

*139880 F/O Kenneth Holme*

*(Navigator)*

*Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve*



*No 76 Sqn*

*Royal Air Force Bomber Command*



## *Operation No 1*

*21<sup>st</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1943: Halifax Mk BV DK224 MP-Q - (Bar)*

*This particular aircraft was one of a batch built and delivered to the RAF by Fairey Aviation, Stockport, Greater Manchester.*

*The crew were amongst Twenty 76 Sqn crews briefed to attack Krefeld. The ATD of the aircraft from RAF Holme on Spalding Moor, East Yorkshire was 2357 Hrs.*

*The primary target was attacked and bombed from a height of 19,000ft at 0208 Hrs. The target was identified by Green & Red TI Markers. Two Green TI Markers seen to cascade in Bombsight. Fires concentrated and were taking hold in the target area. Fires seen from the Dutch Coast on return.*

<i>Pilot</i>	<i>S/L A.L.C.A. Stuart</i>
<i>Flight Engineer</i>	<i>Sgt D.G.J. Powell</i>
<i>Navigator</i>	<i>P/O K. Holme</i>
<i>Bomb Aimer</i>	<i>Sgt W.G. Williams</i>
<i>Wireless Operator</i>	<i>Sgt D.J. Doe</i>
<i>Mid Upper Gunner</i>	<i>Sgt V.T. Bradley</i>
<i>Rear Gunner</i>	<i>Sgt S.C. MacLennan RCAF</i>

*The ATA of the aircraft at RAF Holme on Spalding Moor, East Yorkshire was 0443 Hrs.*

*705 Bomber Command aircraft; 209 Halifax's, 262 Lancaster's, 12 Mosquito's, 117 Stirling's and 105 Wellington's took part in this Op. 17 Halifax's, 9 Lancaster's 9 Stirling's and 9 Wellington's were lost. Extensive damage was inflicted on the city centre and fires raged out of control for several hours, leading to an approximate 47% of the built area being burnt out in what was the heaviest raid of the war on Krefeld to date. 1056 people were killed, 4550 were injured and 72,000 were "Bombed Out".*

*Seventeen 76 Sqn aircraft attacked and bombed the target. Three aircraft returned early to base; Halifax DK 149 MP-B due to inability to gain height, Halifax DK151 MP-K with U/S Starboard Inner Engine and malfunctioning Port Outer Engine. Halifax DK203 MP-A with a missing crew Oxygen Mask.*

*Halifax DK188 MP-J suffered an engine failure before it reached the Enemy Coast. However, it continued onto and bombed the target. It was here that the Rear Turret went U/S. On the return flight, the Mid Upper Turret also went U/S. On return the aircraft landed safely at RAF Gamston, Nottinghamshire.*



## *Operation No 2*

*24th – 25th June 1943: Halifax Mk BV DK149 MP-B*

*This particular aircraft was one of a batch built and delivered to the RAF by Fairey Aviation, Stockport, Greater Manchester.*

*The crew were amongst Twenty 76 Sqn crews briefed to attack Wuppertal. The ATD of the aircraft from RAF Holme on Spalding Moor, East Yorkshire was 2318 Hrs.*

*The primary target was attacked and bombed from a height of 19,000ft at 0110 Hrs. The target was identified by PFF Markers and bombed on Red TI Marker. A large number of explosions were observed.*

<i>Pilot</i>	<i>S/L A.L.C.A. Stuart</i>
<i>Flight Engineer</i>	<i>Sgt D.G.J. Powell</i>
<i>Navigator</i>	<i>P/O K. Holme</i>
<i>Bomb Aimer</i>	<i>Sgt W.G. Williams</i>
<i>Wireless Operator</i>	<i>Sgt D.J. Doe</i>
<i>Mid Upper Gunner</i>	<i>Sgt V.T. Bradley</i>
<i>Rear Gunner</i>	<i>Sgt S.C. MacLennan RCAF</i>

*The ATA of the aircraft at RAF Holme on Spalding Moor was 0340 Hrs.*

*630 Bomber Command aircraft; 171 Halifax's, 251 Lancaster's, 9 Mosquito's, 98 Stirling's and 101 Wellington's took part in this Op. 10 Halifax's, 8 Lancaster's 10 Stirling's and 6 Wellington's were lost.*

*The Eberfeld district of Wuppertal was the target and although severe damage did occur, "Creepback" from at least thirty aircraft resulted in other towns in the Western area of the Ruhr being damaged as well. Approximately 1800 people were killed and 2400 were injured.*

*Eighteen 76 Sqn aircraft attacked and bombed the target whilst one aircraft, Halifax DK174 MP-? was coned by multiple Searchlights and bombed Dusseldorf instead. Two aircraft returned early to base; Halifax DK187 MP-M with a U/S Starboard Inner Engine and a malfunctioning Starboard Outer Engine and Halifax DK205 MP-C with a U/S Port Inner Engine.*

*One aircraft, Halifax DK166 MP-D failed to return.*



### *Operation No 3*

*28<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> June 1943: Halifax Mk BV DK236 MP-V*

*This particular aircraft was one of a batch built and delivered to the RAF by Fairey Aviation, Stockport, Greater Manchester.*

*The crew were amongst Nineteen 76 Sqn crews briefed to attack Cologne. The ATD of the aircraft from RAF Holme on Spalding Moor, East Yorkshire was 2308 Hrs.*

*The primary target was attacked and bombed from a height of 18,000ft at 0213 Hrs. The target was identified by PFF Sky Markers. Bombed on concentration of Sky Markers. At 0212 Hrs, a very large explosion was seen which lasted 4-5 seconds. Large fires seen reflected through cloud. Weather, 10/10ths cloud, tops, 5-6000ft.*

<i>Pilot</i>	<i>S/L A.L.C.A. Stuart</i>
<i>Flight Engineer</i>	<i>Sgt D.G.J. Powell</i>
<i>Navigator</i>	<i>P/O K. Holme</i>
<i>Bomb Aimer</i>	<i>Sgt W.G. Williams</i>
<i>Wireless Operator</i>	<i>Sgt D.J. Doe</i>
<i>Mid Upper Gunner</i>	<i>Sgt V.T. Bradley</i>
<i>Rear Gunner</i>	<i>Sgt S.C. MacLennan RCAF</i>

*The ATA of the aircraft at RAF Holme on Spalding Moor, East Yorkshire was 0428 Hrs.*

*608 Bomber Command aircraft; 169 Halifax's, 267 Lancaster's, 12 Mosquito's, 75 Stirling's and 85 Wellington's took part in this Op. 10 Halifax's, 8 Lancaster's 2 Stirling's and 10 Wellington's were lost.*

*The raid was Cologne's worst raid of the war, with 43 Industrial buildings, 6 military buildings and 6368 other buildings reported as completely destroyed. 15,000 other buildings were damaged, including the cities Cathedral. 4377 people were killed, 10,000 were injured and 230,000 people "Bombed Out".*

*Fourteen 76 Sqn aircraft attacked and bombed the target. Three aircraft returned early to base; Halifax DK151 MP-K with U/S Intercom after an attack by a Night-Fighter during which the Navigator was wounded, Halifax DK174 MP-? with U/S Starboard Outer Engine. Halifax DK205 MP-C suffered oxygen failure at two separate crew positions.*

*Two aircraft, Halifax DK137 MP-R and Halifax DK150 MP-E failed to return.*



### *Operation No 4*

*09<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> July 1943: Halifax Mk BV DK207 MP-X*

*This particular aircraft was one of a batch built and delivered to the RAF by Fairey Aviation, Stockport, Greater Manchester.*

*The crew were amongst Twenty 76 Sqn crews briefed to attack Gelsenkirchen. The ATD of the aircraft from RAF Holme on Spalding Moor, East Yorkshire was 2255 Hrs.*

*The primary target was attacked and bombed from a height of 17,000ft at 0128 Hrs. The target was identified by Green and Red Track Markers and by Sky Markers over the target area. Bombed on ETA. Glow of fires seen through cloud.*

<i>Pilot</i>	<i>S/L A.L.C.A. Stuart</i>
<i>Flight Engineer</i>	<i>Sgt D.G.J. Powell</i>
<i>Navigator</i>	<i>P/O K. Holme</i>
<i>Bomb Aimer</i>	<i>Sgt W.G. Williams</i>
<i>Wireless Operator</i>	<i>Sgt D.J. Doe</i>
<i>Mid Upper Gunner</i>	<i>Sgt V.T. Bradley</i>
<i>Rear Gunner</i>	<i>Sgt S.C. MacLennan RCAF</i>

*The ATA of the aircraft at RAF Holme on Spalding Moor, East Yorkshire was 0511 Hrs.*

*418 Bomber Command aircraft; 190 Halifax's, 218 Lancaster's and 10 Mosquito's took part in this Op. 7 Halifax's and 5 Lancaster's were lost.*

*The raid was unsuccessful, PFF Sky Markers were dropped in error some ten miles N of the target & more bombs fell on neighbouring towns than on Gelsenkirchen itself. Frustratingly, only light damage was inflicted on the all-important synthetic oil refinery at Scholven-Buer. 41 people were killed.*

*Nineteen 76 Sqn aircraft attacked and bombed the target. Halifax DK204 MP-A returned to based early with U/S Hydraulics.*



## *Operation No 5*

*29<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> July 1943: Halifax Mk BV DK247 MP-?*

*This particular aircraft was one of a batch built and delivered to the RAF by Fairey Aviation, Stockport, Greater Manchester.*

*The crew were amongst Twenty-Four 76 Sqn crews briefed to attack Hamburg. The ATD of the aircraft from RAF Holme on Spalding Moor, East Yorkshire was 2222 Hrs.*

*The primary target was attacked and bombed from a height of 19,000ft at 0053 Hrs. The Target was identified by PFF Markers. Large areas of fires observed.*

<i>Pilot</i>	<i>S/L A.L.C.A. Stuart</i>
<i>Flight Engineer</i>	<i>Sgt D.G.J. Powell</i>
<i>Navigator</i>	<i>P/O K. Holme</i>
<i>Bomb Aimer</i>	<i>Sgt W.G. Williams</i>
<i>Wireless Operator</i>	<i>Sgt D.J. Doe</i>
<i>Mid Upper Gunner</i>	<i>Sgt V.T. Bradley</i>
<i>Rear Gunner</i>	<i>Sgt S.C. Maclennan RCAF</i>

*The ATA of the aircraft at RAF Holme on Spalding Moor, East Yorkshire was 0332 Hrs.*

*777 Bomber Command aircraft; 244 Halifax's, 340 Lancaster's, 4 Mosquito's, 119 Stirling's and 70 Wellington's took part in this Op. 11 Halifax's, 11 Lancaster's 4 Stirling's and 2 Wellington's were lost.*

*Marking for the raid was entirely via H2S. Very heavy bombing occurred in the Wandsbek and Barmbek districts and extended to parts of the Uhlenhorst and Winterhude districts. All of which were residential areas, suffering widespread fire damage from the 2318 Tonnes of Bombs dropped.*

*Twenty 76 Sqn aircraft attacked and bombed the target. One unidentified Halifax did not depart. Two aircraft returned early to base; Halifax DK241 MP-Q-(Bar) with a sick Pilot, Halifax EB250 MP-R with U/S Port Inner Engine.*

*One aircraft, Halifax ED244 MP-X failed to return.*



## *Operation No 6*

*09<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> August 1943: Halifax Mk BV DK194 MP-U*

*This particular aircraft was one of a batch built and delivered to the RAF by Fairey Aviation, Stockport, Greater Manchester.*

*The crew were amongst Sixteen 76 Sqn crews briefed to attack Mannheim. The ATD of the aircraft from RAF Holme on Spalding Moor, East Yorkshire was 2257 Hrs.*

*The primary target was attacked and bombed from a height of 19,000ft at 0150 Hrs. Green TI Markers in Bombsight at time of release. High explosives and Incendiaries seen burning. Large explosion at 0147 Hrs.*

<i>Pilot</i>	<i>S/L A.L.C.A. Stuart</i>
<i>Flight Engineer</i>	<i>Sgt D.G.J. Powell</i>
<i>Navigator</i>	<i>P/O K. Holme</i>
<i>Bomb Aimer</i>	<i>Sgt W.G. Williams</i>
<i>Wireless Operator</i>	<i>Sgt D.J. Doe</i>
<i>Mid Upper Gunner</i>	<i>Sgt V.T. Bradley</i>
<i>Rear Gunner</i>	<i>Sgt S.C. MacLennan RCAF</i>

*The ATA of the aircraft at RAF Holme on Spalding Moor, East Yorkshire was 0502 Hrs.*

*457 Bomber Command aircraft; 171 Halifax's and 286 Lancaster's took part in this Op. 6 Halifax's and 3 Lancaster's were lost.*

*The target was covered by cloud, leading to apparent scattered bombing. Despite this, considerable damage was caused across the city. 1316 buildings were reported as totally destroyed or seriously damaged. 269 people were killed.*

*Fourteen 76 Sqn aircraft attacked and bombed the target. One aircraft returned early; Halifax EB240 MP-P was unable to climb above 16,000ft.*

*One aircraft, Halifax LK892 MP-C failed to return.*



## *Operation No 7*

*12<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> August 1943: Halifax Mk BV EB245 MP-K*

*This particular aircraft was one of a batch built and delivered to the RAF by Rootes Securities Ltd, Speke, Liverpool, Merseyside.*

*The crew were amongst Twenty-Two 76 Sqn crews briefed to attack Milan. The ATD of the aircraft from RAF Holme on Spalding Moor, East Yorkshire was 2100 Hrs.*

*The primary target was attacked and bombed from a height of 17,000ft at 0120 Hrs. The target was identified by PFF Markers. Bombed on 4 Green Markers seen to cascade. Many fires seen.*

<i>Pilot</i>	<i>S/L A.L.C.A. Stuart</i>
<i>Flight Engineer</i>	<i>Sgt D.G.J. Powell</i>
<i>Navigator</i>	<i>P/O K. Holme</i>
<i>Bomb Aimer</i>	<i>Sgt W.G. Williams</i>
<i>Wireless Operator</i>	<i>Sgt D.J. Doe</i>
<i>Mid Upper Gunner</i>	<i>Sgt V.T. Bradley</i>
<i>Rear Gunner</i>	<i>Sgt S.C. MacLennan RCAF</i>

*The ATA of the aircraft at RAF Holme on Spalding Moor, East Yorkshire was 0632 Hrs.*

*504 Bomber Command aircraft; 183 Halifax' and 321 Lancaster's took part in this Op. 2 Halifax's and 1 Lancaster were lost.*

*The Alfa-Romeo motor factory, the main railway station and numerous other buildings were all badly damaged in this raid.*

*Twenty 76 Sqn aircraft attacked and bombed the target. One aircraft returned early; Halifax LK890 MP-T which was intercepted and attacked by a Night-Fighter. The Elevator Trim Cable was shot away and both Turrets, Hydraulics and Electrical systems all fell U/S as a result. The aircraft subsequently made a very difficult emergency landing at RAF Thorney Island, West Sussex. Halifax DK193 MP-Y suffered Oxygen failure after bombing the target. It headed due South and landed safely at Protville, returning to base two days later.*

*One aircraft, Halifax DK240 MP-G failed to return.*





## *Operation No 8*

*23<sup>rd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> August 1943: Halifax Mk BV DK207 MP-S "Saint the Second"*

*This particular aircraft was one of a batch built and delivered to the RAF by Fairey Aviation, Stockport, Greater Manchester.*

*The crew were amongst Twenty-Five 76 Sqn crews briefed to attack Berlin. The ATD of the aircraft from RAF Holme on Spalding Moor, East Yorkshire was 2012 Hrs.*

*The primary target was attacked and bombed from a height of 19,000ft at 2354 Hrs. The target was identified by PFF Markers and bombed on Green cascading markers.*

<i>Pilot</i>	<i>S/L A.L.C.A. Stuart</i>
<i>Flight Engineer</i>	<i>Sgt D.G.J. Powell</i>
<i>Navigator</i>	<i>P/O K. Holme</i>
<i>Bomb Aimer</i>	<i>Sgt W.G. Williams</i>
<i>Wireless Operator</i>	<i>Sgt D.J. Doe</i>
<i>Mid Upper Gunner</i>	<i>Sgt V.T. Bradley</i>
<i>Rear Gunner</i>	<i>Sgt S.C. MacLennan RCAF</i>

*The ATA of the aircraft at RAF Holme on Spalding Moor, East Yorkshire was 0114 Hrs.*

*727 Bomber Command aircraft; 251 Halifax's, 335 Lancaster's, 17 Mosquito's and 124 Stirling's took part in this Op. 23 Halifax's, 17 Lancaster's and 16 Stirling's were lost. This was Bomber Command's greatest loss of aircraft in one night so far during the war.*

*The Main Force aircraft arrived late and much of the bombing fell in open country or southern suburbs of the city, with 23 villages reporting being bombed. Despite this, serious damage was inflicted on the Lankwitz and Lichterfelde residential districts and the Marienfelde and Mariendorf Industrial districts in the South of the city. Damage was also recorded in the Templehof area near the city centre. 854 people were killed.*

*Nineteen 76 Sqn aircraft attacked and bombed the target. Two aircraft did not depart; Halifax DK148 MP-D with an unspecified technical fault & one other unidentified Halifax.*

*Four aircraft returned early to base; Halifax DK149 MP-D- (Bar) with U/S Starboard Inner Engine, Halifax DK204 MP-L with U/S Overload Pump, Halifax DK247 MP-W with U/S Port Outer Engine and Halifax DK902 MP-H with U/S Height Indicator.*

*On return, Halifax DK241 MP-Q crashed on landing at base, the Pilot and Bomb Aimer were admitted to York Military Hospital with slight injuries. The remaining crew were safe.*



## Operation No 9

*30th - 31st August 1943: Halifax Mk BV DK207 MP-S "Saint the Second"*

*This particular aircraft was one of a batch built and delivered to the RAF by Fairey Aviation, Stockport, Greater Manchester.*

*The crew were amongst Sixteen 76 Sqn crews briefed to attack Munchengladbach. The ATD of the aircraft from RAF Holme on Spalding Moor, East Yorkshire was 0006 Hrs.*

*It was intercepted at 4800M above Grathem, 10km W of Roermond by a Night-Fighter captained by Oblt Martin Drews (XI/NJG1) and shot down at 0358 for his 7<sup>th</sup> Abschusse.*

<i>Pilot</i>	<i>S/L A.L.C.A. Stuart + (Age 26)</i>
<i>Flight Engineer</i>	<i>Sgt D.G.J. Powell + (Age 20)</i>
<i>Navigator</i>	<i>F/O K. Holme + (Age 31)</i>
<i>Bomb Aimer</i>	<i>Sgt W.G. Williams POW</i>
<i>Wireless Operator</i>	<i>Sgt D.J. Doe POW</i>
<i>Mid Upper Gunner</i>	<i>Sgt V.T. Bradley + (Age 22)</i>
<i>Rear Gunner</i>	<i>Sgt S.C. MacLennan RCAF + (Age 19)</i>

*660 Bomber Command aircraft; 185 Halifax's, 297 Lancaster's, 14 Mosquito's, 107 Stirling's and 57 Wellington's took part in this Op. 8 Halifax's, 7 Lancaster's, 6 Stirling's and 4 Wellington's were lost.*

*This was a "double" attack with both Munchengladbach and the neighbouring town of Rheydt being targeted with a two-minute gap between marking for both targets. It was the first serious attack of the war on these two locations. Roughly half of the built-up areas of each town were destroyed. A combined total of 2152 people were killed in each raid.*

*Twelve 76 Sqn aircraft attacked and bombed the target. Two aircraft returned early to base; Halifax EB253 MP-E with a damaged Rudder caused by the Pilots Escape Hatch blowing off and Halifax LK903 MP-G with an un-specified fault. Halifax DK173 MP-Y suffered a tyre burst on take-off. The aircraft immediately swung, crashed and caught fire. The crew all safely evacuated the aircraft expeditiously, shortly afterwards, the Bomb Load detonated completely destroying the aircraft. Halifax DK195 MP-P- (Bar) was intercepted and attacked ten minutes after completing its Bomb Run, by a Ju 88 and then a Me110. During the engagement, the Pilot and Navigator were both seriously wounded, two other crew members were slightly wounded. On return the aircraft crash-landed at RAF Bradwell Bay, Essex at 0520.*

*One aircraft, Halifax DK207 MP-S failed to return. The captain of this was OC "C" Flight.*