

Air Ministry News Service

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STIRLING FLIES UPSIDE DOWN

A Stirling was making a run-up to lay mines when it came out of a bank of haze right over an escort vessel in a large enemy convoy.

"I saw five or six warships on each side of us", said the pilot, W/O. R.J. Walters, of Edmonton, Canada, "and I realised that it was no use trying to go to one side of the convoy. If I <sup>had</sup> tried to go back I would have been a sitting target as I turned. So I started to weave violently and went through. The warships started to throw up so much flak that the cockpit was lit up from shell bursts near us, and tracers were leaving trails of coloured lights all around us.

"Just when we were banking over at the top of a particularly violent manoeuvre, a piece of flak hit the port wing and the Stirling toppled further and further over. I didn't realise how far we had gone till I looked up and saw the sea above my head.

"The bomb-aimer, sitting by me, revved up the engine and I opened up the throttle. When we got the Stirling back into control I saw that we had cut through the convoy. So we laid our mines in what we hoped would be the path of the convoy."

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