

131960 P/O Woolf William Goldberg

(Navigator)

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve



No 76 Sqn

Royal Air Force Bomber Command



Operation No 1

28th – 29th 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 Nineteen 76 Sqn crews briefed to attack Cologne. The ATD of the aircraft from RAF Holme on Spalding Moor, East Yorkshire was 2230 Hrs.

The primary target was identified by Green Track Markers, observed on the way to target. Three Red TI Markers seen, then disappeared and bombed on the estimated position. Fires seen concentrated in groups over a wide area.

<i>Pilot</i>	<i>Sgt S.T. Schmidt RCAF</i>
<i>Flight Engineer</i>	<i>Sgt W.S. Saunders</i>
<i>Navigator</i>	<i>P/O W.W. Goldberg</i>
<i>Bomb Aimer</i>	<i>P/O A.F. Smith</i>
<i>Wireless Operator</i>	<i>Sgt E.V. Dean</i>
<i>Mid Upper Gunner</i>	<i>Sgt F. Watling</i>
<i>Rear Gunner</i>	<i>Sgt A.F. Todd RCAF</i>

The ATA of the aircraft at RAF Holme on Spalding Moor, East Yorkshire was 0425 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 2

09th – 10th July 1943: Halifax Mk BV DK223 MP-N

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 2307 Hrs.

The primary target was attacked and bombed from a height of 19,000ft at 0133 Hrs. The target was identified by PFF Markers and bombs were released on concentration of fires.

<i>Pilot</i>	<i>F/Sgt S.T. Schmidt RNZAF</i>
<i>Flight Engineer</i>	<i>Sgt W.H. Saunders</i>
<i>Navigator</i>	<i>P/O W.W. Goldberg</i>
<i>Bomb Aimer</i>	<i>P/O A.F. Smith</i>
<i>Wireless Operator</i>	<i>Sgt E.V. Dean</i>
<i>Mid Upper Gunner</i>	<i>Sgt F. Watling</i>
<i>Rear Gunner</i>	<i>Sgt A.F. Todd RCAF</i>

The ATA of the aircraft at RAF Holme on Spalding Moor, East Yorkshire was 0525 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 3

15th – 16th July 1943: Halifax Mk BV DK204 MP-L

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-Three 76 Sqn crews briefed to attack Montbeliard. The ATD of the aircraft from RAF Holme on Spalding Moor, East Yorkshire was 2202 Hrs.

The primary target was attacked and bombed from a height of 8,500ft at 0202 Hrs. The target was identified by Green & Red TI Markers. Red TI cascading in Bombsight. Saw own Bombs explode on Red Marker. The whole target was on fire and was covered in a white sheet of smoke.

<i>Pilot</i>	<i>F/Sgt S.T. Schmidt RNZAF</i>
<i>Flight Engineer</i>	<i>Sgt W.H. Saunders</i>
<i>Navigator</i>	<i>P/O W.W. Goldberg</i>
<i>Bomb Aimer</i>	<i>P/O A.F. Smith</i>
<i>Wireless Operator</i>	<i>Sgt E.V. Dean</i>
<i>Mid Upper Gunner</i>	<i>Sgt F. Watling</i>
<i>Rear Gunner</i>	<i>Sgt A.F. Todd RCAF</i>

The ATA of the aircraft at RAF Holme on Spalding Moor, East Yorkshire was 0611 Hrs.

165 Halifax', 134 from 4 Gp and 31 from 8 (PFF) Gp took part in this Op. 5 Halifax's were lost.

The target was the Peugeot Motor Factory, but PFF Markers fell beyond the actual target. As a result, local reports suggest that only 30 Bombs fell on the factory as 600 fell in the adjacent town. 123 Civilians were killed.

Twenty-Two 76 Sqn aircraft attacked and bombed the target. Halifax DK188 MP-J also reached the target but was unable to bomb as the bomb load remained "Hung Up". The aircraft subsequently returned to base with bomb load intact.



Operation No 4

24th – 25th July 1943: Halifax Mk BV DK223 MP-N

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 2255 Hrs.

The primary target was attacked and bombed from a height of 19,000ft at 0110 Hrs. The target was identified by Green and Red Track Markers, Bombed on centre of three Red TI Markers. Good concentration of fires in the centre of target area. Two larger explosions were also observed.

<i>Pilot</i>	<i>F/Sgt S.T. Schmidt RNZAF</i>
<i>Flight Engineer</i>	<i>Sgt W.H. Saunders</i>
<i>Navigator</i>	<i>P/O W.W. Goldberg</i>
<i>Bomb Aimer</i>	<i>P/O A.F. Smith</i>
<i>Wireless Operator</i>	<i>Sgt E.V. Dean</i>
<i>Mid Upper Gunner</i>	<i>Sgt J.M. College</i>
<i>Rear Gunner</i>	<i>Sgt A.F. Todd RCAF</i>

The ATA of the aircraft at RAF Holme on Spalding Moor, East Yorkshire was 0347 Hrs.

791 Bomber Command aircraft; 246 Halifax's, 347 Lancaster's, 125 Stirling's and 73 Mosquito's took part in this Op. 4 Halifax's, 4 Lancaster's, 3 Stirling's and 1 Wellington were lost.

Severe damage was caused in Central and North-Western districts of the city, but "Creepback" extended to a length of six miles. Many major buildings were seriously damaged including; the RatHaus, the main Police Stn & the Hagenbeck Zoo. Approximately 1500 people were killed. Of note this was the very first Op where Bomber Command used "Window".

Nineteen 76 Sqn aircraft attacked and bombed the target. Four aircraft returned early to base; Halifax DK205 MP-C with U/S Port Inner Engine, Halifax DK236 MP-V with U/S Port Outer Engine, Halifax EB253 MP-Y with a suspected Glycol leak and Halifax LK891 MP-X with U/S GEE.

One aircraft, Halifax DK187 MP-M failed to return.



Operation No 5

25th – 26th July 1943: Halifax Mk BV DK223 MP-N

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-Two 76 Sqn crews briefed to attack Essen. 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 0058 Hrs. Bombed on centre of three Red Ground Markers. Target appeared a mass of flames with smoke rising to 17,000ft.

<i>Pilot</i>	<i>E/Sgt S.T. Schmidt RNZAF</i>
<i>Flight Engineer</i>	<i>Sgt W.H. Saunders</i>
<i>Navigator</i>	<i>P/O W.W. Goldberg</i>
<i>Bomb Aimer</i>	<i>P/O A.F. Smith</i>
<i>Wireless Operator</i>	<i>Sgt E.V. Dean</i>
<i>Mid Upper Gunner</i>	<i>Sgt J.M. College</i>
<i>Rear Gunner</i>	<i>Sgt A.F. Todd RCAF</i>

The ATA of the aircraft at RAF Holme on Spalding Moor, East Yorkshire was 0301 Hrs.

705 Bomber Command aircraft; 221 Halifax's, 294 Lancaster's, 19 Mosquito's, 104 Stirling's and 67 Wellington's took part in this Op. 10 Halifax's, 5 Lancaster's 7 Stirling's and 4 Wellington's were lost. Of note, the commander of the American 8th Army Air Force, Brigadier-General Fred Anderson flew as an observer on the raid in an 83 Sqn Lancaster.

The Krupp Works possibly suffered its worst and significant damages was inflicted in eastern areas of the city where much industry was located. A total of 51 industrial premises were completely destroyed. 500 people were killed.

Nineteen 76 Sqn aircraft attacked and bombed the target. Two aircraft returned early to base; Halifax DK241 MP-Q- (Bar) with U/S Port Outer Engine and Halifax DK245 MP-K with U/S Starboard Inner Engine. Halifax DK149 MP-D reached the target but was unable to bomb due to technical defect with the Bomb Bay Doors.

Approaching the target, Halifax DK148 MP-G-(Bar) lost a propeller, but continued on to bomb. With the aircraft vibrating heavily, the Pilot warned the crew to stand by for a possible emergency evacuation. As a result, the Mid Upper Gunner bailed out over enemy territory. However, the vibration reduced and the aircraft returned to crash-land at base.



Operation No 6

27th – 28th July 1943: Halifax Mk BV DK223 MP-N

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 2236 Hrs.

The primary target was attacked and bombed from a height of 19,000ft at 0129 Hrs. The target was identified by PFF Markers. Bombed on estimated position of Green T1's seen to cascade but not burning at time of release. Widespread fires with smoke up to 20,000ft.

<i>Pilot</i>	<i>E/Sgt S.T. Schmidt RNZAF</i>
<i>Flight Engineer</i>	<i>Sgt W.H. Saunders</i>
<i>Navigator</i>	<i>P/O W.W. Goldberg</i>
<i>Bomb Aimer</i>	<i>P/O A.F. Smith</i>
<i>Wireless Operator</i>	<i>Sgt E.V. Dean</i>
<i>Mid Upper Gunner</i>	<i>Sgt J.M. College</i>
<i>Rear Gunner</i>	<i>Sgt A.F. Todd RCAF</i>

The ATA of the aircraft at RAF Holme on Spalding Moor, East Yorkshire was 0434 Hrs.

787 Bomber Command aircraft; 244 Halifax's, 453 Lancaster's, 116 Stirling's and 74 Wellington's took part in this Op. 4 Halifax's, 11 Lancaster's, 1 Stirling and 1 Wellington were lost. For the second night running, Brigadier-General Fred Anderson USAAF flew as an observer on the raid in an 83 Sqn Lancaster.

This was the night of the infamous "Firestorm" caused by temperature, humidity and lack of rain. About half way through the raid, multiple fires became one and the firestorm raged for about three hours, only stopping when there was nothing left to burn. An approximate 40,000 people were killed, mostly in the Hammerbrook, Hamm and Borgfeld districts.

Twenty-Four 76 Sqn aircraft attacked and bombed the target. On the return flight, Halifax DK188 MP-J was intercepted and attacked by multiple Night-Fighters. Despite the Pilots intensive evasive manoeuvres, the aircraft was hit and the Mid Upper Gunner was killed. The aircraft was badly damaged and both MONICA and the crew Intercom were destroyed. The Pilot ordered the Flight Engineer to take the place of the Mid Upper Gunner, but shortly afterwards the aircraft was attacked for a second time by another Night-Fighter. During this further engagement, the Flight Engineer was also wounded. Eventually however, the badly damaged aircraft limped home and it crash-landed at RAF Shipdam, Norfolk.



Operation No 7

29th – 30th July 1943: Halifax Mk BV DK223 MP-N

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 2249 Hrs.

The primary target was attacked and bombed from a height of 18,500ft at 0117 Hrs. The target was identified by PFF Markers. Bombed on concentration of Green ones. Explosions seen and fires widespread with smoke rising to 18,000ft.

<i>Pilot</i>	<i>E/Sgt S.T. Schmidt RNZAF</i>
<i>Flight Engineer</i>	<i>Sgt W.H. Saunders</i>
<i>Navigator</i>	<i>P/O W.W. Goldberg</i>
<i>Bomb Aimer</i>	<i>P/O A.F. Smith</i>
<i>Wireless Operator</i>	<i>Sgt E.V. Dean</i>
<i>Mid Upper Gunner</i>	<i>Sgt J.M. College</i>
<i>Rear Gunner</i>	<i>Sgt A.F. Todd RCAF</i>

The ATA of the aircraft at RAF Holme on Spalding Moor, East Yorkshire was 0409 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 8

30th – 31st July 1943: Halifax Mk BV DK223 MP-N

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-One 76 Sqn crews briefed to attack Remscheid. The ATD of the aircraft from RAF Holme on Spalding Moor, East Yorkshire was 2212 Hrs.

The primary target was attacked and bombed from a height of 17,000ft at 0119 Hrs. The target was identified by PFF Markers and bombed on Red Markers seen to cascade. Many good fires seen.

<i>Pilot</i>	<i>E/Sgt S.T. Schmidt RNZAF</i>
<i>Flight Engineer</i>	<i>Sgt W.H. Saunders</i>
<i>Navigator</i>	<i>P/O W.W. Goldberg</i>
<i>Bomb Aimer</i>	<i>P/O A.F. Smith</i>
<i>Wireless Operator</i>	<i>Sgt E.V. Dean</i>
<i>Mid Upper Gunner</i>	<i>Sgt J.M. College</i>
<i>Rear Gunner</i>	<i>Sgt A.F. Todd RCAF</i>

The ATA of the aircraft at RAF Holme on Spalding Moor, East Yorkshire was 0348 Hrs.

273 Bomber Command aircraft; 95 Halifax's, 82 Lancaster's, 9 Mosquito's and 87 Stirling's took part in this Op. 5 Halifax's, 2 Lancaster's and 8 Stirling's were lost.

PFF Marking was extremely accurate and 871 Tonnes of Bombs fell on the town with devastating results. Over 107 industrial buildings were destroyed. The remaining industry lost three months production and never really regained previous levels of output. 1120 people were killed.

Nineteen 76 Sqn aircraft attacked and bombed the target. One aircraft returned to base early; Halifax EB204 MP-H- (Bar) with a U/S Compass.

Halifax DK202 MP-Q failed to return.



Operation No --*

02nd – 03rd August 1943: Halifax Mk BV DK223 MP-N

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 Hamburg. The ATD of the aircraft from RAF Holme on Spalding Moor, East Yorkshire was 2350 Hrs.

Shortly after crossing the Coast, encountered electrical storms and icing. Got to within 20 miles of Hamburg where Bombs were jettisoned from 17,000ft.

** This Op was subsequently classified as DNCO*

<i>Pilot</i>	<i>F/Sgt S.T. Schmidt RNZAF</i>
<i>Flight Engineer</i>	<i>Sgt W.H. Saunders</i>
<i>Navigator</i>	<i>P/O W.W. Goldberg</i>
<i>Bomb Aimer</i>	<i>P/O A.F. Smith</i>
<i>Wireless Operator</i>	<i>Sgt E.V. Dean</i>
<i>Mid Upper Gunner</i>	<i>Sgt J.M. College</i>
<i>Rear Gunner</i>	<i>Sgt A.F. Todd RCAF</i>

The ATA of the aircraft at RAF Holme on Spalding Moor, East Yorkshire was 0512 Hrs.

740 Bomber Command aircraft; 235 Halifax's, 329 Lancaster's, 5 Mosquito's, 105 Stirling's & 66 Wellington's took part in this Op. 10 Halifax's, 13 Lancaster's, 3 Stirling's and 4 Wellington's were lost.

Both PFF & Main Force aircraft encountered a large Thunderstorm over Northern Germany. As a result, the vast majority of crews either aborted and turned back or bombed alternative or opportunity targets. At least 4 of the 30 aircraft lost were victims of the severe weather which also included Lightning Strikes. The raid was a failure.

Seven 76 Sqn aircraft attacked and bombed the target. Two aircraft, Halifax WB24 MP-B- (Bar) & Halifax EB245 MP-K bombed alternate sites. Nine aircraft returned to base early; Halifax DK167 MP-F with U/S Starboard Inner Engine (having been struck by Lightning) Halifax DK195 MP-O with damaged Port Inner Engine, Halifax DK203 MP-A having encountered severe icing and electrical storms) Halifax K204 MP-L with malfunctioning engine, Halifax DK223 MP-N having encountered severe icing, Halifax DK236 MP-V having encountered severe icing, Halifax EB240 MP-P- (Bar) with U/C Compass, Halifax EB250 MP-R with U/S Starboard Inner & Outer Engines and Halifax LK890 MP-T having been struck by Lightning.

One aircraft. Halifax EB239 MP-E failed to return.



Operation No 9

09th - 10th August 1943: Halifax Mk BV DK223 MP-N

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 2253 Hrs.

The primary target was attacked and bombed from a height of 18,000ft at 0149 Hrs. The target was identified by PFF Markers and bombed on 4 Green Markers seen cascading. Large concentration of fires.

<i>Pilot</i>	<i>E/Sgt S.T. Schmidt RNZAF</i>
<i>Flight Engineer</i>	<i>Sgt W.H. Saunders</i>
<i>Navigator</i>	<i>P/O W.W. Goldberg</i>
<i>Bomb Aimer</i>	<i>P/O A.F. Smith</i>
<i>Wireless Operator</i>	<i>Sgt E.V. Dean</i>
<i>Mid Upper Gunner</i>	<i>Sgt J.M. College</i>
<i>Rear Gunner</i>	<i>Sgt A.F. Todd RCAF</i>

The ATA of the aircraft at RAF Holme on Spalding Moor, East Yorkshire was 0531 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 10

12th - 13th August 1943: Halifax Mk BV LK902 MP-H

This particular aircraft was one of a batch built and delivered to the RAF by Rootes Securities, 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 2106 Hrs.

The primary target was attacked and bombed from a height of 17,500ft at 0125 Hrs. The target was identified by PFF Markers cascading Green. Many fires seen starting.

<i>Pilot</i>	<i>F/Sgt S.T. Schmidt RNZAF</i>
<i>Flight Engineer</i>	<i>Sgt W.H. Saunders</i>
<i>Navigator</i>	<i>P/O W.W. Goldberg</i>
<i>Bomb Aimer</i>	<i>P/O A.F. Smith</i>
<i>Wireless Operator</i>	<i>Sgt E.V. Dean</i>
<i>Mid Upper Gunner</i>	<i>F/Sgt L.S. Pringle</i>
<i>Rear Gunner</i>	<i>Sgt A.F. Todd RCAF</i>

The ATA of the aircraft at RAF Holme on Spalding Moor, East Yorkshire was 0622 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 11

30th – 31st August 1943: Halifax Mk BV DK223 MP-N

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 2345 Hrs.

The primary target was attacked and bombed from a height of 19,000ft at 0210 Hrs. The target was identified by Green and Red TI Markers. No TI Markers seen when over target so bombed on glow of fires.

<i>Pilot</i>	<i>P/O S.T. Schmidt RNZAF</i>
<i>Flight Engineer</i>	<i>Sgt W.H. Saunders</i>
<i>Navigator</i>	<i>P/O W.W. Goldberg</i>
<i>Bomb Aimer</i>	<i>P/O A.F. Smith</i>
<i>Wireless Operator</i>	<i>Sgt E.V. Dean</i>
<i>Mid Upper Gunner</i>	<i>Sgt J.M. College</i>
<i>Rear Gunner</i>	<i>Sgt A.F. Todd RCAF</i>

The ATA of the aircraft at RAF Holme on Spalding Moor, East Yorkshire was 0459 Hrs.

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 4Thi Wellington's were lost.

This was a double attack with both Munchengladbach & the neighbouring town of Rheydt being targeted with a two-minute gap in marking for both targets. Roughly half of the built-up areas of each town were destroyed. 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, immediately swung, crashed & caught fire. The crew safely evacuated the aircraft, however shortly afterwards its Bomb Load detonated and completely destroyed the aircraft. Halifax DK195 MP-P-(Bar) was intercepted & 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.



Operation No 12

31st August - 01st September 1943: Halifax Mk BV LK903 MP-G

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 Eighteen (later reduced to Sixteen) 76 Sqn crews briefed to attack Berlin. The ATD of the aircraft from RAF Holme on Spalding Moor, East Yorkshire was 2041Hrs.

The primary target was attacked and bombed from a height of 18,500ft at 0001 Hrs. The target was identified by a concentration of Green TI Markers and bombed on these. Fires could be seen for about 100 miles.

<i>Pilot</i>	<i>P/O S.T. Schmidt RNZAF</i>
<i>Flight Engineer</i>	<i>Sgt W.H. Saunders</i>
<i>Navigator</i>	<i>P/O W.W. Goldberg</i>
<i>Bomb Aimer</i>	<i>P/O A.F. Smith</i>
<i>Wireless Operator</i>	<i>Sgt E.V. Dean</i>
<i>Mid Upper Gunner</i>	<i>Sgt J.M. College</i>
<i>Rear Gunner</i>	<i>Sgt A.F. Todd RCAF</i>

The ATA of the aircraft at RAF Holme on Spalding Moor, East Yorkshire was 0406 Hrs.

622 Bomber Command aircraft; 176 Halifax's, 331 Lancaster's, 9 Mosquito's & 106 Stirling's took part in this Op. 20 Halifax's, 10 Lancaster's and 17 Stirling's were lost.

The raid was not a success. Cloud, issues with H2S and the ferocity of the defences all combined to ensure PFF Markers were dropped well south of the intended target. This was also the first instance of the Nacht-Jagd using "Fighter Flares" to mark the Bombers' route into and out of the target area. 68 people were killed.

Seven 76 Sqn aircraft attacked and bombed the target. One aircraft, Halifax DK167 MP-F developed a fault in the Port Inner Engine and bombed a target at Blieland.

Seven aircraft returned early to base; Halifax DK149 MP-G with U/S Starboard Outer Engine, Halifax DK178 MP-Y with inability to climb and U/S GEE, Halifax EB204 MP-E with U/S Oxygen Supply, Halifax EB245 MP-K with U/S W/T equipment, U/S Intercom and Hydraulic leak, Halifax LK630 MP-D with inability to climb and U/S Starboard Outer Engine, Halifax LK891 MP-X with U/S GEE & MONICA, Halifax LK902 MP-H with U/S Port & Starboard Outer Engines and Halifax LK910 MP-P with missing Petrol Computer.



Operation No 13

05th – 06th September 1943: Halifax Mk BV DK223 MP-N

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-Two (later reduced to Twenty-One) 76 Sqn crews briefed to attack Mannheim. The ATD of the aircraft from RAF Holme on Spalding Moor, East Yorkshire was 1928 Hrs.

It was intercepted at 5200M above Jagersburg, 4km NE of Saarbrucken by a Night-Fighter captained by Nacht Jagd "Experten" Hptm Heinrich Wohlers (Stab I/NJG6) and shot down at 0029 for his 22nd Abschusse.

<i>Pilot</i>	<i>P/O S.T. Schmidt RNZAF + (Age 23)</i>
<i>Flight Engineer</i>	<i>Sgt W.H. Saunders + (Age 22)</i>
<i>Navigator</i>	<i>F/O W.W. Goldberg + (Age 22)</i>
<i>Bomb Aimer</i>	<i>P/O A.F. Smith POW</i>
<i>Wireless Operator</i>	<i>Sgt E.V. Dean + (Age NK)</i>
<i>Mid Upper Gunner</i>	<i>Sgt F. Watling + (Age 32)</i>
<i>Rear Gunner</i>	<i>F/Sgt A.F. Todd RCAF + (Age 23)</i>

605 Bomber Command aircraft; 195 Halifax's, 299 Lancaster's and 111 Stirling's took part in this Op. 13 Halifax's, 13 Lancaster's and 8 Stirling's were lost.

This was another "double-attack" with both Mannheim and Ludwigshafen being the targets. Severe destruction occurred at both locations with serious fires burning for several hours.

Eighteen 76 Sqn aircraft attacked and bombed the target. Two aircraft returned early to base; Halifax DK151 MP-M with Port Inner and Starboard Outer Engines malfunctioning, U/S Starboard Inner Engine, U/S Intercom and a U/S Rear Turret. Halifax DK194 MP-U suffered an in-flight fire in the Starboard Outer Engine.

Over the target, Halifax EB240 MP-P was intercepted and attacked by a Night-Fighter, During the engagement, the Rear Gunner was wounded. On return, the aircraft made an emergency landing at RNAS Ford, West Sussex to allow the Rear Gunner to receive medical attention.

One aircraft, Halifax DK223 MP-N failed to return.