. Mustang I aircraft, **F/O D. Lewis** and **F/O L. May** (L.F. May?) attacked 3 locomotives, seven electrical pylons and a flak post (FF Years).
- 30 430 Sqn. Mustang I aircraft, **F/L P. Bissky** and **F/O J. Watts**, shot up a formation of soldiers on a parade ground (FF Years).
- 30 434 Sqn. Halifax V LK893 WL-U was taxiing out for a night firing exercise when it was struck from behind by Halifax V EB254 WL-D when the latter's brakes failed, **Sgt K.O. Burns**, **Sgt F.A. Davis**, **Sgt R.J. Decorby**, **Sgt E.H. Ells**, **Sgt J.E. Spears**, **Sgt D.E. Watson** and Sgt Jeffrey Charles Hinks RAF were safe on LK893 and **Sgt L.A. Hoffman**, **P/O W.A. Hunt**, **F/O D.E. Smith**, **Sgt J.M. Snelgrove**, Sgt H.F. Lane RAF, Sgt F. Holmes RAF and Sgt S.A. Mitton RAF safe in EB254 (R. Allenby). See September 15-16 and November 18-19 below.
- 30 #1 OTU, Bagotville, Quebec, Hurricane XII #5467 crashed, P/O I.C.B. Kenyon RAF killed.
- 30 #1 OTU, Bagotville, Quebec, Sea Hurricane XIIIa BW847 crashed near Lake St. Germain, Quebec, P/O G.J. Mansfield RAF killed (R.W.R. Walker).
- 30-31 162 Sqn. Wellington Ic HF835 lost on operations over Corfu investigating radio signals, Sgt J.W.S. Anderson RAF, F/L J.M.J. Fryer RAF and Sgt C.M. Veale RAF killed, **WO1 I.J. Burkitt**, Sgt R.D. Botting RAF, Sgt G.R. Ford RAF, F/O J.L. Shattock RAF (special operator) and F/O V.P. Upton RAF missing (<http://aircrewremembered.com>; CWGC; www.rafcommands.com).
- 30-31 The neighbouring towns of Mönchengladbach and Rheydt were attacked by 660 bombers in a split attack that was switched from one city to the other halfway through. OBOE marking was very good and the bombing was well concentrated, leaving about half of each town destroyed. Industrial and railway facilities were hit, 370 people were killed and 12 missing on the ground. Twenty five bombers were lost. As well a new kind of operation was**

undertaken by 33 OTU bombers attacking an ammunition dump in France with OBOE marking and Pathfinder backers-up. This type of operation was designed to train OTU crews to bomb on Target Indicators. Two bombers were lost. Other operations included 12 Mosquitos to Duisburg and 9 GARDENING Stirlings with 1 Mosquito lost (BC War Diaries). The preparation for this nights operation is detailed as an example of Bomber Command operations in S. Bond's book Wimpy - A detailed Illustrated History of the Vickers Wellington in Service, 1938-1953.

- 30-31 7 Sqn. Lancaster III JA936 MG-J shot down over the target area in Germany by a night fighter, **WO2 V.T. Perdue**, S/L C. Anekstein DFC RAF, F/O H. Smith RAF, Sgt S. Thorogood RAF and P/O W.H. Cross RAF killed, Sgt J. Genney RAF and F/L G.A. Atkinson RAF PoW. F/L Atkinson was repatriated in early 1945.
- 30-31 7 Sqn. Lancaster III JA937 MG-H lost on an operation over Germany, **WO1 C.G. Baker**, F/S J. Sutherst RAF, Sgt R.H. Nash RAF, Sgt E.N.N. Beldon RAF, Sgt A. Harris RAF and Sgt G. Wallace RAF killed, Sgt H.S. Hayward RAF PoW.
- 30-31 9 Sqn. Lancaster III ED551 WS-M lost without trace, F/S G.E. Hall RAF, Sgt L.J.G. Field RAF, Sgt W.D. Evans RAF, Sgt E. Colbert RAF, Sgt O.J. Overington RAF, Sgt R.A. Chorley RAF, Sgt H.G. Williams RAF and **P/O C.H. Anderson** (attached from #1654 Conversion Unit) missing.
- 30-31 76 Sqn. Halifax V DK207 MP-S "*Saint the Second*" shot down by a night fighter over Holland, **F/S S.C. MacLennan**, S/L A.C.L.A. Stuart RAF, Sgt D.G.J. Powell RAF, P/O K. Holme RAF and Sgt V.T. Bradley RAF killed, Sgt W.G. Williams RAF and Sgt D.J. Doe RAF PoW.
- 30-31 77 Sqn. Halifax II JD460 KN-D lost over the target in Germany, F/O J. Goulding RNZAF, Sgt J.H. Naylor RAF, Sgt L. Letts RAF and Sgt R. Hunter RAF killed, **F/O S.A. Ellingstad RCAF (USA)**, Sgt R. Whyte RAF and Sgt G.E. Flanagan RAF PoW.
- 30-31 100 Sqn. Lancaster III EE181 HW-A² lost over the target, **F/S F.A. Campbell**, F/S C.R. Gordon RAAF, Sgt J. Jennings RAF, Sgt P. Arch RAF and Sgt H. Moran RAF killed, F/S R.D. McClure RAAF and **WO C.H. Harris** RAF PoW.
- 30-31 102 Sqn. Halifax II JD128 DY-M lost over Germany, **F/S D. Zander**, F/S J.A. Chappell RAAF, F/O E.I. Smallfield RNZAF, Sgt J. Savukevitch RAF (serving as "Harris"), Sgt G. Lee RAF, Sgt J.J. Jones RAF and Sgt L.G. Smart RAF killed.
- 30-31 139 (Jamaica) Sqn. Mosquito FB.IV DK337 lost over Germany, **F/O I.A. Isfeld** and Sgt J.C.B. Strang RAF killed.
- 30-31 149 Sqn. Stirling III EF438 OJ-D lost over the target in Germany, **1Lt H.A. Deviney USAAF (Can.)**, Sgt L.J.D. Bristow RAF (USA), F/S E.W. Boyer RAF, Sgt J.G. Bolden RAF, Sgt P.O. Fletcher RAF, Sgt T.C. Cassidy RAF and Sgt J. Collins RAF killed. 1Lt Deviney is one of the US military identified as from Canada by the American Battle Monuments Commission and whose identified unit is the 12th Replacement Depot. Other US military casualties serving in Commonwealth air force units in Europe are also recorded from this unit rather than the Squadrons

they flew with, probably for administration purposes and a good note for researchers.

- 30-31 158 Sqn. Halifax II HR739 NP-U shot down over Belgium by a night fighter, Sgt R.W. Wildman RAAF, Sgt W.J. Browne RAAF, Sgt W.E. Bryden RAAF and Sgt J.S. Clenton RAF killed, **Sgt R.G. Townley**, Sgt C.C. Gardener RAF and Sgt J. Partington RAF PoW.
- 30-31 207 Sqn. Lancaster I W4120 EM-L shot down over Holland by a night fighter, **Sgt H.A. Queen**, Sgt J. Hickling RAF, Sgt E.A.R. Preston RAF, Sgt M. Atkinson RAF, Sgt T. Barnett RAF and Sgt T.G. Moore RAF killed, **Sgt H.K. Scott** PoW.
- 30-31 218 Sqn. Stirling III BK650 HA-T shot down by a night fighter over Holland, F/S W.H. Clague RAF, Sgt J.A. Whetton RAF, Sgt H. Butler RAF and Sgt C.C. Holden RAF killed, **Sgt A.A. Frederickson**, Sgt I.A. Robb RAF and P/O G.F. Lorne RAF evaded, but Sgt Frederickson and Sgt Robb were betrayed with their helpers, and became PoWs. The French civilians caught with them were shot (AP www.rafcommands.com).
- 30-31 218 Sqn. Stirling III EE903 HA-Q lost over the target area, **WO2 F. Middleton**, Sgt J. Lynch RAAF, Sgt S.G. Bennett RAF, Sgt G.D. Cox RAF, Sgt D.G. Yardley RAF, Sgt F.G. Pryde RAF and Sgt F.J. Lucas RAF killed.
- 30-31 419 Sqn. Halifax II JD381 VR-R severely damaged and set on fire by a night fighter, but navigator Sgt J.N.S. Ashton RAF put out the fire, working without oxygen against flames flaring out of a bomb bay inspection hatch. He aimed his fire extinguisher through the hatch and used the slipstream to hit and douse the fire, for which he was awarded the DFM (419 SH). The crew, **F/O D.D. Laidlaw**, **F/O W.E. Rempel**, **P/O R.W. Kemp**, **Sgt A.S. Miller**, Sgt Ashton RAF, Sgt H.C. Eyjolfsson RAF, Sgt B.E. Brakes RAF and Sgt G.F. Clarke RAF, managed to return to their base but the aircraft was written off. See Feb. 12-13, 1944.
- 30-31 419 Sqn. Halifax II VR-T, **F/O J.A. Westland**, claimed a Ju 88 night fighter shot down by rear gunner TSgt B.W. Blount USAAF (R. Koval, FF Years).
- 30-31 419 Sqn. Halifax II VR-X, **Sgt H.L. Bullis** pilot, was attacked and badly damaged by a fighter identified as a Fw 190. The rear gunner, **Sgt M.A. Potter**, engaged the fighter and shot it down. Despite damage to an engine, fuselage, bomb bay and controls the aircraft returned safely on 3 engines (R. Koval). This was the second claim of a night fighter by the same aircraft in two nights (419 SH). See January 20-21, 1944.
- 30-31 427 Sqn. Halifax V LK629 ZL-F lost over Belgium, **Sgt W.J. Breen**, **WO2 C.B. Cahill**, **Sgt R.A. Fraser**, **WO2 H.C. Pithie**, **WO2 J. Robertson**, WO N.J. Huxley RAF and F/S B.J. Buxton RAF killed (R.W.R. Walker www.rafcommands.com).
- 30-31 432 Sqn. Wellington X JA118 QO-G lost over the target in Germany, **F/S J. Jensky RCAF (USA)**, **Sgt R.B.J. Pierce RCAF (Eire)**, F/S J.E. Pendleton RAF, Sgt D. Collins RAF, F/O G. Jarvis RAF and F/S R.C. White RAF killed. F/S Jensky was on a second pilot experience flight and had been involved in the loss of Wellington

Aug. 12, above.

- 30-31 432 Sqn. Wellington X was damaged by flak over the target and ground looped on landing due to a flat tire, **Sgt M.I. Cruickshank**, **F/S W.H.R. Gardiner**, **Sgt B.A. Sorge**, Sgt G.W. Hodges RAF, F/S C.H. Brown RAF and possibly one other crewman safe (R. Allenby).
- 30-31 434 Sqn. Halifax V LK894 WL-K lost over Belgium, **WO2 J.A. Box**, **F/O M.W. Howard**, **P/O L.W. Kerr**, **P/O F.H. Leaver**, **F/S L.C. Patrick**, **P/O S.G. Young**, Sgt F.A. Bartlett RAF and P/O C.S. Burgess RAF killed.
- 30-31 434 Sqn. Halifax V, P/O H. German, was attacked by a night fighter, the flight engineer Sgt J. Geddes RAF was wounded in the stomach, but continued his flight duties and did not report his wound until the aircraft had landed safely, for this he was awarded an immediate DFM (434 SH).
- 30-31 466 Sqn. RAAF Wellington X's LN292 and HZ531 collided over England after taking off on an operation and crashed. **Sgt T.D. McCann RCAF (USA)**, Sgt J.L. Harwood RAF, Sgt G.G. Payne RAF, Sgt J. Noar RAF and Sgt P.A.F. Elliot RAF were killed on LN292 when it crashed into the town of Goole, killing Mrs. Rose Alice Cook and James William Stanley (12) as well as injuring 3 other civilians. One of those engaged in rescue operations, believed to be Sapper K.E.G. Wood RE, died of injuries he sustained. In HZ531, which crashed in open farmland, F/S M.J. Smart RAAF, F/S N.H. Fuss RAAF, F/S J.B. McLachlan RAAF, F/S E.H. Berry RAAF and Sgt J.T. Eccleston RAF were killed (R. Allenby).

Tuesday

31 Monthly production of pitchblende at Port Radium hits 80,000 lbs., it's best monthly output.

- 31 417 Sqn. Spitfire Vb (Trop.) EP957 AN-E overran a landing and over-turned in Sicily, **P/O B.N.M. De Larminat RCAF (Argentina)** safe (C. Meunier at www.rafcommands.com).
- 31 #22 OTU Wellington X HE556 crashed on a training flight, **Sgt C.A. Larsen** and **Sgt M. Minett** injured. See Feb. 25-26, 1944.
- 31 unknown unit, **LAC W.J. Cochrane RAF (Nfld.)** died in England after being hit by a truck (www.rafcommands.com).
- 31 #1 OTU, Bagotville, Quebec, Sea Hurricane XIIa BW852 crashed, P/O P.M. Jordan RAF killed. Site of crash given as "Rang St. Martin", which R.W.R. Walker notes is now a street in Chicoutimi.
- 31 USAAF C-64A (Norseman) 43-5140 crashed taking off at Fort Norman, NWT, pilot H.L. Meeks killed (AAIR).

31-1 A second attack was made on the rail yards at Salerno to ensure they could not be used in the upcoming invasion there (FF Years).

Bomber Command returned to Berlin with 622 bombers. Cloud and the strong defences led to poor H2S marking. For the first time Luftwaffe aircraft were noted dropping flares over the target, illuminating the bomber stream "as though it were day" for Wilde Sau fighters (Chorley). Some two-thirds of the 47 bombers lost were shot down in this illuminated area, and this may explain that bombs fell up to 30 miles back from the aiming point as bombers avoided attacks. Of concern to the RAF was that 17 of the losses were Stirlings, representing 16% of the total Stirling force sent. Only 1 industrial facility was hit and damaged, and 68 people on the ground were killed. But after this attack Propaganda Minister Goebbels, who was also Gauleiter (regional Nazi party leader) of Berlin, ordered the evacuation of all non-essential adults and children from the city. Other operations included 6 OBOE, 5 PATHFINDERS and 30 OTU bombers to an ammunition dump in France and 6 Mosquitos over Brauweiler without loss (BC War Diaries).

- 31-1 15 Sqn. Stirling III EE912 LS-U shot down over Germany, **WO1 J.E. Milner, F/S T.J. Ryan RCAF (USA)**, F/S P.M. Brook RAAF, F/S A. Hooker RAAF, Sgt R.C. Haigh RAF, Sgt J.M. Stringfellow RAF and Sgt E.J. Wright RAF killed. WO Milner was the brother to **F/O B.G. Milner** lost June 12-13, above, see also Jan. 28-29, 1944.
- 31-1 44 Sqn. Lancaster III ED665 KM-L lost over Germany, **WO2 D. Betts, P/O E.G. More**, P/O G.N. Stephenson RAF, Sgt J.A. Robertson RAF, F/S A.R. Smith RAF, F/S S.D. Hopkin RAF and Sgt W.J. Beggs RAF killed.
- 31-1 51 Sqn. Halifax II HR931 MH-F lost over Germany, **WO2 L.J. Brondgeest** and **Sgt K.D. Murray** killed, P/O L.R. Cates RAF and Sgt J. Watson RAF missing, Sgt T. Nelson RAF, Sgt L.Y. Robinson RAF and Sgt C.F. Manning RAF PoW.
- 31-1 61 Sqn. Lancaster III JB132 was returning from an operation when it collided in mid-air with #1654 CU Lancaster I R5698 UG-P and both crashed in England, **S/L D.C. Wellburn DFC RAF (Can.)**, F/O R.L. Clarke RAAF, Sgt J.K. Watson RAF, Sgt J.R. Forrest RAF, F/L R.E. Davies RAF, Sgt J. Blackett RAF, F/O T.F. Joyce RAF and Sgt A. Paterson RAF were killed in JB132, and F/S R.W. Rashbrook RAAF, P/O J.W.M. MacDonald RAF, Sgt G.R. Joyce RAF, F/O W.S. Jobling DFC RAF, Sgt G.H. Tough RAF and Sgt J.H. Hutchinson RAF were killed in R5698.
- 31-1 78 Sqn. Halifax II JD328 EY-O lost on an operation over Germany, **F/S M.J. Bovaconti** killed, Sgt S.W. Chapman RAF and Sgt C.C. Stenning RAF missing, **Sgt N. Shnier**, Sgt R. Chisholm RAF, Sgt D.R. Spencer RAF and Sgt H.S.H. Quinn RAF PoW.
- 31-1 97 Sqn. Lancaster III JA916 OF-L attacked by a night fighter and exploded in the target area, **P/O E.G. Dolby DFC** and WO O. Lambert DFM RAF killed, **P/O J.K. McAvoy**, W/C K.H. Burns DFC RAF (USA), P/O J. Keddie DFM RAF, WO R.J. Williams DFM RAF and WO E.H. Skinner RAF PoW. W/C Burns lost an arm and was later repatriated (H. Halliday www.rafcommands.com). See also I. Mackersey.
- 31-1 102 Sqn. Halifax II JN909 DY-B shot down over Germany by flak, **F/S M.L. McClay**, Sgt E.T.S. Rowbottom RAF, Sgt R.H. Day RAF, Sgt J.K. Keele RAF and Sgt A.R.

- Pearce RAF killed, **F/S R.L. Collins** PoW and Sgt R.V. Wallace RAF evaded.
- 31-1 103 Sqn. Lancaster III ED646 PM-E lost without trace, **F/S E.B. Capin**, F/O D.W.A. Philip RAF, Sgt B.F. Trew RAF, P/O H.W. Shinn RAF, Sgt C.J. Cooper RAF, Sgt E.C. Harris RAF and P/O S.G. Holman RAF missing.
- 31-1 158 Sqn. Halifax II JN903 NP-C lost over France, **F/S W.J. Poulin**, Sgt P.W. Cramb RAF, Sgt S.W. Evans RAF, P/O A.W. Davies RAF, P/O E. James RAF, F/O R.G. McInnes RAF and Sgt G.W. Stokes RAF killed.
- 31-1 196 Sqn. Stirling III EH961 ZO-D shot down over Holland by a night fighter, **F/S C.P. Pierce**, F/O D.L.P. Justice RAF and Sgt I. Llewellyn RAF killed, **Sgt G.S. Auld**, Sgt J. Griffiths RAF, Sgt G.P. Poynter RAF and Sgt G.A. Sperring RAF PoW.
- 31-1 199 Sqn. Stirling III EE946 EX-P lost over Germany, **F/S R.E. Adam**, **Sgt D. Scott**, F/S A.J. Davey RAAF, F/S K.J. Wilkes RAAF, Sgt W.A. Crawford RAF, Sgt B.J. Kennell RAF and F/S L.E. Short RAF killed.
- 31-1 214 Sqn. Stirling III EE970 BU-B lost over Germany, P/O K.J. Simpson RAAF and Sgt D.C. Houghton RAAF killed, **Sgt H.M. Diebel**, **Sgt W.R. Case**, Sgt J.A.E. Giblin RAF, Sgt J.E. Chisholm RAF and Sgt G. Daulby RAF PoW.
- 31-1 214 Sqn. Stirling III EF401 BU-Y shot down over Germany by a night fighter, F/S R.C. Chislett RAF, Sgt S.H. Hopkins RAF, Sgt A.A. Poulton RAF and Sgt A. Cowan RAF killed, **Sgt J.W. Dales**, P/O N.A. Parsons RAF and Sgt W.E. Humphreys RAF PoW.
- 31-1 405 Sqn. Halifax II HR915 LQ-O shot down near Berlin by a night fighter, **WO2 C.A. Goring** and **WO1 E.M. McArthur DFM** missing, **S/L G.T. Pearson**, P/O J.T. Maddock DFC RAF, Sgt A.N. Gocher RAF, Sgt L. Ramsden RAF and Sgt F. Peacock RAF PoW.
- 31-1 419 Sqn. Halifax II JD270 VR-P collided over the target with a single engined fighter and crashed out of control, **F/S G.E.P. Birtch**, **WO2 W.D.L. Cameron**, **Sgt V.J.A. Wintzer** and Sgt J.T. Mullany RAF killed, **Sgt B.W. Scharf**, **Sgt R.E. Boos** and Sgt L.H. Duggan RAF PoW.
- 31-1 419 Sqn. Halifax II JD331 VR-K shot down over Germany by a night-fighter, **WO2 H. d'Aperng**, F/S A.C. Harris RAF and Sgt D.W. Sweet RAF killed, **WO1 A.G. MacKenzie DFM**, **F/O D.E. Larlee**, **F/L D.J. Corcoran** and **Sgt W.E. Greensides** were PoW. The aircraft may have exploded as the pilot, F/L Corcoran, was knocked out after he left his cockpit and regained consciousness in his opened parachute which had deployed although the release had not been pulled (419 SH). The rear gunner, F/O Larlee, became trapped by one leg in his turret and was injured pulling himself free at low level (419 SH). WO d'Aperng had been injured in the loss of a 419 Sqn. Wellington Oct. 10, 1942. F/L Corcoran had been injured and F/O Larlee survived the crash of a #1659 HCU Halifax June 29, above.
- 31-1 419 Sqn. Halifax II JD464 VR-N shot down by a night fighter over Germany, **F/S V.A.F. Cleveland**, **F/S D.H.A. Garland** and **F/O R. Stewart** have no known grave, **P/O S.E. James**, **Sgt L. Northcliffe**, Sgt H.R. Tenny RAF and Sgt A. Embley RAF PoW.
- 31-1 426 Sqn. Lancaster II DS677 OW-W lost on an operation to Germany, **F/S A.G.**

- Knuuttila, WO2 T.E. Martin, F/S L.B. McBride, Sgt S.De G. Harris RAF and Sgt N.W. Jewell RAF killed, Sgt M. Lavoie and F/O D.H. McKay have no known grave.
- 31-1 427 Sqn. Halifax V EB251 ZL-T shot down over Germany, F/S J.A. Albert, WO2 J.J. McLean, P/O G.P.C. Vandekerckhove DFC, Sgt E. Bartlett RAF, F/S C.C. Gofton RAF and P/O A.E. Young RAF killed, Sgt W.A. Williamson and Sgt A.D. Rothwell RAF PoW. The citation for P/O Vandekerckhove's DFC notes that on a test flight (date unknown, but before August, 1943) the aircrafts dinghy deployed in flight and fouled the tail. P/O Vandekerckhove maintained control, ordered his crew to bail out and then made a successful safe landing (Awards).
- 31-1 427 Sqn. Halifax V LK628 damaged in the elevators by flak, P/O E.L. Brown, Sgt A.L. D'Eon, Sgt J.P.A.J. Duval, P/O G.W. Heselton, Sgt P.L.J.M. Quénet, P/O E. Williams RAF and Sgt M.E. Bridewell RAF returned and landed safe (R. Allenby). See October 4-5, below.
- 31-1 428 Sqn. Halifax V DK233 NA-X shot down by flak over Germany, Sgt S.E. Towle killed, Sgt R.W. Briggs-Jude and F/S J.D.A. Este missing, Sgt M. MacAuley, Sgt R.S. Dutka, Sgt H.C. Burdoff RAF and Sgt C. Haddon RAF PoW (ref. in S. Hadaway).
- 31-1 428 Sqn. Halifax V DK249 NA-K lost over Germany, F/S G.S. Feakes, F/S T.K. Green, F/S B.R. Harrison, WO J.R. Prockter RAF, F/S R.C. Bradley RAF, Sgt W.J. Soulsby RAF and Sgt R. Williams RAF killed.
- 31-1 619 Sqn. Lancaster III JA848 PG-R shot down over Germany by a night fighter, WO1 G.W. Bower, F/S P.A. Musso, Sgt F. Hodson RAF, Sgt R.H. Crooks RAF, Sgt W. McGill RAF and Sgt R. Jones RAF killed, F/S E.P. Jones RAF PoW.
- 31-1 622 Sqn. Stirling III EF119 GI-Q shot down over Germany by a night fighter, F/O F.M. Carter, Sgt S. Mackrell RAF and F/O G.F. Toy MiD RAF killed, Sgt P.H.M. Smith RAF, P/O G.F. Ritson RAF, Sgt R.P. Benham RAF and Sgt F. Poyser RAF PoW.

During August the German practice of U-boats staying surfaced to fight back against attacking aircraft while transiting the Bay of Biscay was discontinued, as the cost was too high. RAF aircraft had not stopped attacking despite the gunfire, and had sunk 25 U-boats in the Biscay zone since May, when the decision had been implemented (D. Syrett).

September 1943

German Operation KIEBITZ, a plan to have 4 top U-boat captains escape from the Bowmanville, Ontario, PoW camp and be taken off by a U-boat from New Brunswick, underway. Canadian authorities were aware of the plan and allowed tunnelling at Bowmanville to proceed (even ordering the guards to ignore obvious signs such as ceilings collapsing due to weight of hidden dirt from tunnelling), with the plan to capture the U-boat at the rendezvous. The

tunnel escape fails but one U-boat captain, Wolfgang Heyda, who spoke perfect English and had well forged papers, breaks out over the wire (date unknown).

411 Sqn. begins to receive Spitfire IXb aircraft (RCAF Sqns.). 415 Sqn. re-equips with radar equipped Wellington XIII aircraft (RCAF Sqns.). #6 (BR) Sqn. RCAF begins to use Catalina Ib and IIIa flying boats which it uses with amphibious Canso A aircraft on BC Coast. #120 (BR) Sqn. exchanges it's amphibious Canso A aircraft for Catalina IVa flying boats (RCAF Sqns.).

In this month of about 40,000 RCAF aircrew on overseas posting 24,000 were serving in RAF units (5th Year).

Wednesday

- 1 #11 (BR) Sqn., Dartmouth, NS, Hudson III BW712 was the first operational Hudson in the RCAF with Rocket Projectiles, an armament which became standard for all Hudsons in Canada (I. Wikene). Later the nose guns were upgraded from .303 to .50 cal.
- 1 #31 EFTS, De Winton, Alberta, Cornell III #15026 crashed, LAC A.F. Bloxham RAF and Sgt I.G.H. Dodds RAF killed.

1-2 #331 Wing Wellingtons were part of an attack on rail yards at Aversa, Italy (5th Year).

Thursday

- 2 242 (Canadian) Sqn. AC1 A.W. Shickle RAF died in the Far East, as a PoW, no details.
- 2 47 Sqn. Beaufighter lost in the Mediterranean, pilot **Captain J.R. Hastings SAAF (Can.)** and F/S F.P. Hill RAF missing. From Regina, Saskatchewan, Capt. Hastings had been a F/L in the RAF before transferring to the SAAF (CWGC). (R.C. Nesbit in *Armed Rovers* and CWGC gives this date, but TSGNO states Sept. 12. Both TSGNO and Nesbit identify Capt. Hastings as a F/L.)
- 2 500 Sqn. Hudson VI FK667 lost in the Mediterranean on an night anti-submarine patrol, **P/O R.C. Sullivan**, F/S C. Salisbury RAF, F/S C. Golby RAF and F/O F.J. Clerke RAAF missing (A. Storr; www.rafcommands.com). P/O Sullivan had been injured 1 month before in the crash of another Squadron Hudson (see Aug. 2, above).
- 2 137 Sqn. Hurricane IV KX698 shot down attacking canal lock gates in Holland, **F/L J.L. Dehoux DFC** killed. A photograph of 137 Squadron pilots when flying Whirlwinds appears in *Aeroplane Monthly* March 1985 which includes "P/O De Houx".
- 2 164 Sqn. Hurricane IV KX541 shot down attacking canal locks in Holland, **F/O I.A. Young** PoW.

- 2 224 Sqn. Liberator GR.V FL938 was intercepted by German long range fighters and shot down while on an anti-submarine patrol. **F/L J.V. Gibson**, **WO1 A.A. Thompson**, **F/O R.H. Tierney**, F/O K.T. Every RAF, P/O V. Lower RAF, F/O P.R. McIntosh RAF, F/S H.T. French RAF and WO W.J. Vocasivich RNZAF missing (N.L.R. Franks).
- 2 224 Sqn. Liberator FL959 was intercepted by a fighter while on an anti-submarine patrol and shot down, **F/L C.R. Wharram** and Sgt E.A. Maloney RAF killed, no known grave. **F/O J.C. Miller** injured and with the rest of the crew, Sgt R.J. Foss RAF, P/O W.R. Collins RAF, P/O J.R. Wilcox RAF, Sgt D.H. Bareham RAF, P/O Johnstone RAF(?) and Sgt W.W. Dilks RAF took to their life rafts (H.A. Halliday www.rafcommands.com). See Sept. 8, below.
- 2 405 Sqn. Halifax II HR809 written off in a crash landing returning from a training flight, **P/O G.S. McMenemy** and his crew safe.
- 2 419 Sqn. wireless operator air gunner **WO1 K.I.J. Deane** was killed in England in a railroad accident.
- 2 #1678 Heavy Conversion (HC) Flight Lancaster II DS608 SW-C was landing with partial engine failure but overran the landing area when the brakes failed. To avoid running off the airfield the pilot, **P/O G.J. Chequer**, raised the undercarriage. He and Lt. Andrews safe. A photograph of this wreck appears in the book *Lancaster at War*. See Jan. 30-31, 1944.
- 2 #1679 HC Flight RCAF Lancaster II DS635 was landing with a failed engine when it swung and lost it's undercarriage and then caught fire, **F/L J.G. McNeil**, **F/O W.B. Stewart** and F/O N.M. Bell RAF safe. See June 12-13 and Aug. 21, 1944.

2-3 Only minor operations were made by Bomber Command on this night, but "minor" at this time meant 30 OTU bombers over France with 6 OBOE Mosquitos and 5 Pathfinder markers, 8 Mosquitos over Cologne and Duisburg, and 89 GARDENING sorties, a total of 138 sorties with 1 loss (BC War Diaries).

- 2-3 199 Sqn. Stirling III EE911 EX-G lost on a GARDENING sortie off France, **F/O R.C. Gilbert**, Sgt W.C. Mitchell RAF and Sgt G. Ezard RAF killed, **F/O M.S. Gordon**, **F/S C.C. Maw**, Sgt F.W. Watts RAF and Sgt A.T. Newton RAF missing.
- 2-3 612 Sqn. Wellington XII MP654 'J' missing over the Bay of Biscay, **WO2 P.P. Blazeiko**, Sgt A.L. Yorke RAF and Sgt A.G. Warke RAF missing, **Sgt A. Brown RCAF (USA)** and Sgt J.T. Stirling RAF PoW (Polo B at rafcommands.com).
- 2-3 #22 OTU Wellington III HF645 aircraft was returning from a special bombing sortie over France when an engine caught fire, and the aircraft went into a spin and crashed in England, **WO2 W.H. Allan**, **P/O W.I. St. Johns RCAF (USA)** and **P/O R.W. Wolfe RCAF (USA)** killed, **P/O D.C. McDougall** and **Sgt L.R.G. Dent** injured. Sgt Dent was the brother of **Sgt W.G. Dent**, lost April 28-29 above (Lancaster, C. et al).

Friday

3 Soviet forces begin another attack towards Orel, taking retreating German Army forces by surprise (A. Beevor).

Canadian and British forces land in Italy at Calabria across the Straits of Messina unopposed, establishing a beachhead for Allied forces which then move quickly up the "toe" of Italy.

Italian Government signs secret peace treaty with Allies (ww2total.com Chronology/1943).

- 3 500 Sqn. Hudson V AM857 missing in the Mediterranean, **Sgt John Harold Smith** and F/S G.A. Bradshaw RAF missing (CWGC; www.rafcommands.com).
- 3 21 Sqn. Ventura I AE776 shot down by German fighters on a daylight sortie over France, **WO2 H.K. Kells**, Sgt A. Bell RAF and Sgt W.R. Rodgerson RAF killed.
- 3 156 Sqn. Lancaster III JA915 crashed in England on a training flight, **F/O C. Foderingham DFC**, **F/O W.C. Gordon DFC**, **WO2 H.R. Ross**, **F/O A.W. Stewart DFM**, **F/O R.T. Hood DFM RAAF**, **F/L K.B. Watkins RAF** killed. F/O Foderingham, F/O Gordon and F/O Stewart were very experienced airmen and had survived the ditching of their 101 Sqn. Wellington on Aug. 18, 1942. F/O Gordon had also come through the crash landing of a 101 Sqn. Lancaster Jan. 23, 1943. The crash site of JA915 was excavated by an aviation archeology group in 1994.
- 3 404 Sqn. Beaufighter TF.Xc LZ175 EE-Y crashed in Scotland, **P/O S. Josephson**, **WO2 G.L. Seward**, and #8404 Servicing Echelon air frame mechanic **Cpl A.E. Woolhouse** killed. Cpl Woolhouse was going on leave and was a passenger on board the Beaufighter, which struck a house when engaged in low level flight (Amrit via www.rafcommands.com; aviation-safety.net).
- 3 421 Sqn. Spitfire IX MH334 was hit by debris from a enemy fighter on a RAMROD, **F/O M.C. Love RCAF (USA)** bailed out and PoW.
- 3 #10 Radio School, two Oxford I aircraft, X6813 and V3976, collided when one was landing and the other taxiing. **WO1 W.J. Loudon**, Sgt K.J. May RAF, P/O H.G. Price RAF, Sgt A.C. Taylor RAF and Sgt G.A. Wareham RAF killed in X6318, and WO F. Leslie RAF killed in V3976 (www.rafcommands.com).
- 3 #28 OTU bomb aimer **F/S K.C. Sanderson** died when he fell out of Wellington Ic DV866 while on a cross-country exercise over England.
- 3 #30 OTU Wellington III X3564 'U' crashed into a cliff on the Isle of Man attempting a single engine landing after an engine failed over the Irish Sea on a navigation exercise. It is believed the pilot, **WO1 J.W. Chester**, may have lost control on the approach. He and his crew, **Sgt D.G.D. Burnside**, **F/S G.A. Innes**, **Sgt A.R.J. Le Page** and Sgt J.L. Thorpe RAF were killed. WO1 Chester had been interned in Spain following a forced landing Oct. 23, 1942 in the Canary Islands.
- 3 #1659 HCU RCAF Halifax II W1240 landed wheels up from a night flying exercise, **Sgt**

J.A.M. Nadeau and his crew safe (R. Allenby). See October 22-23, below.

- 3 #1 SFTS, Camp Borden, Ontario, Harvard IIb #3130 flew into high ground in fog on a night cross country exercise, killing P/O J.D. Munn.

3-4 205 Group and #331 Wing attacked the airfield at Capodichino near Naples (5th Year).

- 3-4 178 Sqn. Halifax II BB414 'X' hit by flak and blew up on an operation over Italy, F/S C.W. Gibbs, F/S L.H. Kainamu RNZAF, Sgt H.R. Mantle RAF and F/S R.W. Cooke RNZAF killed, Sgt A.J. Orr RNZAF and Sgt L.F. Valentine RAF PoW. F/S Kainamu had previously flown with 405 Squadron (www.wings.net.nz; BLME V.2). This was the only Halifax lost by 178 Sqn. before they converted to completely Liberators (www.rafb24.com).

3-4 Bomber Command sent 316 Lancasters to Berlin and 4 Mosquitos acting as a diversion by dropping flares to mislead night fighters, but no Stirling or Halifax bombers were used on this operation due to their heavy losses on the previous one (Chorley). Marking was again off target and bombing fell in residential areas as well as industrial parts of the city. Over 400 were killed on the ground including 123 foreign workers. Twenty two Lancasters were lost. Other operations included 32 OTU bombers with 12 markers, 56 GARDENING sorties, 4 Mosquitos over Dusseldorf and 7 NICKELS, with 3 losses (BC War Diaries).

- 3-4 7 Sqn. Lancaster III JA854 MG-X lost on an operation to Germany, F/O F.E. Lewis DFC, WO1 B.E. Lindsay, F/L R.O. French DFC RNZAF, Sgt M.J. Selby RAF, Sgt A.R. Fraser RAF and F/S R. Lawson RAF missing, F/S C.F. Thighe RAF PoW. WO1 Lindsay and F/O Lewis were on their second tours. F/O Lewis had been wounded and survived a crash landing Dec. 4, 1942, and evaded when his Stirling was shot down over France on Dec. 22, 1942.
- 3-4 15 Sqn. Stirling BK774 LS-K lost on a GARDENING sortie off Denmark, F/S H. Perry, F/S E.A. Hill RAAF, Sgt R.O. Lander RAF and Sgt R.E. Belton RAF killed, Sgt V.J. Caselton RAF, Sgt R. Lawson RAF and Sgt W.J. Price RAF missing. (CWGC notes F/S Perry as died Sept. 14).
- 3-4 50 Sqn. Lancaster III ED755 VN-Q lost over Germany, F/O P.H. Coates, F/S R.W.B. Collins, F/O J.M. Lauder, Sgt G.B. Buchan RAF, Sgt R.G. Cooper RAF, Sgt R. McKeag RAF and Sgt A.R.D. Bedbrook RAF killed.
- 3-4 57 Sqn. Lancaster III JA914 DX-O Bar lost over Germany, Sgt H.M. Porteous, Sgt A. Sutcliffe RAF and Sgt H.I. Jones RAF killed, F/S W.E. Grindley, Sgt J.T. Carruthers RAF, Sgt A. Moore RAF and F/S D. Livingstone RAAF missing. Portions of this aircraft were on display at the *Deutsches Technikmuseum* in Berlin when it opened in 2005 (*Aeroplane Monthly*, July 2005).
- 3-4 100 Sqn. Lancaster III JA930 HW-Y believed to have exploded over the target, Sgt

- E.C. Harrill RAF killed, **WO2 F.H. Davis RCAF (USA)**, **F/O W.A. Gardiner**, Sgt J.R. Dunn RAF, Sgt O.H.T. Innocent RAF, Sgt J. King RAF and Sgt J.R. Wales RAF missing.
- 3-4 101 Sqn. Lancaster III ED659 SR-T lost over Germany, **F/S J. Clark**, F/S J.S.K. Dalziel RAAF, F/S J.L.R. Stubbings RAAF, **WO D.A. Tucker** RAF, Sgt L. Hoban RAF, Sgt D. Hopkins RAF and Sgt G. Cheadle RAF killed.
- 3-4 106 Sqn. Lancaster III ED385 lost over Germany, **Sgt E.A. Cannon**, **WO2 K.D. Wellwood**, F/O L.W. Roper RAAF, Sgt A.S. Carscadden RAF, Sgt K.E. Bright RAF, Sgt H. Fisher RAF, Sgt R.C. Woolnough RAF killed.
- 3-4 207 Sqn. Lancaster III ED832 EM-X lost without trace, **F/O F.G.C. Spanner DFC**, **F/L T.J. Waterman DFC**, S/L I.M. Huntley-Wood DFC RAF, G/C A.F. McKenna RAF, F/O J.L. Young DFM RAF, F/S A.J.C. Whitehead RAF and F/O K.J. Knight DFC RAF missing.
- 3-4 460 Sqn. RAAF Lancaster III W4988 AR-Q was damaged by flak and night fighters. Partially abandoned the bomber came down off Sweden, F/S N.J. Conway RAAF missing, **F/S H.K. Ward**, P/O L.G. Greenaway RAAF and Sgt A.J. O'Brien RAAF PoW, Sgt A.H. Jones RAF evaded to Sweden where he was interned with F/O F.H. Randall RAAF and Sgt H. Bell RAF.
- 3-4 467 Sqn. RAAF Lancaster III DV237 lost over Germany, **F/S I.D. Jennings**, F/O R.V. Turner RAF, Sgt D.B. Richardson RAF and Sgt L.A. Price RAF killed, Sgt J.A. Stewart RAF, Sgt E. Robson and Sgt W.C. McCartney have no known grave.
- 3-4 467 Sqn. RAAF Lancaster ED541 lost over Germany, **F/S R. Lesser**, Sgt N.E. Burgess RAF, Sgt O.H. Hodges RAF and F/O R.T.J. Bilney RAF killed, **F/S C.M. Niven**, F/L R. Carmichael RAAF, Sgt L.A. Saunders RAAF and F/O P.E. Henley MiD RAF missing.
- 3-4 #24 OTU Whitley V BD368 was lost over France on a NICKEL sortie, **F/S W.W. Massie**, **F/S W.J. Prause**, **Sgt R.G. Gillham**, **WO2 G.P. Halverson** and **Sgt T.O. MacKay** PoW.

Saturday

4 Australian soldiers land near Lae, New Guinea (D. Newton).

Reinforced by bombers returning from operations in the Mediterranean USAAF sends over 400 B-17 and B-24 bombers to aircraft factories in Germany, it's first deep penetration mission in three weeks, losing 45 (Zijlstra).

- 4 403 Sqn. Spitfire IX MA838 shot down over France by enemy fighters on a RAMROD, Squadron commanding officer **S/L F.E. Grant** killed.
- 4 416 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BL532 shot down over the sea on a RAMROD, **F/O D.F. Prentice** bailed out and was picked up by an ASR Walrus.
- 4 #22 OTU Wellington III HF683 swung on landing and took off it's undercarriage, **Sgt J.G. Stinson** and his crew were safe.

- 4 #23 OTU Wellington III Z1739 overran the landing area after an engine failed taking off when practicing circuits, **Sgt W.R. Goodhue** injured, **Sgt W.R. Stewart**, **P/O J.C. Hall** and **F/S W.H. Wardell** safe.
- 4 #10 (BR) Sqn. RCAF, Gander, Nfld., Liberator #589 'D' crashed and sank in Gander Lake while practicing local night flying, **S/L J.G. MacKenzie** killed, **F/O V.E. Bill**, aero engine mechanic **LAC G. Ward** and **W/C J.M. Young** MiD missing (Awards, R.W.R. Walker). In 2022 the wreck of the aircraft was discovered and imaged (M. Cotterill, *Second World War-era bomber discovered in Gander Lake, Newfoundland*, Canadiangeographic.ca, September 6, 2022).
- 4 #1 OTU, Bagotville, Quebec, Hurricane Xlla #1378 crashed near Port Alfred, Quebec, **Sgt N.J. Morley** RAF killed (R.W.R. Walker).
- 4 #10 EFTS, Pendleton, Ontario, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4381 hit a power cable and crashed into the Nations River north of Riceville, Ontario, killing **LAC(P) J.D. McPherson** and **F/O R.M. Zurbrigg**.
- 4 #32 OTU, Patricia Bay, BC, Canadian built Hampden I AJ998 undershot a landing and was written off, **Sgt J.R. Baillie** RAF injured (H. Moyle).
- 4 #32 SFTS, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Oxford I AT458 crashed, **LAC G.G. Crake** RAF killed.

4-5 205 Group #331 Wing Wellingtons were called on to bomb the airfield at Grazzanize after a daylight attack by USAAF P-38 Lightnings had failed (5th Year).

- 4-5 70 Sqn. Wellington X HF539 'H' hit and set on fire over the target in Italy, **Sgt M. Maddison** RAF and **Sgt L.R. Wright** RAF killed, **Sgt L. Bergman**, **Sgt J.A. Dobson** RAF and **Sgt R.G. Wilkins** RAF PoW. **Sgt Bergman** and **Sgt Wilkins** escaped and evaded in Naples with the assistance of Italian citizens after the surrender of Italy (BLME V.2).

4-5 Minor operations by Bomber Command include 8 Mosquitos over Cologne and Duisburg with 38 GARDENING sorties without loss (BC War Diaries).

Sunday

5 In support of the assault on Lae, US paratroops and volunteer Australian gunners are dropped onto the disused airstrip at Nadzab in the Markham Valley in New Guinea, quickly reinforced by Australian units flown in, who begin cutting down trees and lengthening the airfield for transports (D. Newton, wikipedia).

- 5 36 Sqn. Wellington X HF533 crashed after taking off in Algeria on a ferry flight, due to engine problems, **WO1 J. Walczak**, **F/O V.A. Scott** DFC RAF, **F/S H.E. Walker** RAF, **F/O G.S. Bray** RAF, **Sgt G.W. Plummer** RAF, **F/O J.N. Scotton** RAAF and **F/L J.E.F. Cowdrey** RAF killed (COL BRUGGY www.rafcommands.com).
- 5 198 Sqn. DH.82 Tiger Moth DE765 crashed in the sea off England, **F/O J.L. Darby** killed.

- 5 #1661 HCU Lancaster I W4929 GP-R crashed in England during a storm, **F/O V.R. Folkersen**, F/S E.M. Buckby RAAF, P/O N.T. Duxbury RAF, Sgt L. Holding RAF, Sgt R. Wilson RAF, P/O T.F.E. Johnson DFM RAF, Sgt F.W. Pratt RAF and Sgt J.G. Curran killed.
- 5 #1663 CU Halifax V DG402 OO-G flew into high ground in bad weather, **Sgt W.J.R. Blakely**, **F/S R.M. Todd**, F/O J.S. Thomas RAF, Sgt A.C. Dickinson RAF, Sgt F. Johnson RAF, Sgt R.W. Woods RAF, Sgt A.W. Salt RAF and Sgt E.J. Hitchcox RAF killed. See R. Allenby for details.

5-6 Bomber Command made another double attack on the cities of Mannheim and Ludwigshafen with 605 bombers. Skies over the target were clear, marking was accurate, and the bombing concentrated, causing heavy destruction in both cities. Thirty four bombers were lost. Other operations included 4 Mosquitos to Dusseldorf and 25 GARDENING sorties without loss (BC War Diaries).

- 5-6 9 Sqn. Lancaster I R5744 WS-E lost over Germany, **F/S C.A. Davis**, **F/S G.A. Munro**, Sgt R.A. Knight RAF, Sgt T.W. Bradford RAF, Sgt D.G. Connor RAF, Sgt J.W. Noble RAF and Sgt R.G. Nelson RAF killed.
- 5-6 10 Sqn. Halifax II JD322 ZA-V lost over Germany, **Sgt J.P. Heinig**, **F/O C.L. McPherson**, P/O D.M. D'eath RAF, Sgt A. Astin RAF, Sgt E.H. Dee RAF, Sgt R.T.H. Kearnes RAF and Sgt W.A. Cooper RAF killed.
- 5-6 44 Sqn. Lancaster III JA703 KM-W lost over Germany, **P/O D.E. Stiver**, Sgt C.B. Edwards RAF and Sgt A. McNair RAF killed, F/O L.F. Quinton RAAF, Sgt K.W. Chaplin RAF, Sgt E. Mosey RAF and Sgt D.E. Davis RAF missing.
- 5-6 51 Sqn. Halifax II JN899 MH-K was attacked by a Bf 110 nightfighter that inflicted some damage before being shot down, **Sgt R.V. Burch**, F/S R. Levy RAF, Sgt H.G. Phillips RAF, Sgt J.N. Collins RAF, Sgt W. Fox RAF, Sgt T.B. Walker RAF and Sgt H. Graham (RAF?) returned, safe (R. Allenby). See March 24-25, 1944.
- 5-6 76 Sqn. Halifax V DK223 MP-N shot down by a night fighter over Germany, **F/S A.F. Todd**, P/O S.T. Schmidt RNZAF, Sgt E.V. Dean RAF, Sgt W.H. Saunders RAF, Sgt F. Watling RAF and F/O W.W. Goldberg RAF killed, P/O A.F. Smith RAF PoW.
- 5-6 78 Sqn. Halifax II LW229 EY-Y shot down over Germany by a night fighter, **F/S J.R. Trace**, Sgt F. O'Dwyer RAAF, F/L A.E. Ferguson RAF and Sgt A.R. Fleming RAF killed, Sgt R.A. Davies RAF, F/O A.C. Beales RAF and P/O H.C.S. Hamley RAF PoW.
- 5-6 83 Sqn. Lancaster III JB118 OL-R lost on an operation to Germany, **WO2 C.G. Glover**, **F/S A.V. Hefferon RAF (Can.)**, **P/O J.H. Price RCAF (USA)**, Sgt T.F. Pearman RAF, Sgt D.E. Potts RAF, Sgt H.E. Greavison RAF and Sgt A.L. King RAF killed.
- 5-6 90 Sqn. Stirling III EF129 WP-Q lost over Germany, **F/S H.C. MacMillan**, F/S L.F. Harris RNZAF, WO S.W. Smith RAF, Sgt J.E. Gray RAF, Sgt R.J. Renton RAF, Sgt G.L. Odgers RAF and Sgt D.C. Hill RAF killed.

- 5-6 106 Sqn. Lancaster III DV182 shot down by a night fighter, **P/O F.S. Green**, Sgt A.E. Taylor RAF (USA), P/O A.A. Robertson RAF, G/C F.S. Hodder RAF, Sgt J. Cunliffe RAF, Sgt F.W. Tysall RAF and F/O R.R. Shadbolt DFC RAF killed, F/O G. Willatt RAF PoW.
- 5-6 149 Sqn. Stirling III BF477 OJ-B crashed in France due to engine failure, Sgt L. Gaffee RAF and Sgt R.J. Humbles RAF killed, **Sgt J.D. MacNeill**, F/O D.A. Luzmoor RNZAF, Sgt J.R. Lilley RAF and F/O C.D. Farmer RAF PoW, Sgt H.N. Clark evaded.
- 5-6 405 Sqn. Halifax II HR810 LQ-X lost over Germany, **WO2 L.J.M. Broderick**, Sgt G.E. Agate RAF and Sgt A.C. Brunton RAF killed, Sgt C. Hewitson RAF, Sgt R. Thomson RAF, Sgt J.H. Briggs RAF and Sgt J.E. Vidler RAF PoW. This was the last Halifax lost by 405 Sqn., which would now be fully equipped with Lancaster bombers.
- 5-6 419 Sqn. Halifax II JD210 VR-S lost over Germany, **F/O H.A. Danninger RCAF (USA)**, **F/S R.D. Hayes**, **Sgt R.G. James**, **F/O G.A. Shannon**, **F/O J.A. Studer RCAF (USA)**, **F/S G.A. Usher** and Sgt A.W. Hallworth RAF killed.
- 5-6 419 Sqn. Halifax II JD410 VR-V broke up in the air over the target after being hit by flak, **F/O R.W. Burke RCAF (USA)**, P/O F.B. Allan RAAF, Sgt H.J. Hudson RAF, Sgt J.H.C. Kilpatrick RAF, Sgt H. Nuttall RAF and Sgt A.R. Slaney RAF killed, **F/O J.R. Harris** PoW.
- 5-6 427 Sqn. Halifax V LK636 ZL-H lost over Germany, **Sgt L.A. Stemmler**, F/S N.E. Fletcher RAF, Sgt T.R. Fox RAF, Sgt G.C. Tew RAF, Sgt F.P.C. Walters RAF, Sgt G.S. Wood RAF and Sgt R.S. Johnson RAF killed.
- 5-6 427 Sqn. Halifax V, possibly EB246, was damaged by flak but **Sgt R.E. Dresser**, **Sgt D.H. Jonasson**, **Sgt J.P. McKenzie**, **P/O D.O. Olsvik**, **Sgt J.P.F. Richards**, **Sgt J.A.G. Taillon**, **Sgt W.R. Tobin** and **Sgt R.L. Warren** bombed and returned to England (R. Allenby). See September 6-7 below and February 19-20, 1944.
- 5-6 428 Sqn. Halifax V, **F/S H.L. Pattinson**, was attacked by a Fw 190 fighter which was claimed shot down by his rear gunner, **Sgt G.A. Bassett** (5th Year).
- 5-6 434 Sqn. Halifax V DK259 WL-L damaged in a wing tank by flak, **Sgt R.W. Miller**, **Sgt E.J.C. Plouffe**, **Sgt R.F. Purdy**, **Sgt C.C. Reynolds**, **S/L W.N. Thomson**, P/O R.F. Bellingham RAF and Sgt J. Malcolm RAF returned to England (R. Allenby). See October 22-23, below.
- 5-6 620 Sqn. Stirling III EH931 QS-O was attacked and set on fire over Germany by a night fighter. The crew was unable to bail out before the bomber exploded in the air, F/S P.G. Quayle RAF, Sgt F.A. Jones RAF, Sgt M.J.T. Finn RAF and Sgt B.R. Giles RAF were killed, **F/O J.H.T. Crozier**, P/O L. Jackson RAF, Sgt B. McConnell RAF and Sgt D.W. Davies RAF PoW.

Monday

6 After working all night and doubling the length of the airstrip, transport aircraft carrying Australian infantry begin landing at the captured airfield at Nadzab

and begin preparations to re-take nearby Lae (D. Newton, wikipedia). After Lae's capture a complex of airfields for bombers is soon built at Nadzab as a major base for neutralizing Rabaul.

#18 SFTS opens at Gimli, Manitoba flying Anson aircraft, the last new Service Flying Training School created in the BCATP
(<http://www.bombercrew.com/BCATP.htm>).

#24 EFTS, Abbotsford, BC opens on this date with Cornell trainers
(<http://www.bombercrew.com/BCATP.htm>).

- 6 #53 RSU, **LAC J. Pawliuk** died of injuries from being hit by an army truck in England.
- 6 #1678 HC Flight, Lancaster II DS670 swung out of control taking off and hit the wreck of Lancaster II DS608, crashed Sept. 2, above. **F/S A.A. Greenwood** safe.
- 6 #14 (F) Sqn. RCAF, Kittyhawk I #1093 flew into high ground near Umnak, Alaska in low cloud, killing **P/O R. Shavalier**.

6-7 205 Group Wellingtons attacked rail yards at Battipaglia in Italy (5th Year).

- 6-7 424 Sqn. Wellington X HE492 'W' lost over Italy, **Sgt W.J.B. Ingram**, **WO1 J.A.R. Langlois**, **F/O A. Pitkethly**, **F/S J.L. Sills** and Sgt L. Allen RAF killed. F/S Sills had had a crash in #22 OTU Wellington III HF629 July 6, above.

6-7 Munich was the target of 404 bombers from Bomber Command, which found the target covered by thick cloud that prevented ground and sky marking from being effective. Bombing was made using a timed run from a known point with scattered results, 16 bombers were lost (BC War Diaries).

- 6-7 9 Sqn. Lancaster III ED975 WS-Y crashed in England returning from an operation over Germany, **Sgt C.C. Moore**, P/O W.E. Siddle RAF, Sgt R.W. Moseley RAF, Sgt R.C.T. Lodge RAF, P/O K.J.H. Hills RAF and Sgt R.E. Jones RAF injured, Sgt J.W. Culley RAF safe.
- 6-7 12 Sqn. Lancaster I ED392 came down in the sea off the English coast due to an engine failure soon after taking off, Sgt C. Walton RAF and Sgt A.E. Belshaw RAF missing, **Sgt L.C. Goodkey**, F/S J.P. Hutchinson RAAF, Sgt J.A. Stapely RAF, Sgt G.R. Gabriel RAF and Sgt R. Burr RAF rescued.
- 6-7 77 Sqn. Halifax II DT793 KN-E lost without trace, **Sgt E. Fedi**, P/O R.W. Munns RAF, Sgt W.C. Smirk RAF, P/O W.W. Smith RAF, Sgt C.W. Tomlinson RAF, Sgt R.R. Wilson RAF and Sgt D.V. Webb RAF missing. A detailed model of this aircraft being serviced is on display at the Yorkshire Air Museum. Sgt Fedi is recorded as 19 years old at the time of his loss, but according to family members was probably closer to 17, having lied about his age and enlisted at 16
(<http://www.wartimememoriesproject.com/ww2/view.php?uid=23056>).
- 6-7 77 Sqn. Halifax II JD405 KN-Z lost over Germany, **F/O L.B. Clifford**, **Sgt D.C. Elliot**, **P/O H.G. Northway**, Sgt L.T. Johnson RAF, Sgt R.J. Partridge RAF, Sgt G. Leedham

- RAF and Sgt H. Basnett RAF killed.
- 6-7 78 Sqn. Halifax II JD454 EY-E lost over Germany, **F/S W.D. Anderson**, **F/O W.J. Cameron RAF (Can.)**, P/O A.J. Beazleigh RAF, Sgt M. Emmerson RAF and P/O G.A. Scarcliffe RAF killed, F/L W.D. Perriment RAF and F/S C.M. Edghill RAF PoW.
- 6-7 156 Sqn. Lancaster III JB177 shot down over the target area by a night fighter, **F/S W.O.E. Chambers**, F/L A.R.A. MacLachlan DFC RAF, F/O H.H. Carter RAF and Sgt A.C. Dalton RAF killed, **Sgt L. Ducat**, Sgt D.H. Evans RAF and F/O W.A. Kerry RAF PoW.
- 6-7 158 Sqn. Halifax II HR943 NP-F shot down over Germany by flak, Sgt R. Fall RAF, Sgt A.E. Betts RAF and Sgt F.W.A. Bates RAF killed, **F/O E.R. Soulliere**, Sgt E.S. Ketchley RAF, Sgt A.W.G. Simmonds RAF and Sgt B. Chir RAF PoW.
- 6-7 407 Sqn. Leigh Light Wellington XII HF115 2-W, **P/O E.M. O'Donnell**, **Sgt A.D. Morton**, **F/S C. Grant**, **F/S R.C. Gaudet**, **F/S I.E. Smithson** and **F/S J.A. Keeler**, attacks and sinks U-669 in the Bay of Biscay, the squadrons first U-boat victory (407 SH).
- 6-7 415 Sqn. Hampden TB.I L4076 crashed on a night training flight, **F/S H.J. Hanson**, **F/O O.K. Main** and **F/O R.E. Ritscher RCAF (USA)** killed (H. Moyle).
- 6-7 426 Sqn. Lancaster II DS716 hit by flak over France and forced to jettison it's bombs, **Sgt W.H. Boles**, **F/O G.H. Buchanan**, **F/L A.J. Hughes**, **Sgt K.W. Sawyer**, Sgt F.D. Rawlings RAF, Sgt W.J. McLean RAF and Sgt F. Wilkinson RAF returned safe (R. Allenby). See October 7-8, below.
- 6-7 426 Sqn. Lancaster II DS717 was damaged by gunfire from a Halifax bomber over France which forced the crew, **Sgt S. Davidson**, **Sgt W.N. McInnes**, Sgt J. Brown RAF, F/S V. Southwell RAF, Sgt B. Vine RAF, Sgt W.S. Burton RAF and Sgt Thompson (?), to abandon their sortie (R. Allenby).
- 6-7 427 Sqn. Halifax V DK255 ZL-B lost over France, **Sgt A.V.D. Humphries**, Sgt P.C. Jones RAF, Sgt S. Lloyd RAF, Sgt J.J. Thomas RAF, F/O E.A. Pery Knox Gore RAF, P/O H.S. Thew RAF and Sgt E.E. Strong RAF killed (R. Koval).
- 6-7 427 Sqn. Halifax V LK628 ZL-N shot down over Germany by a night fighter, **F/S R.E. Dresser**, **P/O H.A. Jackson**, P/O W. Biggs DFM RAF, P/O L.E. Moyler RAF and P/O J. Read RAF killed, P/O J. Elliott DFM RAF, F/S A. Richards RAF and F/S H.G. McLean RAF PoW (R. Koval).
- 6-7 428 Sqn. Halifax V DK196 NA-Z was forced to turn back due to engine failure and crash landed in France, **F/S W.M. Brown** killed, **Sgt P.F. Elko**, **Sgt E.N.B. Bongard**, **Sgt J.T. Cousineau**, **Sgt J.A. Pickup**, Sgt H.G. Brown RAF and Sgt J.I.D. Francis RAF PoW.
- 6-7 434 Sqn. Halifax V DK251 WL-F lost over Germany, **Sgt H.L. Douglas**, **F/S A.B. Jackson**, **F/S J. McDonald**, **F/S C.F. Phillips**, **WO2 A.D. Steadman**, **F/S J.H. Tovey** and Sgt P.W.S. McCartney RAF killed. F/S Tovey had been involved in an accident in a #1659 HCU Halifax July 28, above.
- 6-7 434 Sqn. Halifax V DK262 WL-R lost over Germany, **F/S R. Moore**, **F/S L.T. Olmstead**, **Sgt P.M. Shulman**, **Sgt G.W. Sutherland**, **F/S D.D. Witts**, Sgt L.L. Stone RAF and

Sgt F. Trimby RAF killed.

- 6-7 434 Sqn. Halifax V, Sgt D. Morrison, was attacked by a night fighter that left the bomber damaged and injured the tail gunner **F/S J. Tovey** (R. Koval).

Tuesday

7 Italian fleet surrenders (CJCA headline).

In Houston, Texas, 55 people are killed in a hotel fire (wikipedia).

- 7 408 Sqn. Lancaster II DS732 EQ-F was engaged in a fighter affiliation training flight when an engine failed. In the circuit to land a second engine failed and the bomber crash-landed in a field and burst into flames, rear gunner **F/S R.W. Ogston** was killed when he was thrown from his turret, **Sgt K.L. Brager**, **Sgt T.D. Cochrane**, passenger **AC1 M.G. Cote**, **Sgt L.A. McQuestion**, Sgt E. Kent RAF and Sgt B. Smith RAF safe (R. Allenby). See November 22-23, below.
- 7 #60 OTU Mosquito NF.II DD685 crashed in England, **F/O E. Harbo** and **F/O W.F.M. Howard** killed.
- 7 #81 OTU Whitley V BD257 'N' swung on take off and collided with the control tower, **F/O E.L. Ware**, F/O R.W. Browne RAF (S. Africa), Sgt W.D. Kershaw RAF and Sgt E. Young RAF killed, and Sgt S. Williams RAF injured from the aircraft, Cpl N.W. Peate RAF, ACW2 K.M. ffoukles WAAF and ACW2 V. Hughes WAAF were killed, LACW A.B. Jowett WAAF and ACW2 H. Hall WAAF injured in the control tower. This was the second aircraft crashing into the same control tower in the last two weeks (<http://www.bombercommandmuseum.ca/s,sleap.html>).
- 7 #1658 CU Halifax DT524 II "C20" broke up in the air and crashed while engaged in a fighter affiliation flight, **F/O L.G. Dunlop**, **F/O J. Low**, **F/S S.R. Parker**, F/O M.M. Caplan DFM RAF, P/O A.W. Bailey RAF, Sgt A.B.G. Williams RAF, Sgt F. Reynolds RAF, Sgt E.L. McCartie RAF, Sgt A.J. Gamble RAF and **F/S G. Gibson** RAF killed (R. Allenby). A memorial plaque is located near the crash site.
- 7 #45 Delivery Group, Ferry Command US Air Transport Command C-87 (Liberator transport) 41-24140 crashed in Ghana on a return ferry flight, Ferry Captain J.K. Cummings (USA), **F/S D. Gale** RAF, **P/O J.S. Cram**, **WO2 S.J. Donen**, **P/O W.A. Gardner**, **P/O R.C. Lounsbury**, **F/O J.S. MacLean**, **WO2 J. MacRae**, **F/S E.D. Rennick**, **P/O E.O. Smith** RCAF (USA) and ___ C. Walker USAAF were among those killed in this incident.

7-8 205 Group followed up a daylight attack by USAAF bombers on the airfield at Viterbo in Italy (5th Year).

- 7-8 #12 OTU Wellington III BJ621 crashed in England on a navigation flight, **Sgt G.D.H. Morrow**, Sgt N.L. Wachter RAAF and Sgt W.H. Lawrence RAF killed, Sgt W. Shepherd RAF and Sgt F.G. Wells RAF missing.
- 7-8 #29 OTU Wellington III BK497 'O' came down in the sea off England on a navigation

exercise, **Sgt G.W.J. Hopkins**, **F/S G.D. Scott** and Sgt C.W. Shephard RAF killed, P/O G.E. Bilke RAF and Sgt J. Baxter RAF missing.

Wednesday

8 Italy surrenders. Official Allied announcement of Italian surrender. Germany executes plans to disarm Italian army and take over unoccupied Italy (Polsson). On the Dodecanese island of Rhodes the German garrison of 7,000 attack the Italian garrison of 30,000 (Oxford) (see Sept. 12, below). Italian air force units on Rhodes sided with the German troops (B. Cull). Of some 600,000 Italian soldiers in the Balkans very few choose to fight the Germans, and those that do suffer high casualties in the next 3 days, including the execution of all captured Italian officers in resisting units by direct order of Hitler. Most Italian military in the Balkans are then interned in Germany but many thousands join the partisan forces, some as organized military units, where they fight effectively until the wars end (Oxford). The partisans in Yugoslavian areas controlled by Italian forces gained enough equipment from Italian units to arm and form several divisions (Oxford).

German units supported by battleship Tirpitz and battlecruiser Scharnhorst land on Spitsbergen, forcing Norwegian units there to retreat. They then destroy or shell facilities on the Island (ww2total.com Chronology/1943).

- 8 224 Sqn. crew shot down Sept. 2, above, wireless air gunner **F/O J.C. Miller** died of his injuries and his body was committed to the sea. P/O Collins and Sgt Bareham also died. Four survivors, Sgt Foss, P/O Wilcox, P/O Johnstone and Sgt Dilks, were picked up the following day.
- 8 414 Sqn. Mustang I AP197 RU-Z shot down by a Fw 190 in France on a reconnaissance sortie, **F/O R.E. Baker** killed. This loss was detailed in *The R.C.A.F. Overseas - The Fifth Year*.
- 8 431 Sqn. Halifax V LK895 was on a training flight and landed fast due to an air speed indicator not working, ground looped and lost an undercarriage leg, **F/S R.P. Rubie** RAF (Jamaica) and his crew safe (R. Allenby).
- 8 #1402 Meteorological Flight Hampden I P1265 lost on a meteorological flight, **WO1 W.P. Coleman**, **F/S H.K. Bartlett** RAF, **F/O R. Woodford** RAF and **Sgt A.W. Bentley** RAF missing (H. Moyle).
- 8 #1664 HCU RCAF Halifax V DG342 was engaged in practicing circuits and was damaged beyond repair when it swung on landing and the undercarriage collapsed, **Sgt W.B. Byers** and his twin brother **Sgt G.J. Byers** safe (R. Allenby). See Oct. 4-5 and Nov. 3-4 below.
- 8 #1 Manning Depot, Toronto, Ontario, **AC2 J.G.J. Legault** accidentally drowned in the Ottawa River.

8-9 #331 Wing Wellingtons participated in attacks on rail yards at Battipaglia (main target), Livorno, Gaeta, Forio and Bastia in Italy (5th Year).

Bomber Command sent 257 Main Force and OTU bombers with 5 B-17 bombers of the 422nd Bomb Sqn., 305 Bomb Group, USAAF, to bomb a German long-range coastal gun emplacement near Boulogne. The purpose of the the operation was to test out a new OBOE marking technique, but neither it nor the bombing was accurate and the target was not believed to have been damaged. No bombers were lost (BC War Diaries).

The B-17s were part of an initiative by Brig. Gen. Anderson USAAF after his observations in July, above. See Oct. 4-5 below.

Thursday

9 In New Guinea Australian and US forces from Nadzab begin advancing on Lae (wikipedia).

Iran declares war on Germany (wikipedia).

British and US forces land at Salerno, south of Naples. Not expecting opposition due to the surrender of Italy they are surprised and almost forced off the beachhead by a quick German counter attack (Oxford). Air support was provided by RN carriers. However a poor decision was made to use Seafire aircraft from small, slow escort carriers (H. Adlam). See 880 Sqn. entry September 12, below.

British take Taranto Naval Base (CJCA headline). British troops land at Taranto by sea from Brindisi.

Italian fleet sails to Malta to surrender. Attacked by German bombers using guided bombs, 2 of which strike and sink the battleship Roma and others badly damage it's sister ship the Italia, over 1,200 Italian sailors were killed (Oxford, et al).

In an attempt to disentangle itself from supporting Germany while fighting the Soviet Union, Hungary signs a secret agreement to surrender to the Western Allies as soon as their forces reach the Hungarian border (H.W. Neulen). See August 15, 1944, Operation DRAGOON. If instead of invading Southern France Allied forces had landed on the Istria Peninsula as Churchill urged this agreement might have led to Hungary joining the Allies and a third front threatening Germany from the south.

- 9 415 Sqn. Hampden TB.I AD799 crashed in a spin in England on an air test, **F/O R.S. Arnold**, **F/O C.E. Coons** and **F/S D.K. Stroud** killed (H. Moyle).
- 9 #1657 HCU Stirling I R9315 swung on landing and lost it's undercarriage, **P/O A.H. Hall**, **F/O L.D. Clay** RAF, **Sgt C.N. Williams** RAF, **Sgt W. Fletcher** RAF, **Sgt T.O.W. Purkiss** RAF, **Sgt B.M. Slade** RAF and **Sgt E.J. Bullock** RAF safe.
- 9 #130 (F) Sqn. RCAF Hurricane XII #5686 crashed near Arvida, Quebec, **P/O G.K. Teal** killed.
- 9 USAAF AT-6C (Harvard) 41-33060 damaged at Fort Nelson, BC (AAIR).

9-10 205 Group had 50 Wellingtons attacking the rail yards at Grosseto in Italy while others flew NICKELS over Rome, Viterbo, Orvieto, Bologna, Modena, Parma, Leghorn, Spezia, Genoa and Turin dropping leaflets announcing the surrender of Italy. One bomber forced to ditch, crew rescued (D. Parker).

Three British agents parachuted into Rhodes to convince the Italian military governor to take over the island, but they found the situation beyond control with the German and Italian forces engaged in combat already (B. Cull). It was hoped that taking the Dodecanese Islands would encourage Turkey to enter the war and invade Romania, to seize the oilfields of Ploesti and eliminate most of Germany's supply of oil (B. Kite). See September 13, below.

Friday

10 Germans seize Rome and Italy. Italian fleet turned over to Allies at Malta. British units land at the small Aegean Island of Castelloriso, which soon had a garrison of 1,300 British and Greek soldiers to carry out attacks on German transport ships (B. Cull).

Bus train accident near Hamilton, Ontario, kills 12 (CJCA headline).

- 10 #3 Personnel Reception Centre, navigator **P/O E.W. Anderson** died in hospital from injuries when he fell out of a third floor window of a hotel in Bournemouth (www.rafcommands.com).
- 10 #3 AFU Oxford I DF262 crashed in England, **F/O T.E. Udney Lister** RCAF (Argentina), **Sgt M. Bar** FFAF and **WO W. Lloyd Smith** RAF killed (R. McNeill www.rafcommands.com).
- 10 #14 OTU navigator **F/O J.D. Willan** died of injuries sustained when he fell out of a hotel window in Leicester, England (www.rafcommands.com).
- 10 RCAF Station Yarmouth NS, **LAC C.G. Patton** died in hospital in Montreal of injuries sustained from falling off a truck.
- 10 #1 Aircraft Inspection Department, Boeing Canada plant, Sea Island, BC, pilot **F/L B.H. Shaw** had completed a test flight on a new aircraft, probably a Catalina, and was watching it being pulled up the ramp when he slipped, was run over by the beaching

- gear and died.
- 10 #7 ITS, Calgary, Alberta, **AC2 R.F. Messenger** died in the base hospital of natural causes.
 - 10 #13 SFTS, St. Hubert, Quebec, Harvard IIb FS664 crashed near St. Angele de Monnoir, Quebec, killing **LAC(P) J.A. Hutchinson**.
 - 10 USAAF 302nd Fighter Sqn. USAAF P-40L 42-11066 belly landed out of gas near St. Williams, Ontario (AAIR).

10-11 Following the German seizure of Italy 205 Group with #331 Wing RCAF resumed operations against the Italian mainland, attacking the road junction at Formia (5th Year).

Saturday

11 Heavy air attacks on the invasion fleet and beachhead at Salerno. The cruiser USS Savannah is hit by a glider bomb that kills nearly 200 crew and forces her to Malta for emergency repairs (D. Newton). The battleship HMS Warspite and the cruiser HMS Uganda (later HMCS Uganda) were also badly damaged in this attack.

The small Italian air force units based on Cos supported the surrender to the Allies and several flew to Cyprus to surrender on this date, others later flew to neutral Turkey and one fighter defected to Rhodes after the airfield was attacked by German aircraft (B. Cull).

- 11 #4 Radio School Proctor III HM360 crashed, **F/S E.C. Crabtree** and **AC1 A.J. Ferguson** RAF killed (www.rafcommands.com).
- 11 #24 OTU Whitley V LA786 FB-Z was taking off on a training flight but failed to become airborne and ran off the runway at high speed, **Sgt Cavanagh** seriously injured, **Sgt R.V. Long** and the rest of the crew safe.
- 11 #129 (F) Sqn. RCAF Hurricane XII #5662 crashed in a spin at Carter Basin, 30 miles from Goose Bay, killing **WO2 O.K. Morgan**. He was the Squadron's only recorded fatality. The wreckage was not recovered (R.W.R. Walker).
- 11 #34 SFTS, Medicine Hat, Alberta, Harvard IIb FE448 crashed, **F/O K.R. Taylor** RAF killed.

11-12 A German bomber airfield at Frosinone was the target for #331 Wing Wellingtons on this night (5th Year).

Sunday

12 Heavy German attacks on the Salerno beachhead force the commitment of all Allied reserves (Oxford).

Mussolini released in Abruzzi by German parachute force led by Otto Skorzeny (Polsson).

Italian forces on Rhodes surrender to Germans. Rhodes is the largest island in the Dodecanese and supported several airfields. The only other island in the group with an airfield was Cos (now Kos) (Oxford).

- 12 255 Sqn. Beaufighter VI MM881 damaged in Mediterranean attacking a Ju 88, F/L C.J.D. Greenland bailed out and is missing, F/L P.R. Brook landed safely on one engine (airforce.ca).
- 12 880 Sqn. FAA, HMS Stalker, off Salerno, Seafire IIc MA999 was damaged when it's tail hook failed and it went into the barrier, Lt W.H. "Moose" Martyn DSC twice MID RN (Can.) safe. This was one of 150 Seafire aircraft badly damaged or written off attempting to support the landings at Salerno, over 130 of these losses attempting landings with these fragile aircraft on small escort carriers in conditions of inadequate wind (H. Adlam).
- 12 500 Sqn. Hudson VI FK680 lost an engine and crashed on take-off in Algiers, WO2 G. Henderson killed.
- 12 282 Sqn. ASR Warwick "B-Bear" ditched south of Ireland following an engine failure, F/O A. Henderson, F/O J. Hackett, WO Whalen, WO K. Woods and WO F. Platt RAF took to their dinghies. A search for the missing crew was later called off, but 282 Squadron Commanding Officer W/C Ward approved a "training" search by volunteers to the area, and all serviceable aircraft took part. The missing crew were spotted by a crew who were supposed to be on leave, and an airborne lifeboat was dropped to them. They were later rescued by the destroyer HMS Inconstance (F. Platt, *Requiem for Warwick B-Bear, Airforce Magazine* Vol. 11, #3, 1987).
- 12 405 Sqn. Halifax II HR910 was on a cross country training flight when a propellor lost a blade, causing the propellor assembly to come off the engine, P/O A.P. Campbell and his crew landed safe (R. Allenby). See January 1-2, 1944.
- 12 407 Sqn. Leigh Light Wellington XII MP503 2-O crashed on take-off when the starboard wing failed due to metal fatigue, WO2 J.P. Haughey RCAF (Eire), WO2 G.W. Munch, WO1 H. Pincock and F/S C.E. Russell killed, WO2 J.A.R. Cote and WO R.T. West injured. The investigation into this accident indicated the fatigue was caused by vibration of the more powerful Hercules engine installation being operated at low altitudes, and resulted in grounding of all Hercules engined Wellington patrol aircraft until modifications were made (pers. comm. A.D. Squires). See Sept. 13, below. WO1 Pincock had been injured Sept. 22, 1942 in the crash of a #1 (Coastal) OTU Hudson in England.
- 12 425 Sqn. aero engine mechanic LAC J.F.R. Gallant died of natural causes.
- 12 #13 OTU Mitchell II FL193 crashed in England, P/O A.G. Olson, F/O J. Ledgerwood RAAF, Sgt E.G. Bailey RAAF and Sgt M.J. Tymms RAAF killed (A. Storr).
- 12 #304 Ferry Training Unit Beaufighter TF.X LX945 crashed taking off in England for a

navigation exercise, possibly distracted by another Beaufighter of the same Unit that took off before them and crashed, **F/O K.B. Thomas** and P/O J.R. Waldron RAF killed (aviation-safety.net).

- 12 #1 ITS, Toronto, Ontario, equipment assistant **LAC K. Horodyski** drowned accidentally at Lac Masson, Ste. Marguerite, Quebec.
- 12 #1 Manning Depot, Toronto, Ontario, **AC2 L.T. Moyes** drowned in a boating accident in Hamilton Bay, Ontario.
- 12 #9 SFTS, Centralia, Ontario, two Anson II aircraft collided near the airfield, #7307 landed safely but #7537 crashed, killing **F/S J. Gallant**.

12-13 To support the fighting at the Salerno beachhead Wellingtons of #331 Wing RCAF bombed roads at Castel Nuovo (5th Year).

- 12-13 #12 OTU Wellington III BJ664 crashed during a thunderstorm, **Sgt E.A. Opie**, F/L J.E. Fairchild RAF, Sgt C.S. Walters RAF, F/L R.T. Bowen RAF, Sgt E. Gates RAF, F/S B. Green RAF, Sgt E. Davies RAF and Sgt T. Johnston RAF killed.

Monday

13 Canadian Army 7th and 8th divisions disbanded to provide replacements (CJCA headline).

At Salerno the situation is critical. Plans are made to evacuate, but US Airborne units are dropped in that night, plus further troops rushed from Africa, and all out air support by bombers and fighters with Naval gunfire held the landing area (Oxford).

Despite the loss of Rhodes it was decided to continue operations to take the Dodecanese Islands. Operation MICROBE, British special forces land on Cos north of Rhodes with plans to set up a garrison and to use the airfield to support an invasion of Rhodes (which they had hoped to take over when Italy surrendered) to secure the strategic Dodecanese Islands off Turkey. An RAF radio team was landed by a Beaufighter on the airfield, followed by a flight of Spitfires and ground crew in Dakota aircraft (Oxford, B. Cull).

British hospital ship HMHS Newfoundland (not to be confused with cruiser HMS Newfoundland) hit by a German glider bomb off Salerno, killing 4 crew and 17 members of the medical staff including 6 nursing sisters. The ship caught on fire, was towed offshore and scuttled the next day (wikipedia). The Newfoundland was the sister ship to the RMS Nova Scotia, sunk off South Africa November 28 with heavy loss of life. Both had been in passenger service from England to Boston via Newfoundland and Halifax before the war (wikipedia).

- 13 3 Sqn. Typhoon Ib EJ989 QO-S hit by flak on a ROADSTEAD off the Dutch coast, F/O J.M. Downs (or Downes) bailed out and became a PoW.
- 13 3 Sqn. Typhoon Ib JP594 was escorting an ASR aircraft off Holland when it's engine cut and it ditched, Sgt G.A. Whitman RCAF (USA) rescued by a Walrus (possibly the one it was escorting). See May 11, 1944.
- 13 407 Sqn. WO2 J.A.R. Cote died of injuries received the previous day.
- 13 #1657 HCU Stirling I W7427 was approaching to land from a training flight when the main spar failed at low level. The aircraft crash landed into a ploughed field with no casualties, F/O R.G. Campbell, Sgt A. Jameson RAF, Sgt W.C. Pearce RAF, Sgt C.E. Potten RAF, Sgt N. Bartlett RAF, P/O N.J. Fairbairn RAF, Sgt R.S. Moore RAF, Sgt J. Cochrane RAF, Sgt A. MacLean RAF and Sgt E.M. Jones RAF safe. Sgt Potten later edited and published a book "7 x X x 90" (*The Story of a Stirling Bomber and it's Crew*), 1986, which mentions this loss and gives a view of operations of aircrew and Stirling operations at this time with useful information on the tasks of a flight engineer.
- 13 #41 SFTS, Weyburn, Saskatchewan, Harvard IIb FE304 crashed, F/O E. Bibby RAF and Sgt A.F. Brown RAF killed.
- 13 #45 Group, RAF Ferry Command, Baltimore V FW395 swung on take off and crashed into trees near Nassau, Bahamas, killing F/S C.G. Rafuse and Sgt J.L.E. Blake RAF, Sgt D. Goodman RAF died of injuries the next day (J. Baugher; CWGC).

13-14 #331 Wing RCAF Wellingtons attacked roads near Pompeii on this night to disrupt German support for the fighting at Salerno (5th Year).

Tuesday

14 In New Guinea Japanese forces from Salamaua and Lae begin an arduous withdrawal over mountains. With this the Japanese command recognized they could no longer plan offensive operations in the South Western Pacific, and began a defensive campaign to slow the Allied advance (wikipedia). They believed the next Allied step would be to re-capture Rabaul, which would be costly, but a defence in depth would allow the next positions threatened to be fortified. The Japanese military believed with justification that they could pin down large Allied forces for years in the South West Pacific with step by step withdrawals. They did not take into account that with the manoeuvring ability of overwhelming sea and airpower, and fast airfield construction techniques, their fortified bases could be outflanked and neutralized.

Soviet forces take Bryansk (CJCA headline).

British Forces landed by ship on the Dodecanese Island of Samos.

All available Allied aircraft in the area are sent to attack German forces attacking the beachheads at Salerno. With heavy shelling by naval ships this stops the German advance (LH).

#165 (T) Sqn., Rivers, Man. detachment, the first class of paratroops for 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion graduate (RCAF Sqns.).

#111 (F) Sqn. begins receiving Kittyhawk IV aircraft (440 SH).

- 14 608 Sqn. Hudson V AM710 lost in the Mediterranean on an anti-submarine patrol from Sicily, F/O K.C. Cherer, F/O B.G.S. Bradley RAAF (Can.), F/S E.N. Pettitt RAAF and F/S L.T. Sheldon RAAF missing. TSGNO states F/O Bradley was from Halifax, NS, and CWGC notes his wife was from Australia.
- 14 455 Sqn. RAAF Canadian built Hampden TB.I AN157 UB-N shot down by flak on a day ROVER patrol off the Norwegian coast after attacking a group of ships, WO2 R.S.W. Esmay, F/O W. Austin RAAF, F/S J. Mellor RAF and Sgt E.W. Smith RAF missing (A. Storr, H. Moyle).
- 14 SFTS, RAF College Cranwell, Master II AZ670 aircraft crashed in England, F/O J.H. Rooney killed (DaveW at www.rafcommands.com).
- 14 #41 SFTS, Weyburn, Saskatchewan, Harvard IIb FS863 crashed, LAC S. Lathrope RAF killed.
- 14 unknown unit, LAC N.D. McPherson died in hospital in Winnipeg of natural causes (www.rafcommands.com).
- 14 Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio, USA, Canadian built Mosquito B.VII KB306 (USAAF serial 43-34931) suffered a ground collision and fire (Aviation Archaeology)

14-15 In support of the fighting at Salerno #331 Wing Wellingtons were bombing the road network at Battipaglia-Eboli (5th Year).

Operation MICROBE, over the Island of Cos paratroops were dropped to protect the major landings there. Friendly Italian forces had laid out straw on the landing ground to make the landings softer, and helped the paratroops remove their parachutes as they landed (B. Cull).

- 14-15 137 Sqn. Hurricane IV KZ656 lost on an anti-shipping patrol off Belgium, F/O H.G. Dickson missing.
- 14-15 138 Sqn. Halifax HR666 NF-E was shot down off Denmark on it's way to Poland for Operation FLAT 12A, F/S W.H. James RAF, P/O D.B. Ireland RAF, Sgt B.A.C. Hunt RAF and Sgt R.H.D. Bouttell RAF killed, Sgt J.E. Irwin RAF missing, Sgt D.H. White and Sgt T.A. Payne PoW.
- 14-15 138 Sqn. Halifax II JN910 NF-K shot down into the Baltic homebound from a drop zone in Poland on Operation FLAT 22, F/O J.D.L. Cloutier, Sgt K.C. Windsor, F/O E.C. Hart RAF, Sgt K.R. Norie RAF, Sgt L.C. Gay RAF, Sgt S.J. Smith RAF and Sgt W.H.

Mudge RAF missing, Sgt A.S. Dove RAF PoW.

14-15 414 Sqn. Mustang I AP224 went down at sea on a night INTRUDER to Belgium, **F/O D.H. Lewis** killed.

14-15 415 Sqn. Hampden TB.I AE192 was written off after the undercarriage collapsed returning from a night shipping attack off the coast of Holland, **P/O J.A. Enns** and his crew safe (H. Moyle). This aircraft had landed safely after colliding in mid-air with another Hampden July 30, 1942, then been converted to a torpedo bomber before being issued to 415 Sqn. (H. Moyle).

Wednesday

15 #14 (F) Sqn. RCAF departs Umnak Island, Alaska for Boundary Bay, BC (RCAF Sqns.).

Beachhead at Salerno secure.

Mussolini re-establishes Fascist Party in German occupied Italy.

Operation MICROBE, a squadron of Spitfires is flown into Cos to support operations in the Dodecanese (D. Sommerville) while infantry and anti-aircraft batteries of the RAF Regiment were landed by ship and aircraft (B. Cull).

In the USA the War Food Administration predicted a bumper crop in 1944, and set a harvest goal of 1 billion bushels of wheat. This goal had to be achieved with old machinery and limited manpower, however. The manager of Massey-Harris (USA) Joe Tucker, who had been a member of both the Canadian and US planning boards, studied the situation and in August had proposed to the US War Planning Board that Massey-Harris be allowed to build a fleet of 500 of its Model 21 self powered combines (developed in the late 1930s) in Canada, to be sold to independent harvesting operators who agreed to take delivery in the southern USA and work northward as organized groups to harvest the crops from Texas to Canada. The use of modern self propelled combines to supplement existing equipment would save fuel and manpower while increasing the output of the harvest. The proposal was accepted on this date and the 'Harvest Brigade' was born (S. Moore, wikipedia, <http://legacyquarterly.com/PDF/Harvest-Brigade-Presentation.pdf>). See May, 1944.

15 417 Sqn. Spitfire Vc LZ821 struck runway markers landing in Sicily and written off (www.spitfires.ukf.net).

15 #7 Ferry Pilots Pool Canadian built Hurricane XIIa PJ689 was damaged taking off in England, F/S F.W. Birks RAF safe (R. Allenby; www.rafcommands.com).

15 #54 OTU Beaufighter IIc V8217 lost off the Faroe Islands, **F/S L.G. Boyd** and **F/S R.W.**

Calvert missing.

- 15 #1659 HCU Halifax II BB210 was on a fighter affiliation exercise when an engine mount failed, leaving the engine hanging off the wing with a wind-milling propellor. The instructor, **F/O T.C. Kaye DFC RAF (Can.)**, was unable to maintain height, so a forced landing was made, the aircraft breaking up killing F/S R.R. Clegg RAAF, but F/O Kaye, **Sgt D.G. Addison**, **Sgt W.C. Gilchrist**, **Sgt N. Martin**, **Sgt R. McNamara**, F/S W.F. Burge RAAF, Sgt J.F. Pratt RAF, Sgt W.H. Blake RAF, Sgt R.C. Bechtold RAF, P/O C.S. Lambert RAF and Sgt A.A. Deane RAF survived. Postwar F/O Kaye transferred to the RCAF (R. Allenby). See November 18-19, below.
- 15 #1664 HCU Halifax V EB198 ZU-O was over the bomb ranges making practice drops when the pilot's escape hatch began to break loose. The crew attempted to secure it but it broke away and struck the right fin, damaging it and the rudder. With only partial control the pilot, F/O H.A. Poulter RAAF, ordered a bail out before attempting a force landing. Sadly he crashed and was killed, but his crew survived, Sgt S.C. Sharp RAF injured, **Sgt H. Glass**, **Sgt H.J. Robinson**, Sgt C.W. Way, F/O C.W. Graham RAF (Trinidad) and Sgt D. Findlay RAF safe (A. Storr, R. Allenby). See March 30-31, 1944.

15-16 In it's final operation in support of the fighting at Salerno #331 Wing RCAF attacked roads near Torre Annunziata in Italy. This series of attacks were a small part of the large effort by all Allied air forces in the Mediterranean to disrupt the flow of supplies to German forces (5th Year).

RAF Bomber Command sends 369 bombers plus 5 USAAF B-17s to attack the Dunlop tire factory at Montlucon, France, using the Master Bomber technique and moonlight to make a very accurate attack that damaged every building on the site. Three bombers were lost. The use of the Master Bomber for control was not used for several months after this. E. Stofer, 429 Squadron, has a detailed and interesting description of this attack [his first operation] from the point of view of a flight engineer.

617 Sqn. sent 8 Lancasters to attack the Dortmund-Ems Canal making a low altitude approach. Low level flak suppression escorts of Mosquitos were provided by detachments of 418 and 605 squadrons to and from the target. The first 12,000 lb. High Capacity bomb was used operationally on this sortie, but the target was missed due to ground fog.

The profile of the mission, low approach with climb to altitude over the target and a low level return (as practiced in the Dams Raid) proved to be costly as low visibility caused the flak suppression plan to fail, and 5 of the eight bombers were lost. This, combined with the heavy losses of the Dams Raid, led

Bomber Command to abandon the use of low level penetration flights by heavy bombers for which this Squadron had trained so hard. 617 was re-trained with new equipment to make precision attacks from high levels, but would continue to use special weapons and tactics (BC War Diaries).

- 15-16 10 Sqn. Halifax II HR920 ZA-L lost over France, **Sgt W.F. MacKenna**, Sgt F.G. Cowler RAF, P/O C.J.L. Dunlop RAF and P/O J.M. Dunlop RAF killed, P/O S.E. Stapley RAF and Sgt H. Lewis RAF PoW, Sgt W.H.B. Bilton RAF evaded.
- 15-16 427 Sqn. Halifax V DK253 ZL-M crashed in England on return from an operation, **F/O K.B. Begbie**, **F/S A. Chibanoff**, **Sgt H.W. Frost**, **F/O F.V. Webb**, Sgt R.D. Coe RAF, Sgt A.R.J. Gaiger RAF and Sgt E.T. Potts RAF killed (R. Koval).
- 15-16 427 Sqn. Halifax V, possibly LK644, returned early on 3 engines after the fourth caught fire but was put out by the crew, **Sgt Foley**, **P/O W. Mason**, **Sgt J.D. Mawson**, **Sgt Merritt**, **Sgt L.W. Webb**, **P/O F.E. Woodland** and Sgt E. Wightman RAF safe (R. Allenby).
- 15-16 427 Sqn. Halifax V returned early after being damaged by flak, **Sgt L.A. Nethery**, **Sgt J.G.M. Renaud**, Sgt A.E. Darlow RAF, F/O F.L. Webb RAF, Sgt A.W. Burrell RAF, Sgt T.E. Utton RAF and Sgt P.W. Richards RAF landed in England (R. Allenby). See May 8-9 and June 2-3, 1944.
- 15-16 428 Sqn. Halifax V LK913 NA-N hit by bombs from another aircraft on the run-in to the target and force landed in France, **P/O E.N. Bell**, **F/O H. Dereniuk**, **W/C D.W.M. Smith RAF (Can.)** and P/O R.O. Malins RAF PoW, **F/L E.B. Mason**, **P/O J.M. Nelmes**, **F/L J.M. Forman** and Sgt C. Heyworth RAF evaded. W/C Smith was 428 Sqns. commanding officer (RCAF Sqns.). The MI-9 lists at www.conscript-heroes.com states that F/L Forman was one of 5 airmen returned by 161 Sqn. Lysanders in November, Operation WATER PISTOL, while WO Nelmes and F/L Mason fought with the French Resistance during June, 1944. See Nov. 25, below.
- 15-16 434 Sqn. Halifax V EB257 WL-E was hit by incendiaries that knocked out one engine and damaged a wing, **Sgt L.A. Hoffman**, **P/O W.A. Hunt**, **F/O D.E. Smith**, **Sgt J.M. Snelgrove**, Sgt H.F. Lane RAF, Sgt F. Holmes RAF and Sgt S.A. Mitton RAF returned safely on 3 engines (R. Koval, R. Allenby).
- 15-16 617 Sqn. Lancaster III EE144 AJ-S shot down by flak at low level over Holland carrying a 12,000 lb. HC bomb which then exploded, **F/O G.A. Deering DFC**, **F/O T. Taerum DFC**, F/O F.M. Spafford DFC DFM RAAF, S/L G.W. Holden DSO DFC & Bar MiD RAF, Sgt D.J.D. Powell MiD RAF, F/L R.E.G. Hutchinson DFC & Bar RAF, F/O H.J. Pringle DFC RAF and P/O T.A. Meikle DFM RAF killed. F/O Deering and F/O Taerum were members of Guy Gibson's crew on the famous Dam Buster raid of May 17, 1943. A colour photograph of some of this crew can be found on the <http://www.urbanghostsmedia.com> website. A biography of F/O Taerum appears in the Spring 2003 issue of *Airforce Magazine*. S/L Holden had just taken command of the Squadron from W/C Gibson VC.
- 15-16 617 Sqn. Lancaster III JA874 KC-E shot down by light flak over Holland at low level

carrying a 12,000 HC bomb, **F/O W.D. Warwick**, P/O W.G. Divall RAF, Sgt E.C.A. Blake RAF, F/S R.C. McArthur RAF, F/S J.S. Simpson RAF, Sgt A.A. Williams RAF, Sgt G.S. Miles RAF and Sgt D. Allatson RAF killed.

15-16 617 Sqn. Lancaster III JA898 KC-X shot down by flak in the target area carrying a 12,000 HC bomb, **F/O G.H. Coles**, **WO1 L. Mieyette**, F/L H.S. Wilson RAF, P/O T.W. Johnson RAF, F/O J.A. Rodger RAF, F/S T.H. Payne RAF, Sgt C.M. Knox RAF and F/S E. Hornby RAF killed. A colour photograph of this crew can be found on the <http://www.urbanghostsmedia.com> website.

15-16 617 Sqn. Lancaster III JB144 KC-N "Nan" was on an operation to Germany with a 12,000 HC bomb when it flew into trees in the target area and was damaged. Over Holland the pilot, F/L L.G. Knight DSO MiD RAAF, ordered a bailout before attempting a crash landing, where he was killed, but his crew survived, **F/S H.E. O'Brien** and P/O R.E. Grayston RAF PoW, **F/S F.E. Sutherland**, P/O H.S. Hobday DFC RAF, F/O E.C. Johnson DFC RAAF, P/O R.G. Kellow DFM RAAF and Sgt L.C. Woollard RAF evaded. All of this crew except Sgt Woollard had flown on the Dams raid and successfully attacked the Möhne dam.

Thursday

16 Australians retake Lae, New Guinea (CJCA headline).

German forces at Salerno begin withdrawing to defensive positions around Naples. The Salerno beachhead is relieved by Canadian and Commonwealth units moving north from Calabria and Taranto (Oxford).

Operation MICROBE, British forces landed on the Island of Leros in the Dodecanese.

Salerno Mutiny of British soldiers in Italy occurs (wikipedia). This involved mostly veteran soldiers who had been wounded in the desert campaign and were embarked for Italy in the belief they would rejoin their old units, but mutinied when they were told they were being drafted to other units to replace casualties due to the emergency at Salerno. In the Commonwealth countries soldiers were recruited by Regiments, and being ordered to change units was almost unheard of. A Commonwealth soldier received an identifying Regimental Number, not a universal serial number used by other forces (such as the RCAF). By comparison German forces were trained to be able to form ad hoc units, especially in an emergency. This training meant that if pushed out of a position German soldiers of different units could quickly be reformed into new units to counter-attack the lost position. But to a Commonwealth soldier being transferred to another regiment was considered a disgrace.

In Denmark the Frihedsradet, or Freedom Council, is formed to co-ordinate Danish resistance (Oxford).

Topcliffe Operational Base and Linton-on-Ouse Operational Base renamed #61 (Training) Base and #62 "Beaver" Base, RCAF (RCAF Sqns.).

#166 (Communications) Sqn. formed by detaching the former WAC Communications Flight from #122 (K) Sqn. (RCAF Sqns.).

Operation KIEBITZ, U-536 is on station off Pointe Maisonnette, New Brunswick, to pick up escaped German PoWs (from website Oshawa Remembers). Corvette HMCS Rimouski, specially modified with an experimental and highly effective diffuse lighting camouflage system (developed by the National Research Council and designed to blend in with background light), leads a special task group to capture the U-boat, but despite being sighted several times U-536 evades capture. Escaped U-boat Captain Heyda was recaptured on the beach (sequence and date of these events not yet confirmed).

Other escape attempts were made from Canada during the war, notably seaman Karl Rabe who made 2 escapes in Ontario and in 1943 made 4 attempts to escape from a camp at Lethbridge, Alberta, including using a home made hot air balloon (wikipedia). At least one German PoW was apprehended trying to steal an aircraft from a BCATP airfield (H.A. Halliday www.rafcommands.com).

- 16 420 Sqn. Wellington X HE973, Tunisia, was taking off on an air test when an engine failed and it belly-landed, **Sgt L.E. Wilson** and crew safe (BLME V.2).
- 16 759 Sqn., HMS Heron, Yeovilton, FAA Canadian built Sea Hurricane I AE967 crashed in England, Midshipman(A) J.H. Ferrers-Guy killed (CWGC; www.rafcommands.com; dorset.hampshireairfields.co.uk).
- 16 #17 AFU Master II AZ698 crashed in England after a mid-air collision with a Wellington X3807, **Sgt H.W. Scott** and F/S R. Kershaw RAF killed (R. McNeill www.rafcommands.com). The Wellington continued it's flight.
- 16 #301 Ferry Training Unit, England, Hudson V AM885 crashed in Eire on a fuel consumption test, **F/S A.J. Chabara**, F/S J. Colhoun RAF and F/S P. Owen RAF killed (D. Burke, www.ww2irishaviation.com).
- 16 #6 EFTS, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, DH.82C Tiger Moth #1205 crashed 20 miles NW of the airfield for unknown reasons, **LAC(P) V.R. Miller** killed.
- 16 #32 OTU, Patricia Bay, BC, Canadian built Hampden TB.I P5399 was written off after the undercarriage collapsed on take-off, P/O E.J. Stainer safe (H. Moyle).
- 16 #36 SFTS, Penhold, Alberta, Oxford I AR770 spun and crashed near Innisfail, Alberta on a solo training flight, **LAC(P) R.R.R. Gilpin** RAAF killed (A. Storr).
- 16 unknown unit, aero engine mechanic **AC2 J.A. Bridge** died in hospital in Moncton, NB,

- after an operation (www.rafcommands.com).
- 16 unknown unit, AC1 J.T. Middlemiss RAF died in Ottawa of natural causes while on leave (www.rafcommands.com).

16-17 205 Group sent #331 Wing Wellingtons as part of an attack on the airfield at Cisterna (5th Year).

Bomber Command sent 340 bombers with 5 USAAF B-17s to attack the railway yards at Modane in the French Alps, an important transportation nexus to Italy. Marking in the steep valley that surrounding the target was poor, as was the bombing, and 3 bombers were lost. Another 12 Lancasters were sent to the Anthéor Viaduct near Cannes, another choke point in the rail lines to Italy, but no hits were made and 1 bomber was lost. Other operations included 5 Mosquitos to Berlin and 3 OTU sorties without loss (BC War Diaries).

- 16-17 138 Sqn. Halifax II JD156 NF-W shot down by a night fighter off Jutland on a supply dropping sortie to Poland, Operation FLAT 5, **F/O J.R. Bradley**, Sgt H. Johnston RAF killed, F/S G.E. Snook RAAF missing, F/S L.A. Trotter RAAF, F/S D.R. Quinlivan RAAF, Sgt S. Francis RAF and F/S G.T. Jones RAF PoW.
- 16-17 196 Sqn. Stirling III EF114 ZO-H lost over France, **F/O H.A.N. Kitchen**, F/S N.N. Wakely RNZAF, Sgt S.T. Flatman RAF, Sgt W.A. Gilbert RAF, Sgt G.E. Kane RAF, Sgt G.F. Pyott RAF and Sgt A.S. Taylor RAF killed.
- 16-17 410 Sqn. Mosquito FB.VI HJ827 lost on an INTRUDER to France, **F/O J.E. Fisher** and F/O D. Ridgway RAF killed. F/O Fisher had been injured Dec. 22, 1942 in the crash of a 272 Sqn. Beaufighter at Ta Kali (Ta' Qali), Malta.
- 16-17 419 Sqn. Halifax II LW240 VR-S shot down by one or possibly two night fighters over France, **Sgt E.E. Bowden**, **P/O L.E. Aspinall**, F/L A.N. Quaile RAF and F/L B.L. Kenyon RAF PoW, **Sgt L.F. Martin**, **P/O G.T. Graham**, **F/O H.F.E. Smith** and F/S T.J. Bright RAF evaded. F/L Kenyon and F/O Smith were the squadron's Gunnery Leaders. F/L Quaile, the pilot, had his parachute open by accident while leaving the cockpit, and he bailed out with the parachute in his arms (419 SH). The 419 Squadron history has brief accounts of the evasion of Sgt Martin, P/O Graham and F/L Smith. Post war F/L Kenyon became a famous artist (O. Clutton-Brock).
- 16-17 619 Sqn. Lancaster III EE106 PG-E slightly damaged by flak on the attack on the Anthéor Viaduct, and ditched in the Atlantic off Oporto, Portugal, where **Sgt G.E. Deschaine**, Sgt A.E. Brookes RAF, P/O A.W.E. Cartwright DFM RAF, Sgt C.S. Cook RAF, F/S R.G. Faux RAF, F/O A.D. Holding RAF and F/L S.E.J. Jones DFM RAF were rescued by a fishing boat and briefly interned (www.conscript-heroes.com). GEE had failed and the aircraft was flying by dead reckoning in cloud. Breaking out of cloud they found themselves over Spain, far off course, and unable to reach England they attempted to reach Gibraltar but were not able to (H.A. Halliday at www.rafcommands.com).

Friday

17 Operation MICROBE, German air attacks on the airfield at Cos begin. The airfields on Rhodes were only 60 miles (97 km) from Cos (B. Cull).

- 17 252 Sqn. Beaufighter VI JL766 'G', P/O P.F. Glynn was part of a sweep that attacked a German convoy off Naxos, and damaged an escorting Ar 196 floatplane fighter, and later with 227 Sqn. Beaufighter VI JL915 'A' flown by P/O D.M. Anderson attacked another Ar 196 that had landed on the sea. On return P/O Glynn had to belly land his damaged Beaufighter (B. Cull). See September 24, below.
- 17 404 Sqn. aero engine mechanic Cpl E.J.M. Ferrier was killed when he was struck by the propeller of a taxiing Beaufighter as it turned onto the perimeter track at Wick, Scotland.
- 17 #3 (Coastal) OTU Wellington MP710 lost over the Irish Sea on a training exercise after radioing an SOS. A search for survivors was ended by bad weather. F/O H.E. Davis, F/O J.W. Pike RAAF, P/O S.J. Dudley RAF, Sgt E. Vose RAF, Sgt J. Toyne RAF and Sgt D. Cockerill RAF missing (A. Storr).
- 17 #7 (Coastal) OTU Wellington VIII W5647 flew into a hill in Northern Ireland, F/O K.A. Norris RCAF (USA) killed, P/O McWhannel RAF injured, Sgt Parker, Sgt Stuckle, Sgt Platt and Sgt Smith safe (alclark www.rafcommands.com).
- 17 #10 OTU Whitley V LA879 crashed after a mid-air collision with Whitley V Z9471 while both were on a BULLSEYE sortie, F/O B.E. Brown, F/O L.A. Buck RAF, F/O J. Gibson RAF, Sgt J.D. Arthur RAF and Sgt G.W. Clements RAF killed on LA879, and F/O M.W. Moore RAF, Sgt H.E. Scarborough RAF, Sgt J.G. Boundy RAF, Sgt K.C. Blanch RAF and Sgt J.R. Grimmond RAF killed on Z9471.
- 17 #3 SFTS, Calgary, Alberta, Crane I #8128 dove into the ground and exploded while flying a night circuit, LAC(P) S.C. Dumont killed. See #12 SFTS loss July 25, 1942.
- 17 #31 OTU, Debert, NS, Hudson IIIa BW402 damaged in an accident and later written off, no casualties (Chris Charland www.rafcommands.com, R.W.R. Walker).
- 17 #32 OTU, Patricia Bay, BC, Canadian built Hampden TB.I AN146 crashed approaching to land, Sgt A.W. Fear RAF killed (*Times Colonist Patricia Bay Aircrash List 2009*, H. Moyle).
- 17 #36 OTU, Greenwood, NS, Canadian built Mosquito B.XX KB178 crashed near Hampden Bridgetown, NS, flew into a hill in poor visibility, P/O T.A. Pittock RAF and F/O A.J. Rutherford RAAF killed (#36 OTU Roll of Honour, A. Storr)
- 17 RAF Ferry Command, Baltimore V FW377 had an engine fail and swung taking off from Belem, Brazil. It collided with Baltimore IIIa FA114, destroying both, P/O R.R. Colls RAF killed.
- 17 unknown unit, LAC M.C. Brownscombe died of natural causes at Trenton, Ontario.

17-18 The fighter airfield at Cerveteri was attacked by 205 Group Wellingtons including those from #331 Wing RCAF (5th Year).

17-18 40 Sqn. Wellington X HF534 'D' crashed in flames off coast of Italy after bombing the target, **WO2 P.E. Nichols** killed, **WO1 B.M. Berven DFM**, **WO2 H.A. Pennell**, F/S J. Hawkyard RAF and F/S W.G. Webster RAF missing (BLME V.2).

17-18 #17 OTU Wellington X HE324 crashed in England on a night cross country flight, **P/O H. Farrer**, F/S N.N. Dunn RAAF, Sgt H.A. Newnham RAAF, Sgt J. Donnachie RAF, Sgt R.E. Dolling RAF and Sgt J.W. Hallam RAF killed.

Saturday

18 Bryansk recaptured by advancing Soviets (A. Beevor).

German bombers begin heavy raids on island of Cos and it's airfield. 417 Sqn. relocates from Sicily to the Italian mainland (RCAF Sqns.).

18 114 Sqn. Boston III AL703 hit an obstruction and crashed while engaged in a night strafe of an airfield at Naples, Italy, killing **F/O J. Fearn**, Sgt G.C. Robinson RAF, F/O B.H. Steele RAF and Sgt W. Turnbull (CWGC; BLME V.2).

18 401 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BM199 abandoned over the Channel after a glycol leak following combat near Dieppe, **F/O J.W. Fiander** bailed out and was rescued by a Walrus ASR aircraft. F/O Fiander had been previously rescued December 4, 1942.

18 #6 Group Battle School, **Sgt T.W. Draper** was involved in a practical map-reading course involving cross-country ground exercises when he drowned trying to cross the River Swale in England.

18 #1652 HCU Halifax II DT547 'A' force landed after an engine fell out of the aircraft on a training flight, **F/L J.M. Candlish** and his crew safe. See November 11-12, below.

18 #4 Wireless School, Guelph, Ontario chef **AC2 C.W. Willard** died of injuries from a car accident.

18-19 205 Group Wellingtons including those from #331 Wing RCAF followed up a daylight USAAF attack on the bomber airfield at Viterbo, Italy on this night.

Sunday

19 Returning to Australia from Egypt with a load of phosphate the Canadian built freighter Fort Longueuil was torpedoed in the middle of the Indian Ocean by U-532. There was no distress call. Of the 59 crew only two survived on a raft, coming ashore in Sumatra after 134 days at sea and were taken prisoner by Japanese forces (www.uboa.net).

Coming back from escorting the battleship HMS Renown (returning to England with PM Churchill on board) #10 (BR) Liberator #586 'A', **F/L R.F. Fisher pilot, attacks and sinks U-341. See Oct. 26, below.**

German forces evacuate Sardinia (Oxford).

417 Sqn. moves to mainland Italy (5th Year).

- 19 112 Sqn. Kittyhawk III FR860 GA-D shot down by flak in Italy, **WO1 W.D. Brown, Purple Heart (USA)** killed, he has no known grave. WO Brown received his unusual award after being wounded in combat December 11, 1941 (H. Halliday www.rafcommands.com). According to *The R.C.A.F. Overseas - The Sixth Year* only 1 Purple Heart was awarded to a member of the RCAF in the war.
- 19 296 Sqn. Albemarle GT.I P1528 crashed in Algeria, **WO1 E.H. Robinson** killed (CWGC).
- 19 411 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BL422 shot down by a German fighter over France, **F/L V.A. Haw** PoW.
- 19 #1 (Coastal) OTU Hudson V AM840 ditched killing **WO2 J.G.L. Boisvert**, three other RCAF aircrew were rescued by a fishing boat (R. McNeill, www.rafcommands.com).
- 19 #132 OTU Beaufighter JL852 suffered an engine failure and ditched off England, P/O R.L. Church RAF missing, **P/O J. MacGregor** rescued by a ship (R. McNeill & H. Welting www.rafcommands.com).
- 19 #32 OTU, Patricia Bay, BC, Canadian built Hampden I AJ993 dove into the sea on a navigation exercise near Cape Flattery, **WO2 J.H-T. Bateman, WO2 A. France, P/O H.H. Frost** and Sgt A. Dobie RAF missing.
- 19-20 138 Sqn. Halifax II BB317 NF-N was damaged over Holland on Special Operation PARSNIP 7/LETTUCE 12 and ditched in the North Sea. F/S N.L. Sherwood RAF and Sgt B.S. Burch RAF went down with the aircraft and are missing, the rest of the crew, **Sgt L.A. Wilson**, P/O J. Loughran RAF, Sgt O.J. Davies RAF, Sgt R.W. Scales RAF and Sgt R.T. Chinn RAF, took to their life raft. They were taken PoW except for Sgt Chinn who was washed out of the raft before rescue and drowned.
- 19-20 138 Sqn. Halifax V DG252 NF-B was on a Special Operation CATARRH 14/LEEK 9 over Holland and came down off the Frisian Islands, **S/L R.P. Wilkin DFC MC (Czech.) MiD**, P/O G.A. Berwick DFM RAF, F/O J.W.H. Brown DFM RAF and F/O H. Burke DFM RAF killed, F/S A. Hughes MC (Czech.) RAF missing. A photo of this aircraft and a profile can be found in the book "*Halifax at War*".

Monday

20 French troops re-take Corsica (CJCA headline). [Announcement that French SOE units had been landed on Corsica, on Sept. 15, to assist Italian and local resistance to harass German forces, who had been ordered to evacuate the island (Oxford).]

German U-boats in Atlantic use acoustic torpedos, which home in on propellor noise, for the first time against a convoy, sinking several merchant ships and the escorts HMCS St. Croix and HMS Polyanthus from westbound convoy

ONS-18. Survivors picked up by HMS Itchen. The German Navy hoped these new torpedos combined with other measures would counter recent gains by the Allies in the Atlantic. See September 22, below.

DH.100 Spider Crab jet fighter makes it's first flight, the third British jet design and their second jet fighter to fly. It would be renamed the Vampire before going into service (wikipedia).

#10 Bombing & Gunnery School, Mount Pleasant, PEI, opens, the last B&G School formed in the BCATP (<http://www.bombercrew.com/BCATP.htm>).

- 20 450 Sqn. RAAF, Kittyhawk hit by flak while strafing vehicles in Italy, F/S H.F. "Rusty" Rushton force landed in the mountains behind German lines and was burnt when the aircraft caught on fire. He was taken care of by local Italians who got a message through the lines, and was contacted by a Canadian Army patrol and evacuated through the mountains in a Jeep (D. Newton, <http://www.450squadron.org.au>).
- 20 #8 (BR) Sqn. RCAF Bolingbroke IV #9056 was being ferried from Sea Island to storage at Boundary Bay when it broke up doing aerobatics and crashed 1 mile east of Crescent Bay killing F/O B.W. Bristol RCAF (USA) and WO2 J.D. McIntosh. It is believed F/O Bristol had fought in the Spanish Civil War.
- 20 unknown unit AC1 H. Bonder died in Canada of natural causes (www.rafcommands.com).
- 20 Curtiss-Wright Aircraft, Buffalo, NY, USA, former F/O H.F. Marting MC RCAF (USA) died in South Carolina in the crash of P-40N 42-105983 in South Carolina. F/O Marting had been shot down near Tobruk with 450 Sqn. RAAF and taken PoW, he later escaped from Greece to Turkey in 1942. He was released from the RCAF in January 1943 on medical grounds as a result of scurvy from his desert service and captivity, and began working for Curtiss-Wright as a test pilot in June. He is buried in the USA (www.americanairmuseum.com; AAIR).
- 20 #1 Manning Depot, Toronto, Ontario, AC2 R. McKay medically discharged August, 1942, died during an operation following an attempted suicide (www.rafcommands.com).

20-21 In Italy #331 Wing RCAF Wellingtons attacked roads and a railway bridge north of Benevento (5th Year).

Bomber Command had 26 GARDENING and 3 OTU sorties in this night, no losses (BC War Diaries).

- 20-21 432 Sqn. Wellington X HF456 QO-D overran the runway landing from a GARDENING sortie off Brest and was badly damaged when the undercarriage collapsed, P/O S.K. Atkinson, Sgt L.F. Cook, Sgt W.A. Grant, Sgt H.A. Turner and P/O A.W. Chubb

RAF safe (R. Allenby). See September 27-28 and December 16-17 below.

Tuesday

21 At sea the first Merchant Aircraft Carrier (MAC) ship Empire MacAlpine, part of convoy ONS-18, makes the first air patrol of these new ships, a Swordfish sweep astern, which saw no U-boats but was able to use it's search radar to guide the corvette HMCS Moose Jaw back to the convoy directly through fog before making a landing back aboard, also using radar to locate the ship in limited visibility (K. Poolman).

These MAC ships were converted bulk freighters and sailed as part of the convoy itself, rather than independently as aircraft carriers would. They could operate aircraft from their flight decks but usually had no internal hangar, the aircraft being left and serviced on the open deck, and were vulnerable to damage in rough weather. Instead of a hangar they carried bulk cargo, usually grain or oil. This meant that when reaching Halifax their Swordfish aircraft were often in poor condition and needed overhauls before being used again. The aircraft were taken (sometimes in pieces) to RCAF Dartmouth, where a reserve of overhauled and airworthy Swordfish was kept to supply to MAC ships and the overhauls and salvage done.

21 624 Sqn. Halifax V DG354 was taking off on a Special Operations flight to France when it swung and lost it's undercarriage in Algeria, **Sgt V.A. Ferguson** and his crew, Sgt J. Machlen injured, Sgt Funstone, F/S Graham, F/S Laing, Sgt Smedley and Sgt Smith (RAF?) safe (BLME V.2).

21 #24 OTU Whitley V AD697 TY-J was on a BULLSEYE sortie which was to target London. Over the city they discovered they were in the midst of a real air raid, and they had an engine knocked out by anti-aircraft fire. Unable to maintain height, and unable to get airfields below to turn on their lights due to the raid, they spotted a light below which was at a small airfield and crash-landed on the adjacent golf course, **Sgt G.F. Fielding**, **Sgt J.J. Mulvaney** and their crew safe (Lancaster, C. et al). See Feb. 24-25, 1944 and June 1, 1945.

21 #1651 HCU Stirling I N3707 'D' swung on take-off and collided with 218 Sqn. Stirling III EE966, **F/O N.J. Depoe** and F/S P.F. Mason RNZAF injured, Sgt J.S. Gallagher RNZAF, Sgt L. Kell RNZAF, Sgt R.F. Lashley RAF, Sgt J.W. Hennis RAF and Sgt H.W. Steggleo RAF safe. The 218 aircraft was repaired.

21 #7 (BR) Sqn. RCAF, Prince Rupert Bay, BC, floatplane Shark #548 was undergoing daily maintenance at a raft when a depth charge was accidentally released into the water and exploded, killing armourers **LAC L.O. Dorge** and **AC1 J.A. Fraser**.

21-22 #331 Wing RCAF Wellingtons attacked the port of Bastia which was being used for the evacuation of German forces from Corsica (5th Year).

21-22 #12 OTU Wellington III BK200 'A' crashed making an overshoot returning from a navigation exercise, **F/S W.N. Gould**, **F/S L. Sillito**, F/S K.L. Hart RAAF, Sgt W.G. Denyer RAF, Sgt K. Mackenzie RAF and Sgt R. Cave RAF killed. F/S Gould had been injured Aug. 3, above, in the loss of #12 OTU Wellington III X3876

Wednesday

22 German battleship Tirpitz badly damaged in attack by British midget submarines (Polsson).

ONS-18, HMS Itchen sunk by an acoustic torpedo on the Grand Banks (wikipedia), with only three survivors, one each from the escorts St. Croix, Polyanthus and Itchen. Allied navies, assisted by the development of their own homing torpedo ("Mark 24 Depth Charge" or "Z-Bomb"), have counter measures already developed and they are soon in use, nullifying the German advantage much sooner than expected by Admiral Dönitz.

Swordfish from MAC ship Empire MacAlpine in this convoy attacked a U-boat with depth charges and rockets without result (K. Poolman).

#10 (BR) Sqn. aircraft was engaged in several combats with U-boats attacking westbound convoy ON-202 (<https://www.uboot.net/ops/wolfpacks/136.html>). Liberator #597 'L' (WO J. Billings**) attacked and damaged U-270, forcing it to break off its patrol, but was damaged in turn and returned on three engines with a wounded co-pilot. Liberator #595 'X' (**F/O J.R. Martin**) attacked U-377 with its depth charges, and then found U-402, which it attacked with its guns (**H.A. Halliday, R.W.R. Walker**). See June 4, 1944 and July 6, 1945.**

22 160 Sqn. Liberator III FL939 'M' took off from Ceylon on a photo reconnaissance sortie to the Nicobar Islands. It did not return, and a radio broadcast claimed it was shot down by Japanese Naval fighters. One of the intercepting fighters was also shot down (C. Shores). **WO1 L.A. Munson**, P/O J. Cohen RAAF, F/O T.R. Pallett RAF, F/S F. Somerville RAF, Sgt F. Bloss RAF, Sgt A.J.N. Owen RAF, Sgt H. Deeny RAF and Sgt F.E. Naylor RAF missing (Storr).

22 #2 AFU Anson I N9718 crashed into the sea after an overshoot landing, **P/O L.S. Gibson**, Sgt D.S.W. Deane RAF, Sgt W.B. Bain RAF Sgt D. Clayton RAF and Sgt W. Dowling killed (R. Allenby).

22 #163 (AC) Sqn. RCAF Harvard II #2572 'Q' crashed doing a bombing demonstration near Mott Lake, Alberta, **F/O H.A. Spence** killed.

22 #1 SFTS, Camp Borden, Ontario, Harvard IIb FE946 was on an armament exercise and hit the ground at Arnold, Ontario, killing **LAC(P) J.G. Heimrich**.

22 #2 SFTS, Uplands, Ontario, Harvard II #3166 crashed 3 miles south of Capri, Ontario, **LAC(P) R.N. Hammond** killed.

- 22 #2 Training Command, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4172 damaged and written off, no details (R.W.R. Walker).
- 22 #31 OTU, Debert, NS, Hudson V AM755 crashed just after take-off, killing **F/S J. Creighton RCAF (N. Ireland)**, **F/S S.S. McHardy**, Sgt B.W. Lambert RAF and Sgt S.W. Poyntz RAF (#31 OTU / #7 OTU Roll of Honour).
- 22 unknown unit, Trenton, Ontario, **AC1(AG) W.R. Alder** died of natural causes in hospital in Toronto (www.rafcommands.com).

22-23 In the Atlantic the fight around convoys ONS-18 and ON-202 continued through the night as #10 (BR) Liberator GR.V #600 'N' found a U-boat using it's ASV radar and attacked it with it's guns (R.W.R. Walker).

In Italy #331 Wing Wellingtons attacked roads around Formia again (5th Year).

Bomber Command sent 711 bombers with 5 B-17s from the USAAF 422nd Sqn. to attack Hannover, the first of a series of attacks on this target. Strong winds over the target dispersed the bombing and it is believed not much was achieved by the operation. As well 21 Lancasters and 8 Mosquitos made a diversionary attack on Oldenburg which drew off night fighters and reduced casualties, 26 bombers were lost from the main attack. Other tasks undertaken were 12 Mosquitos on another diversion to Emden, 4 GARDENING sorties and 7 OTU sorties without loss (BC War Diaries).

- 22-23 7 Sqn. Lancaster III JB184 MG-V lost over Germany, **F/L L.R. Farrow**, P/O J.H. Gillmore RAF, P/O W.E. Stenhouse RAF, Sgt J.L. Newman RAF, Sgt R. Norris RAF and Sgt R. Hutton RAF killed, Sgt G.N. Breedon RAF PoW.
- 22-23 9 Sqn. Lancaster I R5700 WS-N shot down over Germany, **Sgt D. Everest**, **WO2 N.A. Noble**, F/S E.J. Crabtree RAAF, Sgt V. Hirst-Gee RAF, Sgt V.J. Lander RAF, Sgt M.J. MacRitchie RAF and Sgt G.A. Sales RAF killed.
- 22-23 10 Sqn. Halifax II HR924 ZA-N was attacked and badly damaged. Abandoned on return to England, **Sgt R.N. Hurst DFM**, F/L J.G. Jenkins DFC RAF, Sgt J.H. Banks RAF, Sgt W.D. Ryan RAF, Sgt E. Saddington RAF, Sgt J. Whatley RAF and F/S A.L. Fuller RAAF safe. Sgt Hurst, F/L Jenkins, Sgt Ryan, Sgt Saddington, Sgt Whatley and F/S Fuller had come through a similar attack leading to a crash landing Aug. 2-3, above.
- 22-23 51 Sqn. Halifax II JN901 shot down by a night fighter on an operation to Germany, **Sgt T.A. Thomson**, F/O P.P. Pohe RNZAF, Sgt S. Hayes RAF, Sgt F.G. Ward RAF, Sgt F.G. Wells RAF, Sgt J.H. Hawkins RAF and Sgt C.F. Dowlman RAF PoW. F/O Pohe was one of the participants in The Great Escape and was murdered on or about March 31, 1944 by the Gestapo.
- 22-23 76 Sqn. Halifax V EB253 MP-C lost, Sgt F. Stothard RAF killed, **WO2 L.N.L. Kerr RCAF (Trinidad)**, Sgt B. Fjaervoll RNor.AF, Sgt A.G.O. Osnes RNor.AF and Sgt K.

Meredith RAF missing, Sgt G.F. Old RAF and Sgt J.R. Dennis RAF PoW. Chorley notes that Sgt Dennis was found in the wreckage severely injured. His life was saved by German soldiers who stabilized him and transported him to hospital where a German surgeon saved his life and his legs. He was repatriated a year later.

- 22-23 76 Sqn. Halifax V LK645 MP-S "*Saint the Third*" lost over Germany, **W/C F.W.S. Turner DFC MiD RAF (Can.)** and Sgt R. Wray RAF killed, P/O D.O. Cull RAAF, Sgt J. Cole RAF, Sgt G.F. Bryant RAF, F/O J.A. Beggs RAF and Sgt B.C. Bailey RAF PoW. W/C Turner had piloted a Blenheim on the first Bomber Command operation of the war, Sept. 4, 1939, to Wilhemshaven, and had been one of the first pilots with 419 Squadron when it formed (419 SH). A photo of the artwork of this aircraft can be found in "*Halifax at War*".
- 22-23 77 Sqn. Halifax II JB850 KN-E lost over Germany, **WO2 E.B. Donnelly, F/O E.H. Erickson**, Sgt R.J. Cheadle RAF, Sgt C.E. Crisp RAF, Sgt H.D. Evans RAF, Sgt J. Harman RAF and Sgt G.C. Stolberg RAF killed.
- 22-23 90 Sqn. Stirling III MZ262 WP-K caught fire in the air soon after taking off and crashed in England, **WO2 G.W. Moore**, Sgt F.E. Hayman RAF, Sgt J.D. Law RAF, Sgt J.F.M. Gunn RAF, Sgt A.J. Lane RAF and Sgt R. Payton RAF killed, F/S G.L. Duffy RAF injured. TSGNO notes that WO2 Moore had been slightly injured August 18, 1942 when an Anson made a forced landing 15 miles north of the airfield of Rivers, Man.
- 22-23 101 Sqn. Lancaster I W4324 SR-M lost over Germany, **Sgt G.R. Jordan**, Sgt A. Davis RAF, Sgt J. Evans RAF, Sgt C.J. Green RAF, Sgt G.E. Reeve RAF, Sgt W.R. Stables RAF and Sgt B. Turner RAF killed.
- 22-23 158 Sqn. Halifax II HR776 NP-S shot down by a night fighter over Germany, **F/S M.J.G. Aubin**, Sgt R.P. Dean RAF and Sgt A. Girdler RAF killed, **F/O W.P. Hennessey RAF (Nfld.)**, P/O B.N. Allsopp RAAF, Sgt W. Spooner RAF and Sgt D.W. Jones RAF PoW.
- 22-23 158 Sqn. Halifax II LW261 NP-S lost over Germany, probably shot down by a night fighter, **P/O O.D. Harrison**, F/S A.H. McDonald RAAF, Sgt A.L. Humble RAF, Sgt E.S. Shrimpton RAF, Sgt N. Teasdale RAF, Sgt R.V. Vandy RAF and F/S H.G. Talbot RNZAF killed.
- 22-23 218 Sqn. Stirling III BK700 HA-L lost over Germany, **P/O C.M. Colquhoun**, Sgt W.A. Hart RAF, Sgt J.B. Malcolm RAF, Sgt E.W.D. Parry RAF, Sgt P.S. Raddall RAF, Sgt J. Yule RAF and F/S K. Hewitson RAF killed.
- 22-23 218 Sqn. Stirling III EF139 HA-B struck by falling bombs and broke up in the air over Germany, **P/O R.F. Eberle, F/S G.M. King, F/S N.V. Spencer, WO2 D.M. Wylie** and Sgt H.J. Hicks RAF killed, **F/S A.W. Baker** and Sgt W.G. Moremont RAF PoW.
- 22-23 418 Sqn. Mosquito FB.VI HX818 was on a night INTRUDER to Germany and was hit by debris from a German aircraft they had destroyed. Returning to England an engine and wing caught fire and the aircraft was abandoned over the sea, **S/L C.C. Moran** was rescued, F/S G.V. Rogers RAF missing. This flight was cited in the award of a DFC to S/L Moran (Awards). S/L Moran's account of this loss was

printed in *The R.C.A.F. Overseas - The Fifth Year*.

- 22-23 427 Sqn. Halifax V had an engine fire which was controlled, but had to jettison its bombs, **Sgt O.J. Mohler RCAF (USA)**, **Sgt R.H.L. Potentier**, **P/O G.M. Walls**, **Sgt D.F. Wilson**, **Sgt G.W. Wolton**, Sgt S.M. Byrne RAF, Sgt J.R. Brown RAF and 1 crew landed back on 3 engines (R. Allenby). See March 24-25 and May 27-28, 1944.
- 22-23 428 Sqn. Halifax V LK635 NA-H lost without trace, **F/S W.E. Dickson**, **F/O H.E. McRae**, **Sgt E.G.F. Miller**, Sgt A.R. Bohn RAF, Sgt L. Cotton RAF, Sgt D.E. Jeffery RAF and Sgt J. Wright RAF missing.
- 22-23 428 Sqn. Halifax V LK914 NA-K lost on an operation to Germany, **F/O W.C. Ingraham**, Sgt G.F. Fox RAF, Sgt V. Moore RAF, Sgt C.W.E. Palmer RAF, Sgt L. Pelmeur RAF and F/O K.W. Jones RAF killed, Sgt E.G. Bartram RAF PoW.
- 22-23 432 Sqn. Wellington X LN547 QO-G lost on an operation to Germany, Sgt L.J. Tierney RAF, P/O J.R. Sewell RAF, P/O L.M. Whetten RAF, Sgt J.H. Mush RAF and F/S B. Williams RNZAF PoW. Sgt Williams had been injured in the crash of a 51 Sqn. Halifax April 3-4, 1943 (E. Martyn www.rafcommands.com).
- 22-23 432 Sqn. Wellington X LN394 QO-S failed to become airborne on taking off, ran into the overshoot area where it lost its undercarriage and skidded into a field, **F/S J.H. Blue**, **F/S W.N. Chalk**, **F/S J.C. Grover**, **F/S A.W. Puffer** and P/O L.G. Southwood RAF safe (R. Allenby).
- 22-23 432 Sqn. Wellington X LN554 QO-P damaged over the target and, losing fuel, ditched in the North Sea 60 miles off the British coast, **WO2 R.M. Barlow** and F/S F. Reeson RAF missing, **Sgt A. Hoggins**, **Sgt W. Mayo** and Sgt A. Buchan RAF were spotted the next day by another Squadron aircraft flown by F/O A. Mercer (**F/O A.C.G. Mercer?**) on a sea search and rescued after 12 hours (R. Koval). This loss and rescue was detailed in *The R.C.A.F. Overseas - The Fifth Year*. See Nov. 16, below.
- 22-23 434 Sqn. Halifax V LK909 WL-G lost over Germany, **WO1 A. Heaney**, **F/S R.P. Reynolds**, F/S D.J. Burge RAF, F/S A.F. Cudd RAF, Sgt E.C. Coward RAF, Sgt J. Cross RAF, Sgt S.C.H. Hearn RAF and P/O H. Green RAF killed.

Thursday

23 USAAF units begin practicing bombing through clouds using H2X (US built H2S radar) (Zijlstra).

Convoy ON-202 was attacked in the western Atlantic south of Greenland by U-238 which sank the freighters Oregon Express, Skjelbred and the Canadian built Fort Jemseg (www.uboot.net).

#10 (BR) Sqn. Liberators continued its battle with U-boats, #594 'P', S/L J.F. Green, attacking 2, and #596 'Y', F/L R.R. Ingrams, attacking 1. In #594 an observer on the flight was AVM A.E. Godfrey, who manned a waist machine gun during

the attacks and was thus the highest ranked member of the RCAF to directly engage an enemy in the war (R.W.R. Walker). Recognition for the Squadrons work in this 5 day period came in the awarding of 8 DFCs and 11 MiDs (H.A. Halliday). See September 24, 1944.

On this date 860 aircraft landed or took off from Edmonton's airport, Blatchford Field, making it the busiest airport in the world on that day. These included aircraft being test flown after repair or modification by Aircraft Repair Ltd., Anson training aircraft from locally based #2 Air Observer School, RCAF liaison and transport aircraft, USAAF aircraft staging to and from Alaska, US built aircraft being flown to Alaska enroute to the USSR under Lend-Lease, aircraft supporting the construction of the Alaska Highway, CANOL and other projects in the North and Northwest, and civilian aircraft flying to the north including to Port Radium on Great Bear Lake where radium ore for the Manhattan Project was being mined. The congestion at this airfield, which was limited in expansion due to the surrounding city and railyards, resulted in the USAAF building a new airfield at Namao, north of the city. This was the only permanent USAAF base built outside of the continental USA in the Second World War, a recognition of Edmonton's strategic location on world air routes. See August 31, 1945.

Such was the volume of air traffic in and out of Blachford Field that popcorn and hot dog vendors would set up on the median of Kingsway Avenue on weekends and sold to people who parked on the road just to watch the aircraft (many pers. comm.). The City Archives has a letter from a traveling salesman who was shocked at the aircraft passing low over downtown Edmonton, to warn them of the danger. The City knew that, as did the air forces, which is why work was underway to build the new airfield at Namao. The reason the salesman was surprised was that this activity was all secret at the time.

In Humour Hunt, Legion Magazine, January/February 2000 RCAF Veteran Jim Kirk recounts that an RCAF (USA) volunteer training with them in Edmonton, on a 48 hour pass, managed to hitch a ride on a USAAF transport to Montana, and another to his home in California, have a meal with his family, and return, hitching another ride to Great Falls and back to Blachford Field.

23 #1657 HCU Stirling I BF407 was wrecked when it made a heavy landing and a tyre burst, resulting in the loss of it's undercarriage, **Sgt G.L. Ward**, F/O J.C. Hornby RAF, Sgt A.F. Challinor RAF, Sgt N. Bartlett RAF, Sgt L.C. Casper RAF, Sgt Toogood RAF, P/O J.B. Colthurst RAF, Sgt G. Yardley RAF and Sgt A. Holt RAF safe. See Feb. 24-25, 1944.

23 #6 EFTS, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, DH.82C Tiger Moth #1168 crashed NW of

- Prince Albert, killing LAC(P) L.R. Meere.
- 23 unknown unit, LAC J.F. Campbell died in an accidental drowning at Gander, Newfoundland.

23-24 Wellingtons of #331 Wing RCAF were attacking rail yards and an airfield at Pisa being used by aircraft flying German troops out of Corsica (5th Year).

Bomber Command returned to Mannheim targeting the undamaged portion of the city with 628 RAF bombers and 5 USAAF B-17s. Marking and bombing was accurate although creepback occurred and bombs also fell on Ludwigshafen. Some twenty industries were destroyed as well as housing and other public buildings in both cities and surrounding towns. A diversionary attack by 21 Lancaster and 8 Mosquitos was made on Darmstadt which caused heavy damage on this largely nonindustrial university city, but this was a tactical failure as it was only 20 miles from main target and the main operation was easily visible. Other operations included 6 Mosquitos over Aachen and 28 OTU NICKEL sorties for a total of 696 sorties with 32 Main Force and 1 OTU bombers lost (BC War Diaries). Very clear skies may have contributed to the high loss rate (419 SH).

- 23-24 15 Sqn. Stirling III EH941 LS-V lost, F/O E.M. Cole, F/S L.K. Raymond, Sgt J.H. Anderton RAF, Sgt H.J. Thomas RAF, Sgt R.F. Devitt RAF and Sgt J.A. Town RAF killed, F/O T.G. Grant RAF PoW. F/O E.M. Cole was the brother to F/S F.M. Cole, lost June 25-26, 1942. Their brothers John Cole and James Cole also served as aircrew and survived the war (R. Koval at www.rafcommands.com).
- 23-24 57 Sqn. Lancaster III DV201 DX-M lost over Germany, F/S G.W. Speicher, F/S R.T. McCudden RAAF, F/S F.J. Austen RAF, Sgt T.J. Hall RAF, Sgt F.W. Cornwell RAF and Sgt R. Howarth RAF killed, Sgt J.V. O'Dwyer RAF PoW.
- 23-24 57 Sqn. Lancaster III JA875 DX-K lost over Germany, P/O G.R. Bourdon, Sgt R. Diggle RAF and Sgt P. Mann RAF killed, Sgt J.F. Harrison RAF, Sgt A.L. McIntosh RAF, Sgt S.G. Nicholas RAF and F/S H.A.E. Hill RAF PoW.
- 23-24 57 Sqn. Lancaster III LM336 DX-G shot down over Paris on an operation to Germany, WO2 W.H. Arnold, F/S J.P.C. Gordon, F/O J.D. Hogan, F/O R.N. Millar, Sgt E.O. Bryant RAF, Sgt C.L. Kingsnorth RAF and F/S T.P. Chadwick RAAF killed.
- 23-24 75 (New Zealand) Sqn. Stirling III EH936 JN-W lost over Germany, F/S C.F. McRae, F/L G. Turner DFC, F/O A.D. Howlett RNZAF, F/O K. Albiston RAF, Sgt J.S. Thomson RAF, Sgt A.H. Cleghorn RAF, Sgt M.V. Bloxham RAF and Sgt R. Wilks RAF killed. F/L Turner had been injured Sept. 13-14, 1942 in the loss of a #1651 CU Stirling.
- 23-24 77 Sqn. Halifax II JD301 KN-L lost over Germany, Sgt W.J. Grant RAF, Sgt G. Bown RAF, Sgt L.F. Manley RAF and Sgt C. Dickinson RAF killed, F/O J.R. Coombs, Sgt I.P. Murty RAF and Sgt R.R.A. Little RAF PoW.

- 23-24 78 Sqn. Halifax II LW266 EY-V shot down by a night fighter over Germany, WO F.M. Poole RNZAF, Sgt J.S. MacDonald RAF and Sgt H. Entwistle RAF killed, **P/O F.N. Scott**, Sgt R.L. Schelsher RAF, Sgt A.E. Sturgeon RAF and Sgt C. Gibson RAF PoW. Sgt Sturgeon escaped and returned to England in 1945.
- 23-24 78 Sqn. Halifax II LW273 EY-L was damaged by flak over Germany and came down in France, **F/O K.E. Cooper** and Sgt J. Rimmer RAF PoW, F/L J.R. Jones DFC RAAF, F/O R. Isherwood RAF, Sgt A.D. Galloway RAF, Sgt K.W. Thorpe RAF and Sgt A.F. Charman RAF evaded.
- 23-24 97 Sqn. Lancaster III ED868 OF-A lost over Germany, **F/O R.G. Christie DFM**, WO L. Stevenson RAF, Sgt J. Brett RAF, P/O J.D. Bradford DFC RAF, F/S H.G. Mitchell RAF, Sgt J. Mallaber RAF and Sgt T.G.G. Pugh RAF killed.
- 23-24 101 Sqn. Lancaster III JA977 SR-J damaged and exploded over France, **F/S E.J. Cooper**, F/S R.J. Rays RAAF, Sgt R.A. Clothier RAF, Sgt J.R. Haworth RAF, F/O A.O. Stafford DFM RAF and Sgt D.S. Turner RAF killed, F/S G.H. McGillivray RAAF and P/O A.W.H. Tustin RAF PoW. W.R. Chorley notes that F/O Stafford was a special operator on this aircraft, and believes that the bomber may have been equipped with, testing, or training for the introduction of AIRBORNE CIGAR (or ABC), a radio jamming system designed to disrupt German night fighter controller frequencies and later used exclusively by 101 Sqn. Lancasters. If so this would be the first loss of an ABC Lancaster. The special operator, a German speaker, would search for active radio frequencies. If he identified a fighter controller he would then jam that frequency with an onboard transmitter. Then he would attempt to trace the channel the controller would switch to with a special receiver and jam that with a second jammer. Then trace and jam with a third (and final) jammer, before tracing and re-tuning with his first jammer. Several aircraft would be used to cover many frequencies (M. Peden).

According to information on the *BBC WW2 People's War* website ABC was first tested Sept. 4, 1943, and first used operationally Oct. 22 (Oct. 7-8 according to Middlebrook and Everitt). The ground version of this was CORONA, based in England, which would seek controller frequencies in a similar manner but instead of just jamming them would attempt to co-opt them with a German speaking operator to mislead night fighters with disinformation, or drown out the controller with a more powerful broadcast (music, whistling or Hitler's recorded speeches were often used). For an excellent description of how ABC worked see Ludford, *Airborne Cigar: A Young Wireless Operator's Story - and a Lifelong Loss*, BBC WW2 People's War website.

- 23-24 103 Sqn. Lancaster III JB152 PM-H shot down near the target area, F/S W.H. MacDonald RAF and F/S R.J.F. Vivers RAAF killed, **F/S W.C.C. Gillespie**, F/O D.W. Finlay DFC RAF, Sgt R.H.J. Rowe DFM RAF, F/S I.D. Fletcher DFM RAF and Sgt J.H. McFarlane RAF PoW.

- 23-24 106 Sqn. Lancaster III DV271 lost over Germany, **F/O L.C. Pitman RCAF (UK)**, P/O S.R. Trill RAF, Sgt B. Royans RAF, F/S T. White RAF, Sgt T. Duffy RAF and Sgt A.S. Burgess RAF killed, P/O R. Heatherington RAF PoW.
- 23-24 149 Sqn. Stirling III EH883 OJ-A lost over Germany, **WO2 W. Ness**, WO W.J. Leedham RAF, Sgt E. Magson RAF, Sgt W.A. Beales RAF and Sgt L. Tomlinson RAF killed, **Sgt N.E. Nathanson** PoW, F/S K.F. Lear RAAF evaded.
- 23-24 218 Sqn. Stirling III EJ104 HA-G lost over Germany, **F/O A.W. Ward**, F/O A.C. Brace RAF, Sgt A. Thomas RAF, Sgt G.W. Wilkin RAF, P/O R.B. Woodhouse RAF and P/O H.E. Mosely RAF killed, Sgt R.G. Smith RAF PoW. Sgt Smith was later repatriated.
- 23-24 419 Sqn. Halifax II JB971 VR-X lost over Germany, **F/S J.E. Dayton**, **Sgt R. Dempster**, **F/S R.T. Griffiths**, **Sgt J.L.R. Rainville**, Sgt L.G. Bender RAF, Sgt C.G. Rolph RAF and Sgt A.E.C. Willig RAF killed.
- 23-24 419 Sqn. Halifax II JD457 VR-F lost over Germany, Sgt J. Kelly RAF, Sgt D.H. Perther RAF, Sgt J. Morris RAF, Sgt W.P. Maher RAF (Eire), Sgt R.W.S. McNally RAF (N. Ireland), Sgt S.T. Mills RAF and Sgt H. Brown RAF killed.
- 23-24 426 Sqn. Lancaster II DS714 OW-L was badly damaged by a night fighter attack over Germany. A second night fighter attack was made and this fighter was claimed as shot down. The bomber, which had lost it's left fin and rudder, it's hydraulics, had damage to the left wing and elevator, fuel tanks, intercom, radios, rear turret and compass (5th Year), made a crash landing at a Coastal Command airfield in England, **F/S E.S. Hawkes** and Sgt G.R. Ketcher RAF wounded, **F/L L.N. McCaig**, **F/S R.J. Orr**, **F/S T.J. Preece**, **Sgt R.D. Polson** and Sgt G.W. Wooding RAF safe. The Squadron diary entry for this sortie was reproduced in *The R.C.A.F. Overseas - The Fifth Year*. See Jan. 20-21, 1944.
- 23-24 428 Sqn. Halifax V DK271 NA-Q shot down over Germany by a combination of flak and night fighter attack, **F/S N.L. Reed**, **WO2 F.P. Sharpe**, **P/O V.A. Stewart** and **F/O R.T. Zdan** killed, **F/L H.F. Davis**, **Sgt G.R. Annand** and Sgt R.M. Alexander RAF PoW.
- 23-24 428 Sqn. Halifax V EB207 NA-B lost over Germany, **F/O W.A. Hadden**, **F/S C.W. Renwick**, F/S A.F.H. Morris RAF, F/S S.A. Whitby RAF, Sgt J. Curran RAF, Sgt P.J. Flower RAF and Sgt A. Yuill RAF killed.
- 23-24 467 Sqn. RAAF Lancaster III EE135 PO-Y lost over Germany, **WO2 M.C. Craik**, **F/S H.A. Green**, P/O A. Long RAAF, F/S O.J. Lumsden RAAF, Sgt C. Weddell RAF, Sgt J.B. Harrison RAF and Sgt T.T.B. Francis RAF killed.

Friday

24 German forces in retreat abandon Smolensk.

In the evening an attempt to expand a bridgehead on the Dnieper River by a mass drop of Soviet paratroops, went badly wrong when scattered by flak, and dropping over German troop reinforcements in error. Of 4,500 paratroops

lifted in 60% became casualties, some not finding their way back to Russian units for months. This was the last large parachute assault of the war by the Soviet Army (wikipedia).

- 24 24 Sqn. SAAF Boston III HK888 'S' hit by flak attacking an airfield in Italy and broke up in the air, Lt M.E. Bagg SAAF and Lt D.J. Michel SAAF killed, **Sgt J.L. McAninch** (injured) and F/S G.D. De Bruin SAAF PoW (BLME V.2).
- 24 39 Sqn. Beaufighter X LX779 one of two shot down by fighters while attacking Ju 52/3m transports off Elba in the Mediterranean, **P/O E.P. Twiname** and Sgt I.A. MacLeod RAF missing.
- 24 39 Sqn. Beaufighter X LX903 shot down and ditched attacking German transports in the Mediterranean, **P/O C.L. Heide** and his pilot P/O H.H. Deacon RAF evaded in Corsica. An account of their adventures can be found in Heide's book, *Whispering Death*, Trafford, 2000.
- 24 93 Sqn. Spitfire Vc (Trop.) JL232 crashed in Italy killing **WO2 B.V. Crist**.
- 24 227 Sqn. Beaufighter JL915 swung on taking off on Cyprus to a forward airstrip to support operations on Cos and collided with Beaufighter JM239, both aircraft catching fire and exploding, **F/O D.M. Anderson** and his navigator F/O J.P. Timmons RAF lost on JL915, **WO2 G.B. Grennan** and his navigator Sgt S.G.C. Palmer RAF plus spare pilot passenger F/S W.C. Budd RAF were killed in JM239 (CWGC, B. Cull).
- 24 #22 OTU Wellington III DF634 was landing after having engine problems on a cross country flight and overran the landing area in a dead calm, **F/S G.W. Horborenko** and **Sgt R.F. Guerrier** safe.
- 24 #1679 HCU Lancaster II DS626 crashed and damaged, no further details, **Sgt R.C. Burgess** and crew safe (R. Allenby). See November 16, below.
- 24 #2 SFTS, Uplands, Ontario, Harvard IIb #3293 crashed at St. Andrews, Quebec, killing **P/O H.O. Farner** and **WO2 A.E. Frazer**.

24-25 #331 Wing Wellingtons bombed Livorno as part of the effort to disrupt the evacuation of Corsica (5th Year).

Saturday

25 433 Sqn. RCAF formed in England as a Bomber unit (CCMA, RCAF Sqns.).

Lord Beaverbrook appointed Lord Privy Seal in the wartime Coalition Cabinet (D. Sommerville).

- 25 #3 Ferry Training Unit Wellington MP637 was lost in bad weather and crashed into a mountain in Morocco, **P/O B. McPherson**, **WO2 G.B. Wigle**, Sgt W.G. Prosser RAF, Sgt A.E. Carter RAF, Sgt A.G.W. Wright RAF and Sgt R. Whiting RAF killed. WO Wigle had been slightly injured on a low flying exercise April 29, 1943 when a Wellington aircraft struck the sea (TSGNO).

- 25 39 Sqn. Beaufighter X LX911 failed to return from a shipping strike off Sardinia, F/O C.L. Cullen and F/O R.W. Powell RAF missing.
- 25 148 Sqn. Liberator II (LB-30) AL506 'X' was returning to Italy from a Special Operation over Yugoslavia when 2 engines failed. Attempting a landing a third engine failed and the aircraft crash landed, WO1 C.M. Howes was killed when he jumped from the airplane before it had stopped moving, P/O R.W. Simpson, Sgt J.K. Adrien, F/O R.A. Callender, F/O M.N. Dodd and WO P. Forder (RAF?) were safe (BLME V.2).
- 25 179 Sqn. Wellington lost fifty miles west of Cape St. Vincent on Anti-Submarine patrol, F/O H.F. Beale, F/O M.J. Dowd, F/S R.W. Smith RAF (Can.) and F/S D. Abercrombie RAF missing.
- 25 #166 (Comm) Sqn. RCAF Stranraer #954 crashed on landing at Tongas Harbour, Annette Island, Alaska, killing LAC H.J.B. Harvey, aero engine mechanic LAC R. Haslett, observer P/O J.G. McRae and civilian Mr. J. Floyd. Twelve other civilian and military passengers and crew were injured.

Sunday

- 26 401 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BM627 YO-A ditched in the Channel on a RAMROD after an engine failure, S/L I.C. Ormiston DFC, who was leading his last flight in 401 before taking over 411 Sqn., was rescued by an ASR Walrus (411 SH). See Dec. 20, below.
- 26 #9 (Coastal) OTU, Beaufighter VIc JL718 crashed when landing, Sgt G.P. Cormier RAF (Can.) was killed and his navigator was injured (R. McNiell at www.rafcommands.com).
- 26 #24 OTU Whitley V Z9428 crashed in England on a BULLSEYE sortie, F/S G.M. L'Hommedieu RCAF (USA), P/O R.H.O. Mellor, F/S W.C. Reid, Sgt A.V. Andrews RAF and Sgt R.B. Morrow RAF killed.
- 26 #1660 HCU Lancaster I W4937 landed, swerved off the runway and lost it's undercarriage when the controls were inadvertently jammed, P/O M.P.C. Cuelenaere, Sgt G.B. Loney and their crew safe. See Dec. 16-17, below.

26-27 Operation JAYWICK, kayak borne Australian Commandos, having traveled from Australia in a disguised fishing boat, mine ships in Singapore, sinking or damaging 7 cargo ships. Local Japanese authorities believed the attack to have been made by local resistance members and took reprisals on the local community and civilian prisoners, but no claim was made by Allies to prevent discovery of method used (wikipedia). The Japanese also thought that imprisoned British civilians may have been involved, and on October 10 raided their prison and detained 57 suspects, 15 of whom died during a brutal interrogation, and food rations were permanently reduced beginning that day, a date known to the prisoners as "The Double Tenth" (A Woman of Longing, CBC Sunday Edition, October 13, 2019; Operation Jaywick: The WW2

Australian commando raid in Singapore, *BBC, September 25,2023*).

26-27 407 Sqn. Leigh Light Wellington XII MP593 2-P lost on an anti-submarine patrol over the Bay of Biscay, believed to have come down south of Land's End, **F/O J.C. Austin, F/O C.R. Booth, WO1 A.R. Merritt, WO2 R.W. Revell, WO2 K.G. Rolfstad and WO1 L.G. Smith** missing (407 SH).

26-27 410 Sqn. Mosquito NF.II DZ757 RA-Q on an INTRUDER sortie was severely damaged after flying through the wreckage and burning fuel of a German night fighter it had just destroyed, but **F/L M.A. Cybulski** and **F/O H.H. Ladbroke** RAF managed to recover to their base despite having most of it's paint and it's rudder fabric burned off. The explosion temporarily blinded **F/L Cybulski** and the fighter dove several thousand feet before **F/O Ladbroke** could reach the controls and pull them out (5th Year). A photo of this damaged aircraft and it's crew can be found in *RCAF Squadrons and Aircraft* and many other publications (RCAF Sqns.).

Monday

27 Operation MICROBE, heavy German bomber attacks made on the airfields at Cos, putting them out of action (B. Cull).

Uprising begins in Naples, Italy, with city residents fighting German soldiers and Italian Fascist units in the city.

In Italy the airfields at Foggia are captured by advancing 8th Army units without a fight (D. Newton). These will soon be the major Allied bomber base for operations to northern Italy, Austria, southern Germany and Yugoslavia.

USAAF makes it's first H2X attack through cloud, on Emden, by 246 of 305 bombers dispatched using Lead Bombardiers and pattern bombing, 7 bombers lost (Zijlstra).

27 58 Sqn. Halifax HR982 II BY-B attacked and sank U-221 in the Atlantic, but was forced to ditch with an engine on fire, **Sgt R.K. Triggol** RAF and **Sgt M. Griffiths** RAF missing, **F/O T.E. Bach** *RCAF (Argentina)*, **F/O E.L. Hartley** RAF, **F/S K.E. Ladds** RAF, **G/C R.C. Mead** RAF, **Sgt G.R. Robertson** RAF and **Sgt A.S. Fox** RAF got into their rubber raft (<http://uboat.net>; **NickP**, **F. Williston** and **H. Halliday** at www.rafcommands.com). See October 8, below.

27 458 Sqn. RAAF, Tunisia, pilot **F/O J.W. Downs** died in hospital in Tunis of natural causes (www.rafcommands.com).

27 198 Sqn. Typhoon Ib JP840 and Typhoon Ib JP837 TP-P shot down by flak on a ROADSTEAD off the Netherlands, **P/O B.F. Gilland** PoW on JP840 and **Sgt J.A. Colvin** PoW on JP837.

27 402 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BM152 shot down on a RAMROD to France, **P/O R.E. Crewe** killed.

- 27 407 Sqn. Wellington XIV HF124 2-Q took off from England to investigate the area where MP539 was believed to have come down the previous night. Steered to the last radar plot of the missing aircraft they arrived at dawn and soon radioed they were under attack by enemy aircraft. Nothing more was heard and **F/O D.S. Bier**, **F/L J. Craig**, **F/O J.E. Godwin RCAF (USA)**, **F/O D.R. Parker**, **F/O B.E.A. Vye** and **W/C J.C. Archer RAF**, the Squadron commanding officer, missing (407 SH). **F/L Vye** had been interned in Lisbon in April 1943, above.
- 27 612 Sqn. Wellington XIV HF172 'P' lost on a anti-submarine patrol, **F/S G.V. Bartle**, Sgt **W. Buckton RAF**, Sgt **L.G. Doughty RAF**, **F/S R.J.G. Hyndson RAF**, Sgt **C.F. Paish RAF** and **F/O R.H.J. Tozer RAF** missing (CWGC; www.rafcommands.com).
- 27 #19 OTU Whitley V LA853 'D' crashed in England on a cross country flight, **F/O J.W. Wallace**, Sgt **E.R. Rogers RAF**, Sgt **C.A. Hughes RAF**, Sgt **W.S. Robinson RAF**, Sgt **R.C. Fowler RAF** and Sgt **H. Dickson RAF** killed, Sgt **D.T.W. Cammies RAF** missing.
- 27 USAAF Canadian built UC-64A (Norseman) 43-5117 was abandoned out of fuel near Ruby, Alaska Territory, pilot **L.R. Daitz** safe (<http://www.norsemanhistory.ca/>).

27-28 Bomber Command returned to Hannover with 678 RAF bombers and 5 USAAF B-17s. Bombing was concentrated but faulty winds predicted over the target put the Pathfinders off by 5 miles, and the bombs fell in open country. This still cost 38 Bomber Command and 1 USAAF aircraft. Some night fighters were drawn off by a diversion attack on Brunswick by 21 Lancasters and 6 Mosquitos with 1 loss. Other diversions included 9 Mosquitos over Emden, 5 OBOE Mosquitos to Aachen, as well as 19 GARDENING and 4 OTU sorties without loss (BC War Diaries). 419 Squadron history notes the bomber stream encountered a series of electrical storms along the route, and the bombing itself took place with a backdrop of lightning flashes, which with fighter flares, TIs, flak, bomb bursts, incendiaries and fires, was described as "spectacular".

- 27-28 7 Sqn. Lancaster III JA849 MG-F shot down by a night fighter over Germany, **P/O D.A. Routen DFM RAF**, **F/S J.H. Frewer RAF**, **P/O C. Wolstenholme DFM RAF**, **WO L.O. Noll RAF**, **F/S J.T. Simpson RAF** and **F/S G. Woodcock DFM RAF** killed, **F/S J. Kanelakos** PoW.
- 27-28 10 Sqn. Halifax II HR922 ZA-P lost over Germany, **P/O E.M. Wood**, **P/O N.P. Wardman RAF**, **P/O A.H.W. Warrell RAF**, Sgt **D.T. Hand RAF**, **F/S J.R. McIntosh RAF** and **F/O G.E.M. Parker RAF** killed, **P/O G.L.J. Cox RAF** PoW.
- 27-28 35 Sqn. Halifax II HR907 TL-P shot down over the target by a night fighter, gunners **P/O A.T. Tuck DFC RAAF** and **F/S A.V. Forsyth DFM RAF** killed, **P/O R.W. Tully**, Sgt **R.A.M. Mather RAF**, **F/L C.A. Hewlett RAF** and **P/O F.R. Doling DFC RAF** PoW, **P/O N.J. Matich DFM RNZAF** evaded.
- 27-28 77 Sqn. Halifax II LW228 KN-U lost without trace, **Sgt G.A.E. Dean**, **P/O E.C.**

- Ecclestone, F/L P.A. Shelton RCAF (USA), P/O M.D. Tymchuk, Sgt P.G. Kirby RAF, Sgt J. Sneddon RAF and Sgt J.M. Hughes RAF missing. F/L Shelton, P/O Tymchuk, P/O Ecclestone, Sgt Hughes and Sgt Sneddon had survived the crash landing of a #10 OTU Whitley on an anti-submarine patrol June 22, above.
- 27-28 77 Sqn. Halifax II LW265 KN-Y lost on an operation to Germany, Sgt E.C. Honey, P/O B. Hallam RAF (Rhod.), Sgt W.R. Martindale RAF, Sgt A.T. Hitchings RAF, Sgt T.S. Crowcroft RAF, Sgt G.C.M. Purves RAF and Sgt R.T. Worrall RAF PoW. The aileron controls were knocked out, and the bomber was then coned by searchlights and unable to evade. Flak set two engines on fire and the bail out order was given. Mid-upper gunner Sgt Honey was wounded in the aircraft, and was wounded by flak a second time while in his parachute. He spent several months in hospitals before being released into a PoW camp (Lancaster, C. et al).
- 27-28 90 Sqn. Stirling III EF952 WP-F hit trees and crashed in England returning from an operation, S/L M.I. Freeman RAF (Can.), WO2 W.J. Hoar, Sgt C.H.A. Clark RAF, F/O P.S. Cunningham RAF, F/S V.J. Sharp RNZAF killed, Sgt D.G. Robertshaw RAF and Sgt J.G. Lowe RAF injured. S/L Freeman had flown Battle aircraft in 218 Sqn. during the Battle of France in 1940.
- 27-28 103 Sqn. Lancaster III DV221 PM-K lost over Germany, P/O A. Harrison DFM, F/S J.E. Aston DFM RAF, Sgt A. Davidson RAF, F/O R.N. Faulkner RAF, S/L J.H. Kennard DFC RAF, P/O T.C. Latham DFM RAF and F/O S.A. Morey DFC RAAF killed.
- 27-28 156 Sqn. Lancaster III JA919 lost over Germany, believed to have exploded over the target, WO2 C.E. Morgan, P/O S.W. Hatwell RAF, Sgt C.W. Hodges RAF, F/L H.G. Innes DFC RAF, S/L P.R. Vincent DFC RAF, F/S A. Swinney RAF and F/S A.J. Clark RAF killed, Sgt F.R. Knight RAF PoW.
- 27-28 158 Sqn. Halifax II JN905 NP-L lost without trace, F/O W.J. Erly, Sgt P.H. Payne RAF, Sgt W.J. Patterson RAF, Sgt F.G. Peplow RAF, F/O M.H. Horkheimer RAF, Sgt J.R. Murray RAF and Sgt L.J. Dawkins missing.
- 27-28 166 Sqn. Lancaster III ED875 returned early from an operation and crashed in to a hill in England after receiving landing instructions, F/S G.R. Smith, WO C.J.W. Boone RAF, Sgt D.L. Dick RAF, Sgt E.A. Pack RAF, Sgt T. Warhurst RAF, Sgt R. Davis RAF and Sgt J.P. Nyland RAF killed.
- 27-28 218 Sqn. Stirling III BF472 HA-D lost in the target area, F/O W.N. Hamilton, F/L K.T. Balding DFC RAAF, Sgt S.J. Harris RAF, Sgt J. McGovern RAF, Sgt E. Otter RAF, P/O G.G. Hurst DFC RAF and Sgt G.A. Lawrenson RAF killed.
- 27-28 218 Sqn. Stirling III EE937 HA-A lost over Germany, Sgt B.D. Winders, P/O W.F.C. Knight DFC RAF, Sgt A.S. Haxton RAF, Sgt H. Exley RAF, F/O S.J.H. Verney RAF, Sgt A.C. Petre RAF and Sgt W.R. Bray RAF killed.
- 27-28 405 Sqn. Lancaster III JB120 LQ-D lost without trace, P/O S.H. Long, F/O J.C. Lowther, F/O B.A. St. Louis, F/O T.D. Trippe RCAF (USA), F/S G.S. Read RAAF, P/O S.J. Slade RAF and WO W.E. Goldspink RAF missing. F/O Lowther had been in an accident Aug. 10-11, above.

- 27-28 405 Sqn. Lancaster III LM345 LQ-L damaged by a night fighter on an operation to Germany and abandoned over Holland when the engines failed, **S/L L.E. Logan DFC**, **Sgt F.C. Boulter**, **F/S W.M. Gorman**, P/O A. Livesay RAF, F/S A.J. Holden RAF and F/S W.D. Ridgeway RAF PoW, F/S G.L. Watts RAF evaded (Info on loss from Richard.K (R. Koval) at www.rafcommands.com). S/L Logan had recently returned to the Squadron after evading capture when shot down March 11-12, above.
- 27-28 428 Sqn. Halifax II JB968 NA-R lost over Germany, **F/O E.D. MacMurchy**, **F/O F.T. Manners**, **Sgt D.W. Matthews**, **Sgt W.E. McKee**, **F/L R.H. Sherback**, **Sgt D.B. Stone** and **Sgt J. Kirby** RAF killed.
- 27-28 428 Sqn. Halifax V DK252 NA-O forced to return early due to icing. Over England an engine failed and the pilot ordered a bail out, only to then see a lit runway and making a wheels up crash landing, **P/O M. Kogan**, **F/O F.D. Jackman**, **P/O M.J. Johnson**, **Sgt J. Silverman**, **Sgt J.M. Custeau**, **Sgt L.F. Edmonds** RAF and **Sgt E.O.H. Knowles** RAF safe (R. Koval).
- 27-28 428 Sqn. Halifax V DK270 NA-U was heavily damaged over Germany, losing an engine. Over the Dutch coast flak damaged another engine, but it kept running. Attempting a landing at an USAAF base in England the damaged engine failed, and with only 2 engines on one side working the bomber rolled and clipped trees with it's wing, causing a crash (S. Wilson, via R. Koval), **Sgt J.D. Mercer**, **Sgt G.V. Whitley** RAF, **Sgt W.F. Smith** RAF and **Sgt A.J.W. Lucas** RAF killed, **Sgt R. Wilson** RAF and **P/O B.W. Roughton** RAF injured, **Sgt E.P. Wainwright** RAF safe.
- 27-28 428 Sqn. Halifax V EB215 NA-T shot down over Holland by flak, **Sgt J.E. Farmer** RAF, **Sgt J.W. Satchell** RAF, **Sgt T.J. Wilson** RAF, **Sgt E.T. Springett** RAF, **Sgt A. Stuart** RAF and **Sgt W.E. Mussen** RAF killed, **Sgt D.A.J. Griffin** RAF PoW.
- 27-28 428 Sqn. Halifax V LK915 NA-V lost on an operation over Germany, possibly shot down by a night fighter, **F/O C.M. Butcher**, **Sgt E.S. Driscoll**, **Sgt J.M. Morrison** and **Sgt F.C. Jackson** RAF killed, **Sgt J.I. Jones** RAF missing, **F/O W.B.L. Higgins** and **F/L M.G. Whalley** PoW.
- 27-28 432 Sqn. Wellington X HE817 QO-K lost on an operation over Germany, **P/O S.K. Atkinson**, **F/S L.F. Cook**, **F/S I.C.R. Bowden** RAF and **P/O A.W. Chubb** RAF missing, **Sgt W.A. Grant** and **Sgt S.C. Bybee** USAAF PoW (Amrit at www.rafcommands.com; O. Clutton-Buck).
- 27-28 434 Sqn. Halifax V LK648 WL-F believed to have crashed at sea, **P/O D.J. Sinclair**, **Sgt R.N. Wallace** and **F/S J.W. Hallas** RAAF killed, **F/S J.G. de Sieyes**, **F/O B.S. Jones**, **F/L F.C. Lord**, **F/S B.M. O'Hara** and **Sgt S.A. Walter** RAF missing.
- 27-28 434 Sqn. Halifax V LK917 WL-X lost over Germany, **F/S H.E. Hansell**, **F/S J.A. Leach**, **P/O O. Lytle**, **F/S J.H.T. Monteith**, **WO2 R.C. Pedlar**, **Sgt E.V.A. Elder** RAF, **Sgt H. Lindsay** RAF and **Sgt M.D. Chasmar** RAF killed.
- 27-28 434 Sqn. Halifax V LK919 WL-R lost over Germany, **F/O M.P. Halpin**, **Sgt J.H.F. Rousseau**, **F/S R.H. Smith**, **Sgt M.P. Vitch**, **Sgt R.O. Evans** RAF, **Sgt G. Todkill** RAF

and Sgt E.T.G. Moody RAF killed.

27-28 620 Sqn. Stirling III EH945 QS-H lost over Germany, Sgt H.W.R. Kerslake RAF, Sgt W. Howes RAF and Sgt J.L. Parry RAF killed, **Sgt W. Ewanko**, F/S F. Emery RAF, Sgt F.R. Reed RAF and Sgt R. Cavey RAF PoW. Sgt Reed later died in captivity (www.rafcommands.com)

27-28 622 Sqn. Stirling III EH991 GI-P lost without trace, **F/O J.J. Chandler**, **P/O J.W.K. Hall**, F/S W.J. Hunt RAAF, Sgt K.G. McLeod RAF, Sgt L. Meadow RAF, Sgt L.G.H. Weaving RAF and Sgt W. Tebbutt RAF missing. Both F/O Chandler and P/O Hall were from St. Lambert, Quebec (rcafnephew www.rafcommands.com).

Tuesday

28 British occupy the Foggia airfields in Italy (CJCA headline).

28 400 Sqn. Mustang I AG577 SP-F was on a RHUBARB flight over France when it was hit by flak and dove into the ground, **F/L D.M. (Bitsy) Grant DFC** killed. F/L Grant had claimed the Squadron's first confirmed air to air victory April 13, above. He was famous for his attacks on railway trains, and was featured in an NFB movie *Train Busters* (B. Barry et al). The hangar at RCAF Station Bordon that houses 400 Squadron today is named for this pilot (Carl Mills, pers. comm., Jan. 31, 2014).

28 #81 OTU Whitley V EB404 collided in mid air with a Beaufighter (possibly 406 Sqn. Beaufighter VI f V8449) over England and 5 crew bailed out, **F/O G.A. Wallace** was killed when he struck a tree. The aircraft was landed safely (R. McNeill www.rafcommands.com).

28 #1664 HCU RCAF Halifax V EB181 flew into a hill just after midnight. The wreck was not located for 14 hours. **F/O R.H. Highsted**, Sgt J.C. Mitchell RAF, Sgt F.J. Luckett RAF, Sgt J.J. Timmons RAF and Sgt J. Nelson RAF killed. Two injured airmen, Sgt C.F. West RAF and Sgt H.P.D. Charlton RAF were treated on site by a mobile surgical unit before being taken to hospital, but Sgt Charlton died of his injuries Oct. 9. See R. Allenby for details of the accident and also April 24, 1944.

28 #1667 HCU Lancaster I W4904 broke up in the air after losing control, probably due to icing, and crashed in England while on a night BULLSEYE exercise, **Sgt D.R. Brown**, **F/S A.W. Mullen RCAF (USA)**, Sgt L.R.W. Turley RAF, Sgt M.R. Pearce RAF, Sgt A. Howell RAF, Sgt R.P. Weston RAF and Sgt R.E. Butler RAF killed. There is a memorial to this crew and aircraft but it is located in error in a village not associated with the crash. See R. Allenby's website <http://www.yorkshire-aircraft.co.uk/aircraft/yorkshire/york43/w4904.html> for details.

28 #1 OTU, Bagotville, Quebec, Harvard IIb FE399 crashed near Lake St. Germain, Quebec on an instrument landing exercise, **Sgt C.H. McKim Jr.** and **WO2 T.S. Turfus** killed.

28 #32 OTU, Patricia Bay, BC, Canadian built Hampden I AJ994 crashed at Retreat Cove, Galiano Island, Sgt H.D. McLeod RNZAF killed (*BC Times Colonist, Patricia Bay Aircrash List 2009*).

28 unknown unit, **LAC P.P.E. Bordeleau** was recovering from an operation at the hospital at Trenton, Ontario, when he and a companion took a canoe on an unauthorized trip. LAC Bordeleau drowned and his companion was recovered suffering from exposure when it capsized in rough water (www.rafcommands.com).

28-29 #17 OTU Wellington X HF600 crashed in England on a BULLSEYE sortie, **Sgt A.B. Shanks**, Sgt E. Atkinson RAF, Sgt G.E. Cozens RAF, Sgt C.G. Braund RAF, Sgt K.B. Roberts RAF and Sgt D. Crosland RAF killed.

Wednesday

29 ex-RCAF Hurricane I #310 arrived in India for service with the IAF on this date (C. Vincent).

29 74 Sqn. Spitfire flown by **F/S W.J. Wilson** was one of four scrambled from the Island of Cos to meet an incoming German attack. F/S Wilson was separated from the others but attacked several formations, claiming three bombers shot down before having to evade Bf 109 fighters (B. Cull).

29 #11 OTU Wellington Ic W5724 'C' was on a cross country exercise when severe weather curtailed it. Returning to base an engine caught fire and it was force landed in a field, **Sgt W.H. Evans**, Sgt J.M. Underwood RNZAF and Sgt W.J. Southern RAF died of injuries, F/S R.F. Hall RNZAF, Sgt Glover RAF and Sgt Scott RAF injured.

29 #21 AFU Oxford I LW959 crashed, **Sgt W.P. Donnelly** and Sgt D.J. Munro RAF killed (malcolm_raf www.rafommands.com).

29 #2 Wireless School, Calgary, Alberta, Fort #3650 aircraft crashed and burned 4 miles east of airfield at Sheppard, Alberta, killing **P/O L.P. Fraser** and **LAC(WAG) R.W. Lay**.

29 USAAF AT-6C 41-33058 damaged landing at Edmonton, Alberta (AAIR).

29-30 After no operations for 5 nights #331 Wing Wellingtons returned to attack and block the road network near Formia (5th Year).

29-30 148 Sqn. Halifax II BB471(?) 'N' swung on landing in Libya from Special Operation ENAMEL 18 to Yugoslavia and written off, **Sgt J.C. Calhoun**, **Sgt A.A. Cameron**, F/O J.H. Botham RAF, Sgt M.J. Nee RAF, Sgt B.J. Owen RAF, Sgt J.W. Sole RAF and Sgt C. Woodington RAF safe (BLME V.2). See March 3, 1944.

29-30 Bomber Command sent 352 bombers to Bochum where accurate OBOE marking led an accurate attack. Nine bombers were lost. Other operations included 11 Mosquitos to Gelsenkirchen and 14 GARDENING sorties off Poland (BC War Diaries).

29-30 44 Sqn. Lancaster, **F/S S.G. Matheson** and crew, was on a GARDENING sortie off Danzig where it was engaged and damaged by flak. F/S Matheson avoided searchlights, then returned to place his mine accurately (from his DFM citation

reprinted by Theletterwriter on www.rafcommands.com).

- 29-30 50 Sqn. Lancaster III JB143 VN-L was shot down into the sea off Denmark by a night fighter while on a GARDENING sortie, Sgt B. Ridsdale RAF was swept into the sea by a wave and is missing but the rest of the crew, **P/O R.M. Code**, **Sgt C.R. Moad**, Sgt A.E. Langford RAF, Sgt E.F. Coling RAF, F/O A. Noble RAF and Sgt H.J. Boyton RAF, were picked up by a fishing boat after 5 days in life rafts and made PoW.
- 29-30 57 Sqn. Lancaster III JA910 DX-H shot down over Holland by a night fighter, **Sgt B.M. Quinn**, P/O A.R. Wrangler RAF, Sgt S.E. Cornford RAF, Sgt L. Barker RAF, Sgt W.T.H. Curry RAF, Sgt F.B. Raven RAF and Sgt R. Roberts RAF PoW.
- 29-30 83 Sqn. Lancaster III JB187 OL-R turned back with problems and was abandoned over England, **P/O C.P. McDonald** and Sgt T.J. Parrington RAF injured, P/O V.W.J. Nunn RAF, F/O W.G. Ross RAF, Sgt M.A. Coles RAF, F/S Connor RAF and F/O J.F. Crebbin DFC RAF safe. P/O McDonald, Sgt Parrington, P/O Nunn, Sgt Coles and F/O Crebbin had been briefly interned in Sweden April 20-21, above.
- 29-30 156 Sqn. Lancaster III EE118 crashed in England returning from an operation, **F/O S.K. Smith**, F/S F.H. Ray RAF, Sgt W.A. Lineham RAF, Sgt D.R. Booker RAF, Sgt N.P. Winterburn RAF and Sgt F.D. Dickens RAF killed, Sgt A.S.W. Orchard RAF injured.
- 29-30 166 Sqn. Lancaster III ED904 lost over Germany, **P/O C.V. Galavan**, WO B.B. Davidson RAF, Sgt L. English RAF, Sgt H.N. Jones RAF, Sgt L.F. Comer RAF, Sgt L.G.E. Gee RAF and Sgt J.W. Cummings RAF killed.
- 29-30 418 Sqn. Mosquito FB.VI HJ823 TH-L was returning from an INTRUDER operation aborted due to weather when it struck barrage balloons over Dover and crashed, **F/O F.D. Dwyer** and **F/L D.D. Johnston** were killed (418 SH).
- 29-30 419 Sqn. Halifax II BB376 VR-S (or -G, R. Koval) lost without trace, **F/S E.M. Cockin**, **F/O G.E. Donaldson**, **F/S W.D. Miller**, **F/O J.R. Symons**, Sgt A.W. Chandler RAF, Sgt D. Lucas RAF and Sgt W.G. Morgan RAF missing.
- 29-30 434 Sqn. Halifax V DK259 WL-L shot down over Holland by a night fighter, **F/O W.G. Bellinger** and Sgt B.T.H. Scudder RAF killed, **P/O G.V. Hastings**, **P/O I.A.L. Lockhart**, **P/O C.Y. Hovey** and Sgt R.W. Stewart USAAF PoW, 2Lt J.T. Clary USAAF evaded. O. Clutton-Brock has a note that Sgt Stewart may have died in captivity, but he was transferred to the US PoW camps.
- 29-30 434 Sqn. Halifax V LK634 WL-T lost over Germany, **F/S W.G. Bailey**, **F/O C.H. Poplewell**, Sgt T. Davies RAF, Sgt N.T. Harris RAF and F/S R.A. Zahl RAF killed, **P/O C.F. Kirk** and Sgt R.A. Earl RAF PoW.
- 29-30 619 Sqn. Lancaster III ED983 PG-W flew into high ground in cloud in England on returning from an operation, **F/O A.C. McKay**, P/O E. Mearis RAF, Sgt R.L. Cooper RAF, Sgt J.A.G. Billingham RAF and Sgt R.T.E. Davies RAF killed, Sgt P. Bowditch RAF and Sgt R. Armstrong RAF injured.

Thursday

30 Operation MICROBE, After 10 days of heavy bomber attack German bombers

succeeded in putting both airstrips on Cos out of action while work continued to build a third (B. Cull).

205 Group in Tunisia sent 51 Wellingtons to attack the roads at Formia, a choke point on the Appian Way between Naples and Rome. Bad weather forced a number of returns and only 37 managed to identify and bomb targets, 1 bomber lost. #331 Wing was on stand down, moving to a new airfield (D. Parker).

#162 (BR) Sqn. RCAF moves from Yarmouth to Dartmouth, NS (RCAF Sqns.).

Canadian airmen serving in the RNVR allowed to transfer to the RCNVR while remaining in their positions serving in the Fleet Air Arm (W. Carrol via Chris Kanca, www.rafcommands.com).

Danish physicist and Nobel laureate Niels Bohr escapes from Denmark to Sweden (ww2total.com Chronology/1943).

- 30 354 Sqn., Ceylon, pilot **F/O K.R. Henry RCAF (USA)** was trying to free the jammed nose wheel in Liberator "Z 887" (BZ887?) while in flight. The undercarriage moved, trapping and killing him.
- 30 404 Sqn. 6 Beaufighter TF.X aircraft armed with rockets attacked a merchant ship off Norway, causing it to beach on fire where it was wrecked (5th Year).
- 30 #1667 HCU Lancaster I R5685 crashed in the circuit attempting to land with a failed engine, **F/S D. Crossland** killed, **Sgt H.M. Greene**, **Sgt T.P. Duffy**, WO R.F. Quarterman RAF, **Sgt C.J. Adair** RAF and **Sgt Naney** RAF injured.
- 30 #5 ITS, Belleville, Ontario, **Cpl W.C. Dewar** died in hospital of injuries received in a vehicle accident.
- 30 #6 SFTS, Dunnville, Ontario, Harvard IIb #3128 crashed on an instrument training flight near Camden, Ontario, **Sgt C.W. Anderson** RAAF and **Sgt B.P. Evans** RAAF killed (A. Storr, C. Charland at www.rafcommands.com).

October 1943

#161 (BR) Sqn. RCAF begins to receive Canso A aircraft (RCAF Sqns.). 401 Sqn. again receives Spitfire IXb aircraft (RCAF Sqns.). 408 Sqn. and 432 Sqn. begin to receive Hercules engined Lancaster II aircraft (RCAF Sqns.). 415 Sqn. supplements it's Leigh Light Wellington aircraft with radar equipped Albacore I biplanes for anti E-Boat patrols in the Channel (RCAF Sqns.). The Wellingtons would form a screen to detect E-boats deploying from France, and if detected would alert the Albacore flight, also radar equipped, which would make attacks on them with bombs (415 SH).

Leningrad, German army begins to implement a plan to retreat from around the city to a new defensive line, but Hitler keeps delaying the final order while stripping away troops to other fronts (Oxford).

During the month the British Air Ministry, having received information on the German developments in rocket and jet powered aircraft, awarded a contract to Miles aircraft for a jet powered aircraft capable of reaching 1,000 mph. This was the basis for the Miles M.52 aircraft. See end of June, 1944.

Given problems with the B-29 program, and the requirement for major modifications to it's structure for atomic weapons, a physicist from the MANHATTAN Project visits the Victory Aircraft plant at Malton, Ontario, to consult with Avro's Roy Chadwick, designer of the Lancaster (who was visiting Canada), on the suitability of the Lancaster to carry the overlong but narrow original atomic bomb design, dubbed 'Thin Man', for test purposes. Chadwick assures them that the device could easily be fitted into the Lancaster bomb bay with minimal modification. The proposal was rejected out of hand by the US Army, and work continues on the modified B-29. These tests showed the bomb needed a single release point, however, so the bomb shackle system developed for the RAF 12,000 lb. 'Tallboy' bomb was adapted for the US program, while other developments led to the abandonment of the 'Thin Man' design in favour of the smaller 'Little Boy' device, and the 'Fat Man' bomb, both of which could be fitted into the B-29 bomb bays (Newman, G., Mission Improbable, Aeroplane Monthly, August, 2020).

It should be noted that while the Lancaster could easily carry these devices it had neither the range, speed or the pressurization of the B-29 that allowed it to operate at high altitudes.

Friday

1 Allies capture Naples. The 4 day revolt of the City's citizens prevents the Germans from using the city in a defensive battle. Some 150 or 500 residents (depending on source) are killed in the uprising (wikipedia). See October 7, below.

The capture of Naples and it's harbour gave the Allies a secure port to supply their operations in Italy (BLME V.2).

Returning in convoy MKS-26 in ballast from the landing at Salerno the Canadian built Fort Howe and the Empire Commerce were sunk by U-410 off the coast

of Algeria (www.uboat.net).

#1 Naval Air Gunner School, Yarmouth, NS, opened on this date (<http://www.bombercrew.com/BCATP.htm>), using Swordfish IV aircraft for training, fitted with cockpit canopies and heaters for Canadian service.

- 1 20 Sqn. RAAF Catalina IVa A24-67 RB-X shot down making a torpedo attack at Pomelaa Harbour, Celebes Island, Indonesia, from Darwin, Australia. **F/L J.M. Barnes**, W/C S.G. Stilling DFC RAF (Aus.), F/L J.R. Hyde RAAF, F/O R.F. Dickinson RAAF, P/O N.F. Dwyer RAAF, Sgt T. McMahon RAAF, Sgt F.H. Thomson RAAF and Cpl S.J. Carnell RAAF missing. P/O D.G. McDiarmed RAAF was taken PoW but died the next day of his injuries, Lt Cdr P.E. Carr RAN survived as a PoW. F/L Barnes had been flying with 205 Sqn. in Malaysia and Java and evacuated to Australia (spidge www.ww2talk.com; T.W. Melnyk). D. Vincent notes that F/L Barnes was a radar specialist and had previously served in that capacity with 100 Sqn. and 2 Sqn. RAAF. D. Newton notes that Lt Cdr Carr was Australia's leading mine expert, but in interrogation managed to keep this secret.
- 1 31 Sqn. **WO D.A. Thompson** injured in an Audax aircraft at New Delhi, India. See Jan. 28, 1944.
- 1 204 Sqn. Sunderland III DV974 was landing from a patrol off Bathurst, Gambia, dug in and flipped over, F/L C.C. Mayberry RAAF, Sgt L. Hare RAF and Sgt W.T. Barnes RAF missing, **Sgt D.J. Jorgenson**, Sgt C. Todd RAF, F/S J.E. Baker RAF, Sgt M. Boyens RAF, Sgt H.M. Lees RAF, Sgt S.J. Ford RAF and Sgt W.S. Davies RAF injured (A. Storr; www.rafcommands.com).
- 1 #2 (Coastal) OTU Beaufighter VIc T5348 crashed into some cottages making a circuit of it's airfield killing **F/O A.M. Ruthven** on his first night solo in this type of aircraft (aviation-safety.net).
- 1 #1660 HCU Halifax V DG275 'A' broke up in the air in a spin and crashed in England while on a training flight, **F/S F.H. Roe**, F/L V. Duxbury DFC RAF, F/O J.W. Moore RAF, Sgt H.W.F. Russell RAF, Sgt R.H. Bassett RAF, Sgt D.R. Pavitte RAF, Sgt G.C. Edwards RAF, Sgt J.B. Eastman RAF and Sgt W.E. Ellwood RAF killed.
- 1 #19 SFTS, Vulcan, Alberta, Anson V #11547 was seen to dive from a high altitude and it's wings collapsed when it tried to recover. It crashed near Milo, Alberta on the shore of Lake McGregor, killing **LAC(P) H.F. Douglas**, **P/O G.V. Scheltens** and **LAC(P) R.E. Shaw**.
- 1 Ferry Command, Marauder II FB457 crashed at newly named Windsor Field, Bahamas, when the undercarriage was retracted to early on take-off, and burned, radio operator **G.D. Bird** slightly burned, P/O F.R. McGill, F/L J. Gellner and WO2 J.T. D'Altroy (RCAF?) safe (E. Wiberg). See November 12, 1944.

1-2 #331 Wing RCAF returned to Formia to again block this important cross roads (5th Year).

- 1-2 424 Sqn. Wellington X HE795 QB-F lost in Mediterranean on a sortie to Italy, **F/S J.R. Cote, F/S H.D.A. Dauk, F/S I.A. Martin, F/S E.F. Warr** and Sgt G.D. Dodson RAF missing.
- 1-2 424 Sqn. Wellington X HZ424 QB-A suffered an engine failure outbound on a sortie in the Mediterranean. After jettisoning the bomb load and fuel it attempted to return to it's base but was forced to ditch in the sea. After 15 hours the crew was rescued by the destroyer *USS Benson*, **F/L Leddy** and his crew **WO J.A. Kellner, P/O W.K. McGregor**, Sgt R. Miskimmin and F/S A. Rudd (RCAF or RAF?) safe (424 SH; R.W.R. Walker; BLME V.2).

1-2 In Denmark warning of German plans to round up Danish Jews allows for a counter plan by the Resistance and Danish civil servants. On this date, when the German operation began, 5,500 Danish Jews were taken overnight by boats to neutral Sweden. Less than 500 were taken by the Germans, of whom about 50 died in captivity. After this the Danish Resistance became targeted by the Gestapo. See March 21, 1945.

Other countries that refused to deport their Jews to German camps were Bulgaria, Finland, Italy (until Mussolini fell) and Hungary (until Germany took it over in 1944) (Oxford).

Bomber Command sent 243 Lancasters and 8 Mosquitos to Hagen where a near perfect attack was made with OBOE marking. Only 2 bombers were lost while 2 of the 4 main industries in the town were severely damaged and a third badly damaged. Post war analysis found that destruction of a factory making batteries for U-boats slowed down production of these craft. Twelve further OBOE Mosquitos were sent to attack steel works at Witten nearby without loss (BC War Diaries).

Saturday

2 Australians re-capture Finschafen [New Guinea] (CJCA headline).

- 2 15 Sqn. SAAF Baltimore IIIa FA360 missing on a photo reconnaissance to the north coast of Crete, **P/O R.G. Leese, P/O D.T. Randall**, Lt F.O. Griffin SAAF and Lt A. Lewin SAAF missing.
- 2 296 Sqn. Albemarle I P1516 missing on a courier flight in the Mediterranean, **WO2 B.H. Maclsaac**, F/O N.L. Burton RNZAF, F/O I.R. Hyde RAF (Transport Command), F/O I.W. Hall RNZAF, Maj R. Pertwee and Capt A.J. Waterman missing (npertwee and Bruno LeCaplain at www.rafcommands.com).
- 2 25 Sqn. two Mosquito NF.II aircraft HJ713 and DD738 collided over England and crashed on a camera gun exercise, **P/O T.P. Quinn** and F/S S.A. Carter RAF were killed in HJ713, and Sgt H.A. Hay RAF and Sgt J.C. Scammell RAF killed in the DD738 (CWGC and R. Allenby).

- 2 610 Sqn. Spitfire Vc AB453 crashed in England, **F/O S.J. Shewell** killed.
- 2 #23 OTU Wellington III X3470 'D' went down in the sea off England on a night training exercise, **F/O A.F. Bell**, **Sgt A.J. Copegog**, **P/O W.H. Fuller**, **F/O F.J.S. Guppy**, **Sgt L.A. Pinchess** and Sgt L. Hocker RAF missing.
- 2 #23 OTU Wellington III Z1648 crashed attempting to land with propellor trouble, killing **F/S F.H. Partridge**, and injuring **F/O J.B. de Macedo** and **Sgt J.W. Dufton**. See Oct. 3, below.
- 2 #23 OTU Wellington III BJ667 had an engine fail on a training flight. Unable to manually deploy the undercarriage fully before landing the wheels folded up and the aircraft was written off, but **Sgt W.R. Stewart** and his crew were safe.
- 2 #30 OTU Wellington X HF471 experienced icing conditions in cloud over the Irish sea and a bail-out order was given, **Sgt D.S. Champion** and Sgt R.A. Mushet RAF had bailed out when control was regained and the aircraft landed safely (H. Welting www.rafcommands.com). Despite a 5 day search no trace of the two airmen was found.
- 2 #145 (BR) Sqn. RCAF, Gander, Newfoundland, Ventura GR.V #2160 crashed on take-off from Torbay, Nfld., **F/O A.F. Daunt**, **S/L R.Le R. Lee** and **F/L E.L. Robinson DFC** killed. F/L Robinson's DFC was awarded for sinking a U-boat Oct. 30, 1942.

2-3 German sea borne and parachute forces from Crete invade the British and Italian held island of Cos with heavy air support, cutting off the similarly occupied islands of Leros and Samos. Paratroops captured one airfield and 4 Spitfires, and the remaining fighter on the island was destroyed. There were about 1,500 RAF, RAF Regiment and British soldiers and 3,500 Italian soldiers on the island (B. Cull). Without it's airfield, air support for these troops is limited to long range Beaufighters flying from Cyprus. Requests for use of lend-lease RN escort carriers blocked by US concerns that this is a side-show.

Munich was the target of 294 Lancasters and 2 USAAF B-17s. Marking was scattered despite clear weather over target, and attempts to do a timed run were thwarted when the briefed initial point was obscured. Eight bombers were lost. Other operations included 8 Mosquitos over Cologne and Gelsenkirchen, 117 GARDENING and 21 OTU sorties with loss of 1 minelayer (BC War Diaries).

- 2-3 12 Sqn. Lancaster III DV222 PH-G² lost over Germany and crashed into a lake, Sgt R.A. Waters RAF killed, **F/S J.E.N.R. Labelle**, Sgt D.W.H. Butterfield RAF, Sgt J.A. Young RAF, Sgt D.R.L. Crapper-Bovey RAF, Sgt D.H. Strong RAF and Sgt J. Jackson RAF missing.
- 2-3 51 Sqn. Halifax II JN924 was attacked and badly damaged by a night fighter attack on a GARDENING sortie but returned safely to England where the aircraft was written off, **F/O J.C. Bonet**, **Sgt J.A. McKenzie**, **F/O D.J. Cheal** RAF, Sgt K. Holt RAF, P/O

- E.A. Alliston RAF, Sgt H.M. Smith RAF and Sgt F.J. Dimond RAF safe.
- 2-3 51 Sqn. Halifax II LW287 MH-C lost without trace on a GARDENING sortie, **F/O J.G. Connor RCAF (USA)**, Sgt J.E. Nixon RAAF, Sgt G.F. Austin RAF, Sgt D. MacLean RAF, Sgt E.C. Kent RAF, Sgt A.F. Simpson RAF and Sgt C.S. Nelson RAF missing.
- 2-3 57 Sqn. Lancaster III DV235 DX-C lost over Germany, **P/O R.K. Clements**, Sgt J.F. Wheatley RAF, P/O R.E.H. Burton RAF, Sgt H.J.W. Hynds RAF, Sgt R. Bishop RAF, Sgt R. Large RAF and Sgt J. McGuirk RAF killed.
- 2-3 61 Sqn. Lancaster III ED718 QR-P attacked and set on fire over Germany by a night fighter. The bomber exploded, **F/S P.S. Camsell**, F/L G. Hamilton DFC RAF, F/O C.H. Cleveland RAF, Sgt N.J.E. Wheeler RAF and Sgt F. Ellick RAF killed, S/L G.B.F. Cousens RAF and Sgt G.F. Dunn RAF PoW.
- 2-3 102 Sqn. Halifax II JD276 DY-Z overshot a landing and crashed in England on a training flight, **Sgt C.R. Garrick**, Sgt J.J. McShane RAF, F/S W.A. Miller RAAF, F/O V.L. Hyatt RAF, Sgt C.T. Lockwood RAF, WO D.W.G. Randall RAF and Sgt T. Smith RAF killed.
- 2-3 431 Sqn. Halifax V LK640 SE-Q 'Q-Queenie' suffered failure of navigation equipment on a GARDENING sortie and had an engine knocked out by flak. The crew, **F/S E.H. Ihde**, **Sgt M.D. McGill**, **S/L W.P. Pleasance**, **F/O L.A. Rotstein**, **Sgt J.F. Tagg**, **P/O D.R. Taylor** and Sgt R.M. Emsley RAF (on their first operation together) returned safely to England (R. Allenby). See November 19-20, below. This was 431 Squadrons first operation on Halifax bombers and the first Squadron operation since mid-July owing to a protracted conversion on an airfield only partially completed when they arrived (W.E. Heron).
- 2-3 460 Sqn. RAAF Lancaster III JA856 AR-C lost over Germany, **F/S F. Sheehan**, F/S F.L.R. Lloyd DFM RAAF, Sgt A.S. Mitchell RAAF, Sgt G. Douglas RAF, Sgt R. Hurrell RAF, Sgt R.E. Woodford RAF and Sgt L.A. Sim RAF killed (ref. in S. Hadaway). F/S Sheehan was the second of 3 brothers to be killed in Bomber Command, see May 12-13 above and April 27-28, 1944.

Sunday

3 British and Italian soldiers on Cos surrender to German invasion force. Many RAF air and ground crew escape to neutral Turkey. All Italian officers captured were executed (B. Cull). Against advice Churchill orders Leros and Samos to be held, hoping that nearby Turkey will enter the war on the Allies side. Leros is reinforced with troops (Oxford).

German forces successfully evacuated from Corsica (Polsson).

The theory that air superiority would immobilize and starve soldiers on the ground by preventing their movement and resupply is proven wrong in the Italian campaign. Despite having air superiority Allied bombers are unable to

prevent the German Army from making organized withdrawals and supplying troops in the mountainous terrain (Oxford).

- 3 46 Sqn. Beaufighter Xlc JM238 shot down by return fire from an Ar 196 floatplane while attacking the German invasion ships off Cos, **W/C G.A. Reid RAF (Can.)** missing (aviation-safety.net). His navigator **F/O W.R. Peasley** escaped from the wreck under water and was taken by boat to hospital in neutral Turkey. W/C Reid was the commanding officer of 46 Sqn. when he was killed.
- 3 46 Sqn. Beaufighter Xlc JL907 seen to explode in flak when attacking German invasion ships off Cos, **S/L W.A. Cuddie RAF (Can.)** and F/O L.E.M. Coote RAF missing. This was one of three from a flight of four shot down on this sortie (B. Cull). S/L Cuddie had flown in the Battle of Britain, and was involved in the Hess incident, May 10-11, 1941.
- 3 46 Sqn. Beaufighter JL910, **P/O J.S. Holland RCAF (USA) DFM** claimed a Ju 87 shot down off Cos and a second damaged (B. Cull).
- 3 227 Sqn. Beaufighter VIc JL760 'B' was shot down by flak into the Aegean Sea attacking German landing barges off the Island of Cos, **F/O P.F.L. Glynn** and Sgt T.J. Barrett RAF missing (<http://aviationarchaeology.gr>; B. Cull).
- 3 #243 Wing, signals **S/L C.W.L. Hulke** missing after the German invasion of the Island of Cos in the Aegean, apparently trying to reach Turkey paddling on a tree trunk (www.rafcommands.com).
- 3 3 Sqn. Typhoon Ib JP755 shot down by flak attacking barges over Holland, **F/L G.L. Sinclair RAF (Can.)** PoW (R. McNeill www.rafcommands.com; wingstovictory.nl; <http://aircrewremembered.com>). F/L Sinclair remained in the RAF post war and retired as a W/C.
- 3 103 Sqn. Lancaster III JB346 swung and crashed on take-off for an air-test, **F/S W.G. Parker**, Sgt E.J. Andrews RAF, Sgt T.H. Clapp RAF, Sgt A.J. Tait RAF, Sgt H. Featherstone RAF and Sgt S. Otty RAF killed, Sgt J. Jones RAF survived, badly injured (Sam www.rafcommands.com).
- 3 403 Sqn. Spitfire IX MA648 shot down over France on a RAMROD, **Sgt S. Barnes** PoW.
- 3 421 Sqn. Spitfire IX BS532 shot down over France on a RAMROD, **F/O W.F. Cook** evaded and returned to England.
- 3 #17 OTU Wellington X HE276 crashed after an engine failed on approach to land from a night navigation exercise, **Sgt F.P. Smith**, F/S G. Lamb RAF, Sgt J.S. Beach RAF, Sgt A. Longworth RAF, Sgt J.B. Speakes RAF and F/S H. Smith DFM RAF killed, Sgt R.H.J. Hyde RAF and Sgt R.J. Wells RAF injured.
- 3 #23 OTU, **F/O J.B. de Macedo** died of injuries received in Wellington crash the day before.
- 3 #2 Wireless School, Calgary, Alberta, Fort #3653 damaged beyond repair (R.W.R. Walker).
- 3 #113 (BR) Sqn. RCAF, Sydney, NS, Ventura GR.V #2148 crashed near the airfield at

Sydney, N.S. after taking off on a cross-country, P/O W.R. Drake, F/O G.D. Isaacs, W/C A. Laut (the Squadron Commanding Officer), WO2 F.P. O'Donnell, P/O F.L. Tyo and passenger F/L R.B. Duncan were killed.

3 unknown unit, LAC A. Adamson died of natural causes in Canada.

3-4 Off of the southwestern tip of India in the Nine Degree Channel a 413 Sqn. Catalina 'Y' flown by F/L J.R. Gowans was escorting a convoy when a submarine, correctly identified as a U-boat, was plotted on radar. Two attacks were made on the U-boat, which engaged the Catalina with it's anti-aircraft guns, damaging it's rudder and elevator controls. The U-boat was last seen diving "at a great angle". With no relief aircraft available the damaged flying boat continued to escort the convoy until forced to break off and land at Cochin short of fuel. This was cited in the award of a DFC to F/L Gowans. The crew had in fact badly damaged U-168 which was forced to sail to it's base in Malaysia for repairs. It was sunk by a Dutch submarine in the Java Sea 11 months later. See July 2-3, 1944 (Lancaster, C. et al, Awards & <http://uboat.net/boats/u168.htm>). In the wartime book The R.C.A.F. Overseas - The Fifth Year it is noted that 413 Squadron sighted suspected U-boats on 4 other occasions in the following weeks but were only able to make one attack. See December 27, below.

In Italy #331 Wing Wellingtons bombed and blocked a rail junction at Civitavecchia (5th Year).

3-4 425 Sqn. Wellington X HE330 landed wheels up in Tunisia returning from an operation over Italy when the engines failed due to fuel mismanagement, F/O W.F. Armstrong, Sgt C.R. Jones, Sgt U.R. La Jeunesse, Sgt J.E. Legault and Sgt R.H. Munro safe (BLME V.2).

3-4 Bomber Command sent 547 bombers to Kassel. H2S marking was very poor, and visual correction was hampered by ground haze resulting in most of the bombs landing in the suburbs and surrounding towns, but damage was still done to the Henschel and Fiesler aircraft factories, but also to the cities main hospital. A large ammunition storage depot was also hit and exploded. Twenty four bombers were lost. 10 Mosquitos made a diversion attack on Hannover, and 12 Mosquitos made an OBOE attack on the power station on Knapsack, 4 further Mosquitos were testing improved OBOE guidance equipment over Aachen, 7 GARDENING and 7 OTU sorties without loss (BC War Diaries).

3-4 15 Sqn. Stirling III BF470 LS-G lost over Germany, possibly shot down by a night fighter, Sgt L.T. Graham RAF, Sgt R. Blanchard RAF and F/S W.T.E. Highland RAAF killed, F/S G.G. Wright, F/S A.V. Wood RAF, F/S J.S. Curtiss RNZAF and Sgt J.R. Arrowsmith RAF PoW.

- 3-4 76 Sqn. Halifax V DK201 MP-P shot down over Germany by a night fighter, pilot P/O A. Thorp RAF and mid-upper gunner Sgt J.T. Zuidmulder RAF killed but the rest of the crew P/O W.W.A. Wanless, Sgt K.D. Butters RAF, Sgt E. Luder RAF, P/O J.P. Suzor RAF, Sgt G.P. Barrell RAF and Sgt J.F. Perry RAF PoW. P/O Wanless had survived a crash landing April 14-15 and a crash Aug. 23-24, above.
- 3-4 76 Sqn. Halifax V DK247 MP-W shot down by a night fighter over Germany, P/O J.R. Hillhouse, Sgt R.M. Watson, Sgt A.J. Murtagh RAF, Sgt W.E. Price RAF and Sgt K. Herring RAF killed, F/O W.S. Wilson RAAF and F/S J.C. Boyd RNZAF PoW. F/O Wilson was badly wounded and died Nov. 17.
- 3-4 77 Sqn. Halifax II DT807 KN-E lost over Germany, F/O B.G. Foley RCAF (USA), Sgt W.A. Bryson RAF, Sgt H.E. Cracknell RAF, Sgt A. Miller RAF (USA), Sgt C.E. Tarbin RAF killed, Sgt R. Searle RAF and Sgt D. Griffiths RAF PoW (H. Welting).
- 3-4 77 Sqn. Halifax II LW269 KN-T lost over Germany, Sgt D.H. Douglas RAF (Can.), Sgt C.J.C. Norquay, Sgt J.F.A. Bailey RAF, Sgt J.P. Belfield RAF, Sgt J.B.E. Birrell RAF, Sgt R. Wilson RAF and P/O A.T. Parker RAF killed.
- 3-4 83 Sqn. Lancaster III JA972 OL-D came down off the Dutch coast, F/O A.J. Ellis, F/S G.S. Taylor, S/L J.E.R. Hayter RAF (S. Africa), Sgt J.K. Prudhoe RAF and F/L F.R. Heeley RAF killed, F/L F.C. Webb DFM RAF and F/S G.J.T. Horton RAF missing.
- 3-4 90 Sqn. Stirling III BK723 WP-D lost over the North Sea, F/S D.H. McKitterick, Sgt Y. De Meillac RAF, Sgt E.K. Leeves RAF, Sgt K.G. Taylor RAF, Sgt W. Bell RAF, F/S J.W. Kealy RAAF and Sgt W.T. Guy RAAF missing.
- 3-4 90 Sqn. Stirling III EE901 XY-U lost over Germany, F/S G.E. Dalton, F/S L.C. Schmidt, F/S F.W. Smith, Sgt A.R. Fuller RAF, Sgt D.C. Sullivan RAF, Sgt A. McLaughlin RAF and Sgt L.W. Longman RAF killed.
- 3-4 158 Sqn. Halifax II LW296 NP-B shot down into the sea by flak, Sgt A.E. Winn DFM and Sgt L.J. Powell RAF killed, WO2 J.T. Carrigan, F/S E. Heweston RAF, Sgt A.P. Royse RAF, P/O F. Grundy RAF and Sgt R. Bennett RAF missing.
- 3-4 419 Sqn. Halifax II JB967 VR-F crash landed in England after being heavily damaged by a German intruder, F/S H.H. Campbell and Sgt A. Simpson RAF injured, F/S D.T. Cook, F/O O.W. Fonger RAF, Sgt P.J. Packer RAF, Sgt A.E. Legault RAF and Sgt D.W. Robertson RAF safe (R. Koval).
- 3-4 427 Sqn. Halifax V LK637 ZL-W 'W-Willie' was attacked outbound over the Dutch coast by a night fighter that severely damaged the fuselage, killing rear gunner F/O J.C. Findlay and wireless operator P/O J.T. Rogerson RAF, and badly wounded the flight engineer, Sgt W.H. Cardy. The pilot, F/L G.J. Laird, corkscrewed to a lower level, the violent manoeuvring tore a 2,000 lb. bomb loose in the damaged bomb bay and out through the bomb bay doors. Regaining control, he set a course for England and the rest of the bomb load was jettisoned. Sgt Cardy was passing in and out of consciousness. When he was conscious he would give instructions on settings for the fuel tanks to the bomb aimer, Sgt J. Corbally, to keep the aircraft engines running. Arriving over England they were instructed to abandon the aircraft, but the

crew decided the shock of a parachute descent might kill the wounded flight engineer and elected to land. After a struggle to lower the undercarriage due to damaged hydraulics was resolved by Sgt Cardy (who was able to diagnose the problem and tell the crew how to solve it) a landing was made, but a loose incendiary set the bomber on fire and it was destroyed, the surviving crew (including navigator **Sgt J. Lorimer** and mid-upper gunner **P/O J.E. Moffat**) safe (R. Koval, R. Allenby). Sgt Cardy was awarded a CGM and F/L Laird a DFC for this action (P. Coupland, Awards). This flight was detailed by K.B. Cothliff. See March 30-31, 1944. [NOTE: TSGNO and Chorley date this loss on Oct. 30, but 5th Year, Cothliff and CWGC records for F/O Findlay and P/O Rogerson confirm Oct. 3].

- 3-4 427 Halifax V LK626 was damaged by flak that wounded the navigator P/O L.G. Biddiscombe RAF. The aircraft returned to England, P/O Biddiscombe wounded, **Sgt R.B. Nairn**, P/O W.A. Cozens RAF, Sgt W.L. Stockford RAF, Sgt H.P. Whittaker RAF, Sgt C. Hopper RAF and Sgt J. McGowan RAF safe (R. Allenby). See December 3-4, below.
- 3-4 428 Sqn. Halifax V EB210 NA-E damaged by an attacking single engined fighter and managed to return and land in England where it was written off, **Sgt J.M. Jacobs**, **Sgt V. Mudford**, F/S C.R. Newton RAAF, Sgt J. Allan RAF, Sgt K.C. Marris RAF, Sgt A. Jackson RAF, Sgt F. Wallbridge RAF and Sgt H.P. Gough RAF safe. See May 8-9, 1944.
- 3-4 428 Sqn. Halifax V EB213 NA-G lost over Germany, **F/S A.J. Cadeau**, **F/O R.P. Goldstein**, **F/S G.M. Herbert**, **Sgt J. Lundy**, P/O F.B. Edwards RAF and Sgt A.J. Hodgkins RAF killed, **Sgt F. Gratton** and Sgt E.R. Burbage RAF PoW.
- 3-4 428 Sqn. Halifax V EB214 NA-S shot down by flak over Germany, **F/O T.J. Elliott** and **WO2 K.A.B. McArthur** killed, **Sgt L.F. Buttler**, **F/O R.A. Thompson**, **Sgt R.R. Raynard**, Sgt E.W. Ranson RAF and Sgt R. McDonald RAF PoW (R. McNeill PoW list).
- 3-4 428 Sqn. Halifax V, F/S G. Newton, was shot up by a single engined night fighter that damaged the fuselage, tail, wings and hydraulics (R. Koval).
- 3-4 429 Sqn. Halifax II was hit by flak which damaged the aircraft and wounded pilot F/O B. Jackson in the face. The aircraft and crew returned safely (R. Koval).
- 3-4 431 Sqn. Halifax V LK925 SE-R shot down over Belgium by a night fighter, **WO2 G.J. Crebbin**, **P/O L.C. Main**, **Sgt C. Wardrope** killed, **P/O J. Reynoldson** (injured), **WO2 L.R. Cudmore**, Sgt S.D. Peters RAF and F/S G.S. Storey RAF PoW, **Sgt R.A.C. De Pape** evaded (W.E. Heron). P/O Reynoldson, WO Cudmore, F/S Crebbin, F/S Storey and P/O Main had all been on board a Wellington that crash landed April 26-27, above.
- 3-4 434 Sqn. Halifax V LK638 WL-V lost over Germany, **F/L G.T. Berg**, **F/S E.V. Davidson**, **F/O H.W. German AFM** killed, **Sgt W.O. Todd**, **Sgt F.G. Babington**, Sgt C.W. Dorey RAF and Sgt R.W. Eaton RAF PoW.
- 3-4 623 Sqn. Stirling III EF158 IC-S shot down over Germany by a night fighter, **F/S C.M.**

Carr, P/O K.F. Shaw RNZAF, F/S F.I. Calvert RNZAF, Sgt R. Cornwall RAF, Sgt F.W. Bate RAF, Sgt T.P. Rowlands RAF have no known grave, F/S R.J. Buckham RNZAF and Sgt T. Owens RAF PoW. F/S Carr had been injured Aug. 1, above, in the loss of a #30 OTU Wellington.

- 3-4 623 Sqn. Stirling III EH994 IC-P shot down by a night fighter, **F/S R.V.B. Knox**, **F/S T.M. Martin**, **F/O T.J. Muir**, Sgt I. Jenkins RAF, Sgt J. Dawson RAF and Sgt A.W.F. Notman RAF killed, **F/S L.W. Moore** PoW. According to Eddie Fell, quoting from *Helmut Lent: The Lent Papers*, Peter Hinchcliffe, Cerberus Publishing, 2005 on the www.rafcommands.com website, return fire from the bomber wounded the pilot of the night fighter, Maj Helmut Lent, one of Germany's top night fighter pilots.
- 3-4 #19 OTU Whitley V Z9422 'N' ditched due to engine problems when flying night circuits, **F/O E.W. Smith**, P/O A.A.M. Fraser RAF, Sgt K.W. Newton RAF, F/O Stuart RAF, F/S Leach RAF, Sgt Coffen RAF and Sgt Mates RAF safe. A minute by minute log of the events of this incident can be found in the back of Chorley's BCL'OTU.

Monday

4 Free French, Italian and local partisans complete re-taking of Corsica (Oxford), where the USAAF would build several bomber airfields for use in attacking the Italian mainland (Joseph Heller, author of the novel Catch-22, later flew on operations from Corsica, the setting of the novel) (wikipedia).

The carrier USS Ranger made the only US Navy attack in Norway of the war when it launched 20 SBD (Dauntless) dive bombers and 10 TBF (Avenger) torpedo bombers with an escort of 14 F4F (Wildcat) fighters to attack shipping near Sandnessjøen-Bodø. They sank 2 ships and badly damaged 9 more as well as shooting down 2 German aircraft for the loss of 2 SBDs and 1 TBF shot down and 1 TBF ditched (ktsorens.tihlde.org).

Using longer ranged escort by P-47s with new fuel tanks 323 USAAF heavy bombers attack targets in Germany, losing 16 (Zijlstra).

- 4 53 Sqn. Liberator GR.V BZ753 'S' was on an anti-submarine patrol over the Atlantic when it signalled it was being attacked by enemy aircraft. **F/S D.W. McInnis**, **F/S F.F. Mercer**, **F/O D.B. Stewart**, F/S W.A. Dearman, F/S A. Fieldhouse RAF, F/O C.W. Foster RAF, F/S W.F. Garrod RAF, F/L E.M.C. Guest DFC twice MiD RAF and F/L J. Rintoul RAF missing (www.rafb24.com).
- 4 100 Sqn. Lancaster III ED583 HW-K was on a flight test when it broke up in the air and crashed in the the middle of the village of North Thoresby, Lincolnshire, killing **Flight Officer T.H. Morgan DFC USAAF (Can.)**, Sgt J.A. Baker RAF, Sgt W.F. Bristow RAF, Sgt W.E.J. Giles DFM RAF, WO J.T. Goozee RAF, Sgt J.H. Rogers RAF, Sgt R.F. Worsley RAF and Sgt C.A. Green RAF. Amazingly there were no casualties on the ground when the out of control aircraft dived into the village from cloud without

warning, although houses were damaged and a Methodist chapel destroyed. Flight Officer Morgan was born in the USA, but raised in Lillooet, BC. In 2005 a mosaic was completed in the village commemorating this crash (<http://www.lancastered627.shawnmcguire.co.uk>, <http://aircrewremembered.com>, wikipedia).

- 4 120 Sqn. Liberator GR.III FL923 'V' missing from a convoy escort off Iceland after signalling it was about to attack a U-boat. The aircraft was shot down by U-539, **F/O F.M. Webber**, W/C R.M. Longmore OBE RAF (Squadron commanding officer), F/O R.W. Tait RAF, F/L J.N.G. Bruce RAF, F/S A.E. Parsons RAF, F/S A.L. Furr RAF, WO W. Stott RAAF and WO W.A. Mincham RAAF missing (<http://ww2talk.com>, R. McNeill www.rafcommands.com).
- 4 149 Sqn. Stirling III EH987 OJ-P suffered a failure of it's undercarriage and crash landed on a training sortie, **WO2 J.W. Patrick**, P/O B.A. Connor RAAF, Sgt S.K. Thorning RAF, F/O R.H. Smith RAF, F/S W.H. Mason RAF, Sgt D.E. Meredith RAF and Sgt W.S. Parker RAF safe. See April 9-10, 1944.
- 4 #1 AFU Anson I N5373 missing off Wales, **P/O R. McGhie**, Sgt C.A. Clark RAF, Sgt J.A. Gouk RAF, Sgt R. Leybourne RAF and Sgt D. Wigglesworth RAF missing (www.rafcommands.com).
- 4 #1679 HC Flight, Lancaster II DS649 'E' overshot a landing and ran across a road, damaged after an undercarriage collapsed, **F/O N.J. Baron**, **P/O M.A. Martin**, **P/O H.M. Stewart**, **F/L W.W. Strachan DFC**, **F/O R.C. Stuart**, Sgt J. Gilliard RAF (Eire) and **1Lt A.L. Rorke USAAF (Can.)** safe (D. Allenby). See November 6 below and February 14-15, 1944.

4-5 Road and rail links at Formia were again attacked by #331 Wing Wellingtons (5th Year).

Frankfurt was the target for 406 Bomber Command and 3 USAAF B-17 bombers. The Pathfinders found the target clear and marked the aiming points accurately, resulting in the most destructive attack of the war on the city and it's port to date. A basement shelter in a hospital sadly received a direct hit that killed 90 children, 14 nuns and other staff. Ten RAF and 1 USAAF bomber were lost. Good weather forecasting aided the attack with the bomber stream flying through heavy cloud which cleared just short of the target (419 SH). Middlebrook notes that the railway stations were packed in the following days with people leaving the city.

A diversionary attack was made by 66 Lancasters on Ludwigshafen but with scattered results. Other operations included 12 OBOE Mosquitos to the power generating station in Knapsack, 1 to Aachen, 5 GARDENING and 8 OTU sorties, without loss (BC War Diaries).

The Mosquito sent to Aachen was the first operational use of GEE-H for blind bombing. GEE-H was a development of the GEE navigation system using 2 GEE transmitters to pinpoint a bomb release point. Instead of ground stations determining the release point this was done on board the aircraft from the signals received. It was less accurate than OBOE, but the onboard equipment was smaller and lighter, and it could handle up to 80 bombers at a time (wikipedia).

This was the last night that the B-17s of the 422nd Bomb. Sqn. USAAF operated with Bomber Command as the USAAF decided to end the experiment. The 422nd Sqn. remained a night flying unit doing some night bombing on it's own before becoming a specialty leaflet dropping unit (BC War Diaries).

- 4-5 35 Sqn. Halifax II HX148 TL-G damaged by flak over the target but returned to England on 2 engines where it crash landed and burst into flames after a third engine failed, **F/L P.S. Warren**, Sgt V.H.R. Hobbs RAF, F/L A.E.R. Bexton RAF and F/S W.S.M. Edmonston RAF injured, F/L D.R. Wood RAF, Sgt E.H. Barry and F/S L.J. North RAF safe. See R. Donovan for details of the crash and F/L Warren's recovery as a Guinea Pig.
- 4-5 51 Sqn. Halifax II HR727 MN-V crashed in poor weather on return to England from an operation, **WO2 J.G.F. Fortin**, Sgt E.H. Fenning RAF, Sgt E.G. Lane RAF, Sgt F.A. Squibbs RAF and Sgt B.K. Short RAF killed, Sgt V.H. Garland RAF and Sgt J.B. Mack RAF injured.
- 4-5 75 (New Zealand) Sqn. Stirling III EF130 JN-M lost over Germany, **F/S C. Pennycook**, Sgt H.J. Middleton RAF, Sgt E.F. Hudson RAF, Sgt C.J. Massie RAF, Sgt L. Pow RAF, Sgt E. Thorpe RAF and Sgt T. Lackenby RAF killed.
- 4-5 419 Sqn. Halifax II JD204 VR-L shot down over Germany by a night fighter, **F/S A. Bortolussi**, **F/O J.R. Dale**, **F/S E.H.W. Griffin**, **F/O W.H. Hamilton** killed; **F/O E.L. Riley**, Sgt J. McEwan RAF and Sgt T.A. Reay RAF PoW. A photograph of this crew appears in an article about F/O Dale in *Airforce Magazine*, Vol. 9, No. 1, 1985.
- 4-5 419 Sqn. Halifax II JD463 VR-D shot down over Belgium by a night fighter, **F/S R.E. Paddison**, Sgt G.H. Beach RAF, Sgt W.J. Boyce RAF, Sgt G.E. Chapman RAF, Sgt C.R. Winterbottom RAF and F/O A.R. Fare RAF killed, **Sgt W.L. Renner** evaded.
- 4-5 427 Sqn. Halifax V LK920 ZL-J lost over Belgium, **WO1 E.C. Champion**, **F/S J.E. Paquet**, **WO2 J.L. Perrin**, **Sgt P.L.J.M. Quénet**, **F/S R. Ranger**, Flight Officer T.J. Thomas USAAF and Sgt P.J. King RAF killed.
- 4-5 428 Sqn. Halifax V LK931 NA-W lost over Luxembourg, Sgt A. Scott RAF, Sgt D.J. Richards RAF, Sgt S.A. Baldwin RAF and Sgt A. Parkinson RAF PoW, **F/S J. Harkins**, **Sgt G.P. Columbus** and Sgt N.W. Lee evaded. O. Clutton-Brock notes that Sgt Columbus fought with the French Resistance until he was captured July 2, 1944 and made a PoW.

- 4-5 429 Sqn. Halifax II JD327 was attacked several times by a night fighter which killed flight engineer Sgt C.W. Holdsworth RAF and bomb aimer F/L L.E. Thompson RAF, and damaged the bomber, leaving it with one engine out and damaged fuel tanks. They managed to return to England where the remainder of the crew bailed out as there was not enough fuel to attempt a landing, **F/S G.J. Byers**, F/L G. Pentony RAF, F/O J.G. Messenger RAF, P/O K.A. Craig RAF, Sgt G.W. Patton RAF and P/O G.A. Fitzgerald RAF safe (R. Koval). F/S Byers had been involved in an accident Sept. 8, above. See Nov. 3-4, below.
- 4-5 434 Sqn. Halifax V DK250 WL-W lost over the sea returning from an operation, **F/O W.S. Ruxton**, **WO2 P.H. Sheldon**, Sgt A.C. Cox RAF and Sgt C.H. Hayward RAF killed, **F/O J. Allan**, Sgt R.F. Lee RAF and Sgt H.J. Henshall RAF missing.

Tuesday

5 US air attack and naval bombardment of Wake Island. Following this attack 98 US civilians still being held on the Island were executed as the Japanese believed they were about to be invaded, but the island was by-passed (wikipedia).

South of Iceland U-336 is attacked by a 269 Sqn. Hudson UA-F flown by F/S G. Allsop (RAF? RAAF?). When the U-boat stays on the surface it is sunk by a salvo of rockets (D. Newton; A. Niestle, German U-Boat Losses During World War II: Details of Destruction). Testing had shown that rocket projectiles would continue to 'fly' underwater and punch through hulls below the waterline, making them a prime weapon for anti-ship and u-boat attacks.

- 5 3 Sqn. Typhoon Ib JP911 lost on a RAMROD over Belgium, **WO1 J.A. Larocque** killed, one of 10 Typhoons lost in combat on this day (FCL'42-43, 1 ed.).
- 5 400 Sqn. Mustang I AP173 missing from an INTRUDER sortie over France, **F/O F.J. Parsons** killed.
- 5 #17 AFU Master II AZ593 crashed in England, **Sgt C.F. Lee** killed.
- 5 #1 Central Navigation School, Rivers, Manitoba, Anson I's #6642 and DG872 collided in mid-air and crashed near the airfield on a night navigation exercise, **Sgt J.A. Cummer**, **Sgt L.P. Guay**, **P/O W.H. Earl**, **P/O T.W. Nixon**, **P/O D.R. Petrie**, **Sgt L.E. Plate**, Sgt A.L. Capon RNZAF, LAC A. MacArthur RAF and LAC R.G.G. Smith RAF were killed.
- 5 #35 SFTS **Cpl(P) G.L. Alexander** died from injuries caused by glass from a window broken in a fight he was having with another airman (B. Barry et al).
- 5 unknown unit, **Cpl C.W. Welsh** died in Canada of natural causes (www.rafcommands.com).
- 5 #111 OTU, Bahamas, Mitchell II FR384 'CM' ditched off shore of Eleuthera after an engine failure, 1 crew injured (E. Wiberg).
- 5 USAAF Canadian built UC-64A (Norseman) 43-5193 crashed on taking off from an airfield in Utah (<http://www.norsemanhistory.ca/>).

5-6 205 Group, Tunisia, sent 51 bombers to attack a group of German aircraft reported at the airfield at Grosseto (D. Parker). This was the last operation by #331 Wellington Wing in Tunisia. Since June 26 the three RCAF Wellington squadrons had flown 2,127 sorties in support of the invasions of Sicily and Italy (CCMA). The RCAF Squadrons were ordered to prepare to return to England and #6 Group RCAF.

Wednesday

- 6 227 Sqn. Beaufighter VIc JM648 'N' ditched in the Aegean after a double engine failure while escorting a naval force off Cos, **P/O B.J. Beare** and Sgt C.E. Humphreys RAF rescued (<http://aviationarchaeology.gr>, B. Cull).
- 6 175 Sqn. Typhoon Ib JP371 crashed in a practice dogfight with Spitfires killing **F/O G.E. Adamac**.
- 6 512 Sqn. Dakota III FD899 hit balloon barrage cables over London and crashed in Regents Park while on an air test, **F/O T.M. Hawryluk**, F/S H.E. Dennis RAAF, F/O J.A. Robertson RAF, AC1 R.E. Penn RAF, AC1 H.R. Phillips RAF, AC2 K.T. Ding RAF, AC2 D.A. Westcott RAF, AC2 R.D. Brown RAF, LAC J.L. Houghton RAF killed (C. Cummings via COL BRUGGY www.rafcommands.com).
- 6 #6 (Coastal) OTU **F/O W.J. Oliver** died after falling accidentally off the roof of a hotel in Edinburgh, Scotland.
- 6 #36 OTU, Canadian built Mosquito B.VII KB323 made a hard landing and damaged in training at Greenwood, NS, Sgt V.J. Wood RAF safe (aviation-safety.net).

Thursday

7 Time bombs set by withdrawing German soldiers destroy the Naples Post Office building, killing 100 civilians and US military personnel (wikipedia).

USAAF P-38 fighters flying from North Africa begin patrolling the Aegean Sea around Cos (B. Cull).

- 7 354 Sqn. Liberator V BZ887 'D' dove into ground near Cuttack, India, after taking off on an anti-submarine patrol, **F/O F.V. Breen**, **P/O E.H. Bullis**, **F/O S.J. Dubowski**, **F/O W.J. Fisher**, **F/S H.E. Miles**, **F/O W.K. Redman**, **F/S H.B. Sigel**, P/O Moody RAF (160 Sqn.) and Sgt F.J. Trower RAF killed.
- 7 #23 OTU Wellington X HE823 was taking off with a full load when an engine failed, the aircraft hit an obstacle and was written off, **Sgt J.G.A.G. Meilleur** and his crew safe. See Oct. 17, below.
- 7 #57 OTU Spitfire Ia K9953 collided in mid-air with another #57 OTU Spitfire Ia R6883 and crashed in England, **WO2 E.M. Mills RCAF (USA)** killed.
- 7 #6 B&G School, Mountain View, Ontario, Bolingbroke IV.T aircraft #10015 and #10084 collided over the gunnery range off Nicholson Island and crashed into Lake Ontario,

- Sgt J.J.A. Gagnon, Sgt J.R.R. Lussier, Sgt J.H.R. Riopel, Sgt L.G. Shields, P/O L.F. Smith killed, LAC(AG) J.A.C.A. Paquin, F/O D.G. Porter, P/O L.J. Prete missing.
- 7 #9 B&G School, Mont Joli, Quebec, Battle I.Ts L5556 and #1949 collided and crashed near Priceville, Quebec, F/S R.W. Dean, LAC(AG) K. McKinstry and LAC(AG) E.W. Astell RAF killed in L5556, and LAC(AG) S.G. Trueman killed and LAC(AG) R.E. Peavoy or Pevey injured in #1949, pilot Sgt J.P.L. Doucet safe, but was later subject to a courts-martial for this loss (S. Shail; I.M. Macdonald at www.rafcommands.com).
- 7 #32 EFTS, Bowden, Alberta, Cpl G.K. Gresty RAF died in of natural causes (www.rafcommands.com).
- 7 USAAF 307 Ferry Sqn. P-39Q 42-21008 crashed after an engine failure 140 miles west of Edmonton, Alberta, pilot R.F. LaSuer bailed out (AAIR).

7-8 RN cruisers attack a German convoy taking reinforcements to the Island of Cos, sinking 8 of 9 ships, and fighting off dive-bomber attacks to return safely (ww2total.com Chronology/1943). This German force was intended for the invasion of Leros, and its destruction delayed that for a month (B. Cull).

German bombing attack (on England? or in Italy?) makes first use of Düppel, similar to WINDOW, to mask a bomber attack (wikipedia).

Bomber Command sends 343 bombers to Stuttgart with diversionary attacks by 16 Lancasters to the Zeppelin works at Friedrichshafen (making aircraft, and parts for V-2 rockets), 10 Mosquitos to Munich, 7 to Emden and 5 more to Aachen. German controllers were confused by the diversions (and possibly ECM, see below) and night fighters arrived at Stuttgart late. H2S marking was made despite cloud cover over the target and a nearby town with scattered but heavy damage, over 160 people were killed on the ground. Four Lancasters were lost. Other operations included 79 GARDENING and 14 OTU sorties with 1 minelayer lost (BC War Diaries). [Note, Chorley records 5 aircraft lost from Bomber Command on GARDENING sorties on this night]. The USAAF 422 Bomb Squadron, switched from night bombing, begins dropping leaflets on NICKEL sorties on this night (Zijlstra).

Danish physicist Neils Bohr is flown to England as a passenger in the bomb bay of a BOAC Mosquito and traveled to join the TUBE ALLOYS team in Montreal (wikipedia, ww2total.com Chronology/1943).

The first operational use of AIRBORNE CIGAR (ABC) by 101 Sqn., as described Sept. 23-24 above (BC War Diaries).

- 7-8 15 Sqn. Stirling III EH990 LS-K lost without trace on a GARDENING sortie, WO2 J.T.

- Carter, F/S R.G.H. Gustafson, Sgt T.R. Ewen RAF, Sgt J.S. Long RAF, Sgt E.J. Francis RAF, Sgt E.H. Gold RAF and Sgt H. Dobson missing.
- 7-8 49 Sqn. Lancaster III ED426 EA-P shot down over France by flak and night fighters, F/O E.J. Hepburn, Sgt A.H. Brownlie RAF and Sgt T.T. O'Leary RAF (Eire) killed, Sgt G.G. Attwood RAF and F/S W.F. Fitzgerald RAF PoW, P/O D. Wares RAF and Sgt R. Barlow RAF evaded.
- 7-8 149 Sqn. Stirling III EJ106 OJ-O lost without trace from a GARDENING sortie, Sgt R.A. Barr, F/S J.G. McInnes, F/S A.D. Steels, Sgt D.E. Ashton RAF, Sgt A. Robinson RAF, Sgt J.E. McQuade RAF and F/S T.P. Walton RAAF missing.
- 7-8 408 Lancaster II DS724 EQ-X (or -C, R. Koval) had just taken off on an operation when the controls jammed and the crew, F/S J.D. Harvey, Sgt E.J. Hurd, F/O S.W. Dempsey, P/O G.R. Butchart, Sgt S.E. Campbell, Sgt K.L. Davison and Sgt H.J. Branton RAF bailed out, Sgt Campbell being injured. The bomber sadly crashed into a farm killing a farmer, Mr. George Strickland, on the ground when the bomb load exploded (R. Allenby).
- 7-8 426 Sqn. Lancaster II DS689 OW-S lost over France, F/S F.J. Neal, P/O M.B. Summers, P/O J. Wilde, P/O G. Davies RAF, P/O P.E. Newland RAF and Sgt G.E. Aldous RAF killed. F/O J.J. Beaton and Sgt C.J. Bettsworth RAF bailed out and evaded, arriving back in England exactly a year later via Paris and Switzerland (www.avro-lancaster.info). This bomber carried artwork of an Eskimo on the nose, possibly named "*Simcoe Warrior I*" (<http://www.lancaster-archive.com>)? Some of the guns and ammunition from this aircraft were obtained by the local Resistance unit (L. Motiuk). P/O Summers had been briefly interned in Ireland after the loss of a 427 Sqn. Wellington Feb. 28-March 1, above.
- 7-8 426 Sqn. Lancaster II, S/L A.J. Hughes, returned early after the pilot was injured by a fire from another bomber which also damaged the hydraulics, forcing them to break open the bomb bay doors with their 4,000 'cookie' when jettisoning and use the emergency system to deploy the undercarriage (R. Koval, R. Allenby). See November 26-27, below.
- 7-8 432 Sqn. Wellington X JA451 QO-C, was on a GARDENING sortie when it was attacked by a night fighter which it shot down in flames. A second night fighter then attacked the bomber and badly damaged it, but it managed to return safely, Sgt G. Atkins, Sgt P.W. Dennis, P/O J.F. O'Gorman, Sgt J.H.L. Quesnel and Sgt P.B. Woolfenden RAF safe (R. Koval, R. Allenby). See Oct. 8-9, below.

Friday

- 8 99 Sqn., India, Wellington X HE714 crashed on take-off after blowing a tire, hitting a ditch and was destroyed when the bomb load exploded, WO1 G.H. Cockburn, WO1 V.E. Cook, F/O G.H. Hamilton, F/S E.E. Chalk RAF, Sgt E.S. Foskett RAF and F/S W.C. Smith RAF killed (C. Shores).
- 8 58 Sqn. surviving crew of Halifax HR982 that ditched after attacking and sinking U-221

September 27, above, rescued by *HMS Mahratta*, F/O T.E. Bach RCAF (Argentina), F/O E.L. Hartley RAF, F/S K.E. Ladds RAF, G/C R.C. Mead RAF, Sgt G.R. Robertson RAF and Sgt A.S. Fox RAF in rough shape. F/O Hartley received a DFC, F/S Ladds a DFM and F/O Bach was MiD for this action. Due to his injuries navigator F/O Bach did no more operational flying but returned to Canada where he re-mustered as a pilot instructor (<http://uboat.net>; NickP, F. Williston and H. Halliday at www.rafcommands.com; Awards).

- 8 423 Sqn. Sunderland III DD863 3-J, Sgt W. Alexander, Sgt D.T. Bromhead, Sgt A.R. Caterham, Sgt D.C. Douglas, F/O H. Forrest, W/C J.R. Frizzle, WO F. R. Haar, Sgt W.J. Lancaster, Sgt R.G. Locke, F/O A. Menaul and F/O A.H. Russell, escorting Convoy SC-143 attacks and sinks U-610 (RCAF Sqns.; 5th Year).
- 8 431 Sqn. Halifax V LK897 overshot a landing from a training flight and ran into a ditch, F/O G.O. Carefoot, P/O B.P. Jackson RAF and their crew safe (R. Allenby). See November 18-19, below.
- 8 #5 AFU Master II AZ799 was part of a 9 aircraft formation practice flight in England when it collided with another Master and crashed, Sgt F.J. Linden RAAF and Sgt Jones RAF killed (A. Storr). Sgt Linden's wife was Canadian, Cicely Linden, of Calgary, hence his listing in TSGNO (CWGC).
- 8 #20 OTU Wellington III X3662 'B' went down into the sea off the Island of Skye on a navigation exercise, P/O A.W. Howl and Sgt W.J. Sadler RAF killed, F/S E.M. Anderson, F/S G.F. Smith RCAF (USA), Sgt C.J. Hole RAF and F/L J.A. Puttack RAF missing (D. Sim www.rafcommands.com).
- 8 #13 SFTS, St. Hubert, Quebec, aero engine mechanic LAC S.T. Sims died in hospital of natural causes.
- 8 #23 EFTS, Davidson, Saskatchewan, Cornell I FH880 crashed on an island in the South Saskatchewan River, killing LAC(P) R.M. McGregor.
- 8 USAAF B-25C 42-64775 destroyed in a taxing accident at Goose Bay, Nfld. (AAIR).

8-9 Hannover was again the target of Bomber Command, which sent 504 bombers to the city. Weather over the target was clear and the bombing concentrated, causing large fires. Civil defence measures based on previous experience managed to reduce fatalities but still 1,200 died on the ground and over 3,300 were injured. At least 2 of the cities major industries were badly damaged. A second operation was made on Bremen by 119 bombers as a diversion, with scattered bombing on the port. Other operations include 10 Mosquitos to Castrup-Rauxel, 7 to Berlin and 1 to Düren, 17 GARDENING and 2 OTU sorties, for a total of 660 sorties with 30 bombers lost (BC War Diaries).

This was the last night that Wellington bombers were used on a Main Force bombing operation (see 432 Sqn. below). The bomber was still used for many secondary operations such as GARDENING, for Coastal Command and OTU

operations, and for special purposes such as signals intelligence and airborne fighter control, and in other theatres especially the Mediterranean (see January 7-8, 1945 and March 13-14, 1945). The Wellington was still in use at the end of the war and was finally retired as a training aircraft in 1953. The basic design of the wings and tail (redesigned as a metal covered structure) with a new fuselage, became the basis of England's first post-war airliner the Vickers VC-1.

- 8-9 7 Sqn. Lancaster III JA706 MG-C lost over Germany, **F/S W.B. Eaton**, P/O Hartstein RAF, Sgt E. Kempson RAF and F/S T.C. O'Sullivan RAAF killed, Sgt F.E. Bryant RAF, Sgt R.A. Woodward and Sgt R.J. Reeves RAF PoW. Sgt Bryant later wrote a book of his experiences in the RAF and as a PoW, "*There's Always Bloody Something!*", Samaria Concepts, 1991.
- 8-9 7 Sqn. Lancaster III JB181 MG-V lost over Holland, **F/S C.Z.R. Christianson**, **F/O B.E.C. MacPherson RAF (Can.)**, Sgt F.R. Brine RAF and Sgt T.R. Spencer RAF killed, F/O S.G. Burnam-Richards RAF, Sgt M.G. Smallridge RAF and Sgt E.A. Brinton RAF missing.
- 8-9 10 Sqn. Halifax II HX156 ZA-N returned after sustaining flak damage, **F/O A.A.H.J.N.A. Duchesney**, F/L J.H. Trobe RAAF, F/S W. Mowatt RAAF, Sgt D.B. Smith RAAF, Sgt G.W. Ferneyhough RAF, Sgt R.C. Bridge RAF and possibly F/O J.H. Collier DFC RAF safe (R. Allenby). See November 3-4, below.
- 8-9 12 Sqn. Lancaster III ED995 PH-X lost over Germany, **Sgt J.A.O. Strachan**, Sgt P.M. Adams RAF, Sgt W.T. Adamson RAF, Sgt E. Mallin RAF, Sgt S.B. Watson RAF and F/S R.A. Collins RAF killed, Sgt P.J. Bemrose RAF PoW.
- 8-9 12 Sqn. Lancaster III JB406 PH-D lost over Germany, **WO2 H.C.A. Maynard**, WO F.R. Joy RAF, Sgt A.D. Dufty RAF, F/O W.J. Lake RAF, Sgt J.M. McCormack RAF, Sgt G.H. Harner RAF and Sgt S.G. Short RAF killed. TSGNO notes that WO Maynard had been slightly injured Aug. 30, 1941 in an explosion and fire at the Airmen's Canteen in Calgary, Alberta.
- 8-9 35 Sqn. Halifax II HR777 TL-Y was damaged by a night fighter and crash landed in England on return, **Sgt W.A. Hooper**, **Sgt V.E. Bent**, F/O M.M. Muller RAF, Sgt T. Ellwood RAF, F/S N.G. Emery RAF, Sgt D.E. Coleman RAF and F/O H.T. Haskell RAF injured.
- 8-9 50 Sqn. Lancaster I DV324 VN-N shot down over the target by flak, **WO2 W. Beckthold** and Sgt F.W. Dock RAF killed, P/O J.C.P. Taylor RAF, F/S J. Handley RAF, F/O S.D. Stubbs RAF, Sgt H.J. Whitwell RAF and WO J.S. Gray RAF PoW.
- 8-9 61 Sqn. Lancaster III DV239 QR-V lost over Germany, **P/O M.H. Thompson**, F/S R. Cramp RAAF, F/O H.E. Carrott RAF, F/O E.A. Thomas RAF, P/O R. Coulson RAF, Sgt D. Hydes RAF and Sgt W.S. Smith RAF killed.
- 8-9 78 Sqn. Halifax II LW315 EY-G lost over Germany, **P/O G.L. Hughes**, **P/O S. McManus**, **F/L R.F. Williams RAF (Can.)**, Sgt W. Quinn RAF, P/O L.G. Heaney RAF and Sgt R.T. Johnson RAF killed, Sgt N.F. Page RAF PoW. F/L Williams was a Biggs' Boy

(K. Stofer).

- 8-9 78 Sqn. Halifax II JD455 EY-K lost over Germany, Sgt L. Harrett RAF, Sgt F. Madden RAF, Sgt J.P. Todd RAF and Sgt W. Voss RAF killed, **Sgt W. Robertson**, Sgt J.E. Swinden RAF and Sgt C.A. Walsh RAAF PoW.
- 8-9 90 Sqn. Stirling III BK655 XY-X lost over Germany, **F/O R. Greaves**, **F/O A.E. Wyton**, Sgt D.G.St.J. Davies RAF, Sgt G.A. Hayes RAF, Sgt B. Thorpe RAF, F/L K.R. Yates RAF and Sgt S.T. Kettlety RAF killed.
- 8-9 97 Sqn. Lancaster III JB174 OF-S destroyed by flak over the target, **F/O R.E. Baht** killed, Sgt P. Cassidy RAF, Sgt A.E. Gadsby RAF, Sgt H.J. Lewis RAF, Sgt J.H. Brown RAF and Sgt H.T. Finch RAF missing, **P/O G.D. Nicholl** PoW.
- 8-9 106 Sqn. Lancaster III DV272 ZN-F lost over Germany, S/L D.W.S. Howroyd RAF, Sgt A. Williams RAF, Sgt T.H. Davies RAF, Sgt D.S.K. Chappell RAF, F/S R.G. Kelly RAF and F/O A.J. Horobin RAF killed, **P/O L.D. Cromb** PoW.
- 8-9 115 Sqn. Lancaster II DS691 KO-B shot down by flak and night fighters over Germany, F/S W.F. Nethersole RAAF and F/S H.J. Willis DFM RAF killed, **P/O W.C. Blewett**, **P/O W. Pryde**, P/O A.S. Cade RAF, Sgt W.T. Mitchell RAF and Sgt D.E. Davis RAF PoW.
- 8-9 156 Sqn. Lancaster III ED969 lost over Germany, P/O F.J. Fry RAF, Sgt E.R. Boreham RAF, Sgt R.E. Dykes RAF and WO P.J. Jennings RAF killed, **F/O W.C. Poole**, **Sgt A.C.E. Green** and F/S A.H. Burrows RAAF PoW.
- 8-9 196 Sqn. Stirling III EF494 ZO-C forced to return due to engine problems and ditched off the English coast, F/L R.N.P. Luff RAF injured, **WO2 C.B. Rattigan**, P/O P. Dyson RAF, Sgt P.A. Hooker RAF, Sgt D.L. Northover RAF, F/S D.G. Denning RAF and F/S J.L. Parker RAF safe.
- 8-9 218 Sqn. Stirling III BK687 HA-R lost over Germany, **P/O S.A. Driscoll**, **Sgt D.B. Fulton**, **F/S E. Rogers**, **F/S K.G. Smalley**, Sgt P. Barton RAF, Sgt F.G. Calway RAF and Sgt A. Turner RAF killed.
- 8-9 405 Sqn. Lancaster III JA980 LQ-Z shot down over Germany by a night fighter, **F/L R.T. Botkin RCAF (USA)**, **WO2 J.A.N. Hucker**, **S/L M.S.F. Schneider**, F/O F.W. Bilson RAF and F/O J.G. Taylor RNZAF killed, **P/O C.A. Farnum** and Sgt J. Connolly RAF PoW. S/L Schneider had been badly injured in 1942 and came through two other crash landings in 1943, all in Halifax bombers.
- 8-9 408 Sqn. Lancaster II was damaged by flak and landed away from it's base on return, **Sgt T.W. Hilliard**, **Sgt C.M. MacDonald**, **Sgt C.P. Miller**, **F/O J.E. Sauve**, **Sgt R.C. Smith**, **Sgt N. Sutherland** and Flight Officer H.S. Oien USAAF safe (R. Allenby). See November 3-4 below.
- 8-9 426 Sqn. Lancaster II, **F/S A.L. Olsson**, was attacked by a Ju 88 night fighter which it claimed shot down by the rear gunner, F/S K.M. Pulham (R. Koval, 5th Year). See March 26-27, 1944.
- 8-9 427 Sqn. Halifax V LK900 ZL-D lost on an operation to Germany, **Sgt M.C. Harrington**, **F/S F.J. Kelly**, **F/S L.C. Skerry**, **F/O S.E.C. Thorn**, Sgt M.J. O'Donovan RAF (Eire),

- Sgt E.H. Scraton RAF and Sgt R. Thompson RAF killed.
- 8-9 428 Sqn. Halifax V EB252 NA-P returned safely with part of one of its rudders missing after an air to air collision over the target, **Sgt J.P. McMaster**, **Sgt H.C. Shepherd**, F/S W.J. Armour RAAF, Sgt L.P. Coupe RAF, Sgt S.P. Page RAF, F/S J.J. Moon RAAF and F/S F.C. Clucas RAAF safe (R. Koval, R. Allenby). See November 19-20, November 25-26 and December 20-21, below.
- 8-9 429 Sqn. Halifax II JD323 AL-S lost over Germany, **F/S W.W. Kozicki**, Sgt R.W.H. Board RAF, Sgt V.R. Bucksey RAF, Sgt M.W. Hitchin RAF, F/S K. Williams RAF, Sgt L.R. Head RAF and Sgt E.H. Chapman RAF killed.
- 8-9 431 Sqn. Halifax V DK265 SE-C lost without trace, **Sgt H.E. Evans**, **Sgt W.H. Hamil**, F/S I.R. Chalmers RAAF, Sgt G. Beeken RAF, Sgt F.W. Stubbings RAF, P/O S.H. Walker RAF and Sgt R. Mather RAF missing.
- 8-9 431 Sqn. Halifax V LK657 SE-K lost over Germany, **Sgt F. Rudd**, **F/S J.E. Ryan**, Sgt D.A. Adams RAF, Sgt T.A. Ashcroft RAF, F/O R.V. Fisher RAF, F/O R.E. Baker RAF and WO P.J. Hay RAF killed, **WO1 A. Rollack** PoW. Sgt Rudd was only 18 when he died. F/S Ryan had been injured in the collision of 2 #1651 CU Stirlings Aug. 12, 1942.
- 8-9 432 Sqn. Wellington X LN451 QO-W lost on an operation to Germany, **F/O D.C. Baker**, **WO1 C.N. Hurl**, **WO2 G.W. Thompson**, Sgt J. Taylor RAF and Sgt J. Black RAF killed. This was the last Wellington lost by Bomber Command on a Main Force bombing operation.
- 8-9 432 Sqn. Wellington X, **Sgt A.E. Slegg**, returned safely after being struck by a bomb over the target and having one of its elevators jammed, crew **P/O S.W.F. Baker**, **Sgt W.H. Green**, **Sgt G.P. Lowle** and **Sgt A.R. Morgan** safe (R. Koval, R. Allenby). See Dec 2-3, below.
- 8-9 432 Sqn. Wellington X, **F/S P.W. Dennis**, returned after 3 attacks by night fighters (R. Koval, R. Allenby). See November 26-27 below.
- 8-9 432 Sqn. Wellington X, **Flight Officer W.C. Fisher** USAAF (Can.), was attacked by 2 night fighters, claiming the second shot down by the rear gunner WO R.K. Saunders RAAF. The bomber returned to England, FO Fisher, WO Saunders, **Sgt J.S. Briegel**, **P/O L.F. Legace**, Sgt T.W. Pragnell RAF and F/S M.A.T. Brudell RAAF safe (R. Koval, R. Allenby). WO Saunders report was published in *The R.C.A.F. Overseas - The Fifth Year*. See December 16-17 below and January 21-22, 1944.
- 8-9 434 Sqn. Halifax V LK647 WL-C shot down by a night fighter over Germany, **F/S W.B. Ballantyne**, **F/O D.H. MacDonald**, **F/O F.G. Small**, **Sgt A.J. Steinacker**, Sgt R.L. Swindale RAF and Sgt F.A. Tiley RAF killed, **F/O J.F.E. Turcotte** PoW.
- 8-9 619 Sqn. Lancaster III ED839 PG-C swung on take-off on an operation, lost its undercarriage and caught fire, **F/O J.G. Thompson** and his crew safe.

Saturday

9 Twenty four lost in a Liberator in Quebec (CJCA headline). (See Oct. 20, below, date

may be a typo).

The USAAF sends 352 bombers to targets in Poland and eastern Germany, their longest ranged mission to date, losing 28 (Zijlstra).

German U-220 lays a minefield off St. John's, Newfoundland (wikipedia). See Oct. 19, below.

- 9 421 Sqn. Spitfire, **S/L R.W. McNair DFC and Bar** shot down a Fw 190 while escorting USAAF bombers, before his aircraft was hit and damaged. He managed to return to England and land safely. This was his last victory. He was credited with 16 enemy aircraft destroyed, 5 probably destroyed and 10 damaged, 15 of these claims over Malta (www.acesofww2.com). On Oct. 17 he was promoted to Wing Commander and leader of #126 Fighter Wing RCAF, which he led for 6 months. He remained in the RCAF until his death in 1971, as **G/C R.W. McNair DSO, DFC and two Bars, and Queens Commendation for Bravery**, the latter awarded for his actions in 1953 following the crash landing of North Star #17503 in which he was a passenger (H.A. Halliday). G/C McNair is a member of Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame.
- 9 464 Sqn. RAAF Mosquito FB.VI HX912 (SB-F?) lost over Holland, **F/O C.G. McDonald** and his pilot F/L R.W. Smith RAF killed (D. Newton).
- 9 487 Sqn. RNZAF Mosquito FB.VI HX965 was hit by flak, **F/O D.C. Bridgman** killed, W/C A.G. Wilson wounded (Shores & Thomas, from stonebooks.com).
- 9 #82 OTU Wellington X HE919 crashed in England on a night training exercise, **Sgt D.E. Aiken**, WO J.D. Rees RAF and crew safe. See June 24-25, 1944.
- 9 #2 Wireless School, Calgary, Alberta, Fort #3647 damaged and written off (R.W.R. Walker).
- 9 #9 Construction Maintenance Unit, **Sgt N.G. Minor** died in hospital in Vancouver of injuries sustained in an accident at Jasper, Alberta.
- 9 #32 OTU, Patricia Bay, BC, Canadian built Hampden TB.I AN101 lost at sea off Stuart Island practicing torpedo attacks, Sgt F.K. Maiden RAAF and Sgt N.O. Weekes RAAF killed, P/O K. Shaw RAF and P/O A.L. Warner RAF missing (*BC Times Colonist, Patricia Bay Aircrash List 2009, A. Storr*).
- 9-10 159 Sqn. Liberator III BZ841 'E' shot down over Rangoon, Burma, by a Japanese Ki-43 fighter (Sgt Maj Nishizawa Daisuki) while making a night attack on an airfield, **P/O P. Belkin**, S/L L.P. Massey DFC & Bar RAF, WO W.G. Blue RAF, F/S R.A. Lewis RAF (Rhodesia), WO A. Simpson RAF, Sgt J.E. Wadsworth RAF, WO J.L. Ridsdale RAF and WO R.A. Powrie RAF killed (M. Poole, C. Shores).

Sunday

- 10 177 Sqn. Beaufighter VI f JL659 missing in Burma **F/O R.L. Bayard** and P/O L.A. Seary

- RAF missing (C. Shores).
- 10 92 Sqn. Spitfire VIII JF567 shot down off Italy attacking a Do 217, **WO1 L.B. MacKay** missing (www.spitfires.ukf.net).
- 10 #9 AFU Anson I EF820 crashed in Scotland, **Sgt G.C. MacKenzie**, F/L D.H. Brewer RAF, P/O R. Blewett RAF, Sgt K. Ellis RAF and Sgt P. Jackson RAF killed (davew and alclark www.rafcommands.com).
- 10 #5 SFTS Brantford, Ontario, postal clerk **LAW Edith Mary Brownlee** killed and **AW1 Vera Gladys Hutchings** injured in a hit and run outside Brantford (www.wwicdnwomensproject.org).
- 10-11 70 Sqn. Wellington III HZ121 'S' crashed attempting a single engine overshoot in Tunisia returning from an operation over Italy, **Sgt W.St. J. Brown**, F/S J.E. Birch, Sgt A.C. Fance, Sgt L.H. Thompson and Sgt E.J. Turner (RAF?) safe (BLME V.2).

Monday

11 Japanese bombers attack Madras in India (ww2total.com Chronology/1943).

- 11 #6 (Coastal) OTU Oxford LX328 crashed in Scotland on a training flight, killing **WO1 J.F.C. Cabot**, F/S P.D. Horrigan RAAF, F/S D.I. Wildman RAF, Sgt E.H. Berry RAAF and Sgt F.L.G. Price RAF (alclark www.rafcommands.com).
- 11 #33 EFTS, Caron, Saskatchewan, Cornell I FH890 crashed, F/L W.D. Jarratt RAF and LAC W.D. Nethercott RAF killed.
- 11-12 462 Sqn. RAAF Halifax II BB417 shot down after dropping flares to illuminate an airfield on Rhodes, **WO2 F.R.V. Nello**, F/S R.L. Fennell RAF, F/S M.G. Fraser RAF, F/S A. Griffin RAF, F/S M.F. Hall RAF, and Sgt G.F.W. Lawrence RAF missing (COL BRUGGY at www.rafcommands.com).
- 11-12 #1659 HCU RCAF Halifax II JB893 was on a night cross country exercise when it ran into an unspecified emergency and the bail out order was given. The rear gunner, **Sgt G.H. Conran**, found he could not rotate his turret to retrieve his parachute pack and in his attempts to do so knocked himself out. Unaware of his predicament the crew evacuated, **Sgt J.J. Maher** and **Sgt B.S. Rowe** being injured, the rest landing safely. When the unmanned aircraft crashed the tail broke off and rescuers found Sgt Conran alive in his turret with head injuries and a broken arm. See Jan. 28-29, 1944.

Tuesday

12 Rabaul attacked by 350 US and Australian aircraft, the largest Allied bombing attack of the Pacific War to date. This force surprised the defenders despite radar warning sites and inflicted damage on the port and airfields, losing 6 USAAF aircraft in exchange for 14 Japanese fighters shot down and other aircraft destroyed or damaged on the ground (Allied aircrew claimed over 100

Japanese aircraft destroyed) (M. Huggins).

Portugal grants Britain bases in the Azores (CJCA headline). British forces begin landing in Azores to establish landing fields (Polsson).

- 12 30 Sqn. Hurricane II BN596 crashed in Ceylon, WO1 J.A. Pollock killed.
- 12 #54 OTU Beaufighter II T3218 stalled at high speed and crashed into the sea before it could recover, F/O F.L. Kirkwood and P/O J.W. Rousel RCAF (USA) missing.
- 12 #82 OTU Wellington X HE201 was forced to crash land after an engine failed on climb out, flying through trees before stopping, P/O J. Christie, P/O H.G. Dayman and instructor F/O J. Coughlin DFM RAF (Eire) killed, F/O H.C. McGavin, WO1 R. Tarling, Sgt J.A.S. MacGregor and Sgt H.D. La Pointe were injured. See Dec. 27-28, 1944.
- 12 #37 SFTS, Calgary, Alberta, Harvard II #2631 crashed at Sea Island, BC, Sgt C.A. Lockett RAF and LAC J.G. Rynn RAF killed (R.W.R. Walker).

Wednesday

13 Italy declares war on Germany.

- 13 #45 Delivery Group, Ferry Command, Marauder II FB454 caught fire on a training flight and crashed off Nassau, Bahamas F/O R.H. Barber RAF, F/L J.G. Owen DFC RAF killed, F/O D.W.W. Cormack and F/O D. Durward RAF missing (E. Wiberg).
- 13 #1 Manning Depot, AC2 A.R. Woodard died in hospital of natural causes.

Thursday

14 USAAF sends 291 B-17 bombers on an attack beyond escort range on the ball bearing plants at Schweinfurt and lose 60 shot down under constant fighter attack, 5 more crash in England, over 100 bombers damaged, 12 of which were written off (Zijlstra). In the past week the USAAF had lost over 140 bombers on daylight bombing missions (D. Newton). Despite accurate bombing a decision was made to suspend unescorted daylight missions over Germany (wikipedia). Priority was placed on developing longer ranged fighters capable of escorting the bombers with the ability to return on internal fuel. See Feb 19-20, 1944.

#163 (AC) Sqn. re-designated as a Fighter Squadron, begins re-equipping with Kittyhawk IV aircraft from #111 Sqn., which re-equipped with Kittyhawk I aircraft (RCAF Sqns., 440 SH).

That evening RCMP officers arrested Toronto Maple Leafs goal tender Turk Broda, taking him off a train bound for Montreal. He had agreed to play for a Montreal based Army team for a substantial bonus, despite having enlisted in an Artillery unit in Toronto. This controversy lead to changes in the way

military teams were being fielded in amateur sports (M. Joost, B. Cronin). See Dec. 21, below.

Prisoners at the German death camp at Sobibor in Poland revolt and kill several guards. Some 600 attempt an escape but only about half make it through minefields to reach woodlands nearby, and most of these are tracked down and returned by local civilians. The next month this camp was demolished and an attempt was made to hide the site by planting trees (Oxford).

- 14 404 Sqn. Beaufighter TF.X LZ190 EE-V lost off Norway, **WO2 J.W. Adamson** and **WO1 R.H. Prest** were killed.
- 14 #2 AFU Anson R9780 broke up in the air after an engine failure, and crashed in England near Whitehaven, Cumberland, **F/S V.J. Dunnigan**, **Sgt R.H. Murphy**, F/O H.J. O'Gara RAF, Sgt C. Johnson RAF and Sgt T. Inman RAF killed. A memorial seat with the names of the crew is now located near the crash site (2ndww.blogspot.ca).
- 14 #1659 HCU RCAF Halifax II JD419 was taking off on an air test when it swerved and hit an obstruction. The pilot, **F/O J.D. Dickson DFM**, managed to get airborne but could not gain height and clipped a building roof before crash landing in a field, **F/O Dickson**, P/O P. Shaw RAF, F/L E. Cook RAF and F/S S.W. Dunn RAF all severely injured.
- 14 #45 Group, RAF Ferry Command, Hampden TB.I AE309 ditched off Greenland on a return ferry flight to Canada, Ferry Captain R.E. Coffman, Radio Officer R.E. Snow and **F/O N. Greenway** rescued (H. Moyle).

Friday

15 In the Aegean fighting USAAF cannon armed B-25 aircraft replaced the P-38 fighters (B. Cull).

#129 (F) Sqn. RCAF deployed from Goose Bay, Labrador to Bagotville, Quebec.

#163 (AC) Sqn. Detachment at Wainwright, Alberta ends (RCAF Sqns.).

- 15 401 Sqn. Spitfire IX landed short in mist at Biggin Hill, lost an undercarriage leg, and came to rest with a damaged wing and broken fuselage, **F/S A.J. Edwards** shaken but safe (D. McIntosh).
- 15 519 Sqn. Spitfire VI BR171 was off the coast of Scotland on a meteorological flight when the engine caught fire and it went down in the sea, **P/O L.G. Wilson** missing (www.spitfires.ukf.net).
- 15 620 Sqn. Stirling III EF149 QS-X swung on take off and tore off it's undercarriage, **F/O J.H. Bourke**, **P/O J.E. Clare**, **Sgt A. Williston**, Sgt P. McQueeney RAF, Sgt S. Cuttler RAF, Sgt R.G. Smith RAF and Sgt J. Brewer RAF safe. See Jan. 21-22, 1944.
- 15 #8 OTU Spitfire V AB124 lost on a training flight, **P/O H.C. Dixon** missing. P/O Dixon had survived the loss of a #20 OTU Wellington Dec. 18, 1942.

- 15 unknown unit, **MSgt J.L. Guttormsson USAAF (Can.)** missing near Ascension Island in the South Atlantic in a B-24 aircraft, probably B-24J 42-73071 lost over the Atlantic on this date (B. Barry et al; www.findagrave.com).
- 15 #1 GR School, Summerside, PEI, **P/O H.W. Hooper** walked into a rotating propellor and was killed.
- 15 #1 Manning Depot, Toronto, Ontario, LAC J. Robertshaw RAF killed when he was hit by a train (www.rafcommands.com)
- 15 #1 Training Command DH.82C Tiger Moth #1159 crashed and written off, no details (R.W.R. Walker).
- 15 #11 SFTS, Yorkton, Crane I #7901 crashed killing **LAC(P) G.C. Atkins**. See #12 SFTS loss July 25, 1942.
- 15 #14 SFTS, Aylmer, Ontario, Harvard IIb #3133 written off in a forced landing, crew safe (M.L. McIntyre).
- 15 #32 OTU, LAC M.J. Light RAF collapsed and died on duty due to natural causes (www.rafcommands.com).

mid-October Spanish troops begin to return from Russia to Spain (Polsson).

mid-October German night fighter SN-2 radar becomes operational (Polsson). This new airborne set was less susceptible to electronic jamming but initially had a short range and larger aerals which slowed the night fighters down.

Saturday

16 With strong air escort Japanese soldiers in barges attempt to land at Finschafen in New Guinea to dislodge Australian forces there (D. Newton).

420 Sqn. departs from Tunisia to England by ship after having transferred it's aircraft to 205 Group.

- 16 120 Sqn. Liberator, pilots **F/L H.F. Kerrigan** and **Sgt M. Weiner**, worked with 2 other aircraft from 120 and 59 squadrons to sink U-470. Their crew also included gunners **Sgt W.J. Hunt**, **Sgt T. Levinsky** and **Sgt J.J. Grassam**. In February 1944 **F/L Kerrigan** was awarded a DFC for having made 6 attacks on U-boats (H.A. Halliday). See March 6, 1944.
- 16 150 Sqn. Wellington X LN516 lost in Italy, **Sgt C.D.L. Stewart RAF (Can.)**, F/S V.E. Lawson RAAF, Sgt H.L. Brittain RAF, F/S A. Clark RAF and Sgt T.O. Mears RAF killed (A. Storr; www.rafcommands.com).
- 16 404 Sqn. Beaufighter crash landed on return to base due to combat damage, navigator **P/O Powell** wounded, F/O Hodson (RAF or RCAF?) safe (404 SH).
- 16 #131 (Coastal) OTU, Ireland, Catalina I AH551 crashed, **Sgt J.M. Allen**, **F/O F.H. Grainger**, **Sgt J.H. Hodgson**, **Sgt V.H. Louis**, **F/O D.L. Sproule**, S/L P.G. Cooper RAF, WO G.F. Hardy RAF and F/S D. Mudd RAF killed, **Sgt R.F. Middaugh** and Sgt

- J. Green RAF survived. (J. O'Loughlin and lisset at www.rafcommands.com).
- 16 #32 OTU, Patricia Bay, BC, Canadian built Hampden TB.I AN132 crashed on a mountain near Maggie Lake, Vancouver Island. The crash site was not found until 1945, and the crew, Sgt P.F. Hornbrook RAF (USA), Sgt R.R.G. Porter RAAF, **Sgt M.C.B. Smith RAAF** and Sgt R.F. Allcorn RAF, were buried at the crash site July 30, 1945 by an RCAF burial party and chaplain. They are commemorated on the Ottawa memorial. (*BC Times Colonist, Patricia Bay Aircrash List 2009, A. Storr*). Sgt Smith was married to a Canadian, **Iris Olive Smith** of Calgary (CWGC). Parts of this aircraft were recovered and used in the restoration of Hampden P5436 at the Canadian Museum of Flight, Langley, BC.
- 16 USAAF B-17E 41-9205 ditched in Lake Bennett at Carcross, Yukon (AAIR).
- 16 USAAF UC-64A (Norseman) 43-5107 damaged in a take off accident at Little Evies Lake, Yukon (AAIR).

Sunday

17 Heavy fighting continues at Finschafen as Japanese troops continue to land by barge. Aircraft are used to re-supply Australian units cut-off by the landing (D. Newton).

The last German commerce raider Michel is sunk by a US submarine off Japan (wikipedia).

Island of Casteloriso first attacked by German Ju 87 dive bombers (B. Cull).

#331 (Medium) Bomber Wing RCAF, North Africa, disbanded. 420, 424 and 425 Sqns. hand aircraft over to 205 Group and return to England (RCAF Sqns.).

Norwegian soldiers landed on Spitsbergen (ww2total.com Chronology/1943). They are to re-occupy and re-establish the bases destroyed by the German naval attack September 8, above (D. Sommerville).

- 17 400 Sqn. Mustang I AG587 was on an evening INTRUDER when it lost it's radio and compass. **F/O H.E. Walters** managed to return to England where he made a safe crash landing.
- 17 422 Sqn. Sunderland III JM712 2-S shot down attacking U-448 and U-281 near convoy ONS-20. U-448 was damaged and had to return to port. **F/O C.B. Steeves** and F/S L.T. Needham RAF were killed in the attack, and **F/L P.T. Sargent** and F/L P.A.S. Woodwork RAF in the crash. They have no known grave. The rest of the crew WO W.F. Beals, F/O A.R.B. Bellis, F/S B. Campbell, F/S D. Mesney, F/S J.Y. Rutherford, WO J.D. Stafford and WO J.H. Shand were picked up by *HMS Drury* which witnessed the attack. The pilot, F/L Sargent, was recommended for a Victoria Cross (H.A. Halliday www.rafcommands.com). The navigator F/O Steeves had had his leg

- blown off by a cannon shell, but refused treatment until he could pass on their position and course to the convoy, dying soon afterwards. Both he and F/L Sargent were MiD. This attack was detailed in *The R.C.A.F. Overseas - The Fifth Year*.
- 17 196 Sqn. Stirling III EF960 IO-X lost on an air test due to engine problems, Sgt K.L. Wallace RAF, F/O F.J. Chapman RAF and Sgt J.L. Lane killed, **WO2 N. Butts DFM**, F/O J.L. Deans DFC RAF, Sgt T. McDonnell RAF and F/L J.G. Griffith (Squadron Engineering Officer) missing. F/O Deans and F/S Butts had survived a force landing in a Wellington June 1-2, above.
- 17 #10 Group, Radio Headquarters, England, radar mechanic **F/L L.L. Holmes** was riding a motorcycle on duty when he was struck and killed by an army truck (W.B. Begy).
- 17 #22 OTU Wellington X HF669 was taking off to practice circuits when an engine failed and the bomber crash landed on the airfield, **F/O C.P. Lundeen**, **Sgt E.L. Heimpel** and **Sgt Jarvie** injured.
- 17 #23 OTU Wellington X HE824 'H' crashed less than a mile from Stonehenge in England while on a night cross country flight, icing may have been involved, **Sgt J.A.J. Duhamel**, **F/S J.J.M.P. Marchessault**, **F/S J.G.A.G. Meilleur**, **F/O J.A.L. Morissette** and **WO2 G. Smith** were killed. F/S Meilleur and his crew (possibly these airmen) had survived the take off accident of a #23 OTU Wellington Oct. 7, above.
- 17 USAAF C-64A (Norseman) 43-5143 crashed taking off at Carcross, Yukon, 2Lt L.B. Beck USAAF killed (AAIR). R.S. Grant notes the Norseman had just brought a team of investigators and medics to the site following the ditching of B-17 41-9205 the day before.
- 17 USAAF 25th Ferry Sqn. P-39Q 44-2100 crashed near Burwash Landing, Yukon, 2Lt H.M. Lasker bailed out but was killed (AAIR).

Monday

18 At Finschafen the attacking Japanese force is destroyed by Vengeance dive bombers, Boston and Mitchell bombers, and point-blank artillery fire (D. Newton).

Moscow Conference (CJCA headline).

A second bombing attack by Ju 88 aircraft on Casteloriso is intercepted by long range Hurricanes from Cyprus that shoot down 2 of the bombers (B. Cull).

#168 Heavy Transport (HT) Sqn. RCAF formed at Rockcliffe, Ontario for the delivery of mail to Canadian's serving overseas, initially with crews and Lodestar aircraft from #164 (T) Sqn. (RCAF Sqns.). 424 Sqn. minus aircraft departs Tunisia to return to England by ship (RCAF Sqns.).

- 18 46 Sqn. Beaufighter Xlc JM249 shot down by Bf 109 fighters on a sweep of the Island

- of Rhodes in the Aegean, **F/O J.S. Holland RCAF (USA)** was rescued safe but his navigator Sgt H.E. Bruck RAF died of his wounds (B. Cull; aviation-safety.net).
- 18 283 Sqn. Warwick I BV240 crashed on an air test in Algeria, killing **F/S C. Johnston**, **F/S A.A. McLaren**, LAC W. Claypole RAF, LAC J.T. Cuthbertson RAF, F/S F. Minto RAF, Cpl C.D. Pitman RAF and Sgt N.E. Warrender RAF.
- 18 406 Sqn. Beaufighter VI f V8717 crashed in England, **F/L G.S. Richards** killed.
- 18 #24 OTU Whitley V EB347 crashed in England on a high level bombing exercise, **F/O W.J. Caulfield**, **F/O G. Hoopchuk**, **F/S J.G. Sherk**, **F/O J.S. Spencer** and Sgt K. Reid RAF killed.
- 18 #39 SFTS, Swift Current, Saskatchewan, Oxford I X6963 crashed after a collision, LAC H.W. Booker RAF and Sgt F.A. Sterry RAF killed (D.J. Carter).
- 18 USAAF C-64A (Norseman) floatplane 43-5116 damaged in a ground accident at Cooking Lake, Alberta, when being taken from the water, later repaired (AAIR, J. Baugher).

18-19 Bomber Command returned to Hannover with 360 bombers which made a scattered attack through cloud cover, most of the bombs coming down outside the city. Other operations included 11 Mosquitos to Duisburg, 8 to Berlin, 4 to other cities, 6 GARDENING and 12 OTU sorties. Losses were 18 bombers (BC War Diaries).

Middlebrook and Everitt note that one of these bombers was the 5,000th lost by Bomber Command in the war to date. Over 144,000 bombing sorties had been flown to this point by Bomber Command (BC War Diaries).

- 18-19 7 Sqn. Lancaster III JA917 MG-P lost over Germany, **P/O H.P. Boness** killed, Sgt A.M. Dick RAF missing, Sgt B.S. Smith RAF, Sgt R.G. Beaton RAF, Sgt W.F. Gorse RAF, Sgt A.J. Williams RAF and Sgt B.S. Sheldon RAF PoW.
- 18-19 7 Sqn. Lancaster III JB347 MG-V lost over Germany, **F/O J.M. David**, Sgt F. Cobleigh RAF, WO A.M. Marshall RAF and F/S R.M. Edmunds RAAF killed, F/S J.R. Penny RAAF, F/S J.G. Kernaghan RAAF and Sgt B.F.E. Lyle RAF PoW.
- 18-19 9 Sqn. Lancaster III ED499 WS-X "*Panic II*" lost over Germany, **F/O H.J. Gould**, **P/O L.A. Titof**, Sgt S.G. Barlegs RAF, Sgt N. Beer RAF, Sgt O.W.D. Hodges RAF and F/O S.D. Smith RAF killed, Sgt J.W. Grain RAF missing (<http://www.lancaster-archive.com>).
- 18-19 97 Sqn. Lancaster III JB220 OF-O lost over Germany, **F/L D.M. Moodie DFC**, F/S H.T. Bundle DFM RAF, F/S L.A. Drummond RAF, F/S F.A. Hughes RAF, F/S T.E. Stamp RAF and Sgt L.E. Melbourne RAF killed, F/S H.W.N. Clausen DFM RAF PoW.
- 18-19 101 Sqn. ABC equipped Lancaster III DV230 SR-T lost over Germany, **F/S E.F.A. Rowe**, Sgt D. Ford RAF, Sgt J.F. Hoban RAF, Sgt R. Thorogood RAF, Sgt K.W. Walker RAF, Sgt J.T. Wigley RAF, F/O F.P. Humphries RAF, Sgt A.A. Oliver RAF and P/O L.T. Thurlby MiD RAF killed. P/O Thurlby is believed to have been the special

operator.

- 18-19 103 Sqn. Lancaster III JB147 PM-C lost over Germany, WO D.H. Loop DFC RAF killed, **F/S J.W.O.R.G. Le Brock**, **Sgt J. Williamson RAF (Can.)**, Sgt E.G. Pilbeam RAF, F/O M. Mulligan RAF, Sgt K.L. Brindley RAF and Sgt D.W. Miller RAF missing.
- 18-19 115 Sqn. Lancaster II DS683 KO-R attacked by a night fighter over the target which killed the rear gunner **F/S S. Allen**, and wounded the flight engineer Sgt J. McCabe RAF and the bomb aimer Sgt W.E. Rogers RAF. The pilot, **WO2 E.H. Boutilier**, managed to return and land in England with 2 engines out and the tail section mangled, and the remaining crew, Sgt McCabe, Sgt Rogers, F/S D. Franklin RAF, Sgt A. Horton RAF and Sgt K.W.J. Tugwell DFM RAF, safe. The bomber was a write off, and WO2 Boutilier and Sgt Rogers were awarded an immediate DFC and DFM for their efforts.
- 18-19 115 Sqn. Lancaster II DS769 KO-H lost on an operation to Germany, **F/S G. Molnar**, Sgt A.E. Bertram RAF, Sgt J.J.F. Collins RAF, Sgt W.H. Currier RAF, Sgt L. Newnes RAF, Sgt R.V. Street RAF and Sgt J.A. Whitehead RAF killed.
- 18-19 138 Sqn. Halifax II LW281 NF-W was shot down over Belgium on operation BADMINTON/RUGGER/MUSKRAT 3 and MUSKRAT 4, dropping supplies and agents. Sgt J. Bruce RAF PoW, the agents, Mr. J.D.A. van Schelle and Mr. J. Grün, safe, and **Sgt J.P. Healey**, S/L C.W. Passey DFC RAF, F/O G.E.A. Hadgett RAF, F/O G.H. Ward DFM RAF, F/S J.E. Grout RAF, P/O R.P. Mantle RAF, and F/S K.L. Rabson DFM RAF evaded (R. Tebbutt).
- 18-19 207 Sqn. Lancaster III LM326 EM-Z shot down by a Fw 190 fighter over Germany, **Sgt C.R. Smith RAF (Can.)**, F/S G. Taylor RAAF, F/S W.J. McCarthy RAAF, Sgt D.J. Duff RAF, Sgt A.G. McLeod RAF, Sgt A.R. Burton RAF and Sgt W. Worthington RAF PoW. According to Allison & Hayward Sgt Smith was later the secretary of the Canadian PoW Association.
- 18-19 405 Sqn. Lancaster III was hit by flak and the pilot, **F/O G.J. South**, was wounded. They continued to the target where they were hit by flak again and put into a dive which disrupted the bomb run so F/O South decided not to drop his target markers in case they were in error and led others to bomb off target. Having dropped just their bombs and leaving the target he finally received first aid and managed to return safely despite being attacked by a night fighter (405 SH).
- 18-19 426 Sqn. Lancaster II DS717 OW-T with a crew from 408 Sqn. ditched off the English coast out of fuel returning from an operation over Germany, **F/S L.L.H. Hansen**, **F/S C.C. van D. Spencer**, **Sgt S. Dawson RAF (Can.)**, **F/S J.A. Earle**, **WO1 J.R. Cameron**, **F/S H. Maclennan** and Sgt B.G. Capel RAF took to their life raft, which blew ashore in England a few hours later. See Jan. 14-15, 1944.

Tuesday

19 USAAF B-25 and RAF Beaufighters attacking German convoys north of Crete (ww2total.com Chronology/1943).

London Protocol signed to increase aid from Canada, England and USA to Soviet Union (ww2total.com Chronology/1943).

The minefield laid off St. John's, Newfoundland by U-220 activates, sinking the British merchant ship SS Penolver, and the US ship SS Delisle when it stopped to rescue the crew of the Penolver (wikipedia; www.wrecksite.eu). See Oct. 28, below.

- 19 417 Sqn. Cpl S.G. Harfitt RCAF (UK) died in hospital in Egypt of natural causes (www.rafcommands.com).
- 19 21 Sqn. Mosquito FB.VI HP852 missing on a cross country exercise over the Irish Sea, F/O J.A. MacKinnon and pilot F/S R.C. Cornfoot RNZAF (seconded from 487 Sqn.) missing.
- 19 236 Sqn. Beaufighter TF.X LZ316 ND-L shot down by flak off the Dutch coast, F/O G.H. Markle and F/S J.A. Mallinson RAF killed (aviation-safety.net).
- 19 402 Sqn. Spitfire Vb W3634 lost control in cloud and flew into high ground in England, P/O G.E.J. McCabe Jr. killed (www.spitfires.ukf.net).
- 19 #6 Group RCAF Communications Flight BA Eagle DP847 (ex G-ADVT) was landing from an air test when the wheels folded, wrecking the aircraft, F/L T.M. Kneale and F/O J MacKay safe (R. Allenby). See Dec. 16-17, below.
- 19 #4 B&G School, Fingal, Ontario, target tow Lysander IIIa #2437 hit the tow wire of another aircraft which severed it's port wing, causing it to crash, WO2 N.T. Lavoie and drogue operator LAC L. Renaud were killed.
- 19 #34 SFTS, Medicine Hat, Alberta, Harvard II AJ725 crashed, P/O D.W. Hanham RAF and LAC S.G. Taylor RAF killed.
- 19 #35 SFTS, North Battleford, Saskatchewan, Oxford V EB659 crashed, Cpl B.J. Ford-Smith RAF and P/O A.A. Green RAF killed (serial number from photo in Dr. Jean Martin article, *Canadian Military Journal*, Spring, 2002).

19-20 Prison ship Sinfra, carrying Italian and Greek PoWs from Crete was attacked by torpedo Wellington aircraft and sunk in Suda Bay with the loss of 2,098, mostly Italian prisoners from Cos. German command had neglected to inform the International Red Cross that the ship would be transporting prisoners (ww2total.com Chronology/1943, B. Cull).

Wednesday

20 Second day of Allied attacks on German shipping off Crete.

Britain and USA agree to establish a War Crimes Commission (ww2total.com Chronology/1943).

- 20 18 Sqn. truck skidded and overturned in Italy, observer P/O D.W. Woodward injured.

See Nov. 9, below

- 20 81 Sqn. Spitfire Vc JK807 crashed making a forced landing in Italy, possibly due to an engine failure, **F/L W.R.P. Sewell** killed (www.spitfires.ukf.net).
- 20 227 Sqn. Beaufighter VIc JL900 'S', **P/O A.C. Gibbard**, shot down a photo reconnaissance Ju 88 aircraft south of Rhodes that was returning from a mission over Alexandria (B. Cull; aviation-safety.net).
- 20 90 Sqn. Stirling III EF497 WP-L struck a tree and crashed in England on an air test, **F/S K.W. Pollitt**, **F/S H.O. Spence RCAF (Br. Guiana)**, **F/S E.E. Spencer**, Sgt W.E. Jones RAF, Sgt L.T. MacSwayne RAF, Sgt T. Edwards RAF and Sgt G.A. Yates RAF killed.
- 20 102 Sqn. Halifax II BB370 was landing from a training flight when it overshot the landing and lost its undercarriage in a ditch, **F/S K. Whittington** and his crew safe.
- 20 404 Sqn. Beaufighter crashed and was burned out when an engine failed approaching to land from a ferry flight, **F/O S. Schulemson** and **F/O Bassett** safe with slight injuries (404 SH).
- 20 620 Sqn. Stirling III BK802 QS-Z was abandoned over England due to severe icing on a cross country training flight, pilot **WO2 V.K. Harris** stayed at the controls to allow the crew to escape and was killed in the crash, Sgt J. Hargreaves RAF was also killed, F/S G. Morris RAAF was injured, **F/O F.E. Good**, **F/S R.W. Gibson**, Sgt I.C. Plumb RAF and Sgt D. Harris RAF safe.
- 20 #11 OTU Wellington Ic Z1066 'I' caught fire in the air on a navigation exercise and was abandoned, **Sgt W.L. Granbois**, F/S J.G. Hudson RNZAF, Sgt P.M. Constable RAF and 2 crew safe. See April 22-23, 1944.
- 20 #12 OTU Wellington III Z1717 rolled and crashed on an overshoot, **F/O W.D. Newel**, Sgt K.J. Gehrman RAAF, Sgt Z.W.C. Dekkers RAF (Neth.), Sgt D.A.R. Colegate RAF (Neth.) and Sgt R.C.S. Young RAF killed.
- 20 #29 OTU Wellington III BK549 'N' crashed after catching fire in flight on a BULLSEYE sortie, **WO2 L.H. Ramage**, Sgt T.R.M. Robertson RAF (S. Rhod.), Sgt L. Mortimer RAF, Sgt C.D. Peary RAF, Sgt S. Fairhurst RAF and Sgt W.E. Hawksworth RAF killed.
- 20 #1664 HCU RCAF Halifax V DG343 'L' crashed in England on a fighter affiliation exercise, **F/S J.K. Fraser**, **Sgt A. McGurty**, **F/S W.E. Smillie**, Sgt G.A. Dixon RAF, Sgt W.G. Bougourd RAF, F/S H.F. Collins RAF and Sgt P.H. MacKintosh RAF killed.
- 20 #10 (BR) Sqn. RCAF, Gander, Newfoundland, Liberator #3701 'H' missing on a flight from Gander to Montreal, Quebec, carrying passengers going on leave. An extensive search was made for this aircraft with no result. The wreckage was found June 20, 1946 crashed on Black Mountain in Quebec. Killed were **WO2 J.A. Barabonoff**, **Sgt E.M. Finn**, aero engine mechanic **Cpl H.D. Beattie**, aero engine mechanic **LAC C.L. Dynes**, **Sgt F.H. Elliott RCAF (USA)**, **F/L R.F. Fisher MiD**, **Cpl H.K. Hambly**, **WO1 W. Howlett**, **WO1 F.E. Jenkins**, **Cpl A.C. Johnston**, **F/O J.S. Johnston MiD**, **P/O J. Lamont MiD**, **P/O R.W. MacDonald MiD**, **Sgt W.G.**

MacNaughton, armourer Cpl R.D. Marr, motor transport operator LAC G.R. Patterson, F/L J.A. Poirier, LAC A.J. Radcliffe, LAC E.W. Read RCAF (USA), F/O S.A. Sanderson AFM, WO1 J. Silverstein MiD, F/S J.A.J.P. Veilleux, F/S R.F. Ware and aero engine mechanic Sgt S.A. Wood. All were buried at the crash site where a cairn stands in their honour, but in 1985 the remains were exhumed and moved to St. Donat, Quebec, due to vandalism at the crash site (C. Lambert). F/L Fisher and many of his crew which had sunk U-341 Sept. 19, above, when escorting the ship carrying PM Churchill, were killed in this accident.

20 #35 SFTS, North Battleford, Saskatchewan, stationary engineer F/S F. Cunningham RCAF (UK) died in the Station Hospital of natural causes.

20-21 Leipzig was the target of 358 bombers which found very bad weather over the target, and the bombing was scattered and poor. Other operations include 30 Mosquitos to Berlin, Cologne, Brauweiler and Emden, 12 GARDENING and 26 OTU sorties, 18 aircraft were lost (BC War Diaries).

German raids on London and Hull cause no real damage (ww2total.com Chronology/1943).

- 20-21 100 Sqn. Lancaster III ED555 HW-A shot down by a night fighter over Holland, WO2 D.S. Storey, Sgt L. Cohen RAF, Sgt P.R. Cowling RAF, Sgt C.W. Gibb RAF, Sgt G.J. Godseff RAF, Sgt A.W.N. Lower RAF and P/O T.L. Simpson RAF killed
- 20-21 106 Sqn. Lancaster I ED358 ZN-T lost over Germany, F/O A.W. Porter, P/O P. Hanavan RAF, Sgt D.E. Day RAF, F/O S. Smith RAF, F/L G.C. Cooper RAF, F/L R.W.G. Moore RAF, Sgt E.J. Plumridge RAF and Sgt F.G. Smith RAF killed.
- 20-21 161 Sqn. Halifax V EB239 MA-Y lost over France on Special Duties Operations ARCHDEACON/PLAYBILL 3/MOUFLON 3 and CARACAL 7, Sgt H.J. Crawford RAF (Can.), F/S T.W. Lewis RAF, Sgt T.B. Young RAF, Sgt J. Ramsden RAF, Sgt C.E. Young RAF, Sgt W. Crouch RAF and Sgt D.R. Feely RAF killed.
- 20-21 166 Sqn. Lancaster III LM312 AS-K lost on an operation to Germany, F/S G.R.A. Walkem, Sgt J.I. Wilson, Sgt D. Bartley RAF, Sgt L.A. Steele RAF, Sgt C.A. Maskell RAF, Sgt E.F.M. Barham RAF and Sgt G. Read RAF killed.
- 20-21 405 Sqn. Lancaster III JB348 LQ-R lost over Germany, WO2 E.C. Brunet, F/O J.N.R. Redpath, Sgt F.W. Bundy RAF, Sgt J.H. Lovelock RAF, F/S W.H. Hedley RAF and F/O K.R. Wood RAAF killed, WO1 O.O. Johnson PoW.
- 20-21 426 Sqn. Lancaster II DS686 OW-D was attacked and damaged by a single engined fighter, which badly wounded the mid-upper gunner, Sgt F.J. McGovern RAF, and disabled his turret, before being driven off by the rear gunner, F/S G.V. Andrew. The pilot, F/S F.J. Stuart RAF, resumed course for the target but was again attacked by a night fighter which damaged the radios, navigation station, cockpit and fuel tanks. F/S Stuart still managed to reach the target and bomb, and then return to England, crew Sgt McGovern RAF wounded, F/S Andrew, F/O J.H. Dodge, F/O R.J. Dunphy,

Sgt J.W. Flynn RAF and Sgt F.R. Taylor RAF safe. F/S Stuart was awarded a CGM for this sortie and his navigator, F/O Dunphy, the DFC (426 SH, R. Allenby). His navigation compartment was so shot up it was sent to the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa for preservation. See Dec. 20-21, below.

20-21 426 Sqn. Lancaster II DS771 OW-P, **F/S L.P. Archibald**, was damaged by flak and forced to return early. When the main group of the base's bombers landed later 408 Sqn. Lancaster II DS726 EQ-T, **WO2 J.B. Mill**, struck DS771 while taxiing on the dispersal track, damaging the outer wings of both bombers (R. Allenby). See January 21-22, 1944.

20-21 619 Sqn. Lancaster III EE114 PG-B lost over Germany, **WO2 C.N.D. Wright**, Sgt D. Demaine RAF, Sgt G.W. Dillnutt RAF, Sgt M. Jones RAF, Sgt A.G. Osborne RAF, Sgt G.M. Weighell RAF and P/O C. Firth RAF killed.

20-21 625 Sqn. Lancaster III JA714 CF-R hit by flak over Holland and came down in the Waddensee, **F/O A.V. Snook** killed, **F/O W.P. Cameron**, **P/O C.W. McFarlane**, Sgt J.W. Diggle RAF, Sgt L. Wild RAF, Sgt J.H. Hawkins and Sgt F.A. Porter RAF missing.

Thursday

21 As part of it's campaign to mobilize Asian colonies and countries in it's support, Japan grants "independence" to the Philippines. See Oct. 23, below.

Subhas Chandra Bose announces the creation of the Provisional Government of Free India, based in Singapore. On October 24 this organization declares war on the Allies (Oxford; S. Raghavan).

21 148 Sqn. navigator **F/L E.B. Elliott** was part of a volunteer group to land supplies in Yugoslavia and take out USAAF airmen shot down and rescued by partisans. On landing the aircraft bogged down in a recently filled in drainage ditch. See Oct. 24, below.

21 179 Sqn. Leigh Light Wellington XIV MP741 'Z' sank U-boat U-431 in the Mediterranean. The Wellington was damaged by flak but managed to return to Gibraltar, **Sgt D.M. Cornish**, Sgt F. Clayton RAF, Sgt C.R. Ford RAF, Sgt M.L. Neale RAF, Sgt L.H. Gould RAF and Sgt C.P. Willats RAF safe (N. Franks via peter at www.rafcommands.com).

21 1 Sqn. Typhoon Ib, **F/O J.W. Wiley** and **F/S J.D. Fairbairn** intercept and shoot down a Fw 190 despite F/O Wiley's gunsight becoming detached while manoeuvring (P. Caygill). See Nov. 25 and Dec. 7, below.

21 #20 OTU Wellington III DF595 'Y' went down in the sea off Scotland on a night cross country flight, **F/S R.M. McEachern** killed, **F/S M. Antifaev**, **F/O M.E. O'Donoghue** and Sgt A.M. Davidson RAF missing, Sgt Brantford RAF and Sgt Snell RAF were picked up by an Air-Sea Rescue launch.

21 #24 OTU Whitley V EB348 crashed in the circuit returning from an evening cross

- country exercise, **Sgt B.W. Burke**, **F/S W.J. Christie**, **WO2 W.H. Howson**, **F/S J.H. McMaster** and **Sgt W. Paterson** killed.
- 21 #1657 HCU Stirling I N3760 landed with the undercarriage up, **P/O J.S. Ferrier**, **F/O J.G. Neilson** DFC RNZAF, **Sgt P.H. Hamby** RAF, **WO R. Shields** RAF, **Sgt J. Stevens** RAF, **Sgt K.G. Francis** RAF, **Sgt T.B. Liddle** RAF and **Sgt F.T. Fuller** RAF safe.
- 21 #1664 HCU RCAF Halifax V EB136 DH-K swung on take off and collided with a building used to store flares. The aircraft was destroyed in the fire but **F/S D.J. Partridge** and his crew safe.

Friday

- 22 107 Sqn. Boston IIIa BZ234 shot down in Holland attacking a aircraft engine factory, one of 4 lost from 13 on this operation, **F/L D.R.R. Brown** RAF killed, **F/O E.E. McCullough** and **Sgt J. Shaw** RAF PoW (H. Welting at www.rafcommands.com).
- 22 400 Sqn. Mustang I **F/L H.L. Morham** claimed a Do 217 shot down over Belgium (AlanW and Alain12 at www.rafcommands.com).
- 22 416 Sqn. Spitfire Vb W3226 abandoned over the Channel after a coolant leak, **F/L R.D. Booth** rescued (www.spitfires.ukf.net, 416 SH).
- 22 421 Sqn. Spitfire IX BR978 lost in a dogfight over France on a RAMROD, **P/O I.R. Forster** killed (www.rafcommands.com).
- 22 605 Sqn. Mosquito FB.VI HJ768 crashed into trees on take-off and blew up off shore, killing **WO2 J.F. McEwen** and **Sgt R.J-B.E. Stenuit** RAF (Belgium).
- 22 #14 OTU Wellington Ic W5688 'O' crashed on approach to land after a bombing practice, **Sgt H.R. Thompson**, **F/S P. Norton** RNZAF, **Sgt I. Hayward** RAF, **Sgt D. Clarke** and **Sgt H.L. Hembrough** killed.
- 22 #1657 HCU Stirling I R9249 hit a tree in heavy rain attempting a landing with engine trouble, **F/S K. Riep**, **WO G.A. Harris** RAAF, **Sgt S.F. Cowcher** RAF and **F/O J.W. Whitehouse** RAF killed, **F/S G.T. Duane** RAAF died of injuries the following day, **Sgt G.P. McCallum** RAAF and **Sgt R.A. Gausden** RAF survived, injured.
- 22 #1664 HCU RCAF Halifax V EB199 ZU-H crashed when an engine failed on approach causing the bomber to roll into trees, **Sgt J.L. Campbell**, **F/S H.R. Simmons**, **Sgt A.B. White**, **Sgt R.A. Harris** RAF and **Sgt K. Irvin** RAF killed, **P/O S.H. Martin** was pulled injured from the wreck by two local civilians, Mr. Clark and Mr. Severs. See Oct. 26, below.
- 22 unknown unit, clerk **Sgt B.M.E. Unger** died in Canada of natural causes.
- 22 unknown unit, Whidby Island NAS, Washington State, USN Wildcat (F4F or FM) ditched off the Saanich Peninsula (*BC Times Colonist, Other BC Crashes and Losses*).
- 22 USAAF UC-64A (Norseman) 43-5112 damaged landing at Fort McMurray, Alberta (AAIR).

22-23 Bomber Command sent 569 bombers to Kassel plus 36 on a diversion attack on Frankfurt, 12 OBOE Mosquitos to attack the power station at Knapsack and 1 Mosquito to Dortmund as well as 17 GARDENING and 10 OTU sorties for a total of 645 sorties. The CORONA transmitters went into operation, seeking out German night fighter controller frequencies and trying to co-opt them to confuse the night fighters by using German speaking Allied operators. German controllers were not fooled, night fighters were soon engaged in the bomber stream and 45 bombers were lost. At one point Luftwaffe Commander Göring took personnel command of the night fighter force, but his intervention probably diverted forces from the target (wikipedia).

Kassel, however, was hit very hard with concentrated and accurate bombing. A firestorm was started, although on a much smaller scale than had been seen in Hamburg. Middlebrook & Everitt note reports of 5,600 killed and 3,300 missing or untraced nearly a month after the attack, with over 100,000 rendered homeless. Over 150 industries were destroyed or damaged, and among these were the Henschel aircraft factories where production of V-1 weapons was seriously delayed, preventing their use against England before the invasion of France (BC War Diaries).

- 22-23 49 Sqn. Lancaster III JB413 lost over Germany, P/O P.A. Taverner RAF and F/S E.E. Parker RAF killed, **F/S R.K. Drinnan**, Sgt W. Kemp RAF, Sgt I. Spence RAF, Sgt R.H. Norman RAF and Sgt N.S. Dunbabin RAF PoW.
- 22-23 49 Sqn. Lancaster III JB416 exploded and crashed over the target, **Sgt D. Durrell**, Sgt A.G. Fisher RAF, Sgt R.A. Ford RAF, Sgt R.E. Harnett RAF, Sgt R.F. Ricketts RAF, F/S J. Foley RAF and F/S A. Hodgkinson RAF killed.
- 22-23 51 Sqn. Halifax II JN290 LK-L lost over Belgium, **F/S C.E. Hall**, Sgt G.H. Bennett RAF, Sgt J.C. Cowie RAF, Sgt R.S. Sitch RAF and Sgt T.V. Lewis RAF killed, Sgt M.S. Williams RAF and Sgt E. Parker have no known grave.
- 22-23 57 Sqn. Lancaster III JB237 DX-Z lost over Germany, **F/L A. Novick**, F/S W.R. Minter RAAF and F/S E.F. Taylor RAF killed, Sgt L.H. Howling RAF, Sgt R.D. Harvey RAF, Sgt G.M. Turnbull RAF and Sgt F.H. Roseblade RAF PoW.
- 22-23 77 Sqn. Halifax II JD121 KN-O lost over Germany, **WO2 H.A. Weber**, F/O J.S. Barber RAF, F/O E.R. Price RAF, Sgt R.O. Hand RAF, Sgt J. Pretsell RAF, Sgt I.M. Smith RAF and Sgt D.W. Stribley RAF killed.
- 22-23 78 Sqn. Halifax II LW293 EY-L lost over Germany, **WO2 J.S. Ferris**, F/L C.H. Abbott RAF, P/O S. Greenlees RAF, P/O J.W. Hardcastle RAF, P/O G. Simpson RAF, F/L D.R. Rogers RAF and S/L G.A. Sells DFC RAF killed.
- 22-23 103 Sqn. Lancaster III LM314 PM-J lost over Germany, **WO2 G.G. Sveinson**, F/S D. Adams RAF, F/L P.J. Blurton DFC RAF, Sgt C.W. Gray RAF, Sgt M. Sheedy RAF, Sgt C.L. Spink RAF, P/O K.R. Lee DFC RAF and P/O B.F.H. Miller DFC RAF killed.
- 22-23 158 Sqn. Halifax II LW268 NP-P was taking off on an operation when a tire burst and

- the aircraft crashed and caught on fire, part of the bomb load exploding later, Sgt F.A. Hicks RAF and Sgt D.W. Wood RAF injured, **Sgt W.C. Glydon**, **Sgt C.H.J. Garrett**, Sgt A. Bieron RAF, Sgt A.L. Hulse RAF and Sgt G.H. Driver RAF safe.
- 22-23 158 Sqn. Halifax II LW297 NP-E lost over Germany, **Sgt M.A. Edwards**, Sgt G.T. Boswell RAF, Sgt J. Cahill RAF, Sgt J.B. Cameron RAF, Sgt M.E. Cipriani RAF (Trinidad), Sgt A.J.G. Richards RAF and Sgt F. Wilkinson RAF killed.
- 22-23 166 Sqn. Lancaster I ED366 lost over Germany, **F/S R.H. Butler**, **Sgt J.T. Costello**, Sgt W.G. Gamage RAF, Sgt M. Monaghan RAF, Sgt D.G. Rees RAF and Sgt J. Saffrey RAF killed, Sgt K. Hurst RAF PoW.
- 22-23 166 Sqn. Lancaster III EE196 shot down by a night fighter over Germany, **MSgt J.M. Walton AM USAAF (Can.)**, F/L C.N. Hammond DFC RAF, F/O R.E. Ault RAF, Sgt E.E. Jones RAF, Sgt I.K. Doncaster RAF and P/O V.G. Deacon RAF killed, Sgt A.I. Pilbeam RAF PoW.
- 22-23 207 Sqn. Lancaster III DV243 EM-D ditched off England returning from an operation to Germany due to a fuel shortage, F/S J.C. Du B. Dow RAAF missing, **Sgt M. McNeil or McNeill**, P/O J.A. Kelly RAF, Sgt S.C. Burleigh RAF, Sgt D.C. Beech RAF, Sgt S.R. Lambert RAF and F/S G.J. Duggin RAAF rescued (A. Storr).
- 22-23 207 Sqn. Lancaster III EE175 EM-R shot down over Germany by a night fighter, **F/S R.G. Dunn**, **S/L A.L. McDowell RAF (Can.)**, **F/S W.J. Whitney**, **F/O L.J. Roberts**, P/O J.E. Kirkup RAF, Sgt J.A. MacNish Porter RAF, P/O E.L. Jackson RAF and Sgt L. Ivory RAF killed
- 22-23 408 Sqn. Lancaster II DS778 EQ-U lost over Germany, **P/O R.B. Jackson**, **P/O W. Kerlake**, **P/O R.E. McComb**, **P/O A.F. Scanes**, **F/L A.J. Whiston**, P/O R.A. Thornton RAF and F/S T.D. Mayne RAF killed.
- 22-23 408 Sqn. Lancaster II DS727 EQ-X damaged by flak, returned to England and landed, **Sgt R.J. Bradley**, **P/O J.G. Broadfoot**, **P/O S.R.W. Laine**, **Sgt R.A. MacKay**, **P/O A.A. Patton**, Sgt D.L. Wright RAF and Sgt A.E. Jones RAF safe (R. Allenby). See January 27-28 and March 30-31, 1944.
- 22-23 410 Sqn. Mosquito NF.II HJ927 was on a night patrol when it reported it was engaging an enemy aircraft. Nothing further was heard, and it is believed to have come down in the North Sea. **F/L R.H.B. Jackson** and **F/O M.C. Murray** missing.
- 22-23 419 Sqn. Halifax II JD382 VR-A shot down by night fighter over Germany, **W/C G.A. McMurdy**, **F/S F.W. Peterkin RCAF (USA)**, **WO2 A.B. Willson**, **WO2 F.J. Yackson** and Sgt T. Rawlings RAF killed, **F/L R.K. Shield**, **F/O W.C. Coleman** and Sgt R.J. Woods RAF PoW. F/O Coleman had survived the loss of a #23 OTU Wellington Jan. 29, above. W/C McMurdy had only recently taken command of the squadron.
- 22-23 427 Sqn. Halifax V DK182 ZL-E turned back early on an operation to Germany after an engine failed. Over England a second engine began to fail, but the wrong engine was feathered and the aircraft lost height and crashed after hitting a tree, **WO D.H. Welch** RAF, Sgt J.H. Procter RAF, Sgt E.J. Dutton RAF, Sgt A. Brown RAF, Sgt P.J. Moore RAF, Sgt J.I. McCullagh RAF and Sgt D.O. Collen RAF killed (R. Koval, R.

Allenby).

- 22-23 427 Sqn. Halifax V LK959 ZL-D lost over Holland, F/S G.E. Aitken, F/S W.G. Crain, F/S J.O.A. LaPointe, P/O E.T. McDermott, F/L W.J. Weston, Sgt S.H. Hopson RAF, Sgt P.H. Maudling RAF and P/O C.E. Oakley RAF killed.
- 22-23 427 Sqn. Halifax V DK234 ZL-Z shot down over Germany, Sgt H.S. McCartney, F/S S.A. Minter, Sgt A. Mitchell, F/O I. Schilansky RCAF (S. Africa), Sgt R.E. Pedder RAF and Sgt E. Fairfield RAF killed, F/O J.H. Balloch has no known grave.
- 22-23 427 Sqn. Halifax V LK633 ZL-N (or -G, R. Koval) lost over Germany, F/O J.R. Harrison RCAF (USA), Sgt H. Russell and F/S R.A. Wells killed, F/O A.H. Meyers, Sgt J.R.T. Cox, Sgt S.C. Edridge RAF and Sgt H.T. Winter RAF PoW.
- 22-23 427 Sqn. Halifax V LK658 ZL-H was hit by flak and damaged. Taking evasive action the navigator lost his bearings. By the time they were back on course they had fallen behind the bomber stream, so bombed an alternate target and returned, Sgt E. Foster, Sgt R.H. Law, Sgt D.M. Lunney, Sgt A.R.R. McQuade, Sgt W.C. Patter, Sgt J. Fraser RAF and Sgt M. Herbert RAF safe (R. Allenby). See December 29-30, below.
- 22-23 428 Sqn. Halifax V, F/O C.G. Ford, was attacked by a night fighter that killed the tail gunner, Sgt P.L. Emms RAF, and wounded the mid-upper gunner, Sgt H. Proctor RAF (R. Koval). See April 20-21, 1944.
- 22-23 428 Sqn. Halifax V LK908 NA-I was severely damaged by flak and landed at the USAAF Base at Snetterton Heath, England where it ground looped and the undercarriage collapsed, air gunner Sgt T.F. Clemenhagan was killed and Sgt P. Stuart RAF and Sgt A.C. Yule wounded (5th Year), Sgt C. Ovendum, Sgt E.J. Sykes RAF, Sgt T. Graham RAF and Sgt G.H. Bibby RAF safe. Detailed in *The R.C.A.F. Overseas - The Fifth Year*, which points out Sgt Stuart and Sgt Yule were awarded DFMs for their actions.
- 22-23 429 Sqn. Halifax II JD363 AL-J lost over Belgium, F/O A.E. Beyak, F/O A. Chorneyko, Sgt R.M. Fournier, F/S G.W. Howard, Sgt C.C. Smith, Sgt A.H. Denton RAF and Sgt G.C. King RAF killed. Sgt Howard had survived a force landing of a #23 OTU Wellington July 15, above (R. Koval).
- 22-23 429 Sqn. Halifax II JD332 AL-U lost on an operation to Germany, WO2 F.R. Christenson, Sgt R.O.P.J. McCart, P/O K.P. Mills RAF and F/S E. Gwynne RAF missing, Sgt G.E. Cotterill RAF, F/S J.F. Johnston RAF and F/S N.P. Mallin RAF PoW (R. Koval).
- 22-23 431 Sqn. Halifax V LK639 SE-E lost without trace, F/S W. Burns, F/S L.B. Russell, Sgt F.E. Skinner RAF, Sgt J.F. Challis RAF, P/O R.P. Wissler RAF, Sgt H. Priestley RAF and Sgt D.J. McCarthy RAF (Eire) missing. W.R. Chorley notes that this crew was lost on it's first operation having arrived from Conversion Unit Sept. 15, 1943.
- 22-23 434 Sqn. Halifax V EB217 WL-A "Poison" shot down near the target in Germany by a night fighter, F/S W.H. Burton, F/O W.S. Sewall, Sgt A.W.L. Worrad, Sgt D.W. Hall RAF and Sgt W.L. Morpeth RAF killed, F/L J.R. Bryan and Sgt F. Street RAF PoW

(R. Koval). F/L Bryan's account of the loss can be found on www.rafcommands.com from Richard.K (R. Koval) under the aircraft serial number.

23-23 434 Sqn. Halifax V EB218 WL-N lost without trace, **F/S C.P. Brown**, **F/O J.J. Dance**, **F/O H.P. Farr**, **F/S F.J. Guay**, **WO2 F.B. Watson**, F/S A.F. Fry RAF and Sgt D.L. Thornley missing.

22-23 434 Sqn. Halifax V LK663 WL-F lost over Germany, **F/S R.W. Miller**, **F/S E.J.C. Plouffe**, **F/S C.C. Reynolds**, **S/L W.N. Thomson** killed, **F/S R.F. Purdy**, P/O R.F. Bellingham RAF and F/S J.S. Malcolm RAF taken PoW.

22-23 434 Sqn. Halifax V LK666 WL-T lost over Germany to flak and night fighter attacks, **F/O H.W. Cudney**, **Sgt J.A.C. Dupont**, **P/O J.A.M. Nadeau**, **Sgt H. Newlove**, **Sgt D.W. Wilson** and Sgt W.A. Cassell RAF killed, **F/O H.H. Lee** PoW.

Saturday

23 #130 (F) Sqn. deploys from Bagotville, Quebec to Goose Bay, Labrador (RCAF Sqns.).

At remote Cape Chidley, Labrador, U-537 lands and sets up an automatic weather station (codenamed KURT). Expected to operate at least 6 months it went off the air after 2 weeks and was not re-activated. It was re-discovered after research by German and Canadian historians in 1981, and components are now on display at the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa. To mislead any person finding it the units were marked with a fictitious Canadian Government department name and Canadian cigarette packages were left at the site as 'litter', even though Labrador was not part of Canada at the time. When recovered in 1981 it had been damaged by persons unknown in the past but when this occurred, and if it had anything to do with it's premature loss of signal, is unknown.

23 48 Sqn. Hudson VI FK398 crashed into the sea east of Gibraltar during rocket firing practice, **F/S D.J. Cotter**, **F/S S.M. Craig**, F/S G.J. McFadyean RAF and F/S P. News RAF missing.

23 423 Sqn. Sunderland III DD858 had it's hull split open on landing at Lough Neagh, N. Ireland and capsized, 2 crew injured (J. O'Loughlin & R.W.R. Walker).

23 432 Sqn. air frame mechanic **LAC J.G.A. Poudrette** died of injuries sustained in a collision between a truck and a crash vehicle.

23 434 Sqn. air frame mechanic **LAC I. Padveen** died of natural causes in England.

Sunday

24 94 Sqn. Hurricane IIc HL841 crashed into the sea on a convoy escort off Libya, **F/O M.P. Northmore** killed (www.rafcommands.com).

24 148 Sqn., in Yugoslavia, **F/L E.B. Elliott** with the volunteer aircrew and local partisans managed to free their bogged-down aircraft after 3 days of steady, hard, work, and

were able to take off and return to base. F/L Elliott was the only non US member of the party, and was awarded a US Air Medal for his part in this operation (B. Barry et al). See Nov. 3, below.

- 24 86 Sqn. Liberator V FL954 'Z' crashed in Northern Ireland, **F/S J.A. Deschamps**, **F/S S.A. Richards**, Sgt W.J. Barber RAF, S/L L.F. Cooper RAF, F/S N.K.P. Hickson RNZAF, Sgt D. Kirkwood RAF, Sgt E.J. Brown RAF, WO F.W. Hutchinson RAF and F/O D.G. Evans RAF killed (R. McNeill www.ww2talk.com).
- 24 403 Sqn. Spitfire IX MH665 shot down over France on a RAMROD, **F/L H.J. Southwood** killed.
- 24 RAF Ferry Command Baltimore V FW472 crashed and burned at Trinidad, P/O D.J. Bullock RAF killed.
- 24 #4 (BR) Sqn. Ucluelet, BC, wireless operator air gunner **Sgt S. Wasylyke** drowned when his rowboat overturned.
- 24-25 150 Sqn. Wellington X LN322 'N' ditched off Pantelleria on an operation to Italy, Sgt J.H. Leach RAF killed, Sgt R.B.J. March, **Sgt J.P.R. Desjardins**, Sgt G.A. Bluhm RAF and Sgt E.N. Turner RAF were picked up October 31 after 6 days in their life-raft (BLME V.2).

Monday

25 Fighting at Finschafen ends with the destruction of the attacking Japanese force. Building of airfields there begins (D. Newton).

Burma-Thailand railway completed by Japanese at the cost of 102,000 dead forced labourers, including 12,400 Allied PoWs (ww2total.com Chronology/1943, wikipedia). This gave the Japanese military in Burma an advantage of a secure supply line from ports close to Japan, enabling an invasion of India.

Soviet forces recapture Dnepropetrovsk Dam on the Dnieper River (ww2total.com Chronology/1943).

#11 (BR) Sqn. RCAF redeploys with Liberators from Dartmouth, NS to Torbay, Nfld. (RCAF Sqn.).

- 25 #1414 Meteorological Flight Gladiator II N5821 ran out of fuel and crashed into the sea near Mogadishu, Somalia, **F/O H.P. Ralph** missing (H. Gustavsson surfcity.kund.dalnet.se)
- 25 220 Sqn. Fortress IIa FK202 'B' crashed into the Atlantic, **F/O A.W. Dungle**, **F/O W.H. Offler**, **WO1 M.E. Varney**, F/S A.B. Christie RAF, F/S J.S. McKay RAF, S/L H.A.A. Webster RAF, F/O J. Walton RAF and P/O W.T. Potter RAF missing, the first loss from the new base in the Azores that had begun operations October 21 (H.A. Halliday).

- 25 #1 AOS, Malton, Ontario, Anson I #6132 crashed near Chatsworth, Ontario, on a navigation exercise, **LAC(BA) W.A. McCatty** was killed.
- 25 #31 EFTS, De Winton, Alberta, Cornell III #14436 crashed, LAC D.B. Heymans RAF killed.

Tuesday

26 In India British Army begins establishing relief camps in famine stricken Bengal (ww2total.com Chronology/1943).

#10 (BR) Sqn. RCAF Liberator #586 'A', F/L R.M. Aldwinkle pilot, attacks and claims a U-boat as sunk in an hour long fight, the second U-boat claimed by this aircraft. This was originally thought to be U-420 which went missing on it's first patrol following repairs after it was damaged by #10 (BR) Sqn. Liberator #587 July 3, above, but post war assessment changed this to damaging U-91 (RCAF Sqns., R.W.R. Walker). See February 18, 1944.

#145 (BR) Sqn. RCAF moves from Torbay, Nfld. to Dartmouth, NS (RCAF Sqns.).

- 26 160 Sqn., SE Asia, Liberator IIIa FL926 'J' lost on a reconnaissance of the Nicobar Islands, **F/S E.B. Gillespie**, **F/O C.W. Hamann** and **F/O W.A. Wallace**, F/S H.R. Crust RAF, F/S T. Leckey RAF, Sgt C.R. MacGregor RAF, Sgt R. Morgan RAF and F/O H.P. Willson missing (160 Squadron, Form 540, October, 1943 from R. Quirk).
- 26 175 Sqn. Typhoon Ib JP740 crashed in the English Channel returning from a RHUBARB sortie, **WO2 G.A. Shanks** missing.
- 26 427 Sqn. armorer **AC1 H.O. Olson** died of injuries in the Station Sick Quarters after he fell off his bicycle in thick fog (www.rafcommands.com).
- 26 #30 OTU Wellington X HE696 overshoot a landing and crashed into a hangar, killing bomb aimer **F/S A.B. Levene RCAF (UK)** and injuring pilot F/S T.F. Magee RAF and 2 crew. F/S Levene had transferred to the RCAF from the Canadian Army in 1942.
- 26 #1664 HCU RCAF **P/O S.H. Martin** died of injuries sustained Oct. 22, above.
- 26 #149 (BR) Sqn. RCAF, Annette Island, Alaska, Ventura #2193 missing in bad weather. The wreckage, with the remains of **WO2 V.C. Arnold**, **F/S H. Chambers**, **F/O A.J. Chandler AFM** and **P/O G.C. Marshall**, was not found until 1948. It is reported that a diary was found in the wreckage that indicated at least 2 crew survived the crash but were trapped in the wreckage, the diary ended after 11 days.
- 26 #32 EFTS, Bowden, Alberta, Cornell III #14395 crashed, LAC N.W. Armstrong RAF and Sgt B.H. Thompson RAF killed.
- 26 USAAF L-2B 43-61 crashed east of Edmonton, Alberta after an engine failure (AAIR).

Wednesday

27 #118 (F) Sqn., Sea Island, BC, begins to transfer to England (RCAF Sqns.).

- 27 146 Sqn., India, Hurricane IIb BN274 returning in formation from a sortie over

- Japanese occupied territory reported fuel problems, fell behind formation and crashed, killing **F/O J.L. Gibson** (www.rafcommands.com).
- 27 418 Sqn. Mosquito FB.VI HX817 TH-G hit a hangar taking off and crashed in England, **F/O H.A. Hague** killed (www.dehavilland.ukf.net).
- 27 455 Sqn. RAAF Hampden TB.I UB-P ditched after running out of fuel off Scotland on an air-sea rescue flight, **F/S F. Mechan**, **F/S D. Vitarelli**, F/O T.G. Davis RAAF and F/O A.O. Peters RAAF safe (H. Moyle).
- 27 #7 Ferry Pilots Pool, Barracuda II P9968 was on a ferry flight when the exhaust manifold failed and caused a fire, **Flight Officer H.M. Kendall ATA (Can.)** landed safe (R. Allenby).
- 27 #12 OTU Wellington X HE860 was written off when an engine failed on take off and the aircraft ran through a hedge, **Sgt H. Moncrieff**, F/S T. Black and their crew safe. Sgt Moncrieff may be the same as **P/O H.R. Moncrieff** lost May 22-23, 1944.
- 27 #15 EFTS Regina, Saskatchewan Cornell II #15148 was caught by forming fog and flew into the ground attempting to climb out of it, **P/O D.C. Bishop** and **Nursing Sister Marion Mercedes Westgate** killed (www.wwicdnwomensproject.org).
- 27 USAAF 90th Ferry Sqn. P-39Q 44-2031 missing in the Yukon, 2Lt Walter T. Kent missing (AAIR). The wreckage was found Sept. 18, 1965 by an RCAF helicopter near Tootsee Lake, Yukon. There is a plaque in Lt Kent's memory now at the crash site (B.W. Smith).
- 27 USAAF 90th Ferry Sqn. A-20G 42-86838 lost and crashed east of Fort Nelson, BC, pilot D.E. Billings bailed out (AAIR).
- 27 USAAF 71st ABS A-20C 41-19224 in a pre-arranged practice fighter affiliation exercise collided in mid air over Gander with RCAF Hurricane XII #5496, Maj S.F. Allen USAAF, Sgt E. Pleas USAAF, 2Lt J.K. Schaffner USAAF and Pvt G.M. Haynes USAAF killed in the A-20 and **F/O H.T.C. Taylor** bailed out of the Hurricane and safe (AAIR, Dr. L. Daly <http://www.planecrashgirl.ca/2016/04/>; wartimes.ca).

Thursday

28 German forces in Crimea cut off (CJCA headline).

Photos taken by a PRU Spitfire near Abbeville show a V-1 launch site under construction, the first indication of a planned offensive on England using V-1 flying bombs (D. Newton).

The U-220, which had laid mines off St. Johns, Newfoundland Oct. 9, is sunk by aircraft from the escort carrier USS Block Island (wikipedia).

In the USA over half a million coal miners go on strike (ww2total.com Chronology/1943).

- 28 #55 RSU **F/S R. Harper RAF (Can.)**, LAC J. Bell RAF, LAC A. Beverley RAF, Cpl G.P.

- Bridger RAF, LAC R.G. Cassell RAF, LAC A.R. Cowell RAF, Cpl E.J. Davies RAF, LAC L.S. Gauntlett RAF, LAC E.J. Welch RAF and LAC J. Wilkinson RAF killed when the truck they were riding in was struck by a Wellington Ic DV492, F/L Thom, was taking off, 2 other airmen believed to have died of burns, the crew of the Wellington had 1 burned, 5 safe (Jon Heyworth at www.rafcommands.com).
- 28 92 Sqn. Spitfire VIII JF563 lost in bad weather on a patrol over Italy, **P/O M.W.H. Askey** missing.
- 28 92 Sqn. Spitfire VIII JF524 crashed in bad weather, **F/O A.D. Sayle RAF (Can.)** killed (www.spitfires.ukf.net; www.rafcommands.com).
- 28 #13 EFTS?, Finch II #4591 damaged at St. Eugene, Ontario and written off (R.W.R. Walker).
- 28 #15 EFTS, Regina, Saskatchewan, **LAC(P) J.M. Alexander** killed with **P/O L.C.E. Driscoll** when their Fleet Cornell #14493 collided with Cornell #14494. The two airmen in the second aircraft landed safely.
- 28 #35 SFTS, North Battleford, Saskatchewan, Oxford V EB567 crashed, LAC G.E. Lyons RAF killed.

Friday

29 In Stalag Luft III The Wooden Horse escape occurred, using a tunnel starting from an open exercise area dug by prisoners hidden in a vaulting horse. Three PoWs managed to escape, Lt R.M. Codner RA, F/L Eric Williams RAF and F/L O.L.S. Philpot DFC RAF (Can.). All made it to neutral Sweden. F/L Philpot, shot down December 11, 1941, was born in Canada, but raised in England. He later wrote a book about his time as a PoW, Stolen Journey. F/L Williams wrote several books on his experiences as well, including a novel which became the basis for a movie about this escape (wikipedia, www.rafcommands.com).

In Germany actor and comedian Robert Dorsay was executed for making jokes about the German war effort (wikipedia). See December 16, below.

- 29 273 Sqn. Hurricane II BG827 hit a tree and crashed in Ceylon, **WO1 F. Zayezierski** killed.
- 29 223 Sqn. Baltimore IV FA475 was on a bombing operation over Italy when an onboard explosion occurred, jamming the turret gunner in his turret. The aircraft left formation and with the intercom not working P/O L.A. Fox RAAF bailed out at low altitude and was killed. The pilot, WO F.E. Hastilow RAAF, brought the aircraft back to base, he and his crew **Sgt A.W. Meason** and the turret gunner F/S C.E. Burchett RAF safe.
- 29 186 Sqn. Hurricane IV KW810 collided with Hurricane IV KZ375 making a practice attack on a target and crashed in Scotland, killing **F/S H.M. McLaughlin** in KW810 and F/S J.V.B. Homewood in KZ375 (www.rafcommands.com).

- 29 #2 Wireless School, Calgary, Alberta, Yale #3398 spun and crashed near Midnapore, Alberta, killing **F/S C.E. Garbut** and **P/O J. Kennedy**.
- 29 #2 AOS Anson I #6269 was on a night training flight when it crashed into (or near) Cooking Lake, Alberta, **Sgt R.P. Gibson**, Sgt L.A. Easter RAAF, LAC L.W. Oakes RAAF and LAC J.G. Hennessy RNZAF killed. The weather that night was bad, and #2 AOS **Service Pilot Cedric Mah** was in radio contact with Sgt Gibson discussing how they should return to Edmonton. Mr. Mah decided to return above the clouds while Sgt Gibson decided to return below them. Over Edmonton there was a break in the clouds allowing Mr. Mah to land, the wreckage of #6269 was found the next day (pers. comm. Cedric Mah, Dec. 23, 2004). This was the only fatal accident at #2 AOS. Cedric and his brother **Albert Mah** had both wanted to join the RCAF but were denied as at the time the RCAF only accepted recruits of European descent. Both then trained as commercial pilots in the USA, and Albert went to fly with *Chinese National Airways Corporation* flying over the Himalayas from India. Cedric later joined him there, where they flew until 1948. Ironically, neither spoke any Chinese as their parents wanted them to grow up as Canadians. After his return to Canada Cedric flew as a bush pilot in Western and Northern Canada. The brothers adventures have been referenced in several books and the life of Albert Mah was the subject of an episode of "The Late Show" on CBC Radio One in 2010.
- 29 #39 SFTS, AC1 J.J. Williams RAF died in hospital in Winnipeg of natural causes (www.rafcommands.com).

29-30 RAAF night bombing of Rabaul begins, using Beaufort aircraft. As in Europe the RAAF would bomb Rabaul by night, while the USAAF would attack this base by day (D. Newton).

- 29-30 #5 (Coastal) OTU Hudson I T9352 lost on a night cross-country exercise F/S R.H.R. Morton RAAF killed, **F/S J.R. Baxter**, **F/S E.K. Maden** and F/O A.R. MacDonald RAF missing (A. Storr).

Saturday

30 405 Sqn. receives the first production Canadian built Lancaster X KB700 LQ-Q "Ruhr Express" for operational use (RCAF Sqns.).

- 30 227 Sqn. Beaufighters protecting RN ships near Casteloriso shoot down a Ju 88, shared by P/O J.R. Kendall RAF and P/O R. McKay in HL478 'F', and **F/O A.P. Mazur** and F/O K.S. Stakes RAF in X7819 'V' (B. Cull). See November 5, below.
- 30 227 Sqn. Beaufighters protecting the same RN ships in the afternoon claimed 4 Ju 88 bombers shot down, 2 by **P/O B.J. Beare** and Sgt C.E. Humphreys RAF in JL900 'S', and 1 by **F/O W. Yurchinson** and F/O P.M. Wroath RAF in JL939 'G'. See November 5, below.
- 30 #3 SFTS, Calgary, Alberta, Crane I #7833 crashed near Shephard, Alberta, in bad weather, killing **LAC(P) C. Dansey**. LAC Dansey had volunteered for pilot training

while serving in the Canadian Army in England.

- 30 #31 OTU, Debert, N.S., Hudson VI FK443 missing on an anti-submarine patrol, **Sgt H.S.T. Fraser, Sgt A.J. Horton, Sgt A.W. Young** and Sgt E. Pattison RAF missing.
- 30 USAAF 3rd Ferry Group Canadian built Lend-Lease AT-16 43-12956 (possibly Harvard IIb FT215) crash landed at Montreal after an engine failure (AAIR).
- 30-31 #15 SFTS, Claresholm, Alberta, Anson II #7285 crashed at Arrowwood, Alberta, on a solo night navigation exercise, LAC W.L. Brighton RAAF killed (A. Storr).

Sunday

- 31 414 Sqn. Mustang I aircraft flown by F/O L.F. May and F/O R.C.J. Brown claimed a Ju 88 damaged on the ground, as well as a Ju 88 shot down and an aircraft identified as a Yale in German Markings shot down near Paris (5th Year). If the identification was correct this Yale was one of those delivered to France before the invasion, and from the same production batch as those serving in the RCAF.**
- 31 #13 SFTS, St. Hubert, Quebec, Harvard II AJ646 crashed at St. Angele de Mannoir, Quebec, LAC L.F. Smythe RAAF killed (R.W.R. Walker).

31-1 Dakota transports drop 100 Greek paratroops, most making their first jump, into the Island of Samos as reinforcements (B. Cull).

- 31-1 #19 OTU Whitley V BD627 ZV-E flew into the water off Scotland returning from a night cross country, **F/O R.V. Lynch**, Sgt G.H.M. Garner RAF, Sgt J.W. Mann RAF and Sgt R.F. Kincaid RAF missing, the rear gunner Sgt Jones survived with injuries. TSGNO notes that Sgt Jones may also be an RCAF airman.

November 1943

412 Sqn. begins to re-equip with Spitfire IXb aircraft (RCAF Sqns.). 418 Sqn. upgrades from Mosquito II to Mosquito FB.VI aircraft (RCAF Sqns. says this took place in Nov. 1944, but serial number data supports this earlier date). 428 Sqn. begins to receive Halifax B.II aircraft (RCAF Sqns.). 429 Sqn. begins to receive Halifax B.V aircraft (RCAF Sqns.). 433 Sqn. begins to receive Halifax B.III aircraft (RCAF Sqns.).

In Japan the reports of the effects of bombing in Europe led to a realistic evaluation of the countries air defence. In cities older parents, non essential families and entire high school classes are encouraged to move to the country, and over the next few months prior to the beginning of the US bombing campaign hundreds of thousands do so. Community volunteer fire fighting units are formed and in major cities buildings are demolished to form fire breaks, but

these efforts would still fail to meet the scale of the attacks they would face (Oxford).

In Yugoslavia Tito uses his new military strength (from Italian units and Italian equipment) to set up a communist government with himself as leader (Oxford).

During the month the RAF, concerned about the high losses of Special Operations aircraft over Holland, demand an investigation of operations there. British Intelligence was also getting suspicious, but German counter-intelligence was able to convince them the Dutch network was still valid and losses to NORDPOL continued (Oxford).

Monday

1 US Marines land on Bougainville (ww2total.com Chronology/1943). 7,500 Marines landed at Cape Torokina on Bougainville, against a force of less than 300 Japanese soldiers who resisted strongly but were overwhelmed (D. Newton, wikipedia).

Publication of Allied "Moscow Declaration", declaring the 1938 annexation of Austria invalid (Polsson).

In response to the coal miners strike President Roosevelt orders the mines taken over (ww2total.com Chronology/1943).

In California a peaceful protest by Japanese American families held the internment programs director Dillon S. Myers in the camp until he agreed to meet with their representatives, during which he listened to their complaints and agreed to make improvements, following which the internees returned to their barracks (wikipedia).

RCAF Home War Establishment at peak strength with 19 squadrons in Eastern Air Command and 18 in Western Air Command, based in Canada, Alaska and Newfoundland. #1 (Refresher) Sqn. disbanded (RCAF Sqns.). #123 (ACT) Sqn., Debert, NS, receives Hurricane I and XII aircraft for training before being deployed to England (RCAF Sqns.).

1 #13 SFTS St. Hubert, Quebec, Harvard II #2824 crashed near Louisville, Quebec, on a navigation exercise, P/O J.L. De G. Courteau and LAC(P) C.M. Weegar killed.

1-2 A second group of 100 Greek paratroops dropped into Samos (B. Cull).

1-2 104 Sqn. Wellington X JA192 'P' lost over Corsica on an operation from Tunisia, F/L I.F.

McDermott DFC RAF (Can.), Sgt J. Lusby RAF, Sgt F.T. Brown RAF, Sgt J.F. Stubbington RAF and F/S L.J. Garrow RAF killed. F/L McDermott had flown Gladiator fighters in Norway with 263 Sqn. in 1940 (Allison & Hayward; H.A. Halliday; H. Welting at www.rafcommands.com; BLME V.2).

Tuesday

- 2 A force of 80 B-25 bombers with heavy escort of P-38 fighters attacked Rabaul at low level. With warning by radar and reinforced by veteran units with the latest A6M5 fighters from Truk, Japanese naval and army fighters shot down 17 US aircraft and damaged many more, with similar losses to their fighters. Although largely successful in defence it was clear that Allied tactics had changed in the region (M. Huggins). [This would be the period that serves as the background for Lawrence Cortesi's novel Mission Incredible (1967), where a B-25 is lost on a mission to Rabaul, all 5 crewmen survive, but each truly believes they are the only survivor. Cortesi served in aircrew on B-25s in New Guinea in this period].**
- 2 176 Sqn. India, RDF [radar] mechanic **Sgt W.W. McArthur** fell down an embankment returning from leave and fractured his skull. He died of his injuries.
- 2 36 Sqn. Wellington XII HF119 crashed into the Mediterranean, most of the crew were rescued by *HMS Anemone*, **F/O C.E. Brandt** missing, F/O J.S. Pullar RAAF died of injuries, F/O J.H. Hand RAAF, F/O J.O. Scoble RAAF, Sgt F. Durham RAF and Sgt R.E. Woodgate RAF injured (A. Storr).
- 2 #131 (Coastal) OTU Catalina Ib FP120 lost on a training flight, **F/O D.H. Disney**, **F/L E.E. "Ted" Muffitt**, F/O K. Hipwell RAF, Sgt H.E. Scarman RAF, Sgt P.P. Bacon RAF, Sgt C. Barraclough RAF, Sgt J. Male RAF, Sgt C.E. Poots RAF and Sgt A. Upton RAF missing (J. O'Loughlin). The aircraft is believed to have been lost due to a faulty depth charge trigger. An article on F/L Muffitt's experiences in Ireland was published in the RCMP magazine by his son, Norm Muffitt, who became a pilot with the RCMP Air Division and later an inspector with Transport Canada.
- 2-3 458 Sqn. RAAF Wellington XIII HZ874 was on a convoy patrol over the Mediterranean from Tunisia when it suddenly had an engine failure and ditched, F/O D.G. Howie RAAF killed, F/S H.F. Bryson RAF missing, the rest of the crew, **WO H.J.M. Brady**, F/O J. Guthrie RAAF, F/S F.N. Morris RAAF and F/S J.R. Ramsay RAAF, were quickly rescued by a convoy escort *HMS Blakeney* (A. Storr; www.rafcommands.com).
- 2-3 462 Sqn. RAAF Halifax II BB430 took off on an operation to Crete but the undercarriage would not retract and collapsed on landing in Libya, **WO D.C. Munroe**, F/O E.G. Page RAAF, Sgt J.H. Thomas RAF, F/O R.V. Thomas RAF and F/S C. Weston safe (BLME V.2).

Wednesday

3 RAF Bomber Command C-in-C Harris proposes sustained attacks on Berlin to Churchill, believing it will end the war without an invasion (Polsson).

Hitler issues directive that German forces in western Europe will be built up to counter any threat of an invasion which could soon reach Germany's industrial zones, while in the east land is to be traded for time (Oxford). This meant that worn out divisions, previously rotated to the west for rest and re-equipping, would be kept in the eastern front without major relief (P. Adair). Hitler believed that new weapons being developed, especially the V-1 flying bomb, V-2 ballistic rocket and V-3 (emplaced large rapid fire rocket propelled artillery aimed at London), jet fighters and bombers, new U-boat designs, etc., would give Germany a dominating position which would allow them to defeat the Allies.

USAAF makes first attack through complete cloud cover using H2X, when 539 escorted bombers drop bombs on Wilhelmshaven with moderate accuracy, losing 7 bombers (Zijlstra).

Coal miners strike in USA ended (ww2total.com Chronology/1943).

- 3 76 Sqn. Halifax V LK681 MP-A "Hetty the Heffalump" flew into rising ground in cloudy conditions and crashed in England on a demonstration flight, F/S R.A. Brawn RAAF, Sgt J.G. Kirby RAF, F/O W. Laskie RAF and Sgt D. Kneale RAF killed, **F/S H.M. Welch**, F/L J. Steele RAF and RAE scientist Miss Dorothy Robson, BSc, an expert in the field of bomb sights, injured. **F/S Welch** died of his injuries that night, F/L Steele died Nov. 4 and Miss Robson succumbed Nov. 5. Miss Robson had helped develop the new Mk. XIV bombsight, and this flight was one of many she and others from the RAE were engaged in to demonstrate it's capabilities. This sight was very accurate, simpler to set up than previous sights, could be used in a climb or a turn, day or night, and could be set on target on a run-in of as few as 10 seconds (R. Allenby, wikipedia). In theory the US Norden bombsight system was more accurate, but was designed for high altitudes, required clear view of it's target, level straight flight and could not be used at night. In practice there was little difference in accuracy, but the Mk. XIV was more versatile and simpler to use. The Norden sight was complex as it allowed the bombardier (bomb aimer) to physically steer the aircraft via the auto-pilot on the run-in to the target.
- 3 416 Sqn. Spitfire V BL430 shot down over Holland on a RAMROD escorting USAAF B-26 bombers, **F/O W.H. Jacobs** killed.
- 3 #34 SFTS, Medicine Hat, Alberta, Harvard IIb FE868 crashed, LAC D. Elliott RAF killed.

- 3-4 148 Sqn. Liberator II AL509 'Y' flew into the top of a hill in Yugoslavia on special operation FUNGUS 33 or 35, **WO1 J.H.S. Clarke**, **F/L E.B. Elliott AM (US)**, **WO1 R.E. Hawken**, **F/S E.A. Toole**, F/L H.I. Crawford RNZAF, F/S W.J. Dowle RAF and F/L M. Passmore RAF killed (A. Tebbutt; BLME V.2). WO Hawken had survived an accident in a #23 OTU Wellington July 13, 1942. F/L Elliott had been involved in a supply and rescue flight to occupied Yugoslavia Oct. 21-24, above.
- 3-4 Bomber Command sent 589 bombers to Düsseldorf, and 62 more as a diversion to Cologne. The attack on Düsseldorf was accurate. It also marked the first widespread use of GEE-H blind bombing by aircraft from #3 and #6 Group, on a steel works, but only 15 of the 38 GEE-H bombers managed to use the system. This still managed to inflict heavy damage on the plant. Other operations included 13 OBOE Mosquitos attacking a foundry in Rheinhausen, 2 more to Dortmund, 23 GARDENING and 27 OTU sorties for a total of 716 sorties with 19 lost (BC War Diaries).**
- 3-4 10 Sqn. Halifax II JN947 ZA-F lost over the target in Germany, **F/S G.T. Hooper**, F/L L.A. Harden RAF, Sgt G.E. Haskings RAF and P/O A.H. Petty RAF killed, P/O S. Smith RAF, Sgt J.H.F. Chesterton RAF and Sgt R.J. Blackbourne RAF PoW.
- 3-4 10 Sqn. Halifax II HR921 ZA-D was attacked and badly damaged short of the target and forced to jettison its bomb load after two engines failed. Despite wounds to 3 of the crew they managed to restart one engine, extinguished an onboard fire, and repaired radios enabling them to return to a safe landing in England where the aircraft was written off, Sgt R.C. Bridge RAF, Sgt T.E. Bisby RAF and Sgt W. Mowatt RAAF wounded, **F/O A.A.H.J.N.A. Duchesney**, F/L J.H. Trobe RAAF, Sgt G.W. Fernyhough RAF and Sgt D.B. Smith RAAF safe. F/L Trobe was awarded a DFC, Sgt Mowatt the DFM, and Sgt Bridge a CGM and a DFM for this sortie (R. Allenby). See April 22-23, 1944.
- 3-4 12 Sqn. Lancaster III DV218 PH-G² lost over Germany, **F/S T.R.H. Todhunter**, Sgt B. O'Connell RAF, Sgt E.A. Murray RAF, Sgt R. Jobson RAF and Sgt H.G. Rogers RAF killed, **F/S R.G. Fourse** and Sgt M.H. White RAF PoW.
- 3-4 49 Sqn. Lancaster III JB305 EA-E lost over the target, F/S S.M. List RAAF, F/L N.H. Carfoot RAF, Sgt H.L. Wood RAF and Sgt W.H. Marson RAF killed, **F/S S.G. Putman**, Sgt J.S. Mason RAF and Sgt H.D. Church RAF PoW. The bomber was set on fire by flak. Pilot F/L Carfoot held the aircraft and the three surviving crew got out before a night fighter attack caused it to explode (T. Cachart).
- 3-4 57 Sqn. Lancaster I W4822 DX-P shot down by a night fighter over Belgium, 1Lt D. West USAAF, Sgt W.F. Neill RAF, Sgt H.F. McKernin RAF, Sgt F.B. Heaton and Sgt J. Edmunds RAF killed, P/O N.F. Buggiey RAF PoW, **F/O R.S. Clements** and F/O J.M. Elliott RAF evaded.
- 3-4 76 Sqn. Halifax V LK948 MP-T shot down by a night fighter over Germany, **F/L D.E. Hicks**, **WO2 S.W. Lucyk**, Sgt G. Morrison RAF, Sgt R.W. Elder RAF and Sgt T.W. Davis RAF killed, Sgt R. Clough RAF and Sgt A.E. Bristow RAF PoW.

- 3-4 77 Sqn. Halifax II JD321 KN-G shot down by a night fighter over Holland, **WO1 G.F. McKinnon**, P/O R.J. Jones RAF, Sgt P.H. Potter RAF, Sgt R.V. Woods RAF, F/S R. Walton RAF, Sgt G.H.C. Wade, Sgt W. Shaw RAF and Sgt T.R. Oxley RAF killed.
- 3-4 77 Sqn. Halifax II JD385 KN-C was attacked by a night fighter, but returned to England on 3 engines where it was written off, **P/O R.W. Folkes**, **Sgt J.B. Mannix**, S/L E.C. Badcoe DFC RAF, Sgt M.W. Mills RAF, P/O M. Holliday RAF, P/O F.G. Chell RAF, F/O W.D. Rees RAF and Sgt D. Ricketts RAF safe (R. Allenby).
- 3-4 138 Sqn. Halifax II DT726 NF-H lost over France on Operation JOHN 13, flew into high ground in fog, **Sgt H.T. Penfold**, F/S R.L. Nott RAAF, F/S H. Smith RAF, P/O J. Barthelemy RAF, P/O H.F. Hodges RAF, F/O R.K. Pulling RAF and Capt. J.A. Estes DFC SM AM USAAF killed, Sgt J.F. Brough RAF evaded (R. Tebbutt).
- 3-4 408 Sqn. Lancaster II DS774 EQ-F believed lost off the Dutch coast, **P/O T.W. Hilliard**, **F/S C.M. MacDonald**, **F/S C.P. Miller** killed, their bodies were found in a life raft that came ashore Nov. 12. **F/O J.E. Sauve**, **Sgt R.C. Smith**, **WO2 R.A. Young** and Flight Officer H.S. Oien USAAF missing.
- 3-4 426 Sqn. Lancaster II DS713 OW-G or J, lost over Germany, **F/O D.W. Ditzler**, **WO2 C.E. Flewin**, **F/S J. Galloway**, **Sgt M.E. Gee**, **WO2 N.S. McLeod**, **WO1 G.T. Mutton** and Sgt J.C. Ellis RAF killed.
- 3-4 428 Sqn. Halifax V LK954 NA-E returned to England with damage from machine gun fire when it suddenly dove and crashed from low altitude, killing **F/O R.G. Eaton**, **F/O B.A. Elmore**, **F/O A.K. Hodgkinson**, **P/O A.E. Mackenzie**, **F/O L.L. Whitham**, Sgt A.E. Moss RAF, Sgt A.F. Weigh RAF and Sgt H.B. Shimwell RAF.
- 3-4 429 Sqn. Halifax II JD326 AL-P lost without trace, **F/S M.O.M. Bell**, **F/O C.W. Blagborne**, **F/S G.J. Byers**, **Sgt E.J. Helm**, **P/O D.A. Naismith**, Sgt E.W.H. Bates RAF and Sgt C.R.E. Hunt RAF missing. F/S Byers had had an accident Sept. 8, above, in a #1664 HCU Halifax with his twin brother, and had to bail out of a crippled Halifax Oct. 4-5, above. His twin brother **Sgt W.B. Byers** was also serving in 429 Sqn. at the time (E. Stofer).
- 3-4 434 Sqn. Halifax V EB257 WL-E lost over Germany, F/S E.A. Dunlop RAAF, Sgt L.F. Shirley RAF, Sgt J.E. Owen RAF and Sgt C.R.M. Edgar RAF killed, **Sgt J.E. James**, **Sgt R.H. Vance** and **Sgt N. McBride** PoW.
- 3-4 625 Sqn. Lancaster I ED321 CF-V lost over the target area, **Sgt J.M. Smith**, F/S J.G. Blackwood RAF, Sgt R. Skelton RAF, Sgt R.D. Yates RAF, Sgt S.A. Robbins RAF, Sgt F.A. Watkins RAF and Sgt R. Littlehales RAF killed.
- 3-4 #24 OTU Whitley V AD675 TY-E abandoned over France on a NICKEL sortie due to failing engines, **Sgt F.W. Forster** PoW, **F/L J.L. Kennedy**, **Sgt J.H. Upton**, **WO2 G.A. Gauley** and **Sgt A.E. Spencer** evaded.

Thursday

- 4 177 Sqn. Beaufighter VI/EL511 crashed in India taking off in darkness for a dawn attack, **F/O W. Roberts** and **F/L T.F.C. Hickie** killed. The crash prevented 3 more

- Beaufighters on the same operation from taking off (aviation-safety.net).
- 4 #1 Photo Centre, Rockcliffe, Ontario, **WO1 J. Ware** died in hospital in Ottawa of natural causes (www.rafcommands.com).
- 4 #9 B&G School, Mont Joli, Quebec, air frame mechanic **LAC C.E. Lawton** died in hospital of natural causes following an operation (www.rafcommands.com).

4-5 Bomber Command sent 24 Mosquitos to attack a chemical factory at Leverkusen, 4 more to Aachen and 36 GARDENING sorties with 4 bombers lost (BC War Diaries).

- 4-5 199 Sqn. Stirling III EF453 EX-F lost without trace on a GARDENING sortie off Denmark, **F/S P. Watson**, F/S D.F. Moore RAAF, F/S D. Menere RAAF, Sgt V.J. Southgate RAF, F/O D.C. Welch RAF, Sgt W. Jones RAF and Sgt A. Richmond RAF missing.

Friday

5 US single engined fighters from newly built airstrips on Bougainville begin escorting bombers to attack Rabaul (ww2total.com Chronology/1943). These would be more effective against the Japanese fighters than the P-38 used until now, which Japanese pilots found easy to deal with, although over-counting those with one engine knocked out as "probably destroyed" (M. Huggins).

424 Sqn. regroups in England as part of 6 Group RCAF (RCAF Sqns.). USAAF bombers begin using OBOE for daylight attacks (Zijlstra).

- 5 227 Sqn. five Beaufighter XI aircraft on a sweep around the Island of Rhodes were intercepted by Bf 109 aircraft and lose 4 aircraft, including JM276 'C' in which **F/O A.P. Mazur** and F/O K.S. Stakes RAF were missing, and JL939 'G' which was shot down in flames after several attacks, **F/O W. Yurchinson** and F/O P.M. Wroath RAF missing. Beaufighter JP908 'P', **P/O A.C. Gibbard** and Sgt B.H.L. Blake RAF, were the only ones to return safely (B. Cull). This sweep was a part of operations to prevent the loss of newly seized islands in the Dodecanese off the coast of Turkey (H. Welting www.rafcommands.com; <http://aviationarchaeology.gr>).
- 5 414 Sqn. Mustang I AM111 was hit by flak flying at very low level off Holland on a RHUBARB. **S/L H.P. Peters DFC** bailed out but was too low for his parachute to work and is missing.
- 5 405 Sqn. Lancaster III JA979 overshot and crashed attempting a three engined landing on a training flight, **F/O B.H. Pringle** was killed.
- 5 455 Sqn. RAAF Canadian built Hampden TB.I AN163 UB-K overshot a landing from an operation off Norway and crashed, **F/S D. McLean**, P/O S.J. Cliff, F/O J.C. McGhee and Sgt J. McFeely safe.
- 5 #7 (Coastal) OTU Wellington LB247 was practicing torpedo attacks when it crashed in Ireland, Sgt J.J. Walsh RAAF killed, **F/O W.J.K. Dickson**, **P/O O.H. Mennie**, F/O W.

McFadden RAAF, F/O L.F. McInnes RAAF, F/S M. Williams RAAF and F/S R.A. Smythe RAAF injured (A. Storr, alieneyes and COL BRUGGY at www.rafcommands.com). See July 20-21, 1944. F/O Dickson recovered from his injuries and went on to a postwar career in the Royal Canadian Engineers (Jamie Dickson www.rafcommands.com).

- 5 #132 (F) Sqn. RCAF Boundary Bay, BC, Kittyhawk III #833 was one of 4 Kittyhawk aircraft dogfighting with a similar flight of US Navy F6F fighters when it collided in mid-air with one of the USN aircraft east of Discovery Island and crashed, **P/O K.B. Callaghan** missing (R.W.R. Walker). *BC Times Colonist, Other BC Crashes and Losses* states the USN pilot also missing. Chris Charland on the [www.rafcommands](http://www.rafcommands.com) discussion page names the pilot of the F6F as P.K. Donohowe (rank?).
- 5 #1 AOS, Malton, Ontario, Anson I AX347 crashed on navigation exercise at Garden Hill, Ontario, killing **WO2 H.C. Freeman RCAF (India)**, LAC E.G. Carter RAF, F/O E. Styrski PAF and Sgt P.M. Butler RNZAF.
- 5-6 #24 OTU Wellington X LN551 crash landed with engine problems on a night navigation exercise, **Sgt G. McDougall**, P/O R.A.F. Scrivener RAF, P/O N.A. Smith RAF, Sgt F.C. Searle RAF, Sgt Brodenkamp RAF (Rhod. or S. Africa) and Sgt T.R. Clayton RAF injured. See May 9-10, 1944.
- 5-6 #45 Group, Ferry Command, Mitchell II FW138 disappeared between Goose Bay Labrador and Reykjavik, Iceland, **F/L W.L. Halperin**, F/O S.J. Hansen RAAF, F/L D.J.O. Pyne RAF and F/O A.C. Monkiewicz PAF missing. Contributor dfuller52 (David Fuller) on the www.rafcommands.com website notes that F/L Halperin was a professor of mathematics at the University of Manitoba who was an instructor in navigation at several BCATP schools before volunteering for active service, and that his brother I. Halperin was also a mathematics professor who joined the RCA where he was employed in the study of ballistics research in Ottawa (see also https://www.thestar.com/news/2007/04/12/israel_halperin_96_crusading_spirit.html, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel_Halperin).

Saturday

6 Japanese Army reinforcements land on Bougainville (ww2total.com Chronology/1943).

Soviet forces re-take Kiev (CJCA headline).

Troopship Santa Elena bombed and sunk off Philippeville, Algeria, 1,900 Canadian soldiers and nursing sisters on their way to Italy were saved by US Navy ships (ww2total.com Chronology/1943). One of two transports and 1 destroyer sunk, and 2 transports and 1 destroyer damaged during an attack

on a convoy by German torpedo and glide bomb aircraft (Action off Cape Bougaroun, wikipedia). See November 22 and 26, below.

5th Victory Loan brings in \$1,374,992,250 (CJCA headline).

425 Sqn. re-groups in England (RCAF Sqns.).

- 6 20 Sqn. Hurricane IId KW877 crashed in a flying accident in India, P/O A.D. Blackman killed (www.rafcommands.com).
- 6 430 Sqn. Mustang I AP178 G9-J shot down by flak over France on a RHUBARB, F/O J.R. Wardrope killed.
- 6 #26 OTU Wellington III X3924 was on an evening cross country when it collided in mid air with #27 OTU Wellington X LN295, both aircraft crashing. In X3924 Sgt J.E. Holbeck, F/O D. Potts RCAF (USA), Sgt G.A. Hall RAF, Sgt M.A. Crimmins RAF and Sgt S. Edmondson RAF were killed, pilot Sgt E.B. Main was thrown clear and only slightly injured. In LN295 P/O L.J. Quaite DFM RAAF, P/O J.F. Parker RAAF, P/O C.G. Finch RAAF, Sgt A.H. Anderson RAAF and Section Officer K.L. Hughes WAAF were killed, while the pilot G/C P.G. Heffernan RAAF was thrown clear and injured. It should be noted that pilots, who would be asked to hold damaged aircraft in control until their crews evacuated, were issued with seat parachutes to assist them to make quick evacuations if possible. In cases of sudden catastrophic damage such as a mid-air collision or an explosion they might be the only survivor as other aircrew blown clear would not have had time retrieve or to clip on their chest parachutes to their harness. For further study on the subject of aircrew escapes the book *Into the Silk: True Stories of the Caterpillar Club* (1958) by Ian Mackersey is highly recommended.
- 6 #1657 HCU Stirling I R9192 AK-B collided in mid-air with #27 OTU Wellington III X3637. The Wellington crashed, killing P/O M.E. McKiggan RAAF, F/S F.G. Neville RAAF, F/S J.J. Herbert RAAF, P/O T.T. Jones RAAF, F/S S.S.L. La Frenz RAAF, F/O D.A. McKechnie RAAF and F/O O.I.H. Stoeckel RAAF, but the pilot of the Stirling, F/O D.W. Thomson DFC RNZAF, managed to keep control of the badly damaged bomber and landed it some 25 minutes after the accident, Sgt S. Scott RAF injured, F/O Thomson, F/S J.P. Merritt, F/O V.L. Scantleton RAAF, F/S G.S. McDonald RAAF, F/O R.E. Forbes RNZAF, Sgt S.T. Nuttall RAF, Sgt T.M. Taylor RAF, Sgt A. Sloan RAF, Battery Quartermaster Sgt I. Colley Royal Artillery and Lance Sgt W. Millson RA safe. See March 30-31, 1944.
- 6 #1659 HCU RCAF Halifax II W1251 crashed on the Isle of Man when an inflight fire broke out and the aircraft broke up in the air before the crew could escape, F/O S.M. Flett, Sgt P.E. Krotz, Sgt A.B. McVean, F/S R.F. Mechin, Sgt J.E. O'Grady, F/S C.A. Turner and Sgt H.J. Ford RAF killed.
- 6 #1679 HC Flight RCAF Lancaster II DS649 'E' crashed into trees just after taking off on a training flight with a crew from 432 Squadron which was transitioning to this new

- aircraft from Wellingtons, **F/O R.A. Davis**, **F/S R.L. Green**, **Sgt L.W. Lehman**, **WO2 A.H. MacDonald**, Sgt R.C. Mitchell RAF and Sgt F.W. Hunt RAF killed. It is not known why the aircraft was flying at low level (R. Allenby). WO MacDonald had been injured in the loss of a Wellington April 10-11, 1943.
- 6 #3 B&G School, MacDonald, Man., Battle I.T #1968 caught fire just after take-off, the pilot landed safely but the aircraft was written off (S. Shail).
- 6 #3 ITS, Victoriaville, Quebec, **Cpl N.A. Durk** died in what was ruled a suicide (www.rafcommands.com).
- 6 #17 SFTS, Souris, Man., Anson V #11532 crashed near Eden, Man., **P/O W.P. Harris**, **LAC(P) D.C. Mackenzie** and LAC(P) P.J. Nichols RAF killed.
- 6 #35 SFTS, North Battleford, Saskatchewan, LAC J.G. Hutchinson RAF died in an accident, found in a car near the base with a gunshot wound (B. Barry et al; www.rafcommands.com).
- 6-7 38 Sqn. Wellington XIII MP705 was attacking a German ship at Naxos, Greece, when it was hit by flak which knocked out an engine. The aircraft managed to fly for 10 minutes before ditching, **F/L R.W. Adams**, F/O A.J. Spencer RAF, Sgt T.K. Falkiner RAAF, F/S D. Broome RAF, Sgt J.B. Farrell RAF and Sgt W. Trowbridge RAF got into their life-raft and paddled to the island of Sifnos, where local residents hid them, and passed them on to the island of Serifos, where they were taken to a British Commando team which arranged for an RN boat to pick them up for return. After the war F/L Adams started the *Adams Rent-All* tool rental chain in Ontario (<http://aviationarchaeology.gr/?tag=sn-mp705>). The wreck of this Wellington, largely intact, was discovered in the early 2000's (<http://www.wreckdiving.gr/wreck/wellington>).
- 6-7 #15 OTU Wellington Ic Z9106 was approaching to land returning from a BULLSEYE sortie when first one engine failed, followed by the second. The pilot, P/O A.G. McAlpine RAAF, had no choice but to land straight ahead, hitting trees and a building. **Sgt A. Follett RCAF (Nfld.)** was killed, Sgt H. Haire RAF injured, but the pilot and the rest of the crew, **P/O F.F. Sait**, P/O J.W. Erricker RAF and Sgt W.W. Bright RAF uninjured.

Sunday

- 7 Singer and songwriter *Joni Mitchell* (Joni Anderson) born in Fort Macleod, Alberta (wikipedia).**
- 7 56 Sqn. Typhoon Ib JP728 crashed in England when the engine failed on take-off, **F/O L.M. Sullivan RCAF (USA)** killed.
- 7 431 Sqn. Halifax V DK264 SE-C stalled and crashed when landing from a training flight, losing it's undercarriage, 1 crewman injured, the rest of **F/S G.F. Edwards** crew safe (R. Allenby).
- 7 #3 (Coastal) OTU, Wellington MP615 was on the ground when it was hit by 304

(Polish) Sqn. Wellington XIV HF150, which was making a forced landing (www.rafdavidstowmoor.org). **WO2 J. Ashwood** and **F/O D.M. Thew RCAF (USA)** were killed on MP615.

- 7 #5 AFU Master EM281 and Anson I N4934 collided in mid air and crashed, killing **P/O J.O. Cross** and F/S D.F. Carter RAF on EM281, and **F/L Verdun F. McDonald**, F/S J. Rothwell RNZAF, F/S C.J. Walsh RAAF and Cpl L.A. Manners on N4934 (A. Storr). On Nov. 11, 2011 a national story on CBC Radio News was the return of F/L McDonald's signet ring, found in England and sold on e-Bay, to his wife and son, also Verdun McDonald, born 10 weeks after his death.
- 7 #30 OTU Wellington X LN182 'A' overran a night landing, **P/O Rothchild** and Sgt M.J. West RAF safe.
- 7 #1663 HCU Halifax V EB134 'L' was supposed to be returning to it's base in England but instead flew across the Irish Sea and across Eire where it flew into high ground, **WO1 N.W. Gardner**, F/S A.S. Johnston RAAF, F/S G.H. Sansome RAAF, F/S A.J. Gallagher RAAF, Sgt E.W. Camp RAF, Sgt R.M. Clark RAF and Sgt L.H. Wildman RAF killed.
- 7 #1664 HCU RCAF Halifax V EB187 was taking off from a USAAF base where it had landed short of fuel, when an engine cut and the aircraft was wrecked, **P/O A.H. Woolverton** and his crew safe. See Feb. 19-20, 1944
- 7 #127 (F) Sqn. RCAF, Dartmouth, NS, Hurricane XII #5659 crashed near Northwest Cove, NS, following an engine failure, **F/S M.R. Sabourin** killed. TSGNO notes there is a plaque in Northwest Cove, Nova Scotia, about this crash, illustrated in *Airforce Magazine*, Spring 1990.
- 7 #45 Air Transport Group, RAF Ferry Command, Ventura GR.V FP647 lost from Trinidad on a delivery flight, civilian pilot **Ferry Captain L.S. Lumb (Can.)**, navigator **P/O J.A. Ovens**, **Radio Officer W.G.A. Young (Can.)** and passenger radar mechanic **LAC C.E. Conroy** missing.

Monday

- 8 #100 Group, RAF, formed on this date in Bomber Command, to operate Radio Counter Measures (RCM) aircraft giving bomber support on operations (M. Peden).**
- 8 5 Sqn. Hurricane IIc HV700 crashed in India following a structural failure, **F/O H.O. Seifert** killed (www.rafcommands.com).
- 8 221 Sqn. Wellington XIII HZ963 lost in the Mediterranean on an anti-submarine patrol, **WO1 H.W. Shaver**, F/S G.L. Hart RAF, F/O N.L. Keeble RAF, P/O A.R. Stewart RNZAF, WO R. Swift RNZAF and F/S L.J. Thompson RAF missing (www.rafcommands.com).
- 8 226 Sqn. Mitchell II FV927 lost when hit by flak on attacking a NOBALL site, **WO2 C.M. Berg**, **WO2 J.H. Cowieson**, **WO2 J.A. Grenier** and F/S K.M. Smith RAAF killed (A. Storr). See December 5, below.

- 8 #3 AFU Anson I N9855 crashed into a mountain in Wales on a night navigation exercise, **F/S E.A. Hoagg**, Sgt J.H. Lewis RAAF, Sgt W. Gavin RAF, Sgt L.J. Hill RAF and Sgt D.J. Roberts RAF killed (www.peakdistrictaircrashes.co.uk, A. Storr). This aircraft crashed very close to the crash site of 464 Sqn. RAAF Ventura AE688, Aug. 18, above, and the wreckage of both aircraft is intermingled on the slopes below (<https://pacaeropress.websitetoolbox.com/post/lockheed-venturaanson-visit-uk-6870393>).
- 8 #116 (BR) Sqn. RCAF, Botwood, Newfoundland, Canso A #9834 aircraft crashed near Botwood attempting a landing in glassy water conditions at night, **WO1 M.M. Epstein RCAF (Nfld.)**, EAC Senior Intelligence Officer **W/C R.R. Ings**, **P/O R.F. Lowther**, **Sgt E.J. Mills**, **F/L J.C. Redmond**, Maj K.S. Morton RA and **S/O Irene Watson** missing. By coincidence WO1 Epstein is listed as being from Botwood where the Squadron was based at the time of this loss, possibly by marriage. Survivors were **P/O W.K. Caines** (injured), **F/S F.D. Hirtle**, **Sgt A.H. Jones**, **LAC P.L. Marsh** and **F/O J.B. Dalgelish** (Laurent Rizzotti at www.rafcommands.org; www.wwiicdnwomensproject.org).
- 8 #1 OTU, Bagotville, Quebec, Hurricane XIIa #1361 crashed near Bagotville, Sgt L.W. Swindells RAF killed. R.W.R. Walker notes that the wreckage was buried at the crash site.
- 8 RAF Ferry Command, Mitchell II FK203 was on a flight across the Atlantic when it radioed that it was on fire approximately 50 miles from Reykjavik, Iceland. An ASR search of the area found no wreckage or survivors, **Ferry Captain G.T. Record**, Radio Operator O.G. Davies (UK) and F/O F.A. Beyer RAAF missing (A. Storr).

Tuesday

- 9 ***Representatives from 44 countries gather to discuss post-war reconstruction of Europe and Asia in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Together they agree on a structure for what would become the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) (LoN).***
- 9 18 Sqn. observer **F/O D.W. Woodward** died in Italy of injuries from a car accident, Oct. 20, above.
- 9 90 Sqn. Stirling III LK380 XY-Y on a training flight collided with a Hurricane IV KW800 of the Air Fighting Development Unit, both aircraft crashing. **Sgt M.P. Loyst**, F/S H.I. Jones RAAF, F/L R.Y. Rodger RAF, F/S L. Smith RAF, Sgt E.F. Davany RAF, F/O C. Mitchell RAF, Sgt R. Wilson RAF, Sgt L.M. Griffiths RAF and Sgt G.G. Batten RAF killed, the pilot of the Hurricane, F/S Brown, a Malta veteran, broke his legs when he landed on a telegraph line. All the crew are listed as missing, although 5 bodies were recovered and interred unidentified. In 1975 the site of the Stirling crash was excavated and among the wreckage was found Sgt Loyst's cap badge (letter, *Airforce Magazine*, June 1982). Referenced by C.E. Potten in his book.
- 9 #23 OTU Wellington III X3932 'P' crashed in England on an evening training flight when

an engine suddenly failed while climbing away from an overshoot landing, F/O H.H. Barton, P/O G.J. Gallagher, F/S C.R.G. Long, F/O H.J. Magnes and Sgt A.J. O'Neil killed (*Flypast*, March, 1983).

- 9 #1606 Flight DH.82 Tiger Moth T7612 stalled and crashed in Wales, F/S A.L. Jacobs RCAF (USA) and F/S S.J. McLaughlin RAF killed (www.rafcommands.com).
- 9 USAAF Bellanca Skyrocket 42-107421 damaged landing at Edmonton, Alberta (AAIR).
- 9-10 407 Sqn. Leigh Light Wellington XIV HF182 2-T lost on a night anti-submarine patrol over the Bay of Biscay, WO1 J.E.G. Girouard, WO2 D.J. Haug, WO1 J.J-P.G. Huard, WO2 J.N.G. Milot, P/O J.A. Raven and F/L L.J.L. Thibault missing (407 SH).
- 9-10 418 Sqn. Mosquito FB.VI HJ830 TH-J lost on an INTRUDER sortie to France, F/O J.L.D. Armstrong MiD and F/O A.J. Brown killed (H.A. Halliday www.rafcommands.com).

Wednesday

10 Island of Leros heavily bombed by German forces (B. Cull).

- 10 104 Sqn. Wellington X JA190 swung on landing in Tunisia and lost it's undercarriage, F/O C.R. Griebel and his crew safe (BLME V.2).
- 10 228 Sqn. Sunderland III EK572 was shot down by Ju 88 aircraft while dropping a life-raft to the damaged U-966 off the coast of Spain. The U-boat had been under sustained attack by RAF and USN aircraft for 9 hours and had run itself ashore, at which point the attacks ceased and the Allied aircraft were attempting to help the sailors survive the heavy surf. This was not realized by the Ju 88 aircraft when they arrived on the scene (M. Williamson). F/L W.E. Merrifield, Sgt A.B. Boocock RAF and Sgt A.C. Wells RAF killed, Sgt A.W. Aitken RAF, F/O A.V.W. Franklin RAF, F/S J.S. Jarvis RAF, Sgt F. Lawrence RAF, Sgt D.J. Macaree RAF, Sgt D.W. Moss RAF, Sgt R. McCormick RAF, Sgt A.E. Nattrass RAF and Sgt J.F. Phizacklea RAF missing (CWGC; www.rafcommands.com).
- 10 #9 AOS, St. Jean, Quebec, Anson V #11736 crashed, LAC D.W. Johnston RAF killed.
- 10 unknown unit, DH.82C Tiger Moth #4234 destroyed by fire at Grand Portage, Minnesota, USA (R.W.R. Walker).
- 10 USAAF Canadian built Lend-Lease AT-16 43-12987 (Harvard IIb FT246) damaged in a landing accident at Montreal (AAIR, J. Baugher).

10-11 RN destroyers shell the harbour at Cos to try to eliminate the German invasion force forming to invade Leros (B. Cull).

The railway yards at Modane in the French Alps were again attacked by Bomber Command which sent 313 Lancasters, making a very accurate attack on the target. Other flights included 2 Mosquitos to Dortmund, 7 Stirlings GARDENING in the Gironde River, and 20 OTU sorties. No bombers were lost

(BC War Diaries).

- 10-11 161 Sqn. Halifax V EB129 MA-W lost over France on Operation TRAINER 38 and MELPOMENE/PENNYFARTHING, **Sgt H.R. Batten RAF (Nfld.)**, **WO2 W.R.R. Shore**, F/S E. Harrison RAAF, P/O M.A. Line RAAF, Sgt R. Cotterill RAF, F/S E.R. Watts RAF, 1Lt B.W. Gross USAAF killed, F/O J.G. Pilkington RAF evaded until February 1944 and was taken PoW trying to meet a boat to take him to England.
- 10-11 407 Sqn. Leigh Light Wellington was returning from a patrol and was diverted to another landing site due to weather, but ran out of fuel, **F/L R.C. Kenmuir**, **F/O J.D. Brechin**, **P/O R. Robertson**, **F/S B. Mercer**, **F/S H.E. Keast**, **WO A.D. MacKay** and **WO I.B. Davis** bailed out and were safe (407 SH).

Thursday

11 *Withdrawing RN destroyers that shelled Cos attacked by Do 217 aircraft carrying Hs 293 glider bombs that heavily damage 1 destroyer. Another large bombing attack is made on Leros (B. Cull).*

Canada & USA make their respective special ministers Ambassadors (CJCA headline). Prior to this time there was no US Ambassador in Ottawa or Canadian Ambassador in Washington, as the US had not politically recognized Canada as a separate country, but as part of England, with special handling by the Department of Interior (which continued until the 1980s), as part of US national policy under the Monroe Doctrine. (An artifact of this curious period of non-recognition can be found on the side of Charles Lindbergh's famous "Spirit of St. Louis" aircraft on display at the Smithsonian, where the flags of all the countries he visited after his famous trans-Atlantic flight are painted except Canada's (Note, his visit to Canada pre-dated the Statute of Westminster which should be taken into account). Nearby is Wiley Post's Lockheed Vega "Winnie-Mae", however, which has a list of all the airports it landed at on its two round the world flights, including "Edmonton, Canada" twice.)

- 11 414 Sqn. Mustang I AP261 lost on a RHUBARB over France, **F/O O.S. Peck** killed.
- 11 #8 OTU, Mosquito PR.IV DZ459 crashed in England attempting a overshoot from a single engined landing following an engine failure, **F/L A.J.F. Symes** and Sgt E. Lyon RAF killed (R. Allenby).
- 11 #51 OTU RAF, Dominie I X7368 crashed, **F/O A.M. Fitz-Randolph RAF (Can.)**, F/L O.H. Courtney RAF, Sgt E. Povey, 2Lt J.K. Peters US Army and 2Lt M.A. Schenker US Army killed (dennis_burke at www.rafcommands.com).
- 11 #8 SFTS, Moncton, NB, Harvard IIb FE983 crashed on Lutz Mountain, NB, after suffering structural failure while practicing solo flying, **LAC(P) R.G. Schnarr** killed.
- 11 unknown unit, AC1 F.G. Shore RAF died in hospital in Charlottetown, PEI, of natural causes (www.rafcommands.com).

11-12 Bomber Command operations against railways to Italy continued with 134 bombers sent to attack the railway yards at Cannes, but they missed completely and instead bombs fell in suburbs and a nearby village, killing at least 39 people on the ground. The Anthéor Viaduct and railway were also targeted by 10 Lancasters from 617 Sqn. dropping 12,000 lb. high capacity bombs using a newly developed bomb sight, but again no hits were made. These bombers recovered to North Africa, see Nov. 17-18, below. Other operations include 29 Mosquitos to Berlin, Hannover and targets in the Ruhr, 45 GARDENING and 6 OTU sorties. Six bombers were lost from these sorties (BC War Diaries).

11-12 35 Sqn. Halifax II HR985 TL-A shot down over France by a night fighter, **WO2 F.G. Bell**, **F/L J.M. Candlish**, **P/O J.W. Harrison**, F/L L.D. Hosking RAF, F/S A.J. Thomson RAF, Sgt W. Phipps RAF and F/O D. Wood RAF killed, P/O R.W. Daniel RAAF evaded. F/L Candlish had had to force land a #1652 Halifax Sept. 18, above.

11-12 78 Sqn. Halifax II LW321 EY-T lost over France, **F/S J.H. Barkwell**, Sgt L. Austin RAF, Sgt J.R. Cowen RAF, Sgt G.N. Cox RAF, Sgt G.H.C. Horne RAF, Sgt J.E. Taylor RAF and WO A. Berry RAF killed.

11-12 102 Sqn. Halifax II HX158 DY-O shot down by marine flak on a GARDENING sortie, **F/O L.D. Dingley**, F/S R.H. Campbell RAAF, Sgt L.G. Yorke RAF, Sgt J.C. Arrowsmith RAF, Sgt C. Healey RAF, Sgt A.G. Dyson RAF and Sgt F. Thrall RAF missing.

11-12 158 Sqn. Halifax II HR791 NP-H shot down over France by a night fighter, Sgt A.F. Evans RAF and Sgt J.C.F. Fleming RAF killed, Sgt D.A. Cannell RAF and Sgt J.J. Thompson RAF PoW, **Sgt E.G. Chard**, Sgt K. Skidmore RAF and Sgt H.W. Payne RAF evaded.

11-12 418 Sqn. Mosquito FB.VI HJ829 TH-M lost over France on an INTRUDER sortie, **F/O B.G. Henderson** and **F/O S.P. Marlatt** killed (H.A. Halliday www.rafcommands.com).

11-12 423 Sqn. Sunderland III DP181 3-D crashed and sank at it's base in Northern Ireland making a night landing in rough seas, **WO1 C.M. Hardcastle**, **WO2 W.D. Scott** killed, **F/O W.G. Arnold**, **F/O R.W. Hill**, **P/O G.I. Raymond** missing.

Friday

12 Last Japanese aircraft withdrawn from Rabaul due to continuing bombing attacks (ww2total.com Chronology/1943). Last Japanese air attack on northern Australia, an attack on Darwin, on this date (D. Vincent). The damage done to this town by the bombing campaign was very heavy, and although most of the population had returned by 1945, it still took another year for normal services like schools to begin again (<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2017/feb/19/there-wasnt-any-warning-veterans-remember-darwin-bombings-75-years-on>).

German forces invade Leros from Cos in the Aegean, by landing craft and paratroop assault at dawn. There was no air defence available for the defenders, and German bombers and dive bombers were able to support their troops all day without interruption (B. Cull).

#149 (BR) Sqn. RCAF re-deploys from RCAF Station Annette Island, Alaska to Terrace, BC (RCAF Sqns.). This turned out to be a poor choice due to weather, with constant morning fog, morning patrol aircraft being forced to fly the evening before to an airport farther inland, then fly back over Terrace in the morning to make their patrols and recover back at Terrace after the fog had disbursed (VMFA records).

- 12 412 Sqn. Spitfire Vb BL425 was hit by ground fire when attacking a group of enemy fighters taking off, destroying the instrument panel, shattering the canopy and wounding the pilot, **P/O H.W. Bowker**, who managed to return to England (5th Year). See July 2, 1944.
- 12 #1659 HCU RCAF Halifax II BB326 crashed just after taking off, **F/S F.N.S. Fearnley**, **P/O G.K. Patman**, **F/S K.D. Ross**, Sgt D. Sharp RAF, F/O D.M. Blair RAF, Sgt G.P. Fuller RAF and Sgt R.T. Gibson RAF killed, **P/O T.M. Murdock** was thrown clear and survived with serious injuries.

Saturday

13 Heavy fighting continued on Leros (B. Cull).

- 13 47 Sqn. Beaufighter TF.X LZ127 'A' was shot down south of the Island of Leros, Greece, **F/O E.L. Clary RCAF (USA)** and F/S W.E. Finbow RAF missing. This was part of a long range force of 9 Beaufighters and 2 USAAF cannon armed B-25s attempting to attack the German forces invading the British and Italian held Island of Leros (B. Cull). By the end of the fighting for Leros 47 Sqn. had lost almost all its crews and aircraft and had to be withdrawn and re-built before returning to combat.
- 13 149 Sqn. Stirling III EF412 OJ-F crashed on take off after hitting an obstruction, **F/S C. Clarke**, P/O G.N. Knowles RAF, Sgt A.G. Clarke RAF, Sgt S. Friesner RAF, Sgt A. McArthur RAF, Sgt J. Adams RAF and Sgt C.J. Lawrence RAF safe.
- 13 280 Sqn. Warwick I BV336 crashed in England, possibly due to icing, after being struck by lightning, returning from a search and rescue operation off the Dutch coast, **F/O W.W. Coons**, **S/L E.A. Good**, **WO2 W.V. Crockett**, **WO2 D.A. Payton**, F/O D.M. Stewart RAF and WO H.G. Richardson RAF killed (R. Allenby). Some details of this flight can be found in *Flypast*, March 1992 (ref. COL BRUGGY www.rafcommands.com).
- 13 403 Sqn. Spitfire IX MA573 shot down by flak on a RHUBARB over France, **P/O L.C. Rowe** killed.
- 13 416 Sqn. Spitfire leading a flight hit by flak as it attempted to cross the Dutch coast,

- F/L? A.H. Sager returned to England damaged and safe (A.J. Simpson et al).
- 13 423 Sunderland III DP863 had an engine failure and was last heard from making a distress signal near Ireland, F/O H.B. Pharis, F/L R.H. Wilson, F/S D. Bigmore RAF, F/S S.G. Brockway RAF, F/S R.J. Money RAF, F/S R.W. Stiff RAF, F/L A.F. Brazenor RAF, Sgt H.W. Fell RAF, Sgt H.E.E. Attwood RAF, Sgt M.F. Flynn RAF and Sgt L. Morgan RAF missing (G. Smith, Jersey Roll of Honour).
- 13 #149 (BR) Sqn. RCAF, Terrace, BC, chef LAC D.E. Schryver died after he fell and broke his skull.
- 13 #1 Training Command accountant W/C W.R. McCann was killed when he was hit by a train at the Leaside Railway Station, Ontario.

Sunday

- 14 #116 (BR) Sqn. RCAF transferred from from Botwood to Gander, Nfld. (RCAF Sqns.).**
- 14 A flight of 8 Beaufighters, 4 from 46 Sqn. and 4 from 227 Sqn., took off from Cyprus to attack German landing forces on Leros, and intercepted a flight of German bombers. Two 46 Sqn. Beaufighters shot down a He 111 but escorting Bf 109 fighters forced the flight to evade over Turkey. One 46 Sqn. Beaufighter XIc JM248 was heard replying on radio after the attack but failed to return to Cyprus, F/L J.A. Horsfall and F/S J.R. Colley RAF missing (aviation-safety.net). This was one of two 46 Sqn. Beaufighters lost in this fight. A photo of one of the He 111s under attack appears in *Aeroplane Monthly*, Dec. 1998 issue as part of a series of articles on Beaufighter operations in the Aegean.
- 14 #9 OTU Beaufighter VI EL444 crashed after an engine failure, WO1 E.A. Glauser killed.
- 14 #82 OTU, England, air gunner WO2 C.A. Dean MiD died of natural causes in hospital.
- 14 USAAF P-39 44-2247 crashed at Niagara Falls, Ontario, after an engine failure, the pilot H.W. Stute USAAF bailed out but was killed (AAIR).
- 14 USAAF 3rd Ferry Group PT-26B 43-36349 (possibly Cornell II FZ298) was damaged in a forced landing near St. Norbert, Man., WASP pilot Virginia B. Disbrow safe (AAIR). This was part of a production run of Cornell's produced in Canada and paid under Lend-Lease for use by the RAF as Cornell II (J. Baugher). The WASPs, or Women Air Service Pilots, was a US organization based on the British ATA Ferry group.

Monday

- 15 53 Sqn. Liberator V BZ817 'L' crashed in England just after taking off on an anti-submarine patrol, WO2 A.J. Pudifin, F/O D.B. Sinclair, WO1 G. Young, F/S E.F. Barge RAF, Sgt R.J. Clarke RAF, F/O D.R. Cooper RAF, F/O L.H. Lister RAF and Sgt F. Quinn RAF killed (www.rafb24.com). WO Pudifin had been interned briefly in Portugal after being shot down attacking a submarine July 30, above.
- 15 #9 OTU Beaufighter VI EL285 flew into a hillside in England, F/S I.S. Sollows and Sgt

- M.J. Lahausse RAF (Mauritius) killed (www.peakdistrictaircrashes.co.uk).
- 15 #12 OTU bomb aimer **F/S W.A. Smith** was killed in England when he accidentally walked into a turning propellor.
- 15 #60 OTU Mosquito NF.II DZ701 crashed, **F/O L.B. Abelson** and **F/O A. Horn** killed.
- 15 #81 OTU Whitley V Z6817 'J' was on a BULLSEYE sortie when it ran into severe icing which froze the propellor pitch controls. Attempting to clear them pilot **F/O A.G. Dickie** inadvertently feathered a propellor, and unable to put it back in pitch the order to bail out was given, the pilot and his crew, P/O G.F. Horner RAF, Sgt W. Manning RAF, Sgt C. Cockerell RAF, F/O J.M. Brand RAF, Sgt J. Mensley RAF and Sgt S.S. Barnett RAF were all safe. See April 9-10, 1944.
- 15 #3062 Service Echelon, England, aero engine mechanic **LAC W.A. Davidson** died in hospital of natural causes.
- 15 #1 OTU, Bagotville, Quebec, Sea Hurricane XIIa BW874 missing on a training flight, Sgt R.W. Bailey RAF killed. The wreckage was found in 1981 and again in 1996, no details (www.rafcommands.com).
- 15 #11 EFTS Cap de la Madeleine, Quebec, Cornell II #15263 crashed near St. Louis de Champlain, Quebec, **Sgt J.E. Brooks** and **P/O L.S. Smoker** killed.

15-16 Bomber Command had 10 Mosquito sorties to Dusseldorf and 2 to Bonn. losing 2 bombers (BC War Diaries).

- 15-16 139 (Jamaica) Sqn. Mosquito B.IX ML904 lost on an operation to Germany, **P/O H.W.E. Hammond** and F/L J.R. Hampson RAF PoW.
- 15-16 139 (Jamaica) Sqn. Mosquito B.IX ML908 shot down over France on a sortie to Germany, pilot **F/S C.H. Guest** killed, navigator P/O G.J. Sleeman RAF PoW.
- 15-16 #15 OTU Wellington Ic W5690 suffered an engine failure just after take off and crashed trying to make an emergency landing, **Sgt K.D. Attwell**, Sgt N.R. Templeman RAF and F/S J. Treadgold RAAF killed, Sgt J.J.H. Littlejohns RAF and Sgt J. Stanley RAF injured.

Tuesday

16 #135 (F) Sqn. RCAF re-deploys from RCAF Station Annette Island, Alaska to Terrace, BC (RCAF Sqns.). The RCAF Station at Annette Island was turned over to US authorities. Postwar it became a US Coast Guard airbase.

USAAF bombers attack and heavily damage Vemork heavy water facility in Norway. Due to increasing capability of Allied bomber forces Germans decide to remove production and stocks of heavy water to Germany (wikipedia).

In the Dodecanese Islands off Turkey the 5,000 man British garrison on Leros, without adequate air cover, is forced to surrender (Oxford). 3,200 British soldiers and 5,350 Italian naval crew and soldiers surrendered while others

evacuated to Turkey (B. Cull). This was the last large scale attack of the war by German airborne troops, however, (B. Kite).

- 16 404 Sqn. Beaufighter TF.Xc LZ445 crashed after take-off after an engine failure killing F/O R.J. McCrudden and his navigator Sgt J.D. Owens RAF (404 SH; www.rafcommands.com).
- 16 432 Sqn. Lancaster II DS847 was on a test flight in England when it began to go out of trim, then one of it's engines caught fire (R. Allenby). WO A. Hoggins, F/S J.B. Peel, F/S P.J. Power and Sgt Calderwood RAF bailed out, but P/O R.C. Burgess, F/S W.J. Mayo and Sgt K.C. Simmonds RAF were killed. This was the first Lancaster lost by 432 Sqn. P/O Burgess had flown back and bailed out of a damaged Wellington July 3-4, above, WO Hoggins and F/S Mayo had survived the ditching of a Wellington Sept. 22-23, above. After this WO Hoggins is reported to have quit operational flying. See February 2, 1944.
- 16 #53 OTU Spitfire Ila aircraft P7293 "Mando!" and P7826 "Sind I" collided and crashed in England, P/O M.C.P. Jones killed in P7293 and F/O J.P. Hunt RAF killed in P7826 (www.spitfires.ukf.net and davew at www.rafcommands.com).

16-17 The Greek force on Samos was evacuated during the night (B. Cull).

- 16-17 166 Sqn. Lancaster I ED422 collided with trees and crashed on a training flight killing Sgt D.G.B. Day, F/O H. Mitchell RAF, Sgt P.G. Edyvean-Walker RAF, F/O J.D. Maddex RAF and WO E. Merralls DFM RAF, and injuring F/L D.E. Walker RAF, the Squadron's Engineering Leader. Two crew, Sgt F.F. Clarke RAF and Sgt C. Cushing RAF, safe.

Wednesday

17 German bombers make a large attack on Samos, but realize the forces there have begun to evacuate. The island is occupied on Nov. 22 (B. Cull).

A British built Halford H-1 (later De Havilland Goblin) engine sent to the USA is destroyed in ground running when the intake of the prototype Lockheed XP-80 fighter collapses. The only other flight worthy H-1 engine is taken from the second prototype DH Spider Crab (Vampire) fighter and priority shipped by air to Lockheed via Canada to get the program back on track, which delays testing and development of the Vampire (various sources, including Jet45 website, wikipedia, E.T. Wooldridge, A. Price).

- 17 149 Sqn. Stirling III MZ260 OJ-C was on a training flight and overshot a three engined landing, P/O G.T. Lowe RNZAF, Sgt A.B. Pilbeam RAF, Sgt R.A. Nicholls RAF and Sgt L.J. Solomons RAF killed, Sgt D.W. Francis, Sgt A.F.A. Smith RAF and Sgt S.S.J. Haines RAF safe.
- 17 404 Sqn. Beaufighter TF.Xc EE-R LZ289 went into a spin on a fighter affiliation exercise and crashed in England, F/O N.E. Long and his navigator F/O J.H. Horne

- RAF killed (COL BRUGGY at www.rafcommands.com).
- 17 #10 OTU Whitley V LA882 was on a cross country exercise when it was caught in a thunderstorm, dived out of cloud and crashed in England, possibly due to a lightning strike, **F/S W.H. Oakley**, Sgt R. Curnow RAF, P/O M.H. Watson RAF, Sgt G.W.W. Crick RAF, Sgt I.H. Hill RAF and Sgt L.W. Coleman RAF killed (tomthorne83 at www.rafcommands.com).
- 17 #6 SFTS Harvard II #3781 crashed on Highway 28 north of Burliegh Falls, Ontario, on a navigation exercise, killing **LAC(P) S.M. Moore** and **P/O S.B. Schatz**. Before delivery this aircraft was used in the 1941 movie *A Yank in the R.A.F.*, being 'delivered' by towing across the Canadian border.
- 17 #36 OTU, Greenwood, NS, Canadian built Mosquito B.VII KB307 swung on a landing and damaged beyond repair, F/L D.V. Pattison RAF and F/O J.S. Spearing RAF safe (aviation-safety.net).

17-18 The I.G. Farben factory at Ludwigshafen was targeted by 83 bombers which dropped only on H2S plotting without marking as an experiment, the plant was damaged. CORONA controllers are credited with misleading the night fighter force and causing many of them to land early, only 1 bomber was lost (BC War Diaries).

- 17-18 405 Sqn. Lancaster III JB226 LQ-G lost on an operation to Germany, **F/S J.P.H. Dube**, **F/S R.H. Larson**, **F/S R.D Mutch**, **F/S G.J. Partridge**, **Sgt E.F. Uren**, Sgt T. Thomson RAF, Sgt J.B. Errington RAF and Lt J.M.K. Pederson USAAF killed.
- 17-18 617 Sqn. Lancaster III ED735 KC-R lost without trace returning to England from Rabat, Morocco. **P/O A.M. Laughland DFM**, **WO1 J.B.De C. O'Grady RCAF (USA)**, **F/O L. Plishka**, F/S R. Florence DFM RNZAF, F/L D. Smyth RAF, F/L E.E.G. Youseman DFC RAF, P/O S.J. Whittingham DFM RAF and F/O W.C. Grimes DFM RAF missing (www.rafcommands.com). It is also thought that 3 Army passengers were also lost.

Thursday

- 18 201 Sqn. Sunderland III W4036 'W' crashed on landing and sank off Ireland, Sgt E. Parry RAF killed, **F/L D.J. Dolphin** and Sgt J.B. Green RAF missing (J. O'Loughlin). The wreck was not recovered and lies just off shore in Lough Erne (Behblc www.rafcommands.com). Five crew survived the crash. In May 1946 a special ceremony took place at the crash site where F/L Dolphin's father, C.B. Dolphin, placed a wreath of maple leaves from the families home in Toronto in the water (G. Smith newsarch.rootsweb.com). There is a permanent memorial near the site now.
- 18 403 Sqn. Spitfire IX MH361 shot down by flak on a RAMROD over France, **F/L S.W. Matthews** missing.
- 18 #13 SFTS, St. Hubert, Quebec, Harvard IIb #3087 crashed attempting a forced landing on a night cross-country exercise, **P/O Y.L. Thomas** killed.

18-19 What would be known as the Battle of Berlin began on this night. Bomber Command C-in-C ACM Harris had lobbied for an all out assault on the German capitol, believing that if Berlin could be devastated Germany would seek peace without the need for an invasion. Many others agreed, and that included some in Germany. (For an interesting discussion of these operations see <http://www.rafcommands.com/archive/02118.php>).

But Berlin was located much farther from England than Hamburg or the Ruhr Valley, extending the time the bombers would be exposed to attack, and reducing their bomb load to give them the fuel to reach the target. As it was far out of range of OBOE or GEE-H all the marking would have to be visual or by H2S, and Berlin was not an easy H2S target. The city was also spread out, making it much less vulnerable to a "firestorm". It's flak and searchlight defences were very strong and dedicated, and it was now winter, with long nights for long range attacks, but also the severe weather and cloud normal for the season. It was thought that this would be a test of strength between Bomber Command and the will of the people of Germany. What few realized was that Hitler's control was nearly absolute, and despite what the people of Germany felt, it was his will that would matter.

Harris had hoped that the USAAF would join the offensive, but following their serious losses on the two attacks on Schweinfurt they were re-evaluating their tactics and were not available until March (when new long range fighters were available) when it was too late for co-ordinated attacks (Oxford).

It would also take time. There was no chance that Berlin could be destroyed in a single attack. And not every operation could be sent to Berlin, other targets had to be attacked to keep the German defences off balance and spread out to cover all possible targets. Diversionary operations, nuisance attacks, spoofing with window and electronic countermeasures would all come into play during this period. On the German side the Zahme Sau tactics of assisting night fighters to find the bomber stream and then letting them use their own initiative paid off very well. Released from the old defensive lines and strict ground control it allowed all the available night fighters to attack as and when they could. New SN-2 radar equipment allowed penetration of the WINDOW screen, while the NAXOS detector could home night fighters into the bomber stream from H2S emissions. Other aircraft were tasked to find the bomber stream and fly with them, broadcasting it's position, while others at high altitude would drop flares to illuminate the bombers. Schräge Musik was still undetected as an attack method and as most of the attacks by this

system led to the destruction of the bomber, and the crews were either killed or PoW, it would remain undiscovered for months to come.

Bomber Command would follow each new tactic and try to counter it, with indirect routes, split off diversions, new equipment and new jammers. New techniques were developed of navigation and altitude control to reduce the length of the bomber stream until Bomber Command could send 800 bombers over a target in 20 minutes. A new special force, #100 (Bomber Support) Group, would bring all the available radio countermeasures under one command, as well as the aggressive sorties of INTRUDER and SERRATE Mosquitos, the latter equipped with sensors that could detect and home in on German night fighter radar transmissions, just as NAXOS could home German night fighters onto H2S transmissions. The electronic war, which did not exist as such 4 years before, was growing in importance and complexity exponentially.

The campaign opened with Bomber Command sending 444 bombers to Berlin, which was found covered with unforecast cloud. Bombing was scattered all over the City and although some industrial targets were hit damage was light.

A second force of 395 bombers was sent to Mannheim and Ludwigshafen where the cloud also interfered with similar results, although serious damage was done to the Daimler-Benz factory. Other operations included 10 Mosquitos to Essen, 6 to Aachen and 6 over Frankfurt, 16 GARDENING and 7 OTU sorties for a total of 884 sorties with 32 bombers lost (BC War Diaries).

18-19 7 Sqn. Lancaster III JA970 MG-N lost on an operation to Mannheim, **F/L A.C. Harding DFC, WO1 E.G. Millidge**, P/O F.A.G. Parker RAF, F/L E.J. Clement DFC RAF, F/L J. Hough DFC RAF, P/O T.J.P. Walsh DFC RAF and F/S W.C. Connor RAF killed. W.R. Chorley states this would have been the crews last operation before being screened.

18-19 9 Sqn. Lancaster III DV284 WS-G lost over Germany from an operation to Berlin, **P/O G.A. Graham**, F/S H.F. Altus RAAF, F/S J.G. McComb RAF, Sgt W.G. Statham RAF, F/O D. MacDonald RAF, Sgt R.K. Innes RAF, Sgt A.F. Williamson RAF and Sgt K. Mellor RAF killed.

18-19 49 Sqn. Lancaster III JB235 EA-C, air gunner **WO1 H.S. Fraser** died in his turret when his oxygen supply failed (Doug Cuthbertson www.rafcommands.com). The aircraft returned safely.

18-19 78 Sqn. Halifax II LW226 was hit by flak and damaged before reaching it's target. Part of the bomb load was jettisoned, but damage prevented the rest from being released, however the bomber managed to return and land safely with the bombs on board, **F/S R.C. Hyde**, F/L G.de L. Carver RAF, Sgt R.W. Saiger RAF, Sgt H.

Wiltshire RAF, Sgt H.J. Clark RAAF, P/O S. Wood and P/O E. Allen safe (R. Allenby).

- 18-19 100 Sqn. Lancaster III ED991 HW-H lost over Germany, **F/S R.B. Doughty, F/S R.E. McPherson, Sgt W.G. Gray**, Sgt H.N. Loton RAF, Sgt J.H. Kerr RAF, Sgt D.S.G. Wynbergen RAF and Sgt F.R. Marsh RAF PoW. The aircraft crash landed intact and Sgt Gray, the last person out, was prevented from using the demolition charges when German soldiers arrived (pers. comm. W. Derksen 2013).
- 18-19 101 Sqn. ABC equipped Lancaster III LM370 SR-K² lost over Holland, **WO2 G.P. Herman**, Sgt C.H. Downs RAF, Sgt G.H. Gittins DFM RAF, Sgt K. Jones RAF, Sgt A.E. Rosen RAF, F/O C.P. McManus RAF, F/O B.K. Petyt RAF and F/O G.D. Spyers RAF killed. WO2 Herman was the special operator.
- 18-19 115 Sqn. Lancaster II DS680 KO-L shot down over Belgium by a night fighter, **WO2 S.A. Anderson, P/O M.L. Richardson**, P/O R.E.L. Peate RAAF, Sgt H.G. Bannister RAF, Sgt N. MacKay RAF, Sgt G.V. Sharratt RAF, P/O N.R. Shaw RAF and F/S F.B. Collenet RAF killed.
- 18-19 419 Sqn. Halifax II LW239 VR-K lost over Germany, **Sgt K.A. Farmer, F/O E.D. Fogg, Sgt W.J. Gerow, Sgt D.J. MacDonald, F/O G.L. McLaughlin, F/O J.S. Smith** and Sgt F.J. Davidson RAF killed.
- 18-19 419 Sqn. Halifax II LW328 VR-L was damaged over the target. Attempting to return to England it was at low altitude when all engines failed. Pilot **F/S A.L. Sedgewick** ordered a bailout and held the controls until his crew, **F/O E.R. Hoe, Sgt J. Pappas, Sgt N. McVicar RCAF (USA), Sgt D.M. Johnston**, Sgt E.K. Canny RAF and Sgt K.W. Dingley RAF, had evacuated the aircraft. F/S Sedgewick was killed when the aircraft crashed, all the rest of the crew were taken PoW. The front escape hatch had jammed, and the Squadron historian believes F/S Sedgewick was attempting a crash landing (419 SH).
- 18-19 427 Sqn. Halifax V LK976 ZL-Z believed to have gone down in the English Channel, **F/O F.W. Winter** killed, **F/S R. Dixon, Sgt A.F. Gander, WO2 P.G. Jolliffe, F/O P. Kennedy**, Sgt W. Riddell RAF and F/S G.C. Harper RAF missing.
- 18-19 429 Sqn. Halifax II JD275 AL-T shot down by a night fighter over Germany, **Sgt J.J. Crawford** and **F/S S. Smith** killed, **Sgt F.K. Morris** taken prisoner with serious wounds, **Sgt R.G. Stewart, F/O C.M. Weicker, P/O J.B. Findlay** and Sgt O.J. Davis RAF PoW. See Nov. 21 below. Sgt Stewart's story of this loss appears in TSGNO. F/S Smith had crashed a #24 OTU Whitley July 31-Aug. 1, above.
- 18-19 431 Sqn. Halifax V LK632 SE-M lost over Germany, **Sgt D.G. Addison, Sgt W.C. Gilchrist, WO2 W.J.M. Nickerson**, Sgt B.C. Paul RAF, F/O J.W. Potts RAF, F/S W.F. Burge RAAF and Sgt T.G. Roberts RAF killed.
- 18-19 431 Sqn. Halifax V LK640 SE-Q 'Q-Queenie' was hit by flak and crashed in the English Channel, **F/O G.O. Carefoot, Sgt E.E. Case, P/O C.E. McGillivray**, Sgt R.W.M. Cowan RAF, Sgt J.K. Shipp RAF and Sgt P.S. Lowry RAF killed, **Sgt A.E. Roden** missing.

- 18-19 434 Sqn. Halifax V LK693 WL-A lost over Germany, pilot **WO2 K.C. Smith** killed but his crew, **F/S W.E. Rowbotham**, **Sgt L.M. Wheatley**, Sgt H.J. Turner RAF, Sgt H.W. Bull RAF, Sgt C.J. Hoare RAF and Sgt S.T.K. Smith RAF PoW.
- 18-19 434 Sqn. Halifax V LK893 WL-U hit by flak over Germany trapping rear gunner **F/S R.J. Decorby** in his turret. The bail out order was given, but when the situation of the rear gunner was reported the crew volunteered to stay on board for a crash landing, which **P/O E.H. Ells** managed to do, but the flight engineer Sgt J.C. Hinks RAF was killed in the attempt, **P/O Ells**, **F/S D.E. Watson**, **Sgt K.O. Burns**, **Sgt F.A. Davis**, **F/S J.E. Spears** and **F/S Decorby** PoW (434 Sqn).
- 18-19 460 Sqn. RAAF Lancaster I DV341 AR-C² lost over Germany, **Sgt R.K. Megit**, **F/S J.G. Gibson** RAAF, **F/S J.D. Malcolm** RAAF, **F/S W.F.J. Manning** RAAF, **F/O C.G. Slennett** RAAF, **P/O H.S. Spain** RAF (Brazil) and **Sgt D.O. Jones** RAF killed. A small profile of this aircraft was published in *Australian Aviation*, December 1993, as part of D. Newton's series of articles, *The Australian Aviation War Diary*.
- 18-19 622 Sqn. Stirling III EJ113 GI-Q lost over France, **F/S M.L. Nesvold**, **F/S A.M. Kearney** RAAF, **F/S R.J. Thomson** RAAF, **Sgt G.H. Austin** RAF, **Sgt D.R. Comber** RAF, **Sgt L. Pezaro** RAF, **P/O S. Owen** RAF and **F/O S. Willetts** RAF were killed.
- 18-19 623 Sqn. Stirling III EF155 IC-O lost over Germany, **F/O D.H. Petch**, **F/L J.P.H. Wallace** RAAF, **F/S W.G. Moore** RAAF, **Sgt R.L. Gill** RAF and **Sgt F. Markham** RAF killed, **Sgt J.W. Windle** RAF, **F/O N. Lampard** RAF and **Sgt T.V. Lewis** RAF PoW, 2 of whom were injured.
- 18-19 623 Sqn. Stirling III LJ454 IC-E hit by flak and abandoned over Germany. The crew, **P/O H.A. Gourlie**, **F/O C.R. Bennett** RAAF, **Sgt W.E. Hutchings** RAF, **P/O J.H. Smythe** RAF (Sierra Leone) [wounded], **Sgt L.S. Milnthorp** RAF, **Sgt L.C. Ashplant** RAF and **Sgt F.K. Matthews** were taken PoW. Post war **P/O Smythe**, now a **F/L**, played a large part in opening up England to immigration from the Caribbean as a liaison officer on the *Empire Windrush*, and later became a lawyer and served as Attorney General of Sierra Leone (<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-552826092>). The bomber flew by itself in circles for several hours until it crashed in Germany.

Friday

- 19 **#118 (F) Sqn. RCAF redesignated 438 Sqn. RCAF on arrival in England, begins using Hurricane IV aircraft pending delivery of Typhoon Ib as a Fighter Bomber unit (RCAF Sqns.).**
- 19 249 Sqn. Spitfire Vc BP978 hit trees attacking enemy trucks in Albania, caught fire and crashed, **WO2 K.L. Dale** has no known grave (www.spitfires.ukf.net).
- 19 179 Sqn. Wellington VIII BB513 lost between Gibraltar and England, **F/S F.G. Benning**, **F/O F.A. Collins** RAF, **Sgt J.S. Edwards** RAF and **Sgt W.R. Silcocks** RAF missing (www.rafcommands.com).
- 19 #8 OTU Spitfire PR.VII AR242 was seen to dive out of low cloud into the sea, **WO1 J.L.**

Kelly missing.

- 19 #57 OTU Spitfire Ia K9824 crashed after colliding in mid-air with another #57 OTU Spitfire Ia N3266, F/O E.A. Merkley killed (www.spitfires.ukf.net).
- 19 USAAF AT-6C (Harvard) 41-33067 force landed near Marieville, Quebec (AAIR).
- 19 USAAF Canadian built UC-64A (Norseman) 43-5235 was wrecked in an emergency landing in Oklahoma, USA, when it struck a gully and flipped over, pilot Lt M. Witherby USAAF and 3 passengers injured (<http://www.norsemanhistory.ca/>).

19-20 Bomber Command sent 266 bombers to Leverkusen where bad weather kept many night fighters on the ground but also obscured the target. OBOE was disrupted by equipment failures and Pathfinder bombers were also unable to mark properly. The resultant bombing was scattered all over the area, with some 27 towns reporting being bombed. Only 1 bomber appears to have hit Leverkusen. Five bombers were lost. Other operations included 8 Mosquitos over Duisburg and Rheinhausen, 25 GARDENING and 11 OTU sorties.

The bad weather extended back to England and returning bombers found fog forming at their bases. At least 3 bombers crashed on return but 4 bombers landed using FIDO (Fog Intensive Dispersal Operation) equipment on it's first operational use (BC War Diaries).

FIDO was a series of pipes along the sides and ends of a runway, bent like paperclips, through which gasoline was pumped. The lower final section of pipe had holes drilled at intervals on it's top, and when lit the burning fuel expelled from these holes heated and vaporized the fuel travelling in the upper loops of the pipe which then went to the lower pipe and flared out the holes at pressure, producing a very large amount of heat which would clear the fog over a runway so an approaching bomber could land visually. (The principal of flaring vaporized fuel under pressure is familiar to anyone who has ever used a Coleman camping stove). The result at night was, to say the least, spectacular, with a clear runway emerging from fog between what appeared to be walls of flame hundreds of feet high. The amount of fuel burned was also huge, at a time when nearly every drop had to be transported by ship across the ocean to England, but this was considered a minor expense compared to the number of trained crews and aircraft saved. For more information see G. Williams, M. Peden and Arthur C. Clark's novel 'Glide Path'.

- 19-20 51 Sqn. Halifax II HR950 MH-S shot down by flak over Germany, which killed the flight engineer Sgt D.S. Ward RAF and injuring one of the crew. The pilot, F/S F.T. McCutcheon, was killed in the crash but his remaining crew Sgt J.B. Walker, Sgt N. Hall RAF (wounded), Sgt G.W. Leverington RAF, Sgt J. Pottinger RAF and Sgt R.

Jefcoat RAF PoW.

- 19-20 51 Sqn. Halifax II JN923 MH-F was hit by flak over Germany but continued to the target and bombed, **P/O P.R. Galan**, F/L T.S. Blyth RAF, F/O C.O. Russell RAF, Sgt R.W. Berdinner RAF, P/O F.W. McLelland RAF, Sgt N.A. Chappell RAF and Sgt F.J. Littlejohns RAF returned safe (R. Allenby).
- 19-20 78 Sqn. Halifax II JD118 EY-U was damaged by flak over the target and crashed attempting to land in England, **WO2 W.A. Valley** killed, Sgt G. Creer RAF and Sgt W. Jones RAF injured, **F/S W. Hryniw**, **F/S L.G. Preece**, Sgt S. Littler RAF and Sgt T. Stump RAF safe (R. Allenby).
- 19-20 78 Sqn. Halifax II LW223 EY-P hit by flak over Germany and overshot a brakeless landing in England, ending up across railway lines off the runway, **F/O F.R. Harris** and Sgt W. Watt RAF injured, **Sgt W. Langtree**, Sgt I. Bell RAF, Sgt C. Weeks RAF, Sgt J. Everett RAF and Sgt E. Hamlyn RAF safe (R. Allenby).
- 19-20 78 Sqn. Halifax II JD376 was damaged by flak that wounded two crewmen, but returned safely to England, **P/O G.W. Crate** and Sgt J.L. Lambert RAF wounded, P/O C.J. Barton RAF, F/O J.R. Kay RAF, Sgt M.E. Trousdale RAF, Sgt H.C.H.D. Wood RAF and Sgt F.C. Brice RAF safe (R. Allenby). See March 30-31, 1944.
- 19-20 428 Sqn. Halifax V LK950 NA-T was hit by flak over Germany and abandoned by its crew over England. **Sgt J.A. McEwen** missing, **F/S K. Hawthorne**, **F/O F.R. Storen**, **F/S D.L.G. Smith**, **WO1 L.L. Fournier**, **Sgt L.J. Oshowy** and Sgt C.H.A. Kirtland RAF safe. The aircraft crashed in a cemetery near Canterbury.
- 19-20 428 Sqn. Halifax V LK956 NA-S badly damaged by flak over Germany. The aircraft managed to escape but became uncontrollable over Holland and was abandoned, **F/S H.C. Shepherd**, **F/O D.R. Knight**, Sgt J.M.C. Walker RAF and Sgt S.J. Stevens RAF taken PoW, **F/S D.K. MacGillivray**, **Sgt N.H. Michie** and Sgt S. Munns RAF evaded. According to the letter in *Airforce Magazine*, Dec. 1978, from J. Prins, representative of the RAF Escaping Society, Sgt Michie was helped by Dr. Raven and ___ van Hombergh, and F/S Shepherd received aid from Dr. Raven and Dick Albers.
- 19-20 434 Sqn. Halifax V LK990 WL-X shot down over Germany, **F/O W.F. Winning** (injured), **F/O B.A. Caplan**, **F/S M.A. Beaton**, **Sgt G.N. Saunders**, **F/S S.G. Erickson**, **Sgt J.L.N. Warren**, Sgt M.R. Hutton RAF and F/S E.V. Matthews RAF PoW. See Dec. 4, below. Sgt Warren escaped from a train in Holland in Feb. 1945 and evaded (www.conscript-heros.com MI-9 files).
- 19-20 434 Sqn. Halifax V EB254 WL-D shot down over Germany by a night fighter, Sgt H.D. Newey RAF killed, **Sgt R.E. Hukes**, **Sgt A.V. McIntosh**, **F/O R.C.C. Hodgson**, **F/S L.E. Smith**, **F/S R.H. Gairns** and **Sgt J.L.N. Warren** PoW. Sgt McIntosh escaped just after capture, made his way to Holland where he contacted the Underground who kept him safe until September, 1944, when Allied troops reached into the Netherlands. Among those who helped him were Dick Albers and ___ van Hombergh (Letter from J. Prins, representative of the RAF Escaping Society, in

Airforce Magazine, Dec. 1978). Sgt Warren, the rear gunner, did not hear the bailout order as the intercom was damaged. He remained in the aircraft manning his turret until the silence made him uneasy, and he left the turret and arrived at the cockpit to find the aircraft empty and flying at less than 1000'. As he hurried to the rear for his parachute the aircraft crash landed, but although injured Sgt Warren was able to leave the wreckage, but was forced to surrender due to his injuries. In 1944 he escaped PoW camp and reached Holland, where he was sheltered for 6 months but was re-captured. After being interrogated by the Gestapo he and other prisoners were put on a train back to Germany he again escaped with others, and was sheltered by the Dutch underground until April 1945. He later received the BEM, and his escape activities were detailed in *The R.C.A.F. Overseas - The Sixth Year* (www.conscript-heroes.com).

Saturday

20 US Marines land at Tarawa and Makin in the Gilbert Islands, sustaining very high casualties (Polsson). At this time a Canadian-British unit of frogmen, based on the successful Italian units, was training at the US Marine base at Pendleton, California, and running rings around Marines under training when practicing beach infiltration tactics and reconnaissance. Due to the heavy losses at Tarawa caused in part by limited reconnaissance this group was suddenly a subject of study by Marine commanders, becoming the model for what would become a Marine specialty (B.S. Wright). This frogman unit was later employed in Burma where it did it's very dangerous work without a single fatality.

Royal Navy begins evacuation of British forces from Samos in the Dodecanese.

- 20 607 Sqn. Spitfire Vc (Trop.) LZ971 crashed in India after suffering an engine failure in the landing circuit, **F/O A.M. Fraser** killed (www.spitfires.ukf.net). He had been credited with destroying 1 German and 3 Japanese aircraft at the time of his death (B. Barry et al).
- 20 56 Sqn. Typhoon Ib EK209 US-P was hit by flak on a RAMROD and crashed in England when returning from a sortie in France, **F/O R.R. Amey** died of his injuries.
- 20 422 Sqn. Sunderland III W6031 2-G shot down attacking U-648, **F/O C.G. Gorrie**, **F/O W.S. Johnson**, **F/O R.H. Strauss**, **F/O J.D.B. Ulrichsen**, **F/S N. Barrett**, **F/S B.G. Burton** RAF, **F/S R.A. Park** RAF, **Sgt N.P. Cook** RAF, **Sgt N.N. Lewis** RAF, **Sgt R.M. Fisher** RAF and **Sgt W. McKay** RAF missing.
- 20 Test and Development Flight, Rockcliffe, Ontario, Canso A #11001 exploded on the ramp from fumes from a fuel leak (C. Charland).

Sunday

- 21 74 Sqn. Spitfire Vc (Trop.) JL329 force landed on the coast of Turkey on a fighter

- sweep in the Aegean, **F/S W.J. Wilson** safe, and interned briefly (B. Cull).
- 21 53 Sqn. Leigh Light equipped Liberator GR.V BZ816 'N' located U-618 and attacked it. The Liberator was damaged in it's first attack and dropped no depth charges, and was shot down on it's second run, **WO1 N.R. Bowman**, S/L K.A. Aldridge DFC RAF, F/S T.L. Anderson RAF, WO O.H. Hill RAF, F/L J.A. Hoskin RAF, F/S A.N. Partington RAF, F/S N. Smith RAF, F/O A.G. Trennery RAF and F/L A.G. Warren RAF missing (uboat.net, Amrit www.rafcommands.com).
- 21 53 Sqn. Liberator GR.V BZ819 'A' attacked U-648 and was apparently damaged as it had to ditch off the Scilly Islands after 3 engines failed, **F/L F. Halliday MiD**, F/O A. Davis RAF, F/O B. Hamilton RAF, Sgt S.C. Johnson RAF, F/S W.N. Owen RAF, F/S G.E. Shield RAF and Sgt L.E. Terry RAF missing, W/C H.R.A. Edwards AFC RAF survived (Rob Philips www.rafcommands.com).
- 21 224 Sqn. Liberator 'K', F/O H. Sutherland RAF pilot with an all RCAF crew, was flying escort over a convoy in the Bay of Biscay which came under attack by 25 He 177 bombers (making their first major operation) armed with Hs 293 glider bombs. The Liberator attacked the German bombers to throw them off their launch runs (www.aviastar). Gunners **F/S E.E. Davison**, **F/S D.H. Griese** and **F/S M.N. Werbiski** damaged 4 of them, forcing several to abort their attacks. F/S Werbiski and observer **F/S A.P. Gibb** were awarded DFMs for this action (H.A. Halliday).
- 21 418 Sqn. Mosquito FB.VI HJ742 TH-B crashed on a night air test making an overshoot, **F/O H.S. Schellenberg** and **F/O T. Thomson** killed (www.dehavilland.ukf.net).
- 21 429 Sqn., **Sgt F.K. Morris** died in Germany of wounds received in the loss of Halifax II JD275, above.

Monday

22 Cairo Conference opens with Churchill, Roosevelt and Chiang Kai-Shek (CJCA headline).

Canadian Army in Italy reinforced (CJCA headline).

G/C C.R. Dunlap, who had commanded #331 Wing RCAF in Tunisia, takes over command of #139 Wing, 2nd TAF, of Mitchell bombers in England, the only RCAF Group Captain to command an RAF wing.

Hockey player **Yvan Cournoyer born in Drummondville, Quebec (wikipedia).**

- 22 unknown unit, **F/O L.D. Jennings RAF (Can.)** died riding a bicycle in Jurby, Isle of Man (www.rafcommands.com).
- 22 269 Sqn. Hudson IIIa FK758 went down off Keilisnes Point, Iceland, on a rocket firing practice, **WO2 R.L. Forrester**, **F/S D. MacMillan RAF (Can.)** killed, F/S J. Baylock RNZAF and F/S L.R. Slatter RNZAF missing (www.oca.269squadron.btinternet.co.uk; www.rafcommands.com).

- 22 #1664 HCU RCAF Halifax V EB150 DH-O flew into rising ground and crashed after taking off while night circuit training, **Sgt N.J. Collins**, **WO2 S.R. Doney**, **F/S S.W. Lityneski**, F/O J.V. Williamson RAF, Sgt M.N.G. Swindle RAF and Sgt R.B. Sellars RAF killed, **F/S J.H. [or J.N.] Millroy** injured (R. Allenby).
- 22 #1 SFTS, Camp Borden, Ontario, Harvard II #2941 crashed near Everett, Ontario, **LAC(P) R.M. Wellein** killed.
- 22 #45 Transport Group, RAF Ferry Command, Ventura GR.V FP645 crashed in Trinidad on a delivery flight, **WO2 L.F. Burke**, **WO2 R.G. Wilson**, Ferry Captain A.M. Deemer Jr. (USA) and passenger radar mechanic **LAC L. Winkler** killed.
- 22 USAAF B-17G 42-31219 missing from Goose Bay, Nfld. The wreckage was later found on the ice at Melville Lake, having exploded in the air, Capt. L.S. White and 8 crew killed, Sgt L.A. Kirchoff USAAF missing (AAIR).
- 22 USAAF 90th Ferry Sqn. P-39Q 44-2254 damaged in a take-off accident at Edmonton, Alberta (AAIR).

22-23 Bomber Command sends 764 bombers to Berlin. Bad weather still grounded many German night fighters and bombing was through heavy cloud cover but was concentrated and several firestorms were reported. Damage was widespread including homes, government buildings and industries. An estimated 2,000 people were killed on the ground and 50,000 soldiers were brought in to the city to assist the authorities in dealing with the damage. Other operations included 12 Mosquitos to Leverkusen, 14 GARDENING sorties and 12 OTU flights, a total of 802 sorties with 26 bombers lost (BC War Diaries).

This was the last operation that used Stirling bombers on targets in Germany. They were not able to climb as high as the Lancaster and Halifax bombers and were suffering higher losses as a result. This was a major blow to Bomber Command as a large number of operational units were suddenly no longer available for the Berlin campaign until re-equipped (BC War Diaries).

This was also the first operational sortie of the first Canadian built Lancaster X KB700, coded LQ-Q with 405 Squadron, flown by **F/L H.A. Floren**, who had to turn back 40 miles short of the target due an engine failure (405 SH).

- 22-23 7 Sqn. Lancaster III EE119 MG-N lost on an operation to Germany, **F/S C.L. Hartman**, WO S.G. Dorrell RAF, Sgt D. Gadsden RAF, Sgt G. Hawgood RAF, Sgt F.E. Deavin RAF, Sgt J.W. Harvey RAF and **F/S I.A. Hastings** RAAF killed.
- 22-23 10 Sqn. Halifax II JD367 ZA-Z lost over Germany, **Sgt H.L. Anderson**, F/O T. Hall RAF, Sgt W.R. Zastrow RAF, Sgt G.L. Skelton RAF, **F/S S.P. Rogers** RAF, Sgt C.J. Ashton RAF and Sgt J.R. Colebrooke RAF killed.
- 22-23 49 Sqn. Lancaster III JB368 EA-G lost without trace although TSGNO states it was

shot down and exploded over Germany, **F/O G.C. Bailey RCAF (USA)**, **F/S C.E. Byers**, **F/O C.M. Cottingham**, **F/O R.B. Richard**, Sgt A.J. Mathieson RAF, F/O M.W. Wright RAF, Sgt G. Tabenor RAF and Sgt G.F.A.E.J. Falck RAF missing. F/O Bailey was acting as second pilot (T. Cachart). In 2004 the new air terminal at Comox, BC, was named for F/O Cottingham (Linzee www.rafcommands.com).

- 22-23 50 Sqn. Lancaster I DV366 VN-R lost on an operation to Germany, **F/S J.J. Zunti**, WO J.H. Saxton RAF, Sgt P.H. Fryer RAF, F/S J.H. Jowett RAF, F/S J.C.E. Rees RAF, Sgt C. Watson RAF and F/S W.E. Coates RAF killed.
- 22-23 77 Sqn. Halifax II LW290 KN-U lost over Germany, **F/S W.E. Ackland RCAF (USA)**, **WO2 J.A. Smart**, Sgt W. Eaton RAF, Sgt J. Robertson RAF, Sgt L.L. Green RAF and Sgt W. Allen RAF killed, F/S E.A. Davies RAF PoW.
- 22-23 97 Sqn. Lancaster III JB227 OF-J lost without trace, **WO1 W. Hill DFM**, **F/L J.F. Munro DFC**, F/S W.G. Waller RAF, F/L A.J.W. Silk DFM RAF, F/L F.P. Burbridge DFC RAF, F/S J.N. Underwood RAF and F/S R.S. Bennett DFM RAF missing.
- 22-23 97 Sqn. Lancaster III JB238 OF-A lost over Germany, P/O E.F. McEgan RAAF, F/S F.A. Williams RAAF and F/O J.V. Tyler RAF killed, **WO1 J.R.A. Burke DFM**, P/O P.A. Spencer RAF, Sgt J.J. Johnson RAF and Sgt W.S. Gibb RAF PoW.
- 22-23 102 Sqn. Halifax II LW333 DY-K was returning from an operation when it collided in the landing circuit with a 77 Sqn. Halifax II LW264 KN-K, both aircraft crashing. **F/S D. Willington**, P/O W. Hughes RAF, Sgt J. Boxall RAF, Sgt W.W. Cottle RAF, Sgt F.T. Dunn RAF, Sgt R.A. Dabnor RAF and Sgt R.B. Bainbridge were killed in the 102 Sqn. aircraft, and F/L C.C. Linehan RAF, Sgt A.D. West RAF, Sgt E.B. Gosden RAF, Sgt S. Tweddle RAF, Sgt S. Elder RAF, Sgt J.L. Bennett RAF and Sgt W.G. Thomson RAF were killed on the 77 Sqn. aircraft. In Nov. 1984 14 Oak trees were dedicated near the crash site, one named for each of the airmen who died (R. Allenby).
- 22-23 115 Sqn. Lancaster II DS764 KO-S was lost over Germany, the pilot Sgt H. Smith RAF stayed with the aircraft and was killed in the crash, the rest of the crew **Sgt J.H. Ferguson**, **Sgt T.H. Scotchmer**, Sgt E. Miller RAF, Sgt F.C. Downs RAF, Sgt R. Strong RAF and Sgt C. Deakin RAF (injured) were taken PoW.
- 22-23 115 Sqn. Lancaster II DS782 KO-K lost without trace, **F/O S.M. Smith**, F/S D.C. Morley RAAF, Sgt M. Bools RAF, Sgt J. Harris RAF, Sgt D.H. Hughes RAF, Sgt H.A.R. Hurn RAF and Sgt A. Wilson RAF missing.
- 22-23 158 Sqn. Halifax II HR977 NP-A lost over Germany, P/O J.W. Brown RAF, Sgt S.T. Hazel RAF, P/O L.A. Smith RAF, Sgt J.M. Phillips RAF, Sgt J.T. Sykes RAF and Sgt W.J.G. Middleton RAF killed, **Sgt K.H. Williams** PoW.
- 22-23 214 Sqn. Stirling III EF445 BU-J was damaged by flak outbound on an operation. Returning it was attacked and further damaged over the Zuider Zee by a German single engined fighter, which also wounded **F/S W. Sweeney**. The aircraft was forced to ditch in the North Sea due to fuel loss where the pilot, F/S G.A. Atkinson RAF, is believed to have gone down with the wreck. The rest of the crew evacuated

the aircraft but F/S Sweeney was unable to find the life raft and was lost. The remainder of the crew, Sgt D.C. Hughes RAF (USA), Sgt W.B. Edwards RAF, Sgt J.C. Wilson RAF, Sgt H.T. Friend RAF and Sgt R.L. Boutell RAF were rescued, but F/S Atkinson RAF and F/S Sweeney have no known grave. In TSGNO there is a reprint of an article based on a letter written to F/S Sweeney's mother by Sgt Hughes giving details on this loss, and further details can be found in BCL'43 in the preface to Chapter 5. This was the last Stirling lost by 214 Sqn. on bomber operations. The Squadron would soon convert to a Bomber Support role flying Fortress RCM aircraft. **Murray Peden**, author of the classic autobiography of Bomber Command "*A Thousand Shall Fall*" was a member of 214 Squadron at this time and this book is strongly recommended reading for anyone interested in what it was like to train for and fly on bomber operations.

- 22-23 218 Sqn. Stirling III EF180 HA-D lost over Berlin, WO H.J. Hansell RAF killed, **S/L G.W. Prior DFC RAF (Can.)**, Sgt G.A. Gartland RAF, Sgt E.J. Lovell RAF, Sgt F.O. Stoney RAF, Sgt G.A. Wright RAF and Sgt W.A.J. Baldwin RAF missing (Marks www.rafcommands.com). For an unknown reason CWGC lists S/L Prior as having been killed Jan. 22, 1944, and he is listed on this date in TSGNO.
- 22-23 408 Sqn. Lancaster II, **P/O K.L. Brager**, was near missed by flak that peppered the fuselage, took off the bomb aimers perspex bubble, and damaged both turrets (R. Koval). See Dec. 20-21, below.
- 22-23 408 Sqn. Lancaster II, **F/O W.B. Stewart**, was attacked by a night fighter at 20,000 feet, and entered a spin. Recovering, it then began to spin the other way, and the engines stopped. The crew recovered at 5,000, managed to restart the engines and returned safely, crew **P/O G.E. Mallory**, **F/O W.C. Burns**, **F/S R.D. Ochsner**, **Sgt R.H. Rolph**, Sgt J. Bray RAF and Sgt N. Varley RAF safe (R. Koval, 5th Year). See June 7-8 and June 12-13, 1944.
- 22-23 419 Sqn. Halifax II LW231 VR-F "*F for Freddy*" shot down over Holland by a night fighter, **Sgt G.A. Howitson**, **P/O W.L. Hunter**, **WO2 J.A. Lesage**, **F/S G.A. May**, **F/S M.A. McKellar**, **F/O R.J. Newman** and Sgt W.B. Jones RAF killed. TSGNO notes that WO2 Lesage was a replacement for **Sgt J. Goddard**, the regular gunner, who was ill. See <http://www.teunispats.net/fr-wwii.htm> for details.
- 22-23 419 Sqn. Halifax II DT731 was damaged in the wing and cockpit by flak and was forced to jettison its bombs and return early, **F/O A.T. Armstrong**, **Sgt J.J.G. Dagenais**, **Sgt P.H. Gingras**, **Sgt R.J. Phillips**, **P/O M.P. Stronach**, Sgt M.A. Thornhill RAF and Sgt J.W. Sharples RAF safe (R. Allenby). See June 10-11, 1944.
- 22-23 426 Sqn. Lancaster II DS741 OW-T was damaged by a flak burst above the fuselage, **WO2 S. Davidson**, **P/O W.N. McInnis**, P/O J. Brown RAF, P/O V. Southwell RAF. Sgt B. Vine RAF, Sgt W.S. Burton RAF and Sgt R. Thompson safe (R. Allenby).
- 22-23 428 Sqn. Halifax V LK906 NA-D lost over Germany, **Sgt M.F. Donaldson**, **F/S J.M. Jacob**, **F/S A.B. Radbourne**, Sgt A. Ackland RAF, Sgt W.R. Boucher RAF, Sgt W.D. Bracken RAF and Sgt G. Kemp RAF killed.

- 22-23 431 Sqn. Halifax V was forced to return early after being hit by flak, **F/O G.E. Bishop**, **P/O G.A. Greene**, **F/S J.B. Morison**, **Sgt J.I. Roche**, **F/S J. Zohanovis**, **P/O R.P. Rubie** RAF (Jamaica), **P/O R. Packer** RAF and **Sgt C.D. Wood** RAF safe (R. Allenby). See December 29-30 below, April 27-28, 1944 and March 15-16, 1944.
- 22-23 431 Sqn. Halifax V LK991 SE-U was damaged by flak and returned on 3 engines, **Sgt L.R. Barker**, **F/O A.C. Brook**, **Sgt W.B. Gracie**, **F/S I.G. Klein**, **F/S T.E. Lee**, **F/O G.B. Philbin** and **Sgt L.G. Stamp** RAF safe (R. Allenby).
- 22-23 434 Sqn. Halifax V LK702 WL-E lost without trace, **F/O I. Armitage**, **F/O J.R. Mayo**, **F/S B.V. Tedford**, **F/S J.G. Tomlinson**, **Sgt K.G. Plummer** RAF, **Sgt N.G. Speight** RAF and **Sgt J.R. Wilson** RAF missing. **F/S Tedford** was involved in a Wellington accident at #23 OTU Aug. 17, above. **F/O Armitage's** older brother, **Cpl H.G. Armitage MM**, had been killed in the First World War (B. Barry et al).
- 22-23 434 Sqn. Halifax V LK953 WL-C shot down over Germany, **F/O R.R. MacGregor**, **Sgt G.L. MacKay** and **Sgt J.W. Molesworth** RAF killed, **F/O R. Savage**, **P/O J.E. Wheeler**, **F/O J.A. Higgins** and **Sgt G. Woodruff** RAF PoW.
- 22-23 #82 OTU Wellington X LN601 'B' crashed in England after an engine failed taking off on a NICKEL sortie, **F/S K.R. Fallowdown**, **P/O A. Grant**, **WO2 H.W. Johnson**, **F/O O.G. de Jongh** RAF, **F/L J.G. Brassington** RAF and **Sgt R.J. Wannell** RAF killed.

Tuesday

23 Evacuation of the Island of Samos complete, German forces in control of the Dodecanese Islands, Turkey remains neutral. Besides nearly 5,000 British soldiers lost, 6 destroyers and 2 submarines as well as smaller craft were sunk, several cruisers and destroyers damaged and over 100 aircraft were lost in this campaign (Oxford).

- 23 249 Sqn. **Sgt W.D. Wendt** RCAF (USA) released from Italian captivity. See June 7, 1944.
- 23 254 Sqn. Beaufighter X LZ412 lost on an anti-shipping strike off the Dutch coast, **F/O H.C. Pavitt** RAF killed, **F/O A.F. Hague** missing (Hans Nauta www.rafcommands.com).
- 23 411 Sqn. Spitfire IX MA312 suffered an engine failure, probably from fuel starvation, when switching tanks at low level over the Channel on a RAMROD. The aircraft dived into the sea, **P/O S.M. Kent** missing.
- 23 421 Sqn. Spitfire IX BS398 abandoned over England after an engine failure (www.spitfires.ukf.net).
- 23 #2 Radio School Proctor III HM285 crashed in England after a mid air collision killing **F/S J.A.E. Munroe** and **AC2 G.F. Scott** RAF (www.rafcommands.com).
- 23 #160 (BR) Sqn. wireless air gunner **F/S S.A. Ward** died in hospital in Canada of natural causes.
- 23 #1 OTU, Bagotville, Quebec, Sea Hurricane XIIa BW857 crashed and written off (R.W.R. Walker).

- 23 #6 RD aero engine mechanic **Sgt W.E. Morrison** was killed in a car accident.
- 23 #35 SFTS, North Battleford, Saskatchewan, Oxford II AS207 crashed, F/O A.J.R. Knights RAF killed.
- 23 unknown unit, Cornell II FZ214 collided over Fort Erie, Ontario with a USAAF P-39 fighter, no details (J. Baugher).
- 23 #111 OTU, Nassau, Bahamas, Mitchell II FV952 'FX' lost on a night navigation exercise off Bimini, Sgt P. Brdsky RAF (Czech.), Sgt P. Fuchs RAF (Czech.), Sgt R. Krupica RAF (Czech.), F/O J. Simandl RAF (Czech.), WO M. Styblik RAF (Czech.) and Sgt H. Tomek RAF (Czech.) all missing (E. Wiberg).

23-24 Bomber Command sent 383 bombers back to Berlin by the same route as the last attack, but German controllers were not fooled and had vectored Wilde Sau single engined fighters over Berlin before the bombers arrived, with Zahme Sau night fighters arriving soon after the bombers. Skymarking was done over the cloud cover but many bombers targeted the fires still burning from the previous attack. Twenty bombers were lost. Other operations were 6 OBOE Mosquitos attacking the Knapsack power station without loss (BC War Diaries).

Of note on this night was that the German controllers tried to outfox the CORONA operators in England by using a woman controller, only to have a woman CORONA operator impersonating her within minutes and ordering night fighters to land due to fog (BC War Diaries).

- 23-24 9 Sqn. Lancaster I DV327 WS-N crash landed in England going around from a overshoot landing on return from an operation over Germany, **Sgt W.L. Doran**, P/O G. Ward RAF, Sgt J. Sutton RAF, Sgt E.D. Keene RAF, Sgt G.L. James RAF, Sgt G.F.K. Bedwell RAF and Sgt N.F. Dixon RAF safe. See Jan. 1-2, 1944.
- 23-24 12 Sqn. Lancaster III JB465 PH-V swung taking off on an operation and took off its undercarriage, **P/O C.W. Kruger**, **Sgt F.W. Peppiatt**, Sgt D.C.H. Maxwell RAF, Sgt P.H. Lambert RAF, Sgt Harrison RAF, Sgt H.I. Wilcock RAF and Sgt W.F.H. Smedmore RAF safe. See March 30-31, 1944.
- 23-24 12 Sqn. Lancaster III JB537 PH-N lost over Germany, **Sgt H.E. Petersen**, F/O C.E. Jones RAF, Sgt B.H. Farndell RAF, F/L G. Soulsby RAF, Sgt T.W. Boynton RAF, Sgt S. Knight RAF and Sgt W. Hazeldine RAF killed.
- 23-24 44 Sqn. Lancaster III LM374 KM-S lost without trace, **F/S R.C. Strickland**, F/O C.K. Hanscomb RAF, Sgt C.C. Langley RAF, P/O H.J. Whitticks RAF, F/O C.S. Laxton RAF, Sgt A. Reeves RAF and Sgt A.A.M. Seaman RAF missing.
- 23-24 97 Sqn. Lancaster III JB218 OF-Y lost on an operation to Germany, F/S R.S. Mortham RAF killed, **F/S P.W. Dries RCAF (USA)**, Sgt R.T. Fathers RAF, Sgt J. Graham RAF, Sgt R.A. Campbell RAF and Sgt J.R. Cowen RAF have no known grave, F/S J.A. Penny RAF PoW.

- 23-24 100 Sqn. Lancaster III JB564 HW-D² lost over the target, Sgt F.A. Fuller RAF, Sgt W.E. Lloyd RAF and Sgt A.G. Chandler RAF missing, **F/S W.E. Jefferies**, WO S.C. Lemar RAF, Sgt L.F. Daniels RAF and P/O J.R. Lake RAF PoW.
- 23-24 103 Sqn. Lancaster III JB528 PM-Q lost over Germany, Sgt D. Clark RAF and Sgt J.B. Reilly RAF killed, F/O J.D. Johnston RAF missing, **F/O R.H. Kerr**, Sgt R. Crossley RAF, Sgt A.H. Stanton RAF and F/O R.T. Jones RAF PoW.
- 23-24 156 Sqn. Lancaster III JB223 GT-M lost on an operation to Germany, **F/L H.W.J. Stewart DFC**, F/O R.H. MacDonald RAAF and Sgt F.P. King RAF killed, P/O W.H. Rose DFC RAAF, P/O W. Anderson DFC RAF, F/L C.V. Harvey DFC MiD RAF, P/O M.M. Patrick DFC RAAF and F/O E.R. Mitchell DFM RAF missing.
- 23-24 156 Sqn. Lancaster III JB293 flew into the ground in England on an operation, **WO2 G.W. Fordyce**, Sgt R.H. Hodges RAF and Sgt G. Johnson RAF killed, Sgt L.J. Collins RAF, Sgt R. Harries RAF, F/S A.E. Egan RAF and F/S J.S. Minague RAF injured.
- 23-24 405 Sqn. Lancaster III JA939 LQ-C lost over Holland, **F/L R.A. Gardiner DFC**, **WO2 J.G. Kavanaugh**, **F/O W.J. Lawrence**, **F/L H.K. Lefroy DFC**, **P/O J.G. Odell** and P/O P.J.M. Scott RAF killed, F/L C.W. Cole DFC RAF PoW.
- 23-24 405 Sqn. Lancaster III JB182 LQ-O lost without trace, **F/O C.T. Clark**, F/O H.T. Clarke RAF, F/O E.J.B. Moss RAF, Sgt R.N.P. Critchlow RAF, Sgt J.E. Goss RAF, Sgt A.P. Hateley RAF and F/S W.C. Higgs RAF missing.
- 23-24 408 Sqn. Lancaster II LL623 EQ-J (or -U, R. Koval) lost without trace, **Sgt L.G. Hanton**, F/O D.M. Bell RAF (USA), F/O R.A. Quinney RAF, Sgt R.G.B. Shea RAF, F/S H. Smith RAF, F/S R.G. Williams RAF and F/S R.Q. Hiscock RAF (Rhod.) missing.
- 23-24 426 Sqn. Lancaster II LL629 OW-G was damaged by flak over Germany and returned to England on three engines and its GEE location system down, where it flew into high ground attempting to land, **F/O G.L. Huffman**, **F/S C.D. Manders** killed, **P/O D.R. De Bloeme**, **F/L J.B. Cleveland**, **F/S W.G. Martin** and Sgt F.C. Borst RAF injured, Sgt W.H. McGarrigan RAF safe. Wireless operator Sgt McGarrigan received an MiD for his efforts in saving the lives of the injured crewmen and summoning help (426 SH, R. Allenby).
- 23-24 #1658 HCU Halifax II JB926 ZB-A crashed in England on a night training flight, possibly due to icing, **F/S J.J. MacGillivray**, Sgt R.E.C. Bacon RAF, Sgt J. Titterington RAF, Sgt G.H. Manley RAF, F/O H. McCarthy RAF, Sgt B.F. Taylor RAF, Sgt A.J. Winton RAF and Sgt D.E. Phillips RAF killed.

Wednesday

24 Allies take Gilbert Islands (CJCA headline). US forces complete the capture of Tarawa and Makin (D. Sommerville). About 1,000 Marines were killed plus almost 700 US Navy seamen, while almost 4,700 Japanese soldiers and construction workers were also killed in four days of fighting (wikipedia)

24 87 Sqn. Hurricane IIc HW416 crashed in bad weather in Tunisia, **F/O G.R. Adams**

- killed (www.rafcommands.com).
- 24 170 Sqn. Mustang I AG483 crashed in England, cause unknown, killing **F/O H.W. Munro**.
- 24 429 Sqn. pilot **F/L J.R. Loggie RCAF (USA)** died in hospital in England of natural causes.
- 24 #23 OTU Wellington III Z1682 lost control in cloud and crashed on a night cross country flight, **F/O K.W. Bolstad**, **F/O R.W. Budd**, **F/O L.F. Cook**, **P/O D.A. Dunlop**, **P/O J.L. Gibault** killed, **F/O H.R. Beswick** and **P/O J.T. Brehn** missing.
- 24 GT Unit, Malvern, England, radar mechanic **Sgt B.R. Minson RCAF (UK)** was flying at high altitude in USAAF B-24D Liberator 42-40987 when his oxygen tube became disconnected. He was found unconscious and despite medical treatment by the crew was dead when they landed at RAF Defford (www.rafcommands.com).
- 24 #1 OADU Beaufort Ia JM513 crash landed in Portugal, **WO2 C.L. Logan** among those interned. See March 9, 1944.
- 24 #6 EFTS Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, two DH.82C Tiger Moth aircraft collided in mid-air and crashed, **F/O J.S. Butler** and **LAC(P) P.R. McLean** were killed in #5944, while **F/O R.N. Grest** was injured and **LAC(P) E.G. Henderson** was killed in #1142. Although P/O Butler's hometown is listed as Orillia, Ontario he is buried in Detroit, Michigan, USA. Please see Dec. 3, 1943.
- 24 #8 AOS, Ancienne Lorette, Quebec, Anson V #12133 crashed on a navigation exercise, **Sgt J.O.R. Bordeleau**, **LAC(N) R.R. Sturgeon**, **Sgt I.S. Waddell** and **LAC(N) M.A. Young** RAF killed.
- 24 #37 SFTS, Calgary, Alberta, Harvard II #2739 crashed after a mid-air collision with Harvard II #2566 over Wood Lake, **F/O J. Brown** RAF killed in #2739, **WO R.R. Lewis** RAF and **LAC(P) W.H. Anderson** RAF force landed and safe (C. Charland at www.rafcommands.com).
- 24 #37 SFTS, **LAC R.T. Christie** RAF died in hospital in Calgary of natural causes (www.rafcommands.com).
- 24 #39 SFTS, Swift Current, Saskatchewan, Oxford I X6954 stalled in a turn at low level and crashed north of Rush Lake, Saskatchewan, **LAC C.S. Guttridge** RAF and **Sgt E. Sowery** RAF killed (R.W.R. Walker).
- 24 USAAF C-47A 42-100496 crashed at Torbay, Nfld, **1Lt L.D. Graham** USAAF killed (AAIR).

24-25 An operation to attack a ball-bearing factory Turin from Tunisia by 76 Wellingtons of 205 Group RAF ran into severe weather conditions over the Mediterranean, 17 Wellingtons were lost from 37, 40, 70, 104, 142 and 150 squadrons (24 Nov. 1943 Losses page at www.rafcommands.com; BLME V.2). Only 6 aircraft bombed the target. See <http://www.unit302.ca/ClarionJanuary2008.pdf> for a personal account of this operation by **P/O W.E. Turner.**

24-25 37 Sqn. Wellington X LN329 'N' flew into a mountain in northern Italy, **F/L H.W.S. Fitch**,

F/L C.H. Wheatley, F/L R.J. Taaffe DFM RNZAF, F/S D.W. Croker RAF, Sgt J. Shelton RAF, Sgt W.G. Holme RAF killed (RobJ www.rafcommands.com). F/L Wheatley, then a Sgt, had been injured in the loss of a #22 OTU Wellington April 8, 1942.

24-25 37 Sqn. Wellington X HZ473 'W' returning from an operation to Turin, ran out of fuel in bad weather and abandoned over Tunisia, F/O J.S. Massieon, F/O L.W. Creasey RAF, Sgt N.W. Elder RAF, F/S G.A. Irvine RAF and WO T.P.G. Griffin RAF safe (BLME V.2).

24-25 70 Sqn. Wellington X LN336 'G' crashed in mountains Sicily on an operation to Turin, Italy, F/O A.E. Shaw MiD, F/O R.C. Henderson RAF, F/S A. Huddleston DFM RAF and Sgt J.G. Smart RAF killed, F/O V.A. Murray and F/O R.C. Henderson RAF safe (D. Gunby quoted on <http://www.archeologidellaria.org>, and his book BLME V.2).

24-25 104 Sqn. Wellington X LN338 'D' lost from operations over Turin, Italy, W/C D.M. Crossley DFC & Bar RAF killed, WO2 C.F. Cameron, F/S C.P. Chesters RAF, F/S D.H. Davies RAF and F/S J.G. Wiggins missing (CWGC; BLME V.2).

24-25 142 Sqn. Wellington X LN566 'D' flew into high ground in Italy in bad weather on an operation to Turin, F/S J.A. LeBoldus, F/S R.C. Tyas RAAF, F/S A.D.J. Smith RAAF, Sgt F.E. Summers RAF, Sgt W.R. Knight and Sgt H.A. Clark RAF killed. The wreckage was discovered Dec. 5 by local civilians (A. Storr; BLME V.2; www.aviationarchaeology.org.uk). F/S LeBoldus was the second of three brothers lost in the RCAF. See February 13-14 above and February 19-20, 1944.

24-25 142 Sqn. Wellington HE929 'V' came down in Italy, F/S G.P. Armstrong, F/O C.M. Mair, F/S S.J. Ouellette, Sgt G. Bowering RAF and Sgt G.U. Topp RAF killed. F/S Ouellette had been involved in a flying accident which damaged a Wellington on August 14, above (<http://www.aviationarchaeology.org.uk>; BLME V.2).

24-25 142 Sqn. Wellington X HZ305 'M' was unable to find its target due to bad weather, so bombed a coastal road instead. Returning an engine failed, and the aircraft ditched near Corsica, Sgt J. Champagne, F/S S. Bryant RAAF, Sgt J. Armstrong RAF, Sgt J. Sadler RAAF and Sgt A. Hehir RAAF were later rescued, safe (<http://www.aviationarchaeology.org.uk>; BLME V.2).

24-25 Berlin was targeted by 6 Mosquitos while 9 OTU aircraft flew NICKELS over France, 1 Mosquito lost (BC War Diaries).

Thursday

25 8th Army crosses Sangro River (CJCA headline) (Montgomery's "mighty crack").

25 1 Sqn. Typhoon Ib JP592 JX-L shot down by flak over France on a RAMROD, last seen going down in flames at low level, F/O J.W. Wiley killed (P. Caygill).

25 416 Sqn. Spitfire Vb AB284 shot down by flak on a RHUBARB over Holland, F/S P.R. Carpenter RCAF (USA) PoW.

25 428 Sqn. P/O C. Heyworth RAF died in hospital in England of natural causes. He had been shot down Sept. 15-16, above, in Halifax V LK913, and was with the French

- Resistance when he fell seriously ill. He and his crewman **F/L J.M. Forman** had been flown to England in a 161 Sqn. Lysander (k-fraser www.rafcommands.com).
- 25 430 Sqn. Mustang I AM124 was off the Dutch coast when he radioed that he was having difficulties. He tried to reach shore but was forced to ditch, the aircraft sank immediately on ditching, **F/O B. Emmerson** missing.
- 25 835 (Composite) Sqn. FAA, *HMS Chaser*, Canadian built Sea Hurricane II BW886 damaged making a deck landing while the ship was working up in the Clyde (www.royalnavyresearcharchive.org.uk).
- 25 #20 OTU Wellington MS482 crash landed in Scotland. The bail out order was given before the landing and **P/O J.E. Harrison RCAF (UK)** did so but was killed. The pilot, **Sgt G.C. Steel**, managed a good crash landing as the aircraft was later recovered and repaired, his remaining crew, **P/O N.V. Roe**, Sgt W. Jardine RAF, Sgt Vincent RAF and Sgt Whitehead RAF, safe (Linzee www.rafcommands.com).
- 25 #26 OTU Wellington X HE855 lost without trace over the North Sea on a navigation exercise after making a request for a heading to base just 20 minutes before it's expected arrival, **Sgt G.B. Mould**, F/S D.J. Conroy RAAF, Sgt D.J. Morley RAF, Sgt A.E. Ford RAF, Sgt J.H. Ashcroft RAF, F/S K.J. Page RAF and Sgt L.G. Pullen RAF missing.
- 25 #1678 CU Lancaster II DS653 SW-S exploded in mid-air over England on a high level cross country exercise, **WO2 E.G. Johnston**, Sgt J. Batterham RAAF, F/S M.S. Beyer RAAF, F/S O.A. Burton RNZAF, Sgt L. Slater RAF, Sgt R.E. Harris RAF and Sgt G.A. Bennett RAF killed.
- 25 #1 OTU RCAF, Bagotville, Quebec, Sea Hurricane XIIa BW851 "completely demolished" in a crash (R.W.R. Walker).

25-26 Bomber Command sends 262 bombers to Frankfurt with scattered bombing through cloud. Other operations put 3 Mosquitos over Berlin, 48 GARDENING and 28 OTU sorties for a total of 341 with 13 bombers lost (BC War Diaries).

- 25-26 35 Sqn. Halifax II LW326 TL-H lost over Belgium, F/S A.J. Wickersham RAF and F/S D.A.A. Swain RAF killed, **WO1 J.G. Steele**, P/O D.E.A. Lander RAF, Sgt D. Thomson RAF, P/O N.S.F. Palmer RAF and P/O G.F. Collier RAF PoW.
- 25-26 76 Sqn. Halifax V DK231 MP-B lost over Germany, possibly shot down by a fighter, **WO2 R.S. Orr**, P/O S.J. Troake RAF, Sgt L.H. Barnes RAF and Sgt P.I. Weeks RAF killed, SSgt P.W. Flewell USAAF, P/O R.J. Fayers RAF and F/O T.G. Paton RAF PoW.
- 25-26 76 Sqn. Halifax V LK903 MP-G lost over Germany, the pilot, Lt. K. Lindaas RNor.AF was killed but his crew, **Sgt E.L. Guertin**, Sgt D.H. Short RAF, F/S D.L. Melhuish RAF, Sgt R.E. Beer RAF, Sgt H.S. Seatter RAF and Sgt F.V. Beadle RAF, all survived as PoW.
- 25-26 97 Sqn. Lancaster III JB221 OF-W lost over Germany, **F/O H.C. Aley**, Sgt D.H.W. Little RAF and F/S R.W. Sinden RAAF killed, **F/L C.M. Brown CG (France) RCAF (USA)**,

P/O G. Smith RAF, P/O T. Watson RAF and Sgt B.F. Tutt RAF have no known grave. Hugh Halliday notes in www.rafcommnds.com that F/L Brown had worked before the war in Germany. He was on vacation in France when the war broke out and volunteered as an ambulance driver, where he was awarded his CG. After the fall of France he returned to the USA with the intention of joining a Commonwealth force to return to the war.

- 25-26 419 Sqn. Halifax II, Sgt G. Scade, was attacked by a night fighter that damaged a rudder, wing, undercarriage doors, an engine, and the fuselage, destroying the navigation equipment, damaging the bomb bay doors and taking off bomb aimers perspex bubble. The aircraft returned without bombing (R. Koval). See February 19-20, 1944.
- 25-26 428 Sqn. Halifax V LK969 NA-G shot down over the target by a night fighter which killed bomb aimer **F/S P.J. Barske**, the remainder of the crew **S/L J.R. Beggs**, **F/S J.P. McMaster**, **F/O G.M. Ruff RCAF (USA)**, **Sgt F. Moore**, Sgt T.C. Qualey RAF and Sgt G.W. Redwood RAF PoW.
- 25-26 428 Sqn. Halifax V, **F/S H.L. Pattinson**, was attacked by a night fighter which damaged it's electrical system, forcing an early return (R. Koval, 5th Year).
- 25-26 429 Sqn. Halifax II JD325 AL-F lost over France, **F/O W.R. Bloch**, **F/O E.A. Burton**, **F/O D.A. Hogg**, **F/S P.T. McCallum**, **Sgt D.J. Metz**, Sgt V.W. McGray RAF and Sgt T. Wainwright RAF killed.
- 25-26 429 Sqn. Halifax II JD411 AL-A lost over Germany, **WO2 H.J.L. Copping**, **WO2 A.T. Gardiner**, **F/L V.Y. Haines**, **WO2 S.R. Moncrieff**, **P/O D.G. Scott**, Sgt W.E. Lowe RAF and Sgt A.W. Roberts RAF killed.
- 25-26 429 Sqn. Halifax V LK995 AL-C was attacked over Belgium by a night fighter, setting the aircraft on fire and possibly killing the rear gunner **P/O R.H. Davis**. The rest of the crew, **F/O M. Rabinovitch**, **WO1 D.R. Nelson RCAF (USA)**, **WO2 D.M. Smith DFM**, Sgt J.A. Renton RAF and **F/S R.T. Abbott RAF** (St. Vincent, West Indies) PoW, **F/O J.J. Thurmeier** evaded. F/O Rabinovitch later changed his name to Raber and wrote and published a memoir of his air force experiences, *Manny goes to War: the War Memoir of Manuel Raber*, 1999.
- 25-26 429 Sqn. Halifax V, **F/O J. Atkins**, was in a mid-air collision with another bomber and returned early (R. Koval). See December 24-25, below.
- 25-26 431 Sqn. Halifax V LK967 SE-J was hit by flak and set on fire. After being unable to control the damage a bailout was ordered near Paris, **F/O B.N. Passant**, **F/S D.W. Burleigh**, **Sgt J.M.D.J. Dugas** and Sgt W.H. Bennett RAF PoW, **WO1 R.A. Jones**, **P/O P. Bauset** and Sgt R.F. Nelson RAF evaded.
- 25-26 431 Sqn. Halifax V LK973 SE-E lost on an operation over Germany, **Sgt J.G.E. La Flamme**, **P/O G.H. Rich**, **F/O D.R.P. Short**, WO M.G. Clynes CGM RAF, **F/S R. Holmes RAF**, **F/O D.F. Rands RAF**, **P/O G.S. Milner RAF** and **P/O J. Morton RAF** killed.
- 25-26 #23 OTU Wellington X JA450 crashed in England after an engine failed and the pilot

was unable to feather the propellor on a night flying exercise, F/S J.B.V. Chevalier, Sgt J.C.J.E. Dubord, F/S R.F. Morand and F/S J.J.J.J. Vennes killed.

Friday

26 An Allied convoy travelling to the Far East via the Mediterranean and the Suez Canal was attacked late in the day off North Africa by 30 He 177 bombers equipped with Hs 293 glide-bombs. The British troopship HMT Rohna was hit and sunk, with the loss of 1,138 killed and others died of wounds. 1,050 of those who died were US troops, the worst loss of US soldiers at sea in the war. The information was kept secret at the time, and full details of the loss were not released until 1967 (wikipedia, ww2total.com Chronology/1943). One reason put forward for the heavy loss of life compared to the similar convoy attack on Nov. 6 was that the RN escorts of this convoy operated under standing orders to not engage in assisting damaged ships until an air attack was ended, whereas on Nov. 6 the USN escorts were engaged in life-saving during the attack (wikipedia), but the severity of the damage and how fast the ship sank may have been other factors.

Hitler witnesses a demonstration of the Me 262 jet fighter prototype on this day, and decides on the spot it should be used as a bomber rather than a fighter. Objections by Luftwaffe officers, especially Inspector General of Fighters Adolf Galland, were overruled, and the first pilots to be trained on this revolutionary aircraft are bomber pilots (Polsson). Design modifications to carry the bombs also delays production of the aircraft. (See also Operation FOXLEY, November 1944).

- 26 47 Sqn. Beaufighter X LX987 'D' shot down off Turkey, F/L F.J. Gregory RCAF (USA) and F/O A.G. Wood RAF missing (<http://aviationarchaeology.gr>).
- 26 126 Sqn. Spitfire Vc JK522 shot down by flak attacking a suspected radar site in Albania, P/O R. Wallace PoW (Shores, Massimello V.4; www.spitfires.ukf.net).
- 26 83 Sqn. Lancaster III JA686 OL-K blew up at it's dispersal after an electrical fault ignited the photo flash, WO W.J. Murphy RNZAF, Cpl Marion White McDowell WAAF, F/O J. Alderson-Hiller RAF, LAC F.J. Bailey RAF, LAC J.H. Brundell MiD RAF and LAC J.T. Nicholas RAF killed, Sgt T. Hillier RAF (Can.) and Sgt D.H. Craigie RAF died of injuries, F/O H.R. Hyde RAF, Sgt R.F. Raymond RAF, Sgt R. Webb RAF and Sgt G.H. Jones RAF survived. See Jan. 28-29, 1944, under the loss of 463 Sqn. Lancaster HK537.
- 26 180 Sqn. Mitchell II FL707 EV-Z lost over France, F/S S.R. Troman, Flight Officer W.A. Solheim USAAF, F/S C.G. Underwood RAAF and WO A.J. Painting RAAF killed (A. Storr; H. Welting and ac at www.rafcommands.com). TSGNO states the crew was F/S S.R. Troman, WO F.B. Dixon RAF, Sgt C.S. Graves RAF and F/S R.R. Howlett RAF killed. A. Storr notes 2 180 Sqn. aircraft were lost on this operation after

- colliding in mid-air, so the crew lists might have been confused. C. Charland at www.rafcommands.com provided the code letters for this aircraft.
- 26 401 Sqn. Spitfire LF.IX MH886 crash landed on return from a RAMROD over France, **F/L T. Koch** safe. This sortie was detailed in *The R.C.A.F. Overseas - The Fifth Year*.
- 26 410 Sqn. Mosquito NF.II DD669 crashed after colliding with another 410 Sqn. Mosquito NF.II DZ259 when returning from an interception practice, **F/O J.J. Blanchfield** and **F/O K.J. Cox** killed.
- 26 416 Sqn. Spitfire Vb EN908 force landed in combat in France on a RAMROD, **WO2 H. Dubnick** killed.
- 26 #1663 HCU Halifax V EB183 OO-G swung on take off and hit a pile of construction material, removing the undercarriage, Sgt C. Walker RAF and Sgt G.A. Shield RAF injured, **Sgt J. Sutherland**, Sgt F. Hughes RAF, Sgt A. Abrahams RAF, Sgt P.C. Gizzi RAF and Sgt K.C. Southward RAF safe (R. Allenby). See Jan. 21-22, 1944.
- 26 #5 B&G School, Dafoe, Saskatchewan, Anson II #11287 caught fire and crashed near Leroy, Saskatchewan on an exercise, **Sgt P.E. Galgan**, **F/S W.L. Hill**, LAC J.B. Barnes RAF and LAC T.B.R. Crosthwaite RAF killed.

26-27 The rail yards at Rangoon are attacked by 13 Wellingtons of 215 Squadron with 1 loss (D. Newton).

Berlin was the target again on this night as Bomber Command sent 450 bombers there, plus 178 to Stuttgart on a diversion. Both flew a common course to a point where the Stuttgart force turned for it's attack, where the bombing was scattered, but many night fighters were drawn off from the main attack on Berlin. Marking over Berlin was not accurate but the bombing still fell in the city and several small factories were destroyed. The Berlin Zoo was also hit and several escaped animals had to be hunted down (D. Newton). Over Berlin the bomber stream was broken up by heavy flak, and night fighters were able to make many attacks on the scattered bombers on the route out. Ground fog was encountered on return to England which caused many diversions and accidents. Other operations included 33 GARDENING and 5 OTU sorties for a total of 666 in the night, 34 bombers were lost (BC War Diaries). Canadian built Lancaster X KB700 completed it's first successful sortie on this night (405 SH) flown by **F/S H.A. Floren** (K.B. Cothliff). See January 14-15, 1944.

- 26-27 12 Sqn. Lancaster III JB354 PH-O swung on landing and damaged beyond repair, **P/O K.R. Middlemiss**, P/O R.S. Yell RAAF, Sgt W.J.C. MacDonald RAAF, Sgt T.A. Finch RAF, F/S J.H. Nutt RAF, Sgt K.B. Reeves RAF and Sgt S. Bates RAF safe. See Jan. 14-15, 1944.
- 26-27 12 Sqn. Lancaster III hit by flak and made a wheels up landing on return to England, **Sgt P.F.J. Sykes**, Sgt A.G. Twitchett RAF, Sgt D. Leatherbarrow RAF, Sgt D.

Robertson RAF, Sgt S. Burnell RAF, Sgt C.W. Farrant RAF and P/O M. Hewitt RAF safe. See Jan. 5-6, 1944.

- 26-27 49 Sqn. Lancaster III JB235 EA-C crashed in the circuit on return from operations, landing using FIDO due to ground fog, **F/O H. Lowe RCAF (USA)**, Sgt R.J. Richardson RAAF, Sgt H.G. Boswell RAF, Sgt H. Carr RAF and Sgt L.H. Cartwright RAF killed, Sgt Winterburn RAF, P/O Lane RAF and Sgt M.O.A. Mahony RAAF injured. It is possible the pilot, Sgt Richardson, was blinded by reflection of the flames on the windshield from the FIDO bars set across the end of the approach. These bars were later shielded to prevent this (T. Cachart).
- 26-27 57 Sqn. Lancaster III JB485 DX-L shot down by a night fighter over Germany, **F/O D.L. Pickard**, P/O H. Beane RAF, Sgt W. Dwyer RAF, Sgt J. MacKay and Sgt L.A. Williamson killed, **F/S J.A. Armstrong** and Sgt B.N. Deas RAF PoW.
- 26-27 61 Sqn. Lancaster I DV297 QR-O lost on an operation to Germany, **WO2 J.B. Toombs** killed, **F/O J.A. Stephens**, Sgt E.F. Johnson USAAF, P/O A.P.E. Strange RAF, P/O C.J.B. Cogdell RAF, F/O D.H. Calman RAF and Sgt E. Smith RAF have no known grave.
- 26-27 61 Sqn. Lancaster I DV339 QR-W lost without a trace, **F/S B.H. Varey**, P/O J.G. McAlpine RAAF, P/O H.W. Harris RAAF, P/O V.A. Martin RAAF, Sgt E. Vine RAF, P/O S. Heald RAF and Sgt H.S. Oldfield RAF missing.
- 26-27 76 Sqn. Halifax V LK687 MP-P shot down over Germany by a night fighter, rear gunner Sgt F. MacPherson RAF and his pilot P/O H.R.W. Whittle RAF were killed, but the rest of the crew, **F/S J.A.A. Roy**, P/O W.J. Morgan RAF, P/O J.R. Rogers RAF, F/O R.C. Saunders RAF and Sgt W. Coates RAF survived as PoW.
- 26-27 76 Sqn. Halifax V LK946 MP-F was shot down by a night fighter over Germany, rear turret gunner **F/S E.J. Bernot** killed, **F/S E.L. Capreol**, **F/O N.W. Mann**, Sgt A.C. Fuller RAF, Sgt J. Hodgson RAF and Sgt P. Drummond RAF PoW.
- 26-27 76 Sqn. Halifax V LK167 MP-A crashed after hitting a building attempting a landing in ground fog, **Sgt W.A. Lindo**, Maj J.M. Stene RNoAF, 2Lt J.M. Waldo RNoAF, P/O G.E.A. Hudson RAF, F/S R.T. Isaac RAF, Sgt J. Clark RAF and Sgt S.E. Pursglove RAF received only minor injuries. Maj Stene had escaped Norway and been a flight instructor in Canada. Post war he emigrated to Canada (R. Allenby).
- 26-27 83 Sqn. Lancaster III JA913 DL-G lost over Germany, **WO1 K.G. Davis DFM**, **P/O K.R.G. Millar**, Sgt F.R. Birks RAF, F/S R.H. Pennells DFM RAF, F/S M.H. King RAF, F/S J.H.S. Harsley RAF and WO S.T. Stacey DFC RAF killed. Post war their graves could not be re-located, and they are commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial.
- 26-27 90 Sqn. Stirling III EF511 WP-C crashed trying to land in England from an operation, **F/S W.A. Porth**, P/O A.A. Lange RAAF, F/S W.J. Tait RNZAF and Sgt T.H. Turner RAF injured, Sgt R.R. Hartley RAF, Sgt G. Watson RAF and P/O H. Peat RAF safe.
- 26-27 101 Sqn. ABC equipped Lancaster III DV289 SR-T lost over Germany, **F/S J.G. Bennett**, **F/S M.J. Kennedy**, Sgt R.W. Hodgson RAF, F/L F.G.T. Collins RAF, Sgt H. Feeney RAF and Sgt G. North RAF killed, **F/O G.L. Spofford** and Sgt A. McKeenan

- RAF PoW. F/O Spofford was the special operator. See July 21, 1944.
- 26-27 102 Sqn. Halifax "HK188" (HX188?) was attacked by a German fighter which killed the mid-upper gunner **F/S K.J. Peterson RAAF (Can.)**. The aircraft managed to evade the attack and return to base, **F/S M. Bernbaum**, **P/O G.A. Henderson**, F/O W.N.A. Dick RAF, F/O C.S. Pattrick RAF, Sgt G. Holmes RAF and Sgt J. Holden RAF safe (A. Storr).
- 26-27 103 Sqn. Lancaster III JB350 PM-L lost on an operation over Germany, F/O A.J. Sumner RAF, F/S R. Butler RAF, Sgt P. Gallacher RAF, Sgt A.H. Masters RAF and Sgt R.H. Bussell RAF killed, **P/O P.J. Duffy** and Sgt J. Gibson RAF PoW.
- 26-27 103 Sqn. Lancaster III JB458 PM-C lost on an operation to Germany, **Sgt A.M. Grimson**, Sgt E.S. Siddall RAF, Sgt W.C. Buzan RAF, Sgt D. Blue RAF, Sgt D.I.J. Evans RAF and Sgt N.D. Taylor RAF killed, Sgt H. Wood RAF PoW.
- 26-27 115 Sqn. Lancaster II DS793 KO-L lost over Germany, **F/O W.A. Mitchell**, Sgt A.V. Baker RAF, Sgt W. Bell RAF, Sgt H.H. Falls RAF, Sgt J. Pallanca RAF, Sgt T.A. Monk RAF and F/O E.B. Woolhouse RAF killed.
- 26-27 166 Sqn. Lancaster I DV387 AS-W lost over Germany **Sgt G.E.J. Ballard RAF (Can.)**, F/O D.H.P. O'Brien RAF, F/O J. Howe RAF and F/S F.E. Nowland RAAF killed, **F/S H.J. Beattie**, Sgt D.J. Howell RAF and Sgt W.A. Green RAF have no known graves.
- 26-27 405 Sqn. Lancaster 'W' (LQ-W) was involved in an incident that led **Sgt W.C. Conlon** and **Sgt J.W. Sandford** to bail out. The aircraft returned safely but Sgt Conlan and Sgt Sandford were taken PoW (www.rafcommands.com).
- 26-27 408 Sqn. Lancaster II DS712 EQ-G was hit by flak over Berlin which wounded the rear gunner, **Sgt M.A. Robert**. Later over the IJsselmeer they were intercepted by a night fighter but managed to lose it. Now with engine trouble it arrived over England where an engine failed and other problems led to the crew bailing out, **Sgt Robert**, **F/S R.T. Lloyd**, **F/O J.F. Fowler**, **F/S G.E. Cameron**, Sgt H. Nightingale RAF, Sgt L. Lane RAF and Sgt E. Williams RAF safe. R. Donovan points out that F/S Lloyd was a former Guinea Pig, having suffered severe facial injuries in a bicycle accident while at OTU the previous April. See July 28-29, 1944.
- 26-27 408 Sqn. Lancaster II DS723 EQ-B lost without trace on an operation to Berlin, **W/C A.C. Mair DFC** (Squadron Commanding Officer), P/O G. Fielding RAF, P/O L.H. Matthews RAF, F/O W.R.E. North DFC RAF (Squadron Navigation Leader), Sgt C.F. Kirsch RAF, P/O A.W. Douglas RAF and F/L S.A.H. Glasspool RAF (Squadron Signals Leader) missing.
- 26-27 419 Sqn. Halifax II LW242 VR-N lost over Germany on an operation to Stuttgart, **Sgt E.W. Chalk**, **F/S S.E. Clarke**, **F/S J.V. Dillon**, **Sgt J.L. Truax**, **WO1 L.P. Webster**, Sgt J.D. Whittingham RAF and Sgt J.R. Henderson RAF killed. Sgt Chalk volunteered for this sortie when the regular air gunner was unavailable.
- 26-27 426 Sqn. Lancaster II DS679 OW-R lost without trace on an operation to Berlin, **P/O W.H. Boles**, **F/O G.H. Buchanan**, **S/L A.J. Hughes**, **F/S K.W. Sawyer**, P/O F.D. Rawlings RAF, Sgt F. Wilkinson RAF and Sgt W.J. McLean RAF missing.

- 26-27 428 Sqn. Halifax II JN966 NA-V was cleared to land on return from a sortie to Stuttgart when a Lancaster III of 103 Sqn., ED417, entered the circuit above and behind it. Despite warning flares the Lancaster continued its approach until it collided on top of the Halifax, both aircraft crashing. In the Halifax **F/S M.J. Lindsay, F/S W.H. Wade**, F/S R.M. Buck RAF, Sgt J.H. Muir RAF, Sgt W.S. Bruce RAF, Sgt A.H. Biggs RAF and Sgt L.J. Shirvell RAF were killed. On the Lancaster F/O R.W. Brevitt RAF, Sgt M.W. Cartmell RAF, Sgt J.K. Cubey RAF, Sgt I.B. Morgan RAF, Sgt S.L. Ingle RAF and Sgt G. Bruce RAF were killed, Sgt S.T.K. Bowyer RAF surviving with injuries.
- 26-27 429 Sqn. Halifax II JD164 AL-K came down in the sea short of a Coastal Command airfield on their third attempt to land after being hit by flak over Stuttgart, **F/S P.A. Charlebois** and his crew Sgt J.D. Moss RAF, F/O J.W. Cameron RAF, Sgt J.H.G. Senecal RAF, Sgt M.R. Neville RAF, Sgt D.P. Lambert RAF and Sgt J.M. Leith RAF safe (R. Koval).
- 26-27 429 Sqn. Halifax II JD333 AL-W took off on an operation and crash landed wheels up less than 20 minutes later after suffering a double engine failure, **F/S E.C. Baker** and his crew **Sgt A.J.J.B. Marion**, Sgt R.S. King RAF, F/S W.H. Killner RNZAF, F/S A.E. Bryant RAF, Sgt H. Gordon RAF and Sgt D.H.B. Sinclair RAF safe (R. Koval).
- 26-27 432 Sqn. Lancaster II LL632 was attacked three times by night fighters and badly damaged. During the attacks the rear gunner **Sgt J.H.L. Quesnel**, despite his turret being disabled, kept advising the pilot **F/S P.W. Dennis** of the positions of the attacking fighter so they could effectively evade. Despite the damage the crew bombed the target and returned safely to England where F/S Dennis and Sgt Quesnel were awarded DFMs (R. Allenby, Awards).
- 26-27 460 Sqn. RAAF Lancaster I ED370 AR-B² lost over Germany, **Sgt G.D. Arnott RCAF (USA), F/S N.W. McNair**, Sgt W. Belton RAF, Sgt R.G. Jones RAF, Sgt J.E. Mclvor RAF, Sgt K.G. Smith RAF and Sgt E.J. Stones RAAF killed.
- 26-27 514 Sqn. Lancaster II DS814 JI-M lost over Germany, **F/O M.R. Cantin, F/S S.E. Smith**, Sgt K.G. King RAF, Sgt W.G.F. Saddler RAF, Sgt W.E.T. Michell RAF, Sgt R.N. Walne RAF and Sgt L.F. Eyre RAF killed.
- 26-27 550 Sqn. Lancaster III LM379 BQ-S lost over Germany, F/L P.J.M. Prangley RAF, Sgt A.K. Ward RAF, Sgt R. Redfern RAF and Sgt F.C. Diggie RAF killed, F/O G.H.R.F. Harris RAF missing, **P/O J.W. Lowe** and F/S P.W. Smith RAF PoW. This was the first loss by 550 Sqn. which had been formed from 100 Sqn. only the day before.
- 26-27 619 Sqn. Lancaster I DV335 PG-H was damaged making a diversion landing in poor visibility, **F/O P.A. Buttar, P/O J.G. Noble, P/O R.W. Wood**, Sgt G.G. Watt RAF, Sgt T. Fleetwood RAF and 1 crew safe (R. Allenby).
- 26-27 626 Sqn. Lancaster III ED809 CF-T shot down over Holland by a night fighter, **F/O J.D. Lynch, F/O R. McSorley**, F/O P.R. Paice RAF, F/O G.F.R. Green RAF, Sgt B.L. Gooding RAF and Sgt E.L. Foulkes RAF killed, Sgt N. Bolt RAF missing.
- 26-27 626 Sqn. Lancaster I DV388 UM-S² lost, **WO2 C.J.E. Kindt, F/S A.S. MacDonald, WO2**

J.R.R. Small, Sgt J.A. Callaway RAF, Sgt T.G. Brady RAF, Sgt C. Johnson RAF and Sgt F. Matthews killed.

Saturday

27 For the second year an RCAF sponsored football team, the Hamilton Flying Wildcats, wins the Grey Cup, beating the Winnipeg RCAF Bombers (wikipedia).

- 27 #22 Ferry Control Unit Hudson VI FK642 crashed in India, **F/O G.J. Frost**, **F/O H.E. Pittaway**, **F/O W.D. Smith**, P/O G.H. Barrett RAF, W/C W.A. Hughes RAF, F/O H.L. Pugh RAF and P/O W.G.R. Sutherland RAF killed (CWGC; www.rafcommands.com).
- 27 458 Sqn. RAAF Wellington JA142 FU-X flew into a hill at Cape Bougaroun, Algeria, returning from the search for a missing Beaufighter, **WO1 A. Aikman**, F/S J. Richards RAAF, Sgt M.V. Aungier RAF, F/S G.K. Reid RAAF, F/S L.J. Muschialli RAAF and F/S R.T.A. Freeman RAAF killed.
- 27 #4 (Coastal) OTU Sunderland II W6060 was landing from a training flight at night. After 6 attempts it crashed into the water off Scotland, F/S N.R. Munday RAAF, Sgt W. Bridges RAF, Sgt W.E. Bowen RAF, Sgt G. Linden RAF and Sgt L. Limbrick RAF missing, **F/O J. Hill**, Sgt W. Goudie RAF, F/O J.A.M. Forbes RAF, Sgt F. Banbiere RAF, Sgt W.W. Bromley RAF and Sgt E. Keeping RAF injured (A. Storr, COL BRUGGY & K. Byers www.rafcommands.com).

Sunday

28 Tehran conference begins in Iran with Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin (Polsson).

Luftwaffe Commander Göring orders a bombing campaign against England, targeting London in particular, to begin as soon as possible, to counter the continuing attacks on Germany, especially on cities. This was codenamed Operation STEINBOCK. It was planned to begin within weeks, but this was not possible (A. Price). See January 21-22, 1944.

418 Sqn. begins daylight INTRUDER sorties, known as DAY RANGERS, over Europe (418 SH).

#117 (BR) Sqn. deploys from North Sydney to Shelburne, NS (RCAF Sqns.).

- 28 #16 OTU Wellingtons III X3923 and X HE904 collided in mid air on a night training flight and crashed near their airfield, killing **Sgt R.W. McLachlan**, S/L W.E. Allison DFC RAF, WO V. Kearney DFM RAF, Sgt W. Siddoway RAF, Sgt E. Cole RAF and Sgt R.J.W. Dhering RAF in X3923, and **F/O D.J. Arneil**, **Sgt D.G. MacNeil**, **Sgt W.H. Sayres**, **F/O G.A.H. Stevens** DFC, F/S F.V.M. Slater RAF, Sgt W. Rose RAF and Sgt R. Buffham RAF in HE904. Two crewmen survived with injuries, Sgt W.R. Hemsley

- RAF in X3923 and WO A.J. Lowman RAF in HE904.
- 28 #1 SFTS, Camp Borden, Ontario, Harvard II #3138 crashed, **LAC(P) F.W. Ball** killed.
 - 28 #1 SFTS, Camp Borden, Ontario, Harvard IIb FE765 crashed near Edenvale, Ontario, P/O J.A. Gore DFC RAAF and LAC R.H. Myers RAF killed (A. Storr).
 - 28 RAF Ferry Command, Mitchell II FV990 missing on a ferry flight between Greenland and Iceland, **P/O G.R. Styles**, **F/L H.A. Wills**, Lt. E.B. Palm RNor.AF and Sgt E.H. Swanston RAF missing.

Monday

29 #123 (ACT) Sqn. RCAF detached from Debert, NS for overseas duty in England.

- 29 412 Sqn. Spitfire LF.IX MJ169 lost on a RAMROD, **F/L A.C. Coles** PoW.
- 29 412 Sqn. Spitfire LF.IX MJ331 lost on a RAMROD, **F/O J.A. Robertson** killed. These two losses were detailed in *The R.C.A.F. Overseas - The Fifth Year*.
- 29 #59 OTU Canadian built Hurricane I Z7083 spun from a formation flight and crashed, Sgt L. Jones RAF killed (malcolm_raf at www.rafcommands.com).
- 29 #1657 Conversion Unit, a truck taking a crew from it's aircraft collided with a taxiing aircraft, navigator **F/S A.K. Pearson** killed.
- 29 #6 SFTS, Dunnville, Ontario, Harvard IIb FE732 crashed close by the airfield, killing **P/O D.C. Quinn** and **LAC(P) P.P. Strickland**.
- 29 unknown unit, **Sgt W.M. Taylor** died in hospital in Moncton, NB (www.rafcommands.com).

29-30 Bomber Command sent 21 Mosquitos to Bochum, Cologne and Düsseldorf, plus 9 OTU NICKEL sorties without loss (BC War Diaries). One of these was a B.XX Mosquito flown by **F/L(?) T.M. Mitchell DFC RAF (Can.), making the first operational sortie of a Canadian built Mosquito (T. Judge).**

Tuesday

30 417 Sqn. in Italy, part of patrols over the crossing of the Sangro River, destroy 2 German fighters and claim one probably destroyed (5th Year).

- 30 233 Sqn. Hudson III V9090 crashed at sea on a rocket firing exercise from Gibraltar, F/S F.J. Oakley RAAF killed, **F/S D.S. Gillander**, F/O R. Baugean RAF and F/S E.C.Y. Brewer RAAF safe (A. Storr).
- 30 401 Sqn. Spitfire LF.IX MJ115 suffered engine problems over France while escorting USAAF bombers on a RAMROD and the pilot **F/L H.D. MacDonald DFC & Bar** tried to return to England. When near rescue launches off England he attempted to bail out but something went wrong and the aircraft dove into the sea. F/L MacDonald has no known grave. F/L MacDonald had damaged a Spitfire Feb. 11, above. This was his 210th operational sortie at the beginning of his third tour, and he was credited with 7 ½ victories (H.A. Halliday).
- 30 401 Sqn. Spitfire LF.IX on this same sortie came down in or off France, **F/L A.E.**

Studholme being taken PoW.

- 30 404 Sqn. sent 5 RP armed Beaufighters to attack a convoy of 2 merchantmen and 3 escorts off Norway, which damaged the freighters and returned with 3 damaged aircraft. This operation is detailed by C. Page, one of the pilots, in *Five on Five, Airforce Magazine*, Vol. 21, No. 3, Fall 1997.
- 30 #14 OTU Wellington Ic X9680 crash landed and burned on a night exercise, Sgt J.E. Graham RAF died of injuries soon after, Sgt A.J.C. John RAF died Dec. 21 of his injuries, and **Sgt J.A. Macfarlane**, Sgt C. Plant RAF and Sgt D. Penton RAF survived with injuries. See April 8-9, 1945.
- 30 #31 SFTS, Kingston, Ontario, Harvard IIb FE838 crashed, P/O N.F.C. Winby RAF killed.
- 30 #32 OTU, Patricia Bay, BC, Canadian built Hampden TB.I AN131 flew into a hill in fog near Ladysmith, BC, Sgt J.F. Fearnley RAF and Sgt L. Pettit RAF killed (H. Moyle).
- 30 #36 OTU, Canadian built Mosquito B.VII KB321 lost in an accident at Stewiacke, NS, abandoned on a training flight when elevator control was lost, Sgt E.H. Herman RAF slightly injure, F/O J.J. Martin RAF safe (aviation-safety.net).
- 30 #39 SFTS, Swift Current, Saskatchewan, Oxford II AS381 crashed when night flying, LAC D. Geldart RAF killed (D.J. Carter).

30-1 On this night #100 (Bomber Support) Group began operations with four Radio Counter Measures (RCM) flights over Europe by Wellingtons, other operations were 4 Mosquitos to Essen, 44 GARDENING and 7 OTU sorties without loss (BC War Diaries).

December 1943

420 Sqn., 424 Sqn. and 425 Sqn. receive Halifax B.III aircraft (RCAF Sqns.).

The tonnage of bombs dropped by USAAF heavy bombers based in England was a fraction of that dropped by Bomber Command during 1942 and early 1943. But production of B-17 and B-24 bombers and training of their crews over that period increased operations every month, until it reached the same level in December. From then to the wars end the tonnage per month dropped by USAAF bombers would be greater than that dropped by the RAF, although Bomber Command would continue to drop much higher tonnages than the USAAF on individual attacks (D. Sommerville).

Wednesday

1 Churchill, Stalin and Roosevelt meet at Tehran.

#119 (BR) Sqn. moves from Mont Joli, Quebec to Sydney, NS (RCAF Sqns.). #168

(HT) Sqn. RCAF begins to receive Fortress IIa (B-17F) aircraft, surplus from USAAF training units, for overseas mail delivery flights (RCAF Sqns.). 400 Sqn. receives Mosquito PR.XVI and Spitfire PR.IX aircraft (RCAF Sqns.).

- 1 624 Sqn. Halifax V EB140 lost in Greece on a Special Operation to Albania, **F/S V.L. Miller**, F/S R.P. Atkinson RAF, F/S A.E. Edwards RAF, F/S A.E. Hickerton RAF, F/S J.K. Hughes RAF, F/S J.K. Shewring RAF and F/S D.J. Howlett RAF killed, plus 5 Army passengers, Maj I.A. Smart, Capt. J.C. Stephenson, Lt A.W. Toley, Gunner G.H. McKenna and Cpl. I.D. Kesterton (A. Tebbutt; BLME V.2). According to TSGNO F/S Miller had had to bail out of aircraft on 3 previous occasions.
- 1 157 Sqn. Mosquito NF.II HJ656 lost on a fighter patrol over the Bay of Biscay attacking a Ju 88, **P/O W.A. Robertson RAF (Can.)** and P/O G.H. Spanton RAF missing. P/O Robertson was a Biggs' Boy (K. Stofer).
- 1 411 Sqn. 2 Spitfire LF.IX shot down over France on a RAMROD, **F/L D. Matheson** evaded from MJ236 DB-P, but **P/O J.A. St. Dennis** was killed in MJ288. F/L Matheson, later a Judge in Edmonton, gave an account of this incident which is in TSGNO. See April 9, 1944. The engine from P/O St. Dennis's aircraft was located in the late 1980's. There is a memorial erected near the site of the crash.
- 1 #1693 Flight Coastal Command Anson I MG510 stalled and crashed into the North Sea off Scotland on a bombing exercise, **F/O L.E. Charnaud**, **WO2 A. Wilson**, **WO2 B.J. Yard**, F/S D.L. Farndell RAAF and TSgt F.G.L. Stillwell USAAF missing.
- 1 #8 SFTS, Moncton, NB, Harvard IIb FE995 disappeared on a training flight. Despite a search the wreckage wasn't found until May 31, 1946 in woods near Anderson, NB. Both crew, **F/O J.K. McMorris** and **LAC(P) J.K. Murphy** had been killed in the crash.
- 1-2 104 Sqn. Wellington X HE827 'T' was abandoned over Tunisia when an accident with a flare set it on fire returning from an operation over Italy, **F/O D.J. Whiting**, Sgt C.H. Cockram RAF, F/S G.C. French RAAF, F/O R.W. Johnson RAF and Sgt D.C. Price RAF safe (BLME V.2).
- 1-2 Bomber Command had 31 GARDENING sorties off the Frisian Islands and Denmark, losing 2 bombers (BC War Diaries).**
- 1-2 90 Sqn. Stirling III EF191 WP-H lost off Denmark on a GARDENING sortie, **F/S C.E. Quickfall**, Sgt J.L. Blackwood RAF, Sgt E. Draper RAF, Sgt J.H. Flack RAF, Sgt H.E. Steele RAF, Sgt R.G. Whitmarsh RAF and WO D.J. Nixon RAF killed.
- 1-2 466 Sqn. RAAF Halifax III HX235 HD-D crash landed on return from a GARDENING sortie, **F/S R.J. Harding**, F/S E. Schuman RAAF, F/S L.J. Hodder RAAF, Sgt R.J. Constable RAF, F/S G.P. Tomlin RAF, Sgt S.G. Waller RAF and Sgt J.A. Hilton RAF safe. This was the first operational loss of a Hercules engined Halifax III.

Thursday

2 In England the need for coal for industry leads to the extension of conscription to supply men to the coal mines (ww2total.com Chronology/1943).

- 2 26 Sqn. SAAF Wellington X LN384 stalled into the sea from a turn and blew up off Takoradi, **Air Mechanic A.L. Bee SAAF (Can.)**, Capt H.O. MacDonald SAAF, F/S C.G. Motley SAAF, Maj R.M. Perkins SAAF and 2Lt E.L. Saul SAAF killed, Air Mechanic D.E. Van Zyl SAAF missing (www.26squadron.co.za; www.rafcommands.com).
- 2 112 Sqn. Kittyhawk III FR439 GA-K damaged in combat and force landed, **F/O J.O. Gray RCAF (USA)** safe (Allison & Hayward, raf-112-squadron.org). See Feb. 29, 1944.
- 2 544 Sqn. Mosquito PR.IX LR419 crashed in England returning from a PRU sortie over Europe, **F/L A.S. Pilcher** and F/O D.F. Robins RAF killed. F/L Pilcher had been injured in the loss of a #11 (BR) Sqn. RCAF Hudson January 27, 1942.
- 2 #132 OTU Beaufighter VIc EL433 crashed in Scotland overshooting a landing, killing **F/S R.F. Linton** and Sgt J.M. Crossley RAF (aviation-safety.net).
- 2 #1664 HCU RCAF Halifax V DG282 was practicing circuits and landings in the evening when the visibility became poor. After two overshoot landings the bomber apparently lost sight of the runway and flew too low, flying through a haystack then hitting a tree before crashing onto the airfield, **Sgt H.B. Bellew**, **Sgt J.H. Catto**, **F/O J.A. Foulston**, **F/S P.R. Gray** and Sgt G.A. Chilvers RAF killed, **Sgt C.H. Hills** slightly injured and Sgt S. Fletcher RAF safe. R. Allenby notes in his page on this loss that the Station engineering officer **S/L R.C. Scott** received an OBE for his command of the rescue effort.
- 2 #1664 HCU RCAF Halifax V DJ982 went out of control on a fighter affiliation exercise and crashed, destroying a cottage on the ground, **F/S J.M. Beatty**, **P/O W.J. Taylor**, **P/O D.C. Walker**, **F/S J. Wallace**, Sgt W.J. Morgan RAF, Sgt T.J. Skyrme RAF and Sgt J.O. Winters RAF killed. A nearby school was undamaged by the crash, and today a memorial to the crew is at the entrance of the school (R. Allenby).
- 2 #4 B&G School, Fingal, Ontario, **LAC E.J. Deplanche** was struck by the propeller of an Anson aircraft as it was starting and died later in hospital.
- 2 #35 SFTS, North Battleford, Saskatchewan, Oxford II AS347 crashed, LAC N. Cheetham RAF and F/O J. Tomalin RAF killed.

2-3 German air raid on the port of Bari, Italy, masked from radar by Düppel (chaff), a force of 96 bombers sink or explode 28 ships, one of which contained mustard gas supplies secretly shipped to the region and held in case Germany resorted to chemical warfare. The specially trained soldiers accompanying the cargo of gas were wiped out in the explosion of the ship which exacerbated the effects as they could neither warn of it's release or use their knowledge to assist in treating the injured. This was the most effective raid by the Luftwaffe in the Italian campaign. Over 1,000 were killed and 628 servicemen and medical staff suffered burns from chemicals with 83 dying from the effects (Oxford). Civilian casualties were over 1,000, those due to

exposure to mustard gas are unknown. This kept the port out of use for unloading supplies for several weeks, and full use was not restored for over two months (wikipedia). Two Canadian built Fort ships, Fort Athabasca and Fort Lajoie, were among those sunk.

Although attack with chemical weapons was always watched for, and equipment, training and countermeasures were in place by most armies, Hitler never sanctioned it's use in the war by Germany. Perhaps this was due to the fact he himself had been "gassed" in the First World War, which had temporarily blinded him and permanently scarred his throat which affected his voice when speaking publicly, making his voice more forceful (his small moustache was also a requirement of gas warfare, as his original large moustache required trimming to fit under a gas mask (E. Dee)). His aversion to using gas in combat that would inevitably lead it's use in return on his soldiers did not extend to the use of gas against helpless people he considered "untermenschen", or sub-human.

Bomber Command sent 458 bombers in a straight line approach to Berlin which did not fool German controllers, and night fighters were waiting over the target before they arrived. Strong unforecast winds resulted in poor marking and widely scattered bombing, but several important factories were hit. The bomber stream was scattered again on the way out due to the winds and many bombers fell to night fighters at this stage. Other operations included 6 Mosquitos over Bochum, 1 to Witten, 3 RCM and 25 OTU sorties, a total of 493 with 41 lost (BC War Diaries).

- 2-3 9 Sqn. Lancaster I DV334 WS-C crashed on approach to land from an operation over Germany, P/O K.E. Warwick RAF, Sgt R.W. Davison RAF, F/S J. Graham RAF, F/S T. Butterfield RAF, Sgt D.I.T. Munn RAF and Sgt R.E. Jones RAF killed, **F/S L.B. Owen** and Sgt C.W.A. Rickards RAF injured.
- 2-3 35 Sqn. Halifax II HR876 TL-S lost over Germany, **WO2 F.C. McCubbin**, **F/S H.V. Stinson**, Sgt G. Merrill RAF, Sgt D.A. Richardson RAF, Sgt M.J. Day RAF, F/S G.W. Allso RAF and Sgt R.H. Wells RAF killed.
- 2-3 44 Sqn. Lancaster III EE179 KM-B lost over Germany, **F/O G.H. Kay**, F/O W.F. Newell RAF, Sgt W.B. Currie RAF, F/O F.A. Dell RAF, F/O T. Rosser RAF, Sgt R.W. Jones RAF and Sgt W.P. Johnson RAF killed.
- 2-3 50 Sqn. Lancaster I DV325 VN-B shot down over the target by a night fighter, P/O A.M. Watson DFC RAF and Sgt R.F. Moody RAF killed, **Sgt A.A. McDougall**, F/L I.D Bolton RAF, Sgt G.E. Brown RAF, F/S R.C. Forester DFM RAF, Sgt D.M. McCall RAF and *Daily Express* reporter Mr. L.L. Bennett PoW. W.R. Chorley states Mr. Bennett may have escaped later.
- 2-3 57 Sqn. Lancaster III JB372 DX-R lost without trace, **F/O A.T. Hook**, **F/S B.**

- Thomasberg**, F/O J.A. Williams RAF, Sgt E. Hibbert RAF, P/O B.P. Duval RAF, Sgt J.H. Chambers RAF and Sgt E.W. Graves RAF missing.
- 2-3 57 Sqn. Lancaster III JB529 lost over Germany, **F/S H.A. Moad**, P/O E.H. Tansley RAF, Sgt J.P. Dalton RAF, Sgt L.C. Brown RAF, Sgt D. Park RAF, Sgt E.H. Patrick RAF, Sgt I.F. Groves RAF and Sgt E.W. Lewis RAF killed.
- 2-3 103 Sqn. Lancaster III JB401 PM-P lost on an operation to Germany, **WO2 R.E. Black**, **P/O F.J. Roberts DFM**, F/L F.T. Hopps DFC RAF, Sgt R.S. Imeson RAF, Sgt W.L. Sargent RAF, Sgt R. Thomas RAF and Sgt J.B. Daniel RAF killed.
- 2-3 156 Sqn. Lancaster III JB179 GT-F lost on an operation to Germany, F/S W.R. Tinman RAAF and Sgt K. Wood RAF killed, **WO2 W.R. Clarke**, P/O L.J. Johnson RAAF, F/S J.G. Redfern RAF, Sgt B. Carroll RAF and F/S J. Richmond RAF missing.
- 2-3 207 Sqn. Lancaster I ED601 EM-N lost over Germany, **Sgt F.L. Brisco**, P/O A. Mann RAF, Sgt S. Martin RAF, F/O H.F.C. Bonner RAF, P/O E.V. Harley RAF, Sgt A.S. Rushby RAF and Sgt N.F. Petty RAF killed.
- 2-3 426 Sqn. Lancaster II DS770 OW-J lost over Germany, **F/O J.T.E. Cumming-Bart RCAF (Trinidad)**, **Sgt H.A. Keast**, **F/S F.T.A. McKernan**, **F/O M.C. Shaw**, **F/O R.F. Waddington**, Sgt A.B. McDonald RAF and Sgt D.E.P. Pearson RAF killed.
- 2-3 426 Sqn. Lancaster II, **F/S J.A.R. Coulombe**, when over the target and lit by searchlights survived flak and 5 attacks by night fighters which they claimed one damaged. With one engine out, leaking fuel and a main gear tire destroyed the bomber returned to make a safe landing in England (R. Koval, 5th Year). The pilots report from this sortie was reproduced in *The R.C.A.F. Overseas - The Fifth Year*.
- 2-3 432 Sqn. Lancaster II DS851 QO-D returned to England badly damaged by a night fighter attack and overran the runway, **F/O C. Wale**, **F/L G. Rainville**, Sgt J. Dickinson RAF, F/S J. Evans RAF, Sgt J. Garvey RAF, Sgt J. Aplin RAF (Aus.) and Sgt D. Thomas RAF safe (R. Koval). See January 14-15, 1944.
- 2-3 432 Sqn. Lancaster II LL618 QO-F lost over Germany, **F/L S.W.F. Baker**, **F/S J.R. Goodwin**, **Sgt W.H. Green**, **WO2 G.P. Lowle**, **WO2 A.R. Morgan**, **F/S A.E. Slegg**, **Sgt W.E. Stinson** and Sgt J. Wadsworth RAF killed.
- 2-3 432 Sqn. Lancaster II, **Sgt J. McIntosh**, was hit by flak that damaged the two inner engines and the tail turret, but managed to return to England on 2 engines (R. Koval). See Jan 2-3, 1944.
- 2-3 460 Sqn. Lancaster I W4881 AR-K "*Fooship IV*" exploded over Germany after a night fighter attack, **WO2 I. Rodin**, P/O J.H.J. English RAAF, F/S A.E. Kan RAAF, Sgt A.G. Cole RAF and Australian War Correspondent for the *Sydney Sun* Mr. N. Stockton were killed, P/O N.J. Anderson RAAF, Sgt W.L. Miller RAF and F/S A.W. Catty RAF PoW (<http://www.lancaster-archive.com>). A. Storr has a description of this loss by P/O Anderson.
- 2-3 514 Sqn. Lancaster II DS783 returned safely to England with heavy damage from fighter attacks and flak, air gunner **Sgt L. Wilton** was killed in the attacks.
- 2-3 619 Sqn. Lancaster III JA847 PG-C crashed near the target, **F/O J.F. Bower MiD** killed,

Sgt A.C. Leitch RAF (Can.), F/O R.W. McMananman MiD missing, Sgt E.C. Parrott RAF, F/S T.G. Conway RAF, F/O G.F.F. Staker RAF and Sgt E.B. Thornhill RAF PoW.

- 2-3 630 Sqn. Lancaster III ED777 LE-Q lost over Germany, F/O L.R. Rinn, F/S C.R. McLaren RAAF, P/O W.A. Clark RAF, Sgt G.A. Crowe RAF, Sgt R.H. Banks RAF, Sgt J. Ford RAF and Sgt R. Hughes RAF killed.

Friday

3 Canadian/US 1st Special Service Force (Devils Brigade) goes into action in Italy (Polsson).

- 3 417 Sqn. Spitfire VIII JF403 AN-E, S/L A.V. Houle DFC and Bar, shot down 2 Bf 109 fighters over Italy (R.V. Smith).
- 3 #1691 (Bombing) (Gunnery) Flight Martinet I MS554 took off for a meteorological flight and failed to return. The aircraft wreck was found, burnt out, in hill country, Dec. 18, LAC A.T. Barnson and F/S J.A.C. Kemmett RAF killed.
- 3 #73 Wing radio mechanic LAC R.A. Climenhage killed in a car accident in England.
- 3 #3 RD, Patricia Bay, BC, pigeon loftman Cpl. W.G. Carder died of natural causes in hospital in Vancouver.
- 3 #6 EFTS, Prince Alberta, Saskatchewan, F/O R.N. Grest died in hospital of injuries received Nov. 24, 1943 in the mid-air collision and crash of two Tiger Moth aircraft.
- 3 #33 SFTS, Carberry, Man., Anson II #8637 crashed, LAC A.F. Blue RAF, LAC J.H. Bolsworth RAF, F/O J.F. Lee RAF and LAC T.G. Whiteland RAF killed.
- 3 #34 SFTS, Medicine Hat, Alberta, Harvard II #2741 crashed, P/O J.L. Sluijter RAF (Neth.) killed.

3-4 On this night 533 bombers were sent on a direct course towards Berlin, but 527 turned and attacked Leipzig while 6 Mosquitos continued on to Berlin where they staged an attack that convinced German controllers to concentrate night fighters there. Leipzig suffered it's most destructive attack of the war and several industrial facilities including a Junkers aircraft plant were hit. On withdrawal the bomber stream flew too near Frankfurt where several were shot down by flak, a total of 24 were lost. Other operations included 3 RCM and 12 GARDENING sorties (BC War Diaries).

- 3-4 35 Sqn. Halifax II LW343 TL-H lost over Holland, WO2 J.A.W. McKenzie, Sgt K. Holt RAF, P/O E.A. Alliston RAF and Sgt F.J. Dimond RAF killed, F/O J.C. Bonet, F/O D.J.H. Cheal RAF and Sgt H.H. Smith RAF PoW.
- 3-4 51 Sqn. Halifax II HR732 MH-Y lost without trace, WO2 D.W. Milliken, P/O A.J. Salvage RAF, Sgt W.W.B. Hamilton RAF, P/O F.J. Baker RAF, F/S I.G. Davies RAF, Sgt M. Hampson RAF and Sgt R.J. Edwards RAF missing (H. Welting www.rafcommands.com).
- 3-4 51 Sqn. Halifax II HR782 MH-A was hit by flak and lost over Germany, pilot Sgt S.

Ainsworth RAF and flight engineer Sgt S.G. Tarrant were killed but the crew, **Sgt H.J. Bondett**, Sgt R.D. Brown RAF, Sgt A.H. Ashley RAF, Sgt M. Cohen RAF and Sgt K.D. Wheeler RAF survived as PoWs.

- 3-4 76 Sqn. Halifax V LK902 MP-H shot down by a night fighter over Germany, **WO2 W.R.K. Boles**, **F/S J.R.E. Nadeau**, Sgt S. Jones RAF and Sgt J.R.W. Kerner RAF killed, **WO2 I.M. Lowe**, F/O J. Stott RAF and Sgt L. Newey RAF missing.
- 3-4 77 Sqn. Halifax II DT730 KN-B lost over Germany, **F/S W.R. Farrell**, F/S R.M. Hollingworth RAAF, F/S C.R. Boyd RAF, F/S W.J.H. Webb RAF, P/O R.J. Caseley RAF, P/O J. Miller RAF and Sgt F.E. Ryder RAF killed, **F/S K.E. Lees** was PoW.
- 3-4 78 Sqn. Halifax II LW313 EY-U lost over Germany, **WO2 H.R. Wright**, F/S G.R.L. Gunningham RAF, Sgt E. Evans RAF and Sgt P.J. Regan RAF killed, Sgt K. Hughes RAF, F/S H. Hiley RAF and Sgt G.A. Kennaby RAF PoW.
- 3-4 97 Sqn. Lancaster III JB232 OF-U lost without trace, **F/S J.E. Marchant**, P/O A.J. Coleman RAAF, F/S V.N.W. Turner RNZAF, Sgt D.M. Moore RAF, F/S L.G.K. Lock RAF, Sgt C.P. Matthews RAF and Sgt C.R.W. Jones RAF missing. According to Alan Storr's record of RAAF casualties this aircraft may have come down in what became East Germany, and due to the political situation the loss could not be fully investigated after the war.
- 3-4 100 Sqn. Lancaster III JB291 HW-D lost over Germany, Sgt A.J. Kirby RAF, Sgt W. Mason RAF and Sgt D.P. Lawrence RAF (Luxembourg) killed, **F/O A.C.P. Jones**, F/O C.E.J. Plumridge RAF, Sgt A. Hamilton RAF and Sgt F.A.W. Palmer RAF PoW.
- 3-4 405 Sqn. Lancaster III JB222 LQ-M lost over Germany, **WO2 G.W. Acorn**, F/O N.H. Bowring RAF, P/O G.C. Holland RAF, F/L G. Belcher RAF, P/O J. Anderson RAF, F/S G.A. Davis DFM RAF and F/S C.M. Holder RAF killed. WO Acorn had bailed out of a damaged 408 Halifax July 13-14, above.
- 3-4 426 Sqn. Lancaster II DS733 OW-L, attacked over Germany, possibly a *Schräge Musik* attack, and exploded. **Sgt A. Wolkowski** and **Sgt J.B.L. Legault** killed, **F/O W.P. Neale**, **F/S R.G. Sturley** missing, **P/O D.A. Clark**, **P/O D.T. Cooper** and Sgt H.W. Booth RAF PoW (426 SH).
- 3-4 427 Sqn. Halifax V DK181 ZL-Z turned back early after an engine failed and could not be feathered, followed by a second engine failure. Returning to England on 2 engines a third engine began to run rough and the pilot, P/O W.A. Cozens RAF, ordered a bail out. After the crew had left he began to exit the cockpit, whereupon he knocked against the throttle quadrant, and the rough engine began running smoothly. Returning to his seat he made a forced landing and was safe. Of the crew, rear gunner Sgt C. Hopper RAF was injured, Sgt J. McGowan RAF, F/O R. Carson, Sgt W.L. Stockford RAF, Sgt H.P. Whittaker RAF and **Sgt R.B. Nairn** safe (R. Koval, R. Allenby). See January 20-21, 1944.
- 3-4 429 Sqn. Halifax II JD361 AL-Y lost over Germany, **WO2 D.G. Hamilton**, **P/O F.W.B.G. Hingston** and **Sgt G.R. Hooper** killed, **F/O W.E. Hampton**, F/S J.C. Lochhead RAF and Sgt J.R. Williams RAF have no known grave, and **Sgt D. Bruno** and **F/O H.M.**

- Brown** PoW. Postwar flight engineer Sgt Bruno enlisted in the USAF (E. Stofer).
- 3-4 429 Sqn. Halifax II JD374 AL-M lost on an operation to Germany, **F/O J.L.E. Cabana**, **P/O S.R. Kelso**, **F/S F.P. Morro**, **P/O H.M. Schade** killed, **Sgt R.H.M. Grant**, **Sgt K.H. Buckholz** and **F/S C.H. Schofield** RAF PoW.
- 3-4 431 Sqn. Halifax V EB137 SE-N lost over Holland, **P/O G.H. Armstrong**, **Sgt G. Heider**, **F/S F.A. Long** RAF, **F/S R.R. Steven** RAF, **Sgt G.F. Brown** RAF, **Sgt W.C. Burley** RAF and **Sgt J.G. L'Argent** RAF killed.
- 3-4 431 Sqn. Halifax V LK685 SE-C lost over Germany, **WO2 R.W. Ritchie** held control of the aircraft until all had bailed out, but went down with the aircraft and was killed. **F/S S.J.A. Fulham**, **F/O J.B. Shannon**, **Sgt J.D. MacMullin**, **Sgt B. Hornung**, **Sgt V. Jenkins** RAF and **Sgt D. Lyford-Pike** RAF PoW.
- 3-4 431 Sqn. Halifax V LK898 SE-O lost over Germany, **S/L R.G. Cook** DFC, **Sgt W.J. Rattigan**, **Sgt J. Williamson**, **F/O M.V. Snow**, **Sgt G. Wood** RAF, **F/L E.L. Lister** RAF and **Sgt H.J.R. Brookman** RAF killed.
- 3-4 431 Sqn. Halifax V LK968 SE-P lost over Germany, **Sgt N.T. Anderson**, **F/O A.W. Edgar** and **Sgt M.V. Phillips** RAF killed, **Sgt J.C. Arsenault** RCAF (USA), **WO2 M.O. Dechambeau**, **F/S R.J. Henry** and **F/O A.E. Freeman** were PoW.
- 3-4 434 Sqn. Halifax V LK683 WL-V was damaged by flak and ditched off the English coast where the crew was rescued by an Air Sea Rescue launch, **F/S W. McQueen**, **F/S D. McAllister**, **F/S P. Kingston**, **Sgt M. Habiluk**, **Sgt C. Beech**, **Sgt W. Pearcey** RAF and **Sgt A. Warrington** RAF safe. See June 16-17, 1944.

Saturday

- 4 After it was determined that it had not followed proper procedure under it's laws Bolivia again votes to declare war on the Axis powers (Oxford). See Dec. 20, below.**
- 4 220 Sqn. Fortress Ila FK206 crashed just off Lajes, Azores, after taking off on a non-operational flight, **WO2 J.E.R. Boudreault**, **WO2 C.T. Flack** killed, **WO1 M.P. Champion** GC RAF (Can.), **F/O D.R. Morris** RAF, **F/S R. Morrison** RAF, **P/O J.G. Johnson** RAAF, **P/O A. Pearce** RAAF and **P/O H. Lawson** RAF missing (A. Storr; R.M. Stitt). **WO1 Champion** had been awarded the George Cross for his attempts to save the pilot of a burning Blenheim aircraft March 12, 1940 (<https://35squadron.wordpress.com/world-war-two-years>). **R.M. Stitt** has a profile of **WO Boudreault** in his book on Coastal Command Fortresses.
- 4 434 Sqn. pilot **F/O W.F. Winning** died of injuries sustained in the loss of Halifax LK990 Nov. 19-20, above.
- 4 #24 OTU Whitley V AD674 FB-D was damaged beyond repair when it had to make a one wheeled landing, **F/O Calder**, **P/O Maceracher** and **F/O Cresswell** RAF safe.
- 4 #3 B&G School, MacDonald, Man., Battle I.T R4042 caught fire just after taking off. **WO A.T. Stevenson** landed wheels up despite being blinded by smoke. He was burned, but his students were safe (S. Shail).

4 #3 SFTS, Calgary, Alberta, bandsman **LAC L.A.W. Monette** died in hospital of natural causes.

4-5 Bomber Command sent 9 Mosquitos to Duisburg, 48 GARDENING and 9 OTU sorties with the loss of 2 bombers (BC War Diaries).

4-5 623 Sqn. Stirling III LK387 IC-P lost on a GARDENING operation, possibly shot down by a night fighter into the Waddensee, **F/S W.K. Sutherland**, P/O N.J. Veech RAAF, Sgt J.S. Bates RAF, Sgt A.D. Peacock RAF, Sgt A.G. Norton RAF, Sgt J. Phillips RAF and Sgt J.D. Hickling RAF missing. This was the last aircraft lost by 623 Sqn., it disbanded the next day as Stirlings were withdrawn from Main Force use. F/S Wilfred Sutherland is referenced in S. Hadaway's book *Missing Believed Killed* (as William Sutherland) as his father travelled to Europe in 1948 seeking further information on his son.

Sunday

5 A heavy Japanese daylight attack escorted by over 100 fighters is made on Calcutta in India, causing heavy civilian casualties on the ground. The RAF lose 10 fighters and 4 pilots defending the city from this attack, see below (D. Newton). For many days after this unloading of ships in the port was badly affected as the majority of the civilian cargo handlers did not come to work. US authorities, already unsatisfied with unloading delays, were critical of this new backlog, which resulted in a letter from Roosevelt to Churchill demanding the US military take over the port. This did not occur, but provision of modern cranes and forklifts under Lend-Lease, and the introduction of US unloading techniques led to the port becoming the most efficient in India within less than a year. Many of these techniques and new equipment were applied to other ports in India with similar results (S. Raghavan). See April 14, 1944.

USAAF P-51D (Packard Merlin engined Mustangs) begin escorting daylight bomber missions (Zijlstra). Combining the new engine and advanced design of the Mustang revolutionized it's high altitude performance making the P-51D one of the best propellor fighters of the war. USAAF sends 546 heavy bombers to airfield targets in France but only 3 can bomb due to clouds, 9 are lost (Zijlstra).

USAAF and RAF medium bombers begin a series of attacks on NOBALL targets (V-1 launch sites under construction in France, also known as "ski sites" from the distinctive shape of the bomb proof concrete assembly buildings) on this date (Zijlstra, ww2total.com Chronology/1943), being built in France in the Pas de Calais and in Normandy (J. Armstrong). By the end of the month RAF and

USAAF medium bombers will have dropped over 3,200 tons of bombs on 52 identified launch sites (D. Newton). The bombing will continue into the New Year and the German V-1 offensive on London, scheduled to begin January 15, is set back 6 months while mobile launching systems are developed and alternate launch sites surveyed (D. Newton).

- 5 67 Sqn. Hurricane LB569 'K' shot down during an attack on Calcutta by escorted Japanese bombers, **P/O A.F. Bond** killed. **F/S A.R. Corston** (KZ888) and P/O S.M. Wilson RAF (LB608) were also shot down in this fight, but force landed safely (C. Shores).
- 5 258 Sqn. Hurricane II LA105 'J' lost during an attack by Japanese bombers and fighters on an Allied airfield, **F/L A. Brown RAF (Nfld.)** missing (C. Shores). F/L Brown had been one of the pilots flown into Java from *HMS Indomitable* in January, 1941.
- 5 423 Sqn. Sunderland III W6013 flew into a mountain in Northern Ireland, **F/O H.D. Blair**, F/S D.T. Bromhead RAF, F/S D.C. Douglas RAF, F/O F. Moss RAAF, S/L P.M.H. Thomas RAF, LAC E. Lawson RAF, Sgt R. Hunter RAF and Sgt C.G.E. Wellington RAF killed, **Sgt G. Wilkinson**, **Sgt R. Hunter**, **F/O Russell** and 4 others injured (J. O'Loughlin, A. Storr).
- 5 #3 ITS, Victoriaville, Quebec, **LAC(N) D.G. Alexander** died in hospital in Toronto of natural causes (www.rafcommands.com).

Monday

- 6 The first of 6 Fortress IIa (B-17F) aircraft enter service with the RCAF, for use as long range transports to deliver mail to Canadian forces overseas (Griffin CMA). These aircraft had seen heavy service as training aircraft, but in Canadian use were gradually overhauled and optimized for their role, with special loading hatches and bins, and later a high speed polished bare metal finish.**
- 6 #303 Transit Flight, Wellington JA415 aircraft missing on flight from Hurn, UK to Rabat Sale, Morocco, **WO2 G. Finlayson**, F/S J.N. Redfern RAF, Sgt B.R. Finney RAF, Sgt G.H. Kloske RAAF, F/S S.G. Berry RAAF and Sgt J.T. Walkinshaw RAF missing (A. Storr).
- 6 #45 Air Transport Group, RAF Ferry Command, Mitchell II FW159 missing between Goose Bay, Labrador and Reykjavik, Iceland. Crew Ferry Pilot H.N.E. Salmon (UK), **P/O W.F. Forster**, navigator P/O R.D. Darling RAF and radio operator F/O E.A. Richardson RAAF missing. P/O Forster had flown before the war with the OPAS (J.C. Dillon).
- 6 #3 Repair Depot, Patricia Bay, BC, **AC2 J.A. Fretwell** died in hospital in Vancouver of natural causes (www.rafcommands.com).
- 6 USAAF P-39Q 44-2213 damaged in landing at Fort Nelson, BC (AAIR).
- 6 USAAF P-39Q 44-2485 suffered a compass failure and force landed, lost, on Carpenter Lake, NWT (J. Baugher). See February 15, 1944.

Tuesday

- 7 160 Sqn. Liberator V BZ885 crashed after take-off in Ceylon on an anti-submarine patrol, **WO2 E.C. Currie**, **WO2 A.E. Ferguson**, **WO2 W.C. Love**, **WO1 R.W. MacDonald**, **F/O K.F. Perera**, **WO2 G.M. Stockwell**, **F/O D.G. Davie** RAF and **F/S D. Kirk** RAF killed.
- 7 ?? Coastal OTU, Salerno, Italy, aircraft (possibly a 608 Squadron Hudson?) crashed following an engine failure on take-off. Two crew were killed, but instructor **P/O W.E. Tanner** was pulled from the wreck by US personnel with burns and multiple injuries. Following a long journey to England he entered the hospital at East Grinstead as a Guinea Pig, and recovered (R. Donovan). **F/S J. Peasgood** RAF of 608 Squadron was killed on this date in Hudson V Am851 that hit an obstruction after swinging on take-off on this date and is buried in the Salerno cemetery (CWGC; www.rafcommands.com).
- 7 1 Sqn. Typhoon Ib EK113 crashed in England, **P/O J.D. Fairbairn** killed.
- 7 #5 SFTS, Brantford, Ontario Anson I #6118 crashed near Thornton, Ontario, killing **LAC(P) G.C. Matthews**. He was the only fatality.
- 7 #16 SFTS, Hagersville, Ontario, Anson I #6930 crashed near Waterford, Ontario after colliding in mid-air with Anson II #7412 on a formation practice flight, **LAC(P) F.V. Stephens** and **LAC(P) T.O.C. Pouyat** RAF (Jamaica) killed. The crew of #7412 were unhurt.
- 7 #18 SFTS, In one of the most famous accidents in the war, at Gimli, Man., an Anson II JS193 flown by **LAC(P) G.F. Adams**, on approach to land, came down in mid-air on top of another Anson II JS167, **LAC(P) P.J. Cooper**, both landing safely in a piggy-back embrace (*Airforce Magazine*, Spring 1991, Summer 1991, *Flypast* May 1997, *CAHS Journal* Vol. 10, No. 4, *Aeroplane Monthly* Feb. 1980). Both aircraft were repaired and put back into service. See also Jan. 19, 1944. (A similar accident had occurred in Australia September 29, 1940, at a higher altitude. The aircraft locked together, and the crews bailed out except the pilot on the top aircraft. He had lost his engines when the propellers struck the lower aircraft, but that aircraft's engines kept running, and the pilot was able to use the top aircraft's controls to steer to a safe crash landing (<http://acesflyinghigh.wordpress.com/2013/03/09/restoring-an-avro-anson/>).

Wednesday

8 Canadian Army starts Moro River attack (CJCA headline).

- 8 252 Sqn. Beaufighter XIc JL898 shot down west of Cyprus, **F/S P.J. Martin** and his navigator **F/S J. Hamilton** RAF missing (B. Cull, who dates this on Dec. 7).
- 8 417 Sqn. Spitfire VIII JF336 abandoned over Italy after being hit by flak, **F/O G.E. Horricks** **DFM** safe (www.spitfires.ukf.net). The pilots report for this sortie was reproduced in *The R.C.A.F. Overseas - The Fifth Year*. A second Spitfire was hit by

- flak then shot up by an enemy fighter, **F/O R.H. Little** crash landed in Allied territory and safe (Temujin at wartimes.ca).
- 8 404 Sqn. Beaufighter TF.X LZ403 lost on a shipping reconnaissance off Norway, **F/O D.N. Turner** and F/O H.W. Duckitt RAF killed (www.rafcommands.com).
- 8 #116 (BR) Sqn. RCAF, Gander, Nfld., Canso A #9833 ran off the runway and into a ditch, pilot **F/L H.M. Rae** was killed.
- 8 #2 EFTS, Fort William, Ontario, DH.82C Tiger Moth #3857 was caught in a sudden snow storm and was following the Kaministiquia River attempting to return to the airfield when it struck power lines and crashed into the river, **F/O C.J. Steele** killed.
- 8 #8 SFTS, Moncton, NB, Harvard IIb FH120 crashed from a steep bank beside the airfield in bad weather, **P/O J.L. Thornton** and LAC H. Hyndman RAF killed (R.W.R. Walker).
- 8 #10 SFTS, Dauphin, Man., armorer **AC1 J.A. Dufton** killed accidentally when a shotgun discharged.
- 8 **LAC N.G.T. Murray** was discharged for medical reasons in July, 1942, and died in Canada of natural causes (www.rafcommands.com).

Thursday

- 9 **#8 (BR) Sqn. moved to Port Hardy, BC (RCAF Sqns.).**

Beechcraft Expeditor (military development of the Beech 18) enters service with the RCAF (Griffin CMA). During the war these were referred to as "Beechcraft" in RCAF service, the term Expeditor was more commonly used postwar.

- 9 450 Sqn. RAAF Kittyhawk IV FX538 shot down by flak over Italy supporting Army attacks, **F/O L.A. Frost MiD** missing (D. Newton). In 1968 with expansion of helicopter units in the CAF 450 Sqn. was formed as a Squadron in Canada, the only Article XV Squadron number used by two countries. Members of 450 Sqn. RCAF and veterans of 450 Sqn. RAAF have held joint celebrations honouring both units (<http://www.rcf-arc.forces.gc.ca/en/1-wing/450-squadron.page>).
- 9 77 Sqn. Halifax V LL122 KN-Y crashed in England on a fighter affiliation flight after it entered a spin they could not recover from, **P/O J.K. Forest**, **F/S E.F.J. Hemming**, Sgt L.R. Mace RAF, P/O G.O. Sharpe RAF and F/S N.C. Grob RAAF killed, F/S R.R.J. Simpson RNZAF and Sgt J.S. Clark RAF injured. Sgt Clark descended on a parachute with only 1 clip attached. He finished the war as a F/O with a DFM, and later emigrated to Canada (Lancaster, C. et al, R. Allenby).
- 9 405 Sqn. **F/S P. Dmytruk** was arrested and executed by German troops in the village of Les Martres-de-Veyre, France, after leading an ambush while engaged in helping a French Underground unit to blow up a bridge and train in France. F/S Dmytruk had been aiding the Underground for 9 months since his Halifax had been shot down March 11-12, 1943, when he and 1 RAF evaded, the rest of the crew were PoW. The Germans had been looking for him as a resistance leader and his execution is

credited with preventing the random arrest and execution of village residents, which was the usual reprisal for Resistance work. Peter Dmytruk is famous in France where he is known as "*Pierre le Canadien*". He was buried with honour in the village, and each year a memorial service is held in his name (wikipedia). For his work F/S Dmytruk was awarded a posthumous French Croix de Guerre.

- 9 #3 Personnel Reception Centre, England, **Sgt W.S.H. West** died in hospital of natural causes.
- 9 #1660 HCU Lancaster III ED811 crashed in England attempting to find a diversion airfield in bad weather while on a navigation exercise, **WO2 K.R. Schiller** killed, F/S E.E. Franke RAAF, Sgt P. Entwistle RAF, Sgt J. Mellor RAF and Sgt W.M. Hall RAF injured, Sgt Knight RAF safe.
- 9 #1 SFTS, Camp Borden, Ontario, Harvard IIb #3301 destroyed by fire (R.W.R. Walker).
- 9 #23 EFTS, Davidson, Saskatchewan, Cornell I FH789 crashed near Craik, Saskatchewan while on a solo practise flight, killing **LAC(P) G.W. Pidgeon**.
- 9 #24 EFTS, Abbotsford, BC, Cornell II #15248 stalled from a sharp turn just after taking off, **LAC(P) S.F. Taylor** killed.

Friday

10 Canadian troops capture San Leonardo (CJCA headline)

- 10 USAAF 82nd FS, 78th FG **1Lt M.R. Wright USAAF (Can.)** lost in P-47D 42-74683 in England on a training flight (www.usaafdata.com; AAIR; aviation-safety.net).
- 10 USAAF 403th Fighter Sqn. P-40N 42-105713 force landed near London, Ontario (AAIR).

10-11 Bomber Command operations on this night included 25 Mosquitos to Leverkusen, 2 to Krefeld and 4 OTU sorties without loss (BC War Diaries).

- 10-11 138 Sqn. Halifax II BB378 NF-D was attacked by a night fighter over Denmark on Operation TABLEJAM 18/19. The crew managed to shoot down the fighter, but the bomber was damaged and force landed. The agent, Dr. Flemming Muss, was safe, WO F. Turvil RAF, Sgt N. Anderson RAF, F/S B.H. Atkins RAF, Sgt S.G. Smith RAF and Sgt W.R. Riggs PoW, **F/O C.W. Fry**, F/L A.C. Bartler RAF and F/O E. Howell evaded to Sweden with the help of the Danish underground.
- 10-11 410 Sqn. Mosquito flown by **F/O R.D. Schultz** and **F/O V.A. Williams** shot down 3 Do 217 bombers, being hit by return fire by the last one that just missed F/O Schultz, destroyed his instrument panel, and hit both engines setting one on fire. They managed to make a successful emergency landing (5th Year).
- 10-11 617 Sqn. Lancaster III ED825 AJ-E lost on a Special Duties sortie to drop arms over France, shot down from low level by flak, **WO2 R. Cummings RCAF (USA)**, **WO2 E.J. Walters RCAF (USA)**, **F/O G.H. Weeden**, F/S R.G. Howell RAF, P/O R.N. Jones RAF, Sgt A.W. Richardson RAF and Sgt B. Robinson RAF killed. As a Sergeant F/O Weeden had survived the crash of a #14 OTU Wellington Dec. 16-17,

1942.

10-11 617 Sqn. Lancaster III ED886 AJ-O shot down at low level by flak on a Special Duties sortie to drop arms over France, **F/S D.M. Thorpe** and Sgt J.M. Stewart RAF killed, WO G.F. Bull RAF, Sgt C.C. Wiltshire RAF, Sgt C.M. Chamberlain RAF and F/S N. Batey RAF PoW, F/S J.H. McWilliams RAF evaded.

Saturday

11 USAAF send 583 heavy bombers with fighter escort to attack Emden with H2X, 523 bomb the target with fair results, 17 bombers lost (Zijlstra).

Cornerstone laid for the Canadian Wing to the hospital at East Grinstead for reconstructive surgery (R. Donovan). See July 12, 1944.

- 11 299 Sqn. Ventura I AE733 crashed in snowy conditions on a training flight, **WO2 W.R. Chester, F/S J.M. Thomson**, F/O A.H. Salt RAAF, F/S R.L. Sanders RAF and F/O J.B. Selth RAAF killed. (A. Storr, #38 Group Roll of Honour <http://www.raf38group.org>).
- 11 #16 OTU Wellington X LN531 crashed in England on a night cross country exercise, **Sgt J. Foote, Sgt H.O. Mitchell, Sgt B.N. Redmond**, F/S E. Leseberg RAAF, Sgt E. Harris RAF, Sgt F. Nichols RAF and Sgt V.M. Plahte RNorAF killed.
- 11 #26 OTU Wellington III BK440 broke up in mid-air over England while on a navigation exercise, **Sgt A.W. Ellis, Sgt W.E. Martin**, Sgt E.W. Brown RAF, F/S A. Merridew RAF, Sgt S. Wilson RAF and F/S N. Doherty RAAF killed (A. Storr).
- 11 #82 OTU Wellington X HE460 'A' suffered an engine failure on a night cross country while the bomb aimer was being instructed on flying the aircraft (an emergency cross training practice done by many crews). Before the pilot could gain control they were below the safe level for a bail out and an emergency force landing was made, Sgt W. Young RAF killed, **Sgt H. Di Domenico, Sgt W.D. Howlett, Sgt E.H.D. Maguire, Sgt J.L. Barber** and **Sgt G.E. Ryan** all injured. See Feb. 3-4 and Sept. 30, 1944.
- 11 #1 IFS, **LAC W.W. Dafoe** died of natural causes at the Station Hospital at RCAF Station Trenton, Ontario (www.rafcommands.com).

11-12 Luftwaffe bombers attack Chelmsford in England, 3 Do 217 aircraft shot down by Mosquito night fighters (ww2total.com Chronology/1943). Possibly related to 410 Sqn. entry December 10-11 above?

Sunday

12 USSR and Czechoslovakia sign assistance pact (CJCA headline).

- 12 #1 SFTS, Camp Borden, Ontario, Harvard IIb FE757 broke away without explanation from a three plane formation and crashed in a snowstorm near Penetanguishene, Ontario, killing **P/O W.D. King**.

- 12 #1 SFTS, Camp Borden Ontario Harvard IIb FE403 was practicing circuits when it crashed in a snowstorm, killing **LAC(P) J.R.V.P. Normandin**.
- 12 #2 EFTS, Fort William, Ontario, DH.82C Tiger Moth #1253 crashed, LAC T.G. Jones RAF killed.
- 12 #9 AOS, St. Jean, Quebec, LAC L.M. Grieveson RAF was walking back to base in blowing snow conditions when he was struck and hit by car (www.rafcommands.com).
- 12 #31 EFTS, De Winton, Alberta, Cornell III #15027 crashed, AC2 R. Beukema RAF (USA) killed.
- 12 #34 SFTS, Medicine Hat, Alberta, Harvard II #2742 crashed, F/S B. Prihoda RAF (Czech.) killed.
- 12 #36 OTU, Canadian built Mosquito B.XX KB108 lost in an accident at Lawrencetown, NS, near RCAF Greenwood after an engine failed due to carburetor icing, F/L J.R. Kilner RAF and P/O W.D. Sharrocks RAF safe (aviation-safety.net).
- 12 #38 SFTS, Estevan, Saskatchewan, AC1 W.D. Thomas RAF died of natural causes (B. Barry et al; www.rafcommands.com).

Monday

- 13 Largest operation of USAAF heavy bombers to date, 710 B-24s and B-17s with fighter escort, attack ports in Northern Germany using H2X, plus 208 escorted medium bombers over Holland, total 918 sorties losing 7 bombers (Zijlstra).**
- 13 233 Sqn. Hudson IIIa FK735 flew into high ground in the Azores when returning from an anti-submarine patrol, killing **WO1 W.E.R. Machan**, **WO1 J.H. Yorke**, F/S G.F. Handel RAF and F/S A.H. Severn RAF (www.rafcommands.com).
- 13 #23 OTU Wellington III BK213 overshot the runway making a single engine landing following an engine failure on a cross country exercise, **P/O A.R. McIntyre** killed, **Sgt F.A. Debeck**, **P/O J. Zinkham**, **P/O J.E.E. Winch**, **Sgt J. Basistuk** and **Sgt J.L.P.D. Carrier RCAF (USA)** seriously injured. See March 16, 1944.
- 13 RCAF Mountain View (#6 B&G?), **Sgt H.R. Jefferies** RAF died in hospital in Belleville, Ontario, of injuries when he walked into the rotating propellor of Anson II #7379 (www.rafcommands.com).
- 13 USAAF UC-64A (Norseman) 43-5130 crashed after an engine failure at Cape Harrison, Newfoundland (AAIR).

Tuesday

- 14 #3 B&G School, MacDonald, Man., **Sgt R. Beker** killed when he was struck by a car near the MacDonald air base.
- 14 #6 B&G School, Mountain View, Ontario, Bolingbroke IV.T #10014 crashed on approach to land, killing **LAC L.S. Collins**, **P/O A.M. Curry**, **LAC(NB) W.N. Galloway** and **LAC(N) R.E. Jolly**. LAC Galloway had served overseas in a ground trade before re-mustering to aircrew and returning to Canada for training.

14 USAAF UC-40D (Lockheed 10) 42-38347 damaged landing at Montreal, Quebec (AAIR).

mid-December Slovak National Council formed by rebellious Czechoslovakian officers to prepare for revolution against Germany (Polsson).

Wednesday

15 US forces with Australian support land at Pilelo Island and Arawe in New Britain (D. Newton).

#168 (HT) Sqn. RCAF Fortress Ila #9204 leaves Rockcliffe with 5,502 pounds of mail for Canadian serviceman overseas, the RCAF's first intercontinental transport flight (RCAF Sqns.).

#117 (BR) Sqn. disbanded at Shelburne, NS (RCAF Sqns.).

Jazz pianist Fats Waller dies of pneumonia on a train near Kansas City (wikipedia).

15 14 Sqn. Marauder I FK131 'E' crashed off the Algerian coast on a low level flying exercise, **WO2 W.D. Kearney**, **WO2 G.L. Ready**, F/O W.H. Davies RAF, Sgt G.F. Simpkin RAF, F/S S.G. Thomas RAF and F/S F.R. Tuxhill RAF missing (www.14sqn-association.org.uk). TSGNO has a copy of the letter from WO2 Ready's CO to his wife regarding the incident.

Thursday

16 In Germany Elfriede Scholz, the sister of Erich Maria Remarque (author of the novel All Quiet on the Western Front), was beheaded after being convicted of undermining the German war effort by refusing to denounce her brother, who was seen as a traitor by the Nazi government. The judge of the "People's Court" that condemned her made it clear she was being executed in place of her brother who had left Germany in the 1930s (wikipedia).

16 417 Sqn. Spitfire VIII JF710 overturned when it ran off the runway landing in Italy, **F/L I.F. Gilbert** slightly injured (www.spitfires.ukf.net; Temujin at wartimes.ca). Heavy rains had turned the area surrounding the runway into deep mud (417 SH).

16 404 Sqn. Beaufighter TF.X LZ294 2-G took-off on an operational sortie armed with rockets but an engine failed as they became airborne. They tried to land on one engine but that failed as well and the aircraft crashed in a field, broke up and caught on fire. Navigator **WO W.K. McGrath** was uninjured but was burned freeing the injured and trapped pilot, **F/O J.S. Cummins**, from the wreck of the cockpit. The Squadron medical officer, **F/L Dr. G.C. Beacock**, then arrived at the burning aircraft, and not seeing the crew, was burned searching the wreckage for survivors. WO McGrath was awarded a George Medal for his actions, and F/L Beacock an MiD

(404 SH; Keith Bryers, R. McNeill and S.M. Fochuk at www.rafcommands.com). In 2003 an engine and other items were excavated from the farm field (Iain Grant via Dan Clark www.rafcommands.com).

- 16 #1661 CU Lancaster I LM307 crashed just after taking off for night circuits, **F/S R.W. Baldwin**, **F/O W.H. Eager DFC**, P/O K.C. Hampson RAF, Sgt L.B. Lawrence RAF, Sgt W.S. Austin RAF and Sgt R.H. Woolcock RAF killed, Sgt P. Dillon RAF died the next day of his injuries and Sgt F.W. East RAF survived, injured. F/O Eager, then a Sergeant, had been injured in the crash landing of a Manchester of #1654 HCU April 15, above.
- 16 #1663 HCU Halifax V EB208 OO-R crashed approaching to land from a night flying exercise, F/O L. Fletcher RAF killed, **Sgt J.A. MacTavish**, **F/O F.M. Parks**, F/O W.G. Driscoll RAF, Sgt E. Hurst RAF, Sgt B. Standing RAF and Sgt N. Soulsby RAF injured.
- 16 #1667 HCU Halifax V EB185 crashed returning a night training flight, **F/O A.R. Cameron RCAF (Argentina)**, **F/S H.M. Tait**, F/S K.F. Wightman RAAF, Sgt R.T. Stoneman RAF, Sgt H. Poole RAF, Sgt J. Pennington RAF and Sgt R.L. Cox RAF killed.

16-17 Bomber Command sent 483 bombers to Berlin, again on a nearly direct course. Night fighters intercepted the stream over Holland and more were waiting over Berlin. The city was cloud covered and bombing was concentrated on skymarkers, but mostly fell on residential areas although some damage was done to the railway network, delaying supplies for the Russian front then on trains in the city. Some 720 people are recorded as being killed on the ground (record keeping was beginning to get unreliable) of which one third were foreign forced workers. Withdrawing to the north the bombers lost the fighters but found fog covering many of their bases in England when they returned. #6 Group RCAF bases in Yorkshire were particularly affected, and there this night was referred to as the "Black Night" (R. Allenby), with 6 bombers lost trying to land at its bases. Of interest for those who study propaganda no mention of this appears in The R.C.A.F. Overseas - The Fifth Year, published in 1945.

The Bomber Command campaign against flying bomb launch sites under construction (later called NOBALLS) began when 2 sites near Abbeville, France were attacked by 32 bombers with OBOE marking, but the sites proved too small for accurate marking and both were missed.

Two Beaufighters and 2 Mosquitos began #100 Group's SERRATE operations against German night fighters on this night, with a 141 Sqn. Mosquito attacking and damaging a Bf 110. Other operations included 5 Mosquitos to

Duisburg and 35 GARDENING sorties for a total of 589 sorties of which 25 were lost and 30 crashed or missing in England in fog (BC War Diaries). A website with a vivid description of the landings can be found at www.firebynight.co.uk.

- 16-17 9 Sqn. Lancaster III DV293 WS-Y lost over Germany, **Sgt J.R. Baroni RCAF (USA)**, P/O R.A. Bayldon RAF, Sgt F.S. Cope RAF, F/O B. Otter RAF, Sgt J.K. Widdop RAF, Sgt E. Egan RAF and Sgt A. Richardson RAF killed.
- 16-17 9 Sqn. Lancaster III EE188 WS-B lost over Germany, **F/O G.E. McTaggart**, P/O I.C.B. Black RAF, Sgt E.L. Button RAF, Sgt G. Brothers RAF, Sgt A.E. Baumann RAF, Sgt N.E. Adams RAF and Sgt D.T. Gordon RAF killed.
- 16-17 49 Sqn. Lancaster III JB545 EA-O shot down by a night fighter using *Schräge Musik* over Holland, **F/S R. Losa RCAF (Cuba)**, F/S B.J.V. King RAAF, Sgt W.R. Day RAF, Sgt E. Holloway RAF, Sgt A.E. Marsland RAF, Sgt W.T. Rees RAF and P/O G.L. Ratcliffe RAF killed. This was the crews first operation (T. Cachart). See <http://www.teunispats.net/fr-wwii.htm> for details.
- 16-17 97 Sqn. Lancaster III JA963 OF-Q lost over Germany, **F/O G.J. Little RCAF (USA)**, P/O N.G. McIntyre RAAF, P/O R. Butler RAF and F/S E.J. Battle RAAF killed, F/L D.J. Brill RAF, F/L R.E. Handley DFM RAF, Sgt J. Stone RAF and Sgt H. Chappell RAF missing (see also www.firebynight.co.uk).
- 16-17 97 Sqn. Lancaster III JB117 OF-C ran out of fuel and crashed in England in bad weather returning from an operation, **Sgt C.L. Hope**, **F/S D.R. Irvine**, F/S I.M. Scott RAAF, Sgt C.W. Collishaw RAF, Sgt S.J. Peek DFM RAF, Sgt K.E. Foxcroft RAAF and Sgt S.G. Parrott RAF killed (see also www.firebynight.co.uk).
- 16-17 97 Sqn. Lancaster III JB176 OF-K crashed in England on return from an operation, **F/O L.K.A. Grant**, F/O E. Thackway RAF, Sgt G. Grundy RAF, Sgt J. Powell RAF and Sgt R.A. Lawrence killed, Sgt P.H. Mack RAF injured, Sgt L.N. Laver RAF safe (see also www.firebynight.co.uk). Sgt Laver was later lost on operations Jan. 14, 1944.
- 16-17 100 Sqn. Lancaster III JB560 HW-N crashed in England on return from an operation, **WO2 H.B. Wareham RCAF (Nfld.)**, W/C D.W. Holford DSO DFC RAF, Sgt J. Wunderley RAF, Sgt R.E. Mason RAF and F/S H. Whybrow killed, Sgt R. MacKay RAF and F/S D. Bolinbroke RAF injured.
- 16-17 100 Sqn. Lancaster III JB674 HW-Q collided with 100 Sqn. Lancaster JB678, below, and both crashed, **WO2 J.R. Bateman**, F/S A.J. Kevis RAF, Sgt D.S. Watson RAF, WO W.H. Harris MiD RAF, Sgt R.M.J. Gaffney RAF, P/O R.A. Van-Walwyk RAF and Sgt T.E. Cain RAF killed.
- 16-17 100 Sqn. Lancaster III JB678 HW-F collided over England with 100 Sqn. Lancaster JB674 as above, Sgt G.C. Denman RAF, Sgt A.H. Johnson RAF, Sgt I.A. Redman RAF, Sgt H.L. Blackwell RAF, Sgt J.W. Christmas RAF and Sgt R.G. Read RAF killed, **Sgt C.B. Wallace** injured. See Jan. 8, 1944.
- 16-17 101 Sqn. ABC equipped Lancaster I DV299 SR-K² lost without trace, **F/S D.J. Gibson**, F/S P.E. Head RAF, Sgt W. Welby RAF, Sgt R.A.C. Wilson RAF, Sgt H. Street, F/S

- W.M. Green RAF (special operator), Sgt R. Betts RAF and Sgt H.R. Lintern RAF missing.
- 16-17 101 Sqn. ABC equipped Lancaster I DV300 SR-W shot down by a night fighter and exploded over Holland, **F/L R.E. MacFarlane DFM**, Sgt J.E. Clarke RAF, Sgt L.D. Wilson RAF, Sgt F.R. Westfall RAF and Sgt E.R.E. Jordan RAF killed, **F/O L.E. Thompson**, Sgt D.B. Harvey RAF and Sgt J. Ireland RAF missing. F/O Thompson was the special operator. See <http://www.teunisplats.net/fr-wwii.htm> for details.
- 16-17 138 Sqn. Halifax V LL115 NF-A crashed on an emergency airfield in England in bad weather returning from Operation DETECTIVE 3 over France, **Sgt N.M. Gillis**, F/S J.G.A. Watson RAF, Sgt J.R. Hoddinott RAF, Sgt H.D. King RAF and Sgt G. Osborne RAF killed, P/O J. Pearcey RAAF, Sgt I. Scaellenberg RAF and Sgt W.F. Sutherland RAF injured.
- 16-17 138 Sqn. Halifax V LL119 NF-L abandoned over England in bad weather returning from Operation WHEELWRIGHT 36 over France, **Sgt L.S. Manson**, **Sgt W.A. Bellman**, F/O R.W. Johnson RAF, Sgt E. Gibbons RAF, P/O H.G. Vincent RAF, Sgt D. Stuart RAF and P/O K.N. James RAF safe. On this night Special Duties squadrons lost 6 Halifax and 2 Lysander aircraft due to the severe weather, details of these can be found in *Flypast* magazine, June 1984.
- 16-17 156 Sqn. Lancaster III JB216 GT-W lost without trace, **F/L T. Trilsbeck DFC**, F/L C.O. Aubert DFM RAAF, F/L J.F. Samuel DFC RAAF, F/L N.T.R. Poulton DFM RAAF, P/O R.S. Smith DFC RAAF, F/L L.J. Powell DFC RAAF, F/S W.S. Fisher RAF and S/L R. Hadley DFC RAF missing.
- 16-17 166 Sqn. Lancaster III LM385 crashed in England on return from an operation, **Sgt W.W.J. Allen**, **F/S B.W. Haney**, F/S J.H. Murphy RAAF, Sgt S.F. Miller RAF, Sgt T. Rudden RAF, Sgt H.G.A. Hine RAF and Sgt H.E. Miles RAF killed.
- 16-17 207 Sqn. Lancaster III EE141 EM-P shot down over Germany by a night fighter, **F/S R.J. Stone** and Sgt E.J. Takle RAF have no known grave, F/L R.J. Allen RAF, Sgt D.J. Pepall RAF, P/O E.H. Stephenson RAF, F/S J.A. Brindle RAF and Sgt W.J. Vowles RAF PoW.
- 16-17 218 Sqn. Stirling III EE888 HA-K lost without trace on a GARDENING operation off France, **P/O J.A. Taylor**, F/S D. Williams RAF, Sgt A.C. Orem RAF, Sgt M.J. Smith RAF, Sgt C.C. Toms RAF, Sgt H. Campbell RAF and Sgt A.F. Hughes RAF missing.
- 16-17 405 Sqn. Lancaster III JB369 LQ-D crashed in England returning from an operation, **F/O B.A. McLennan**, **Sgt M.F.V. Roobroek**, **Sgt G.R. Schneider**, **F/O W.F. Sheppard**, Sgt H.L. Cornwell RAF and Sgt E. Halliwell RAF killed, **WO2 S.H. Nutting DFM** slightly injured. W.R. Chorley notes that this was WO Nutting's 45th operation, and following his release from hospital he was screened, his operational tour finished (405 SH).
- 16-17 405 Sqn. Lancaster III JB477 LQ-O crashed in England returning from an operation, **F/O C.M. Collier**, **F/O D.H. Stammers** and **Sgt G.L. Strang** killed, **F/L W.C. Allan**, **Sgt J.C. Egan**, Sgt A.E.S. Kiff RAF and Sgt K.S. Joslyn RAF injured. See Dec. 28 below.

- 16-17 405 Sqn. Halifax III JB841 LQ-R flew into the ground in low cloud in England returning from an operation, **Sgt H.R. Bessent**, **WO2 W.L. Dobson**, **F/S H.M. Saunders**, **F/S V. Mienert** RAAF and **Sgt W. Corrigan** RAF killed, **F/O E.B. Drew** injured, and **Sgt L.A. McCrea** safe. See June 3, 1944.
- 16-17 408 Sqn. Lancaster II DS737 EQ-C "*The Countess*" flew into high ground in England while descending through overcast to land from an operation, **F/S J.O.E.J. Boily**, **F/O M.E. Marynowski**, **Sgt T.I'a. Dee** RAF and **Sgt K.R. Wood** RAF killed, **F/O R.S. Clark**, **F/S L.J. Yeo** and **Sgt L.A. Morgan** RAF injured (R. Koval, R. Allenby).
- 16-17 408 Sqn. Lancaster II LL676 EQ-E lost without trace, **F/S C.A. Besse**, **F/O T.C. Gierulski**, **F/L W.J. Maitland** DFM, **F/S R. Pettit**, **WO2 J.E. Saunders**, **Sgt J.J. Robertson** RAF and **Sgt M. Maher** RAF missing.
- 16-17 426 Sqn. Lancaster II DS762 OW-V badly damaged enroute to the target. Without enough fuel to return to England it diverted to Sweden where the crew bailed out, mid-upper gunner **Sgt E.O. George** had a leg injured before the bailout and broke a leg on landing (R. Koval). He was awarded a DFM for his actions in remaining in his turret, wounded, until the bailout order, and in rescuing the trapped rear gunner. He and the rest of the crew, **P/O A.C. Davies**, **P/O H.F. Garriock**, **F/S F.T. Mudry**, **Sgt E.O. George**, **F/S R.H. Ginson**, **P/O R.F. Richards** RAF and **Sgt R. Engel** RAF interned (426 SH). See March 5-6 and 15-16, 1945. The bomber came down in a lake in Sweden (letter from Magnus Löwenstein in Help! Section, *Flypast*, May 1998).
- 16-17 426 Sqn. Lancaster II DS779 OW-C flew into the ground when descending in cloud returning from a bombing operation, **F/O H.P. Morris**, **WO2 R.D. Stewart**, **Sgt L. Sale** RAF, **F/O W. Hamilton** RAF and **Sgt J. Greenwell** RAF killed, **Sgt D.S. Jamieson** and **Sgt D.E. Stewart** RAF injured, but **Sgt Stewart** died February 24, 1944 in hospital, possibly due to his injuries (R. Koval). See March 5 and June 28-29, 1944.
- 16-17 426 Sqn. Lancaster II DS837 OW-Q flew into rising ground in England returning from operations, crashing in the Yorkshire village of Yearsley, **P/O A.A. Johnston**, **P/O G.M. Jones**, **S/L T.M. Kneale**, **F/O J. MacKay**, **P/O M.M. Prill** and **WO R.P. Marks** RAF were killed, **Sgt G.C. Foster** RAF injured. S/L Kneale had crashed a light communications aircraft Oct. 19, above. Research on this accident by R. Allenby and Yearsley resident David Smith can be found on Allenby's www.yorkshire-aircraft.co.uk website. Mr. Smith is responsible for a memorial to the crew in the church at Yearsley.
- 16-17 426 Sqn. Lancaster II DS846 OW-X shot down by a night fighter over Germany, **P/O L.P. Archibald**, **P/O H.J. Hurley**, **P/O J.L.R.R. Lachance**, **P/O N.B. Morrison**, **WO2 J.D. Newcombe** and **Sgt R. Atkins** RAF killed, **P/O J.L. Wilson** PoW.
- 16-17 432 Sqn. Lancaster II DS831 QO-N shot down over Holland by a night fighter, **WO1 J.S. Briegel**, **WO2 H.A. Turner**, **Flight Officer W.C. Fisher** USAAF (Can.), **WO R.K. Saunders** RAAF, **Sgt R. Hughes** RAF and **F/S T.W. Pragnell** RAF killed, **Sgt O.D. Lewis** and **F/S M.A.T. Brudell** RAAF PoW. **Sgt Lewis** was helped by the De Jong

family on the ground, and in 1946 portions of his parachute were used to make a Christening dress for the daughter of one of his helpers. His story was the subject of "My Father's Story" on a CBC Ideas radio program in 2001.

- 16-17 432 Sqn. Lancaster II DS832 QO-K abandoned over England out of fuel due to flak damage, Sgt W.H. Poole RAF injured, **F/O H.B. Hatfield**, **F/L Allen**, **F/O J. Higgs**, **F/O G.J. Smith**, **F/S A. McGregor**, Sgt A. Phillips RAF and Sgt R. Hutchinson RAF safe (R. Allenby). An account of this loss by F/O Higgs can be found at R. Allenby's www.yorkshire-aircraft.co.uk website. See also Jan. 2-3, 1944.
- 16-17 432 Sqn. Lancaster II, **F/L W.W. Strachan**, claimed a Ju 88 that attacked it destroyed (R. Koval).
- 16-17 619 Sqn. Lancaster III JA867 PG-X lost over Germany, **F/O M. Gennis**, **P/O G.B. Loney**, F/S J. Gray RAF, F/O H.A. De Vries RAF, Sgt L. Banks RAF, Sgt D. Corbitt RAF and Sgt R.F. Dearden RAF killed. P/O Loney had been involved in the crash landing of a #1660 HCU Lancaster Sept. 26, above.
- 16-17 625 Sqn. Lancaster III LM424 CF-B lost over Germany, **F/L W.D. Crimmins DFC**, WO G.E. Adams RAF, WO D. Baker RAF, F/S G.W.F. Batchelor RAF, Sgt C. Robinson RAF and Sgt K. Watmough RAF killed, Sgt W.H. Pallett RAF PoW. F/L Crimmins was the Squadron Gunnery Leader.

Friday

17 40th Anniversary of the first flight of the Wright Brothers at Kittyhawk. It was announced that the 1903 Wright Flyer would be returned to the USA from England (wikipedia).

- 17 110 Sqn., India, Vengeance Ia EZ904 returned from a dive-bombing attack with one bomb hung up. The bomb broke free and exploded on landing killing **F/O A.J. Davies** and F/O J.D.E. Robertson RAF.
- 17 #320 Maintenance Unit Vengeance II AN613 aircraft crashed in India, **WO1 J.A.J.J. Pierson** and F/S R.R. Burgess RAF killed (CWGC; www.rafcommands.com).
- 17 #4 AOS, London, Ontario, **Sgt M.E. Webb** died in hospital of natural causes.
- 17 #4 Wireless School, Guelph, Ontario, **AC2 R.D. Grant** died in hospital of injuries received in a vehicle accident.

Saturday

18 Gun practice starts invasion scare at coast (CJCA headline). [unidentified event]

- 18 270 Sqn. Sunderland III DW106 lost on a transit flight from England to Gibraltar, **F/O N.E. Hanna RCAF (N. Ireland)**, P/O N.P. Chapman RAAF, F/S C.A.M. Barber RAAF, F/L J.E. Wood RAF, F/S F.E.J. Brown RAF, F/O E.J. Jay RAF, F/S P. McPhee RAF, P/O R.R.T. Crimp RAF and F/S K.P. Botting RAF missing (A. Storr).
- 18 #23 OTU Martinet I HP383 was on a fighter affiliation exercise when it was caught in bad weather. Unable to find it's airfield a force landing was made, but the aircraft flipped on it's back, injuring LAC W.T.R. Warne RAF, **P/O J.H.N. Brousseau** safe.

- 18 #23 OTU, **P/O F.C. MacQueen** killed when he was struck by the propellor of Wellington III X3764.
- 18 #53 OTU Spitfire Ia R7144 and P9371 collided in mid-air, F/O H.L. Mosselmans RNeth.AF was killed in R7144, **F/S R.E. Smith** landed his damaged P9371 safely (#58 OTU Roll of Honour).
- 18 #45 Delivery Group, RAF Ferry Command, Mitchell II FW165 spun and crashed near Reykjavik, Iceland, **Ferry Captain W.V. Walker**, **F/O M.H. Ramsay** and **Radio Officer A.P. Cann** killed.
- 18 #11 (BR) Sqn. RCAF, Torbay, Newfoundland, Hudson IIIa BW719 crashed in a remote area 50 miles from Buchans, Nfld., while on a night cross country exercise, **F/S C.W. Bennett**, **F/O C.W. Mannett**, **F/O S.W. Morton**, **F/O H.D. Pawson** and **F/O G.E. Weir** killed.
- 18 #8 B&G School, Lethbridge, Alberta, Bolingbroke IV.T #10181 crashed near the airfield after an engine failed while making an emergency go around to avoid another aircraft, **LAC(BA) D.V. Dunlop**, **P/O W.R. Parks**, LAC T.J. Carroll RAAF and LAC T.J. Cook RAAF killed (A. Storr).
- 18 #34 OTU Pennfield Ridge, NB, Ventura II FD697 crashed on a daylight training flight at McAdam Junction, NB. The aircraft was on an approved low level formation flight and struck the top of a water tank in the railway yard at MacAdam. The leader of the formation was disciplined for flying lower than the approved 250 feet. **Sgt H.L. Anderson**, **Sgt R.J. Barts**, **P/O C.G. Christensen** and **Sgt G.C. Cull** killed (#34 OTU Roll of Honour).

Sunday

- 19 On the Philippine Island of Panay 15 American civilians (including 10 missionaries and 2 children) who had been hiding for the last two years were apprehended by the Japanese Army. They were executed the following day on the condition that their Filipino helpers go unpunished (wikipedia).**
- 19 VB-108, USN, Lt. J.H. Stickell USNR Navy Cross DSO DFC DFC(US) AM died of wounds received Dec.13 when he made a low level attack on fuel storage facility in the Marshall Islands flying a PB4Y Privateer bomber. He had learned to fly in the RCAF, had flown in Wellington and Stirling bombers, and later in Pathfinders, and had been awarded a DSO and DFC before transferring to the USN in March 1943 (letter from nephew, *Airforce Magazine* Vol. 11, #2, 1987; https://everything.explained.today/John_H._Stickell/). He is listed in TSGNO.
- 19 114 Sqn. Boston III W8363 was taking off in Italy on a test flight when it collided with a Spitfire PR.XI (Trop.) EN673 of 40 Sqn. SAAF taking off in the opposite direction, **Sgt A.E. Bruce** injured, F/L J.L.H. Berlandina RAF, F/O H. Sparkes RAF and Sgt F. Stamford RAF safe (BLME V.2).
- 19 419 Sqn. Halifax II JP112 VR-R was on a training flight and crash landed on a three engined approach, losing it's undercarriage, **S/L J.G. Stewart** and his crew safe.

- 19 433 Sqn. Halifax III HX245 went out of control on take-off from Skipton-on-Swale, Yorkshire and crashed inverted into Halifax III HX277 BM-Q that was doing ground engine runs, **Sgt L.D. Griese**, **F/S P.R. Humphreys**, **Sgt K.N. Lake**, **F/S H.L. Miller** and **Sgt H.G. Buxton** RAF killed in Halifax HX245, air frame mechanic **LAC W.M.J. O'Connor** who was working on the parked Halifax also killed, **LAC S.T. McAvoy** and **LAC P.W. Butler** were injured and a fourth ground crew escaped uninjured (R. Allenby). This was the first loss to 433 Squadron which had not yet gone operational. LAC Butler tried to pull the unconscious LAC O'Connor from the burning aircraft before having to jump off the nose into burning debris and crawling to safety, for which he was later awarded a BEM (Awards).
- 19 #1664 HCU RCAF Halifax V EB180 was taking off when the flaps went to full down. Unable to take off the aircraft went through the overshoot area, a hedge, over a road and finally stopped in a field, wrecked. **Sgt C.J. Stewart** and his crew safe.
- 19 #7 (BR) Sqn. RCAF, Canso A #9786 crashed landing at Prince Rupert, BC, on a night navigation exercise, killing pilot **P/O E.J. Fereday**.
- 19 #10 (BR) Sqn. RCAF service policeman **Sgt D.M.H. Collins** was killed when he accidentally walked into the propeller arc of a Liberator aircraft.
- 19 #31 SFTS, Kingston, Ontario, Harvard II AJ687 crashed at the Millhaven Practice Bomb Range making practise anti-submarine bomb attacks, Leading Airman G.C. Hicks, RN and WO W.M.F. Moffatt RAF (NZ) killed (R.W.R. Walker).
- 19 #34 OTU, Pennfield Ridge, NB, Ventura II AE923 force landed near the airfield after the engines ran out of fuel due to pilot error and was written off, **Sgt T.H. Bastable** RAF and **Sgt H.G.S. Mathews** RAF safe (www.rootsweb.ancestry.com #34 OTU Accident and Mishap Reports).

Monday

20 Military coup in Bolivia, including pro-fascist officers opposed to the declaration of war on Germany, but although the President is forced to flee the fascist supporters are also forced out and the declaration of war stands (Oxford).

After making 2 operational flights with 405 Sqn. Lancaster X KB700 "Ruhr Express", the first Canadian built Lancaster, is transferred to 419 Squadron, which was to be the first RCAF Squadron to be fully equipped with Lancaster X aircraft (RCAF Sqns., 419 SH). A good history of this aircraft, it's ferry flight and first operation can be found in Airforce Magazine, September, 1982.

- 20 403 Sqn. Spitfire LF.IX aircraft MH845 and MJ172 collided in mid air attacking Ju 88 aircraft over Holland on a RAMROD, **F/O N.W. Maybee** and **F/O J.J. Morrisey** both PoW.
- 20 403 Sqn. Spitfire LF.IX EN629 shot down by defensive fire from a Ju 88 in the same incident described above, **F/O R.J. Buckles** PoW.
- 20 411 Sqn. Spitfire LF.IX MJ287 DB-A crashes landing from on an operational flight, after

- catching it's undercarriage in barbed wire when forced to land short due to another aircraft taking off, Squadron commanding officer **S/L I.C. Ormiston** injured (RCAF Sqns.). S/L Ormiston had ditched a Spitfire Sept. 26, above (411 SH).
- 20 421 Sqn. Spitfire IX MH903 lost, **S/L J.F. Lambert** killed. S/L Lambert had previously served with 130, 185 and 403 Sqns. and had been wounded July 7, 1942 (or July 20?) in Malta.
- 20 #81 OTU Oxford II V3555 was on a communications flight and was caught in very severe turbulence, strong enough to rip off parts of an engine cowling. A force landing was made in trees, **F/O Williams**, **Sgt W.R. Waldron**, **P/O M.W. Guinn**, **WO F.J. Denham** RAF and **P/O D.A. Baker** injured (Don www.rafcommands.com). This was the last #81 OTU aircraft lost before it was transferred from Bomber Command to #38 (Airborne Force) Group to train glider towing crews. See Feb. 3-4, 1944.
- 20 #41 SFTS, Weyburn, Saskatchewan, Harvard IIb FE343 crashed, **P/O W.A. Hughes** RAF killed.
- 20-21 114 Sqn. Boston IIIa BZ330 'B' flew into rising ground in rain in Italy returning from a bombing operation and crashed, **F/O F. Phillips** RCAF (USA), **F/S P.M. Conway** RAF and **F/O R. Stead** RAF killed, **Sgt E. Riley** RAF injured (BLME V.2).
- 20-21 Bomber Command sent 650 bombers to Frankfurt and a diversion of 54 bombers to Mannheim. German night fighters entered the bomber stream as it crossed the Dutch coast and there were fights all along the approach, although the Mannheim diversion seems to have drawn off the night fighters at that point. Clear skies were predicted but heavy cloud was found at the target. Poor visibility, a decoy site and false TIs seem to have attracted many bombers but creepback from the decoy site fell into the city, as well bombs fell in nearby Sachsenhausen and Offenbach, also in Mainz some 17 miles away. The attack on Mannheim mostly fell outside of the city. Eight Lancasters of 617 Sqn. with 8 Pathfinder Mosquitos were sent to an armaments factory at Liege in Belgium, but no bombs were dropped as clouds obscured the aiming points. Other operations included 6 Mosquitos to Rheinhausen, 5 Mosquitos to Leverkusen, 8 RCM, 2 SERRATE, 23 GARDENING and 38 OTU sorties for a total of 802 with 43 aircraft lost (BC War Diaries).**
- 20-21 9 Sqn. Lancaster III ED700 WS-O "Fighting Cock" was attacked by a night fighter which damaged it's engines and fuel tanks, and killed rear gunner **F/S V.C.L. Knox** (<http://www.lancaster-archive.com>). The aircraft ditched off the shore of England, the crew **P/O E.J. Argent** RAF, **Sgt W. Lyons** RAF, **Sgt R.C.T. Lodge** RAF, **F/O D.A. Keeble** RAF, **Sgt G. Fradley** RAF and **F/S A.K. Travena** RAAF took to their life rafts and were picked up by an ASR launch. **F/S Knox** has no known grave. See Jan. 14-15, 1944.
- 20-21 10 Sqn. Halifax II HX164 ZA-K lost over Germany, **F/L A.W. Whitmarsh** DFM RAF, **Sgt P.M. Hayes** RAF, **P/O C. Priest** RAF, **F/O K.S. Lear** RAF, **F/S R.G.E. Buckner** RAF,

- Sgt M.H. Britton RAF and Sgt K.R. Norton RAF killed, **F/O J.R. Kenney** PoW (O. Clutton-Brock).
- 20-21 10 Sqn. Halifax II JD474 ZA-R lost over Germany, **Sgt E. Smith**, Sgt D.G. Morris RAF and Sgt S.A. Berry RAF killed, **Sgt A.L. Staples**, Sgt W.T.W. Boughton RAF, Sgt G.E. Gray RAF and Sgt J.C.S. Broad RAF PoW.
- 20-21 35 Sqn. Halifax III HX328 TL-J was approaching to land from an operation when it caught fire. A bail out order was given but when it was discovered one crewman's parachute had been destroyed the pilot, **S/L D.J. Sale**, made an immediate crash landing and both he and F/L R.L. Lamb RAF cleared the wreck just before it exploded. Of the rest of the crew WO G. Carpenter RAF had been injured and the remainder, **F/L G.H.F. Carter**, WO G.H. Cross DFM RAF, S/L A.J. Dowling RAF and WO M. Rees RAF, safe. F/L Carter had been shot down Feb. 13-14, above, and evaded. S/L Sale had been shot down May 12-13, above, and also evaded, reaching Gibraltar Aug. 4, 1943. See Feb. 19-20, 1944.
- 20-21 51 Sqn. Halifax II HR948 MH-W shot down over the target by flak, **WO2 A.N. Gott**, F/L A.R. Burchett AFC RAF, F/O T.I. Widdowson RAF and Sgt G.D. Milne RAF killed, Sgt E. Brookes RAF, F/O D.H.D. Tungate RAF, F/S F.R. Chadwick RAF and Sgt J.H. Bailey RAF PoW.
- 20-21 76 Sqn. Halifax V LK926 MP-C believed to have come down into the sea off Holland, F/S J.A. Lamb RNZAF and F/S C.W. Matthews RAF killed, **F/S D.S. McClelland**, **Sgt R.F. Taylor RAF (Can.)**, F/S L.J. Sheean RAAF, F/S L.F. Gillingham RAF and Sgt H.C. Cohen RAF missing.
- 20-21 78 Sqn. Halifax II LW330 EY-O crashed in England on return from an operation, **Sgt J.M. Blake**, **Sgt W.E. Edwards**, F/S A. Molloy RAAF, F/O B.D. Heading RAAF, F/S F.W. Doonan RAAF, Sgt F.E.J. Hothersall RNZAF and Sgt A.D. Meynell RAF killed.
- 20-21 149 Sqn. Stirling III BK798 OJ-Q lost without trace on a GARDENING sortie, possibly shot down by a night fighter, **F/S J.R. Martin**, **Sgt W.M. Power**, F/S R.J. Ayers RAAF, F/S C.W.M. Corkill RAAF, Sgt S.J. Lunn RAF, Sgt V. Mandy RAF and Sgt W. McAdie RAF missing.
- 20-21 158 Sqn. Halifax II JD115 NP-D lost over Germany, **F/O R.M. McCabe**, **WO2 R.L. McCulloch**, Sgt A.M. Anderson RAF, Sgt A.B. Hicks RAF, F/S T.L. Evans RAF and Sgt R.C.L. Hoskins RAAF killed, Sgt P. Stewart RAF PoW.
- 20-21 158 Sqn. Halifax II LW245 NP-P was hit by incendiary bombs jettisoned by another bomber past the target and set on fire. The aircraft was abandoned, **F/S W.C. Glydon**, **Sgt C.H.J. Garrett**, Sgt A. Bierton RAF, Sgt F.A. Hicks RAF, Sgt A.L. Hulse RAF, Sgt G.H. Driver RAF and Sgt D.H. Wood RAF PoW.
- 20-21 166 Sqn. Lancaster I R5552 AS-P² lost over Holland, **Sgt D. Bernard**, Sgt L.A. Henson RAF, Sgt E.C. Toms RAF, F/S K.B. Renelt RAF, F/S J.W. Thompson RAF, F/S J.F. Moore RAAF and F/S A.B. Sheddan RNZAF killed.
- 20-21 408 Sqn. Lancaster II DS704 EQ-W was shot down in error by another Lancaster over Belgium, P/O A.F. Wright RAF and Sgt R.W. Heaton RAF were killed, **F/S E.A.**

Salmon was PoW, and F/S C.D. MacLachlan, P/O L.C. Morrison RAAF, Sgt T.J. Reynolds RAAF and P/O A.G. Dumbrell RAF evaded (www.conscript-heroes.com). See also "Secret Army, Take Two", *Airforce Magazine*, Fall 1991 and www.evasioncomete.org.

- 20-21 408 Sqn. Lancaster II DS758 EQ-H lost on an operation to Germany, P/O K.L. Brager, P/O T.D. Cochrane, WO2 M.A. McCurdy, F/S L.A. McQuestion, Lt. N. Stiller USAAF, Sgt E. Kent RAF and Sgt B. Smith RAF killed.
- 20-21 426 Sqn. Lancaster II DS716 OW-U lost on an operation to Germany, P/O W.F. Griffin, F/O W.B. Ayer RCAF (USA), P/O J.G. Limmer, Sgt J.F. Murray RAF (Eire), P/O S.J.J. Palmer RAF, P/O D. Biderman RAF and F/S G. Hudson RAF PoW (R. Allenby).
- 20-21 426 Sqn. Lancaster II LL630 OW-D lost on an operation to Germany, P/O G.V. Andrew, F/L R.J. Dunphy DFC, P/O T.H. Hastings RAF, F/O J.W. Flynn RAF, F/L A.J. Rudman RAF, F/L F.J. Stuart CGM RAF and Sgt F.R. Taylor RAF killed. This crew had returned from an eventful sortie Oct. 20-21, above.
- 20-21 427 Sqn. Halifax V LK627 ZL-K lost on an operation to Germany, F/O R.J. Lacerte, Sgt G.H. Little, F/O J.R.J. Kiteley, F/S A.J. St. Pierre, Sgt A.C. Barnes, Sgt J.L. Cormier and Sgt W.C. Wilkins RAF PoW.
- 20-21 427 Sqn. Halifax V LK644 ZL-C lost over Germany, Sgt G.W. Brifett, F/S G.H. Dudley, F/O J.M. Grieve, F/O J.G. Hatchwell, F/S S. Sondergaard, Sgt T.W. Thompson and Sgt J. Graham RAF killed.
- 20-21 427 Sqn. Halifax V, F/O G. Weldon, was attacked by a night fighter on the bomb run that knocked out one engine and the hydraulics. They returned to England on 3 engines, but had one fail on final approach. Despite this they made a safe landing (R. Koval).
- 20-21 428 Sqn. Halifax V EB252 NA-P lost over Germany, F/O C.R. Sandes RCAF (UK), P/O W.J. Armour DFC RAAF, F/S F.C. Clucas RAAF, F/S J.J. Moon RAAF, F/S L.P. Coupe RAF, F/S H.C. Dumbrell RAF and Sgt S.P. Page RAF killed, F/O J.D. Elliott PoW.
- 20-21 428 Sqn. Halifax V LK928 NA-B lost over Germany, Sgt G.H. Jessiman, F/O K.M. Mosher, Sgt J.P. Slater RAF, Sgt G. Kensall RAF and Sgt T.S.R. Dagnall RAF killed, WO2 E.L. Tycoles is believed to have been injured and died Dec. 24 while a PoW, F/S J.L. Keighan PoW.
- 20-21 432 Sqn. Lancaster II, F/O A.C.G. Mercer, reported it was attacked by a night fighter that fired rockets at the bomber (R. Koval). See April 18-19, 1944.
- 20-21 434 Sqn. Halifax V LK686 WL-L lost off the Dutch coast, F/O A.A. Fischer, WO2 W.F. Marshall killed, P/O W.R. Ferrier, WO2 J.D. Pilkey, Sgt E.S. Pridham, Sgt S.S. Smith and F/O M.S. Taylor missing.
- 20-21 434 Sqn. Halifax V LK970 WL-N lost on an operation to Germany, F/S C.G. McClure, F/O A.H. MacKay, F/S J.P. Scott, WO1 J.B.G. Barrette, F/S R.W. Dixon, WO1 J.D. McConnell, P/O A.W.G. Austin RAF and Sgt V.G. Foster RAF PoW.

- 20-21 576 Sqn. Lancaster I W4123 UL-R² lost over Belgium on an operation to Germany, **Sgt J.E. Redmond**, Sgt L.P.E. Allais RAF, Sgt W. Dickie RAF, Sgt F.H. Gage RAF, Sgt A.J. Pollitt RAF, F/S F. Ball RAF and Sgt L. Balich RAF killed.
- 20-21 617 Sqn. Lancaster I DV398 KC-Z hit by flak over Belgium and broke up in the air, **WO2 C.B. Gowrie**, **P/O J.W. Thrasher**, F/S E.C. Smith RAF, F/O R. MacFarlane RAF, F/S T.W. Maynard RAF and F/S S. Burns RAF killed, F/L G. Rice DFC RAF was thrown clear and with help of the Belgian Resistance managed to evade until April 1944. Both WO Gowrie and P/O Thrasher had been part of the famous Dams Raid on May 17, above.

Tuesday

21 The newly captured port at Arawe in New Britain is attacked by 150 Japanese aircraft which sink several ships (D. Newton).

Canadian troops enter Ortona (CJCA headline). This was the start of one of the bitterest fights of the Canadian Army in Italy.

In Canada the number of ex-professional hockey players in "amateur" military teams was affecting the sport. In light of the controversy over the enlistment of **Turk Broda in October on this date the RCAF announced it's teams would no longer play in leagues that could qualify for the Memorial or Allan cups (M. Joost).**

- 21 132 Sqn. Spitfire LF.IX MH738 shot down on a RAMROD over France, **F/O A.E. Clarke** missing.
- 21 408 Sqn. **F/O R.S. Clark** died of injuries sustained Dec. 16.
- 21 609 Sqn. Typhoon Ib JP674 PR-D, **F/O C.W. Miller**, and Typhoon Ib R8845, S/L P.G. Thornton-Brown DFC RAF both killed, lost escorting USAAF medium bombers over France, shot down by USAAF P-47 aircraft in error (P. Cornwell; www.rafccommands.com). Some of the first of a number of Typhoon losses by USAAF "Friendly Fire". See comment December 24, 1944.
- 21 #14 OTU Wellington Ic T2738 was on a night flying exercise when it lost a propellor. The pilot, **F/S C.W. Kipper**, ordered a bail out and Sgt Comen RAF, Sgt Millington RAF and Sgt Walker RAF did so safely, but the rear gunner did not and he and **F/S Kipper** made a safe wheels up forced landing on the airfield.
- 21 #16 OTU Wellington X LN540 iced up and fell out of control over the North Sea, the bail out order being given. Control was regained after air gunner **Sgt W.R. Christien** had bailed out, a search was made but he was not found.
- 21 #1679 HC Flight RCAF Lancaster II DS615 was practicing night landings when it attempted a go around. Two engines did not respond and the aircraft went out of control, striking Halifax II DT548 before crashing, **F/O T.E. Major**, **F/O J.J. McGavok** DFC and Sgt K. Forster RAF killed, **F/S R.T.J. Welch**, Sgt J.A. Lawrenson RAF and

- Sgt W.R. Clapham RAF injured. See Dec. 23, 1943.
- 21 #135 (F) Sqn., Terrace, BC, Hurricane XII #5404 struck a ferry cable over the Skeena River and crashed at Katwanga, B.C. while engaged in unauthorized low flying, P/O R.F.W. Sedgwick killed.

Wednesday

22 #125 (F) Sqn., Sydney, NS, stood down for deployment overseas to England.

Germany orders all boys 16 and older to begin registering for military service in January (wikipedia).

English children's author Beatrix Potter dies in England (wikipedia).

- 22 624 Sqn. Halifax II JN961 failed to take-off in Libya and was damaged beyond repair, F/S V.A. Ferguson, F/S E.J. Funston, WO2 W.A. Graham, AC2 Evans, F/L Gibson, LAC H. Hudson, Sgt A.E. Kelly, F/S Laing and Sgt K.J. Smedley (RAF?) safe (BLME V.2). F/S Laing may be the same as P/O F.D. Laing lost from 624 Sqn. August 14, 1944.
- 22 102 Sqn. Halifax II JN949 DY-D crash landed in England, F/L A. Hilton RAF and F/O E. Whittington safe.
- 22 404 Sqn. Beaufighter TF.Xc NE323 EE-H lost on a ROVER with torpedo bombers off Norway, shot down attacking U-1062 and a destroyer, F/O I.G. Gillespie and navigator F/O J.E. Glendinning RAF missing (uboa.net; aviation-safety.net).
- 22 404 Sqn. Beaufighter TF.Xc LZ452 EE-F missing off the coast of Norway, shot down attacking U-1062 and a destroyer, F/L R. Munro and his navigator F/O W.B. Conn RAF missing (uboa-net; aviation-safety.net). F/L Munro had completed a tour on Beaufighters in Malta.
- 22 #27 OTU Wellington X HE653 had just taken off when it suffered multiple bird strikes, damaging an engine, and made a wheels up force landing less than a minute after becoming airborne, P/O W.J.B. Murphy and his crew safe.
- 22 #111 OTU, Nassau, Bahamas, Mitchell II FR376 'CK' aircraft lost on a navigation exercise. Although the crash site was located broken up on a reef in 10 feet of tidal water, F/O H.D. Frye, P/O J.C. McLean, P/O A.J. Wilcox RAAF, F/S B.N. Petersen RNZAF, Sgt W. Swire RAF and Sgt C.F. Craig RAF are listed as missing (A. Storr; E. Wiberg).
- 22 F/L H.W. Morton RCAF (USA) died of natural causes hospital in Toronto after being medically discharged in September (www.rafcommands.com; www.findagrave.com). He was a pre-war officer in the RCAF.

22-23 Fifty one bombers were sent to attack two flying bomb sites in France, one was bombed accurately and the other could not be found. Nine Mosquitos were sent to Frankfurt and 2 to Bonn, 2 RCM, 16 GARDENING and 21 OTU sorties

were made without loss (BC War Diaries).

22-23 #15 OTU Wellington Ic W5714 became lost over the sea on night navigation exercise and came down near the Scilly Islands despite radio steers, F/S A. Lipshitz DFM RAF killed, **F/O D.E. Raymond**, F/S G.A. Hebblewhite RAAF, Sgt C. Groggs RAF, Sgt A.C.R. Miles RAF and Sgt F.W. Mittonette RAF missing (Rob Philips www.rafcommands.com).

Thursday

23 #14 (F) Sqn. RCAF, Boundary Bay, BC and #127 (F) Sqn. at Dartmouth, NS stood down this date for re-deployment to England as part of the invasion of France.

23 684 Sqn. Mosquito FB.VI HJ760 disintegrated in the air, possibly after a collision with a large bird, and crashed into a water tank (ie, a water collection pool) in Bengal, India, killing **F/O A.G. Orr** and his navigator F/S F. Johnson RAF.

23 227 Sqn. Beaufighter VIc JM226 was hit by flak attacking a target in Greece, and crashed on fire into the high ground surrounding the bay, **F/O J.M. Kendall** and F/O R. MacKay RAF killed.

23 #6 AFU **Sgt H.W.H. Hare** was killed when struck by a motorcycle in England (www.rafcommands.com).

23 #1664 HCU RCAF Halifax V EB191 ZU-C suffered two engines on one side running at high speed and was partially abandoned before breaking up and crashing into a street in Harrogate, England, on a night cross country exercise, **Sgt C.R. Choma**, **F/S M.L. John** and Sgt J. Quinn RAF crew killed, **F/S R.H. Mitchell** and **P/O G.L. Crowe** injured, **WO2 Marsden** and Sgt Harvey RAF safe (R. Allenby).

23 #1679 HC Flight RCAF **F/S R.T.J. Welch** died of injuries received Dec. 21 in the loss of Lancaster II DS615.

23 unknown unit, Lysander TT.III #1562 written off after a crash in Canada, no details (R.W.R. Walker).

23-24 Bomber Command sends 379 bombers to Berlin where cloud cover and marking failures led to a scattered attack and light damage to the city. Diversions by Mosquitos to Aachen (12), Duisburg (9) and Leipzig (7) seemed to have confused the German controllers and only 16 bombers were lost. Other operations included 4 RCM, 3 SERRATE and 7 OTU sorties with 1 Beaufighter lost (BC War Diaries).

23-24 57 Sqn. Lancaster III JB233 DX-F lost over Germany, **Sgt J.M. Adamson**, Sgt D.A.J. Fisher RAF, Sgt A.E. Eley RAF and Sgt R.R. Mutton RAF killed, **P/O H.J. Knights**, **F/S J. Low** and F/S I.D. Forsyth PoW. Postwar P/O Knights was a bushpilot in BC and the Arctic before becoming a water bomber pilot and later one of the founders of Conair Aviation, a company specializing in aerial fire fighting (D. O'Malley).

23-24 100 Sqn. Lancaster III JB594 HW-O lost without trace, **F/S J.R. Jones**, F/S D.B.

Jameson RAF, Sgt W. Phillips RAF, F/O F.M. Connolly RAF, Sgt R. Smith RAF, Sgt V.D.P. Brown RAF and Sgt A.B. Burke RAF missing.

23-24 514 Sqn. Lancaster II LL671 A2-B lost over Germany, **Sgt P.A.T. Nelson**, P/O K.G. Whitting RAAF, Sgt L.F. Bostock RAF, F/S D. Edwards RAF, Sgt R.W. Basey RAF and Sgt W.A. Casey RAF killed, F/S J.E. Moloney RAAF PoW.

23-24 550 Sqn. Lancaster III ND327 BQ-K collided over England with 550 Sqn. Lancaster ED730 (below) on return from a sortie and crashed in England, **F/S G.W. Guest**, **Sgt J.A. Jordan**, F/S W.R. Cooper RAF, Sgt G.W. Claydon RAF, Sgt A.R. Laurence RAF, Sgt R.W. Theobald RAF and Sgt J. Rawson RAF killed (Greg Harrison www.rafcommands.com, who points out this aircraft is recorded in error in many sources as from 100 Squadron, from which 550 Squadron had been formed the month before).

23-24 550 Sqn. Lancaster III ED730 BQ-G² collided over England with a 550 Sqn. Lancaster ND327 (above) and crashed, **F/S J.R.E. Legere**, Sgt J.C. Atherton RAAF, Sgt H.F.J. Woods RAF, Sgt D.G. Davies RAF, Sgt M. Giles RAF, Sgt L.F. Wright RAF and Sgt J. McConnell RAF killed.

23-24 550 Sqn. Lancaster I DV343 BQ-X² lost without trace, **F/O J.E. Stewart**, P/O D.C. Dripps RAAF, Sgt J.C. Scott RAF, Sgt W.T. Sibley RAF, Sgt D. Campbell RAF, Sgt R. Gillies RAF and F/O G.C. Orme RAF missing. F/O Stewart, P/O Dripps, Sgt Sibley, Sgt Campbell and Sgt Gillies had been involved in a take-off accident Aug 23-24, above.

Friday

24 Soviets launch winter offensive (CJCA headline).

24 #4 Radio School Proctor III HM305 flew into a hill in Wales after a collision with Proctor HM321, killing **F/S F.C. Mison** and Sgt L.R. Langlois FFAF. HM321 landed safely (jimkimpton.co.uk, www.coflein.gov.uk).

24 #1679 HC Flight RCAF Lancaster II DS624 was awaiting the signal to take-off when an engine caught fire and it was burnt out, **F/S J.E.F. Jean** and his crew, **Sgt G. Desjardins**, **F/S C. Elsey**, **Sgt J. Favreau**, **F/O C. Gray**, **F/S H.J.P. Lockett RCAF (UK)** and Sgt Edgar Dacre RAF safe. See March 24-25, 1944.

24-25 Bomber Command sent 35 GARDENING sorties to the Frisian Islands without loss (BC War Diaries).

24-25 407 Sqn. Wellington GR.XIV HF152 2-Q, **F/O D.E. Rollins** and crew, bombed a convoy in the Bay of Biscay. Evading flak the Wellington collided with a Liberator aircraft and lost most of its fin and rudder. Both aircraft managed to return safely (407 SH; JohnWinnipeg at www.rafcommands.com).

24-25 429 Sqn. Halifax II, **F/O J. Atkins**, was on a GARDENING sortie when it was attacked by a single engined fighter, which was claimed damaged (R. Koval). See January 28-29, 1944.

24-25 612 Sqn. Wellington XIV HF177 lost on a night anti-submarine patrol over the Bay of Biscay, **F/O D.I. Smith**, P/O J.A. Cockin RAF, P/O N.G.W. Cooper RAF, Sgt C. King RAF, Sgt S.W. Lamberth RAF and Sgt B. Machan RAF missing (CWGC; www.rafcommands.com).

Saturday

- 25 176 Sqn. Hurricane IIc HW432 crashed in India, **F/O D.H. Owens** killed.
- 25 512 Sqn. Dakota III FD903 lost enroute from England to Gibraltar, last in radio contact off the Spanish coast, **F/O R.L.A. Hammill RAF (Can.)**, **WO2 C.F. Steel**, F/O J. Battersby BEM RAF, W/C P.E. Hadow RAF, LAC C.W. Summers RAF missing (H. Welting www.rafcommands.com; CWGC).

Sunday

26 Supported by the new airfields at Arawe, US Marines make landings at the Japanese airbase at Cape Gloucester (D. Newton).

Large Japanese daylight attack with heavy fighter escort made on Chittagong, India (D. Newton).

German battlecruiser Scharnhorst sunk in Arctic (CJCA headline). The battlecruiser was sunk by torpedoes and gunfire from RN ships protecting a convoy.

General McNaughton quits command of Army (CJCA headline).

- 26 615 Sqn. Spitfire Vc (Trop.) MA349 shot down by a Japanese fighter near Chittagong in India, **WO2 D.L. Wright** killed (www.spitfires.ukf.net, C. Shores).
- 26 #7 AOS RAF, Anson I DG972 crashed in the sea off Scotland, **WO1 F.C. Bushfield**, LAC(N) G.C. Scarlett RAF and F/S R.S. Schmeer RAF killed, LAC A.R.V. Hudson RAF missing (www.rafcommands.com).
- 26 #9 AFU Anson I EF953 crashed into a mountain in Wales, **P/O J.W. Butcher**, **P/O J.A. McIntosh**, P/O F.R. Bullock RAF and Sgt H.J. Noy RAF killed (www.rafcommands.com).
- 26 #15 SFTS, Claresholm, Alberta, aero engine mechanic **LAC T.M. Ruste** died of natural causes while on leave in Wainwright, Alberta (www.rafcommands.com).
- 26 VB(HDN)-6 USN, NAS Whidbey Island, PV-1 29736 crash landed at Lawn Point, BC. Wreckage not found at time, Lt J.R. Cranny USNR, ARM3c R.L. Maguet USNR, AMM2c E.L. Morgan USNR, Ensign C.H. Schoenfelder USNR and AOM3c J.I. Winslow Jr. USNR killed. One survivor, AOM3c J.H. Anderson USNR waited for weeks then left a note that he was walking out, and is missing. The wreck was not found until the spring (www.101nisquadron.org which incorrectly gives the BuAer number as 28736).

Monday

27 The US Army Ledo Road Bypass reaches Shingbwiyang, Burma, 103 miles from Ledo on the other side of the Patkai Range, eliminating the need to fly all supplies in to Allied units over the mountains, and allowing operations against Japanese army units in northern Burma to be expanded, which in turn allowed for continuing of the road towards the link up with the Burma Road and China (wikipedia).

Due to labour unrest by railroad workers that threaten a nation wide strike, operation of US railways is taken over by the War Department on this date (D. Sommerville). See January 14, 1944.

- 27 211 Sqn. Beaufighter X LZ151 crashed in India making a wheels up force landing after an engine failure, **F/L J.R. Edgar** killed (211squadron.org).
- 27 413 Sqn. Catalina, **F/O J.S. Grandin** attacked and possibly damaged a submarine in the Indian Ocean (I. Wikene).
- 27 423 Sqn. Sunderland III EK581 damaged a float and an engine landing in the Scilly Islands (www.rafdavidstowmoor.org).
- 27 #55 OTU Hurricane I V7010 collided with Canadian built Hurricane X AG175, **F/O S.F. Cleworth** killed in V7010, and **F/S O.E.D. Loudon RNZAF** killed in AG175 (Errol Martyn, www.rafcommands.com).
- 27 #8 SFTS, Moncton, NB, Harvard IIb FS859 crashed near Scoudouc, NB, **LAC(P) F.C. Dalton** killed.

Tuesday

28 Canadians capture Ortona (CJCA headline).

#129 (F) Sqn. redeploys back to Dartmouth, NS from Bagotville, Quebec (RCAF Sqns.).

In a by-election in Montreal **Fred Rose is elected to Parliament for the Labour-Progressive Party, the first Communist MP in Canada (www.schudak.de). See Feb. 15, 1946.**

- 28 14 Sqn. Marauder I FK133 missing in the Mediterranean between Italy and France, **P/O R.A. Billings, F/O R.W. Gilkey RCAF (USA), WO2 D.A. Thomson, WO2 C.Z. Toupin, Sgt H.E. Bryce-Jeffery RAF** and **F/S A.B. Tuttle RAF** missing (www.14sqn-association.org.uk).
- 28 401 Sqn. **F/L D.P. Kelly RCAF (USA)** died on service in England, see D. McIntosh for details.
- 28 405 Sqn. **F/L W.C. Allan** died of injuries received Dec. 16-17 in loss of Lancaster JB477.
- 28 #3 Personnel Reception Centre, Bournemouth, England, pilot **P/O E.J. Conway** died of

a broken skull on the sidewalk outside a cafe in Bournemouth. It is believed he was attacked.

- 28 #60 OTU Mosquito FB.VI HX861 crashed in England, F/L J.J. Marcus and his pilot F/L J.F. Scholes RAF (Can.) killed (H. Welting, www.rafcommands.com).
- 28 #3 OTU, Patricia Bay, BC, fire fighter Sgt J.S. Manfield died in hospital in Vancouver of natural causes (www.rafcommands.com).
- 28 #13 SFTS, St. Hubert, Quebec, Harvard II #2663 crashed, LAC(P) D.J. Murn RAAF killed.
- 28 #31 EFTS, DeWinton, Alberta, Cornell III #15025 had had it's propellor shattered when it hit a duck but landed safely. After repair, however, it crashed on it's test flight, Matroos 1st Klasse A. Jansen RAF (Neth.) and Sgt C.H. Lord RAF killed (pers. comm. Ethel Wood May 6, 2004).
- 28 #34 EFTS, Assiniboia, Saskatchewan, Cornell II #10596 crashed, Sgt A.W. Davey RAF and LAC N.E. Russell RAF killed.
- 28 #4 Training Command, North West Staging Route, Norseman IV #3529 made a forced landing and burned out north of Fort St. John, BC., S/L I.M. MacLean RCAF (Bermuda) injured. See Jan. 2, 1944.

Wednesday

- 29 186 Sqn. Typhoon Ib JR313 crashed in England after a mid-air collision, P/O S.R. Shaw killed.
- 29 #11 AFU Oxford W6648 crashed, P/O G.O. Dawson killed (www.rafcommands.com).
- 29 #11 AFU Oxford LW730 flew into the ground just after taking off, killing F/S G.T. Gerow and Sgt T.F. Mills RAF (aubrey and tomthorne83, www.rafcommands.com).
- 29 #23 OTU Wellington X HE366 made a bad cross wind landing and crashed attempting a go around when an engine died and it hit a hut, WO2 D.L. Snider and his crew safe.
- 29 #29 OTU Wellington III BK552 was hit on the ground by another Wellington III X3872, both being repairable, but Sgt W.B. Blakely was killed onboard BK552.
- 29 #1 Central Navigation School, Rivers, Manitoba, wireless mechanic LAC W.H. Simpson died of natural causes.
- 29 USAAF 52nd Ferry Sqn. B-17G 42-31439 missing from Goose Bay, Nfld., Capt. G.M. Bush and 9 crew lost (AAIR).
- 29 USAAF 4th Ferry Sqn. B-17G 42-97493 missing near Gander, Nfld., 1Lt B.E. Ryan and 9 crew killed (AAIR).

29-30 Bomber Command returns to Berlin with 712 bombers making a long approach from the south with 6 Mosquitos making a diversion attack at Dusseldorf, 5 to Leipzig and 8 more to Magdeburg, which appears to have dispersed the German night fighters and only 20 bombers were lost. The City was cloud covered and though a concentrated attack was reported on skymarkers

damage on the ground appears to have been minor. A suspected V-weapon site near Cherbourg was also attacked by 4 Mosquitos. Three more Mosquitos were over Leverkusen and 6 RCM sorties, 2 SERRATE, 5 GARDENING and 4 OTU sorties were also made (BC War Diaries).

- 29-30 10 Sqn. Halifax II JD314 ZA-X "OLA" shot down by a night fighter over Holland, **WO2 R.E. Roos**, F/S P.B. Green RAF, Sgt A. Colbourne RAF and Sgt D.R.C. Appleyard RAF killed, Sgt W.D. Hall RAF, F/S S. Webb RAF and Sgt P.J. Greenmon missing. There is a book about this aircraft, *At The Foot Of Our Stairs - The History and Crews of Handley Page Halifax JD314*, by Paul Skelly (<http://www.teunispats.net/fr-wwii.htm>).
- 29-30 12 Sqn. Lancaster III JB407 PH-A hit by flak over Germany, gunners **Sgt E. Podborochinski** and Sgt R. Cooke RAF killed, Sgt J.H. Hawksly-Hill RAF, F/S C. Toulson RAF, P/O F.A. Hodgkinson RAF, Sgt W.E. Doak and Sgt A.A. Mortimer RAF PoW.
- 29-30 35 Sqn. Halifax II HR986 TL-G lost over Germany, **WO2 W.E.C. Dillow**, F/O R.C. Williams DFC RAF, Sgt W. Laverick DFM RAF, P/O J. Hooson DFM RAF, F/O E.J. Stone DFC RAF and F/O G.R. Davidson DFM RAF killed, Sgt F.C. Redman RAF PoW.
- 29-30 61 Sqn. Lancaster I DV399 QR-R was set on fire, possibly by flak, and exploded over Germany, F/L G.H. Harvey RAAF, Sgt J.S. Kennedy RAF, F/S R.W. Carver RAF, Sgt K. Prouten RAF, Sgt N.S.J. Meehan RAF and Sgt R. Stuart RAF killed, **P/O D.F. Thomas** PoW.
- 29-30 101 Sqn. ABC equipped Lancaster I LM371 SR-T lost over Germany, Sgt J. Morton RAF killed, **Sgt M. Cohen** (special operator), F/S W.M. Smith RNZAF, F/S J.W. Shearer RAF, Sgt R.M. Lloyd RAF, F/S N.F. Worsnup RAF, Sgt D. Naylor RAF and Sgt W.R. Coleman RAF PoW.
- 29-30 102 Sqn. Halifax II HR867 DY-A was hit by flak and a night fighter attack over Germany which killed the rear gunner, F/S T.P. O'Hare RAAF. The pilot, P/O A.C. Fraser RAAF, held the aircraft for the crew to bail out and he left at only 700' above the ground to become a PoW with the rest of the crew, **F/O E.L. Carlson, F/O H.H. Hesketh**, Sgt R. Mundy RAF, Sgt R.R. McWhinnie RAF, Sgt R. Day RAF and F/S N.L. Pearce RAF (O. Clutton-Brock). R. Donovan notes that F/O Carlson was also a Guinea Pig, no details.
- 29-30 103 Sqn. Lancaster III JB487 PM-G over Germany hit and severely damaged by flak which killed Sgt T.C. Henderson RAF, the rear gunner. The aircraft was abandoned, **Sgt W.A. Lamb**, WO L.J. Grigg RAF, Sgt A.R.G. Warne RAF, Sgt A. Fletcher RAF, Sgt C.H. Cunning RAF and Sgt R.W. Hatherley RAF PoW.
- 29-30 115 Sqn. Lancaster II DS834 KO-F shot down by a night fighter over Holland, **F/S A.M. Wilkinson**, F/S K.S. Bell RAAF, Sgt G. Johnson RAF and Sgt L.H. Jones RAF killed, F/S J.Y. Lee RAF and Sgt H.L. Pike RAF PoW, Sgt A.F. Gunnell RAF evaded.
- 29-30 405 Sqn. Lancaster III JB668 LQ-T was hit by flak over the target damaging two

engines. Returning they were again damaged by flak as they crossed the coast, but managed to land at an emergency landing field in England where the bomber was written off as too damaged to repair, **F/S A.R.R. McQuade**, **WO2 D.M. Lunney**, **F/S R.H. Law**, **Sgt W.C. Patter**, **F/S G.E. Foster**, Sgt J. McCreadie RAF and F/S J. Fraser RAF safe.

29-30 408 Sqn. Lancaster II DS718 EQ-R lost over Germany, **P/O D.A. McCabe**, **F/O R.A. Pildrem**, **WO2 W.E. Raban**, **F/L W.T. Wilton**, Sgt B.H. Fearn RAF, Sgt H. Landing RAF and P/O F.H. Hoyle RAF killed.

29-30 419 Sqn. Halifax II LW282 VR-Y caught fire and abandoned near the target, **F/S R.L. Thompson**, **Sgt F.H. Webb**, **Sgt S.J. Maloney**, **Sgt A.S. Carroll**, **Sgt W.J. Barry**, Sgt G. Cooper RAF and Sgt R.G. Bilyard RAF PoW.

29-30 427 Sqn. Halifax V, **P/O R.C. Deegan**, was forced to turn back after an engine failed. After evading a night fighter attack over the Zuider Zee a second engine failed. With a third engine not giving full power extra items were jettisoned which also removed the trailing aerial. The wireless operator F/S J.A. Smith, managed to install a spare aerial and get fixes so the bomber could return to England and landed on two engines, one of these failing before they could park (R. Koval, 5th Year). This sortie was detailed in *The R.C.A.F. Overseas - The Fifth Year*.

29-30 427 Sqn. Halifax V, F/L F. Murray, was hit over the target by incendiaries which damaged a wing and the tail, and damaged an aileron that put the bomber into a spin. F/L Murray recovered at low altitude but was unable to do more than fly straight, and received several flak hits before exiting the target area, and landed short of fuel in England (R. Koval).

29-30 429 Sqn. Halifax II JD318 AL-F exploded over Holland due to a night fighter attack, **F/S A.G. Innes**, **F/O C.W. Peasland**, **Sgt R.J.H. Walsh RCAF (UK)**, F/S E.N. Parker RAF and Sgt B.S. Ranson RAF killed, **P/O A.L. Merkley RCAF (UK)** and **F/O R.O. Marrion** PoW (tomthorne83 and R. Koval at www.rafcommands.com).

29-30 431 Sqn. Halifax V LK659 SE-A lost on an operation over Germany, **F/O J.N. Nelson**, **Sgt J.R.A. Ruthven**, Sgt A.H.R. Fielding RAF, Sgt F.G. Goodall RAF, Sgt L.C. Nosworthy RAF, F/O F. Spencer RAF and Sgt P. Walker RAF killed.

29-30 431 Sqn. Halifax V LK701 SE-L lost on an operation to Germany, **F/O G.E. Bishop**, **F/S G. Cummine**, **F/O R.A. Holtby**, **Sgt G.D. Kehoe**, **Sgt J.J. Whelan** and P/O A.E.F. Banning RAF killed, Sgt N. Boffin RAF PoW.

29-30 431 Sqn. Halifax V SE-F, F/S J.C. King RAAF, was hit by flak that set one engine on fire and shattered the cockpit windscreen. The crew managed to return to England jettisoning equipment to lighten the aircraft (R. Koval, W.E. Heron). See January 28-29, 1944.

29-30 432 Sqn. Lancaster II DS740 QO-Z returned to England damaged by 2 flak hits, **WO2 W.H. Hoppus**, **P/O D.T. Lyng**, **P/O D.A. Rae**, Sgt K.E. Evans RAF, F/O G.V. Holmes RAF, Sgt C.F. Tarr RAF and 1 crew safe (R. Koval). See January 14-15, 1944.

29-30 432 Sqn. Lancaster II DS844 QO-H was forced to return early and was damaged when

it overran the runway, later repaired, F/S W. Fernyhough, Sgt H.J. Kennedy, Sgt A. Lagimodiere, F/S G. Lamphier, Sgt J.V. Musser, Sgt D. Racher and Sgt Jack Hembry RAF safe (R. Allenby).

29-30 432 Sqn. Lancaster II DS792 QU-U had it's mid-upper turret damaged avoiding two aircraft that had collided in front of it, but completed it's sortie and returned to England, F/S P.M. McClintock, Sgt W.C.A. Pay RAF, Sgt S. Carr RAF, Sgt J.R. Baker RAF, Sgt J.R.G. Bell RAF, Sgt A. King RAF and Sgt J.M. Houston RAF safe (R. Allenby). See December 10, 1944.

29-30 434 Sqn. Halifax V was outbound when a flak hit knocked out one engine, damaged two more, killed the flight engineer Sgt A. Bostock RAF, and injured the pilot, P/O R. Pratt. There was a second pilot on board, Sgt J. Stinson, and he took over control, bombed the target, and returned to a safe landing on 3 engines at an emergency airfield (R. Koval).

29-30 467 Sqn. RAAF Lancaster III ED547 PO-M lost over Germany, F/S F.A. Spencer, P/O B.A. Tait RAAF, Sgt R.A. Yale RAF, Sgt S. Allom RAF, Sgt D. Wetherell RAF and F/S L.E. Lambert RAF killed, P/O F.M. Allen RAF has no known grave.

29-30 514 Sqn. Lancaster II DS821 JI-S badly damaged by a night fighter attack and ditched out of fuel, F/O L. Greenburgh RAF (Can.), Sgt L. Weddle RAF, Sgt P.G. Butler RAF, Sgt D.L. Bament RAAF, Sgt G.H. Stromberg RAF, Sgt F.J. Carey RAF and F/S C.A. Drake RAF (Aus.) were later rescued by an ASR launch. While waiting for the launch a rescue aircraft dropped a second life raft and supply packages, one of which struck and injured F/S Drake (O. Clutton-Brock & R. Crompton, *The Long Road: Trials and Tribulations of Airmen Prisoners from Stalag Luft VII (Bankau) to Berlin, June 1944 - May 1945*, Grub Street 2014). F/O Greenburgh had been arrested during the Dominion Day riot in Regina in 1935, and after release from prison, traveled to England where he joined the RAF. He was part of 242 (Canadian) Squadron in ground duties before re-mustering to aircrew (http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/people/greenburgh_l.shtml). For his efforts to keep his crew alert until rescue he was awarded a DFC. See March 24-25, 1944.

Thursday

30 The Japanese airfield at Cape Gloucester in New Britain is captured by US Marines (D. Newton).

Pro-Japanese Indian Government set up in Port Blair in the Japanese occupied Andaman Islands by Subhas Chandra Bose (wikipedia; S. Raghavan).

USAAF attacks chemical works at Ludwigshafen with 658 bombers using H2X through cloud with poor results, 23 bombers lost (Zijlstra).

First production B-29 aircraft completed at the Boeing Renton plant

(http://www.hobartmachined.com/A_History_of_Boeing_Renton.pdf). In 1944 production of the fuselage midsection with bomb bays and wing structure for Renton was undertaken by Boeing of Canada at it's Sea Island, BC, plant, then trucked to the USA (<http://seaisland1.homestead.com/Boeing.html>). One quarter of the total production of B-29s came from the Renton facility (<http://www.b29-superfortress.com>) with Canadian components. See August 14, 1945.

- 30 RN Hospital Ship *Karapara*, enroute from India to England, accountant **S/L J.P. Redpath** who had been diagnosed with schizophrenia missing, believed to have jumped into the ocean (www.rafcommands.com).
- 30 164 Sqn. Hurricane IV KX540 shot down off France, **F/O F.H. Dennison** was found by air rescue but was dead.
- 30 #32 EFTS, Bowden, Alberta, Cornell II #16637 crashed when it struck a tree when the pilot was blinded by sun and snow glare, instructor P/O J. Dunbar RAF and his student were trapped in the wrecked aircraft for 90 minutes before being rescued. A photo of this crash appears in the article on John Dunbar by I. Frimston in *Aeroplane Monthly*, September 2005 (CMA). P/O Dunbar later commanded a group of light aircraft used to maintain covert communications in Burma. See March 3, 1945.
- 30 #34 OTU, Pennfield Ridge, NB, Ventura GR.V FN979 swung on landing and the instructor raised the undercarriage to prevent the aircraft running into trees, **P/O J.H. Thorenton, F/O G.H. Knickerbocker, F/S D.A. Knight, P/O J.F. MacDonald and F/S R.C. Edwards** safe (www.rootsweb.ancestry.com #34 OTU Accident and Mishap Reports).

30-31 617 Sqn. sent 10 Lancasters with 6 Pathfinder Mosquitos to the flying bomb site they had missed before, but once again marking was placed just off the site and the bombing missed. Other operations included 10 Mosquitos to Cologne, 8 to Duisburg, 3 to Bochum, 6 RCM, 26 GARDENING and 28 OTU sorties without loss (BC War Diaries).

Friday

31 A Japanese air attack on Chittagong in India suffers heavy losses for the loss of 1 Spitire (D. Newton).

In improving weather USAAF sends 572 bombers to airfields on the French coast and industrial targets at Paris. Some 464 manage to bomb their targets, 25 are lost over France and 18 more were written off in England either damaged or while attempting landings in closing weather and darkness (Zijlstra).

Production of pitchblende at Port Radium falls to 18,454 lbs., it's worst monthly

total, due to flooding in the mine.

#123 (ACT) Sqn. RCAF arrives in England and is re-designated 439 Sqn. for fighter bomber duties on Typhoon aircraft (RCAF Sqns.).

- 31 177 Sqn. Beaufighter TF.X JL540 hit by anti-aircraft fire attacking railway targets in Burma and crash landed, F/O D.J. Houston RAF killed, F/O W.G. Adamson returned (C. Shores; aviation-safety.net). See Jan. 13, 1944 and March 24, 1944.
- 31 272 Sqn. Beaufighter TF.X LZ120 lost from Sicily, LAC L. Finch RAF killed, F/O E.B. Edgett RCAF (USA) missing (www.rafcommands.com).
- 31 198 Sqn. Typhoon Ib JP652 TP-T was part of a RAMROD acting as an escort for Hurricane aircraft (Hurribombers?) when it collided in mid-air with 198 Sqn. Typhoon Ib JP727 TP-Y and both crashed into the sea, F/O W.R. Widdess missing in JP652 and F/O K. Johnson RAF missing in JP727.
- 31 #104 OTU Wellington Ic R1520 flew into a hill in Northern Ireland, Sgt J.E.R. Cote, F/O H.E. Massey RAF and F/O V. Tanner RAF killed.
- 31 #10 B&G School, Mount Pleasant, PEI, Battle TT.I #2057 crashed, AC2 H.W. Huhtala, F/S W.J. Pearson and drogue operator AC2 D.M. Scanlon killed.
- 31 #37 SFTS, Calgary, Alberta, Harvard II AJ966 crashed, LAC W.D. Shaw RNZAF killed.

31 RCAF manpower is 27,330 officers and 179,020 airmen, total 206,350, including some 15,000 WDs (RCAF Women's Division). With the reduced threat to North America 6 squadrons (#123 (ACT), #125 (F), #127 (F), #14 (F), #111 (F) and #118 (F)) were being or about to be transferred overseas, becoming 439, 441, 443, 442, 440 and 438 squadrons respectively. Total squadron strength on this date is 78 with 35 overseas in England, Italy and the Far East, 37 in North America and the 6 mentioned above in transit. Of these 15 were in Bomber Command (405 Sqn. in #8 (Pathfinder) Group and the other 14 forming #6 Group RCAF). These squadrons which had started the year with a mix of 2 and 4 engined bombers were now all flying 4 engined heavy bombers, and beginning to re-equip with Canadian built Lancaster X aircraft. The majority of RCAF aircrew serving overseas, however, are serving in RAF squadrons, throughout the world.

The BCATP was also at it's peak with 104,000 civilian, RCAF and RAF personnel operating 97 schools and 184 other units at 231 sites across Canada, graduating 3,000 trained RCAF, RAAF, RNZAF and RAF aircrew each month (RCAF Sqns.). During 1943 15,894 pilots, 8,144 navigators, 6,445 bomb aimers and 8,695 wireless operator air gunners graduated from the Plan (Oxford).