

9/1/43 - No. 5

Air Ministry News Service

Air Ministry Bulletin No. 8912

CZECH FIGHTERS PROTECT ATLANTIC CONVOYS

Much of the fighter protection given to our convoys arriving from across the Atlantic is provided by pilots of the Czech Air Force in Fighter Command.

During 1942 members of a Czech Spitfire wing flew hundreds of sorties over the ships using the South Western approaches to the British Isles and helped to escort them safely into port. But in addition to these escort duties, the wing flew in many daylight offensives over enemy territory during the year and in all its operations destroyed 21 German aircraft.

This brings the Czechs' total to 134 enemy aircraft destroyed since they had their first action in the Battle of Britain.

In offensive operations during the year the wing's chief duty was to escort Flying Fortresses, Liberators, Bostons, Whirlwind and Hurricane Bombers in raids on targets in enemy territory. They also carried out many sweeps of their own, attacking shipping in the Channel and German gun posts, factories and communications in Northern France.

When, in December, the Czech wing-commander was awarded the D.S.O., he declared: "It is an award for all members of the Czech wing".

In British squadrons other Czech pilots have been carrying on the fight, the best known of them being Flight-Lt. Kuttelwascher, who shot down 15 enemy aircraft on night intruder operations between April and July.

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MILITARY APPOINTMENTSREPRESENTATIVE COLONELS COMMANDANT FOR 1943

His Majesty The King has been pleased to approve the appointment of Major-General J.W. West, C.B., C.M.G., C.B.E., LL.D., M.B., M.Ch., retired pay, late Royal Army Medical Corps, as Colonel Commandant, Royal Army Medical Corps with effect from the 23rd November, 1942, in succession to Major-General H. Ensor, C.B., C.M.G., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.B., retired pay, late Royal Army Medical Corps, deceased.

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The War Office announces that the undermentioned officers have been appointed representative Colonels Commandant for the year 1943:-

Major-General G.M. Lindsay, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., retired pay,
Colonel Commandant, Royal Tank Regiment.

General Sir Robert H. Haining, K.C.B., D.S.O., retired pay,
Reserve of Officers,
Colonel Commandant, Royal Artillery.

Major-General (honorary Lieutenant-General) Sir Dudley S. Collins,
K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., retired pay,
Colonel Commandant, Royal Corps of Engineers.

Lieutenant-General Sir H. Colville B. Wemyss, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C.
Colonel Commandant, Royal Corps of Signals.

Major-General Sir Evan Gibb, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.,
retired pay, Reserve of Officers,
Colonel Commandant, Royal Army Service Corps.

Major-General H.P.W. Barrow, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., O.B.E.,
retired pay, Reserve of Officers,
Colonel Commandant, Royal Army Medical Corps.

Major-General K.M. Body, C.B., C.M.G., O.B.E., retired pay,
Reserve of Officers,
Colonel Commandant, Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

Major-General A.R. Valon, O.B.E., M.C., M.I.Mech.E.,
Colonel Commandant, Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers.

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WAR OFFICE

9/1/43. No. 11

Air Ministry No. 8919

AIR MINISTRY COMMUNIQUE

Last night, aircraft of Bomber Command again attacked targets in the Ruhr. Mines were also laid in enemy waters.

Five of our aircraft are missing.

9.1.43 - No.12

MIDDLE EAST JOINT WAR COMMUNIQUE

Cairo,
9th January 1943

Yesterday there was nothing to report from our land forces.

There was an increase in air activity over the battle area. Transport on the coastal road between Zliten and Homs was attacked. At least three enemy fighters were shot down in combat and one was destroyed by our ground fire.

Targets near Tunis and Sfax were attacked with good results on the night of 7th/8th January. On the same night an enemy aircraft was shot down by our Intruder aircraft over Comiso, Sicily.

A force of heavy bombers carried out a daylight attack on Tunis yesterday. An Me.109, which attempted to interfere was shot down.

From the above operations all of our aircraft returned.

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WAR OFFICE

9/1/43 - No. 13

The following Joint War Communique was issued by G.H.Q., India this morning :

Our troops operating in the Arakan district are in contact with the enemy on either side of the Mayu river, both on the Mayu peninsula and in the vicinity of Rathedaung. Occasional encounters have taken place during the past few days.

Yesterday (January 8) R.A.F. Blenheims escorted by fighters attacked objectives in this area. Enemy occupied buildings and a village near Rathedaung were bombed and machine gunned.

Fighters on offensive patrol made a low level attack on motor transport near Kyaukpadaung on the Meiktila road. Several vehicles were damaged, a passenger bus and a lorry were destroyed and a number of Japanese soldiers were killed.

Last night our bombers attacked places in the Akyab district. Bombs were dropped on Dabaing aerodrome, on anti-aircraft gun positions at Fakir point and on Japanese occupied villages. Akyab town was also bombed and bursts were observed well in the target area.

From these and other operations none of our aircraft is missing.

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WAR OFFICE

NOT FOR PUBLICATION, BROADCAST, OR USE ON CLUB TAPES BEFORE
0030 B.S.T. (i.e. FOR MORNING PAPERS) ON

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 1943

THIS EMBARGO SHOULD BE RESPECTED OVERSEAS BY PREFACING ANY
MESSAGES FILED WITH THE EMBARGO

CHANGES IN POINTS RATIONING

There are certain changes in the Points Scheme for Ration Period No. 7, which begins on Sunday, January 10.

Canned Meat

A reduction is made in the point value of two containers of certain canned meats as follows :-

<u>Description</u>	<u>Container</u>	<u>Points</u>	
		<u>New Value</u>	<u>Old Value</u>
Luncheon meat			
Pork Loaf	1 lb.	24	30
Ham Loaf	12 ozs.	18	24

Canned Beans in Brine and in Gravy Removed from Points

Canned beans in brine and canned beans in gravy have been withdrawn from the Points Scheme and from January 10 will be sold free of points. It must be noted, however, that points must still be surrendered on sales of canned beans in tomato sauce.

No canned beans in brine or in gravy have been manufactured for some time and this step has been taken in order to clear the stocks now in traders' hands. The quantities available are not large and when existing stocks have been cleared no more will be produced. No applications from traders for any replacement of points by virtue of the withdrawal from the Points Scheme of canned beans in brine or gravy will be considered.

Canned Fish

As already announced, American and Canadian sardines are being released for sale during this rationing period. The point values are :-

<u>Description</u>	<u>Container</u>	<u>Points</u>
American and Canadian Sardines in oil or tomato.	1's (3 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. or 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.)	2

Portuguese and other sardines remain at the existing point values.

Breakfast Cereals

A new 8 oz. container of Quaker Ruffed Wheat is now on sale at 2 points per container.

Canned Fruit and Vegetables

The date of release of canned fruit and vegetables and the details of the point values for the various sizes of cans will be announced shortly. Meanwhile, retailers may consider it advisable to make some reservation of points vouchers to enable them to acquire stocks when the release takes place.

Retailers should note that the points coupons for the period ended January 9 must be sent or taken to the local Food Office by Wednesday, January 13.

Coupon Values

There is no change in the value of the points coupons in General Ration Books R.B.1 and R.B.2. The coupons marked "7" will, therefore, have the following values:-

'A' coupons, 1 point

'B' and 'C' coupons, 2 points.

The total number of points available for the 4-week period remains at 20.

LICENSING OF WHOLESALE DEALINGS IN FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

The Ministry of Food announces that the Fresh Fruit and Vegetables (Restriction on Dealings) Order, with the exception of two paragraphs, will come into operation on January 18.

The operation of Paragraph 1 of Article 6 of the Order, under which persons licensed under the Order must give particulars of their licence on their business documents, is suspended until March 1. The object of this is to enable firms to make arrangements to avoid wasting their existing stocks of notepaper and other documents.

The Order has been amended and is re-issued as the Fresh Fruit and Vegetables (Restriction on Dealings) Order, 1943.

The principal changes are:-

1. A re-definition of fruit and vegetables in order to make clear that the Order applies to fruit and vegetables which have been preserved by freezing or by any method of storage other than canning and bottling.
2. A provision that growers may sell specified fruit or vegetables (that is fruit or vegetables covered by a Maximum Price Order) to licensed manufacturers as well as to licensed wholesalers or through licensed selling agents.
3. A provision that invoices need not be furnished in the case of cash sales. The seller is still under obligation to keep a record of such sales, but the record need not include the name and address of the purchaser.
4. A provision that records required under the Order must be kept on the premises at which the person concerned carries on his trade in fruit or vegetables.
5. A provision that where transport costs must be shown on any document required under the Order, and where the road or rail carrier has not furnished particulars of the charge within the period prescribed, details of the costs may be furnished to the buyer as soon as is reasonably practicable after receipt of an account from the carrier.
6. Vegetables sold for stock feed are excluded from the provisions of the Order.
7. The definition of "selling agent", in the Green Vegetables (Maximum Prices) Order, 1942, is modified, until the coming into force of the provision requiring selling agents to be licensed.

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MINISTRY OF FOOD

9/1/43

- No. 22

PRICES OF NORTH AFRICAN ORANGES

A very small quantity of North African oranges, including tangerines and mandarins, will be distributed to some of H.M. Forces through the N.A.A.F.I. organisation. Until more information is available, it is not known whether there will be sufficient supplies of these oranges to distribute to civilians through retailers.

The Minister of Food has, however, made an Order amending the Oranges (Maximum Prices) Order, 1942, in order to provide for sales of North African and other oranges, including tangerines and mandarins (should any become available for sale to the public). The prices fixed will be the same as those now applicable to South African and Rhodesian oranges (maximum retail price, 7½d. per lb.)

The amending Order comes into force immediately.

MINISTRY OF FOOD

9/1/43 - No. 23

NON-MILLABLE WHEAT: SALES FOR LIVESTOCK FEEDING

In order to make it possible to dispose of small quantities of home-grown wheat which has been certified by Local Wheat Committees as non-millable and has gone very badly out of condition, the Minister of Food has authorised approved buyers of wheat until February 28, 1943, to sell such wheat to consumers for feeding to livestock without requiring the surrender of ration documents in any case where the price (including cost of delivery) on such sale is not more than £9 per ton. Sales may still be made at more than this price up to the maximum price for non-millable wheat, but in such cases ration documents must be surrendered as at present.

MINISTRY OF FOOD

9/1/43 No. 24.

Air Ministry News Service

Air Ministry Bulletin No. 8921

HOLLAND WAVES TO MUSTANGS

Mustang pilots of Army Cooperation Command of the R.A.F. frequently dislocate rail and waterborne traffic in their daylight patrols over Holland, but the other day a squadron leader dislocated a football match for a short time.

Coming in from the sea at zero feet the Mustang flew over the long stretches of sand dunes which are characteristic of that part of the Dutch coast and as he approached the more fertile and green country the pilot's eye was attracted by the coloured shirts of opposing teams in a fairly well attended football match. As he flashed low across the field the pilot was amazed to see the players stop the game and start jumping and waving at him, a demonstration in which they were followed by most of the spectators.

Mustang pilots who operate over Holland have described it as "the neatest and tidiest little country you could wish to see". The pilots may have shot up trains, set barges on fire, or attacked German troops, but often when they come back they will be heard to dilate more on picturesque scenes of windmills on canal banks rather than upon the dislocation they have caused to the traffic which is serving Germany.

"The rectangular fields and straight roads give Holland a very tidy appearance", said one pilot. "One Sunday morning I was on my way into Holland looking for trains or barges when I came across a typical Dutch scene; a straight road running alongside a canal with a windmill in the distance. On the road was a party of about thirty cyclists of which there are thousands in Holland. As soon as they saw the Mustang most of them began to wave. When I passed over them what had been an orderly little convoy was a straggling procession covering the entire road. Most of them were waving like mad and the cycles were wobbling everywhere."

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9.1.43 - No.26

Air Ministry No.8925

AIR MINISTRY AND MINISTRY OF HOME SECURITY COMMUNIQUE

This morning bombs were dropped at two places on the South East Coast of England. Some damage was done and there were a small number of fatal casualties.

This afternoon there was slight enemy activity over South and South-West England. Bombs which were dropped did little damage and no one was seriously injured.

9/1/43 - No. 27

Air Ministry News Service

Air Ministry Bulletin No. 8924

SPITFIRE IX'S IN ACTION

A formation of Fighter Command's Spitfire IX's flown by Fighting French pilots and members of the West Lancashire Squadron fought fourteen F.W. 190s near Abbeville this afternoon.

A Fighting French pilot claimed one F.W.190, the enemy pilot being seen to bale out.

Pilots of the West Lancashire Squadron had fights of their own. One sergeant pilot of this squadron sent an F.W.190 down in a spin from below 5,000 feet, but since he did not see it crash, he could not claim it as destroyed.

Later, more Spitfires of Fighter Command escorted American built Ventura bombers to Holland, where they attacked the steel works at IJmuiden.

"THE LAST ENEMY" MET

F/Lt. Richard Hope Hillary, author of "The Last Enemy", who was shot down in the Battle of Britain and was badly burned, has been killed.

He was passed medically fit for flying some time ago and at the time of his death he was flying with a F/Sgt. Kenneth Wilfred Young Pison, who was also killed.

Wing Commander O.H. Watkins, D.F.C., who was a close friend and colleague of Flt. Lt. Hillary when he was at Fighter Command Headquarters on special duties said today:-

"Hillary was desperately keen to get back to flying and I know he was delighted when he was passed medically fit. Although he was very interested in working on a script for our Air-Sea Rescue film, he was really impatient to get it completed and begin a refresher course of training. Hillary was the type of pilot I'd always be glad to have flying with me."

Richard Hillary became famous for his book published last June in which he told a moving, yet dispassionate story of his months in hospital after being shot down in the Battle of Britain.

He was badly burned about the face, body and hands, but surgical skill and Hillary's own fortitude eventually enabled him to leave hospital long enough to go to America on special duties (where he wrote his book), and, later, to resume flying.

He had been in and out of hospital ever since September 3, 1940, the day on which he was shot down. This month he was to have attended a party for the "few" - Battle of Britain pilots who have had features and limbs "remade" by plastic surgery - at their convalescent home at East Grinstead. Air Marshal T.L. Leigh-Mallory, C.B., D.S.O., Fighter Command A.O.C. in C. is to be present.

Born in Sydney, Australia, in 1919, he came to England after the last war with his father who was in the Australian Treasury.

In 1931, he went to Shrewsbury and in 1937 to Trinity College. His flying career began at Oxford where he was a member of the University Air Squadron.

He was still at Oxford when war broke out and he was immediately called up. On October 1939 he was commissioned pilot officer.

After a period of operational training he was eventually posted to No.603 (City of Edinburgh) Squadron in July 1940, when the squadron was operating from a Scottish base. The squadron was moved south in August and immediately plunged into the Battle of Britain, shooting down 14 enemy aircraft in fierce battles over South-Eastern England on August 31.

/Hillary

Hillary was shot down on September 3 - the first anniversary of the outbreak of the war. The German air force was continuing its attempts to batter the air defences on south-east England, chief objectives being our forward fighter bases.

The first wave of enemy aircraft came in shortly before 10 a.m. the bulk of the 250 raiders flying in to make a two pronged attack north and south of the Thames.

Eight aircraft of the City of Edinburgh squadron took off from Hornchurch and when over Manston at 22,000 feet sighted six Dornier 17s flying in "V" formation with six Me. 109s at the same height and twelve more slightly above. A dog fight with the Messerschmitts followed. At least two of the Mes. and one of the bombers were shot down.

It was in this fight that Hillary's aircraft was hit. He was trapped in the blazing cockpit but managed to struggle free and bale out, being picked up from the sea by a lifeboat and taken to Margate Hospital suffering from shock and severe burns.

There, began the long series of surgical operations, convalescence and more surgical operations described in his book.

Last summer Hillary was for a time at the R.A.F. Staff College and was then posted to Fighter Command headquarters on special duties. For six weeks he was loaned for work on the script of an Air-Sea Rescue film and when that was complete he passed his medical board as fit for flying duties and was posted towards the end of November.

He had dubbed himself "the last of the long haired boys" in his book, for he was the sole survivor of his little coterie of Oxford undergraduates who came into the R.A.F. at the outbreak of war.

It was typical of Hillary that he should choose the title of his book from 1st Corinthians XV.26 - "The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death".

Those who knew Hillary, knew him as a clever conversationalist, modest, and very much interested in writing.

Hillary's father now lives at Knightsbridge, S.W.

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9.1.43 - No.29

Air Ministry No.8926

AIR MINISTRY COMMUNIQUE

Venturas of Bomber Command, escorted by Spitfires, bombed the iron and steel works at IJmuiden today. Bursts were seen on furnaces and coke ovens.

Mosquitos of Bomber Command attacked railway targets in Northern France and Belgium.

Squadrons of our fighters made offensive sweeps over Northern France. Some enemy fighters were encountered and one was destroyed.

From these operations one fighter and one bomber are missing.
