

CANADIANS AGAIN IN THICK OF RAID, WARM RECEPTION

Returning Airmen Tell of Intensity of German Anti-Aircraft Fire

London, Nov. 20.—(CP Cable)—Squadrons from the Canadian bomber group, including the Lion, Goose and, Bluenose formations, that hit Ludwigshafen the previous night, struck at Leverkusen last night in co-operation with the R.A.F. Also taking part in the raid, R.C.A.F. headquarters announced, was the Moose squadron.

Returning airmen reported defences surrounding the chemical centre were "very active" and said many of the aircraft were given rough rides as they bounced through the flak.

This heavy flak punched holes in many of the planes and Squadron-Ldr. Lloyd Linnell, of Weyburn, Sask., came home on three engines, the fourth having been knocked out by shrapnel.

"We saw more flak than ever before," reported Flight-Sgt. Bob Dixon, of Edmonton, who chalked up his 13th ride last night.

Aeroplane Riddled

A Halifax bomber piloted by Flt.-Sgt. Bob Ritchie, Winnipeg, had a

close shave. The aircraft was filled with holes as big as footballs when caught by the flak.

"It was a poor night for searchlights and fighters, so they filled the air with flak," explained P.O. Al Merkley, of Vancouver, whose aircraft was caught in an ack-ack barrage for more than an hour.

However, the nightfighters were not entirely idle. Sgt. W. F. Smith, of Toronto, a tail gunner, said his Lion squadron Halifax was coned by searchlights and attacked by two Junkers 88's, but escaped undamaged.

A fighter also attacked an aircraft piloted by R. L. Boe, of Manville, Alta., and was shaken off after Gunner-Sgt. H. Salkeld, of Timmins, Ont., got away a long burst.

149
WAR
EUROPEAN
1939
CANADA
AIR
FORCE
RAIDS
GERMANY

1939-11-20