

THE GREAT RAIDS

Air Commodore J Searby DSO DFC RAF (Rtd)



PEENEMUNDE

17 AUGUST 1943

PRIORITY

Charges to pay

REC 29 23 RD 1319229 22/23 RD 1943 102 Y001

TELEGRAM

Prefix Time handed in. Office of Origin and Service Instructions. Words.

9

From

109 BB 12.0 Y0/T OHMS PRIORITY CB 43

PRIORITY CB MR A C DUNN 29 FLAKNER STREET
GLOUCESTER

= 23 RD NOV DEEPLY REGRET TO INFORM YOU THAT
1319229 SGT DUNN F T LOST HIS LIFE AS THE RESULT
OF AIR OPERATIONS ON THE NIGHT OF 22/23 RD NOV

1943 LETTER FOLLOWS PLEASE ACCEPT MY PROFOUND

SYMPATHY = ADJT 102 SQUADRON + and, if possible, the envelope

All these men were
qualified pil
He was next in line
to take over -
He had many flying
hours to his credit
"mainly in Halifax"



Those who come after me should read
this ^{it might give some idea}
of what happened in those terrible
war years
and read it again

The suffering **THE GREAT RAIDS**
understand ^{my God} - I hope you will

PEENEMUNDE

PAGE 40 Log of crew

Air Commodore J Searby DSO DFC RAF (Rtd)

My brother Fred was on this raid
page 40. and survived

later on the night 22/23 November 1943
he took part in the first 1000 bomber raid
on Berlin.

he did not survive this - he and the
rest of the crew of that Halifax limped back
to Rockliffington air base in Yorkshire and
their Halifax presumably shot up to
hell crashed into another Halifax probably
in a similar state and the crews of both
planes were killed -

his body was brought to Liddington
and buried in the village churchyard -

my poor father's nerves were utterly
distraught and so was I - terrible
terrible - what a world - a great ~~big~~ kid my
brother and I ^{grieved} for him now also as
poor boy poor boy
the bastard

22/23 November
1979

Alfred

the nutshell press

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He has made use of the following books in his research: *Rocket* by Air Chief Marshal Sir Philip Joubert de la Ferté; *Hutchinson*; *The Mare's Nest* by David Irving, Kimber; *The Strategic Bomber Offensive* by Frankland and Butler; *Pathfinder* by Air Vice-Marshal Bennett; and *Bomber Squadrons of the R.A.F. and their Aircraft* by Philip Moyes, Macdonald.

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Penetrated by J. Searby

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On that 1000 bomber raid
on 22/23 November 1943 - Fred's
plane managed to get back to base
at Borkington - but crash landed and
all the crew were killed.
His body was brought home to
Siddington and buried in the village
churchyard. There is a War Graves Commission
memorial on his grave and I trust
that some descendants of mine will visit
the church. There is a "memorial" inside
the church.
For many years I have attended the
Armistice Service and read one of the
lessons.
Fred & I and our Father sang in the choir
for many years

although he was Bomb aimer
on most of his 13 flights he had
his WINGS and was probably
considered co-pilot

No 4 Bomber Group 102 Squadron - Halifax

DT 703
F/S W. A. Rooney
F/S S. A. Weekes
Sgt E. A. Church
Sgt H. W. Jarvis
P/O J. A. Henderson
Sgt M. Beerbaum
Sgt W. M. Mazuer

W 7912
Sgt S. W. Templar
F/S A. C. Fraser
Sgt G. S. Spicer
Sgt E. Clarke
P/O A. A. Joseph
W/O J. L. Hirst
Sgt T. S. Strong
Sgt P. T. Pragnell

JD 165
F/S B. R. Moss
P/O S. Whittingham
Sgt W. J. T. Hayden
Sgt E. J. Pearce
Sgt K. Page
Sgt L. Todd
Sgt D. Copeland

JD 366
Sgt A. Kularatne
Sgt W. F. Johnson
Sgt J. A. Downs
Sgt A. J. Stapleton
P/O J. M. Filmer
Sgt R. Gillespie
Sgt D. Kneeshaw

DT 702
P/O T. H. Dargavel
F/O H. P. Jeffreys
Sgt A. J. Harris
P/O E. P. J. Behiels
F/S J. R. S. Power
Sgt H. Walton
P/O W. A. T. Brewer
Sgt A. R. Banks

JD 128
Sgt J. A. Chappell
Sgt G. Lee
F/O E. I. Smallfield
Sgt D. Zander
Sgt L. G. Smart
Sgt J. Harris
Sgt J. J. Jones

JD 111
P/O J. Bowman
F/S D. Galbraith
F/S L. C. Parry
Sgt F. G. Tregunno
F/S J. J. Prinsloo
Sgt R. H. Mock
S/L A. Ables
Sgt C. E. Hall

JD 307
F/O J. W. Ward
F/O H. J. Plank
Sgt W. A. Murray
Sgt L. Milne
P/O R. A. H. Dube
Sgt H. Williams
Sgt J. Burns

JD 407
Sgt K. Mountney
F/S R. Ingram
Sgt R. G. Pharo
Sgt H. Bartlett
Sgt R. Learmond
Sgt E. L. Dalton
Sgt H. D. Proctor
Sgt D. Cullen

JD 127
S/L J. W. H. Marshall
Sgt J. C. Fell
P/O G. B. Mitchell
P/O G. P. Clarke
F/O J. Bell
F/S A. Pickard
Sgt P. O'Grady
P/O W. H. A. Dick

DT 485
Sgt W. Hughes
Sgt W. W. Cottle
Sgt R. A. Dabner
Sgt D. Bainbridge
Sgt D. Willington
Sgt J. Boxall
Sgt F. Dunn

JD 415
Sgt P. Sayer
Sgt P. P. Greene
F/S H. Bilborough
F/S D. J. Rees
Sgt L. J. Jones
Sgt J. Muldoon
Sgt J. Kidd
Sgt L. H. Hancock

BB 383
F/L J. L. Causton
F/O D. H. Phillips
F/O G. G. Russell
Sgt G. Ollerhead
F/O K. G. Harris
F/S R. B. Valvasori
Sgt J. S. Rowland
F/O V. W. Armitage

JD 176
Sgt G. S. Roadley
Sgt D. M. E. Pugh
Sgt W. G. Jennings
Sgt J. Chalkey
Sgt N. G. Webb
Sgt E. Kirk
Sgt B. E. Woodrow
Sgt R. F. Roberts

JD 296
F/S W. R. Lambert
F/O W. L. Cook
Sgt W. A. Rice
Sgt H. E. Bentley
Sgt J. Hope
Sgt E. J. Dyke
Sgt L. H. Thomas

JD 378
Sgt K. G. McAlpine
Sgt E. W. Traylor
Sgt A. A. J. Myers
Sgt D. Sinclair
Sgt E. A. Baverstock
Sgt R. G. Twine
Sgt L. Chant

JB 365
W/C S. J. Marchbanks
P/O W. A. Corbett
Sgt E. G. Clarke
Sgt S. Corner
Sgt J. J. Duncan
Sgt E. R. Crane
P/O H. J. Pullen

No 4 Bomber Group 78 Squadron - Halifax

JD 305
W/O T. Wilson
Sgt S. Mills
Sgt A. Coresby
Sgt S. Warriner
Sgt H. Kirkham
Sgt D. Nicholls
Sgt H. Groom

JB 784
F/L G. Carver
Sgt S. Woods
Sgt E. Allen
Sgt R. Saiger
Sgt A. Wiltshire
Sgt J. Hyde
Sgt H. Clarke

JD 328
W/O R. Martin
Sgt E. Salmon
Sgt A. Landon
Sgt A. Parlour
Sgt S. Bird
Sgt R. Taylor
Sgt J. Thompson

HR 748
P/O A. Ferguson
F/O A. Beales
P/O H. Hamley
Sgt A. Fleming
Sgt R. Davies
Sgt F. O'Dwyer
Sgt H. Greet

JD 118
F/S F. Pool
Sgt F. Scott
Sgt A. Sturgeon
Sgt J. McDonald
Sgt K. Rabbage
Sgt P. Stroud
Sgt G. Gibson

JD 173
W/C G. Lawrence
W/C Hutchings
F/L A. Dowden
F/O J. Kelt
Sgt G. Simpson
F/S D. Petrie
F/S D. Booth
Sgt J. Flood

JD 170
W/O W. Smith
P/O A. Paul
Sgt A. Cocking
Sgt J. Norman
Sgt G. Hickling
Sgt R. Smith
F/S J. Wilkins

JD 377
F/S G. Rowlands
Sgt P. Terry
Sgt A. Robinson
Sgt J. Marshall
Sgt G. Bloomfield
Sgt D. Wade
Sgt H. Entwistle

HR 874
F/S Watson
Sgt E. Burgess
Sgt W. McKenzie
Sgt Harrington
Sgt H. Clayton
Sgt A. Woodward
Sgt L. Hammy

JD 414
F/S S. Norris
P/O T. Tabberer
Sgt McTergaugham
Sgt D. Crompton
Sgt D. Sanderson
Sgt Payne

JB 874
W/O E. Kitchen
P/O D. Polmah
Sgt D. Sharpe
Sgt H. Watson
Sgt R. Cherry
Sgt H. Wobick
Sgt G. Gibney

JD 248
Sgt B. Bolsworth
Sgt W. Gray
Sgt D. Hynes
Sgt A. Hampton
Sgt E. Gosling
Sgt G. Coggans
Sgt A. Thorne

BB 373
Sgt G. Bell
P/O E. Platt
Sgt W. Clarke
Sgt A. Lee
Sgt A. Lester
Sgt G. Walton
Sgt R. Fletcher

JB 926
Sgt H. Ferne
Sgt G. Preston
Sgt F. Hicker
Sgt T. Dorn
Sgt E. Bream
Sgt H. Gill
Sgt Drinkwater

JD 406
F/S B. Rudge
Sgt Dynock J.
Sgt H. Hearsurn
Sgt Chesswaw
Sgt A. Beswick
Sgt R. Peters
Sgt W. Dunleavy

JB 872
F/S F. Ebeling
Sgt G. Mulligan
Sgt H. Salter
Sgt G. Groom
Sgt Sheffield
Sgt H. Pratt
Sgt W. Huntley

JD 306
F/L R. Hunter
P/O M. Walsh
Sgt R. Caldwell
Sgt J. Miles
Sgt J. Buchanan
Sgt J. Gibney
Sgt J. Mein

JD 201
F/O A. Short
F/O F. Street
F/O T. Boyle
P/O M. Davies
Sgt W. Onion
Sgt L. Cotton
Sgt D. White

JD 310
F/S K. King
Sgt A. Bishop
P/O W. Patterson
Sgt E. Davies
Sgt J. Oliver
Sgt F. Lambert
Sgt F. Tolan

No 4 Bomber Group 77 Squadron - Halifaxes

JD 418
F/S R. O. Rochester
Sgt J. Marsden
Sgt S. R. Tattersall
Sgt F. D. Rix
Sgt J. J. Knight
Sgt E. W. Dredge
Sgt H. J. McAdam

BB 284
F/S R. J. Caseley
P/O F. G. Shaw
Sgt C. R. Boyd
Sgt W. H. J. Webb
W/O W. Wright
Sgt W. R. Farrell
Sgt K. E. Lees

JD 385
Sgt E. A. Brown
Sgt P. Davidson
Sgt N. E. Rudge
Sgt M. Tarpey
Sgt F. G. Dilmatt
Sgt A. Welham
Sgt R. A. Greene

JD 162
F/L T. Rowe
Sgt R. Tailford
F/S A. E. Harvey
F/O A. Grant
Sgt O. E. Burger
Sgt A. Knapp
F/O C. G. Bellhouse
Sgt E. W. Thompson

JD 413
S/L E. C. Badcoe
P/O E. Lowry
Sgt F. J. Chell
F/S B. W. Folkes
P/O W. D. Rees
Sgt D. Rickett
Sgt J. B. Mannix
F/S S. Downes

JD 383
Sgt J. Byrne
Sgt G. Graham
Sgt R. E. Olive
Sgt V. H. Beadley
Sgt A. G. Willis
Sgt S. J. Wilson

JB 851
Sgt H. V. Gawler
Sgt A. Cotterall
P/O J. R. Randall
F/S C. Langston
Sgt A. Burgess
Sgt P. W. Kitchen

JB 839
F/S S. Richardson
Sgt J. S. Stephens
F/S J. Swallow
Sgt D. McF. Boyd
Sgt H. Taylor
Sgt L. A. Foster

JD 301
S/L D. H. Duder
Sgt B. J. Kearley
Sgt R. W. Pendergrest
Sgt T. F. Bolter
Sgt R. F. Walter
Sgt A. G. McCulloch

JD 379
F/S A. Massie
Sgt R. Crofts
F/Sgt W. Plunkett
Sgt W. A. Peers
F/O P. A. Stiff
Sgt C. W. Brister



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Nt. Raid Report (ORS)

(A.H.B. Papers)

Extract from Operational Night Raid Report 386, 27/28.7.43

HAMBURG

Fred was on this!

Defences

22. Flak and searchlights: The general opinion of crews indicated that enemy ground defences at Hamburg had been increased since the previous attack. The usual decrease in intensity during the attack was reported, but the number of a/c damaged by flak was fairly constant throughout the raid. Much of the flak was considered to be of barrage form. Some reported instances of aircraft held in searchlight cones but not engaged by flak suggest searchlight co-operation with fighters. ...

23. Fighters: The R/T traffic intercepted on this night was from some areas of a different nature from that which is usually heard. Instead of the usual brief instructions as to course and height, ground stations were heard to give something of a running commentary regarding the course and height of the British aircraft, and information about their being held in searchlights. The conclusion to be drawn is that the enemy have decided to use a system of much looser control of his fighters when interference from window made it necessary. In the traffic heard there were several direct references to the fighters flying without ground control.

24. Some remarks indicate that the enemy was placing considerable reliance on the use of A.I. It would appear therefore that Window was not having as serious an effect on the enemy A.I. as had been hoped. The number of night fighters heard by Wireless Intelligence on this night were 80, in the traffic of 26 of which British aircraft were mentioned. The total number is somewhat less than on the first Hamburg raid, but the number in whose traffic British aircraft were mentioned is about the same.
(ORS Report dated 11 Oct 1943)

Extract from Operational Night Raid Report No. 387, 28/29.7.43

HAMBURG

and this

Enemy Defences.

7. Controlled fighters were active in North West Germany and Holland, but only one was sighted by our bombers, a Ju.88 over Terschelling. At both Hamburg and Duesseldorf moderate heavy flak was accurately predicted at heights above 20,000 feet. Aircraft were held in searchlight cones at both targets, one for four minutes over Duesseldorf at 29,000 feet. ...
(ORS Report dated 28 Sept 1943)

Extract from Operational Night Raid Report No. 397 28/29.7.43

HAMBURG

Defences.

20. Flak and searchlights. Flak was more intense over Hamburg than on 27th-28th July, starting strongly in co-operation with searchlights, but then easing off noticeably. It was mostly fired in barrage, but

Fred's Service Book is in my desk and you will read there that he was on this RAID - ~~a~~ ~~and~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~night~~

Appendix 1 Peenemunde Entry in Flight Log

YEAR 1943	AIRCRAFT		PILOT, OR 1ST PILOT	2ND PILOT, PUPIL OR PASSENGER	DUTY (INCLUDING RESULTS AND REMARKS)
	Type	No.			
					TOTALS BROUGHT FORWARD
<u>August</u>					
17/18	Lancaster	W.	Self.	S/L Brice Flt Fawcett Flt Ross Flt Davis Flt Baker Flt Price	Operations Peenemunde. (Batteries)
20	Lanc.	F.	Self.	Crew.	Air Test.
23	Lanc.	B.	Self.	Crew.	S. Harcourt & return
<u>September</u>					
6.	Lanc.	B.	Self.	S/L Brice Flt Ross Flt Fawcett Flt Davis S/L Johnson Flt Price	Operations Munich.
8.	Lanc.	B.	Self.	Crew	to Stoddington & return
13.	Lanc.	B.	Self.	Crew	to Stoddington & return
14.	Lanc.	S.	Self.	Crew	to Millfield (Bomber & Training) & return

GRAND TOTAL (Cols. [1] to [10])

1 Pot 55.

TOTALS CARRIED FORWARD