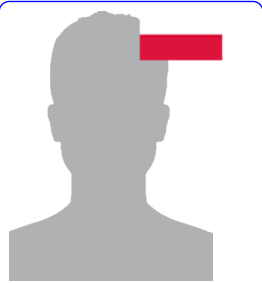




Hirsz, Zdzislaw Waclaw VM Poland (Squadron Leader)

Killed in Flying Accident 1945-02-06



Age: 30
Home: Warszawa (Warsaw), Poland
Decorations: VM Poland, KW (3)
Poland, ML (3) Poland

Service	Squadron	Rank	Position	ServiceNumber
PAF	45 Group	Squadron Leader	Pilot	P1376

45 Group RAF Transport Command, 81 Flight Dakota IV aircraft KN271 missing on ferry flight between Bluie West 1 and Reykjavik, Iceland.

[Bluie West 1 now Narsarsuaq Air Base](#)

Bluie 1 West: Greenland 61°10'00"N 045°25'59"W 776 miles (1,249 km) from Goose Bay. Established in 1941 by United States Army, operational in 1942. HQ Greenland Base Command. Primary refueling/servicing stop in Greenland for North Atlantic Route. Remained under United States Air Force control until 1958. Now a civilian airport. Wikipedia

S/L ZW Hirsz VM(Pol) KW(Pol) ML(Pol) (PAF) was missing, presumed killed. S/L Hirsz has no known grave and is commemorated on the PAF Memorial, RAF Northholt.



Flight Lieutenant Zbigniew Duńczewski and Flying Officer Zdzisław Hirsz of No. 304 Polish Bomber Squadron enjoying a stroll around Piccadilly Circus while on leave, 1942. Behind them, illuminated advertisements advertise Bovril and Schweppes tonic water, and a clock features the words 'Guinness Time' and 'Guinness is good for you'. Vehicles also make their way around the 'circus' behind the two men. Imperial War Museum Archives Collection

Squadron Leader Zdzislaw Waclaw Hirsz has no known grave.

Home

[Warszawa \(Warsaw\), Poland](#)

Target

Memorial

[PAF Memorial, Northholt](#)

others in crew on KN 271

	Status	Service	Rank	Position	Burial
1	Killed in Flying Accident	RAFVR	Flight Lieutenant	Pilot	Ottawa War Memorial, Ottawa, Ontario
2	Killed in Flying Accident	RAF	Flight Sergeant	Navigator	Ottawa Memorial, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada



Hirsz, Zdzislaw Waclaw VM Poland (Squadron Leader)

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Killed in Flying Accident 1945-02-06

3	 Hirsz, Zdzislaw Waclaw	Killed in Flying AccidentPAF	Squadron Leader	Pilot	PAF Memorial, Northholt
4	 Washer, Dennis	Killed in Flying AccidentRAFVR	Flying Officer	Pilot	Ottawa War Memorial, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada



Hirsz, Zdzislaw Wacław VM Poland (Squadron Leader)

Killed in Flying Accident 1945-02-06

Douglas Dakota Skytrain C-47 DC-3 AC-47 R4D Spooky Gooney



Douglas C-47 Dakota
Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum

Development of the Douglas DC-3 started in early 1935 with the prototype flying by the end of the year. The first production aircraft was delivered to American Airlines in July 1936 and soon orders were pouring in from US and overseas airlines. The US Air Corps became interested in the DC-3 and ordered a military version, called the C-47 or Dakota. It had many capabilities, including dropping paratroops and supplies, evacuating the wounded, troop transportation and glider towing. Eventually, about 10,000 C-47s were built for the US military.

During WW II, the Royal Air Force received about 1,930 Dakotas and they became the RAF's main wartime transport aircraft. The RCAF took delivery of its first Dakota in March 1943, and at its peak had 169 on strength. Within Canada, they were operated by four transport squadrons and several ferry squadrons.

Overseas, Dakotas equipped RCAF 437 Squadron in Europe and RCAF 435 and 436 Squadrons in South East Asia. 437 Squadron was formed in England

September 1944, where it supported the British and Canadian Armies fighting in Europe. Its most important actions involved glider towing for the airborne landings at Arnhem and the Rhine crossing at Wesel. 435 and 436 Squadrons were formed in India in October 1944. They flew Dakotas in support of the British 14th Army in Burma where they dropped supplies to the British troops fighting the Japanese in the jungle.

At the end of WW II, all three squadrons were transferred back to England to provide air transport for the Canadian occupation forces in Germany. Dakotas continued in service with the Canadian Armed Forces until 1989, when 402 Squadron, based in Winnipeg, retired the last of them. Of the nearly 13,000 DC-3s built, many are still in service today, over 75 years after the aircraft's first flight.

The Museum's Dakota was built for the USAAF and was delivered to the Royal Air Force in February 1944 as FZ692 and the Royal Canadian Air Force 437 Squadron in September 1944. It was later renumbered as 12945 as part of the Canadian Armed Forces where it served with 424 Squadron for Search & Rescue at CFB Trenton. It performed JATO ignition in flight at the 1970 Canadian National Exhibition Air Show on the Toronto waterfront.

After it was struck off strength by the Canadian Armed Forces in 1973, the aircraft ended up with Environment Canada, where it was used for mineral and environmental surveys. C-GRSB was donated to the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum in May 2014.

FZ692 has been restored to the paint scheme it would have worn at the end of World War II with 437 Squadron RCAF. FZ692 flew 208 operational trips with 437 Squadron and 16 with 233 Squadron for a total of 224. It ended up flying hundreds of individual legs between airfields in Europe. FZ692 participated in two major airborne operations, Normandy and the Rhine Crossing. It carried 298 casualties to medical aid and repatriated 456 prisoners of war. It carried over 5,100 passengers to destinations around Europe and carried over two hundred tons of freight (414,368 lbs). CWHM



[C-47 Skytrain](#)



[Wikipedia C-47 Skytrain](#)



[Harold A Skaarup Web Page](#)



[CWHM Flightlines](#)

CASPIR Aircraft Groups:

RCAF On Strength (212), RCAF 400 Squadron (6), Canadian Aircraft Losses (99), Canadian Museum(1)

last update: 2021-11-22 20:05:23.68851 WPN - Ramsay, Malcolm



**Hirsz, Zdzislaw Wacław VM Poland
(Squadron Leader)**

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Killed in Flying Accident 1945-02-06

Aircraft KN 271

KN 271

Dakota Mk. IV



Hirsz, Zdzislaw Waclaw VM Poland (Squadron Leader)

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Killed in Flying Accident 1945-02-06

Canada's Air War

Provided by Paul Squires, Ventura Memorial Flight Association



[Canada's Air War for 1945](#)

- February 434 Sqn. operates Lancaster B.I and B.III aircraft mixed with Lancaster X aircraft (RCAF Sqns.). 441 Sqn. re-equips with Spitfire F.IX, LF.IX and HF.IX (ie, standard, low level and high level fighters) (RCAF Sqns.).
- February In early February a meeting is held in BC to brief civilian pilots operating on the Pacific coast on the Balloon Bomb threat, so that they can report any sightings and not spread rumours. A Ventura GR.V was based at Princeton, BC, to track and report any Balloon Bombs in that area using it's radar. There had been 5 scrambles to intercept Balloon Bombs in BC in January (Joost).
- February In Greece after the visit by Churchill, the armed partisans leave Athens. See February 12, below.
- February 125 (Newfoundland) Sqn. begins to receive Mosquito NF.30 night fighters (www.historyofwar.org).
- February USAAF heavy bombers in Europe reached the final development of their formation, flying in groups of 36 bombers made up of four 9 plane units, which with fighter support gave them more flexibility in changing course while maintaining a protective formation (Oxford). Zijlstra, however, disputes this stating by the end of February the formation groups had changed from 36 to smaller 27 aircraft units for the same reason.
- 1945-02-03 US Forces enter Manila in the Philippines, beginning a drawn out battle with Japanese forces there (wikipedia). To protect the mostly civilian internees (including Canadians) at the University of Santo Tomas a force was rushed to the camp, arriving that evening, although not all internees were freed until negotiations with the remaining guards allowed them to leave for their own lines under escort. Another force reached the New Bilibid Prison the next day (wikipedia). See February 23, below.
- 1945-02-03 Sustained period of foggy conditions sets in to England hampering flying operations over the next 7 days. (G. Williams).
- 1945-02-03 First THUNDERCLAP mission, USAAF 8th Air Force attacks Berlin with 1,003 B-17 bombers, attacking rail yards, train stations and government buildings with the loss of 21 bombers, and Magdeburg with over 400 B-24 bombers attacking oil and railway targets (Oxford, Zijlstra).
- 1945-02-03 Bomber Command sent 36 TALLBOY Lancasters of 9 and 617 Squadrons with 1 RCM Halifax to bomb U-boat pens at Ijmuiden which were believed to shelter midget submarines, no losses (BC War Diaries).
- 1945-02-03 1 GRS, Summerside, PEI, ceases operations (Chris www.rafcommands.com).
- 1945-02-03 USAAF 325th Ferry Squadron, 31st Air Transport Group, 2LT R.C. Rowe USAAF (Can.) died, no details. He is buried in France.
- 1945-02-03 403 Sqn. Spitfire LF.XVI SM483 was on a reconnaissance and was over the city of Brussels when his engine cut and force landed on the roof of an apartment building, F/O R.M. Tegerdine safe. See Feb. 22, below.



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Killed in Flying Accident 1945-02-06

- 1945-02-03 440 Sqn. Typhoon Ib PD497 believed shot down by flak attacking railway targets in Germany, F/O J.F. Warrell was seen to abandon the aircraft but did not survive.
- 1945-02-03 55 OTU Typhoon Ib JP382 crashed in England on a practice dive bombing flight, F/L C.T.H. MacIntosh killed.
- 1945-02-03 1402 Meteorological Flight Hurricane PZ805 missing from a meteorological sortie from Northern Ireland, WO1 W.C. Whitney missing (www.coflein.gov.uk).
- 1945-02-03 1695 (Bomber) Target Towing Flight RCAF Spitfire Vb EP558 swerved and flipped over on the pilot's first landing on the type, S/L M.S. Strange safe.
- 1945-02-03 145 (BR) Sqn. Ventura GR.V 2266 crashed near the convoy it was escorting in the Atlantic, Sgt J.M. McColman, Sgt J.M. Northgrave RCAF (USA), F/O R.E. O'Connell and F/O J.M. Smith missing.
- 1945-02-03 Oil targets at Bottrop and Dortmund were targeted by 341 Lancasters and 18 Mosquitos, plus 42 LNSF Mosquitos over Wiesbaden and 20 more over Osnabrück, 42 RCM, 28 SERRATE/INTRUDER and 19 GARDENING sorties, a total of 510 with 12 losses (BC War Diaries). The area around Cologne was patrolled by 15 Mosquitos (6th Year).
- 1945-02-03 USAAF 410th group makes its second night bombing attack on a vehicle depot at Mechernich, using 8 B-26 Marauder and 2 A-26 Invader aircraft as pathfinders for 26 A-20 Havoc bombers, 8 of which bombed other targets when they arrived too late (Zijlstra).
- 1945-02-03 90 Sqn. Lancaster I PA158 WP-S "Green Goddess" lost over Germany, F/O S.B.S. Bishop, P/O H.S. Nickless RAAF, F/L J.J. Buning RAF (Neth.), Sgt M.J.F.P. Goddard RAF, Sgt A.H. Edwards RAF, Sgt E.E. Bemrose RAF and Sgt J.G. Brown RAF killed (<http://www.lancaster-archive.com>). This crew had come through a crash landing Dec. 21, 1944.
- 1945-02-03 153 Sqn. Lancaster I PD378 P4-L attacked by a Ju 88 night fighter, killing the navigator F/O W.A. Brodie (another source reports he bailed out but his parachute did not open). The remainder of the crew, F/O D.B. Freeborn DFC, Sgt D.A.R. Morley RAF, F/S H.V. Constable RAF, F/S J.A. Eastman RAF, Sgt J.L. Stalley RAF and Sgt T.O. McNamara RAF, bailed out later over liberated Holland and were safe, F/O Freeborn being awarded a Bar to his DFC and rear gunner Sgt McNamara a DFM for their combined actions against the night fighter, which was claimed as destroyed. A Guinea Pig, and now a member of the Caterpillar Club, postwar F/O Freeborn stayed in the RCAF and was involved in the Canadian Velvet Glove air-to-air missile program before becoming a test pilot for Canadair (R. Donovan).
- 1945-02-03 410 Sqn Mosquito NF.30 NT281, F/L B.N. Plumer and F/L E.H. Collis RAF, shot down a He 219 night fighter over Germany (R.P. Bateson; 6th Year).
- 1945-02-03 514 Sqn. Lancaster III LM685 JI-B2 lost over Germany, F/O A.Q. Downward, F/O W.J.K. Fisher, Sgt A.R. McWhinney, P/O A.H. Morrison, F/O D.E. Stephens, F/S R. Hardy RAAF and F/S W.B. Warr RAF killed.
- 1945-02-03 550 Sqn. Lancaster PD221 BQ-R shot down by a night fighter over Holland, F/S W.H. Cook, F/S L.C. Taerum, Sgt J. Holding RAF, Sgt J.F. Moyle RAF, Sgt C. Stuart RAF, WO W.J. Howson RAF and F/O R.G. Nye RAF killed (www.rafcommands.com).
- 1945-02-04 Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin meet at Yalta. soviet
- 1945-02-04 Soviets request bomber support for their offensive into Germany, which is what Operation THUNDERCLAP was designed to do, RAF requested to make heavy attacks on Dresden, Chemnitz and Leipzig (BC War Diaries).
- 1945-02-04 RAF Ferry Command Canadian built Mosquito B.VII KB313 was transferred to the USAAF as F-8 43-34925 but shed a wing recovering from a dive at Amherst, NS, Ferry Captain J.F. Bradley and Radio Officer/Navigator J.D. McIntyre killed (J. Baugher).
- 1945-02-04 5 OTU Boundary Bay, BC, Liberator B.VI EW210 crashed into Thorn Hill near Whonnock, BC, S/L C.H. Carscadden, F/L W.G. Deveson, F/L R.E. Maynard, Sgt H.J. Niemi, F/O W. Schneeberger, P/O J.J.L. Therien and P/O H.S. Weiss killed (J. Baugher).



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Killed in Flying Accident 1945-02-06

- 1945-02-04 Bomber Command sent 202 Halifax with 20 Lancaster and 16 Mosquito Pathfinders to Bonn, 100 Halifax, 11 Lancasters and 12 Mosquitos to the oil plant at Osterfeld, and 96 Halifax, 12 Lancasters and 12 Mosquitos to a synthetic oil plant at Gelsenkirchen, all of which made scattered attacks (due to cloud?). Other operations included 50 LNSF Mosquitos to Hannover, 12 to Dortmund, and 7 to two other German targets, 59 RCM, 42 SERRATE/INTRUDER and 27 GARDENING sorties off the German coast and on the Elbe River for a total of 678 sorties with 5 aircraft lost (BC War Diaries). 418 Sqn. had 12 Mosquitos making harassing patrols between Munster and Osnabrck, losing one (6th Year).
- 1945-02-04 408 Sqn. Halifax VII, F/L H.D. Bracken, lost an engine outbound but bombed and returned safely on 3 engines (R. Koval). See March 18-19, below.
- 1945-02-04 418 Sqn. Mosquito FB.VI PZ235 TH-M was attacking a site in Holland when it was shot down, killing F/L M. Ewaschuk and F/O R.M.M. Strattan RAF.
- 1945-02-04 419 Sqn. Lancaster X KB787 VR-M collided over Belgium in cloud with 433 Sqn. Lancaster I PA219 (below) and crashed in the Ardennes, F/L J.P. Barlow, F/L D.J.A. Buchanan DFC, F/O J.A. Gibbs, F/L W.R. Kearns, P/O D.W. Spence and F/O L.F. Edmonds RAF killed, P/O C.T. Sutter safe, slightly injured, found by US soldiers (dfuller52 at www.rafcommands.com).
- 1945-02-04 424 Sqn. Lancaster, F/L J.F. Thomas, lost an engine just before the target, but bombed from a lower altitude and returned on 3 engines (R. Koval, Awards). This incident was cited in the award of a DFC to F/L Thomas (Awards).
- 1945-02-04 424 Sqn. Lancaster I, F/O K. MacDonald, ME456 QB-K had 3 engines fail while outbound, but managed to restart them and avoid an attack by a Bf 109 Wilde Sau fighter (R. Koval). See March 11, below.
- 1945-02-04 426 Sqn. Halifax VII NP740 OW-P, F/O R.N. Swift, fought off a Bf 109 that attacked them (R. Koval).
- 1945-02-04 429 Sqn. Halifax III, F/L J.E. Creeper, lost an engine outbound, but bombed and returned on 3 engines (R. Koval, Awards).
- 1945-02-04 431 Sqn. Lancaster X, F/L G.W. Percival, was unable to bomb when the bomb load hung up over the target (R. Koval, Awards).
- 1945-02-04 433 Sqn. Lancaster I BM-M PA219 crashed in Belgium after colliding with 419 Sqn. Lancaster X KB787 (above), F/O C.H. Howald, P/O N.A. Hurst, F/L N.D. Mara DFC, F/O W.L. Melbourne, P/O B.T. Sheeran, F/O A.J. Tyrell, F/O W.G. Whitton and Sgt L.J. Sims RAF killed.
- 1945-02-05 To handle it's increasing Transport commitments RCAF 9 (Transport) Group was formed at Rockcliffe.
- 1945-02-05 USAAF 433rd TCS Canadian built UC-64A (Norseman) 43-5176 crashed into the sea off Papua, 2Lt J.L. Riche and 3 passengers missing (<http://www.norsemanhistory.ca/>).
- 1945-02-05 437 Sqn Dakota aircraft, F/O J.H. Phillips, flew through trees making an approach to land under low cloud on a flight from France. Unable to land due to damage the aircraft climbed and was abandoned with no casualties (6th Year).
- 1945-02-05 16 OTU Canadian built Mosquito B.25 KB469 was taking off on a solo flight when it swung and lost it's undercarriage, F/L J.F. Marshall DFC AFC RAF safe.
- 1945-02-05 unknown unit, bomb aimer P/O J.L. Foreman was returning to Canada when he fell off a troopship in mid-ocean. He has no known grave.
- 1945-02-05 16 SFTS, Hagersville, Ontario, Harvard II 3782 crashed and written off (R.W.R. Walker).
- 1945-02-05 The LNSF sent 63 Mosquito sorties to Berlin, 7 to Magdeburg and 6 to Wrzburg plus 1 RCM sortie with 1 loss (BC War Diaries). Harassing patrols ahead of the Allied armies were made by 11 418 Sqn. Mosquitos in the area of Cologne (6th Year).
- 1945-02-06 Chemnitz and Magdeburg attacked by USAAF as part of THUNDERCLAP plan (Oxford).
- 1945-02-06 Soviet forces cross the Oder river upstream of Breslau (Times). Allied airmen held at Stalag Luft IV are ordered to begin a forced march to the west that lasted until near the end of the war. Further camps are also put on the road in the next 24 days (wikipedia).



Hirsz, Zdzislaw Wacław VM Poland (Squadron Leader)

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Killed in Flying Accident 1945-02-06

- 1945-02-06 575 Sqn. Dakota III KG630 was flying in cloud to a destination in Europe when it struck a hill top and crashed in England, crew F/S R.A. Brock, F/O K.G. Forseth, P/O P.M. Oleinikoff RAAF, F/S E.A. Barsby RAAF and passengers, radar mechanic LAC S.M. Smith, F/O E.W. Curtis RAF, P/O C.A. Rattray RAF, Cpl C. Gibson RAF, Cpl G.E.N.D. Lee RAF, Cpl W.G. Blair RNZAF, Cpl E.B. Chadd RAF, Cpl D. Cooper RAF, LAC F. Bainbridge RAF, LAC R.G. Baldry RAF, LAC S.A. Bamber RAF, LAC T.H. Floody RAF, LAC J. Neale RAF, LAC W. Nerden RAF, LAC R. Smith RAF, LAC G. Stevens RAF, LAC A.E.D. Wilkes RAF and LAC G. Wilson RAF killed (A. Storr, Peter Clare at www.ww2talk.com).
- 1945-02-06 RAF Ferry Command Dakota IV KN271 missing between Greenland and Iceland, F/L H.B. Clarke RAF (Nfld.), F/S W.R. Gregory RAF, P/O D. Washer RAF and S/L Z.W. Hirsz PAF missing.
- 1945-02-06 45 Delivery Group, Ferry Command, Liberator B.VI KL386 crashed and burned in shallow water taking off from Kindley Field, Bermuda, F/O W.A. Coott, F/S A.C.A. Grace RAF, Ferry Captain E.C. Talbot, Ferry Captain H.M. Martin, Radio Officer J-P. Lagadec (Can.) killed (J. Baugher).
- 1945-02-07 Paraguay declares war on Germany and Japan (wikipedia).
- 1945-02-07 Bomber Command sent 100 Lancasters to attack the oil plant at Wanne-Eickel, but only three quarters of the force was able to bomb due to the weather, 1 Lancaster lost (BC War Diaries).
- 1945-02-07 A USAAF force of 300 B-17s targeting Essen was recalled due to weather, but one bomber did not receive the recall and made a lone attack on the City, returning safely (Zijlstra)!
- 1945-02-07 Parts of a Balloon Bomb were recovered near Provost, Alberta (Mikesh). Two men were injured by this device (www.schudak.de).
- 1945-02-07 1668 HCU Lancaster III JA684 was practicing 3 engined overshoots when the trainee pilot raised the flaps too early in error and the aircraft crashed, F/O F.G. Wilkinson, F/O J.L. Walker DFC RAF and Sgt C.M.L. Thomson RAF injured, Sgt Mullen RAF, F/S McLean RAF, Sgt Roper RAF and Sgt Munro RAF safe.
- 1945-02-07 RAF North Creake Station Flight Oxford I NJ292 was blown off the landing area by a cross wind when landing and was wrecked, F/O D.N. Shefler safe.
- 1945-02-07 unknown USAAF unit, Canadian built AT-16 43-12977 (ex RAF Harvard IIb FT236) written off after a crash landing in England (J. Baugher).
- 1945-02-07 13 EFTS, St. Eugene, Ontario, Cornell II 14552 crashed at Pointe Fortune, Quebec, F/O J.C. Jackman and Leading Airman G. Hunter RN killed.
- 1945-02-07 15 SFTS Claresholm, Alberta, Anson II FP845 caught fire and crashed killing WO1 V.G.H. Archibald and P/O A.J. Goldie RAF.
- 1945-02-07 USAAF UC-64A (Norseman) 44-70527 on a ferry flight damaged taking off in Montreal, Quebec (AAIR).
- 1945-02-07 USAAF P-63A 42-70134 damaged and belly landed at Calgary, Alberta (AAIR).
- 1945-02-07 436 Sqn. Dakota, part of a re-deployment of a Spitfire squadron in Burma, became lost returning that night. Running short of fuel the crew bailed out over the Chindwin River, S/L R.L. Denison, F/O E.G. Lee, F/L W.D. Lindsay, LAC L.J. Van Nes and Sgt T.F. Laffey RAAF landed safely and were returned to the Squadron by L-5 aircraft after assistance of locals and the civil District Commissioner. Sgt Laffey had bailed out before into the jungle and his experience and actions on the ground contributed to the crews survival. This flight was cited in the award of a DFC to S/L Denison and the events were detailed in The R.C.A.F. Overseas - The Sixth Year. Most of this crew were involved in the "Brick Bomber" incident in April, below.
- 1945-02-07 To support the planned advance of the British and Canadian Armies the towns of Goch and Kleve were attacked by 292 Halifax, 451 Lancaster and 26 Mosquitos. At Goch the bombing was halted when smoke obscured the target, but at Kleve the full attack went in which caused damage that actually hampered the advance, possibly due to misunderstanding the requirements of the Army (by this point Bomber Command had become so effective it was difficult to limit the damage of an attack). As well 177 Lancasters and 11 Mosquitos attacked the repaired Dortmund-Ems Canal at Ladbergen, but missed the aiming point. Other operations included 38 LNSF Mosquitos to Magdeburg, 16 to Mainz and 41 to other targets in Germany, 63 RCM, 45 SERRATE/INTRUDER patrols and 45 GARDENING sorties, a total of 1,205 sorties with 10 aircraft lost (BC War Diaries). 418 Sqn. had 16 Mosquitos making harassing patrols around Geldern on this night (6th Year).



**Hirsz, Zdzislaw Wacław VM Poland
(Squadron Leader)**

Killed in Flying Accident 1945-02-06

- 1945-02-07 12 Sqn. Lancaster I NF925 PH-T lost over Holland, F/O J.T. Collins, F/O H.J. MacMillan, F/L J.H. Somerville, P/O W.C. Wilson, P/O G.A. Wood RCAF (USA), Sgt J.L. Fryer RAF and F/S D.H. Phillips RAF killed.
- 1945-02-07 97 Sqn. Lancaster III ND961 OF-U believed to have collided in mid-air over Holland with an 83 Sqn. Lancaster III PB181 OL-C and both crashed, F/O R.C. Smalley, F/S R.H. Cheatle RAAF, Lt C.W. McGregor SAAF, Sgt J. Shield RAF, F/O A.J. Norton RAF, F/L G.S. Johnson DFC & Bar RAF, F/S P.G. Cannon RAF and Sgt D.S. Lennie RAF killed in ND961, and F/S G. Summers RAF, F/S E.S. Thorn RAF, F/S G.H. Lonsdale RAF, F/S J.D. Lauther RAF, F/S L.F.F. Scull RAF, F/S R.J.H. Jackson RAF and F/S J.W. Stazaker RAF were killed and F/L A.P. Weber RAF survived, injured, on PB181.
- 1945-02-07 158 Sqn. Halifax III NP973 NP-P was leaving Goch after the bombing was suspended when it collided in mid-air with 77 Sqn. Halifax III MZ689 KN-Z, both aircraft crashing. On NP973 F/O J.L. Beeson RAAF, P/O W.G. Bennett RAF, P/O R.E. Jones RAF and P/O L.J. Nichols RAAF were killed, Sgt A. McQuilkin RAF (Can.), F/S P.A. Murphy RAF and F/S L.A.E. Papworth RAF bailed out and were PoW (O. Clutton-Brock), and on MZ689 F/S D.W. Muggeridge RAF, Sgt W.B. Keal RAF, Sgt A.H. Croll RAF, P/O H. Wright RAF, Sgt W. Forbes RAF, WO C.E. Foster RAF, WO J. Stuart RAF and Sgt M.E. Taylor RAF were killed. A brief description of this loss by Sgt McQuilkin was published in Airforce magazine, Fall, 1990. [Sgt McQuilken possibly recorded as P/O A. McKibben RCAF in PoW lists, needs confirmation].
- 1945-02-07 406 Sqn. Mosquito NF.30, evading searchlights at low level, struck an unidentified obstacle and lost 3 feet of their right wing, P/O E.A. Oswald and F/S K.B. Hicks returned safely (6th Year).
- 1945-02-07 408 Sqn. had 6 Halifax VII ordered not to bomb due to the target being obscured by dust and smoke (R. Koval).
- 1945-02-07 415 Sqn. had all its Halifax III bombers ordered not to bomb due to smoke and dust (R. Koval). One flown by F/L W. Goodwin evaded 6 attacks by single and twin engined night fighters without damage (R. Koval).
- 1945-02-07 419 Sqn. Lancaster X KB761 VR-H, F/L F. Bruyns, claimed damage to a Ju 88 night fighter that attacked them (R. Koval, Awards).
- 1945-02-07 420 Sqn. Halifax III, P/O E. Cole, damaged in a wing by flak (R. Koval). See February 14-15, below.
- 1945-02-07 425 Sqn. had all its bombers ordered to return without bombing (R. Koval).
- 1945-02-07 425 Sqn. Halifax III MZ419 KW-E, F/O A.R. Lowe, was attacked 4 times by a Fw 190, finally claiming it shot down by gunners F/O P. Hall and F/S J.W. Hyde (R. Koval; 6th Year). See March 2, below.
- 1945-02-07 427 Sqn. Halifax III MZ823 ZL-A, F/L E.H. Shaw, was attacked and damaged by a Ju 88 night fighter (R. Koval).
- 1945-02-07 427 Sqn. Halifax III, F/O N. Roberts, claimed a Fw 190 that attacked them destroyed (R. Koval).
- 1945-02-07 427 Sqn. Halifax III NP941 ZL-X, F/L W.B. Brittain, attacked by a Me 163 rocket fighter which was claimed destroyed (R. Koval). See February 14-15, below
- 1945-02-07 427 Sqn. Halifax III NP956 ZL-J, F/L J.L. Storms, also claimed a Me 163 rocket fighter destroyed (R. Koval).
- 1945-02-07 429 Sqn. had all its bombers ordered not to bomb due to smoke and dust obscuring the target (R. Koval).
- 1945-02-07 431 Sqn. Lancaster X KB818 SE-G lost 2 engines soon after taking off and was wrecked making a landing at an emergency airfield, F/O S.P. Sorensen, F/O D. Bowdigg, P/O N. Larman, P/O J. Cerveth, P/O J. Fanset, P/O I. Stewart, F/S A. Johnston and Sgt C. Garbutt safe (R. Koval). See March 31, below.
- 1945-02-07 433 Sqn. had all its bombers ordered not to bomb (R. Koval).
- 1945-02-07 467 Sqn. RAAF Lancaster I NG455 PO-H lost over Germany, probably by a night fighter making a Schrage Musik attack (description of attack in A. Storr), W/C J.K. Douglas DFC AFC RAAF was killed on his 125th operational sortie, along with P/O H.M.S. Stuart RAAF and WO J.B. Nanscawen RAAF. F/O L.W.E. Baines, Sgt B.H. Parker RAF, F/S B.O. Bean RAAF and F/S M.G. Thompson RAAF were taken PoW, F/O J.A. Strichland RAAF evaded.



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- 1945-02-08 Canadian 1st Army [composed of Canadian, British, Dutch and Polish units] opens offensive in Nijmegen [Operation VERITABLE] (CJCA headline). The 2nd TAF flew over 1,200 sorties in support of British and Canadian forces involved in VERITABLE on this day (Zijlstra).
- 1945-02-08 2nd TAF begins using Mobile Radar Control stations to guide tactical bombers (Typhoons, Spitfires, Mitchells and Mosquitos) to attack small targets close to the front lines from above cloud cover (P. Cornwell; T. Copp, Cinderella Army: The Canadians In Northwest Europe, 1944-1945, University of Toronto Press, 2007).
- 1945-02-08 Eight V-2 hits on London killed 50 and injured 544 people on this day (<http://www.v2rocket.com/start/deployment/timeline.html>).
- 1945-02-08 211 Sqn. Beaufighter TF.X LZ399 "V" lost attacking targets in Burma, pilot WO2 J.E. Fitzpatrick and F/S S. Lock RAF missing (C. Shores).
- 1945-02-08 3 Sqn. Tempest V EJ895 force landed in Holland with engine trouble, F/L R.W. Jones evaded (www.conscript-heroes.com IS-9 files).
- 1945-02-08 411 Sqn. Spitfire LF.IX PL430 was hit by flak on a RHUBARB over Twente, Holland, F/L R.J. Audet DFC returned to his base but bailed out of his damaged aircraft and safe. See March 3, below.
- 1945-02-08 430 Sqn. Spitfire FR.XIV RM823 G9-O lost over Germany on a reconnaissance flight due to engine trouble, F/O G.S. Taylor killed (R.W.R. Walker www.rafcommands.com).
- 1945-02-08 440 Sqn. F/O G.L. Passmore, shot down Feb. 2, was last seen in custody as a PoW and being escorted to a PoW camp. He was not seen alive again, and is buried in the Reichswald Forest War Cemetery in Germany.
- 1945-02-08 442 Sqn. Spitfire LF.IX discovered five Ju 87 dive bombers near Wesel and shot down all five as well as 3 locomotives and several vehicles (6th Year).
- 1945-02-08 6 (BR) Sqn., Coal Harbour, Canso A 11007 crashed at Tofino on take-off, 12 crew & passengers, F/O R.J. Scholes, F/O L.C. Laker, F/O L. Knechtel, P/O C.C. Sartouris, WO2 L.H. Malcomston, WO2 J.B. Campbell, WO2 C.H. Henningsen, F/Sgt. R.W. Hacker, Sgt. R.F. Bell, Sgt. W.A. Hooge, Air Woman 1st class R.J. Pike and Mr. D.F. Marlett, safe. This aircraft wreck is still at the crash site, now in Pacific Rim National Park (www.pacificwrecks.com). Several videos of this aircraft can be seen on Youtube.
- 1945-02-08 The synthetic oil plant at Plitz was attacked by 475 Lancasters and 7 Mosquitos which ended all further production of oil from this facility. The oil refinery at Wanne-Eickel, attacked by 200 Halifax with 8 Lancaster and 20 Mosquito Pathfinders, escaped with little damage from scattered bombing. The railway yards at Krefeld were also attacked by 151 Lancasters, and 9 LNSF Mosquitos carried out a spoof raid in support of the Plitz operation, 47 more over Berlin and 4 over Nremberg, plus 47 RCM, 42 SERRATE/INTRUDER, and 10 GARDENING sorties for a total 1,020 sorties with 17 lost (BC War Diaries).
- 1945-02-08 15 Sqn. Lancaster I HK620 LS-W lost over Belgium, F/L J.H. Cowie, F/O P.J. Day RAF, F/S G.C. Dickinson RAF, F/S M.E. Hathaway RAF, Sgt J. Gregory RAF, Sgt J.W. Hall RAF, Sgt J. Malcolm RAF and F/L A.N.L. McQueen RAF killed, Sgt A.T. Dobson RAF missing. In 2000 the Belgian Aviation History Association examined the crash site which is on private land. They found many parts of the aircraft, including sections of the flaps, still imbedded in the trees 100' off the ground, and rounds of .50 cal. ammunition which indicates that this aircraft was probably equipped with a Rose tail turret.
- 1945-02-08 405 Sqn. Lancaster III ND912 LQ-X lost without trace on an operation to Germany, P/O A.M. Fostey, F/O L.H. Mahler, F/O M.J. Martin, F/O H.B. McIntyre, P/O A.L.J. St. Pierre, P/O T.A. Stone and F/S A.E.S. Kiff RAF missing.
- 1945-02-08 415 Sqn. Halifax III NR249 6U-J shot down by flak over Dunkirk, which was still held by German forces, pilot F/O G.K. Grier killed, F/S J.N. Aiken, F/O P. Mikcalchuk, F/S J.A. Marshall, F/S J.B. Horrigan and F/S W.G. Johnston landed in the German lines and were made PoW., Sgt J.M. Andrews RAF landed safe in Allied lines.
- 1945-02-08 415 Sqn. Halifax III, WO1 L.A. Russell, lost an engine after taking off. When they tried to feather the propellor it detached in flight and the engine burst into flames. After controlling the fire they landed back at their base on 3 engines (R. Koval). See February 24, below.
- 1945-02-08 415 Sqn. Halifax III, F/O B. Cowieson, was unable to bomb as the bomb load hung up over the target (R. Koval).



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- 1945-02-08 415 Sqn. Halifax III, F/L J.H. McQuiston, was damaged in the tail by flak (R. Koval).
- 1945-02-08 420 Sqn. Halifax III, F/O D.G. Hill, was damaged in the fuselage by flak (R. Koval, Awards). See March 5-6, below.
- 1945-02-08 425 Sqn. Halifax III LW394 KW-Z abandoned over Belgium due to an engine fire after bombing, P/O R.F. Daniels and F/S W.H. Ketcham injured, F/O W.M. Mark, F/O W. Wotherspoon, P/O A.C. McLean, F/S H.A. Sanderson, F/S A.A. Alger and Sgt J.J. Whyte RAF safe. A whimsical account of F/S Sanderson's bailout and "evasion" can be found in Lancaster, C. et al.
- 1945-02-08 425 Sqn. Halifax III, F/L R.F. Archambault, made a landing from it's sortie at an emergency airfield with no hydraulics (R. Koval).
- 1945-02-08 426 Sqn. Halifax VII NP682 OW-R crashed after taking off due to an engine fire, after which the bomb load exploded, F/O G.A. Cahoon, F/O J.D. Campbell, P/O G.H. Fetherston, P/O C.E. Houston and P/O J.C. Laing killed, F/O J.D. Wadleigh and F/S M.K. Grant injured (R. Koval).
- 1945-02-08 426 Sqn. Halifax VII, F/O A.C. Davies, was forced to return early due to ice building up on the inside of the windshield and exhaust fumes in the cockpit (R. Koval, Awards).
- 1945-02-08 619 Sqn. Lancaster III ME314 PG-W lost, P/O J.F.E. Moyle killed, F/S J.L. MacDonald, F/O H.T. Hesketh RAAF, Sgt T.H. Fullwood, F/O R.A. Hudson RAF and Sgt A.C. St. Leger RAF missing, rear gunner F/S L.E. Marsh PoW.
- 1945-02-09 US and French armies complete reduction of the Colmar Pocket west of the Rhine (Oxford). Again Hitler refuses tactical withdrawals to be made and again German units suffer high casualties.
- 1945-02-09 Operation VERITABLE, British XXX Corps breaks through the Westwall (Siegfried Line), but poor weather and intentional flooding are slowing the advance (Oxford).
- 1945-02-09 Magdeburg bombed by USAAF as third THUNDERCLAP mission (Oxford).
- 1945-02-09 Partial Japanese Balloon Bomb recovered near Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan (Mikesh). Co-ordination of domestic balloon releases (weather, test, etc) made in western Canada to eliminate false reports, but this is not always successful (Joost).
- 1945-02-09 159 Sqn. Liberator VI KH255 "C" was hit by flak attacking targets in Thailand, and crashed in flames, P/O F.J. Conway, F/O K.G. Johnson, F/O R.L. McMillan, F/L W.G. Schroeder, F/O R. Talbot, F/O N. Zakow, Sgt R.B. Bright RAF and Sgt D.C.N. Burton RAF killed. F/O Zakow had changed his name from Zaiczkowski.
- 1945-02-09 404 Sqn. lost six Beaufighter TF.Xc aircraft lost off Norway, part of 9 Beaufighters and a Mustang shot down by fighters on a shipping strike of 31 Beaufighters attacking a destroyer and other escort ships seeking shelter in a fjord. Two more Beaufighters crash landed in Scotland. Five Fw 190 fighters were lost as well, with 2 German pilots killed. A monument to this loss was erected near the combat area at the town of Forde, Norway, in May 1985 (wikipedia, www.404squadron.com).
- 1945-02-09 The aircraft lost were were:
- 1945-02-09 404 Sqn. Beaufighter TF.X NT890 EO-F, F/O C. Smerneos killed and F/O N.D. Cochrane missing.
- 1945-02-09 404 Sqn. Beaufighter TF.X NT922 EO-V, P/O W.E. Blunderfield killed and P/O W.J. Jackson missing.
- 1945-02-09 404 Sqn. Beaufighter TF.X NV422 EO-C, F/O O.W. Knight killed and F/O H.C. Lynch missing.
- 1945-02-09 404 Sqn. Beaufighter TF.X NE761 EO-W, P/O C.G. Berges missing and P/O P. Myrick killed.
- 1945-02-09 404 Sqn. Beaufighter TF.X RD136 EO-Q, F/O H. Smook and P/O A.M. Duckworth missing.
- 1945-02-09 404 Sqn. Beaufighter TF.X EO-O was shot down by fighters, belly landed on ice, but flipped over, F/O J.R. Savard and P/O J. Middleton RAF were pulled out by German soldiers, but P/O Middleton died of his injuries (www.404squadron.com; R.C. Nesbit, Black Friday, Aeroplane Monthly, July & August, 1984).



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- 1945-02-09 298 Sqn. Halifax III MZ980 8A-U was on a navigation exercise when it ran into bad weather and ditched in Donegal Bay off Eire, Sgt J.A. McKaine RAF killed, F/L J. Carr died of injuries, F/O D.R. McGillivray, WO J.E. Bunn, F/S J.B. Walker RAF and F/O G. Dixon RAF were briefly interned (R. Tebbutt, D. Burke, www.w2irishaviation.com). See March 24, below.
- 1945-02-09 1695 (Bomber) Target Towing Flight RCAF Hurricane IIc LF535 lost control and crashed on approach to land from a night flying test, F/L A.B. Summers killed.
- 1945-02-09 1 SFTS, Camp Borden, Ontario, Harvard II 2987 crashed at Big Bay Point, Lake Simcoe, Ontario, killing F/O J.D.H. Martin and LAC G.J. Powell RAAF.
- 1945-02-09 unknown unit, LAC A.F. Hepher RAF died in North America, no details.
- 1945-02-09 Seven Stirlings were out on Special Operations with 1 RCM Mosquito, but without being able to complete their tasks, and 1 Stirling was lost (BC War Diaries). 418 Sqn. had 15 Mosquitos making harassment patrols in the Ruhr on this night with 1 loss (6th Year).
- 1945-02-09 418 Sqn. Mosquito FB.VI HR151 TH-F lost on an Army support sortie over Germany, F/L W.C. Charde and Sgt S. Rosenthal RAF killed.