

FLAK STRIKES PLANE, BUT CREW RETURNS SAFELY

F.O. Ridgers in Great Raid Last Night—Over Berlin

London, Nov. 19.—(CP Cable)—Big Lancasters and Halifaxes from the Canadian bomber group joined the R.A.F. last night in its two-pronged attack against Germany. Goose and Thunderbird squadrons composed of Lancaster bombers thundered over Berlin without loss while Halifaxes from the Lion, Bison, Bluenose and Iroquois squadrons hit Ludwigshafen.

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



F.O. Ridgers

Wing-Comdr. Alex Mair, of Brantford, Ont., commanding officer of the Goose squadron, took his outfit to Berlin. They encountered no night fighters on the run, but were bounced around by heavy flak.

Flak as Souvenir

P.O. Bob Smith, of Toronto, brought back a piece of flak as a souvenir. He was flying an aircraft with Flight-Sgt. Lloyd Beer, of Pictou, N.S.; F.O. C. Y. Ridgers, 156 Flatt avenue, Hamilton, Ont., and Flight-Sgt. Doug Mulock, of Regina, and Butch Draper, of Elgin, Man.

"We got some flak holes in our kite on the way back," said P.O. Roy Laine, of Port Arthur, Ont., who considered himself lucky to be able to write Berlin in his logbook after his first operation.

Others in Laine's crew included P.O. Jim Broadfoot, of Seaforth, Ont.; Flight-Sgt. Bob Bradley, of Ottawa; Flight-Sgt. Roy McKay, of Truro, N.S., and Sgt. George Scott, of Montreal.

It was the 13th operation for Flight-Sgt. Steve Saprund, of Trail, B.C., who went to Ludwigshafen in a Halifax bomber skippered by Squadron-Ldr. Eric Hockey, of Kentville, N.S.

"Everything seemed to light up at once," said the westerner, describing the run. "We saw one tremendous fire and several smaller ones develop."

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

"There were billowing clouds of smoke" over Ludwigshafen, said P.O. Gordon Hellers, of Cobalt, Ont., who was with the same crew. "The chemical plant must have really got it."

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