

FORCE THAT ATTACKED GHENT MAINLY MADE UP OF CANUCKS

At Least Eleven Canadian Squadrons Raided Belgian Communication Centre

London, April 11.—(CP Cable)—The R.C.A.F. bomber group provided the main force in last night's attack on Ghent, important Belgian communications centre and one of the targets of a five-ply smash by a record number of R.A.F. and Canadian bombers on targets in occupied France and Belgium.

Other Attacks

At least 11 Canadian Halifax squadrons hammered at the railway yards in Ghent while Canadian Lancasters participated in the R.A.F. blow at Laon in northern France.

Canadians also flew with an R.A.F. Halifax squadron which blasted at railway objectives in Tergnier, also in northern France. Other French targets during the night were Tours and Aulnoye.

Although there was a haze over Ghent, returning crew of the four-engined Canadian aircraft described the blow as highly successful.

Some fighter opposition was encountered, but all the Canadian aircraft returned safely from the night's operations.

Air Commodore A. D. Ross, of Winnipeg and Toronto, flew to Ghent in a Halifax of the Alouette squadron piloted by Flight-Lieut. W. L. Vanexan, of Smith's Falls, Ont.

Other units included the Bluenose squadron led by Wing-Comdr. Chris Bartlett, D.F.C., Fort Qu'Appelle, Sask., the Lion squadron led by Wing-Comdr. Bob Turnbull, A.F.C., D.F.M., Govan, Sask., and the Iroquois, Moose, Ghost, Bison, Porcupine, Tiger, Snowy Owl and Leaside squadrons.

Enemy fighters were reported by W.O.2 Fred Johnson, of Toronto; Sgt. Jack Coates, of Toronto, and P.O. Bill Woodrow, Vancouver and Ottawa. Woodrow counted ten fighters flying at 20,000 feet and said one came within 300 yards of his Iroquois squadron Halifax but didn't fire. Coates, a squadron-mate, had skirmishes with three fighters, one of which chased him out of the target area after he had given the slip to two others over the target. Two Junkers 88's swooped in on Johnson's Halifax, but his Bluenose squadron Halifax was undamaged.

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