

R.C.A.F. Bomber Group Stages Its Biggest Raid

London, Sept. 27 (CP).—Without loss, the greatest number of Lancaster and Halifax bombers ever sent into action by the Canadian bomber group smashed at the Ruhr early today.

The main force—about 150 of the heavyweights—hit a synthetic oil plant at Bottrop, six miles north of Essen, in an all-Canadian attack against limited opposition from ground defenses. When they turned for home, the bombers left smoke pluming 12,000 feet from their targets.

The great Canadian bomber group effort against the Ruhr came after two days of heavy operations and there was little advance notice. Ground crews worked all night to meet the deadline for the assault, which was carried out with a Spitfire cover.

Targets, including gas tanks and factories, were seen to disintegrate in "big bursts of red fire" as the Canadians' bombs struck home.

Veteran fliers such as FO. Arthur Martyn of Tillsonburg, Ont.; FO. Tony Palanek of Windsor, Ont., and FO. C. R. Goldie of Bulyea, Sask., who finished his tour of operations as a bomb aimer with his trip, told of huge factories and gas tanks wreathed in flame and smoke.

Among Canadian squadrons participating were the Ghost, Moose,

and Snowy Owl. Two were led personally by their commanding officers. Wing Cmdr. A. P. Blackburn of Aylesford, N.S., made his 30th sortie, leading the Bluenose Squadron, and Wing Cmdr. A. C. Hall of Ottawa, took out the Ghost unit.

Sqdn. Ldr. Lloyd Gonyou, Port Colborne, Ont., a flight commander, said he figured that a gas tank had been hit and Flt. Sgt. Ernie Armstrong, Vancouver, saw a gas tank burning furiously beside a large factory.

Other airmen on the operation included Wing Cmdr. F. W. Ball, St. Thomas, Ont.; Flt. Lt. Alan Sherlock, Toronto; Sqdn. Ldr. C. C. W. Marshall, Kingston; Sgt. Paul Mytruk 278 Sherbrooke St., Winnipeg; FO. Charles Trotter, Three Rivers, Que.

149
WAR
EUROPEAN
1939
CANADA
AIR
FORCE
RAIDS
GERMANY