

GREAT FIRES LEFT AT KASSEL IN HEAVY RAID

London, Oct. 4 (CP).—R.C.A.F. crews reported the glow of fires was visible 125 miles away after last night's concentrated R.A.F.-R.C.A.F. attack on Kassel, German industrial centre 100 miles east of the Ruhr, which was battered by 1,680 tons of bombs.

"The target seemed to lift in the air like a ball of fire, lighting up the whole sky," one airman said.

"It was the first time in my 12 trips that the light of incendiaries was so great that I could see the ground details plainly," commented Sgt. Frank Wheeler of Prince George, B.C., a bomb aimer in a Halifax squadron.

FO. Russ Kempt of 81 Tuxedo Ave., Hamilton, Ont., said the place "was a solid mass of flames and looked worse than Hamburg on any of the three trips we made there." Kempt added that when his aircraft was more than 100 miles away "we saw a tremendous explosion that mushroomed flames high into the air."

FO. Arnold Wyton of Newdale, Man., bomb aimer in an R.A.F. Stirling in which PO. Roy Greaves of Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont., was navigator, also told of seeing many fires in the target area.

Encounter No Trouble.

"There were fires everywhere," he said. "The crews could see a hundred places where incendiaries and high explosives had taken hold. It was an easier trip than most, and we in our kite had no trouble with enemy fighter, flak or searchlights."

Greaves said: "Their defenses obviously weren't ready for the attack we gave, and it looked to us from our bombing height as though the attack accomplished all it set out to do and perhaps a bit more." He added it was "a good show."

The R.C.A.F. Iroquois Squadron went out for the first time since it was converted from Wellingtons to Halifaxes. Wing Cmdr. Bill Newsom, D.F.C., of Victoria, B.C., led the squadron.

The Bluenose Squadron, commanded by Wing Cmdr. C. E. Harris of Annapolis Royal, N.S., also was on the raid, and Sgt. Tiny Weeks celebrated his 29th flight as a rear gunner by shooting down a Messerschmitt 109 right over the target. Other members of the crew were PO. Don Tucker, Port Credit, Ont.; PO. Hall Popplestone, Pilot Mound, Man.

In other combats, PO. Gerry Armstrong of 590 Gladstone Ave., Ottawa, beat off an attack by a twin-engined fighter, and Sgt. Gerry Fournier of Hull, Que., drove off a Dornier 217 after firing 200 rounds.

Bluenose squadron airmen on the raid included Flt. Lt. Bob Martin, Cardigan, P.E.I.; FO's Bill Harris, Saint John, N.B.; Jerry Philbin, Valleyfield, Que.; PO's Bill Naylor, Coleman, Alta.; Bill Conley, Humboldt, Sask.; Don McCarter, St. Catharines, Ont.; WO. Al Johnston, Radisson, Sask.

It was the first trip for Philbin, who recently came overseas after two years as an instructor at Upplands Airport, Ottawa. He wore the R.C.A.F. hockey sweater he used when a member of Ottawa Fliers' Allan Cup championship team of 1941-42.

A Halifax piloted by Sgt. Murray Flewelling of Calgary lost its hatch on the take-off, but carried on, although the temperature went to 32 below zero. With Flewelling were Sgts. Bob Brown of 33 Dupont St., Toronto, and Bob Gairns of Powell River, B.C.

Among other Canadians on the raid were: FO. Geoff. Ruff of 319 Lonsdale Ave., Toronto; PO. Chuck Ford, Melfort, Sask.; Sgts. Syd Atkinson, Roseneath, Ont., and Dave Cantera, Edmonton; Flt. Lt. Bill Day, D.F.C., Ayleford, N.S.

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