



Today **75 years** ago, in the night of *23rd-24th of May 1943* in the middle of the 5-month long *Bomber Command* campaign the **“Battle of the Ruhr”**, the campaign of strategic bombing against the **Ruhr** area.

The 460 RAAF Squadron Lancaster **W4984 AR-J** took off from **Binbrook** airfield, for their fatal mission. After a 9-day break in major operations, *Bomber Command* dispatched 826 aircraft to **Dortmund**, a record number of aircraft in a 'non-1,000' raid so far in the war and the largest raid of the **“Battle of the Ruhr”**.

The force comprised: 343 Lancasters, 199 Halifax's, 151 Wellingtons, 120 Stirlings and 13 Mosquitos. Despite the loss of 38 aircraft it was a very successful raid. Many industrial premises were hit, particularly the large *Hoesch steelworks*, which ceased production.

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The Daily Sketch

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HP SAUCE
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DORTMUND—GREATEST EVER ASSAULT

35 Tons a Minute for an Hour

By 'DAILY SKETCH' AIR CORRESPONDENT
THE greatest air assault in history, in which more than 2,000 tons of bombs were dropped in an hour—35 tons a minute—devastated Dortmund, the Ruhr coal and steel centre, on Sunday night.

The number of planes used, three-quarters of them four-engined, was less than in the famous 1,000-bomber raid on Cologne—but they dropped 500 tons more.

The First 100,000 Tons

The measure of the assault may be judged from the fact that Dortmund covers only four square miles compared with Greater London's 700, on which the greatest bomb load the Germans ever dropped in a single raid was 450 tons.

In this one night at Dortmund the R.A.F. dropped one-third of the total amount dropped on Germany since 1939 up to 100,000 tons.

This fact was the matter of special comment by Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur Harris, C-in-C, Bomber Command, in the following message he sent to all the crews:

"In 1939 I promised that not a single enemy bomb would reach the Ruhr. Congratulations on having delivered the first 100,000 tons of bombs on Germany to refute him!

"The next 100,000, if he waits for them, will be even bigger and better bombs, delivered even more accurately and in a much shorter time."

Berlin made a rare admission after the raid when, claiming 33 of our bombers—our losses were officially given as 38—the German High Command communique said:

"During last night enemy bombers dropped numerous high-explosive and incendiary bombs on Dortmund. Casualties were caused to the population and considerable material damage."

Berlin Radio said last night that the R.A.F. tried to exploit the effect of surprise by first attacking dispersed targets in various parts of Germany and only then assembling for the main attack on Dortmund itself.

Battles—Not Raids

This onslaught on Dortmund brings sharp emphasis to the words of Sir Archibald Sinclair, who on Friday said:

"These are more than raids—they are battles. Success in such a battle over Munich, Essen or Berlin is a victory with profound and far-reaching effects on the course of the war."

The Air Ministry, giving details of the attack last night, said: "The attack was completed in an hour, between one and two o'clock in the morning. Though this was a little longer than some recent heavy attacks it was 30 minutes less than the Cologne raid."

So many bombers were over the target at a time and the concentration of attack was so effective that crews had to keep a sharp look-out to avoid collisions. At one time a Lancaster pilot saw more than 30 heavy bombers within two minutes.

The attack began with a very rapid and violent onslaught, which effectively confused and overwhelmed the defences. Very soon the searchlights were beginning to work slowly and the flak became erratic. Fires on the ground sprang up with equal speed.

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Another picture of the Dortmund raiders—Wing-Commander Cosmo Gomm, D.F.C. (left), and four members of his crew. Wing-Commander Gomm, Brazilian leader of an Australian squadron and veteran of 51 raids, was stoned by searchlights, but pressed home his attack, despite heavy flak.



* They Went To Dortmund *

Back from the onslaught on Dortmund, "Daily Sketch" picture of one of the Lancaster crews telling their stories of the greatest-ever R.A.F. raid.

2-Tonners Hit Italy's 'Malta'

From A. D. DIVINE, 'Daily Sketch' War Correspondent, Algiers, Monday.
THROUGHOUT yesterday, when the Strategic Air Force continued the round-the-clock pounding of Italy's Mediterranean bases, no air opposition was encountered.

The eight-mile-long island of Pantelleria was the chief target. Sardinia was also attacked. Last night R.A.F. Wellingtons dropped a heavy load of bombs, including 4,000 lb. block-busters on Pantelleria harbour and airfield. Large fires were started.

Ships Sunk

This followed three daylight attacks on the same targets in the space of five hours by Mitchells, Mosquitos, bombers and Warhawk bomb-carrying fighters.

Lightning fighter-bombers which swept Sardinia found many targets. At Carloforte Harbour, on the eastern coast of the little island of San Pietro, off South-West Sardinia, a 2,000-ton coastal vessel was hit by a bomb and three smaller craft were sunk.

De Gaulle And Giraud Agree To Unite

UNITY of all Frenchmen fighting on the side of the Allies has been achieved and the organisations of General de Gaulle and General Giraud will soon be welded together.

General Giraud's plan has been accepted by the Fighting French, and General de Gaulle will leave for Algiers at the end of the week with M. Massigli, Commissioner for Foreign Affairs, and M. Andre Philip, Commissioner for the Interior.

Will Administer the French Empire

In Algiers they will meet General Giraud and his two nominees to form a Central Executive Committee.

These six will co-opt three more Frenchmen and the committee of nine will then administer the French Empire and hold power until a provisional Government is set up in France.

PREMIER IN 2.30 a.m. TALK

From HESSELL TILTMAN, Washington, Monday.
MR. CHURCHILL and President Roosevelt, after a discussion lasting for more than three hours until 2.30 this morning, resumed their conference with members of their advisory staffs at the White House to-day.

Mr. Stephen Early, President Roosevelt's private secretary, said that the two statesmen were holding continuous discussions throughout the day, though not on any fixed schedule.

Roosevelt For Canada?
It is assumed that the two leaders were ironing out kinks preparatory to the final decision. Possibly some time this week a Roosevelt-Churchill Press Conference will take place at the White House.

Mr. Mackenzie King, Canadian Premier, said on his return to Ottawa yesterday that Mr. Churchill could not visit Canada this time, but President Roosevelt would, "the only question in the President's mind being when and how."

General Giraud is regarded as the logical candidate for the military leadership, since General de Gaulle is known to have intimated that he preferred heretofore to concentrate on a political career.

General Giraud has not yet made known his choice for his two nominees to the committee.

SEND US FOOD, SAYS RUSSIA

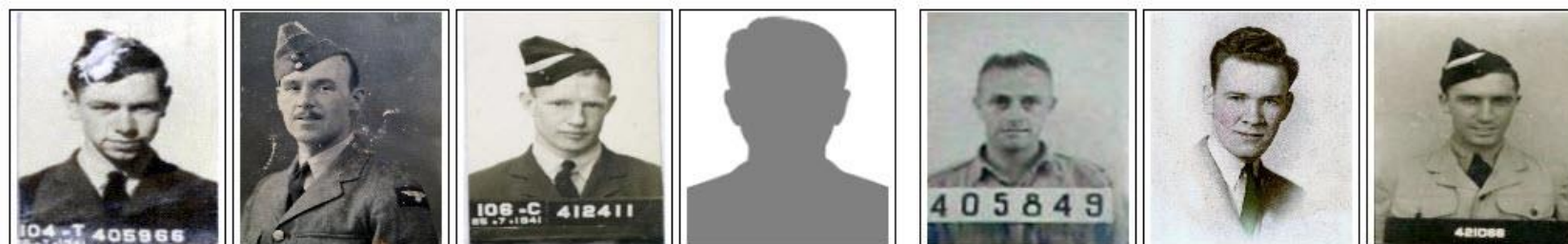
Hot Springs, Virginia, Monday.
The Russian delegation to the United Nations Food Conference in Hot Springs declared to-day that the Soviet Union needed more food than it was now receiving from the United States.

They said that Russia needed more food to carry on the war against Germany.

TIMELY WORDS OF FAITH
FAKE YE NEED WATCH AND PRAY FOR YE KNOW NOT WHEN THE TIME IS.
Mark 13, 33

The Lancaster **W4984 AR-J** was one of Lancaster's who were dispatched for the attack on **Dortmund**. On its route to their target **Dortmund** the Australian pilot **Flight Sergeant Beresford Milton Troy Davis** and his crew, flying the Lancaster **W4984 AR-J** were attacked by the German night fighter pilot Oberleutnant August Geiger flying a Bf 110 night fighter of the 7./NJG 1 from **Twenthe** airbase. The Lancaster **W4984 AR-J** was bombed up with one 4000 *lb.* HC Cookie, 48x30 *lb.* and 540 x4 *lb.* incendiaries and with high octane fuel on board left for several hours of flying.

The Lancaster **W4984 AR-J** and its crew crashed at *02.07 Hrs.* close to **Schoonebeek** in **the Netherlands** after a violent fire on board of the Lancaster caused by the attack of the German night fighter killing six of the seven crewmembers, **Sergeant Clarence Goldthorpe** could bail out in time and was taken Prisoner of War (POW) by the German army soon after landing close to the **Dutch-German** border.



B.M.T. Davis
Pilot
Australia
KIA

E. Rowlands
Flight Engineer
England
KIA

K.D. Dyce
Navigator
Australia
KIA

J.S. Biffen
Wireless Operator
Australia
KIA

C. Goldthorpe
Air Bomber
Australia
POW

F.W. Ralph
Air Gunner
United States
KIA

C.S. Wright
Air Gunner
Australia
KIA

Let's keep the remembrance alive of what **Beresford Milton Troy Davis**, **Eric Rowlands**, **Kenneth Douglas Dyce**, **Jack Stanley Biffen**, **Charles Sinclair Wright**, **Frederick Wilson Ralph** and **Clarence Goldthorpe** did for our freedom.

The deceased crew members of the Lancaster **W4984 AR-J** are buried on the *Commonwealth War Graves* section of the General cemetery in **Schoonebeek** in the **Netherlands**.



B.M.T. Davis



E. Rowlands



K.D. Dyce



J.S. Biffen



F.W. Ralph



C.S. Wright

Rest in Peace.