

The Crew of Hampden P4310 12/13th June 1941 44 Squadron

F/Sgt Colwyn Trevor Cottell Mercer (741668) PILOT

Son of Cecil Walter and Ivy Mercer of Selsdon Surrey. 21 years old when the aircraft crashed 13/6/41. Colwyn is buried in the Reichswald Forest War Cemetery in Grave 31.D.3 Inscription: - "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith".

Take off was from Waddington on a night raid to Soest. The aircraft crashed in the early hours of the 13th June 1941 following a raid on the railway yards at Soest and landed in the marshes of Schloss Werries. There is a file in the National Archives, Kew TNA Air 81/6875 plus photographs of the crash Hampden P4310 at Oberwerries wasserschloss Oberwerrie Hamm.

Colwyn was born 14th December 1919. He attended Selhurst Grammar school and before enlistment worked as a Bank Clerk. He started flying in 1938. The family were living at 179 Farley Rd, Selsdon. Colwyn was killed on his 30th raid.

In 1939 the Mercer family were living 179 Farley Rd, Selsdon, Surrey. Dad Cecil born 8th April 1889 in Bristol, was a Bank Official, he died in 1970, Ivy was born in 1891 and looked after the home, daughter Sonia born in 1918 was described as 'incapacitated' and Colwyn was already in the Royal Air Force.

Cecil was baptised in Bedminster, Somerset, his parents were Walter Henry (1864) & Florence Alice Mercer (1857). In 1901 he was living with his parents at 12 Brynland Ave, Bristol, Gloucester. His Dad had been born in Plumstead and was employed as a Post Office Telegraphist. During WW1 Cecil was a 2nd Lt in the Hampshire Regt & Royal Flying Corps.

The airman's grandfather Walter Henry Mercer born 1863 was employed as a clerk and in 1887 he married Florence Alice Cottell in the Parish of Knowle, Somerset in the church Holy Trinity. Their father's names were Edward George Mercer and Henry Cottell. Walter died in 1921.

F/Sgt Richard Kenneth Main (748205) PILOT

Son of Henry & Rose Main and husband of Ida May Main of Brighton, Sussex. Richard was 22 when he died. He is buried in the Reichswald Forest War Cemetery in Joint Grave 31 D 4-5 Inscription: - "To live in the hearts of those we love is not to die"



Richard was born 10th June 1919 in Portsmouth, Hampshire. His mother's maiden name was Cains. His parents married in 1901 in Alverstoke, Hampshire.

In 1911 they were living 23 Jessie Rd Southsea and Henry was working as a Commercial Traveller for a Stationary company.

He had the following elder siblings: - Thomas Henry 1904, Dorothy Margaret 1908, Phyllis Evelyn Rose 1910, Reginald George 1912, Marjorie Gwendoline 1914 all born in Portsmouth.

Dorothy had been baptised in the Anglican St Mark St Saviour's Mission Church and the Ascension. In 1908 they were living at 22 Winstanley Road. In 1930 she married Harold A Renouf in Portsmouth.

Richard's brother Thomas (1904) was living at 94 Sutherland Rd, Plymouth in 1939 with his wife Vera and son Peter Bernard Donald Main. Thomas died whilst at the same address in 1968. Sister Phyllis (1910) married John H Harris in 1935. Brother Reginald (1912) died in Plymouth in 1985. Sister Marjorie (1914) married Norman R Russell in Plymouth in 1945.

Their father Henry, born in 1877 Portsea Island was living at 13 Prince Friedk Place, Portsea in 1881 with Dad Henry P Main born in 1857 in Plymouth who was working as a waiter in a hotel. Mother Alice H. was born in 1856 in Cheltenham.

In 1939 the Main family were living at 23 Jessie Road Portsmouth and Dad, Henry was a Temporary Postman, daughter Marjorie a shop assistant and son Richard Kenneth Main was a Sergeant Pilot in the RAFVR.

Richard married Ida Robinson in 1940 in North Kesteven, Lincolnshire.

The Portsmouth Evening News 27th May 1942

Many in Portsmouth will regret to learn that Flight Sergeant Kenneth Main is presumed to have lost his life in air operations on June 13th, 1941, and an International Red Cross Society report states that he was buried at Hamm, Germany. Flight Sergeant Main was the son of Mr & Mrs H Main, formerly of 23 Jessie Rd Southsea, who now live in Shipbourne Road, Tonbridge, Kent.

Sergeant Main was a Secondary School boy and patrol leader in the 8th Portsmouth (St Matthew's) Troop of boy scouts. He was very popular in the school and also the scout movement which he joined as a cub.

Entering the service of a local motor spirit company he later joined the RAFVR at the age of 19. After many operational flights over enemy territory, he was reported missing in June 1941.

Sgt James Reid Park (999479) WOp/AG

Son of Thomas & Christina Maitland Park, husband of Margaret Park of Monkton, Ayrshire, Scotland. James was 29 when he died. He was born in 1911 in Ayr. He is buried in the Reichswald Forest War Cemetery in Grave 31.D.2 Inscription:- " To the gracious memory of my beloved husband, love is strong as death"

James married Margaret Dykes Allan in 1941 in Monkton. Margaret Dykes Allan appears to have married Charles George Spence in Edinburgh in 1943 following her husband's tragic death.

James is remembered on the Monkton War Memorial and on the WWII Roll of Honour in the Monkton Memorial Hall.

F/Sgt Arnold Kossick (936531) WOp/AG

Arnold was 20 when he died. He is buried in the Reichswald Forest War Cemetery in Joint Grave 31. D. 4-5. Arnold was Jewish and his birth registration names him as Abram Kossick born in 1921 in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. His mother's maiden name was Davis. He was awarded an acting diploma from RADA in 1941. Arnold was a member of the Jesmond Playhouse repertory theatre and in 1939 was stage manager of the Jersey Playhouse.

When he died Probate was granted in October 1942 to Rose Kossick, widow, his mother for the amount £506 - 10/-

His father David married Rose Davis in 1918 in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. He was their only child. His father David was born in South Shields 27th Feb 1896.

In 1901 the Kossick family were living on Westoe Lane in South Shields. Moses Kossick who was born 11th Sept 1870 in South Shields was a picture framer. His wife Gertrude was born in Manchester in 1873. Son David is 5 years old. Moses died in June 1953 in Newcastle.

Moses parents were Abraham Henry Kossick born 1823 Poland (died 6th July 1907 South Shields) and Minnie Hush born 1832 in Poland (died 5th April 1890 South Shields). Minnie's parents Jacob and Vogel Hirsch/Hush. Henry and Minnie's other children were Louis b.1855, Samuel b. 1856, David b. 1864, Jacob b.1861, Rachel b.1868, Frances b.1873 and Sarah J b. 1876.

The family were living at 6 Rut Street, Westgate, Newcastle in 1861 and Henry is a Glazier.

Samuel Kossick (1856) married Jane and by 1881 was working as a General Outfitter.

Louis Kossick (1855) is a Picture Frammer in 1871 and living in the household of Hannah Hush 8 George St, Newcastle.

Ten years later Louis is married to Rosa born in 1857 in Konigsburg, Prussia and living 31 Villa Place, Westgate, Newcastle. His brother David (1864) is living with them and working as a Slipper Maker.

Then in 1911 Louis and Rosa by that time have been married 35 years, but have no children and live 5 Cavendish Place, Newcastle. She states on the census she was born in Berlin.

Louis died 5th June 1954. His address was 50 Redheugh Rd, Gateshead

Moses attended Holy Trinity (C of E) school. The family at this time were living at firstly, 99 West Holborn, then number 100.

In 1881 Henry and Minnie and family are living 22 Thrift St, South Shields. Henry was working as a Clothier & Outfitter Tailor. Son Jacob born in Newcastle, was a teacher.

The Shields Gazette 10th Feb 1893

SINGULAR COUNTY COURT CASE

Yesterday at South Shields County Court, Charles Edward Mallenson sued Henry Kossick for £10 value of clothing alleged to be unlawfully detained. Mr J.M.Smith appeared for the plaintiff and Mr T.D. Marshall for the defendant. Evidence was given to the effect that the wife of the plaintiff, a Jewess was daughter of the defendant, and married the plaintiff Mallenson, who is a Christian, against her father's will. He refused to give up certain articles of clothing and a sewing machine, which it was contended was given as a birthday gift to Fanny Kossick, before her marriage with the plaintiff.

Mrs Mallenson said she was married on 5th Oct last. Some days afterwards she and her husband went to her father's house, and asked him to let her have her clothing, and other things, but he would not give them up because she had married without his consent.

She thereupon consulted a solicitor, Henry Kossick, the defendant, an elderly Hebrew, gave evidence. Mr Marshall "The plaintiff is your daughter?" Defendant "She was" (Laughter) He gave further evidence as to the purchase of certain articles, including the sewing machine, which he said was for the use of the family, there being two elder sisters to the plaintiff. Mr Smith "Fanny Mallenson was your daughter?" "She was. She is not now." (Laughter) "You were annoyed about her marriage?" "Yes" "Up to the time of this marriage you were all happy and comfortable?" "We were comfortable" "You remember her 18th birthday? I have it in the book - I believe your sons were very kind to her?" "I don't know." "On birthdays it was your custom to give presents?" "There were no presents in my

house". "Your daughter Fanny was a dressmaker, was she not?" " She was no dressmaker; she went to smash" (Laughter) His Honour "You now admit that certain of these things claimed belong to your daughter? Why did you not give them to her?" "Because she has got a husband, and let her husband buy her clothes." Mr Smith " Supposing she had married to suit you, would you have given up her clothes?" "To be sure" His Honour gave judgement for the amount claimed to be reduced to 1 shilling should the articles claimed be given up.

The Shields Gazette 31st Oct 1900

Another Shieldsman of whom I have excellent accounts is Mr J Kossick formerly a teacher at the Ocean Rd Board School. He went out to Gibraltar some years ago to fill an important appointment in connection with his scholastic profession and he is now headmaster of the Hebrew New Schools in the fortified town. In a recent imposing thanksgiving service there, Mr Kossick enjoyed the no small honour of personally directing the whole of the musical arrangements.

1901 Gibraltar Register of Inhabitants

Jacob Kossick 39y born in Newcastle, 15 Line Wall Road. Number of rooms 17.

Fanny Kossick wife 34y born in Oxford. Daughter Ely Kossick 12y born London. Harry Kossick 10y born London and Poppy Kossick 6y born London.

In 1891 David Kossick, born 1864, the airman's great uncle, was an Auctioneer and living with his wife Dora (born 1871 Hartlepool) 27 Cleveland St, Westoe, South Shields. By 1901 David was widowed living 31-33 Denmark St, South Shields with sons Reuben born 1896 and Laurance 1898. Happily David was remarried by 1911 living at 67 Osborne Avenue, South Shields with Esme his new wife aged 33, son Reuben an Auctioneers apprenctice, Laurence, Louis born 1902, Arnold born 1904 -1969 (an estate agent) and baby Harold born 1910 - 1976 (an estate agent) he enlisted in the Royal Regt of Artillery in 1938.

Dora Kossick died in 1898 and Essie/Esme Kossick (1879) died in 1944.

David Kossick born 1864 died in South Shields in 1934.

By 1901 Henry Kossick a widower is living 13 Denmark St, South Shields working as a Glazier. He died in South Shields in 1907

Moses Kossick married Gertrude Cammer in 1895 in Prestwich.

Moses was working as Picture Framer in 1901 and he and Gertrude and son David are living on Westoe Lane, South Shields.

In 1911 the Kossicks's are living 250-252 Jesmond Road in Newcastle Moses was at that time a Newsagent whilst young David is working as a Warehouse Boy. Brother Sidney born in 1904 is 7.

During WW1 David enlisted in the Royal Engineers 2nd Non Fld Coy Serv. No. 1269

Reuben Kossick (born 1896) enlisted in WW1 in Leeds in 13th Bn King's Royal Rifle Corps as a Rifleman Serv. No. R/17782. He was killed 4th November 1917. He is remembered on Arras

Memorial, Bay 7. Reuben attended Hebrew Synagogue, Ogle Terrace, South Shields Hebrew Congregation.

The Jewish Chronicle

Kossick - Rifleman Reuben Kossick (KRRC) died of wounds received in action on April 11th 1917. His father Mr Kossick (David Kossick born 1864) of 40 Broughton Rd South Shields has received the following letter of sympathy from the Captain of his son's company:-

" I am very sorry to have to inform you of the death of your poor lad. He was badly wounded by a machine gun bullet whilst advancing to the attack of a village, which we eventually took, but our attack was held up for a time by terrifying machine gun fire, and your boy was lying in front. One of the other men in the company went out and fetched him in, but unfortunately his bravery was unwarranted for your poor boy died a few minutes later.

Rifleman Kossick was the most cheerful lad we had in the company and was immensely popular with everyone. We are all grieved over his loss. His comrades have asked me to express to you their sympathy with you in your great loss."

Reuben's younger brother Laurence (b 1898) died on 5th June 1917 and is also remembered on the Arras Memorial Bay 2 & 3. He was a private in the 26th Tyneside Irish Bn of the Northumberland Fusiliers.

Their cousin Louis Kossick (born 14th July 1896 in Newcastle the son of Samuel (born 1856) and Jane Kossick. Able Seaman Louis Kossick died 13th Nov 1916 and is buried in the Ancre British Cemetery Beaumont Hemel in Grave III A 38. His Serv. No. Z/8316 and he served in the Hood Battalion which fought on land. His address was 19 Ashfield Terrace, Newcastle and he attended Hazelrigg Synagogue, Gosforth and Leazes Park Rd. Synagogue, Newcastle.

In 1921 David was in the Merchant Navy as an Engineer - No.102675. He is described as 5ft 10 inches with brown eyes and dark brown hair.

David and wife Rose then appear on the passenger list of the Ship Corfu 20th Feb 1935. They are travelling 1st Class and his occupation is Crown Agent. Their destination is Hong Kong.

Four years later David (born 1896 an Engineer and Ship Surveyor) is a guest at the Falcon Hotel, High St, Cheshunt, Hertfordshire. Then on the 11th Dec 1939 he was a 1st Class passenger on the ship Stratheden once more travelling to Hong Kong.

Shields Daily News 21st June 1935

extract from an article about South Shields folk abroad: -

Mr David Kossick who attended the South Shields Marine School with me and got his extra chiefs in 1932, also came on board. He was surveying and examining at home for two years and last Christmas was sent out to Hong Kong as Board of Trade Surveyor. After dinner on board, he took me ashore to visit his home. Two or three people, all Tynesiders joined us and we had quite a good time. Mr Kossick told me he likes the life at Hong Kong and is getting on very well.

In 1939 David's father Moses is widowed and has a Tobacconist & Newsagents shop. He is living 250 Jesmond Rd Newcastle with David's wife Rose Kossick, born 7 Sept 1898.

Newcastle Evening Chronicle 25th July 1941

The Northumberland & Durham Association has a vigorous branch in Hong Kong and the chairman Mr D Kossick has sent me an interesting note about its activities. The members all assembled recently in the Jacobean Room of their headquarters in order to make a gift to the Very Reverend J L Wilson upon leaving the colony to take up his appointment to the Bishopric of Singapore. The new Bishop was one of the founders of the Northumberland & Durham Association and was its first chairman and has taken an active part in all the doings since his retirement from that office.

The Newcastle Journal 29th Dec 1941

TYNESIDER KILLED IN HONG KONG

Mr Moses Kossick of Jesmond Road Newcastle, has received news that his son, Mr David Kossick has been killed during the fighting at Hong Kong while patrolling the harbour in a police launch. Mr David Kossick, who was assistant surveyor to the harbour authorities was born at South Shields 46 years ago and leaves a widow. While in Newcastle he was well known in football. He often officiated as a referee and lectured on the game. When in Hong Kong he produced several plays for the Hong Kong Amateur Dramatic Society.

Mr Kossick served his apprenticeship with the North East Marine Engineering Co. at Wallsend and was for many years with the Holt Blue Funnel Steamship Co. as Chief Engineer

David Kossick attended Hong Kong's Ohel Leah Synagogue

The attack by the Japanese on Hong Kong lasted from 8th to 25th December 1941 and began shortly after 8am on the 8th. Four hours after the infamous attack on Pearl Harbour.

The Quest of Noel Croucher - Hong Kong's Quiet Philanthropist by Vaudine England 1998 extract:-

Here we thank John Luft for his record of a story from Noel on 14th Dec 1941, the day of the first Japanese 'peace' mission, which the Government rejected, a fatal tragedy occurred from which Noel had a narrow escape. Quoting Noel, Luft wrote:- " At that time, I was living in a flat at the top of the old P&O Building, but when the shelling started, I decided it would be safer to move. After I came off duty, I had a snack at the Gloucester Hotel and decided to sleep on the ground floor of the Chartered Bank. While I was having my meal, a yachting friend joined me and asked me to accompany a party on a 'secret mission'. As I had been on duty all day and it was now after 7 o'clock, I refused, explaining I was all in "

This was fortunate for Noel, for the secret mission was to escort the P&O launch Jeanette, to Green Island, and to tow back to Victoria, a barge laden with TNT. Something went wrong with the security arrangements, for when the Jeanette was opposite Blake Pier, she was challenged by a sentry. Jeanette failed to reply and the sentry opened fire. The barge and its escort were blown to smithereens.

Noel Croucher continue:- " I had gone along to the Chartered Bank after my meal, pulled two benches together and laid down. About 11 o'clock I was awakened by a terrific explosion. I thought a bomb had dropped close by, but no further explosions occurred. The next day I returned to my flat. Pausing along the sea front, I noticed that every pane of plate glass had been broken. Later I heard of the tragic incident in which I might have been involved, had I not just come off duty."

Battle for Hong Kong December 1941 By Philip Cracknell

The Jeanette Incident

On Friday 12th December, Commander James Jolly, the Harbourmaster, notified Fortress HQ that they were going to ship 9 tons of dynamite by launch from the magazine on Green Island, to the vehicular ferry pier on Hong Kong Island. The police were asked to clear civilians from No9 Air Raid tunnel, located in an area known as Smithfield, near Belchers St. The Air Raid tunnel was to be used to store the dynamite, which was needed to create firebreaks in the urban areas, particularly in the vicinity of Kennedy Town in the north west sector of the island. The vessel designated to transport the dynamite was the launch Jeanette, a passenger tender belonging to P&O, which had been requisitioned by the Harbour Department.

She had a volunteer crew, which included several European police officers and Harbour Department staff. It was agreed that the vessel would leave Green Island at midnight and would then proceed along the north-west shore to the ferry pier.

The army notified the pillboxes situated on that section of the island shoreline of the launch's route and timing. The launch left for Green Island without incident, and on arrival loaded the cases of dynamite, fuses and detonators. At 21:38hrs, the Harbour Master telephoned through to Fortress HQ with a message that the Jeanette was now leaving Green Island at 22:00hrs, and not at midnight as previously advised. The army authorities hurriedly started calling the pillboxes to notify them of the new departure time.

Pillbox 63 with a ten man crew was under the command of Cpl Charles Heather. The pillbox was situated on the vehicular ferry pier. Tiredness, the darkness of the blackout, the periodic sound of gunfire and strained nerves must have all contributed to the men being on edge, and seeing things differently than they were.

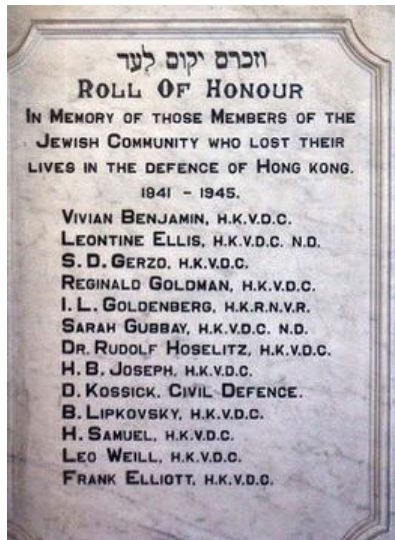
At 22:30hrs the pillbox reported that a large launch full of enemy troops was approaching their location. At 22:45hrs, pillbox 59 in the Royal Navy Dockyard reported seeing, and engaging a number of small craft full of troops in the harbour. The sound of gunfire on their right may have led the crew of pillbox 63 into thinking that a landing was being attempted.

Major Gray was duty officer for the north west sector that evening and he described receiving an urgent call from pillbox 63, saying that the enemy launch was now very near, bearing directly at the pier and that it carried no lights. The speaker was very agitated, and while he was still reporting this, another voice was heard over the telephone giving an order to fire.

Pillbox 63 had hit the Jeanette and her cargo of dynamite. The explosion was enormous, blowing out windows and causing damage all across the central area of the city.

Among the men killed in the explosion with David Kossick were, John Dickson 39y from Scotland, Eric Frank Buttress 36y from Windsor, Percy Clarke 35y and James Hunter along with policemen who accompanied them on their brave mission.

David Kossick is listed in the Memorial in Westminster Abbey and the Pokfulam Memorial in Hong Kong.



Courtesy The Jewish Historical Society Hong Kong

Grace's Guide Obituary 1942

David Kossick (Hong Kong) received his technical education at the Heaton Day Technical School, Newcastle, then the Marine school at South Shields. From 1912 to 1914 he served his apprenticeship with the North Eastern Marine Engineering Co Ltd of Wallsend and in 1914 enlisted in the Royal Engineers. In 1916 he returned to the North Eastern Marine Engineering Company and completed his apprenticeship in 1917 and remained in the firms employ for one year, after which he accepted an engagement as shore staff engineer and sailed at sea successfully as fourth and third engineer, becoming in 1924 refrigerating engineer on various vessels and during this later period he obtained his Board of Trade First Class Engineer Certificate.

Promoted to be second engineer in 1927, he continued to serve at sea for 6 years in Messrs Holt's vessels. He then took up an appointment as assistant government marine surveyor at Hong Kong, a position which he occupied until his promotion to engineer and ship surveyor.

On the 6th March 1951 the ship the Queen Mary set sail for New York from Southampton. Rose and Moses both widowed were travelling 1st class on board.

Moses died in Newcastle in 1953.

Arnold's uncle Sidney born 28th Sept 1903 was travelling to Cape Town on the 5th March 1931. His address was given as 250 Jesmond Rd, Newcastle and his occupation was 'Agent'. In 1952 he married Sheila E (Elsie?) Chilly in Edmonton, Middlesex. Then on the 15th Dec 1957 the couple leave Southampton on the ship Bloemfontein, bound for Cape Town. He gives his occupation as ADV Man.

Operation Record Book 44 Squadron

February 1941

4th Feb 1941 - Mercer flying (presumably as 2nd pilot on his first op with the squadron) in X3026 Operation to Mannheim

March 1941

12th March 1941 - Hampden **P4414** Mercer Busby Kossick Williams Target Hamburg. Up 19:40h Down 22:??h No target attacked a/c returned before crossing English Channel owing to engine trouble

13th March 1941 - Hampden **P4414** Mercer P/O Caldwell Kossick Williams (2) Target Hamburg Up 19:??h Down 22:??h No target attacked a/c returned to base owing to engine trouble. Aircraft reached 110 miles from base. Bombs brought back.

P4414 On 17th Oct 1940 this aircraft whilst in use with 44 Sqn was damaged on returning from an operation whilst landing short of fuel. It struck brickwork.

This aircraft crashed whilst in service with 106 Sqn on 22nd Feb 1942. All 4 crew were reported missing without trace on a mission to Cologne-Koblenz.

20th March 1941 - P4310 Mercer Busby Kossick Williams (2) Gardening 'Beech' Up 18:30h Down 01:30h One ordinary vegetable successfully planted in allotted position at 21:40h from 650ft. Parachute seen to open and vegetable to strike water.

Minelaying Brest/Lorient/St Nazaire.

27th March 1941 - P4310 Mercer Busby Kossick Williams (2) Up 19:45h Down 00:50h Target attacked. Aiming point at Dusseldorf. Time 21:50h ht 13,000ft 1X1000 & 2X500lb Attack made from NW to SE and bombs seen to burst on edge of target area. On arrival a few incendiaries were seen burning and two small fires had been started. 39 aircraft lost on Cologne/Dusseldorf attacks.

April 1941

7th April 1941 - P4310 Crew:-Mercer, Busby, Kossick, Williams(2) Up 20:40h Down 03:10h Target attacked Time 00:05h ht 10,000ft 2X500 2X250 bombs dropped in stick NE to SW across centre of the target. Rear gunner confirmed that bursts were seen in centre of target area. Smoke from fires started by previous raids prevented crew from observing whether bombs from this aircraft had started fires, but 3 small fires were started just outside of target area by casual incendiaries thrown out by rear gunner.

Target Kiel - the largest raid to one target so far in the war of 229 aircraft. Visibility was perfect and bright moonlight toned down the searchlights. Particular damage was reported in the eastern dock area where 2 U-Boat making facilities were out of action for several days. A fire in a naval armaments depot burned for 2 days.

12th April 1941 - Hampden 2917 Mercer Busby Kossick Turner Up 22:05h Down 05:45h Target Z.202 Time 02:10h ht 2,200ft Bombs 4X500 Saw two explosions on target and many large fires already burning. Landed at Tangmere.

Target Brest. Poor cloud conditions. No losses.

15th April 1941 - Hampden P4415 Mercer Busby Kossick Turner Up 23:45h Down 05:40h Target attacked Emden town Time 03:10h ht 12,000ft 1X1000 2X500lb Results were not seen because of avoiding action necessitated by heavy flak which started immediately after dropped. Main target could not be located.

17th April 1941 - Hampden X3150 Mercer Busby Kossick Turner Up 20:15h Down 05:20h Target Berlin Time 01:00h ht 11,000ft 1X1900 & 2X250lb Two of the bombs seen to burst resulting in small fires which were not extinguished. No further results observed.

Haze prevented concentrated bombing. 8 aircraft lost.

22nd April 1941 - Hampden P4373 Gardening - Brest Up 19:45h Down ??:220h Target attacked Jellyfish Time 22:30h ht 700ft One PDM3 successfully planted in allotted position. Target (2) Morlaix Aerodrome 23:00h ht 5,000ft 2X250lb dropped and seen to burst near the runway which was clearly visible. A small fire resulted which could be seen for 5 mins after the aircraft left.

26th April 1941 - Hampden P4310 Mercer, P/O Grant-Dalton, Kossick, Turner Up 22:10h Down 04:55h Target Aiming Point Hamburg Time 01:20h ht 17,000ft 1X500 & 2X250lb. Bombs fell in target area and bomb bursts were seen. A medium sized fire was seen to break out after bombing, but cloud prevented accurate observation of results.

Cloud and heavy defences made bombing difficult

May 1941

7th May 1941 - P4310 Up 23:40h Down 05:55h Target attacked Cruisers at 00.49 Time 02:07h height 12,000ft 1X1900 GP & 2X250 SAP. Cruisers not seen, position identified. Bursts seen approximately 200 yards to NE of dry dock.

18 Hampdens of the squadron out of 89 aircraft. Hits were claimed on both German cruisers in clear visibility, but the hits are not confirmed. No aircraft lost.

Reports show that the majority of bombs straddled the dock positions.

8th May 1941 - P4310 Up 23:25h Down 05:20h Target aiming point 'B' at Hamburg. Time 02:05h ht 17,000ft Bombs 4X500lb & 2X250lb Seen to burst in the town slightly to the east of the aiming point. No further results observed. On arrival about 13 large fires some of them very large indeed, seen in target area.

188 aircraft - 119 to shipyard 69 the city - 4 aircraft lost. Returning crews claimed good bombing results. 83 fires were started of which 38 were classed as large.

Judging from reports submitted, this op was very successful as large fires were burning when a/c left the target area, one air gunner states he counted fifty large fires in the town.

12th May 1941 - Hampden AD ???? Up 22:20h Down 06:15h Main target attacked area 'B' GS247 Time 01:55h ht 12,000ft Bombs 4X500 & 2X250lb Aimed from south to north and bombs seen to burst in part of target area. No further results observed. No photograph taken as flash bomb failed to release.

Target Mannheim/Ludwigshaven - 105 aircraft attacked 65 for Mannheim 40 Ludwigshaven. Haze made identification of targets difficult. Damage was scattered and light. No losses.

10 Hampdens were detailed to attack Ludwigshaven Sulphuric Acid plants. Seven of these a/c reached main objective. Bomb bursts were seen but could not be pinpointed owing to ground mist, flak and searchlight and evasive action.

17th May 1941 - Hampden X3150 Crew Mercer, Main, Kossick, TURNER. Up 22:25h Down 04:50h Target attacked - Aiming point 'B' Cologne Time 01:45h ht 14,000ft 4X500 & 120(4) Incendiaries dropped in stick S to W. Bombs estimated to have fallen approx 1/2 mile to south of aiming point. Bomb flashes seen and incendiaries started small fires.

Lack of moonlight and intense searchlights made identification of targets difficult. Cologne reported scattered bombing. 1 industrial building destroyed and 22 damaged.

The major objective was the industrial centre. Intense searchlight dazzle interfered with detailed observation of results.

26th May 1941 - Hampden P4310 Turner still part of the crew. Up 23:15h Down 05:30h Gardening Target 'Jellyfish' Unable to pinpoint position. Vegetable brought back to base. Wing bombs brought back to base. (Jellyfish was Brest)

Brest was where it was thought the German battleship Bismark was making for after being damaged by HMS Prince of Wales in an engagement off Greenland where HMS Hood was sunk. 17 a/c took off. 9 a/c brought their bombs back to base.

June 1941

10/11th June 1941 - Hampden P4310 Up 23:45h Down 05:40h Target Battle Cruisers at 00:49 Time 02:19h Height 15,000ft 4X500 2 X 250lb Bombs dropped in stick. Target area identified but cruisers not seen. Bombs estimated to have straddled position where cruisers and bomb flashes seen.

The target was Brest to bomb 3 German warships. Scharnhorst, Gneisnau and Prinz Eugen. 13 Hampdens from 44 squadron attacked. The enemy used an effective smoke screen. Many bombs fell in dock area but there were no hits on the ships. No aircraft lost.

12/13th June 1941 - Hampden P4310 Up 22:50h Target Soest Marshalling Yards. Visibility was poor. Two aircraft lost out of 91. The other aircraft, also one of 44 squadron was piloted by F/Lt Patrick John Shaw Shaughnessy DFC - one of his crew was killed and Shaughnessy was a POW in Sagan.

