

Six Canadian Squadrons Join in Berlin Blasting

By FOSTER BARCLAY

London, Nov. 19 (CP).—Six squadrons from the Canadian Bomber group—the biggest force ever sent out on a night raid—joined with R.A.F. heavyweights last night in a two-ply smash at Berlin and Ludwigshafen, Rhineland chemical city.

Two squadrons of Lancasters, the Goose and Thunderbird, participated in the Berlin blasting, while four Halifax squadrons, the Bison, Lion, Bluenose and Iroquois, battered Ludwigshafen. In addition, many Canadians flew with R.A.F. squadrons.

Wing Cmdr. J. D. Pattison of Toronto led the Bisons and FO. J. T. Head of Glace Bay, N.S., said he could see fires 100 miles from the Ludwigshafen target.

Two night fighters attacked the aircraft in which Flt. Sgt. L. A. Nethersay of Hamilton, Ont., was bomb-aimer. The fighters got in seven or eight bursts and the rear gunner, Sgt. J. D. Copland of Penetanguishene, Ont., returned the fire before the plane's pilot dropped 4,000 feet, shaking off fighters and searchlights.

Fought Cold Weather.

Airmen who said they were impressed by the German anti-aircraft display included PO. W. R. Bloch, Vancouver; FO. A. G. McAuley, Belleville, Ont.; Sgt. N. Barlow, Toronto.

The airmen fought freezing temperatures all the way, the mercury sometimes hitting 37 degrees below zero.

Wing Cmdr. Alex Mair of Brantford, Ont., commanded the Goose squadron and his fliers reported

that they encountered no night fighters on the run, but were bounced around by heavy flak.

PO. Bob Smith of Toronto brought back a piece of flak as a souvenir. He flew with Flt. Sgt. Lloyd Beer of Pictou, N.S., FO. C. Y. Ridgers of Hamilton, Ont., and Flt. Sgts. Doug Mulock of Regina, Sask., and Butch Draper of Elgin, Man.

For PO. Roy Laine of Port Arthur, Ont., the Berlin raid was his first operation. Others in his crew included PO. Jim Broadfoot of Seaford, Ont.; Flt. Sgt. Bob Bradley of Ottawa, Flt. Sgt. Roy McKay of Truro, N.S., and Sgt. George Scott of Montreal.

Flt. Sgt. Steve Sapruff of Trail, B.C., celebrated his 13th operational flight by raiding Ludwigshafen in a Halifax captained by Sqdn. Ldr. Eric Hockey of Kentville, N.S.

PO. Gordon Hellers of Cobalt, Ont., reported "billowing clouds of smoke" over Ludwigshafen.

Others on the Ludwigshafen raid included FO's R. J. Fawcett of Toronto; J. M. Grieve, School Lake, Man.; Flt. Sgts. W. C. Patterson, Portage la Prairie, Man.; E. Gruninger, Sunnybrook, Alta.; E. Kabana, Montreal; H. M. Schade, South River, Ont.; PO. F. W. Kingston, Montreal; FO's M. G. Utas, Lacombe, Alta.; F. P. Morrow, Cranbrook, B.C.

"It was a whale of a good prang," said FO. Al Hall of Ottawa who flew in a Halifax piloted by PO. Shan Dunn of Montreal. His aircraft was holed by flak over Amiens and one wing was damaged.

Back on Three Motors.

A member of the Bluenose squadron, a Halifax piloted by FO. Dennis Brest of San Francisco, came home on three motors, after barging into a pack of trouble near the target. The aircraft was coned by searchlights, hit by flak and then had its rear turret demolished by night fighters.

"We were coned at the time and a Focke-Wulf 190 sneaked in, letting us have it at 50 yards," related Sgt. Michael Gnius of Regina, the mid-upper gunner. He said he and the tail gunner opened fire on the attacker, but failed to observe the results.

Others in the crew of the damaged Halifax included Sgts. Wilf Kipp of Kamloops, B.C.; Jim Snowsell of Kelowna, B.C., and Jack Morgan of North Vancouver.

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