

1042116 Sgt Simon Hirsch

(Pilot)

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve



No 77 Sqn

Royal Air Force Bomber Command



Operation No -- ("2nd Dickie" trip)*

11th - 12th June 1943: Halifax Mk BII JB852 KN-G

This particular aircraft was one of a batch built and delivered to the RAF by the English Electric Company, Salmesbury, Preston, Lancashire. It subsequently failed to return from Ops Krefeld on 21st - 22nd May 1943.

The crew were amongst Twenty-Three 77 Sqn crews briefed to attack Dusseldorf. The ATD of the aircraft from RAF Elvington, North Yorkshire was 2230 Hrs.

The primary target was attacked and bombed from a height of 17,000ft. Bombs being dropped in the centre of a concentration of fires, which were burning well. Two packages of G29 Nickel were dropped in the target area. The aircraft was damaged by Flak whilst over the target; in the bomb bay, wings and Glycol leaks developed in the Port and Starboard Inner Engines. Only four cones of Searchlights were operating at the target.

<i>Pilot</i>	<i>F/L J.L. Wilson</i>
<i>2nd Pilot (U/T)</i>	<i>Sgt S. Hirsch</i>
<i>Flight Engineer</i>	<i>Sgt J.F. Hopkins</i>
<i>Navigator</i>	<i>Sgt J.J. Leicester</i>
<i>Bomb Aimer</i>	<i>Sgt R.A. Simms</i>
<i>Wireless Operator</i>	<i>Sgt E.J. Wilson</i>
<i>Mid Upper Gunner</i>	<i>Sgt J.A. Baxter</i>
<i>Rear Gunner</i>	<i>Sgt j. Cocks</i>

The ATA of the aircraft at RAF Elvington, North Yorkshire was 0428 Hrs.

783 Bomber Command aircraft; 202 Halifax's, 326 Lancaster's, 13 Mosquito's, 99 Stirling's and 143 Wellington's took part in this Op. 12 Halifax's, 14 Lancaster's, 2 Stirling's and 10 Wellington's were lost.

Extensive damage was inflicted on the city centre, with a fire area reported as measuring 8km x 5km. It proved to be the most damaging raid on Dusseldorf so far during the war, with 1292 people killed and 140,000 people "Bombed Out".

Twenty 77 Sqn aircraft attacked and bombed the target. Halifax JB853 KN-F did not depart as the Pilot went sick before departure. Halifax JD205 KN-Y returned early with U/S Port Inner and Starboard Outer Engines. Halifax JD168 KN-T failed to return.



Operation No 1

12th - 13th June 1943: Halifax Mk BII JB853 KN-F

This particular aircraft was one of a batch built and delivered to the RAF by the English Electric Company, Salmesbury, Preston, Lancashire.

The crew were amongst Eighteen 77 Sqn crews briefed to attack Bochum. The ATD of the aircraft from RAF Elvington, North Yorkshire was 2329 Hrs.

The primary target was attacked and bombed from a height of 19,000ft. TI markers were in Bombsight at time of release. A heavy concentration of fires were seen spreading in a lane across the Aiming Point. Three packages of G33 Nickel were dropped with the Bombing. An Me109 was sighted whilst flying over target area, but there were no encounters. There was moderate heavy Flak with some ineffective Searchlights.

<i>Pilot</i>	<i>Sgt S. Hirsch</i>
<i>Flight Engineer</i>	<i>Sgt J. Phillips</i>
<i>Navigator</i>	<i>Sgt C.W. Falckh</i>
<i>Bomb Aimer</i>	<i>Sgt R.G. Kingsland</i>
<i>Wireless Operator</i>	<i>Sgt N.V. Hickling</i>
<i>Mid Upper Gunner</i>	<i>Sgt W.G. Garrett</i>
<i>Rear Gunner</i>	<i>Sgt G. Dawson</i>

The ATA of the aircraft at RAF Elvington, East Yorkshire was 0445 Hrs.

503 Bomber Command aircraft; 167 Halifax's, 323 Lancaster's and 11 Mosquito's took part in this Op. 10 Halifax's and 13 Lancaster's were lost.

The raid took place over a complete cloud covered target, but accurate OBOE sky-marking resulted in severe damage to the centre of Bochum. Post attack Photo Reconnaissance images indicated 130 acres of the city sustained damage. 312 people were killed.

Sixteen 77 Sqn aircraft attacked and bombed the target. Halifax JD126 KN-C returned early with U/S Compasses, Halifax JB788 KN-N returned early with Aileron Control problems.



Operation No 2

21st – 22nd June 1943: Halifax Mk BII JB852 KN-G

This particular aircraft was one of a batch built and delivered to the RAF by the English Electric Company, Salmesbury, Preston, Lancashire.

The crew were amongst Twenty 77 Sqn crews briefed to attack Krefeld. The ATD of the aircraft from RAF Elvington, North Yorkshire was 2352 Hrs.

The aircraft was intercepted at 5400M above Harskamp, 15km NW of Deelen by a Night-Fighter captained by Nacht-Jagd "Experten" Fw Heinz Wilberg (III/NJG4 but detached to III/NJG1) and shot down at 0230 for his 15th Abschusse.

The aircraft was also claimed as being engaged, hit and shot down by the following Flak units; Gross Batterie Bunsheim, schw Flak Abt 646, 5/schw Flak Abt 394, 2 & 5/schw Flak Abt 305 (Halifax, Harskamp Deelen 4600-3000M).

<i>Pilot</i>	<i>Sgt S. Hirsch + (Age NK)</i>
<i>Flight Engineer</i>	<i>Sgt J. Phillips + (Age NK)</i>
<i>Navigator</i>	<i>Sgt C.W. Falckh + (Age NK)</i>
<i>Bomb Aimer</i>	<i>Sgt R.G. Kingsland + (Age 24)</i>
<i>Wireless Operator</i>	<i>Sgt N.V. Hickling + (Age 21)</i>
<i>Mid Upper Gunner</i>	<i>Sgt W.G. Garrett + (Age 22)</i>
<i>Rear Gunner</i>	<i>Sgt G. Dawson + (Age 21)</i>

705 Bomber Command aircraft; 209 Halifax's, 262 Lancaster's, 12 Mosquito's, 117 Stirling's and 105 Wellington's took part in this Op. 17 Halifax's, 9 Lancaster's, 9 Stirling's and 9 Wellington's were lost. 6.3% of the total force committed.

2306 Tonnes of bombs were accurately dropped within three miles of the city centre causing widespread serious fires. The city centre, approx. 47% of the built-up area was burnt out as a result. 1056 people were killed, 4550 people were injured. 72,000 people were "Bombed Out".

Sixteen 77 Sqn aircraft attacked and bombed the target. Halifax DT736 KN-M returned early with U/S Hydraulics and U/C failing to retract.

A total of three aircraft; Halifax WII57 KN-U, Halifax JB852 KN-G & Halifax JD205 KN-Y failed to return.