

Ron Brown's completed missions with 218 (Gold Coast) Squadron Woolfox Lodge
STIRLINGS Special Duty Squadron

Crew P/O H.Sheldon (pilot)
Sgt Whittaker (Nav)
Sgt R. Brown (Flt/Eng)
Sgt G. Brown (Bomb/Aimer)
Sgt.L Rogers (W/Op)
Sgt B.Concannon (Rear Gunner)
Sgt T.Moore (Mid/Upper/Gunner)

Established at Heavy Conversion Unit based at Chedburgh March 1st1944
carried out 3 weeks of familiarisation test flights on the Short Stirling-high level – low-level -
night flying and cross-country-GH nav exercise-gunnery practice at a/c towed drogues over
East Coast.

Joined 218 Sqdn at Woolfox Lodge March 23rd 1944

1st op April 5th mine laying off Biscay
2nd April 9th bombing Lille marshalling yard
3rd April 12th mine-laying Heligoland
4th April 13th mine-laying Cherbourg
5th April 17th mine-laying Kiel
6th April 21st mine-laying Brest
7th April 22nd bombing marshalling yard Leon
8th April 26th mine-laying Chambly
9th April 29th mine laying Frisian Islands
10th May 1st bombing marshalling yard Chambly
11th May 5th mine laying Bay of Biscay.
12th May 8th dropping supplies to Holland..
13th May 24th mine laying Brest.
14th May 26th mine laying off Holland
15th May 27 mine laying Brest
16th May 28th mine laying off Belgian Coast
17th May 30th dropping supplies in Holland..
18th June 3rd mine laying off Dunkirk

19th D Day June 6th.(my planned wedding day)

Diverted to Cottesmore glider tow to Normandy U/S Airborne troops

20th June 7th mine laying Lorient
21st June 8th mine laying Scheldt
22nd June 9th. Mine laying Brest
23rd June 10th mine laying Knocke
24th June 12th mine laying St Nazaire

25th June 15th bombing Valenciennes
26th June 16th mine laying Frisian Islands
27th June 17th bombing Montdidier
28th June 18th mine kaying St Malo
29th June 21st mine laying Channel Islands
30th June 24th mine laying Brest

End of 1st Tour
Wedding Day June 29th

Transferred to Heavy Conversion Unit on to Lancasters
75 New Zealand Squadron-based at Mepal Cambridgeshire

31st. July 17th bombing Mount Camdon flying bomb site
32nd July 18th. Bombing Marshalling yard Auloyne
33rd July 20th bomb oil refinery Homburg lost 7 of our A/C
34th July 21st. Mine laying Kattegat
35th July 23rd bombing Kiel
36th July 24th. Bombing fly-bomb site Prouville
37th July 25th. Bombing Stuttgart
38th July 30th Allied Army support bombing
39th Aug 1st fly-bomb site Bois-de-Cassan

40th Aug 9th fly/Bomb site Forte-de-Englos
41st Aug.12th. Bombing Russelheim Opel a/c works
42rd Aug 15th bombing St Trond airfields
43th Aug 26th bombing Kiel.

Our last flight with Harry

Our new N.Z PILOT Squadron Leader Bob Rogers D.F.C
B Flight Commander-completed one tour on Lancasters

44th Sept. 20th bombing Calais German Garrisons
45th Sept 23rd bomb Nuess Dusseldorf dock & industry
46th Sept 27 bomb Calais German garrisons
47th Oct 3rd (Master bomber) bombing Walcheron German Garrison
48th Oct 5th bomb Saarbrucken
49th Oct 7th. Bombing Emmerich
50th Oct 23 bombing Essen
51st Oct 26th bombing Leverkusen chemical plant
52nd Oct 31st bomb Cologne
53rd Nov 2nd. Bomb Homberg oil plant
54th Nov 6th. Bomb Koblenz 25,000 homes destroyed
55 Nov 15 bomb Dortmund oil plant.
56 Nov 21st bomb Homberg oil refinery
57 Dec 3rd. Dortmund oil plant
58 Dec 8th. Bomb Duisburg marshalling yard
59 Dec 12 Bomb Witten Steel Works ME109's active 9 Lancs lost
60 Dec 15th bomb Siegen recalled and jettisoned for 1st time
61 Dec 21 bomb Trier
62 Dec 28 bomb Cologne – Wing/Com Newton Co/Pilot
63 Dec 29 bomb Koblenz (entire rail system out of action for rest of war)
64 Dec 30 bomb Cologne “our final operation”

Wing Comander Newton DFC had completed two tours on Wellingtons & Lancasters- he had been allowed to return home to New Zealand on compassionate leave on his father's death, joining us as second pilot for a refresher flight. I recall being slightly miffed for he took my seat and I had to spend the return trip to Cologne sitting on my parachute on the floor. He was a very good man and due to take over as Commanding Officer of the Squadron. Sadly he took a sprog crew for their first operation on New Year's Day on a bombing operation to Vohwinkel-"failed-to-return" - all crew perished.

Squadron Ldr Rogers was very strange character- – moody – morose – dour - and very un-communicative – we as a crew had decided to finish on our 68th operation (our two tour completion) – he was absolutely livid over our decision and pleaded for us to continue to complete his tour. To a man we were adamant that we had made good contribution to the War effort; from that day he gave us all the cold-shoulder and only conversed over the initial checks procedure – he had been acting C/O for some time and had been handing out D.F.M's & D.F.C.s like confetti to all his buddies – yet when we left the Squadron he never even said goodbye. It was our Navigator we were so sorry for as he was not decorated -he was truly "brilliant" and a Gentleman. But for him I would not be here to tell the tale. - he brought us home twice by the stars !